

Mu Sichun stared at Qin Ming's outreached hand and forcefully hooked her finger around his. "What's wrong? You're not allowed to go back on your promise."

Qin Ming asked, "Aren't you suspicious of your sister's marriage with me? We have an arranged marriage."

Mu Sichun nodded. "I know. My dad and my grandpa are superstitious. They said they found someone whose birthdate was a match for my sister's and that her wedding would be a celebration for my grandpa to recover. Now, Grandpa is recovering, and we finally know what's wrong with him. I don't know if it has anything to do with the wedding, but you're already my brother-in-law."

Qin Ming sighed, "I've said this last night. I want to divorce your sister. We don't know each other well at all, and we have no feelings for each other. It's best if we divorced. This marriage has been wrong from the beginning. I had been a fool back then. Fortunately, not many know about it, so we can still turn back time."

“No,” Mu Sichun opposed. “Qin Ming, I just found out what kind of person you are. You're not the useless trash others say you are. You're responsible, brave, accepting, and loyal. Other than money, I think you're even better than my brother. If you're no longer my brother-in-law, I'll have one fewer person to love me.”

“Love you?” Qin Ming laughed, “You're the princess of a wealthy family. Who doesn't love you?”

Mu Sichun huffed, “In other words, don't divorce. It was the right decision to marry my sister. Suggesting divorce is a foolish move. My sister is sharp-tongued but soft at heart. I'll help you in the future. I'll make sure my sister will soften her heart and fall in love with you.”

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes. *She's changing her attitude toward me too quickly. I can't get used to this.*

However, when he ruminated about it, he acknowledged that although Mu Sichun was crafty, she had never set someone up for bodily

harm. Moreover, she had made the wrong decision to believe in Li Meng's words at the start. That was why she had treated Qin Ming as if he was a douchebag.

When she realized that Qin Ming was a good man, her attitude toward him changed drastically.

Unwilling to dwell on the topic, Qin Ming said, "Forget it. I'm going back to college."

Mu Sichun suggested, "I'll send you there."

After reaching college, Qin Ming called Qi Minghui, "Find the fortune-teller I met last time."

Qi Minghui answered, "Don't worry, Young Master. I'll find him by tonight."

Qin Ming trusted in Qi Minghui's capabilities. Indeed, at six in the evening, Qi Minghui called.

"Young Master, I've found him. He's fortune-telling for others at Huashi Park."

Qin Ming sped toward Huashi Park once he heard

his words.

However, when Qin Ming reached, he saw both Zhang and Mu Xiaoqiao.

Why is she here?

Qin Ming was startled to find her here. *Is this a coincidence, or is she here on purpose?*

Qin Ming walked over to hear Zhang mumbling to her, “The Mu family's savior has been found and sent to your family. Ms. Mu, I have nothing else to say about this.”

Mu Xiaoqiao said, “But my grandpa's rare disease has a diagnosis. We need the medication, and it's only available in a private research center overseas. There's no other way to save my grandpa. We have no way to contact the research center. Qin Ming is a poor student; what methods could he have?”

Zhang stroked his beard and shook his head. “Ms. Mu, you do not believe in me, and I cannot do anything about it. Things work in mysterious

ways. This is fate.”

Qin Ming could not bear to continue listening. He interrupted, “Mu Xiaoqiao, are you superstitious, too?”

Mu Xiaoqiao turned to look at Qin Ming. Ignoring his ridicule, she asked, “Why are you here?”

Qin Ming replied, “If you can find him, why can't I? How hard is it to find this old man? The Mu family is a big fish for him. Before he gets enough money from you, he won't leave Guang City.”

Zhang laughed and shook his head, “I only tell fortunes because I am kind. I am not greedy for reputation or money.”

Qin Ming rolled his eyes and sat down on the bench.

When he sat down, Mu Xiaoqiao moved an inch away from him. Anger surged in him when he noticed her action. *Are you disgusted by me?*

Qin Ming said, "Zhang, I'll be honest with you. Tell me, how will the Mu family agree to the divorce? They're superstitious, and they love to listen to your words. Tell them that although my birthdate is suited to hers, I can't change their fate. They should look for someone else."

Upon hearing that, Mu Xiaoqiao grumbled, "Qin Ming, stop messing around. Can you be more mature?"

Anger thrummed through his veins. "Am I messing around? Your grandfather has a diagnosis. All you need now is to get the medication for it. You don't like me anyway, so why are you making this difficult? If you agree to the divorce, I'll send the medication from the Siplan Research Center to your grandfather."

Mu Xiaoqiao was stunned by his words. She was here to ask the fortune-teller how to get her grandfather's medication. Before he could give her an answer, Qin Ming had given her one.

Zhang shrugged at her. "See? I have told you that my fortune-telling is never wrong."

Qin Ming growled at him, "Shut up, old man. This is a coincidence. It just happens that I'm connected to this."

Mu Xiaoqiao excitedly grabbed Qin Ming's hands. "Qin Ming, you have connections? You can contact the research center? Right. How could I have forgotten that you're close to the Qi family? The Qi family are not simple people. They have a powerful supporter."

Qin Ming shoved Mu Xiaoqiao's hand away. "Alright. Since you know this, it's time to divorce. It'll be beneficial for the both of us."

When he mentioned divorcing, Mu Xiaoqiao's expression turned odd again. It seemed like she was hesitating.

She asked, "Why do you have to threaten me with divorce? My grandfather is kind to you, and he even gave you a villa. He really sees you as his son-in-law. Although I'm a little indifferent to you, I've been trying my best to get used to you. You need to give me some time."

Qin Ming replied, "Old Master Mu is nice to me, and I'll thank him eventually. But I don't want a wife who moves away from me when she sees me."

Mu Xiaoqiao froze. *So Qin Ming was angry about her earlier action.*

She felt aggrieved. "There isn't a lot of space on this bench. I moved away so that you can sit more comfortably. You're mistaking my actions, but when have you ever trusted me?"

Mu Xiaoqiao knew that there was no point for her to explain now.

She stood up and handed the fortune-teller a thick stack of money. She bowed and thanked him, "Thank you for your guidance. I'll be leaving now. Those are the fees for today."

Zhang smiled as he took the money. "No worries. Guiding the lost is my duty."

After Mu Xiaoqiao left, the only ones by the stall was Qin Ming and the fortune-teller.

Zhang smiled at him. "Mr. Qin, I am sure you are making it big. Your speech is getting bolder, and your gaze is sharper than before. Why are you here today? As far as I know, you have signed an agreement to be the Mu's live-in son-in-law. You do not have the right to suggest a divorce."

Qin Ming said to him, "That's why I'm here. I won't listen to your empty words anymore. Think of a way to make the Mu family agree to the divorce. Money isn't a problem. You can state any amount you want."

Zhang continued smiling as he stroked his beard. Looking at Qin Ming's anxious expression, he said, "The timeline is set. I am just a fortune-teller. I do not have any means to change this. While it is true that I was the one to guide you to this path, you were the one who chose to step foot on it."

Qin Ming was enraged. "Why do you have to help the Mu family?"

The expression on Zhang's face slightly changed. It was as if a secret had flashed past his eyes.

Then he smiled again. “Do you wish to know?
There will be a condition.”



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Qin Ming grunted, “You damn old man. Just say it. I'll want to know what condition it is first.”

Zhang chuckled, “Mu Hairan was ordained in the past. He was a Taoist priest from Mount Longhu like me. The Mu family has always been a rich family with many children, and they always fought over the inheritance. As Mu Hairan was important figure in the family, he hid away on Mount Longhu to save himself. Although he was trained on Mount Longhu, he did not steer his mind away from mortal needs. Instead of learning Taoism and ethics, he studied economics, languages, and finance. My master did not think that he was suited to be a priest, and had him chased out.”

Zhang seemed to be enjoying his recollection. In the end, he shook his head and laughed, “Later on, he went to the north and married a wealthy family's youngest daughter. With the newfound support, he returned to the Mu family. And with my help, he managed to win all of the Mu family's inheritance. I had been the one strategizing his moves.”

So they were peers. Qin Ming asked, "So you're hinting that fortune-telling has always been part of your plot?"

Zhang shook his head and waved his hands. "Things work in a mysterious way. Fortune-telling is not always accurate. Sincerity is the most crucial factor."

Qin Ming rolled his eyes. "As if I'll believe in your words. You damn old man, you've done me in well. I can't get out of the Mu family now."

Slightly peeved, Zhang said, "You are a young man. Can you have some respect for the elderly? I, Zhang Quanzhen, have never set any clients of mine up."

Qin Ming frowned. "Fine. After all, I was the one who agreed to become a live-in son-in-law. However, I did it because I was too upset about my girlfriend leaving. Now that I think about it, I'm not a superstitious person."

Zhang Quanzhen uttered, "I told you that after you meet with your benefactor, you would

become successful. Did I lie to you? After you met with Mu Hao, your life has changed. You have a good face, the face of an emperor. Hm? Why... has it changed a little?"

Qin Ming froze before he touched his face. "Maybe I've been staying up too many nights to study. I think there are some pimples."

Zhang Quanzhen slapped the table. "No! You lied to me. The deaths in your fate have been resolved. Moreover, your love life is overwhelming now. You look like you will have many lady troubles."

Qin Ming touched his face suspiciously. *Is he lying to me again, or is this real? He sounds sincere, but he might be lying to me.*

Zhang Quanzhen asked, "Before meeting with Mu Hao, did you meet other benefactors?"

Qin Ming contemplated. "No."

Then, he paused. *Does my godfather, Chang Hongxi, count as one? But I met Chang Hongxi during my summer*

holiday two years ago. Is that considered recent?

When Qin Ming came to Zhang Quanzhen for fortune telling, the former had been feeling down and had not thought about his godfather.

However, he could not tell Zhang Quanzhen about Chang Hongxi anyway. He had to keep their relationship a secret.

Zhang Quanzhen's old face tensed up as he stared at Qin Ming. In a serious tone, he said, "You must have hidden something from me. My fortune-telling cannot be wrong. No way. This is bad; everything is in a mess now."

As he spoke, Zhang Quanzhen started packing up his stall. It was evident he was about to leave.

Qin Ming was bewildered by his actions. He stood up to stop Zhang Quanzhen. "Zhang Quanzhen, speak clearer. What plans?"

Zhang Quanzhen sighed, "Mr. Qin, I am leaving. It is time for me to leave Guang City. Here are some words for you. The world is complicated,

but do not forget your original intentions.”

Qin Ming could not comprehend his words.

He asked, “Where are you going? You haven't resolved my problem with the Mu family yet.”

Zhang Quanzhen replied, “Mr. Qin, if you are determined to leave, will the Mu family really be able to stop you? Furthermore, you have already become successful. I am afraid that the Mu family is nothing but an ant to you. If you want to resolve it peacefully, I am sure you can find a way yourself. Why look for me?”

Indeed, Qin Ming was afraid of cutting ties on bad terms. If the Mu family talked about him badly behind his back, he would have trouble explaining this incident to the Nie family.

And that was why he wanted Zhang Quanzhen to talk to the Mu family. Mu Hairan and Mu Hao were superstitious men. A word from Zhang Quanzhen would easily resolve the problem.

When Qin Ming saw that Zhang Quanzhen

refused to help him, he said to him, "I'll assign a man to you. He'll protect you."

Zhang Quanzhen frowned. "Is Mr. Qin looking for someone to keep an eye on me? I fear you are underestimating me."

Qin Ming chuckled and snapped his finger.

Soon, Bi Yuan and some members of the assassination team came forward.

Bi Yuan walked closer to him and greeted, "Young Master."

Qin Ming instructed, "Find someone smart to protect Zhang. Zhang will be travelling around the country, so it might be a bit inconvenient. Don't lose sight of him."

Bi Yuan nodded and said to one of his men, "Of course. Meng, you'll be assigned to Master Zhang from now on. Follow the priest around."

Zhang Quanzhen was stunned. He looked at Qin Ming, then at Bi Yuan and his men. Qin Ming

was assigning him a full-day bodyguard.

He was curious about Qin Ming's identity, but he could not figure it out.

The confident smile on Qin Ming's face made Zhang Quanzhen unable to reject his offer.

Zhang Quanzhen was silent for a moment before he sighed, "It seems like you have met your benefactor much earlier than I had thought."

Qin Ming's lips curled. "You finally admitted it. You must be planning something and hiding something."

There was a faint smile on Zhang Quanzhen's face. "Fortune-telling works mysteriously. Sincerity is the key. Remember to never forget your original aim."

After sending Zhang Quanzhen off, frustration rose in Qin Ming's heart. Now, he was sure he had been fooled to marry into the Mu family.

However, there had been too many coincidences,

so he could not fully reject Zhang Quanzhen's fortune-telling.

After all, Qin Ming could not find more evidence to prove his own hypothesis. However, he took into his heart Zhang Quanzhen's parting words to him.

Qin Ming instructed, "Ask Meng not to be too rough with him. I'll pay for the daily expenses."

Bi Yuan answered, "Of course."

Although puzzled, Qin Ming could not think of how to resolve the questions on his mind. He turned and left the park without paying much attention to Zhang Quanzhen's words about his lady troubles.

There was only one person who had a place in his heart. No one else could replace her.

Now, he was going to insist on the divorce.

When Qin Ming walked to the entrance of the park, he saw a BMW driving toward him. It was

Mu Xiaoqiao.

The car window was down, and she said, "Get in."

It was the right time. Qin Ming wanted to speak with her as well. He sat on the backseat, but Mu Xiaoqiao said, "Front passenger seat."

Qin Ming had no choice but to follow her instruction.

Sitting beside Mu Xiaoqiao allowed him to see her beautiful face and legs up close. It was soothing for his eyes.

After a while of driving, Mu Xiaoqiao said, "I don't agree on the divorce. I don't want to become a woman who has a history of multiple marriages."

Qin Ming replied, "There are no feelings between the two of us, and we've never slept together. Besides, not many know about it. What's wrong with divorce? Don't you have someone you like? Don't deny it. Your dad told me."

Mu Xiaoqiao fell silent for a few seconds. “Him? I was indeed interested, but that was all. I can't say that I liked him. That was my dad's misunderstanding.”

Calmly, Qin Ming said, “So you're not going to marry him? Well, at least you'll get to look for the one you love while I get to have my divorce.”

Mu Xiaoqiao berated, “Qin Ming, you b*stard. What kind of husband would want the wife to have an affair?”

Hearing her words, Qin Ming became furious, too. “Have you ever treated me as your husband? I slept on the floor the first time. The second time you were feeling guilty, so you slept on the floor.”

Agitated, Mu Xiaoqiao shouted, “Fine. We'll sleep together tonight.”

As soon as Qin Ming heard it, he paused. *Is this for real?*

“Why aren't you talking anymore?” Mu Xiaoqiao sounded smug. This was the first time she had rendered Qin Ming speechless.

Ignoring her, Qin Ming asked, “Where are we going? Aren't we heading back?”

Mu Xiaoqiao shot him a glare. “It's still early. Are you so eager to sleep with me? Accompany me to attend a collector's auction. Someone is selling string of Tibetan dzi beads which used to belong to a monk, and I want them.”

Who the hell wants to sleep with you? Qin Ming scoffed in his heart.

He recalled Zhang Jundong gifting him dzi beads when they came to beg for mercy after their conflict.

He heard that the beads were made from agate formed thousands of years ago. Dzi beads had strong magnetic fields, which could boost vitality and ward off evil. That's why Tibetans often wore them. The beads were especially popular among Buddhist monks and important figures. Qin Ming

had learned that dated dzi beads were even more precious than the new ones.

Many celebrities in the country wore those beads in public. A certain famous action star had been photographed in public wearing dzi beads worth a billion; it was indeed eye-catching.

Back then, Qin Ming had not thought much about the dzi beads Zhang Jundong gifted him. He had casually kept them inside his pants' pocket.

Qin Ming fished for them and actually found them. He took them out and asked, "What do you think about this one?"

The lighting in the car was dim. Mu Xiaoqiao only swept her eyes across it quickly and answered, "Dzi beads are getting more and more expensive. There are a lot of counterfeits in the market. It's not easy to recognize it if you're not an expert. Did you buy this from a roadside stall?"

Qin Ming's expression darkened as he refuted, "The person who gave me this is someone

reputable. It shouldn't be a fake.”

Mu Xiaoqiao laughed, “Do you know what are dzi beads? Their prices have increased drastically in recent years. A cinnabar four-eyed dzi bead was sold for 9 million, and a twelve-eyed dzi pendant was sold for 15 million. A nine-eyed dzi bead fetched 28 million, while a three-sided bead was old for a whopping 50 million. The one you have is a counterfeit; it has three dzi beads with agate. If it was real, it would be worth hundreds of millions. Who would give you 100 million? It must be fake.”

Qin Ming gasped silently. *It's that expensive? That means Zhang Jundong had been quite sincere.*

Qin Ming remembered when Zhang Jundong begged for mercy, he had also gifted him 300 million and a yacht, in addition to the bracelet he now had in his hands.

Unfortunately, his subordinate, Zhang Tieqiang, had crossed Qin Ming again. He could not blame Qin Ming for dealing with him and his gang.

Qin Ming did not refute her words anymore. It seemed like the bracelet was expensive, so he wore it around his wrist instead of putting it back into his pocket.

Noticing his actions, Mu Xiaoqiao said, "Hey. Don't wear it. They'll realize it's a fake. Aren't you afraid of being an embarrassment?"

Qin Ming huffed, "If you're afraid that I'll embarrass you, then let's have a divorce."

Mu Xiaoqiao was speechless. "Qin Ming, grow up!"

Qin Ming answered, "I'll stay away from you. I won't embarrass the Mu family."

"No. You have to follow me," Mu Xiaoqiao disagreed, "The Mu family is also your family."

Qin Ming rolled his eyes. *Why is this woman getting more and more troublesome?*

Soon, the two reached a building in the city center. Many had come to attend the auction

wearing fashionable clothes. The people in the crowd were whispering to each other.

Mu Xiaoqiao held Qin Ming's hand, giving him a shock. "What are you doing? Are you trying to take advantage of me again?"

"I—" Mu Xiaoqiao was speechless. She was the dream girl in Guang City. Many men wanted her, but she did not even glance at them. Yet, Qin Ming had just accused her of taking advantage of him.

Mu Xiaoqiao huffed, "You are the one who said you wanted to be respected. Am I not respecting you now? You're my husband. What's wrong with holding hands? Some here know that we're married. If we pretend not to know each other, we'll end up as a joke."

Qin Ming asked, "I'm just a poor boy in cheap clothes. Aren't you embarrassed?"

Surprisingly, Mu Xiaoqiao's expression did not change. "I was disgusted by you at the start, but it's not because of your wealth. I don't look down

on poor people; I only look down on immoral people. I heard from my brother's new girlfriend that not only were you useless, but you're also a womanizer who is slick with your words. You cling to the rich, and you cheat on Nie Haitang by having relationships with other girls."

Qin Ming was at a loss for words. *Li Meng again?*

Mu Xiaoqiao glanced at Qin Ming and continued, "But after the time we have spent together, it seems like you're not as despicable as I thought. In fact, you even helped me. I feel like I've misunderstood you. You're... quite a normal guy."

Qin Ming was feeling jovial. Somehow, he had changed the way the two sisters in the Mu family looked at him. It was a good change. It turned out that they loathed him in the beginning because they thought he was a person with poor character. However, it had all been the works of his ex-girlfriend, Li Meng.

Qin Ming asked, "Are you sure you're not saying this because of your grandfather's illness?"

Mu Xiaoqiao replied, "Of course not. I trust that you're a good person. If you have foul plans, you wouldn't have used the medication for my grandpa's illness to only threaten us with divorce. You've brought good luck and good things to my family and you've never asked anything in return. I have thought wrongly of you."

Qin Ming fell silent. He could not get used to being approved by the Mu sisters.

Just as Qin Ming was hesitating whether he should pretend that they were a married couple by holding hands with Mu Xiaoqiao, a handsome man in a suit stepped forward. He exclaimed, "Xiaoqiao, is that you? I didn't think that you'd be here for the auction, too."

Mu Xiaoqiao answered, "Luoxing? You're here for the auction, too?"

"Yes. Hm? This young man here is... Hello, I'm Fang Luoxing," The man greeted Qin Ming.

Qin Ming turned to ask, "Is this the one you mentioned earlier? The one you're interested in?"

Luoxing?”

“You-” Mu Xiaoqiao frowned. *Why is he like this? It's indeed him, but I only like him as an old friend.*

Mu Xiaoqiao kept her fury under wraps. *Don't you mind? I'm your wife.*

Indeed, Qin Ming did not mind. He had never treated Mu Xiaoqiao as his actual wife, and would let her do as she pleased.

On the other hand, Fang Luoxing was excited. It turned out Mu Xiaoqiao was interested in him. And yet, she had ignored him when he invited her for meals in the past.

Fang Luoxing smiled. “You look familiar. How do I address you?”

Qin Ming replied, “Qin Ming.”

Fang Luoxing blurted, “Oh! You're the one the financial magazines say that Ms. Nie likes. Not bad. Ms. Nie is the ideal daughter-in-law. Many

wealthy women in Guang City hope that their son can marry Nie Haitang.”

Qin Ming was happy to hear Fang Luoxing praising Nie Haitang.

“That's right. Nie Haitang is perfect.”

Beside them, Mu Xiaoqiao was dissatisfied to hear their words. She huffed, then walked away from them.

“Huh?” Fang Luoxing looked at Mu Xiaoqiao's retreating figure, confused. *What is she doing? Why is she suddenly angry?*

Fang Luoxing asked, “Qin Ming, did Mu Xiaoqiao actually say that she's interested in me?”

Qin Ming replied, “Yes. She said that she was interested in you, but that's all. She doesn't like you in that way yet. I guess you'll have to work harder.”

Fang Luoxing excitedly clenched his fist. “Is that

so? That's great! I sent her home the other day when it was raining, and I managed to stay in her house for a cup of tea. I even talked to her father for a while. It seems like something good came out of that.”

Qin Ming narrowed his eyes. “Do you need to be so excited?”

Fang Luoxing explained, “You don't understand her well. We're from the same school. When she was studying, she was the dream girl of Beijing. Rich kids were queuing to date her, but she would roll her eyes at them. Many talent agencies scouted her and offered to debut her as an actress with full company support, but she rejected them all. She never said yes to any men. Don't you feel this too? She's always cold and indifferent. It's rare to see her speak for long, not to mention being interested in anyone.”

Qin Ming nodded in agreement. She was indeed as cold as an iceberg, and behaved as if everyone owed her billions. She always looked arrogant.

Fang Luoxing continued, “As for me, I was in the

same social circle as her. Overtime, we developed a friendship. However, I was shy and cowardly in the past, so I didn't dare to court her. All I could do back then was to watch her quietly.

After graduation, I started working. When I had my own career, I began to regret—I should've taken the opportunity back then. I came to Guang City to work last year in order to court her. Honestly, it's been a year with no progress, and I even suspected that she hates me. This is too surprising; I didn't think that she thinks well of me. Maybe I really have a chance!”

After hearing Fang Luoxing's words, Qin Ming sighed in his heart.

What a lovestruck man.

Qin Ming patted Fang Luoxing's shoulder, then shouted to Mu Xiaoqiao who was a few steps ahead, “My dear wife, wait for me.”

Mu Xiaoqiao angrily turned her head around. “Who asked you to stand still?”

Qin Ming turned back to Fang Luoxing, whose smile had frozen.

“Excuse me, I shall take my leave first.”



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“N- No way. Xiaoqiao, when did you marry?”

Fang Luoxing caught up with Qin Ming and Mu Xiaoqiao. The expression on his face had changed; his face was pale, and his lips were trembling. He stared at Mu Xiaoqiao in exasperation and despair.

Coldly, Mu Xiaoqiao said to Qin Ming, “Qin Ming, can you grow up? Why do you have to agitate him?”

Qin Ming answered, “I’m teaching him a lesson. If he had been braver when he was studying, he wouldn’t regret this now. Mr. Fang, if you see someone you like in the future, you have to puff up, or else the one you like will become someone else’s woman.”

Mu Xiaoqiao rolled her eyes. It was obvious that Qin Ming was trying to make her feel uncomfortable.

And yet, she could not visibly get angry.

Mu Xiaoqiao said, “Luoxing, what I feel for you

is more of gratitude. I am thankful for your help in the past. The other day when you sent me home, my dad thought I was in a relationship with you because I've never brought any man home. That's why I can't respond to your hopes. Besides, I'm married now. You're just a friend to me.”

Fang Luoxing tensed up when he heard that she only regarded him as a friend. He had given up on everything in Beijing to come to Guang City for her, only to now hear her admit that she thought of him only as a friend.

He licked his lips feeling upset. He looked at Qin Ming, then at Mu Xiaoqiao. If looks could kill, Qin Ming would have been dead several times over.

Gradually, Fang Luoxing's face turned red as he became resentful.

“Mu Xiaoqiao, I've been courting you for so long, but you've never given me a sign. Hah. I know now that you must hate me. That's why you found someone to pretend to be your husband.

You just want me to give up. If you're really a married couple, prove it to me.”

The moment the words left his mouth, Mu Xiaoqiao grabbed Qin Ming by the neck and tip-toed to kiss the latter.

“Oh my! What soft lips. It tastes like mint too.” Qin Ming was ambushed. He swore to himself that if he had been wary, he would have been able to avoid the attack.

He quietly clenched his fist. *Nowadays, hooligans are everywhere.* If he did not pay enough attention to his surroundings, so he was taken advantage of. *Being a man is so difficult.*

Mu Xiaoqiao asked, “Luoxing, do we still need to show you our marriage certificate?”

Fang Luoxing was slowly breaking down. He shook his head in disbelief as he took small steps backward. He mumbled to himself, “No. No way this is happening. Qin Ming, who are you. Who are you to make Xiaoqiao look at you? What have you got?”

Just then, someone entered the hall and shouted, “Mr. Fang! It's a pleasure to- Huh? Qin Ming, why are you here?”

Fang Luoxing turned to look at the person who just entered. It was a general manager of a jewelry shop in Guang City, Zhao Dongliang. He greeted, “Mr. Zhao, it's you. Do you know Qin Ming, too?”

Zhao Dongliang replied, “I do. He's from the same college as my son. Fugui, your classmate is here.”

Ever since Zhao Dongliang had been kicked out of the charity gala twice by Qin Ming, he had become the laughingstock of his social circle. Now, Zhao Dongliang's entire family despised Qin. When they saw him, they looked like they wanted to eat him alive.

Behind the crowd, Zhao Fugui was holding onto his girlfriend Xie Tao's hands. He glanced at Qin Ming and mocked, “Dad, I think we need to pay more attention to our status. We're from the upper-class society, and Qin Ming is a douchebag

with no money. He's here to clean the place, isn't he? I don't want to be associated with him. I'll downgrade my status by being around him. Besides, nothing good happens when he's around.”

Although he hated Qin Ming, Zhao Fugui had never managed to take advantage of Qin Ming. That was why he did not want to interact with Qin Ming too much.

When he saw Mu Xiaoqiao beside Qin Ming, he was especially envious because she was a beauty.

Why does he always get pretty girls like these? He's just a poor moron. He just sent me my delivery last week. Do goddesses like her prefer penniless idiots like him? It's the same for Bai Yuchun, Zhang Xiaoyan, and Nie Haitang. And this beauty is no different!

Zhao Fugui shouted in his heart: *What the hell is wrong with this world?*

Fang Luoxing asked in surprise, “He's a penniless jerk? How can that be?”

Zhao Dongliang shrugged, "Mr. Fang, why should I lie to you? Qin Ming is my son's classmate of three years. I know him well."

Glancing at Zhao Fugui from a few steps away, Qin Ming noticed Zhao Fugui's eyes were red with envy.

Qin Ming did not want to bother himself with Zhao Fugui. On the other hand, Zhao Fugui was boasting to Xie Tao, "There'll be something nice later, and we'll be bidding for it. If something interesting shows up, we can bid for you, too."

Xie Tao said to him, "Fugui, you're so nice to me."

Then she turned to look at Qin Ming and continued, "Unlike some greedy and irresponsible guy who's having affairs everywhere. What a douchebag."

Fang Luoxing hurriedly asked, "Irresponsible? Is Qin Ming not a good person?"

Xie Tao answered, "That's right. My cousin is in

the same school as he. He used to court her, but later on he successfully courted another rich girl. Now, he's with another new face. Tsk! Douchebags are always a favorite among ladies.”

Zhao Fugui looked at Fang Luoxing's expression and realized that the latter must be in love with Mu Xiaoqiao. His hatred for Qin Ming made him say, “Mr. Fang, my words are all true. Qin Ming comes from a poor family. When he was poor, he used to eat buns with water for a whole month. But he has a slick tongue, and his sweet words get him the girls.”

Fang Luoxing clenched his fists and murmured, “How can Mu Xiaoqiao be so blind to marry an a**hole like him? If she's been lied to, I'm going to expose Qin Ming like the liar he is.”

Sensing a burning gaze on him, Qin Ming turned to look at Fang Luoxing. He realized that Zhao Fugui must have brainwashed Fang Luoxing into hating him.

However, the auction was about to start, so Mu Xiaoqiao pulled Qin Ming to enter the hall.

The moment they sat down, Mu Xiaoqiao said, "If there's anything you like, I can get it for you."

There was no other reaction from Qin Ming apart from a simple, "Okay."

Looking at Qin Ming, Mu Xiaoqiao asked, "You aren't jealous, are you?"

Qin Ming shook his head. "I don't like you. Why would I be jealous?"

Mu Xiaoqiao was confused. "Do you hate me that much? Or do you still think of your ex-girlfriend, Nie Haitang?"

Qin Ming replied to her honestly, "Yes. Haitang loves to smile, and her smile is like the spring's sun. When I was dumped by Li Meng, Haitang's smile was the thing that saved me. What do you have that can be compared with her?"

Mu Xiaoqiao bit her lower lips as she huffed from anger. She fell silent, then turned her head away from Qin Ming, choosing to read up on the auction's pamphlet instead.

“The first painting is a draft by Mr. Leng, who is well-known domestically. I'm sure everyone knows that Mr. Leng's paintings are photorealistic. No matter how you look at them, they look like photos, but they're actually paintings. They're a treasure to the nation. The starting price is 3 million. Each bid will at least 100 thousand...”

Qin Ming thought that all he needed to do was to wait for the dzi beads to be auctioned. However, Fang Luoxing walked over to the two of them and asked, “Xiaoqiao, Mr. Leng's paintings are worthy of collecting. Do you like them? I can get them for you.”

Mu Xiaoqiao looked at Qin Ming before answering, “Sure.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As Fang Luoxing tried to get closer to Mu Xiaoqiao, she glanced at Qin Ming.

It was true that she did not like Qin Ming in the past. After all, no woman would like to have an irresponsible a**hole of a husband.

However, after spending time with each other, Mu Xiaoqiao realized that Qin Ming was a humble and generous man.

For example, he would resolve troubles but ask for nothing in return. Zhu Shengwen's incident was an example. It was obvious that he was helping Mu Xiaoqiao, but he insisted that he was not. Furthermore, the Mu family had not been friendly to him at the start, but Qin Ming said nothing about that, either.

After noticing the good points of Qin Ming, Mu Xiaoqiao realized he was not a bad man to marry. The men she had come across in the past were arrogant. They would trample on others to show themselves off. Qin Ming was the first humble man she had seen.

Most importantly, he did not seem to care about her, as if she was some ferocious beast that should not be touched.

Mu Xiaoqiao was prideful. She was a daughter of a wealthy family; she was pretty with a good figure. Countless men tried to court her, but Qin Ming was completely disinterested in her.

And yet, she could not say that he was not a man. Her face would still flush red when she thought back to the time when he shoved her hand into his pants.

She did not want to admit defeat. Why does Qin Ming reject me so badly? Am I not feminine enough? Am I not charming enough?

She was envious of how gentle Qin Ming looked when he spoke about Nie Haitang's smile.

That was why when Fang Luoxing came to her, she played along. She wanted to agitate Qin Ming.

That is how women behave. They would do

irrational and dangerous things to attract the attention of men they are interested in.

When Fang Luoxing heard Mu Xiaoqiao agreeing to his offer, he thought that it was a sign from her that she was still interested in him. He raised his hand and called out, "4 million."

"Wow!" The crowd roared. Each bid was supposed to be 100 thousand, but he immediately offered 1 million. Everyone wondered who could bid a higher price.

"Mr. Fang is rich. He's young and impressive. I'm jealous!"

"His Fangzheng Group came prepared. I'm guessing that half of the items will end up with them."

"Mr. Fang is sitting with Ms. Mu. A handsome man with a beautiful woman. They're a perfect match for each other."

"Hush. The poor man playing with his phone beside her is Ms. Mu's husband. Don't you know

about this? Ms. Mu has secretly married. The guy is a live-in husband. I think he's here to fight her brother for inheritance.”

“Really? That pretty boy? Who is he?”

“Who can he be? A live-in husband must be poor and easy to control. Can't you see that Ms. Mu is enjoying her chat with Mr. Fang? He's turning into a cuckold, but he doesn't seem to care. I can't tell if it's because he's shameless or that he has resigned himself to fate.”

“4 million, going once. Is anyone bidding a higher price?”

When the crowd was discussing, Qin Ming suddenly raised his hand.

“5 million.”

“Wow!” The crowd shouted again. Although the painting was photorealistic, it was only one of Mr. Leng's drafts. It was not his best work, so should not be worth more than 4 million.

The price Fang Luoxing bid was already terrifying, but Qin Ming made it even more so.

“Qin Ming, you-” Mu Xiaoqiao whipped her head toward him.

“If you like it, you should've said so earlier. I wouldn't have asked Luoxing to bid for it. We're going to spend an extra million for nothing.”

Qin Ming questioned placidly, “What's wrong? Can't I bid for it? Am I embarrassing the Mu family again?”

Mu Xiaoqiao could tell from Qin Ming's tone that he was upset. Not only did she not get angry, but she felt happy when she heard him.

He's angry? Is he jealous? Does he care about me even if it's just a little bit? As expected, men don't say what's on their minds.

In the hall, someone asked curiously, “Who is that? Is he from a wealthy family?”

“I don't know. He just called out 5 million

suddenly. Did he bring one billion to the auction today?"

Zhao Fugui and his father scoffed, "What billionaire? He's just a penniless idiot. He's here for fun, isn't he?" Zhao Fugui waved to a staff and said, "Hey, you, this man has no money. He shouldn't be allowed to bid."

The auction hall was not a big area. The ones who attended the auction were Guang City's collectors and rich people. They all knew each other. Right now, they were all looking at Qin Ming curiously, confused by his actions.

Within the crowd were Mu Jianqiao and his wife, Wei Feng. They said, "That's Ms. Mu's husband. He's a live-in son-in-law. He's spending Mu Xiaoqiao's money."

When the crowd noticed that it was the Mu family speaking, they nodded in understanding. They thought to themselves, *Live-in son-in-law? I see.*

"Oh dear, when did the Mu family marry off their

daughter? Why didn't we know about it? Why wasn't I invited?"

"Didn't you hear he's a live-in? They didn't marry their daughter off. Besides, the man doesn't have any significant family background, and he's poverty-stricken. It must be embarrassing. After all, the Mu family has old money, and dignity is important to them."

"Why is Ms. Mu enjoying her chat with Mr. Fang? She's cheating on her husband in broad daylight!"

"Who knows what's going on? It's not like you're familiar with rich people's life."

The whispers in the hall became more and more ridiculous. Mu Xiaoqiao was embarrassed. All she did was chat for a short while with Fang Luoxing, but the situation turned uncontrollable.

Mu Xiaoqiao bit her lower lips and huffed quietly, "These people can't control their mouths."

Hearing her words, Qin Ming scoffed, "Weren't you the one who brought this upon yourself?"

On the other hand, Fang Luoxing was enjoying it. *That's right. In the audience's eyes, Mu Xiaoqiao and I are the perfect pair. An irresponsible man like Qin Ming isn't worthy of her.*

Fang Luoxing had a successful career, and he was one of the shareholders in the company. He owned a car and a house. Furthermore, he brought 800 million to the auction today, determined to dominate the scene.

He was sure that there was some story behind Mu Xiaoqiao's marriage. Fang Luoxing was confident that his hard work would make Mu Xiaoqiao look at him again.

He then raised his hand. "6 million."

"Alright. 6 million. Mr. Fang, you look cool raising your hand. Everyone has equal opportunity. Does anyone else want to bid?"

The crowd subconsciously looked toward Qin Ming. It was obvious that Fang Luoxing was intentionally going against Qin Ming, and they were sure that Qin Ming would not be able to outbid him.

However, Qin Ming raised his hands and calmly said, "7 million."

"Very well. 7 million! You have good taste. This young man is bidding 7 million. Anyone else?"

Mu Xiaoqiao felt that Qin Ming was immature again. He had no money, and she would be the one paying for it in the end. *Isn't this jealousy too much?*

Mu Xiaoqiao could not help but say, "Luoxing, on my behalf, can you not compete with my husband anymore?"

When Fang Luoxing heard her calling Qin Ming her husband, his heart twisted into a knot. However, he could not reject his dream girl.

Fang Luoxing answered, "Alright, I'll stop. But

I've made you spend an extra 3 million. I'll bid for something else you like later as compensation.”

Mu Xiaoqiao politely rejected, “Thank you, but there's no need for it.”

And so, the first painting of the auction now belonged to Qin Ming. However, everyone assumed that Qin Ming had gotten it with Mu Xiaoqiao's money.

Zhao Fugui scoffed, “Why is he so smug? It's not his money.”

Xie Tao said, “Fugui, I heard from the crowd that Qin Ming is the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family? Is it real? Why did he suddenly marry?”

Zhao Fugui answered, “It should be a rumor. How can a beauty like her fall in love with a broke half-wit like him? I'll eat shit if it's true. He's either a hired actor or a staff here. But Qin Ming is good at networking. He knows quite a few billionaires, and he works for them. Ms. Mu is rich, so she must have hired Qin Ming to help

her stop men from trying to court her.”

Zhao Fugui stuck to his own beliefs; he was completely unaffected by the ongoing discussions around him.

Onstage, the auctioneer continued, “Alright. The next item is a Dodo skeleton from 15 million years ago. The starting price is 4 million. Each bid can't be less than 500 thousand...”

Before the auctioneer had finished his words, Qin Ming raised his hand. “6 million.”

The crowd was stunned. Mu Xiaoqiao immediately stood up. She bit her lips and stared at Qin Ming.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The atmosphere at the auction was a bit dull until Qin Ming, in a single bid, raised the price by 2 million from the starting price. Once again, he had exceeded the market value of the item. It was obvious he was flaunting his wealth.

Anyone who was less wealthy than a billionaire would not make such a move. It was disrespecting to other bidders.

“It's only because he has the Mu family's support now. This guy is a useless man.”

“Hah. He's just a waste of space. Even if the Mu family is rich, he shouldn't spend like this.”

“Fugui, why do I sense that Qin Ming isn't here to accompany her?”

“He's a witty one, so don't be fooled. As I told you, if he's rich, I'll eat shit.”

When Mu Xiaoqiao heard Qin Ming's bid, she stood up in shock. She was simultaneously angry and confused. She stared at Qin Ming, asking him with her eyes, Why are you doing this?

However, Qin Ming's calmness seemed to be telling her that he would do as he pleased, and she would not be able to stop him.

Mu Xiaoqiao frowned. Is he still angry from jealousy? He's like a kid.

Mu Xiaoqiao grabbed her purse and sat on Qin Ming's other side. Doing so allowed her to distance herself from Fang Luoxing.

Fang Luoxing was upset as he stared at the empty seat beside him. He was enjoying the chat with Mu Xiaoqiao, but now she had moved over to sit on Qin Ming's left side. It was evident that she was avoiding him.

Mu Xiaoqiao leaned closer to Qin Ming and whispered, "Qin Ming, I only have one billion. Many are here tonight for the bead. You've already spent more than 10 million of my money. Let's stop now, alright?"

Qin Ming answered calmly, "I have my own money. I won't be spending yours. This is my first time in an auction, and it seems interesting. I

want to do more bidding to get a better grasp of this process.”

Mu Xiaoqiao rolled her eyes. “You have more than 10 million? Who are you lying to? Are you planning to sell the house Grandpa gave you? I don't agree with it. What if you're not used to living in the family home? We'll have to move there. Grandpa's house for you is good enough for us.”

Qin Ming said, “What can I do? You don't believe in me.”

In a serious tone, Mu Xiaoqiao uttered, “Qin Ming, are you angry because you're jealous? I admit I was deliberately talking to Luoxing earlier to make you jealous. That's because you don't care about me. No matter what, I'm still your wife. I'm not happy that you're praising your ex-girlfriend in front of me.”

Qin Ming rolled her eyes. He was conflicted because he could sense that Mu Xiaoqiao did not seem to be keen on the divorce. She doesn't like me, but she refuses to let me go. What is she

trying to do?

It's all because of Zhang Quanzhen. He told me divorce was possible back then!

Qin Ming was a soft-hearted man who could not bear to listen to a woman's quiet begging. He sighed, "Alright. Just this one. It's not like I need these collectibles anyway."

The auctioneer called out a few more times, and someone put in a bid. In the end, the Dodo skeleton was still won by Qin Ming with a final bid of 10 million.

After a few more items, Qin Ming stopped bidding. Instead, he started looking at his phone. When he saw that Zhang Xiaoyan was live-streaming, he sent her some gifts.

Once Qin Ming stopped bidding, Fang Luoxing started dominating the scene. With his impressive wealth, he continuously bid for many items.

The crowd shook their heads and sighed at Fang Luoxing's actions. None could compete against

his Fangzheng Group.

“Mr. Fang is impressive. Fangzheng Group is indeed a capable company.”

“I heard Mr. Fang is one of the shareholders, and he's here on behalf of the company.”

“We can't compete against them. Fangzheng Group is a big company in Beijing. They're going to open a branch in Guang City.”

“Let's save up and wait for the dzi bead or the pink diamond.”

Fang Luoxing was proud to hear the praises from the crowd. Right then, he changed his seat to sit beside Qin Ming. However, he ignored Qin Ming, the man in his way of courting Mu Xiaoqiao.

The girl he had dreamed of since his student days, the woman he had pined for when he was awake and asleep, was ruined by a poor b*stard.

Furthermore, the b*stard was even spending her

money shamelessly.

He said to Mu Xiaoqiao, “Xiaoqiao, the gem necklace of the European royals that I won earlier fits you well. I'll send it to you later.”

Mu Xiaoqiao shook her head and rejected politely, “Thank you for your good intentions, Luoxing, but I don't need it.”

Fang Luoxing frowned. Weren't we on good terms earlier? Why is she rejecting me now?

Fang Luoxing looked at Qin Ming, who was watching a live stream. The former cursed at Qin Ming in his heart. F*ck, a beauty like Mu Xiaoqiao is sitting beside you, yet you're watching a female live-streamer? Huh? This live streamer really is quite pretty. Ahem. That's not right. Qin Ming is such a douchebag. Has Xiaoqiao been cursed to fall in love with him?

Knock, knock! On the table on stage, a glass box was presented.

The auctioneer said, “I'm sure many of you are

here for this set of nine-eyed dzi bead today. It is a treasure from a Tibetan monk, and it is of premium quality. It comes from the renowned collector, Ms. Xie. The quality of the item is guaranteed, and we've even invited the famous appraiser, Mr. Yang, to authenticate the item. The starting price is 60 million. Every bid will be no less than 3 million.”

The moment the dzi bead was showcased, the crowd went wild. Its starting price was now twice the amount of the previous auction.

However, it did not deter interested buyers.

Mu Xiaoqiao was nervous. She could not help but grab Qin Ming's hands and mumble, “Qin Ming, taking out the amount of the two items you've successfully bid for, I only have around 80 million left. I don't know if it'll be enough.”

Qin Ming calmly replied, “It's alright. It's not expensive.”

Beside him, Fang Luoxing scoffed, “Shameless. Qin Ming, other than spending more than 10

million of Xiaoqiao's money, what did you contribute? You're a man. Not only can you not protect your woman, but you also need her to protect you?"

Qin Ming furrowed his brows. He originally had a good impression of Fang Luoxing. Qin Ming knew that his one-sided love for Mu Xiaoqiao was a waste of time, so he had tried to stop it.

However, not only did Fang Luoxing not give up, but he also became jealous of Qin Ming and proceeded to outbid the latter. He bid for all kinds of items for Mu Xiaoqiao to show that he was generous and rich.

Qin Ming was starting to feel irate. Even if you're cool, you don't need to show it off in my face. I tried to teach you a lesson, but you insisted on going against me. You must have a death wish.

Thinking of this turn of events, Qin Ming, who had not been planning to bid, now decided to vie for the nine-eyed dzi bead.

After Mr. Yang had authenticated the item, he

said, "This is the genuine nine-eyed dzi bead that once belonged to a Tibetan monk. Ms. Xie had bought it for 30 million back then. It was made during the early Ming Dynasty. In addition to the use of agate, it is also a rare product of the Ming Dynasty. Even now, it has a strong magnetic field; it is something worth collecting."

Once the man finished explaining, Zhao Dongliang raised his hand and called out, "63 million."

Before the auctioneer could say anything, someone else put up their hand. "66 million."

"69 million." Zhao Dongliang raised his hand again.

Quickly, another person outbid Zhao Dongliang. "75 million."

Zhao Dongliang knitted his brows. The price was increasing swiftly. Beside him, Zhao Fugui asked, "Dad, how much do you have for the auction?"

Zhao Dongliang sighed, "I only have 70 million. I wasn't expecting so many people to be interested in this bead. It seems like we can't continue. This nine-eyed dzi bead is valuable. It can ward off disasters, improve your mood, and show off your status. It's something with great benefit. The nine-eye pattern is the ultimate representation of all totems. In the last stage of Buddhist training, the ninth lotus symbolizes life, and the person attaining this stage is said to enjoy eternal bliss after death."

Zhao Fugui rolled his eyes at his father. "Dad, why are you so superstitious? You should've just bought me a Ferrari with the money."

Zhao Dongliang scoffed at him, "What does a brat like you know? Do you know why the richer a person is, the more religious they are?"

Zhao Fugui frowned, "I've never seen Bill Gates praying to Buddha."

Zhao Dongliang smacked his son's head. "He's Christian."

When Xie Tao noticed that the father and son were about to fight, she quickly intervened, “Mr. Zhao is already impressive to have lasted this long. This item costs tens of millions. Some didn't even say a word after they heard the starting price.”

The auctioneer announced, “75 million going once. Are there any more bids? This is a rare item to have.”

Mu Xiaoqiao had not expected the price of the dzi bead to increase as drastically as it did. As she had to pay for the two previous items for Qin Ming, she did not have much money left for the bead.

For the first time, she raised her hand. “78 million.”

“Ms. Mu is indeed wealthy. 78 million. Is there anyone else who's interested? Oh, are you raising your hand? 78 million. Alright, that Mister is bidding 81 million.”

When Mu Xiaoqiao saw that the man making the

bid was a familiar collector, her face paled. The other party was a wealthy person, and he even smiled at her. Evidently, he was confident in getting the bead.

Mu Xiaoqiao frowned. She took out the phone, thinking of asking for more money from her family. However, 100 million was the maximum that Mu Hao would give her.

That was because Mu Hao believed in Taoism, so he did not believe in dzi beads.

If it had been an Eight Trigrams mirror, Mu Hao would easily have spent hundreds of millions on it.

Beside her, Fang Luoxing noticed Mu Xiaoqiao's hesitation and his heart leaped in joy. He quickly said to her, "Xiaoqiao, why don't we join up? I'll loan you some money."

Mu Xiaoqiao exclaimed, "Really?"

Fang Luoxing smiled. "We've known each other for so long. I've never lied to you. Just continue

to bid until you get it. Even if the price is high, there is a ceiling. You can pay me back the extra money in the future.”

Fang Luoxing had a plan. As long as Mu Xiaoqiao owed him money, he would be able to see her, thereby creating opportunities for himself.

Fang Luoxing clenched his fists enthusiastically. He stole a glance at Qin Ming, who was slumping in his seat. No matter what was the reason for your marriage, I know I'm better and more suited for Mu Xiaoqiao. Even if you're already married, I'll get her. So what if she's your wife? I can still make her fall in love with me.

Now that Mu Xiaoqiao had Fang Luoxing's help, she raised her hand again. “90 million.”

“Wow!” The crowd shouted. This was a new record.

Just then, someone raised their hand.

“93 million. A new record again. Another buyer is interested. Good call. Is anyone else interested in this dzi bead?”

Mu Xiaoqiao looked at the person who raised their hand, and her heart sank. That person was another well-known wealthy collector in Guang City. Supposedly, the Mu family was not afraid of that collector.

However, Mu Xiaoqiao could not represent the entire Mu family, and neither could she spend Mu family's entire wealth in an auction.

Noticing her pale look, Qin Ming asked, “Who is that?”

Fang Luoxing huffed in disdain, “Qin Ming, have you been living under a rock? That's Mr. Luo, a well-known collector in Guang City. Barely anyone can take away the things he's interested in.”

He then turned and looked at Mu Xiaoqiao worriedly, “Xiaoqiao, I'm afraid this time...”

Mu Xiaoqiao said in determination, "No. I must have it."

She raised her hand again. "96 million."

Before Luo could raise his hand, a middle-aged woman elegantly raised hers. "102 million."

"Wow!" The crowd roared. They thought that it had been a competition between Mr. Luo and Mu Xiaoqiao, but now, even Madam Cao was competing for it.

The Cao family was also an old wealthy family in Guang City, on par with the Mu family, while Madam Cao herself was an important figure in the city.

Madam Cao said, "Luo, it's difficult to get what you want with money. Ten years ago, I missed out on this. Today, I won't. It doesn't matter to me how much I spend to get it."

Madam Cao's words meant that Mu Xiaoqiao was not even worthy of being her competitor.

Mr. Luo replied, "What a coincidence. That's what I'm thinking of, too. Madam Cao, I'm well-prepared today."

Yet another wealthy family was interested in this nine-eyed dzi bead. Mu Xiaoqiao could feel herself getting more and more stressed.

She asked, "Luoxing, how much can you support me with? I think the bead will fetch a record price. It might end up at more than 200 million."

Fang Luoxing was stunned. "T- Two-hundred million? It can't be. Even if dzi bead is precious, it shouldn't cost this much."

Now, it was Fang Luoxing's turn to feel stressed. He had bought a handful of items earlier, and he no longer had that much money for the auction. Furthermore, he was prepared to bid for the pink diamond later. He had thought that 50 million would be more than enough to support Mu Xiaoqiao. However, if the bead's price would turn out to be more than 200 million, he would not be able to help her.

Mu Xiaoqiao raised her hand. "105 million."

"108 million," Luo called out without hesitation. At the same time, he smiled at Mu Xiaoqiao. He was signaling for her to stop competing with him.

His glance made her even more determined to continue. She called out, "121 million."

Madam Cao slowly raised her hand again. In a soft voice, she said, "Don't compete with an old lady like me. The price is getting ridiculously high. Money is difficult to come by, so you should save it for something else. Besides, it'll look better when we meet in the future. 130 million."

However, Luo refused to relent. "Madam Cao, I understand what it means to get what you want with money. What matters to me is not the price but the item. 150 million."

After he finished speaking, apart from the auctioneer the entire auction hall fell silent. These families of old money were competing with each other, and the atmosphere was tense. Other than

continuously getting shocked by their wealth, none could intervene.

Fang Luoxing had reached his limits. This is ridiculous! The rich really don't care about anything.

He quickly clarified, "About this, Xiaoqiao. I can't do anything anymore. Why don't I pick something from the ones I've bid?"

Hearing his words, Mu Xiaoqiao knew that she would not be able to continue bidding anymore.

She slumped in her chair as her eyes brimmed with tears. It was apparent that she really wanted the dzi bead, but she could not afford it.

Fang Luoxing stuck out his neck and comforted her, "Xiaoqiao, really. We have other kinds of dzi beads in my company's collection, too. Although they aren't the nine-eyed ones, they're not bad, either. You can come to my office and check them out."

Mu Xiaoqiao bit her lower lip as tears swirled in

her eyes. Abruptly, she stood up and walked out of the hall.

When Fang Luoxing saw that Qin Ming did not accompany her, he hurriedly ran after her. He was overjoyed. You idiot just gave me the chance!

The bidding was still ongoing, but it had slowed down in comparison to the earlier scene.

Now, each bid was 3 million higher. Evidently, the two competitors were reaching their limits.

“160 million. Luo, are you still continuing?”
Madam Cao was furious as she stomped her cane on the floor. She glared in Luo's direction.

Luo wiped the sweat from his forehead. The price was getting higher and higher. Although he loved the bead, he could barely compete against the Cao family's wealth.

The auctioneer was also getting nervous as he asked, “160 million. Is anyone else interested? 160 million going once...”

“200 million.” It was only then that Qin Ming raised his head calmly and called out his bid.

He had chosen this time to bid because he knew that Luo was no longer capable of competing. Now, he only had Madam Cao as his competitor.

Everyone in the hall was stunned when they saw that it was Qin Ming who had bid. Wasn't that the young man who came with Mu Xiaoqiao?

Mu Xiaoqiao had already given up and went outside to cry. Does he have the money?

Madam Cao froze before turning around to look at him with fiery eyes. “Boy, you're a live-in son-in-law of the Mu family. Don't stir up trouble when your wife isn't around. Furthermore, you don't raise prices like this.”

Qin Ming replied, “This is my first time here. I'm inexperienced, but I hope you won't mind, Madam Cao. However, I would ask that you calm down. If you get sick from being so angry, I'll have to bear responsibility for that.”

In the crowd, Zhao Fugui huffed to the auction staff, "Hey, I object. It's 200 million. Does he even have 200 million?"

Recalling his humiliation at the charity gala, Zhao Dongliang added, "Mr. Auctioneer, Qin Ming is nothing but a poverty-stricken half-wit. He's messing around here. I'm requesting for him to be sent out."

Zhao Fugui continued, "That's right. What will happen if he ends up bidding 500 million but can't pay for it?"

Sensing the opportunity, Mu Jianqiao called out, "I can prove that he's just the live-in son-in-law of the Mu family. He's too much of a b*stard that my niece is embarrassed by him. That's why barely anyone in Guang City knows about their marriage."

"Wow. He has no money and is just creating trouble?"

"What rights do a live-in son-in-law have in here? You'd better comfort your wife first."

“Your wife ran out crying, but you're still here. Tsk.”

“Madam Cao is going to end up with the nine-eyed dzi bead.”

The crowd chattered, ignoring Qin Ming. They all felt that Qin Ming had come with Mu Xiaoqiao and had no money of his own to bid for anything.

Qin Ming leaned his chin onto his jaw and asked, “Does it concern you whether I can pay 200 million? Will you eat the chairs you're now sitting on if I have the money?”

The crowd fell silent. It was true that it was none of their business. After all, they did not have the money to bid.

However, anger had overtaken Zhao Fugui's rationality. He mocked, “Qin Ming, forget it. You've always been a kept boy. How can you have 200 million? If you do, I'll eat shit. What an embarrassment. Prove it to us.”

Qin Ming firmly said, "It's true I didn't pay for the margin, but what's wrong with me bidding under my wife's name? Do you want to see 200 million? Sure. Check this card for me, please."

Then, Qin Ming took out his black card.

The moment he took out the back card, the wealthy people in the hall stood up and cast jealous gazes at him.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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This was Global Bank's black card. It had no spending limit.

Compared to the black cards of domestic banks, Global Bank's black card was more powerful. After all, it could be used anywhere in the world.

When Qin Ming took out the card confidently, everyone was stunned as they wondered what card he had taken out. All of them were trying to catch a glimpse of the card. Some were shocked, and some were jealous.

However, in the next second, Qin Ming had covered the card as he handed it to the staff.

The staff hurriedly took it to authenticate the card. Less than three minutes later, the staff returned.

With a polite smile, the staff returned the card to Qin Ming and explained, "Mr. Qin's card can be used for purchases of more than 200 million. Mr. Qin had come with Ms. Mu, and their margin has been paid. As he has enough funds, he is allowed to bid for the item."

When the staff finished talking, there was an uproar in the audience.

“He's that rich? Even Mu Xiaoqiao is crying outside.”

“What do you know? The real rich ones are humble. I'm afraid that Qin Ming has a powerful background. Is the Mu family trying to hide him from the public?”

“He can easily take out 200 million. He must be someone powerful.”

“It's true you can't judge a book by its cover. It seems like Mu Xiaoqiao had found herself quite a good man.”

“Who said that he was a poverty-stricken half-wit?”

“That had been Zhao Dongliang and his son. Zhao Dongliang's the chairman of Dongliang Department Store.”

“Haha! It's them? Back then, the father and son

had been chased out of Century Tower's charity gala by Qin Ming. Are they trying to take revenge on him?"

"Tsk. His son even said he'll eat shit. How uncultured. Does he have to be so envious of others who are richer than he? How petty. He'll never become a capable person in life."

After realizing Qin Ming's wealth, everyone had changed their attitude toward him.

They all felt that Qin Ming was too humble, and they had had the wrong impression of him because of that. In fact, they thought that it was impressive of Qin Ming to have fooled all of them.

Qin Ming kept his card and said, "Speaking of which, Zhao Fugui, if you're a real man, you'll have to prove it to me. Go to the restroom and eat shit. If you can't, stop lying to everyone."

Zhao Fugui's face was ashen. He felt as if the world had gone mad. Qin Ming had just delivered him food last week, and he had been washing

plates in the college's cafeteria a few months earlier, when he was still devastated from his breakup with Li Meng.

Furthermore, he had heard from the staff that Mu Xiaoqiao was Qin Ming's wife.

What? If Zhao Fugui had not been stunned by the black card, he would have jumped to his feet to question him. How can this be possible? The girl by Qin Ming's side keeps changing. Moreover, those girls are getting prettier and richer. How does he do this?

The Mu family is an old wealthy family in Guang City. They're worth tens of billions. Mu Xiaoqiao is the girl of many men's dreams.

Why is Qin Ming her husband? What has happened during these few weeks?

As the son of a wealthy family, Zhao Fugui had always been prideful, especially in class against his classmates. And especially when compared to poor people like Qin Ming.

However, his pride was destroyed all of a sudden. This was a humiliation far worse than the time he was chased out from the charity gala.

That was because he could not actually act on his words.

Zhao Dongliang reprimanded, “Qin Ming, you're his classmate. Is there anyone like you who pressures his classmate like this?”

Qin Ming scoffed, “Look. These people have double standards. They have been slandering me without hesitation earlier, but now that they're wrong, they say that I'm his classmate. No matter what happens, they're always the good ones, and I'm the bad one.”

Qin Ming's words sounded righteous, and no one spoke on behalf of the Zhao family's father and son.

Luo said, “We're here to bid. There's no need to speak badly about each other. Mr. Zhao, not only did your son publicly smear Mr. Qin's reputation, but he also tried to get the staff to kick Mr. Qin

out of this place. At the end of the day, Mr. Qin is Ms. Mu's husband. What reason does he have to chase Mr. Qin out? Now that your son turns out to be wrong and he can't fulfill his promise, he should first apologize.”

His words were a lesson taught by an elder to the younger generation. In saying so, Luo had also given the father and son a chance to resolve the situation peacefully.

There was a ghastly expression on Zhao Dongliang's face. His son had to be taught a lesson by an outsider, and he could not refute the outsider's words.

Once again, the father and son were disgraced.

After tonight, they would be the laughingstock of the upper-class society in Guang City again. That was what Zhao Dongliang was resentful about.

Qin Ming lazily waved his hand. “Thank you, Mr. Luo, for speaking on my behalf. However, I'm not interested in their apologies. It'll only dirty my ears. I want to continue with the

bidding. Let's not waste anyone's time.”

Zhao Dongliang was furious and embarrassed, and he swiftly left the scene. Zhao Fugui lowered his head in equal embarrassment as he followed after his father.

When the bidding continued, Madam Cao suddenly sighed.

She shook her head. “I won't be continuing. Boy, you seem confident and aggressive. I'm sure you'll keep increasing the price. 200 million is my limit. I won't continue bidding. Congratulations.”

Qin Ming bowed his head slightly at her. “Thank you, Madam Cao, for your kindness.”

200 million for a nine-eyed dzi bead was beyond everyone's imagination, and no one else bid for it. After the auctioneer called out three more times, the final hammer signaled to everyone that the bead now belonged to Qin Ming.

Many eyes turned green with envy as they

watched Qin Ming place the nine-eyed Dzi bead into a bag, while others in the crowd clapped for him.

They clapped because they were impressed that the old collectors had lost to a young man like Qin Ming. After all, collecting was a hobby, and the more collectors there were, the merrier it was.

After the dzi bead was sold, the last item was put up for auction. It was a pink diamond, a symbol of loyal and unchanging love. Pink diamonds were more alluring and valuable because of their scarcity.

While they were preparing for the final item, Mu Xiaoqiao was still outside the hall. Although her tears had been wiped away, her bloodshot eyes could not hide the fact that she had been crying.

Beside her was Fang Luoxing, comforting her and handing her tissues at the same time. However, Mu Xiaoqiao did not take his tissues.

Fang Luoxing did not want to admit defeat as he murmured, "Xiaoqiao, I'm sorry I couldn't help

you. If only I had more money. It would've worked out.”

Mu Xiaoqiao replied, “Luoxing, this isn't your fault. You don't need to feel guilty.”

Fang Luoxing asked, curious, “Why do you have to get the nine-eyed dzi bead? Will you not take other kinds of dzi beads? The slightly lower grade ones are easier to get.”

Mu Xiaoqiao shook her head. “It's a personal reason. There's no need for me to talk about it. I'm going home with my husband. I'll be leaving now.”

Fang Luoxing was disgruntled when he heard that Mu Xiaoqiao was still thinking of Qin Ming even at a time like this. “Xiaoqiao, Qin Ming is just a b*stard. He didn't even check on you when you're crying. Why are you still thinking of him? Let's go. I'll bring you out and cheer you up.”

Mu Xiaoqiao frowned. Why is Luoxing so annoying today?

He's dissing Qin Ming when he doesn't know anything about him. Moreover, he keeps picking a bone with him. Even Luoxing, who used to be simple, has turned snobbish after he entered society.

Mu Xiaoqiao coldly rejected, "No need, Luoxing."

She then strode back into the hall. However, she realized that everyone was now eyeing her differently.

Only after she sat beside Qin Ming did he look at her. Quietly, he told her, "I've bid for you. Pay me back slowly."

Mu Xiaoqiao asked, puzzled, "What did you get? Forget it. Let's pay now. Take the two things you've bid in the beginning, then let's go back."

Qin Ming said, "No. This pink diamond necklace is beautiful. I want to bid for it, too."

Mu Xiaoqiao was defeated today. She was exhausted, physically and mentally. However, she

still patiently persuaded, “Stop messing around, Qin Ming. Let's go back.”

Fang Luoxing, who had followed behind them, noticed that Mu Xiaoqiao was patient with Qin Ming even though she was cold toward him. He was once again jealous.

Fang Luoxing came closer and said, “Qin Ming, go back if you don't have the money. Are you a man? Can't you see that Xiaoqiao isn't happy now? You're spending her money so shamelessly. How arrogant of you. Don't you know how to spell the word 'shameless'?”

Fang Luoxing had just started to put down Qin Ming when a staff came over to them. “Mr. Qin, the appraiser, Mr. Yang, hopes to take a photo with you when the auction ends.”

Qin Ming calmly said, “Sure. I also have a favor to ask of Mr. Yang.”

The staff bowed in satisfaction before leaving.

Fang Luoxing was stunned. Then, he hurriedly

stopped the staff.

“What do you mean? What's going on? Why does Mr. Yang want to take a photo with this broke moron?”

Fang Luoxing's voice was not loud, but they were in a quiet environment. When his last two words came out, the surrounding people looked at him in disdain, thinking: yet another blind fool.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Broke moron? Mr. Fang, please mind your words.” The female staff looked at Fang Luoxing, displeased at his disrespectful attitude toward Qin Ming.

Mu Xiaoqiao did not know what was going on, but she wanted to be considerate to Qin Ming. Thus, she stood up and said, “I’m sorry. Did my husband do something to break the rules? This is his first time at the auction, so he’s not familiar with the rules. I hope you’re alright with it.”

When the staff saw Mu Xiaoqiao, her expression turned friendly again. She said, “No, no. Ms. Mu, Mr. Qin did not do anything to break the rules. In fact, we were the ones who did not do well enough. I’m glad that Mr. Qin isn’t angry with us.”

Fang Luoxing glanced at Qin Ming. When he saw his love rival’s casual expression, anger spiked in him. What right does he have?

He has no career; he’s just a student. And he has no significant family background. On top of all that, he has to rely on Mu Xiaoqiao’s money.

What is he so proud of?

Fang Luoxing was envious that Qin Ming had gotten his dream girl. He scoffed, "Is he not a broke moron? He used a woman's money to get his two items earlier."

Mu Xiaoqiao seethed, "Fang Luoxing, that's enough. Stop insulting my husband. He's part of the Mu family, too."

Upon hearing her words, Fang Luoxing felt his throat dry. Now, he had made Mu Xiaoqiao angry, but he refused to admit defeat. He continued mocking, "Alright, I won't insult him anymore. But he's a poverty-stricken kept boy and a useless burden. That's a fact."

Mu Xiaoqiao knitted her brows. She could not comprehend what had happened to Fang Luoxing. He used to be friendly and kind when they were in college, but now he was arrogant and intolerant of others.

She looked at Qin Ming and mumbled, "Qin Ming, I'm sorry. I..."

Calmly, he asked, "Why are you apologizing? Did you do something to wrong me?"

Mu Xiaoqiao immediately answered, "Of course not. I was thinking that it might be my fault that you're being treated unfairly now. With beauty comes trouble; I know that."

Qin Ming laughed, "I've known since a long time ago that society isn't fair. Some people are born rich, and some are born poor. I'm used to insults and mocking. Don't mind them. Let's leave after we get the pink diamond."

Mu Xiaoqiao still felt guilty. Despite his reassurance, she still felt like she was the one who had brought insults and curses to Qin Ming.

She said, "If you like it, we'll bid for it. However, that's a woman's necklace..."

The last item in the auction was soon open for bidding. The auctioneer introduced the diamond inside the glass case. "This used to belong to an Austrian princess, Princess Marie. It was lost during the Great Revolution, but it resurfaced in a

domestic collector's collection. Now, that gentleman intends to let it go, and the starting price is 50 million. Each bid will be no less than 3 million. Everyone has a chance. Is anyone interested?"

The moment the introduction ended, Fang Luoxing raised his hand.

"I must have this item. I hope no one will compete with me for this. 60 million."

"Tsk. Tsk." The collectors turned to look at him. Fang Luoxing was indeed rich to bid an additional 10 million immediately. His bid had just disqualified many of the collectors today.

Soon, others bid as well, but unlike Fang Luoxing they increased the bid slowly.

This was a small-scale auction, and only collectors were invited. There were no proxies, so the prices of the bid would not drastically increase.

As it was a rare treasure, many bid for it.

Eventually, the price increased to more than 80 million.

It was almost reaching the maximum value of the pink diamond necklace.

Fang Luoxing raised his hand again and uttered a little uneasily, "86 million."

No one bid after him since the price had almost surpassed its appraised value. Unless it was a beloved item, no one would continue bidding for it.

The auctioneer called out a few times to encourage other collectors, but all shook their heads, seemingly disinterested.

Noticing that no one was competing with him, Fang Luoxing looked at Qin Ming smugly. "How's it, Qin Ming? You come to a place like this to be cowardly? Didn't you want the necklace? Why didn't I see you bid for it? Let me guess. Is it because Xiaoqiao didn't agree with it? Is that why you can't bid?"

Hearing his words, Mu Xiaoqiao was furious. “That's enough. Fang Luoxing, bid if you want to bid. Stop mocking my husband.”

Qin Ming leaned his head on his palm, speechless. Honestly, shouldn't it be embarrassing for Mu Xiaoqiao that I'm being laughed at? Shouldn't she be disgusted by me?

The more I'm being mocked at, the more protective she becomes. And she's actually angry at Fang Luoxing.

Fang Luoxing was reprimanded by his dream girl again, but he did not feel that he himself was the problem. Qin Ming must have put a spell on Mu Xiaoqiao. Why else would Mu Xiaoqiao protect useless trash like him?

He tried to suppress his rage and jealousy. “Mu Xiaoqiao, I'm worried about you. You've been fooled. Look at him. He's as cowardly as a mouse. Is a man like that worth your sacrifice? Qin Ming, you should say something. Didn't you want this necklace earlier? I'm going to get it and gift it to Xiaoqiao. Are you as capable as I am?”

How much can you earn a month? The only ones you can afford are plastic counterfeits, like the one on your wrist. Those fake dzi beads are an embarrassment.”

Mu Xiaoqiao subconsciously reached out to cover Qin Ming's wrist.

She stared at Qin Ming with a frown. I told you not to wear the counterfeit, but you insisted. Now, someone is attacking you because of it.

Qin Ming looked back at Mu Xiaoqiao in surprise. She's actually protecting me?

Just then, Luo said, “Mr. Qin, aren't you going to bid for it?”

Madam Cao added, “That's right. Boy, this society has too many arrogant and heartless people. When it's time to show off, you should show off. If you're too humble, no one will know who you are.”

Someone else in the crowd also added, “I can see that Mr. Qin isn't interested in competing with too

many people. He always waits until there's only one competitor left before he bids.”

Mu Xiaoqiao and Fang Luoxing had not been in the hall earlier, so they did not know that Qin Ming had already won the dzi bead. Moreover, they did not know that the crowd had changed their opinions of Qin Ming.

Hence, they were confused by their comments about Qin Ming.

Qin Ming had a slight smile on his face as he raised his hand, “100 million.”

“Wow!” The crowd roared once again. Qin Ming had increased the price from over 80 million to 100 million. The jump was too high; his behavior was stereotypical of a tycoon.

Mu Xiaoqiao was shocked and fearful. She stared at Qin Ming with wide eyes. 100 million? I don't have 100 million!

And yet, when she looked at Qin Ming's expression, she did not want to stop him. She

gripped her teeth. Forget it. If he really likes it, I'll ask for a little money from my family. It's just a little more than my budget. It should be fine.

When Fang Luoxing heard Qin Ming's bid, he laughed. Kid, do you know how to bid?

It was true that Qin Ming did not. All he wanted was to increase the price so that he could get it sooner. If he was quick enough, he might be able to rush home for dinner.

The auctioneer said, "Very well. Mr. Qin has bid for 100 million. Does anyone else want to bid?"

Everyone's gaze landed on Fang Luoxing. They were wondering if he would make a move.

Fang Luoxing laughed in disdain, "100 million? I admit it's more than my budget, and it's more than the value of the diamond. Mu Xiaoqiao, are you going to pay for his reckless and stupid action?"

Qin Ming quietly said, "Don't speak nonsense if you don't have the money. I've never asked

Xiaoqiao to pay for the things I bid for. I've got four things. Mr. Leng's art, the Dodo skeleton, the nine-eyed dzi bead, and this pink diamond necklace. I will be the one paying.”

“W- What?” Mu Xiaoqiao was shocked. “Qin Ming, y- you've gotten the nine-eyed dzi bead?”

Fang Luoxing stood in similar shock. “How can that be?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Fang Luoxing questioned, "You've gotten the nine-eyed dzi bead? How can that be? Qin Ming, stop your nonsense now. How can you have more money than Madam Cao and Mr. Luo?"

Qin Ming ignored him; he did not see the need to explain to a man like him.

The surrounding people had a mocking smile on their face. It made Fang Luoxing feel as if he had asked the wrong questions.

Mu Xiaoqiao had also sensed something amiss from the atmosphere in the hall. She looked at Qin Ming with wide eyes. It seemed like Qin Ming had accomplished something she could not.

In her eyes, Qin Ming was becoming more mysterious, and more impressive at the same time. She could not understand why Qin Ming always seemed to surprise those around him.

She grabbed the edge of her skirt excitedly. She had been drooling over the nine-eyed dzi bead. Mu Xiaoqiao had thought that she was going to miss the opportunity to own it, but Qin Ming had

gotten it.

Did he get it for me?

She had been working so hard because she thought that she was alone on this path. However, only when she turned back did she realize the person around her was equally resourceful.

Mu Xiaoqiao's gaze on Qin Ming turned gentle. She was sure that Qin Ming had gotten it for her.

The auction continued. Given the lack of response from the crowd after a few calls from the auctioneer, the rare pink diamond now belonged to Qin Ming.

After the auction, the collectors were ready to pay for and take their items.

Unwilling to admit defeat, Fang Luoxing followed closely behind Qin Ming, as if he wanted to prove to everyone that Qin Ming was only a poor douchebag reliant on women's money.

However, it was obvious that Qin Ming had swiped his own black card and paid 300 million with his own money.

To Qin Ming, this was just a small amount. Taking over Wang Youcai's company had earned him more than 300 million. Furthermore, he had Huan Ning Century Corporation as his support.

Fang Luoxing bit hard on his dry lips. He knew the black card was Global Bank's black card. 300 million barely scratched the limits of the card.

He finally gave up after seeing Qin Ming pay.

Fang Luoxing had to accept the fact that Qin Ming was richer than he.

Qin Ming spent a little more to let the staff send the art and Dodo skeleton back home. As for the dzi bead and the necklace, he had decided to bring them along with him.

Qin Ming turned around to find Fang Luoxing standing beside him with a pale face. "Luoxing, you're still here? What's wrong? Is there

something else? Forget it if you want to buy us a meal. We have something to attend to.”

Fang Luoxing felt like a disgraced warrior. He was tired, physically and mentally. He looked up and sighed. Then, he turned to look at Mu Xiaoqiao reluctantly before returning his glance at Qin Ming. ”Qin Ming, treasure her. She's the only perfect woman in the world. You're right. I should've courted her when I was in college. Because of my cowardice and weakness, I can only watch the woman I love become your wife. If I ever meet someone else I love in the future, I'll definitely court her bravely.”

After finishing his words, Fang Luoxing ruffled his hair before leaving alone. He even crashed onto the glass door before he could exit the building.

Qin Ming looked at Mu Xiaoqiao and asked, “You're not going to console him? After all, he was your classmate.”

Mu Xiaoqiao was speechless for a moment. “Is there any husband in the world like you? I

respected Luoxing in the past. When I was in college, I was alone in Beijing. I wasn't used to the place, but he was the one who helped me. He left a good impression on me, but I never liked him in that way. He's too gentle and feminine; he's not domineering nor decisive. That's why he's not my type. I like a man who can restrain me.”

Qin Ming was speechless as he narrowed his eyes. “Neither can I restrain you. Don't fall in love with me.”

Mu Xiaoqiao's face suddenly flushed red. She bit her lower lip and huffed, “Who said you can't? You're an unreasonable a**hol.”

Qin Ming took out the nine-eyed dzi bead and handed it to Mu Xiaoqiao. “For you. You were sobbing like a baby earlier. Isn't it embarrassing? Everyone was watching.”

Mu Xiaoqiao froze when she looked at the Dzi bead.

Although she had been hoping that Qin Ming

would gift her the bead, she knew that Nie Haitang was the one in Qin Ming's heart. She was afraid of finding out whether Qin Ming had bought the bead for Nie Haitang. If that was the case, she would be disappointed.

When Qin Ming handed her the nine-eyed dzi bead that had cost him 200 million, Mu Xiaoqiao's heart melted. She smiled.

Her lips and the muscles on her face could not help but twitch. She felt so much joy and relief —as if she had been proposed to by a loving boyfriend of many years. She felt a warm blanket of happiness was wrapped around her in the freezing winter. It made her adrenaline rush, and redness crept across her cheeks.

Qin Ming gave her a slight smile. “Look at your stiff smile. You look better when you're not smiling.”

Mu Xiaoqiao hurriedly covered her face. Her eyes brimmed with tears again, but this time, they were tears of joy.

She took the nine-eyed dzi bead and hugged Qin Ming. "Thank you, Qin Ming. Really."

"Huh?" The hug had been too sudden for him. Qin Ming did not know where his hands should go.

Although they were legally husband and wife, it was a contractual marriage, formed on the day Qin Ming lost his rationality. Although Qin Ming teased her about their relationship once in a while, it was only to entertain himself.

To Qin Ming, Mu Xiaoqiao was just an ordinary woman.

Suddenly, he heard Mu Xiaoqiao whisper by his ear. "Can you hug me, even if you have to fake it? There are people watching us."

Qin Ming could not help but do as she asked. After all, there were auction staff around them. As the Mu family's son-in-law, he had to put up a show.

He wrapped his arms around Mu Xiaoqiao's slim

waist, while two lumps of soft flesh on her chest pressed onto his chest. It made his heart pound and his mind wander. Qin Ming knew that he was taking advantage of her, and he knew he enjoyed the sensation.

He could sense tremor across Mu Xiaoqiao's body. Shyly, she murmured, "This is the first time I've been hugged by a man. The hug feels solid."

Qin Ming lightly patted her back and replied, "Of course. That's because I have strong arms."

After her intense emotions, the smile on Mu Xiaoqiao's face became natural. She raised the dzi bead and examined it. She looked like a divine beauty with a natural smile.

Beside them, an auction staff could not help but gulp as he stared at her, dazed.

Qin Ming was stunned, too. He could not believe Mu Xiaoqiao, a woman who always had a poker face, would be able to have a smile as beautiful as this. Her teeth were slightly revealed, and her eyes were in crescents. Everyone had a smile, but

the smile of a beautiful woman really struck him differently.

Mu Xiaoqiao raised her head to look at Qin Ming with gentle eyes. She asked softly, "A- Are you really giving this to me?"

Qin Ming answered, "Yes. 200 million to buy a smile from you. It's not quite worth it, but if you really want it, you can have it."

"Huh?" Mu Xiaoqiao shouted as she covered her face. Then, she mumbled to herself, "Did I smile? I haven't smiled for many years."

Qin Ming asked, "What are you going to do with this dzi bead?"

A mysterious smile surfaced as she whispered, "It's a secret."

Just then, Mr. Yang walked over and congratulated the couple enthusiastically, "Congratulations, Mr. Qin and Ms. Mu. Congratulations on getting the dzi bead that once belonged to a Tibetan monk. This is a treasure

worn by a great man. Ms. Xie would not have given it up if something had not happened. It's fate that it ended up with you.”

Qin Ming shook hands with Mr. Yang. “Mr. Yang, it's my pleasure to meet you.”

Mr. Yang smiled and said, “A new collector has appeared in Guang City. Hm? Your...”

Mr. Yang suddenly noticed the three nine-eyed dzi beads on Qin Ming's wrist. Other than the dzi beads, there were also black agates and several incomprehensible symbols.

“This is...” Mr. Yang started observing his bracelet. Excitement emerged on his face before it was replaced by confusion. Finally, he said, “Mr. Qin, are these the Buddha dzi beads that have been lost for many years? Mr. Qin, will you let me examine them?”

Mu Xiaoqiao froze. Aren't those fake?

They can't be real, can they?