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Nan Chen blurted, "Actually, it isn't a big deal because Ouyang Duo was the alumnus of an internationally renowned school. In fact, a lot of elites were the alumni of the said school. They have formed an association for their batch of alumni in East Asia. The minister from Vietnam was the secretary of the association, while Ouyang Duo was the vice-secretary. Since they're affiliated with the same association, it isn't odd for them to keep in touch with one another, isn't it?"

"How did you figure out Wang Shoucai would talk about Ouyang Duo?"

"It's because we have been devising countermeasures since the occurrence of the incident. Throughout the process, we discovered the relationship between the said minister and Ouyang Duo. Meanwhile, Wang Shou has been a member of the board of directors for years. We're fully aware of his background, including his educational background because we have access to his profile. All in all, don't you think it's a piece of cake to link the missing puzzle pieces together?"

Although Nan Xing could barely grasp the idea behind the explanation his brother had presented, he nodded in return.

"Does that mean you're aware we're able to resolve the issue as long as we get in touch with Ouyang Duo? If that's the case, why didn't you get in touch with him?"

"I have been waiting for someone to bring it up all along."

Nan Xing was baffled by his brother's words again. He puckered his face, indicating his confusion.

"Nanshi Corporation is a large corporation. Therefore, if we're capable of resolving the issue on our own, we should never rely on others. Hence, our staff has been working hard lately in an attempt to resolve the issue through internal resources. However, we would have to rely on a third party's aid if we run out of options. Since we may need to procure the aid of a third party, it's natural to do our own due diligence before reaching out to others for their help."

"Procuring other's aid can be a challenge since we can't show up at their doorstep, requesting for their help out of the blue. Everything has to be executed in a timely and precise manner to achieve a synergistic effect. Since Wang Shoucai has presented the solution to you, we'll leverage his identity as the middleman and get him to put you to Ouyang Duo to get his aid. That would be the most ideal solution for now. Hence, I'll put you in charge of resolving the challenge."

Finally, Nan Xing could grasp the situation.

"Are you suspecting Wang Shoucai?"

"This is nothing personal against him because I told you someone affiliated with the corporation was behind this. Hence, he's merely one of the many suspects that's on the list," Nan Chen rephrased his sentences.

"Since you have been keeping an eye on him for some time, have you proven him guilty?"

"Nope. Perhaps he's sincerely offering his aid to resolve the issue. Alright. I'll put you in charge of the negotiation with Ouyang Duo. Can you head over and take over the role of a goalie now?" Nan Chen pointed at the goal and asked.

A week later, Nan Zhengde finally made his way back to the Commoner Residence.

Although Yunfeng Hill had a great environment, it wasn't as comfortable as things were back home.

As soon as Nan Zhengde reached home, he took a nap for a few hours because he was exhausted. By the time he roused from his sleep, it was already afternoon.

Chai Hua told Nan Zhengde, "Nan Zhiyuan and Bai Hua dared not enter the residence because they didn't get your permission. They had been waiting outside of the residence since a few hours ago."

Nan Zhengde departed ahead of Nan Zhiyuan and Bai Hua as the duo had to deal with the required paperwork prior to their departure from the temple. Therefore, they reached the residence slightly later than Nan Zhengde.

He gave it a thought and nodded. "Show them the way in."

Bai Hua almost shed tears of joy once she figured out they had acquired Nan Zhengde's consent to enter the residence.

Finally, she managed to achieve the first goal she had in mind after she returned from abroad.

She would be wasting her time if she failed to get Nan Zhengde's consent to enter the residence.

Truth be told, her life in Flower City was no match for Japan in terms of quality.

In spite of the lavish lifestyle she had in Japan, she would have to return to the Nan family in order to achieve the goal she had in mind.

Nevertheless, acquiring Nan Zhengde's consent to return to Commoner Residence was merely the first step of her plan.

Soon, she would proceed to the next stage of acquiring the influence she once possessed as Mrs. Nan of the Nan family in Flower City.

She had everything sorted out as she had formed a coalition with several parties because it would take more than Nan Zhiyuan and her strength to achieve her ultimate goal.

One of the parties involved was the Ouyang family.

In the meantime, Nan Zhengde spent some time in his study room since he had been away from his beloved paintings for a week.

As soon as he spread the rice paper on the table, Nan Zhengde started writing, indulging himself in his favorite Chinese calligraphy. *Fate.*

Bai Hua showed up out of nowhere and started flattering her father-in-law. "Dad, your writing is on par with those of a professional calligrapher."

"I thought it would be the end of our relationship, but I'm sure fate must have had shown us the way back to each another. Since we're able to reunite once again, we should appreciate the time we get to spend together. This is for both of you. Hopefully, you won't try any silly anymore. Please don't let me down again," Nan Zhengde stated.

"Thanks, Dad," Bai Hua and Nan Zhiyuan expressed their gratitude.

"I want both of you to prove your words. Please refrain from trying anything silly from now onwards."

Nan Zhiyuan and Bai Hua exchanged glances and assured, "Don't worry, Dad! We'll definitely keep that in mind!"

The moment they wrapped up the conversation, the duo showed no signs of leaving at all.

Therefore, Nan Zhengde asked Nan Zhiyuan, "Do you have anything else to tell me?"

Nan Zhiyuan looked at Bai Hua and stated, "Why don't you tell Dad about it?"

After a series of discussions, Nan Zhiyuan had been given the task to bring it up in front of Nan Zhengde. However, he decided to hand over the task to his wife at the last minute because he felt diffident.

Bai Hua had no intention to take the blame on Nan Zhiyuan's behalf either, yet she had no choice but to brace herself and tell her father-in-law about their plan since Nan Zhiyuan had brought it up in front of him.

Frowning, Nan Zhengde asked, "What's going on? What exactly are both of you up to again?"

"Dad, we're not the one who has come up with this suggestion. We're merely delivering the message on behalf of another party. We decided to consult you prior to making the call."

"What is it?" Nan Zhengde queried.

"Ouyang Duo's wife, Feng Jialing, has conveyed their family's intention to be the in-laws of the Nan family," Bai Hua said.

"Is that a proposal from the Ouyang family?"

"Yes, Dad. Their daughter, Ouyang Qing, has a thing for Nan Chen since a few years ago. Therefore, they wanted both of them to get married as soon as possible because they seem to be a match made in heaven. It's going to be beneficial for both families as well," Bai Hua added.

"Does this mean the Ouyangs are the ones who have proposed this engagement?" Nan Zhengde cast a skeptical gaze at Bai Hua.

"It wasn't an official proposal, but it was more of a discussion. Nowadays, nobody actually proposes through their parents anymore."

Once Bai Hua finished her sentence, she avoided Nan Zhengde's gaze as she had been lying; she was the mastermind behind the proposal.

As a matter of fact, Feng Jialing refused to accept the proposal because she wanted her daughter to make the call on her own. Feng Jialing would decide on the next best course of action if things worked out between them.

Feng Jialing decided to play hard to get because Ouyang Qi was their beloved daughter.

The one who had been orchestrating the entire proposal was Ouyang Qing.

"D-Dad, it's merely an informal proposal of the Ouyang family. They didn't say they would want them to get married immediately. Since Ouyang Qing was their beloved daughter, they didn't want her to humiliate herself either," Bai Hua stuttered.

"Since those from the Ouyang family have proven their sincerity, we can't possibly play hard to get. Please get in touch with Mrs. Ouyang and indicate our willingness to become their in-laws," Nan Zhengde instructed.

"Does that mean it's a yes, Dad?" Bai Hua was taken aback by her father-in-law's reply.

"Since they had brought it up, we can't possibly turn them down, right? Otherwise, it would put the relationship of both families at stake. We should push the responsibilities to the youngsters either."

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Since the duo made their way out of Nan Zhengde's study room, Bai Hua almost burst into laughter; she could barely hold back her joy.

She couldn't believe she managed to achieve the plan she had in mind without any problem.

Losing herself in the process of thought, she started imagining her life after Nan Chen got married to Ouyang Qing. Soon, she would become Ouyang Qing's mother-in-law, a woman affiliated with the Ouyang family.

Indirectly, she would be known as the representative of the Nan family and the Ouyang family. Apart from that, her identity as Nan Chen's mother and Ouyang Qing's mother-in-law would put her in a superior position amongst those from the upper echelon.

In short, she had emerged victorious without doing anything.

Nan Zhiyuan and Bai Hua had gotten married for years. Therefore, he could read his wife like a book.

"See? I have given you the opportunity to bring it up in front of Dad because I want you to take the credits." Nan Zhiyuan tried to please his wife.

"Are you kidding me? Do you think I'm a fool? You're the one who wants me to take the blame on your behalf if thing heads south!" Bai Hua was aware of his husband's petty scheme all along.

"That has never been part of my plan. Initially, I was afraid Dad would turn you down. If that had been the case, I would try my best to persuade him to change his mind. However, there was nothing you could do to change his mind if he turned me down after I brought it up in front of him."

"That's enough, Nan Zhiyuan! Stop lying to me! Thankfully, he has given in to the proposal! To be honest, I didn't expect he would agree to the proposal at all!"

"I can't figure out the rationale behind his decision either. After all, he was the one who insisted on staying out of the youngsters' way because he wanted them to choose their spouse on their own. I must say I'm surprised because he has given in to our request without a second thought." Nan Zhiyuan expressed his point of view.

"Perhaps he has changed his mind since he's getting old? No matter what, we should be grateful. I can finally revert back to Ouyang Qing!" Bai Hua got pumped up as she stated.

It was getting late, yet Nan Chen was nowhere to be seen because he had to work overtime again. Nan Zhengde instructed the butler to summon his grandson home immediately.

Coincidentally, Nan Chen had something to report to his grandfather regarding the construction of South City in Vietnam.

Nan Chen told his grandfather after he returned home, "Wang Shoucai had reached out to Nan Xing and proposed a solution. He told him Ouyang Duo would be able to resolve the issue."

"How did things turn out in the end?"

"I have already put Nan Xing in charge of the negotiation. I told him to get Wang Shoucai to be the middleman between both parties, but he had turned Nan Xing down. He said he was in no position to meddle with the affair of both families

when he was merely an ex-schoolmate of Ouyang Duo. The proposal was the only thing he had to offer."

"How did things go on Nan Xing's end?"

"Nan Xing dropped by to visit Ouyang Duo, but the latter wasn't around as his secretary claimed he had traveled abroad for a trip. Therefore, they didn't have a proper meet up."

Nan Zhengde got up from his seat and paced back and forth. In the end, he asked, "What do you think?"

"Perhaps Ouyang Duo has something in his mind. In fact, I don't think he's abroad. It seems as though he wants us to prove our sincerity and offer him a certain something. I believe he will be 'back' the moment we offer him the thing he's looking for."

Nan Zhengde nodded and affirmed Nan Chen of his thoughts, "You're right."

"I can't figure out the things he's coming after. What do you think, Grandpa?"

"You're the one they're coming after," Nan Zhengde stated.

"Me?"

"Yes. He doesn't want to deal with Nan Xing. Instead, Ouyang Duo wants you to visit him and strike a deal with him. I believe he wants you to owe him a favor."

Silently, Nan Chen paced back and forth in a similar manner.

"Nan Xing has the right to represent the Nan family as well. Why does it have to be me? Does Ouyang Duo wants to be regarded highly by others?"

"In the afternoon, Bai Hua and Nan Zhiyuan dropped by. Do you want to take a guess at the content of our conversation?"

"I don't know. What did you guys talk about?"

"Those from the Ouyang family have proposed on behalf of Ouyang Qing. They want both of you to get married."

Nan Chen was taken aback by his grandfather's words.

"A marriage proposal?"

"It wasn't an official proposal, but they made themselves clear of their wish to be affiliated with the Nan family. However, they weren't in a hurry to rush both of you to get married either."

Nan Chen was shocked because he didn't see this coming.

Although he was aware of the affection Ouyang Qing had for him, it seemed impossible for her to initiate the proposal.

After all, she was a member of the renowned Ouyang family. She couldn't possibly cast her dignity aside.

"Care to share your opinion with me?" Nan Zhengde probed because his grandson had remained silent for some time.

"Grandpa, do you think the proposal is related to the incident that has occurred in Vietnam?" Nan Chen asked in return.

Nan Zhengde shook his head and replied, "I can't be certain."

Nan Chen lost himself in the process of thought once again.

His grandfather added, "The Ouyang family is an equally renowned family. Ouyang Qing is a talented and good-looking lady who has graduated from a renowned institution. Therefore, I don't think they're trying to force you into submission by doing you a favor."

Nan Chen shared a similar thought with his grandfather because he had encountered Ouyang Qing more than once before this.

She was a gorgeous woman from a wealthy family. Thus, she was popular amongst the heirs from different families.

A lot of men tried to court her. As long as she agreed to get into a relationship with any of them, she could easily forge a beneficial relationship with another renowned family.

In short, it didn't make any sense for Ouyang Duo to resort to such an extreme countermeasure.

"Have you given in to their proposal, Grandpa?"

Nan Zhengde orated, "Do you think I can turn them down when they had made their intention clear? I don't think I have the right to turn down their proposal even if the project in Vietnam didn't encounter any sorts of problems. Otherwise, others would consider me slinging mud at them. The Ouyang family has been closely acquainted with the Nan family throughout the years. They have been pretty helpful back in the day. Frankly, I can't possibly turn them down. In fact, we have nothing to lose either since it's a great idea to have both families to be in-laws."

Frowning, Nan Chen confronted, "Am I supposed to give in to their proposal as well, Grandpa?"

Nan Zhengde waved and informed his grandson, "I have never once intended to poke my nose into my children and grandchildren's lives. This was the reason Nan Zhengde got married to Bai Hua and ended up as such. Previously, I chose

to stay out of their marriage. Therefore, I won't interfere with your life. I have faith in you. I'm sure you're aware of the consequences of your action and decision."

"Although I have given in to their proposal, you have never once given your consent. Perhaps those from the Ouyang family think the Nan family is under the guidance of some conservative and backward-thinking old fool. Thus, they might have misunderstood my words as your final decision. However, they're wrong because I will never interfere with your marriage. I won't force you to get married to someone you don't love."

Nan Chen felt a boulder lifted off his shoulders when he heard Nan Zhengde's words of assurance.

"What should I do next, Grandpa?"

"I think it's time for you to visit Ouyang Duo and sort out the problem in Vietnam," Nan Zhengde blurted out his thought.

"Huh? If I show up in front of him, don't you think he may misperceive I have agreed to accept their proposal?"

"Are you going to turn down their proposal?" Nan Zhengde asked in return.

"I don't know because I don't think I will get married so soon."

"Is it because of Ning Ran?"

"No," Nan Chen rebuked his grandfather's assumption without any hesitation.

Nan Zhengde chuckled and teased, "You don't have to lie. Although she isn't the best candidate, she's the mother of the kids. The fact you have considered getting married to her proves that you are indeed a trustworthy and reliable man."

"Grandpa, can we put that aside for the time being? I'm trying to tell you I have no intention to get married for now."

"Do you not want to get married, or do you not want to get married to Ouyang Qing?"

"Neither do I want any of those."

Ouyang Duo caressed his beard and assured, "You have made yourself pretty clear, but you still have to pay Ouyang Duo a visit. With that being said, I'm afraid I can't be of much aid as you have to decide on your next best course of action on your own. However, I have faith in you."

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Ouyang Duo, who had claimed to be abroad all this while, showed up out of nowhere in Flower City when Nan Chen requested an audience with him.

He told others he had made a trip back to Flower City because of Nan Chen.

Nevertheless, no one seemed to be aware of the trip he mentioned.

Nan Chen and Ouyang Duo had a meeting scheduled at the Nanshi Corporation Headquarter.

Ouyang Duo suggested meeting at the particular venue.

Lately, Nanshi Corporation's predicament on the project in Vietnam had gotten around amongst those in the corporate world.

Others would definitely figure out the objective of Ouyang Duo's visit since the session was held at Nanshi Corporation Headquarters

Nan Chen had been waiting for the arrival of Ouyang Duo in the lobby.

He walked over and stretched his arm, initiating a handshake with Ouyang Duo once the latter arrived. "Uncle, thank you so much for your time."

Ouyang Duo greeted Nan Chen politely in return, "Since both families have been closely acquainted for a long time, I will definitely try my best to resolve the hardship that has befallen the Nan family."

Nan Chen couldn't figure out the reason Ouyang Duo considered the failure of a particular project as the hardship of the Nan family.

In spite of being irritated, Nan Chen remained a calm and collected front and showed Ouyang Duo the way to the VIP lounge with a poker face.

In order to welcome Ouyang Duo, Nan Chen had instructed his subordinates to clean the lounge beforehand. Hence, not even a speck of dust could be found on any surface.

After they caught up with one another, Nan Chen finally brought up his request and summarized the timeline of the incident that had occurred in Vietnam.

Ouyang Duo asked, "Are you serious? How may I help you, Chen?"

"Uncle, can you please do me a favor and get in touch with the minister on my behalf? Please get him to reassess the authenticity of the assessment report and do us justice," Nan Chen requested. "Hahaha!" Ouyang Duo burst into laughter.

Nan Chen looked at him in the eyes as he was confused.

"Chen, justice doesn't exist! Frankly, justice is the tool for the wealthy and influential ones to get things done their way!" Ouyang Duo remarked.

Nan Chen remained silent once more.

"Since such a serious incident has occurred, you should have gotten in touch with me earlier! Mr. Huang is a good friend of mine! I'm sure he'll do me a favor and assist you in reassessing the assessment report."

"Thank you so much, Uncle," Nan Chen expressed his gratitude.

"I'll make a trip to Vietnam and visit Mr. Huang tomorrow. Do you want to tag along with me?" Ouyang Duo offered an olive branch to Nan Chen.

"I-I..." Nan Chen stuttered because he didn't think Ouyang Duo would bring up such a request unexpectedly.

As he couldn't figure out the reason Ouyang Duo had brought up such a suggestion, he was at a loss for words all of a sudden.

Usually, the party who had accepted the request from another party would proceed to fulfill the other party's request on their own.

Nan Chen couldn't figure out the reason Ouyang Duo want him to tag along when he could easily get in touch with Mr. Huang on his behalf.

Actually, if he could procure Mr. Huang's aid without Ouyang Duo's referral, Nan Chen would have done it without him.

Ouyang Duo tried to persuade Nan Chen, "I know you have a lot of things on your plate, but this is equally crucial for Nanshi Corporation and you, right? I think you should tag along with me on this trip, Chen."

"Are you leaving tomorrow?"

"Yes. Since we're talking about the progress of a construction site, we can't afford to drag this any further. We need to sort the issue out as soon as possible to prevent further losses," Ouyang Duo explained.

"You're right, Uncle. I'll tag along with you to Vietnam."

"We'll make the trip using my private jet. I have been there a few times before. I'll get everything sorted out, including the clearance to enter the border."

"Thanks, Uncle."

They chatted for some time before wrapping up the session.

As soon as the session ended, Nan Chen made his way back to Commoner Residence and reported the outcome of their discussion to Nan Zhengde.

His grandfather had requested him to get in touch with him as soon as he had decided on his next best course of action.

Nan Zhengde lost himself in the process of thought because he couldn't fathom the reason Ouyang Duo insisted on Nan Chen's companion for the trip.

"I don't want you to make the trip," Nan Zhengde asserted.

"I'm afraid that's impossible, Grandpa,"

"We can't possibly allow you to put yourself at stake when we have no idea what Ouyang Duo has hidden up his sleeves. Since you're going to make the trip

using his private jet, he has the upper hand once you reach Vietnam. I'm afraid things will get out of control."

"I think it's fine, Grandpa." Nan Chen was relatively calm.

"Ouyang Duo is a cunning old fox! Throughout the years of dealing with him, we have never once got the better of him!"

"Exactly! That's the reason he won't resort to anything reckless and put my wellbeing at stake."

"What do you mean?"

"Grandpa, have you forgotten my identity as Ouyang Qing's fiancé? Although I have never acknowledged this identity of mine, those from the Ouyang family have misperceived me as their soon-to-be son-in-law. If he wants to put me at stake, why would he want to propose the engagement?"

"You're right. What exactly is he up to? Why does he want you to tag along with him to Vietnam?" Nan Zhengde murmured to himself.

"I have no idea, but I don't think I will encounter any sort of danger."

"What if the proposal is merely a disguise to catch you off guard? Do you have any countermeasure for that?"

Nan Chen gave it a thought and found his grandfather's words made sense, but he shook his head and rebuked, "I can't think of the reason Ouyang Duo wants to drag me down."

"Isn't it obvious? You're the mainstay of the Nan family. If you're no longer around, they can easily challenge the Nan family's authority. In fact, this is the sole for others to drag you down from your current position. ."

"I'm not as important as you have said, Grandpa."

"I'm not trying to be courteous or flatter you but it's the truth. You're the most important figure of the Nan family!" Nan Zhengde asserted in a serious manner.

"I think he won't do me the favor if I turn down his request to tag along with him. Therefore, I have to make the trip no matter what. I'll get Qiao Zhan to tag along with me. I'm sure he can keep me safe."

Nan Zhengde shook his head and insisted, "That won't change the outcome of the trip either since Ouyang Duo is the one in charge. Moreover, you're in a foreign place. If worse comes to worst, I'm afraid Qiao Zhan can't do anything to turn the tables either."

Although it would be unnecessary for Ouyang Duo to lure Nan Chen all the way to Vietnam just to bring upon his misfortune, Nan Zhengde's words made sense.

Nan Chen found himself in a tight spot because even though there might be a possibility Ouyang Duo would expose him to danger, he would have to resolve the issue in Vietnam sooner or later.

All of a sudden, Nan Zhengde suggested, "I'll have you make the trip, but it won't be necessary for you to be there physically."

"What should I do, Grandpa?"

"We'll get Nan Xing to make the trip on your behalf since he is a replica of you. Usually, an outsider won't be able to tell both of you apart from one another."

"No! This isn't fair for Nan Xing! He's equally important! I can't possibly put his life at stake when I'm aware of the possible risk!" Nan Chen rejected without a second thought.

Knitting his eyebrows, Nan Zhengde assured, "I'm not indicating that he's disposable, neither do I have any plan to forsake him. He's my beloved grandson too; I love him wholeheartedly as much as I love you."

"Then you shouldn't have brought up such a suggestion!" Nan Chen raised his volume to express his frustration.

"I mean, let's get him to take over your position while you stay in the dark and keep an eye on him. If you detect anything odd, retreat with Nan Xing at once. This is the only viable solution to ensure a win-win situation," Nan Zhengde spelled out the details of his plan.

Nan Chen remained silent because his grandfather's suggestion was the only feasible plan they had to ensure the safety of both his brother and him.

However, Nan Chen would spend the rest of his life regretting his decision if anything were to happen to Nan Xing after he had taken over his position.

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"No!" Nan Chen turned down his grandfather.

"If you don't agree, I won't allow you to make the trip. Have I not made myself clear? That's the only viable plan we have for now. We'll get Nan Xing to take over your position because we need someone reliable to oversee the entire operation and ensure everyone's safety. If Nan Xing is the one hiding in the dark, do you think he's able to keep you safe from any harm? This is the only way to resolve the issue in Vietnam while keeping both of you safe!" Nan Zhengde insisted.

"No, Grandpa! Please don't force me to repeat myself one more time!" Nan Chen made himself clear.

Similarly, Nan Zhengde showed no signs of giving in. "If you're not willing to listen to me, none of you are allowed to make the trip to Vietnam! We can't afford to put any one of you at stake! This is too much of a cost to bear! After all, the project in Vietnam is merely a project. You don't need to put your life at stake for a mere project."

"Grandpa, I have made countless business trips abroad previously. This is merely another ordinary business trip."

"It's not the same! Someone else is in charge of the itinerary of the entire trip! You don't get a say at all! Either you get Nan Xing to take over your position, or none of you gets to make the trip!"

Nan Chen was aware of his grandfather's temperament. Things would turn out to be messy if he refused to give in to his grandfather's suggestion.

Although he had taken over the role of leading Nanshi Corporation, Nan Zhengde still wielded great influence in the corporation.

Since Nan Zhengde was aware of the possible risk associated with this trip, Nan Chen wouldn't get to make the trip if he didn't acquire his grandfather's consent.

"Fine. I'll make the necessary arrangements to execute the plan." Nan Chen finally gave in to his grandfather's suggestion.

His grandfather was surprised; he didn't expect his grandson would adhere to his suggestion.

Hence, he had his fair share of doubts and stared at Nan Chen in the eyes to ensure he hadn't been hearing things.

Nan Chen nodded once again to assure his grandfather, "You heard me right, Grandpa. I will have Nan Xing take over my role."

"You're not lying to me, are you?"

"I'm not lying, Grandpa," Nan Chen nodded and reassured his grandfather.

Feeling a sense of relief, Nan Zhengde finally nodded in return.

"I'll have to leave now and make the necessary arrangement, Grandpa."

"Okay. I want you to send Nan Xing over once he has disguised as you. I want to see if he's able to execute the task because I'm afraid there's a huge difference in terms of temperament between the two of you. We can't afford to have the plan head south," Nan Zhengde expressed his concerns.

"Alright, Grandpa." Nan Chen took note of his grandfather's instruction before heading out of the room.

Once he got out of the study room, he called Nan Xing and found out he had been working hard lately.

He didn't spend his time fooling around with his friends because he spent most of his time in the office lately.

After all, he had promised Nan Chen he would bear the consequences as the person in charge of the project.

Immediately after he received Nan Chen's call and the instruction to return home, Nan Xing made his way back to Commoner Residence.

He reached home within a few minutes because Nanshi Corporation Headquarters was merely a short distance away from Commoner Residence. Nan Chen told him the plan that had been devised by their grandfather. The moment Nan Xing figured out the details of the entire plan, he agreed without any hesitation, "That's a great idea! Grandpa has come up with a brilliant plan!"

Initially, Nan Chen thought Nan Xing would feel dejected, yet he seemed to have been overly paranoid because his brother wasn't against the plan at all.

"Are you mad? This is so unfair to you. We're literally going to put your life at stake!" Nan Chen asked calmly.

"What are you talking about, Chen? Why would I be mad when it's the most viable plan we have for now? I'll take over your role while you keep an eye out on me in the dark! It's a flawless plan!"

"The reason we have to resort to such an extreme countermeasure is because of the possible risk associated with the trip," Nan Chen explained.

"I have faith in you. You have always been an observant man. As long as you're around to keep an eye on me, I'm sure I will be safe. Therefore, this trip is none other than another business trip." Nan Xing reassured his brother.

In return, Nan Chen tapped on Nan Xing's shoulder and said, "Thanks for having faith in me."

Nan Xing stared at Nan Chen as he orated, "Are you serious, Chen? Why are you thanking me when I'm the one who has been relying on you all along? We're brothers, right? Didn't Grandpa want me to drop by his room? I'll head over and put on one of your monochromic outfits before heading over. Even though I'm don't look as commanding as you, I'm pretty sure others won't be able to tell us apart if I keep a straight face in front of them. However, what should I do if I have to make certain decisions on your behalf? I don't think I have the capability to handle any corporate issues."

"You don't need to make the decision on my behalf because I won't allow you to take over my role."

"What are you talking about?"

"I'll be heading over to meet Grandpa, pretending as though I'm you."

"Are you serious?"

"I'll tell him I'm Nan Xing and ask him if I have done a great job, playing pretend to be you. I'm pretty sure he will be surprised in a pleasant manner."

"Excuse me? Since you're literally portraying yourself, there's no reason you can't deceive him, but are you sure you want to deceive Grandpa?" Nan Xing wondered.

"Let's consider this a white lie. It's gonna be fine as long as we're able to sort out the issue in Vietnam. Nothing else matters as long as we achieve our goal."

"No, I'm not going to allow you to put yourself at stake! I have faith in you, Chen! I'm sure you can keep me safe! I mean it! I'm not displeased at all because I'm willing to be part of the plan Grandpa has come up with!" Nan Xing repeated himself.

"It's going to be fine. I want to be in charge because I have to keep an eye on Ouyang Duo. I can't wait to figure out the thing he's up to. If you're the one by his side, I'm afraid you won't be able to figure out the plan he has in store for us. Apart from that, if he changes his mind out of the blue, I'll be able to act accordingly. I don't think you're capable of dealing with him, right?"

Nan Xing turned the idea in his mind and found his brother's words made sense.

"However..."

"Don't worry. I have everything under control. It's perfectly fine for Grandpa to be cautious since he's getting older, but we should move out of our comfort zone and engage ourselves in risky activities since we're still young."

"Chen, I still think Grandpa is right! The Nan family can't do without you, but the family can always move on without me..."

"Shut up! I don't want to hear another statement of sorts from you in the future! None of us are allowed to be sacrificed for the sake of our family! We're equally important as part of the family!"

"Alright, Chen..."

"I have told you this, and I'm going to repeat myself for one last time! Since you're the person in charge of the project, you need to think of a proper solution to jumpstart the project once everything is sorted out. I want you to keep your mouth shut and devise a comprehensive contingency plan for the project!"

"|—"

"Just shut up and do as I have said!"

"|—"

Nan Xing was about to rebut, but Nan Chen put his index finger on his lips, signaling his brother to keep his mouth shut.

Consequently, Nan Xing stopped defying his brother's words.

After Nan Chen had everything prepared for the trip, things took another drastic turn of events; Ouyang Duo apologized and told Nan Chen they wouldn't have to make the trip to Vietnam anymore.

He said Mr. Huang had made himself clear; there wasn't anything they could do to turn the table anymore.

Initially, those from the Nan family had gotten their hopes high, yet the entire operation was brought to a halt again. In other words, they were back to square one.

Nan Chen wasn't surprised by the seemingly shocking news because he was aware it would take more than a visit to resolve the issue in Vietnam.

Nevertheless, he was frustrated. Nan Chen felt as though Ouyang Duo had been wasting his time deliberately since the latter could easily get in touch with Mr. Huang.

Although their trip to Vietnam had been canceled, Ouyang Duo told Nan Chen he had another proposal to resolve the issue they had encountered in Vietnam.

Nan Chen asked him the details of his proposal, yet Ouyang Duo insisted on telling him in person.

Their upcoming session would be held in a restaurant as they intended to talk about the proposal over the meal.

Ouyang Duo requested Nan Chen to pick up Ouyang Qing on his behalf. He told him it had been some time since he last had dinner with his daughter.

Nan Chen had a hunch Ouyang Duo would reveal his ulterior motive soon.

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Ouyang Qing, who had dolled herself up ostentatiously and made her way into Nan Chen's car.

She didn't get to sit by Nan Chen's side as she had taken the seat behind, whereas Nan Chen had taken the front passenger seat.

Nonetheless, Ouyang Qing was delighted because everything went according to her plan.

Ouyang Qing didn't expect her goal to coincide with her father's. On top of that, her father had been pulling strings, laying the groundwork to achieve this common goal since years ago.

This is simply wonderful! Since I have the entire Ouyang family backing me, I'm sure I'll achieve my goal and marry Nan Chen soon!

Ouyang Qing was thrilled and it was written all over her face but Nan Chen was the exact opposite, and she couldn't grasp the reason he had a poker face.

Hasn't Dad offer to help? Chen should be delighted, but why does he seem so displeased?

"Chen," Ouyang Qing greeted Nan Chen coquettishly.

"Yes?" Nan Chen replied in a callous tone.

"Why do you seem to be in a foul mood? Is it because of me?"

Nan Chen got increasingly infuriated when he heard Ouyang Qing's question; it sounded as though she was interrogating him.

Previously, Ouyang Qing would never talk to Nan Chen in such a manner.

She must have gotten full of herself and thought that she should be credited since her father had offered to resolve the issue, and she was part of the Ouyang family.

Although she wasn't aware she behaved differently, Nan Chen could feel it.

To begin with, Nan Chen wasn't a petty man. It would take more than the change in Ouyang Qing's attitude for him to blow his top.

In short, he was irritated after a series of events he had gone through lately.

He was frustrated because he had a hunch those from the Ouyang family had deceived him.

Although the series of incidents he had gone through seemed irrelevant, he knew they were part of a setup.

In fact, Nan Chen was certain Ouyang Duo was the one who had set him up.

Since Nan Chen remained silent even after she directed the question at him, Ouyang Qing was aware he was not happy.

Even though she didn't know how she had offended him, she was certain she had been careless with her choice of words.

"Chen, I was just trying to pull your leg in order to enlighten your mood. Can you please pay no heed to my words?" Ouyang Qing tried her best to please him.

Nan Chen replied courteously, "It's fine."

Thereafter, he remained silent throughout the entire ride.

Similarly, Ouyang Qing dared not interrupt him anymore because she was afraid of irritating Nan Chen.

Thankfully, they were merely heading over to a nearby restaurant. Therefore, the awkward ride was rather short.

Ouyang Duo, who had been anticipating the duo's arrival, was waiting for them at the restaurant's entrance.

It seemed to be an act of courtesy, but he had merely shown up to welcome his guests in an attempt to assert dominance as the host of the dinner.

If the dinner were held in Ouyang Duo's territory, Pearl City, there would be no issue, but the dinner was in Flower City.

The Nan family was the one leading the corporate world in Flower City. They had been contributing to various aspects of the city's development as well. Therefore, the Nan family should be considered as the host instead.

It was evident Ouyang Duo was aware of the unspoken rule, yet he had crossed the lines.

Perhaps he was merely trying to push his lucks, or he might be trying to assert dominance over the Nan family.

Ouyang Duo perceived he was the superior one since he had offered his help to resolve the issue that had befallen the Nan family.

Therefore, he couldn't wait to have a taste of being respected by others in Flower City.

As Nan Chen wasn't particularly against the idea of him hosting the dinner, Ouyang Duo got full of himself, indulging himself with a sense of superiority.

Truth be told, he had always hidden his emotion well by putting up a poker face in front of others.

"Chen, this way!" Ouyang Duo continued playing the role of a host.

Nan Chen nodded and greeted Ouyang Duo in return, "Please, Uncle."

Ouyang Duo was overjoyed. Since he didn't detect any hostility from Nan Chen, he thought the young man wasn't against the idea of him asserting dominance in Flower City.

Naturally, Nan Chen was aware of Ouyang Duo's intention.

He decided to pay no heed to such a trivial matter because he had never once deemed the Nan family to be superior to others in Flower City. The tens of millions of citizens in Flower City had contributed to the development of the city. Therefore, the city was the collective asset of every citizen.

Even though the Nan family had always been superior to most of the citizens in Flower City, Nan Chen had always seen his family as part of the city.

Therefore, he couldn't be bothered by Ouyang Duo's seemingly provocative action at all.

Feel free to challenge my limits because I don't care a damn.

After they entered the private dining suite, Nan Chen noticed the presence of another noble-looking, middle-aged woman. She was Ouyang Duo's wife, Feng Jialing.

Nan Chen thought they were there to strike a deal in order to resolve the issue in Vietnam, yet Ouyang Duo had brought along his wife. The duo seemed to be there to have a meal with their soon-to-be son-in-law.

They shouldn't be blamed either since Bai Hua had reverted to them and stated Nan Zhengde's stand regarding the proposal. Therefore, they thought Nan Chen was their soon-to-be son-in-law.

Once Nan Chen entered the private dining suite, Feng Jialing had her eyes glued to him since it had been some time since they last met at the banquet.

Previously, she noticed Nan Chen was a great-looking young man. After she sized him up, she noticed he wasn't merely an ordinary handsome man because he stood out amongst others.

Feng Jialing had grown fond of her soon-to-be son-in-law. She would want her daughter to get married to him because he was one in a million in terms of look.

No matter how old a woman might be, they had always been prone to judge a book by its cover. Therefore, she had taken a liking to Nan Chen the moment she saw him.

Ouyang Qing was embarrassed by Feng Jialing's reaction. She nudged Feng Jialing to pull herself together because her mother had been staring at Nan Chen since he showed up.

"Please take a seat, Chen. I'll get the waiter to serve us the dishes I have ordered," Ouyang Duo offered.

After he returned to the suite, he started introducing, "This is my wife, Feng Jialing. I believe both of you have met each other before. I don't think it's necessary for me to introduce my daughter, right?"

"Hello, Aunt," Nan Chen greeted politely.

"Actually, we might be relatives since your grandmother shares the same surname as me. I used to address her as my aunt back then," Feng Jialing beamed her reply.

Nan Chen was at a loss for words because there were at least tens of thousands of people with the surname of Feng in the world. It would be impossible for them to be related to one another.

"Chen, my mother is kidding. Please pay no heed to her words," Ouyang Qing stated.

"Oh? Are you taking your boyfriend's side and forsaking your mother?" Feng Jialing teased her daughter in return.

"Mom, w-what are you talking about?"

Ouyang Qing flushed embarrassedly in a gratified manner.

Nan Chen remained silent. He had never declared himself as Ouyang Qing's boyfriend.

The proposal was merely brought up by their parents. He found them absurd as they had mistaken him to be in a relationship with their daughter.

Nowadays, it would take more than a mere proposal to prove the relationship between man and wife; the marriage certificate was the only thing capable of serving the purpose.