

**Chapter 661: Probing**

Guan Tang looked even timider as she continued to say, "However, today, Sister Yin Jia was in a particularly good mood. She had been in a terrible mood lately due to Cheng Che's refusal to return to the Yin family. She even blamed me for failing to attract Cheng Che's attention. She, she's always blamed Dr. An because Cheng Che loves Dr. An so much."

Jiang Jin inhaled deeply before she said to Song Ning, "Quick. Call Mu Chen and tell him to investigate Yin Jia immediately. Right, don't tell Cheng Che about it yet. After all, Yin Jia is his biological sister."

Song Ning glanced at Guan Tang before she nodded in agreement. She walked outside to make the call.

Guan Tang looked at Jiang Jin gratefully as she said, "Old Madam Mu, I only hope you'll be able to find Dr. An as soon as possible. This is just my own suspicion. I hope that everyone's fine, and Cheng Che will be able to return to the Yin family. I've already moved out of the Yin family house. Moreover, Cheng Che and I have also made our relationship clear; we'll be good friends from now on. I really wish him and Dr. An well."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Jin sighed emotionally. "You're a very good child."

Not long after, Guan Tang rose to her feet and took her leave.

Jiang Jin personally sent Guan Tang to the door and instructed someone to send Guan Tang home. After that, she looked for Song Ning and asked, "What did Mu Chen say?"

Song Ning said, "I've already spoken to Mu Chen. Grandma, Yin Jia's new boyfriend is Ye Cheng."

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Jiang Jin was stunned. "The world is actually so small."

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After leaving the Mu family house, Guan Tang rushed to the Yin family house. She had to help Guan Ning with the preparations. After all, Yin Jia was bringing her boyfriend home in the evening.

Guan Tang accompanied Guan Ning as Guan Ning supervised the help. After a while, she finally led Guan Tang to sit down in the living room.

As Guan Tang poured a cup of tea for Guan Ning, she asked, "Why is Sister so mysterious this time? She didn't reveal anything before this, and she suddenly said she got a boyfriend and is bringing him home..."

Guan Ning pursed her lips before she said with a scoff, "Who knows what she's thinking? Didn't you hear what she said? She's willing to give up her position as the Eldest Miss of the Yin family for her younger brother. She wants to show that everything she does is for the sake of the Yin family. Previously, she didn't marry because she's the lucky star of the family. For the sake of the family, she sacrificed her happiness. Now that she wants to marry, it's also for the sake of the family. It's so the heir of the Yin family can return. Isn't she just two-faced? She can say and do whatever she wants!"

“Aunty, keep your voice down,” Guan Tang kindly reminded Guan Ning.

Guan Ning could not help but subconsciously look around her surroundings as she said indignantly, “I can’t even speak freely in my own house!”

After a moment of silence, Guan Tang asked, “What did Uncle say? Will he allow Sister to marry?”

To Guan Tang, this was important.

Guan Ning scoffed. “He must have gone to report to the Old Master immediately. What can he do on his own?”

Guan Tang felt rather speechless. She thought that there was a reason why Old Master Yin still held so much power in the Yin family; his son was nothing but a puppet. Finally, she said casually, “Sister really spared no effort in trying to bring Cheng Che back to the family.”

This time, Guan Ning remained silent. Her eyes slowly teared up as she said in a low voice, “It’s all due to Yin Zheng’s bad luck. It’s my fault for not keeping an eye on him. If only I could’ve stopped him from making trouble outside and prevented him from hanging out with that bast\*rd!”

Guan Tang quickly handed a piece of tissue over to Guan Ning before she said in a soft voice, “Aunty, don’t be sad. Since things have already come to this point, you can’t dwell on things that you have no control over.”

Guan Ning sniffed before she said, “Let them make a fuss for now. The most important thing is to cure Yin Zheng.”

### **Chapter 662: Preparations**

Guan Tang quickly said, “He’ll be fine. Don’t worry, Aunty. You must maintain composure so others won’t see you as a joke.”

Guan Ning smiled bitterly. “Haven’t I been a joke for a long time?”

Guan Tang looked as though she had done something wrong. She did not dare to say anything and lowered her head silently.

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Before dinner, Yin Bin’s car pulled into the driveway.

Guan Ning sneered.

As for Guan Tang, she understood that it must be Old Master Yin’s wish for Yin Bin to return to meet his potential son-in-law. It seemed like everything was to pave the way for Cheng Che’s return to the family.

When Yin Bin walked in, he asked, “Is Yin Jia back?”

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“No. You’re back early today,” Guan Ning said gently.

At this time, Yin Bin saw Guan Tang standing behind his wife. He nodded slightly at her before he said, "Guan Tang, although you've moved out, you have to come back often to accompany your aunt. Have you settled down in your new house? Do you need anything? Tomorrow, I'll ask my secretary to transfer 200,000 yuan to you so you can buy the things you need. You've been wronged. Don't worry, your aunt and I know what to do."

Guan Tang smiled. "Thank you, Uncle."

Guan Tang was pleased with Yin Bin's words. It meant that Old Master Yin had come to a conclusion about her and Cheng Che's matter.

As for Guan Ning, she did not know whether to feel happy or pity for Guan Tang.

At this moment, Yin Yi walked in. "Sister isn't back yet?"

Then, Yin Yi looked around the room with a slightly disappointed expression. However, it was quickly replaced with a happy expression as she said, "I'll quickly go and touch up my makeup. Cousin, come and help me pick out my clothes. Aiya, why are you dressed so plainly today? This won't do. I have to show my new brother-in-law our family's good genes. I haven't worn the dress we bought together last time. You can wear it first!"

Yin Yi did not wait for Guan Tang's response and pulled Guan Tang upstairs.

Yin Bin doted on his younger daughter very much. He smiled and asked, "Can you be more mature?"

Naturally, Yin Yi could not be bothered with her father at this moment.

Yin Bin and Guan Ning sat on the couch. As Guan Ning poured a cup of tea for Yin Bin, she asked, "Have you spoken to the Old Master about Yin Jia?"

Guan Ning knew her husband very well. A puppet would not be willing to admit he was a puppet. Hence, she had to be careful with her words.

Yin Bin took a sip from the cup before he slowly said, "He's already on his way here."

Guan Ning could not help but exclaim in surprise, "The Old Master is on his way?!"

Yin Bin nodded proudly. "It's only natural that he's concerned about this matter. Cheng Che and Yin Jia are both important people in the Yin family."

'Important people? Then, what about my son?' Guan Ning thought to herself as she suppressed her anger. Outwardly, she said, "Then, I'll tell the kitchen to prepare more food."

Yin Bin nodded. "Prepare dishes that old man likes."

Guan Ning nodded and hurried into the kitchen.

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Yin Jia and Ye Cheng sat together closely in the car. During the journey, she introduced the members of her family to him. When she was done, she sighed and said, "Although I have a huge family, I'm just like an orphan."

Ye Cheng squeezed her hand gently as he said, "It's okay. It's good to be independent as well; you only need to consider your own feelings. You don't have to care about others."

Yin Jia smiled bitterly. "Well, if I were really an orphan, that would be great. Then, there would truly be no need for me to consider anyone or anything. Alas, I'm treated like an orphan, and yet, I still have to consider my family."

Ye Cheng reached and pulled her into his embrace. "Don't be sad. In the future, when we have our own home, I'll shelter you from the wind and rain. All you have to do is to live as you want. You can cry and laugh whenever you want; there's no need to suppress yourself."

Yin Jia's heart was suffused with warmth upon hearing these words.

### **Chapter 663: Shock**

When Yin bin heard Ye Cheng's introduction, he stood up in shock. "What? You, you're Ye He's son?"

Ye Cheng looked shocked as well. "Uncle, you know my father?"

Yin Bin laughed heartily. "You're actually Old Ye's son! I really didn't expect this! Does your father know that your girlfriend is my daughter?"

Ye Cheng quickly said, "I told my father I have a girlfriend now and that I would bring her to meet him soon."

Yin Bin asked, slightly skeptical, "Your father didn't ask about your girlfriend's background?"

Ye Cheng smiled. "My father said that during his time, people married for the sake of their businesses. However, he said there's no need for that when it comes to me. It's fine as long as it's someone I like. He doesn't care about things like family background, and I have no interest in inheriting the family business. He says that he'll continue to work until he's too old to do so, and at that time, he'll let his grandchildren inherit the business. If his grandchildren have no interest as well, he said he'll hire professionals to manage the business. In short, he thinks that there's no need to make things difficult for the younger generation, and we should be able to do what makes us happy."

Yin Bin said, filled with praise, "Old Ye is truly open-minded! I'll call him to see where he is and invite him to join us. With this, both families can meet in advance."

Upon hearing this, Ye Cheng hurriedly said, "I heard from my father this morning that he's out of town. Since we don't get to see each other often, we promised to call each other every morning."

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Yin Bin looked at Ye Cheng in surprise. His impression of Ye Cheng improved even more. Then, he turned to say to Guan Ning, "I didn't expect there'd still be such a filial and sensible young man in this time and age."

Guan Ning smiled and nodded, but her heart was filled with bitterness. She did not expect Yin Jia would be able to find such a perfect boyfriend. Was it a blessing in disguise?

Meanwhile, Guan Tang tried with all her might to suppress the raging fire in her heart. She was so angry that her body trembled slightly.

At this moment, Yin Jia also introduced Guan Tang to Ye Cheng. She said simply, "This is Guan Tang."

Ye Cheng greeted Guan Tang politely, and his gaze did not linger on her.

Yin Jia smiled as she continued to say, "Guan Tang is also my future sister-in-law. Didn't I tell you that I have a long-lost brother? When he returns, they'll get married."

Ye Cheng looked at Guan Tang in surprise, and she only smiled awkwardly.

Yin Jia continued to say as though she was unaware of Guan Tang's awkwardness, "Oh, right, you're a local. Perhaps, you know my brother. His name is Cheng Che, and he helps Chairman Mu of the Mu Group."

"What? What did you say your brother's name was?" Ye Cheng looked shocked.

"Cheng Che. Do you know him?" Yin Jia asked.

Ye Cheng looked as though he had yet to recover from his shock as he asked, "The Mu family's Cheng Che?"

Yin Jia smiled and nodded. "That's right. You know him?"

"Of course, I know him. In fact, I've known him since he was in kindergarten. Mu Chen and I were classmates. Cheng Che is Mu Chen's younger brother. Mu Chen cherishes his younger brother very much and is very protective of him. He had gotten into a lot of fights because of Cheng Che. Cheng Che was weak and sickly when he was young, after all, so he was often bullied. Mu Chen would always stand up for him and teach the bullies a lesson," Ye Cheng said, still shocked.

Ye Cheng's words piqued the interest of everyone in the Yin family.

Yin Bin asked with a smile, "Are you on good terms with Cheng Che?"

"I'm close to Mu Chen so I treat Cheng Che like my younger brother as well. Mu Chen and I have been friends since we were in kindergarten. We fought and grew up together. Since he was young, he was quiet and strove for the first place. Once in a while, when I managed to rank first, he'd surely grab that position back. Looking back, I'm really grateful to him. If it weren't for him, I might not be so hardworking!"

### **Chapter 664: Old Friends**

Ye Cheng said humorously, "However, when we were students, I felt rather resentful. It was like we were both born with talent, but he was shining so brightly. As time passed, I grew to like him a lot. In the end, we're friends but also rivals. Later on, we became slightly estranged due to his relationship with my sister. Nonetheless, our childhood friendship will always be in our hearts."

Ye Cheng told another one or two stories about how mischievous they were and the trouble they got into when they were young.

Everyone listened with great interest, especially Yin Yi.

It did not escape Ye Cheng's notice that Yin Yi's expression was particularly bright when he spoke about Mu Chen.

Finally, Yin Jia asked the question in everyone's minds. "Why was Cheng Che bullied when he was young? Didn't he have anyone following him to school?"

Ye Cheng was briefly stunned before realization dawned on him. "Oh, our families were the same and sent all of us to ordinary schools, not private schools. Moreover, it's impossible and too ostentatious to reveal our identities in such a manner. My sister was the only exception because she's a girl; she was sent to a private school since she was young. Cheng Che, Mu Chen, and I went to ordinary schools. Just like ordinary people, we don't have chauffeurs or bodyguards accompanying us. The bodyguards would just watch from afar, and they didn't interfere with our lives. Even when we fought, they didn't interfere. They only appeared if our personal safety was threatened. That's how Mu Chen and I became good at fighting as well."

Ye Cheng looked slightly pleased with himself when he finished speaking.

Guan Ning could not help but ask, "Then was Cheng Che at a disadvantage? After all, he was just adopted by the Mu family."

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Ye Cheng spread his hands and said, "When we were young, Mu Chen always said Cheng Che is his younger brother. At that time, we assumed Cheng Che was his younger cousin brother. We never thought about digging deeper into the matter. Since Mu Chen said Cheng Che is his younger brother, all of us treated Cheng Che like our younger brother. Moreover, Cheng Che was both sensible and smart. He's been a straight-A student since he was young. All of us were rather envious of Mu Chen for having such a younger brother."

Yin Bin and Yin Jia smiled happily upon hearing these words.

Ye Cheng sighed before he said to Yin Jia, "To think the world is so small. As it turns out, Cheng Che is a member of the Yin family and he's your brother."

Yin Jia said proudly, "That's right. He's my biological brother."

Ye Cheng said, "No wonder he's so smart. As it turns out, he's Uncle Yin's son."

Yin Bin was delighted when he heard these words.

Yin Jia looked at Ye Cheng hopefully and asked, "Then, how's your relationship with Cheng Che now?"

Ye Cheng revealed a slightly bitter expression on his face as he said, "Ever since the incident between my sister and Mu Chen, I've had little contact with Mu Chen. Needless to say, the same goes for Cheng Che."

Yin Jia could not help but feel disappointed.

Upon seeing the disappointment on Yin Jia's face, Ye Cheng hurriedly asked, "What's wrong?"

Yin Jia glanced at Yin Bin meaningfully.

Yin Bin smiled and quickly switched the topic. He said with a wide smile, "I really didn't expect the world to be so small."

Since her father has no intention of continuing on that topic, Yin Jia said, "In the future, you have to interact more with Cheng Che."

Ye Cheng replied with a smile, "Of course. Now that I think about the fights I fought for him when we were young, I think they're really worth it."

Yin Jia looked down shyly.

Yin Yi looked at Yin Jia mischievously as she said, "That's right. Eldest Brother definitely won't expect that the person who protected him when he was young will become his brother-in-law. Right, Sister?"

Yin Jia's face turned even redder. She gently hit Yin Yi's arm and said, "Stop being so mischievous."

Meanwhile, Guan Tang could see that Yin Jia's boyfriend was well-liked. Everything was going too smoothly. She clenched her hands, digging her nails into the palm. When she saw the beautiful smile on Yin Jia's face, jealousy flooded her heart. Moreover, it was infuriating how Yin Jia's boyfriend, who was not inferior to Yin Jia's ex-boyfriend, did not even spare an extra glance for her. She almost lost her composure because of this.

### **Chapter 665: Seduction**

Guan Tang raised her hand and called the helper over. Then, she made sure everyone could hear her as she said in a low voice, "Why didn't you bring out the wine that Master treasures?"

The helper was briefly stunned before she turned to look at Yin Bin?

Yin Bin laughed out loud. "Guan Tang, you're still the most meticulous and considerate. Alright, go. Bring out the bottle of aged wine from the wine cellar. I want to drink with Ye Cheng today."

Ye Cheng hurriedly said, "Uncle, my alcohol tolerance isn't very good. You have to go easy on me."

Yin Bin was even happier upon hearing these words. He thought that a modest young man like Ye Cheng was truly rare.

Guan Tang glanced at Ye Cheng. Seeing that Ye Cheng did not even look at her, she grew even more annoyed. After a while, she rose to her feet gently. When she saw Guan Ning looking at her, she leaned forward and whispered something into Guan Ning's ear.

Then, Guan Ning said, "Alright. Quickly go and see why it hasn't been served yet."

Guan Tang turned around with a smile. From the corners of her eyes, she caught a glimpse of Ye Cheng looking at her curiously.

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Guan Tang went to the kitchen to check on the duck soup. She discovered it had not been served because it was still being heated. In fact, she only used this as an excuse to leave the table. She wanted to gamble and bet on Ye Cheng.

She leaned against a wall somewhere close to the kitchen next to a small table. Then, she picked up the book on the small table and casually flipped through it.

Soon after, she heard the sounds of footsteps coming from the side, but she did not turn around. When the footsteps stopped next to her, she heard a gentle voice ask, "Why is Miss Guan here?"

Guan Tang looked up and feigned a flustered expression. She said shyly, "Mr. Ye? Ah, I mean, brother-in-law..."

Ye Cheng smiled. "Why didn't you return to the dining room?"

Guan Tang hurriedly pointed to the kitchen and said, "I'm waiting for the duck soup to be ready. It's the chef's specialty. You have to try it later, brother-in-law."

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The smile on Guan Tang's face was pure and cute.

"Why wait here? You can eat while you wait," Ye Cheng said with a smile.

Guan Tang glanced at Ye Cheng before she lowered her gaze. Her smile disappeared from her face as she said softly, "It's fine. I'll wait here. Brother-in-law, go eat. I'll be back in a while."

Ye Cheng's interest was piqued. "What's going on?"

Guan Tang hastily said, "It's nothing. Brother-in-law, you better hurry back. Otherwise, Sister will be angry."

Then, Guan Tang looked behind Ye Cheng with a panicked expression as though she was worried Yin Jia would suddenly show up.

Ye Cheng's smile faded immediately. "Are you afraid of her?"

Guan Tang's smile looked very forced as she said, "No, it's not like that. Why would I be afraid? I, I lost my parents when I was young so I grew up here. Everyone treats me very, very well."

As Guan Tang spoke, her head lowered even more.

Ye Cheng remained silent.

After a moment, Guan Tang raised her head tentatively to look at Ye Cheng. When she saw he was looking at her with a profound gaze, she forced a smile on her face and said, "Brother-in-law, go and eat."

Guan Tang's smile was so fragile that it made those who saw it feel bad for her.

Ye Cheng said softly, "If there's anything you need my help with, you can just say it. A girl has to live happily."

Guan Tang raised her head and looked at Ye Cheng in surprise. Tears shone in her eyes. Her expression showed that she was both touched and grateful.

With that, Ye Cheng smiled before he turned to leave.

In just a moment, Guan Tang's tears vanished, and her smile grew wider. She was truly very good at acting. She thought to herself smugly, 'I knew it's impossible for you not to notice me.'

At this time, a helper came over and said respectfully, "Miss Guan, the soup is ready."

"Alright, I'll bring it out," Guan Tang said frostily.

Then, the helper handed a pair of gloves to Guan Tang to prevent her hands from getting scalded.

### **Chapter 666: Showing Off**

Guan Ning praised Guan Tang for bringing the soup out and serving everyone.

Guan Tang only smiled as she served the soup. When it was Ye Cheng's turn, she lowered her gaze and said respectfully, "Brother-in-law, please have a taste."

Ye Cheng thanked her.

After that, Guan Tang served a bowl of soup to Yin Jia.

Yin Jia took the bowl and did not thank Guan Tang. She turned to Ye Cheng and said, "You have to try it. It's our family chef's specialty."

Ye Cheng smiled before he drank a spoonful of the soup. Then, he said, filled with praise, "It's really good. I've never tasted such delicious duck soup before."

Yin Bin and Guan Ning laughed.

Guan Tang walked back to her seat and sat down elegantly. When Ye Cheng's gaze drifted over, she looked slightly startled, and her face turned slightly red.

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The dinner continued. Everything was going very smoothly. It felt as though if Ye Cheng's parents were here, the wedding date would have been decided upon immediately.

At this point, Yin Bin, who had drunk quite a bit, was slightly tipsy. He held Ye Cheng's hand and said, "I'll look for Old Ye to discuss the wedding date as soon as possible. I'll feel at ease once everything has been decided."

Ye Cheng said respectfully, "I'll listen to the elders. With the elders' help, Yin Jia and I won't have to worry about anything."

Then, Ye Cheng reached out to hold Yin Jia's hand. His gaze was tender and affectionate when he looked at her.

At the same time, Guan Tang watched coldly from the side as many vicious thoughts appeared in her mind.

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When Guan Tang returned to her house, she kicked her high heels off at the entrance. She untied her hair as she walked into her bedroom. Halfway there, she stopped in her tracks and looked at the long wall in annoyance as though she just remembered something.

Then, she walked into the kitchen and cooked a packet of instant noodles before she brought it into the secret room. She said tonelessly, "I forgot about you. Just eat this."

Jiahui did not stand on ceremony and accepted the bowl of noodles. After all, she had been starving for an entire day.

Guan Tang turned around to leave, but after thinking about it, she took a seat on the chair near the door.

Jiahui looked at Guan Tang and asked, "Why are you unhappy again?"

Guan Tang leaned back on the chair and did not speak as she stared at the living room outside.

Jiahui shrugged and continued eating the noodles.

After a long while, Guan Tang said, "I want to rob her of her boyfriend. Do you think I'll succeed?"

Jiahui looked at Guan Tang disapprovingly. "Whose boyfriend do you covet now? Shouldn't you focus on robbing me of my boyfriend?"

Guan Tang stretched lazily. "Your boyfriend is mine to begin with; there's no need for me to rob him from you. He'll return to my side sooner or later. Although I don't like this man, I really want to snatch him over."

Jiahui frowned, unable to keep up with Guan Tang's thoughts. "Why would you snatch him over if you don't like him?"

Guan Tang rolled her eyes. "It has nothing to do with liking him or not. I just want to see how loyal men are. I also dislike those arrogant women who think their men are faithful and won't betray them. These women think they're the best and that their men will forever love them. I want to prove to them that no man is loyal."

As Guan Tang spoke, a strange smile appeared on her face.

Jiahui nodded. "I understand. You're testing the men on women's behalf."

Guan Tang was very satisfied with Jiahui's words. She felt like Jiahui was one of the rare people who understood her. "That's right. I'm actually being kind."

Jiahui lowered her head to eat before she said, "In fact, no one needs this kind of kindness."

Guan Tang sneered. "I don't care. I only used a petty trick early, but he had already noticed me. This means he's not sincere to Yin Jia. A man will be instinctively protective when he meets a pitiful woman; men want to be heroes saving the damsel in distress. No man can resist this. This includes your Cheng Che. Oops, I mean, my Cheng Che."

**Chapter 667: Concerned**

Jiahui frowned. "You're really shameless to proclaim my boyfriend is yours in front of me."

Guan Tang sneered. "What's wrong with being shameless to a rival?"

Jiahui felt speechless.

"I have self-righteous women the most," Guan Tang said hatefully. Then, she suddenly rose to her feet and walked out.

Jiahui felt much more comfortable after drinking the soup in the bowl. Then, she thought to herself, 'Guan Tang is really crazy.'

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Cheng Che had not slept for two days and two nights.

Song Ning handed Cheng Che a glass of water and said, "Cheng Che, you can't continue like this. How are you going to look for Jiahui if your body collapses?"

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Cheng Che's eyes reddened as he picked up the glass and drained it in one go.

After that, Song Ning said apologetically, "I'm sorry, but I put a sleeping pill in there. Sleep first. Your brother and I will continue to look for her. You have to rest before you continue the search."

Cheng Che looked at Song Ning helplessly.

At this time, Mu Chen placed a hand on Cheng Che's shoulder and said, "Listen to your sister-in-law. Sleep. Don't be reckless."

Cheng Che grew sleepier and sleepier so Song Ning found someone to help him back to his room. After that, she said to Mu Chen helplessly, "I didn't have a choice. This is the only way we can get him to sleep."

Mu Chen patted Song Ning's shoulder and said, "You did the right thing. We can only for him to rest now. Old Master Yin is already in town, and Cheng Che's battle will only get tougher from here on out. It's important that he looks after his health now so he doesn't collapse."

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Song Ning nodded before she asked, "We don't have any leads now. What should we do?"

Mu Chen said in a deep voice, "It's because we don't have leads that it's even more important for us to stay calm. I summoned Han Mo and Xian An. Let's reanalyze the day Jiahui disappeared."

Song Ning could tell that the more serious and complex the situation was, the calmer Mu Chen would become. Back then, if it were not for Mu Chen's calmness, who knew how long it would take her to solve the problem? Hence, she trusted Mu Chen's judgment very much.

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After Yin Jia sent Ye Cheng out and agreed on the meeting time for the next day, she suddenly stopped him just as he was about to leave. She asked hesitantly, "You, don't you want to ask me about Guan Tang?"

Ye Cheng looked puzzled. "Ask about her? Why?"

Yin Jia smiled at him with a hint of relief. Then, she said, "It's nothing. Go home. I'll see you tomorrow. I might even ask you to accompany me to see my grandfather tomorrow. In fact, he was supposed to be here for dinner."

Ye Cheng smiled. "I'm more than happy to accompany you. Does it mean that the more elders I meet, the more likely I'll pass the test with flying colors?"

Yin Jia only smiled. Although she remained silent, her gaze was gentle and happy.

Ye Cheng leaned forward and hugged her before he gently placed a kiss on her forehead. "Go in. I'm leaving."

After Ye Cheng's car had long disappeared from the driveway, Yin Jia was still deeply immersed in the feeling of being kissed on her forehead. How many years had it been since she had felt so moved? This time, she finally found the right person.

Despite Guan Tang's attempt to attract Ye Cheng, it seemed like Ye Cheng had no impression of her at all. Yin Jia thought to herself, 'As expected of an experienced and mature man like Ye Cheng. He's not easily moved.'

In the past, Yin Jia believed in love wholeheartedly. She believed that if a man loved a woman, he would be faithful to her for the rest of his life. She thought that was the case when she met the purest and most innocent man. Alas, purity and innocence did not equal loyalty. Perhaps, he was easily moved because he had not seen enough of the world.

However, Yin Jia thought Ye Cheng was different. He had seen and experienced many things and was aware of women's schemes. Hence, he would not easily fall for them.

When Yin Jia recalled Guan Tang's pitiful expression, she felt disgusted as though she had just eaten a fly.

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At this time, the 'matured and experienced' Ye Cheng was standing outside Zhuang Ning's house.

### **Chapter 668: Dream**

After quietly smoking a cigarette, Ye Cheng tossed the cigarette butt on the ground before he put it out with his foot. To him, marrying a woman he did not love but was useful was not painful, but a blessing. However, since he had someone else in his heart, it felt rather painful.

Zhuang Ning was reading a script when Ye Cheng arrived. When she saw him, she only looked at him indifferently before she returned to reading her script.

Ye Cheng knew she could not be disturbed at a time like this. He sat on the couch and silently looked at her side profile. It was said that a man was most attractive when he was working hard; the same was true for women.

Ye Cheng felt his eyelids grow heavier and heavier. He was always tired, but he could only completely relax when he was with Zhuang Ning. At some point, he fell asleep and began to dream.

There was always a knot in his heart that could not be untied, and he knew it was Ye Xin.

At this time, he saw Ye Xin dressed in a white dress, looking at him coldly.

He sighed inwardly and thought that Ye Xin was truly a beautiful girl. In fact, her facial features were even more stunning than Song Ning's. Alas, she was too spoiled. It naturally had a lot to do with how she was raised. She was pampered by their parents and him.

"You're my brother! If you don't stand on my side, are you going to stand on that b\*tch's side? I don't care, you have to teach her a lesson! She took my money, but she dares to help that b\*tch, Ning Xia! Brother, you have to teach her a lesson!"

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Ye Xin's words were vicious, but he only felt sorry for his sister because he loved his sister. As usual, he went along with her and asked, "Alright, alright. Tell me, how do you want me to teach her a lesson?"

Ye Xin thought for a moment before she said fiercely, "I want her face destroyed so she won't dare to see anyone again!"

Since Ye Xin cared about her appearance the most, naturally, the most horrendous punishment she could think of was to ruin another woman's appearance.

Ye Cheng sighed as he watched his dream self agree to his sister. "Alright, alright. We'll let her live a life worse than death, okay? We'll destroy her face and let her live like a street rat. Don't be angry anymore, okay?"

With that Ye Xin slowly calmed down.

At this moment, Ye Cheng suddenly jolted awake when he felt the sensation of a blanket gently placed on his legs. He opened his eyes and saw Zhuang Ning.

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Zhuang Ning said expressionlessly, "You're awake?"

Ye Cheng hurriedly sat up, causing the blanket to fall, as he said, "Sorry, I fell asleep."

Zhuang Ning sat on the couch across from him and began to brew a pot of tea.

Upon seeing this, Ye Cheng's heart skipped a beat. He thought that the way she brewed tea was really similar to Yang Li. In the past, Yang Li would sometimes personally brew tea for Ye Xin's guests.

Ye Cheng did not take Yang Li seriously. In front of Ye Xin, it was natural that Yang Li did not have the status and treatment that managers usually had.

Zhuang Ning set a small teacup down in front of him before she said with a hint of reproach, "You're so tired. Why don't you go home and rest?"

Ye Cheng took a sip of the tea and looked at her. "Recently, I've been sleeping very poorly. I can only sleep peacefully when I'm with you."

Zhuang Ning paused briefly before she looked at Ye Cheng and said with a smile, "Your words can easily cause misunderstandings."

"What misunderstandings?" Ye Cheng smiled.

Zhuang Ning did not answer him.

Ye Cheng said in a low voice, "I really want to stay next to you all the time. I just want to sleep well."

### **Chapter 669: Probe**

Zhuang Ning refilled Ye Cheng's cup of tea as she said lazily, "Young Master Ye, please let me off. If that happens, you'll be called an infatuated young master, and I'll be labeled as the vixen who enchanted you."

Ye Cheng looked at Zhuang Ning and said, "Zhuang Ning, I like you the most. You know my heart."

Zhuang Ning smiled noncommittally.

Ye Cheng asked, "Zhuang Ning, if I marry someone I don't love for the benefit of my family, will you still take me in like now?"

Zhuang Ning cocked an eyebrow as she said, "Young Master Ye, enough is enough. No matter what your reason is, it's still a marriage. There's no need to use family as an excuse. In any case, if you get married, we'll sever our ties and have nothing to do with each other anymore."

Zhuang Ning drained her cup of tea after she finished speaking.

Ye Cheng smiled bitterly and swallowed the words hanging on the tip of his tongue. Instead, he only said, "Zhuang Ning, you're too stubborn."

"Did I say anything wrong? If you have a girlfriend, and you still maintain a close relationship with your girlfriend, it'll be too unfair for your girlfriend," Zhuang Ning said.

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Ye Cheng looked at her and asked, "You're always thinking about others. When are you going to think about yourself?"

Zhuang Ning replied indifferently, "No, I'm also thinking about myself. After all, if people found out about it, I'd be labeled as the third party whether it's true or not. It'd be too unfair for me to bear the blame. Hence, if you have a girlfriend, no matter your motives, I'll back off to protect my reputation."

Ye Cheng smiled bitterly before he said with a soft sigh, "Must you be so clear-headed and rational?"

Ye Cheng had to admit that Zhuang Ning's words were reasonable, but he really did not want to accept them. Hence, he said again, "Zhuang Ning, can't you try to consider that I really have no choice? My heart will always be yours. Other women are just tools. Zhuang Ning, I'm serious."

Zhuang Ning looked at him meaningfully before she asked with a smile, "Do you already have a girlfriend whom you're ready to marry?"

"No!" Ye Cheng denied immediately, feeling a little nervous.

Zhuang Ning looked at him silently for a moment before she said with a faint smile on her face, "Young Master Ye, I'm not surprised if you've already found a suitable marriage partner. However, please don't drag me down with you. I have no interest in being a mistress so please let me go. Thank you."

Ye Cheng could only smile bitterly.

Zhuang Ning switched the topic easily and asked, "Were you dreaming earlier? I heard you calling out 'Ye Xin'. Did you dream about your sister?"

"Did I talk in my sleep?" Ye Cheng looked a little confused.

Zhuang Ning nodded. "I think you promised her to teach someone a lesson. You spoiled her a lot. Were you willing to help her teach those she didn't like a lesson?"

Ye Cheng wiped his face before he leaned against the couch and said, "Yes, I spoiled her a lot. Whether she was right or wrong, no matter what she did, I always stood by her side. I'd support and back her up. I'd done terrible things for her."

Zhuang Ning, who was listening quietly, asked, "Such as?"

Ye Cheng stopped talking as Zhuang Ning looked at him with a burning gaze.

Ye Cheng finally gritted his teeth and said, "For example, she told me to teach her manager a lesson because her manager refused to listen to her. I helped her deal with it. It was not a difficult matter anyway."

Zhuang Ning's face was already deathly pale at this time, but Ye Cheng, who was immersed in his memories, did not seem to notice it. She said in a somewhat frosty voice, "What happened to that manager?"

Ye Cheng shook his head. "She disappeared from the world..."

"So she's dead?" Zhuang Ning asked.

Ye Cheng did not reply. After a long time, he finally said, "Maybe. After all, she had been disfigured. It'd be quite difficult for her to survive."

### **Chapter 670: Chance Encounter**

"Do you regret it?" Zhuang Ning asked him.

Ye Cheng shook his head slightly. "What's there to regret? She was unaware of her circumstance and did not understand the situation. How could she be so tactless? Did she really not know she wouldn't have a good ending if she offended Ye Xin?"

Crash!

The cup of tea in Zhuang Ning's hand fell to the ground. The sound of it breaking was very jarring.

A fragment of the porcelain cup flew and nicked Zhuang Ning's exposed calf.

Ye Cheng sat up in surprise and hurriedly took a piece of tissue and held it against the cut.

Zhuang Ning brushed his hand away and said, "It's late. You should go home."

She did not wait for his reply and used the tissue to wipe the blood off before she went into the bedroom, leaving a bewildered Ye Cheng behind.

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As soon as the bedroom door closed, she leaned against it and slowly slid down to the floor. She raised her head to prevent her tears from falling. She thought to herself, 'In these people's eyes, my life is like that of an ant. What reasons do I have to be soft-hearted? Is there anything I can't do?'

Zhuang Ning fiercely wiped the tears off her face and grew even more determined.

...

In a restaurant at the bottom of the Ye Group's building.

Yin Jia and Guan Tang were having coffee.

Guan Tang looked around before she said, "The Ye Group is really impressive."

Yin Jia did not say a word. She had deliberately brought Guan Tang here. The better Ye Cheng's conditions were, the more Guan Tang would be unable to hold back.

After looking around, Guan Tang asked softly, "Brother-in-law's conditions are really good. Why does he work at the Public Security Bureau?"

Yin Jia stirred her coffee as she replied, "Everyone has their own plans. Look at our family. In the past, Grandpa had always wished Yin Jia would enter politics so Yin Jia could take care of the family in the future."

Guan Tang smiled. "It'd be strange if he could take care of the family. It'd be good enough as long as he didn't cause trouble for the family."

Yin Jia's attitude eased upon hearing these words.

At this moment, Ye Cheng hurried over and said with a smile, "I apologize for keeping the two beautiful ladies waiting. What would you like to drink?"

Ye Cheng raised his hand and beckoned the waiter over.

"We've already offered coffee," Yin Jia said, gesturing at her cup of coffee.

Ye Cheng ordered a fruit platter before he asked Yin Jia, "What's the matter?"

Guan Tang did not let Yin Jia reply and quickly said, "Grandpa is in the city, and he wants to meet you. Sister came to see if you're free."

Guan Tang looked very cute when she spoke.

Ye Cheng glanced at Guan Tang before he said with a smile, "Of course, I'm free." Then, he asked Yin Jia, "Is there anything I should be aware of? What kind of gift should I bring for my visit?"

Yin Jia smiled gently as she said, "I've already prepared a gift on your behalf. You can follow me to the car and get it later."

Ye Cheng was surprised. "That's inappropriate, right?"

"My grandfather has a strange temper and is difficult to please. I'd carefully selected the gift. Don't worry. He'll definitely like it," Yin Jia replied.

Guan Tang chimed in, "Sister is Old Master Yin's favorite! He has doted on her since she was young. If Sister's happy, he definitely won't make things difficult for you."

Yin Jia only smiled and did not say anything.

Ye Cheng said with a shrug, "Alright, I'll follow your arrangements."

Guan Tang grabbed Yin Jia's arm gently and said, "Sister, you're really lucky! Brother-in-law listens to you so much. This is something many women dream of!"

"Isn't this how all boyfriends should be?" Ye Cheng asked with a smile.

Guan Tang placed one hand against her heart and said, "Sister, look. Brother-in-law is showing how much he likes you."

Yin Jia was in a good mood.

At the same time, Ye Cheng scoffed inwardly at the two women. He thought that Guan Tang really spared no effort in putting on a good show and seducing Yin Jia's boyfriend so openly.

At this moment, a slightly trembling voice rang from behind Ye Cheng.

"Ye Cheng?!"

Ye Cheng froze. It was as though he had been struck by a bolt of lightning.

'Why is Zhuang Ning here?'

Zhuang Ning walked to the side of their table. Her eyes were only trained on Ye Cheng as she asked in a soft and slightly pained voice, "Ye Cheng, should I congratulate you?"

## **Chapter 671: Jealousy**

Ye Cheng was dumbstruck. Finally, he asked a question, which even he found useless and stupid, "Zhuang Ning, why are you here?"

At this time, Zhuang Ning looked as though she had already regained her composure. However, her face was extremely pale. She said with a smile, "The production team wants to shoot a few scenes here today."

Ye Cheng was already panicking inwardly. "Oh, okay. Is there anything I can help you with?"

"No, thank you," Zhuang Ning replied curtly before she turned around and walked out toward the cameras outside.

Xiao Peng, who was standing not too far away, looked at Ye Cheng with an extremely disgusted expression on her face.

At this moment, Ye Cheng felt as though his heart had left his body and followed Zhuang Ning, who had vanished from sight. Even so, he did not leave and continued to sit with Yin Jia and Guan Tang.

"Who is she?" Guan Tang asked curiously. All of a sudden, realization dawned on her, and she exclaimed, "She's Zhuang Ning! Sister, that's Zhuang Ning!"

Guan Tang shook Yin Jia's arm excitedly as she spoke.

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The coffee in Yin Jia's hand almost spilled as she looked at Ye Cheng and asked, "Is that so? Ye Cheng?"

Ye Cheng, who had already regained his composure, said, "That's right. She's Zhuang Ning, the actress. I don't usually pay attention to entertainment news; I didn't know she's so popular. Is Miss Guan a fan as well?"

Ye Cheng clearly wanted to change the topic.

Guan Tang did not seem to notice at all as she asked with a gossipy expression on her face, "How did brother-in-law and Zhuang Ning know each other?"

Ye Cheng replied plainly, "Her manager is my sister's former assistant. I don't remember the details, but I did them a small favor before."

Guan Tang held Yin Jia's arm and acted coquettishly as she said, "But I feel that brother-in-law's relationship with her seems a little unusual. Don't you agree, Sister?"

Yin Jia's expression was obviously rather bad at this moment.

Ye Cheng looked at Yin Jia with a smile. "It's my first time seeing Yin Jia jealous. However, her jealousy means she cares about me, right? Yin Jia, isn't that right?"

Yin Jia's face flushed slightly. She rolled her eyes at him and said, "I'm not jealous at all. She's just an actress, after all."

Ye Cheng sighed. "As expected, I'm still not important enough. Although Guan Tang said my relationship with her is unusual, you don't care at all."

Yin Jia reached out and patted his arm as she said, "What's unusual? Why don't I see it? In any case, why do I have to feel jealous? You're looking down on me too much. She's just a small celebrity, after all."

As Yin Jia spoke, she raised her head arrogantly.

Ye Cheng smiled and held Yin Jia's hand. He sighed emotionally as he said, "I must have saved the world in my previous life. Otherwise, how could I have met someone as good as you?"

Guan Tang covered her mouth and giggled. "Both of you are too lovey-dovey!"

Guan Tang's eyes were sparkling as she looked at Ye Cheng.

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Zhuang Ning's shooting was going very well. She continued posing in front of the camera.

At this moment, an assistant said from the side, "Sister Zhuang Ning, you're on top form today! I think we'd be able to call it a day soon!"

Zhuang Ning's expression remained aloof and chic as she continued posing.

After a moment, the photographer scrolled through the photos he had taken, looking very satisfied. Then, he looked at Zhuang Ning and said, "Miss Zhuang Ning, I have a small suggestion."

Zhuang Ning looked at him and gestured for him to continue.

The photographer showed her the photos and said, "The photos are very beautiful, and you look aloof as always. This is similar to your past role as the female lead. However, have you ever thought about doing something different?"

Zhuang Ning was stunned.

Peng Peng's eyes lit up immediately. "You're saying she should show a different side? Like a contrast to her aloofness?"

The photographer nodded excitedly.

Peng Peng looked at Zhuang Ning and asked, "Sister Zhuang Ning, let's give it a try, okay?"

## **Chapter 672: Making Friends**

Zhuang Ning smiled faintly. "I'll do it for both of you this time."

Peng Peng and the photographer were delighted.

Peng Peng immediately called for the makeup artist while the photographer spoke to his assistant about the set and lighting. It was chaotic for a moment.

At the same time, Zhuang Ning saw a woman sitting in the area next to the shooting location. With just a glance, she knew the woman was one of the two women whom Ye Cheng was with earlier.

Zhuang Ning quietly cooperated with the photographer and let him direct her.

Although the photographer had no idea why Zhuang Ning was so cooperative today, he had no complaints about this stroke of luck.

Zhuang Ning was very good when receiving directions from the photographer. After listening to his ideas and thoughts, she was able to bring out the emotions he wanted.

Peng Peng said excitedly to the photographer, 'Brother Guo, this is great! You discovered a new side of Sister Zhuang Ning. With this, she'll be cast in more diverse roles in the future. I can also show these photos to casting directors.'

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The photographer replied, "I just feel she has a wide range of expression despite her aloofness." It'll be a pity if she's typecasted. If that happens, she won't be able to maintain her popularity for long. Look at how beautiful it is when she smiles so brightly? This is great. Her smile is really enchanting!"

The duo continued to talk as photos after photos were taken.

By the time the shoot was over, the photographer was exhausted. His throat was slightly sore. Even then, it did not dampen his excitement.

After changing her clothes, Zhuang Ning patted Peng Peng's shoulder and said, "Your stamina is too low. You have to train it. Perhaps, you should follow Brother Guo."

The photographer only laughed before he said, "Miss Zhuang, today's photos are too beautiful. I want to post them."

Zhuang Ning looked at the camera and calmly said, "Peng Peng, you go and discuss it with Brother Guo."

The photographer was very happy upon hearing these words and left with Peng Peng.

After Zhuang Ning took a seat, the woman took a seat in front of her. Then, she held out her hand and said in a reserved and elegant manner, "Hello, Miss Zhuang. My name is Guan Tang."

Zhuang Ning ignored Guan Tang's extended hand and replied tonelessly, "Hello."

Guan Tang withdrew her hand awkwardly. However, her smile was friendly as she said, "Miss Zhuang, you're even more beautiful in person!"

Zhuang Ning heard these words more than 100 times a day; she had already grown immune to them. She asked expressionlessly, "Miss Guan, is there something you need from me?"

Guan Tang smiled innocently. "We met earlier! You might not have noticed me earlier. Ye Cheng is my cousin's boyfriend. They're getting married soon."

Guan Tang's eyes were staring intently at Zhuang Ning as she spoke.

Zhuang Ning's expression changed as she asked coldly, "Ye Cheng is getting married?"

Guan Tang nodded. "Yes."

Upon hearing this, Zhuang Ning fell into a daze.

Guan Tang's eyes did not move away from Zhuang Ning's face at all. She smiled and asked, "Miss Zhuang, can I watch you during your photoshoot?"

Zhuang Ning, who seemed to have regained her calm, said, "Do what you want."

"When you're filming next time, can I visit you?" Guan Tang asked excitedly.

Zhuang Ning looked at Guan Tang briefly before she said, "Up to you."

"That's great! I haven't been in this city for long so I don't have many friends. Thanks, Miss Zhuang! You're really nice. No wonder so many people like you!" Compliments spilled out of Guan Tang's mouth as she spoke.

Zhuang Ning's expression gradually eased as Guan Tang continued to speak.

At the end of the day, it seemed like Zhuang Ning and Guan Tang were already good friends.

Peng Peng, who saw this, was rather surprised.

### **Chapter 673: Performance**

When they finally got off work, Guan Tang invited everyone to a meal. However, everyone had their own matters to attend to and quickly left.

Zhuang Ning, however, looked as though she was considering the invitation.

Peng Peng had already received hints from Zhuang Ning so she also said she had to go home soon.

Seeing that Zhuang Ning had yet to agree, Guan Tang invited Zhuang Ning again.

Peng Peng said worriedly, "That won't do. Sister Zhuang Ning can't simply appear in public. Otherwise, who knows what kinds of headlines will appear tomorrow?"

Guan Tang was not discouraged. She asked happily, "Then, Zhuang Ning, do you want to visit my house? I live alone. We can chat all night!"

Zhuang Ning seemed rather keen, but Peng Peng was still slightly worried.

Guan Tang said with a smile, "Don't worry. I'm not a bad person. Ye Cheng is my cousin-in-law. I heard you're his sister's former assistant, right?"

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Peng Peng turned to look at Zhuang Ning.

Zhuang Ning finally nodded.

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Peng Peng said reluctantly, "Alright, then I'll have to trouble Miss Guan. Did Miss Guan drive? Sister Zhuang can't leave in her car. Otherwise, the paparazzi will definitely follow her."

Guan Tang was overjoyed. "It's alright. I'll get the driver to pick us up."

While Guan Tang was on the phone, Zhuang Ning and Peng Peng communicated briefly.

Zhuang Ning wanted to see what kind of monster this cousin of Ye Cheng's fiancée was.

Guan Tang was immersed in her happiness. Seducing Ye Cheng aside, it was not a bad idea to get to know the woman Ye Cheng seemed to like. Perhaps, she might obtain important information. As long as she could make Yin Jia suffer, she was very willing to do anything.

...

Zhuang Ning looked at the long wall in front of her as a strange feeling rose in her heart.

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Guan Tang poured a glass of water and said, "I plan to hang landscape paintings on that wall. I know it looks out of place now."

Zhuang Ning withdrew her gaze and took a seat.

After handing Zhuang Ning a glass of water, she sat next to Zhuang Ning. She asked bluntly, catching Zhuang Ning off guard, "Zhuang Ning, you like my cousin-in-law, right?"

The glass of water almost slipped out of Zhuang Ning's hand when she heard this.

Guan Tang was inwardly delighted. It seemed like she had guessed correctly. She pressed on. She said with a slightly sad expression, "He likes you too, right? The way he looks at you... He has never looked at my cousin like that."

Zhuang Ning was slightly taken aback. "Didn't you say they're getting married?"

Guan Tang shrugged. "Yes. However, who said that people can only marry each other for love?"

Zhuang Ning fell silent, looking extremely vulnerable.

'What a beauty. Even when she looks sad, Yin Jia can't compare to her beauty,' Guan Tang praised inwardly. She did not expect Ye Cheng to like this kind of woman. She took note of it and thought she should change her tactic.

Guan Tang continued to say, "There are many kinds of marriages. Have you heard of business marriages? My cousin and Ye Cheng's marriage is a business marriage. With their marriage, the interests of the two families will be linked. It has nothing to do with love. However, I can see the love between you and him earlier. What do you plan to do?"

Zhuang Ning sighed softly and said in a low voice, "I don't know."

...

At the same time, Jiahui, who was in the secret room, could not figure out why Zhuang Ning would come to Guan Tang's house. However, after listening in for a while, she had a vague idea of what was happening.

Jiahui sighed when she looked at Zhuang Ning's every action and word. As expected of an actress. She thought that Zhuang Ning's control over her emotions and expressions was amazing.

Through Song Ning, Jiahui knew that the target of Zhuang Ning's revenge was Ye Cheng. She thought that it was kind of enjoyable being able to watch Zhuang Ning's performance now.

#### **Chapter 674: Brainwashing**

Guan Tang looked at Zhuang Ning eagerly.

Zhuang Ning looked at a loss as she gently tapped the cup in front of her.

Guan Tang became happier when she saw this. She sighed and said with a pained expression, "How pitiful. Have you decided to give up?"

Zhuang Ning smiled bitterly. "What else can I do? I can't possibly be his secret lover, right? I'm not that lowly."

Guan Tang asked, "How can you give up so easily?"

Zhuang Ning looked at Guan Tang in surprise.

Guan Tang continued to say solemnly, "Zhuang Ning, you're different from all the celebrities I've met. You've shown me what love should be like. How can you compromise? People say that love is selfish. Look at you. How can you give up your love for someone else?"

Zhuang Ning seemed taken aback by Guan Tang's passionate speech. She looked at Guan Tang in a daze as she said, "How can I compete when I'm just a small celebrity?"

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Guan Tang frowned. "What do you mean by small celebrity? Zhuang Ning, you're very popular now, okay? Why do you look down on yourself? If you look down on yourself, who's going to care about you?"

When Guan Tang saw that Zhuang Ning was listening to her attentively, she thought that it was about time to strike. She said slowly and calmly, "Zhuang Ning, you have to bravely pursue your love! Even if they're about to get married, don't give up on the happiness that's supposed to be yours. Moreover, the person Ye Cheng really likes is you!"

Zhuang Ning raised her head to look at Guan Tang and asked, "Really?"

Guan Tang smiled warmly. "Of course, it's true! The gaze of a person in love can't be faked. When Ye Cheng looked at you, I could tell that he really likes you."

Zhuang Ning's expression seemed to ease as she muttered, "Really? If it's true, then he..."

Guan Tang patted the table lightly and interjected, "You're too muddle-headed."

Zhuang Ning looked at Guan Tang in confusion as Guan Tang said solemnly, "Zhuang Ning, what's Ye Cheng's status? He's the only heir in his family. I heard from him that his father is struggling to manage the family business alone. He feels guilty that he's able to live the life he wants while his dad is struggling. Hence, when his father proposed a business marriage, apart from agreeing to it, what else could he have done? You have to think from his perspective as well."

Zhuang Ning nodded slightly, but she still looked slightly uncertain. “How do you know that? Did he tell you?”

Guan Tang’s beautiful eyes flashed briefly before she said, “No, I heard this while he was chatting with my uncle and the others. I’m very certain about my analysis of him. He’s someone who values friendship and loyalty. Moreover, his EQ is very high as well. How can someone like him agree to a business marriage for no reason? He must have his difficulties so you have to understand him. Both of you are in a loving relationship so you shouldn’t let secular matters affect you.”

Seeing that Zhuang Ning was thinking about her words, Guan Tang continued to persuade Zhuang Ning earnestly. “Life is short. It’s not easy to meet someone who treats you sincerely. If you give up, you’ll regret this in the future. Listen to me. Don’t give up. I support you. I’ll always support you!”

Zhuang Ning seemed to finally regain her senses. She asked, “Why are you helping me? Shouldn’t you be on Miss Yin’s side?”

Guan Tang smiled bitterly before she said, “I stand on the side of reason, not my family. Moreover, it’s my family’s fault, to begin with. Why should you be the one to bear the consequences? However, you’ve asked the right question. Indeed, I do have selfish motives. I don’t want Yin Jia to be happy. After all, she stole my boyfriend and caused his death. I hate her so I won’t let her be happy. She doesn’t deserve to be happy!”

#### **Chapter 675: Watching a Show**

Guan Tang’s eyes were brimming with hatred as she spoke through clenched teeth.

Zhuang Ning looked at Guan Tang in surprise. “Your... Your boyfriend?”

Guan Tang nodded. “I was engaged to Yin Jia’s brother since I was a child, but her younger brother was taken away from the family before he was even born. My parents passed away early so I stayed with the Yin family. A few years ago, I fell in love with an outstanding man. This was fine since no one expected me to marry Yin Jia’s younger brother; he was not around, after all. I can’t marry someone who wasn’t around and be single for the rest of my life, right?”

Guan Tang paused to drink a big gulp of water.” ” Her elegance seemed to have disappeared as she said hatefully, “I met that man while we were in university. He was exceptionally outstanding, and our relationship was exceptionally good as well. It wasn’t until I brought him home that Yin Jia saw him. From then, our two-person world became a three-person world. Yin Jia spared no effort in getting in between me and my boyfriend. With that, our relationship gradually changed. Yin Jia was really capable. Our relationship was so good, but it still could not withstand her efforts. She was really persistent like a man pursuing a woman.”

Guan Tang’s voice was filled with unwillingness and gloominess, but it also contained a hint of pride. She could not even hide the smile on her face.

Zhuang Ning looked at Guan Ning in confusion and a little bit of uncertainty.

Guan Tang patted Zhuang Ning’s hand and said seriously, “Zhuang Ning, you must listen to me. Don’t give up on your relationship. We’re all born equal. Why must you give up on your feelings for the sake of others?”

Zhuang Ning seemed encouraged by Guan Tang's words as her eyes slowly lit up.

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Meanwhile, Jiahui watched the wonderful scene outside with her mouth agape. She really wanted to applaud the duo for their amazing acting skills. If she did not know about Zhuang Ning through Song Ning, she would have been moved by Zhuang Ning's weak and pitiful appearance. Even the high-level liar, Guan Tang, believed that Zhuang Ning was deeply in love with Ye Cheng.

Jiahui could not help but sigh and praise inwardly, 'Zhuang Ning is a really good actress. If this could be filmed, it would be a classic. That lunatic, Guan Tang, also has superb acting skills. I really wonder what happened when she was young to turn her into such a lunatic. She bragged about stealing Yin Jia's ex-boyfriend, how all men have to bow down to her, and how those who are immune to her charm like Cheng Che have mental problems, but look at how she's reversing the story just to make use of Zhuang Ning. That ex-boyfriend really had accumulated eight lifetimes' worth of bad luck to meet two strange women like Yin Jia and Guan Tang.'

Jiahui continued to think to herself, 'Alas, everything in this world has a natural enemy. I believe Zhuang Ning can deal with those two. What a good show. I wonder if Zhuang Ning will be able to help me.'

With this thought in mind, Jiahui could not help but sigh. She really hoped God would help her and give her a chance to contact the outside world so she could leave this damned place and that woman who was scarier than a ghost.

However, based on how Guan Tang left the house without worries, as though she did not imprison someone in her house, it could be seen that Guan Tang was very confident about her secret room. Moreover, since Jiahui was still here, Guan Tang's confidence was not unfounded.

Nonetheless, Jiahui remained calm. She did not seem depressed from being imprisoned and was patiently looking for a way out when Guan Tang was not around. It was just unfortunate that after so long, she had yet to find a way to leave. The secret room was truly amazing.

## **Chapter 676: A Discovery**

After Zhuang Ning excused herself to go to the bathroom, she stood in the bathroom as she tried to make sense of her inexplicable discomfort. She felt that Guan Tang's house was very strange; even the bathroom was strange. Unfortunately, she could not put her fingers on what exactly it was that made her feel strange and uncomfortable.

Zhuang Ning carefully recalled the layout of the living room when she noticed a pool of water under her feet. Water was slowly seeping out of the cracks at the bottom of the wall. Shocked, she squatted down to study the wall.

'This wall should be connected to the extremely long wall in the living room. Is there a room behind this wall?'

Zhuang Ning reached out to knock on the wall and was shocked when she heard a hollow noise. However, after a moment, she thought it was not strange for there to be a secret room; everyone had their own secrets, after all.

As she looked at the puddle of water, she wondered to herself again, 'Did someone intentionally create this puddle of water or is it just a leakage?'

Soon enough, her heart skipped a beat when she noticed the water seemed to carry what seemed like a trace of blood.

At this moment, Guan Tang knocked on the door and asked, "Zhuang Ning, are you done?"

Zhuang Ning hurriedly answered, "Yes, yes."

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Zhuang Ning looked around before she filled a small water scoop with water before splashing water against the crack in the wall, washing the water that carried a trace of blood away. Then, she deliberately dropped the basin and exclaimed, "Ah! I accidentally dropped the bucket of water."

When Zhuang Ning opened the door, she said to Guan Tang apologetically, "I'm sorry. I spilled water on the floor."

.

Guan Tang immediately said, "It's okay. It's not a big deal." When she walked in and saw the mess, she asked, "What happened?"

Zhuang Ning picked up the water scoop from the ground and said, "I saw your water scoop. It's really unique. The patterns inside are really beautiful. Where did you buy it? I dropped it earlier when I picked it up to have a closer look. Hurry up and see if it's broken."

Guan Tang seemed pleased that Zhuang Ning liked her choice of decorations. "It's nice, right? If you like it, I'll bring you to the place I bought it."

Zhuang Ning pointed at the puddle of water on the ground and said, "Sorry for causing a mess."

Guan Tang pulled Zhuang Ning out and said, "Don't worry. The cleaner will clean it up."

As Zhuang Ning walked out, she briefly turned to look at the wall again.

After Guan Tang pulled Zhuang Ning to the couch, she asked kindly, "What do you think? I've been talking to you for so long. Have you thought it through?"

Zhuang Ning feigned an enlightened expression and nodded. "I have. Guan Tang, thank you! You're right. I'll ask Ye Cheng to meet when I return."

Guan Tang sighed in relief. "That's right. You must have faith in your relationship. After all, this concerns your lifelong happiness. However, I admit I have my selfish reasons as well. I hope that you and Ye Cheng will be able to stay together and not let Yin Jia have what she wants."

Guan Tang was rather smart. To admit her selfishness now would make most people trust her even more.

As expected, Zhuang Ning said, "Guan Tang, don't say that. I'm very grateful to you. Initially, I told myself that I would not bother with Ye Cheng ever again. However, after listening to you, I finally

understood that there's no reason for me to give up on my feelings for someone else's sake! I'll definitely ask Ye Cheng if he still has me in his heart. If... If his feelings for me are real, then, I... I definitely won't give up!"

Zhuang Ning looked determined as she spoke.

Guan Tang smiled and patted Zhuang Ning's hand encouragingly. "That's right. If it's inconvenient for both of you to meet outside in the future, you can always come to my house. No one will be able to guess that both of you are meeting here."

When Zhuang Ning's face lit up upon hearing these words, a sense of accomplishment flooded Guan Tang's heart.

### **Chapter 677: Grandfather and Granddaughter**

At this moment, Yin Jia, who was being schemed against, was sitting in front of the head of the Yin family, Old Master Yin.

Old Master Yin looked very good for his age, and he did not look any worse than his son, Yin Zheng.

Apart from that, Yin Bin, Guan Ning, the current Old Madam of the Yin family, and her son and daughter-in-law, Yin Yang and Kang Ru, were present as well.

Old Master Yin asked affectionately, "I heard that you found a pretty outstanding boyfriend?"

Yin Jia acted like a child in front of her grandfather. Her expression was not arrogant or cold as usual. Instead, her face was slightly red as she shook her grandfather's arm and said softly, "Grandfather..."

Old Master Yin was very happy. "I heard from your father that the young man is good-looking, and he's from a family that's not inferior to ours as well. He's quite worthy of my granddaughter."

Yin Jia's face was tinged red as she said honestly, "Grandpa, I've invited him to meet you."

Old Master Yin nodded. "Alright, alright. Let me see what kind of person he is." Then, his expression turned solemn as he asked, "Apart from that, I heard that Yin Xing is still unwilling to return to the family?"

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Upon hearing this, Yin Jia hurriedly said, "Grandpa, my younger brother just finds this difficult to accept for the time being. He still has matters of the past in his heart, after all. However, he's grown into a very promising young man. You have to give him some time. Don't be anxious, Grandpa."

Old Master Yin's expression did not ease in the slightest. He said sternly, "Why is he so adamant about not coming back? How could he hold such a grudge against his father? I think he was raised rotten by that Mu family. That Jiang Jin is the same as that woman! How could she have raised a good child with her personality?"

A smile appeared on Old Madam Yin's meticulously made-up face when she heard this. She said, "How can you say such words? This attitude isn't acceptable. After all, she helped you raise your grandson. We have to properly thank her instead. Let me tell you. You can't show her this attitude when you meet."

Old Master Yin's expression finally eased with these words, and he did not say anything else. Among the people present in this room, he would only listen to Old Madam Yin and perhaps, Yin Jia.

Yin Jia changed the topic and said, "Grandpa, Yin Xing runs his own entertainment company. Apart from that, to repay the Mu family's kindness, he's also assisting the Young Master of the Mu family. The Mu family trusts him greatly, and their relationship is very good. Initially, my father wanted to pay them for raising Yin Xing and also to ask them to sever their ties, but the family and Yin Xing firmly rejected it. Hence, I advised my father to endure it for now. Our goal is to bring Yin Xing back to the family. We can't be too rigid now. Otherwise, it'll only be counterproductive. When my father spoke to Old Madam Mu again after that, she had said that she won't interfere in this matter and that she'll let Yin Xing make his own decisions."

Yin Jia seemed to be speaking up for her father, but it had the opposite effect.

Old Master Yin patted her hand and said, "You did the right thing. Your father has always been impulsive. Fortunately, he has you by his side. Our Yin family really can't do without you." Then, he changed the topic abruptly as he asked, "So is that kid willing to marry into our family?"

When her marriage was brought up again, Yin Jia feigned anger and embarrassment as she said, "Grandpa, we were talking about my younger brother!"

At this moment, Yin Bin hurriedly said, "Father, Ye Cheng is the son of one of our business partners. He's the only son in the family so I'm afraid it won't be possible for him to marry into our family."

Old Master Yin only glared at his son before he patted Yin Jia's hand and said with a sigh, "Then, are we going to let our little lucky star marry into another family? I really can't bear to part with you."

Yin Jia smiled and said, "Grandpa, what era do you think this is?? Even if I marry someone, I'll still be a member of the Yin family. Moreover, he has also said that my dowry and Yin family's assets have nothing to do with him."

### **Chapter 678: Advice**

Old Master Yin raised an eyebrow. "Oh? That young man said that?"

Yin Jia nodded proudly. "Of course! He loves me, not the Yin family's assets."

Old Master Yin smiled and did not say anything.

At this moment, Old Madam Yin smiled gently and said, "Congratulations to our family's Young Eldest Miss. Although your younger brother hasn't returned to the family yet, you've already found a marriage partner."

Yin Jia's expression changed as she asked, "Are you implying that I'm selfish and that I only care about myself, not my younger brother?"

Old Madam Yin only smiled in response.

Upon seeing this, Guan Ning hurriedly said, "Yin Xing acknowledges his eldest sister the most. It was only after Yin Jia persuaded him time and time again that the two families had a chance to meet and negotiate. That child is very stubborn. Yin Jia had been angered by him so much previously that she cried so many times."

The Yin family had always been like this. No matter what grudges they had between them, when faced with Old Madam Yin, they would always stand on the same side. For example, Yin Jia would speak up for her father, and Guan Ning would speak up for Yin Jia despite their private conflicts.

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Old Master Yin said, "Oh? He actually dared to treat his sister like that? Yin Jia, you've suffered."

Yin Jia hurriedly said, "Grandpa, what are you saying? What's there to suffer? He's my younger brother and your grandson, after all. Tell me, who do you think his temper is like? Isn't he just as stubborn as you?"

.

In the entire Yin family, only Yin Jia dared to speak in this manner. She was the best at handling Old Master Yin.

As expected, Old Master Yin was not angry. Instead, he seemed to find her words pleasing to the ears.

Yin Jia lowered her voice slightly as she said, "Wait until you meet Yin Xing. He's like a copy of you. In fact, he resembles you even more than he resembles Dad."

Old Master Yin's eyes lit up immediately.

Yin Jia said, "I feel really distressed and said looking at how stubborn he is. I wonder how much more outstanding he would be if he were raised by your side? He's already so outstanding now..."

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Old Master Yin nodded, pleased.

Everyone could only watch as the grandfather and granddaughter spoke. No one else could get a word in. However, their expressions were quite different.

Yin Bin and Guan Ning were smiling and relaxed. With Yin Jia around, they had nothing to worry about.

On the contrary, Old Madam Yin and Yin Yang's expressions did not look very good.

At this moment, Yin Yang cleared his throat and asked, "Yin Jia, based on what you said, our Eldest Young Master is unwilling to return to our family?"

The air seemed to freeze for a moment.

Then, Yin Jia smiled and said, "That's right, Second Uncle. He's been hurt by our family and has yet to forgive us. However, this is indeed our fault, especially Dad. If it weren't for our family matters back then, Dad wouldn't have had to leave Yin Xing outside, and we would not have to wait so many years for

his return.” Then, she turned to Old Master Yin and said solemnly, “Grandpa, if Yin Xing agreed to return to the family immediately, would you be happy?”

Old Master Yin was stunned by these words.

Yin Jia continued to say, “If he had returned immediately, let alone you, even I would’ve suspected he had ulterior motives. How could a righteous person return so quickly without any complaints or resentment?”

Yin Jia could not help inwardly give his daughter a thumbs-up. Each of his daughter’s words hit Old Master Yin’s heart.

As expected, Old Master Yin slowly nodded in agreement.

### **Chapter 679: Pacifying His Anger**

Old Madam Yin’s expression was very unsightly at this moment. Her son, Yin Yang, was the first to react. He clicked his tongue and said praisingly, “Yin Jia is right! Dad, Yin Xing is really a rare and outstanding young man.”

As though she understood the direction Yin Yang was heading, Old Madam Yin hurriedly said, “That’s right, that’s right. We should really thank Old Madam Mu for raising him so well.”

Upon hearing this, Old Master Yin’s expression darkened immediately as he scoffed.

Old Madam Yin was not afraid at all and continued to say earnestly, “It’s true that Yin Xing belongs to our family. However, it’s also true that the Mu family raised him. You can’t just expect him to return to the family just like that. After all, Yin Bin and Guan Ning have already done so much but failed. Hence, we have to change our methods and attitude. That’s our grandson. If it means he’ll return, we have to plead with Old Madam Mu.”

Old Master Yin remained silent.

After so many years, Old Madam Yin naturally understood her husband. It was not difficult to make him listen to her. She continued to say gently, “Remember what you taught our son? A man has to know when to advance and retreat.”

Finally, Old Master Yin nodded imperceptibly. He patted Yin Jia’s hand and asked, “Can you ask your brother out for a private meeting?”

Yin Jia quickly said, “Yes, Grandpa. I’ll make the arrangements.”

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At this time, Old Madam Yin looked at Guan Ning and asked, “Guan Ning, where’s Guan Tang?”

Guan Ning could not help but look at old Master Yin. She tried to calm down before she said smilingly without looking at Old Madam Yin, “Dad, we were a little hasty when we first dealt with this matter. We directly introduced Guan Tang to Yin Xing as his fiancée. We didn’t expect him to already have a girlfriend. I heard it was arranged by Old Madam Mu. In the end, Guan Tang became one of the main reasons why Yin Xing didn’t want to return to the family. You know what Guan Tang is like since she’s

raised by our family. She's very sensible and moved out immediately upon learning she was the reason for Yin Xing's refusal to return to the family. She even told Yin Xing that since their mothers are gone, there was no need to care about the engagement and there was no need to stay away from the family because of the engagement."

As Guan Ning spoke, her eyes began to redden.

Old Master Yin scolded, "Nonsense!"

Guan Ning lowered her head and wept.

"Their marriage was arranged by their mothers. If he dares to forsake the marriage, he'd be really unfilial! What right does the Mu family have to interfere with my grandson's marriage? The partner they arranged for Yin Xing must benefit the Mu family! We mustn't let such a woman marry into our family," Old Master Yin said furiously.

No one dared to speak at this moment.

Finally, Yin Jia said, "Grandpa, this is just a temporary measure. Guan Tang is sensible, after all. When Yin Xing returns, we'll naturally be able to talk to him about these things. There's no point talking about this matter now."

Old Master Yin looked at Yin Jia as she continued to say, "Don't worry. Guan Tang has settled down nicely outside. Yin Yi and I have both been to her house. We even had dinner there. It's quite good. Guan Tang isn't unhappy. You should know she's very sensible."

Old Master Yin's expression softened. Then, he looked at Guan Ning and said, "Guan Ning, tell Guan Tang that I only recognize her as my granddaughter-in-law. I'll definitely make up for her suffering in the future. Everything she's doing now is for the Yin family, and I'll definitely remember this."

"Yes. Thank you, Father," Guan Ning said. She could barely conceal her delight.

## **Chapter 680: Gossip**

When Zhuang Ning bade farewell to Guan Tang, she promised Guan Tang that she would fight for her love.

Guan Tang sent Zhuang Ning out with a smile, but as soon as the door closed, her smile vanished abruptly.

At this time, her phone, which was lying on the table, began to vibrate.

"Aunty?"

Guan Ning excitedly recounted what happened to Guan Tang, and Guan Tang could not help but smile.

'Cheng Che, when the whole world betrays you, you'll definitely return to my side. Don't worry, I've waited for you for 28 years. I have a lot of patience.'

At this moment, Guan Ning sighed and said, "Guan Tang, you're right. This move of yours is really brilliant."

"Aunty, you have to be careful of that old witch. She's not that kind. You have put in 120% of your effort and guard against her," Guan Ning said with a smile.

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"I know, I know. I think the old man will be meeting Cheng Che tomorrow. Tonight, Yin Jia will bring her boyfriend back to meet the old man. Do you want to join us?"

After thinking for a moment, Guan Tang said, "I won't join all of you. If the old man asks, just say that I have a work appointment."

"Are you planning to work?" Guan Ning was surprised.

Guan Tang smiled faintly. "Aunty, let's talk about whether I'll be working or not in the future. Just tell the old man that first and see how he reacts."

Realization dawned on Guan Ning immediately. "Alright, I got it, I got it."

After disconnecting the call, Guan Tang could not help but smile in satisfaction. Everything was under her control.

'Cheng Che, if you're unwilling to follow my plan, I'll destroy you!'

After that, Guan Ning entered the bathroom and found a mop to clean up the puddle of water. The water had already reached the bottom of the wall. When she pushed open the secret door, sure enough, she saw the water had leaked into the secret room. She did not even look at Jiahui as she mopped up the water.

"Hey, I'm hungry," Jiahui said bluntly.

Guan Tang, who was in a good mood, said with a smile, "Sorry. I was too busy and forgot about you."

After leaving the secret room, she prepared a bowl of instant noodles and brought it back to the secret room for Jiahui. "Just eat this. I'm not in the mood to cook for you."

Jiahui was not dissatisfied. For someone who had been kidnapped, it was good enough that she had food. After sitting down with the bowl of noodles in her hand, she looked at Guan Tang, who was seated on the chair near the door, and asked, "How do you know such a popular celebrity?"

Guan Tang looked momentarily confused. "Popular celebrity? Oh, you mean Zhuang Ning. That's right, she's a popular celebrity. However, do you know who her boyfriend is?"

Jiahui said curiously, "According to the media, she doesn't have a boyfriend. However, based on your conversation with her earlier, it seems like she has fallen in love with a man she shouldn't have fallen in love with."

"A man she shouldn't have fallen in love with?" Guan Tang laughed. "You know what? You're really cute. I like you. If only you weren't the person Cheng Che likes."

Jiahui began to eat. After a moment, she said, "We've already spoken about this, and there's no solution at the moment. Why don't you tell me about Zhuang Ning? She's very popular now! I think her acting skills are great, and I enjoyed watching her dramas."

Guan Tang said, "You're a doctor. I didn't expect you to be interested in celebrity gossip."

Jiahui rolled her eyes inwardly as she ate another mouthful of noodle. Then, she simply said, "Doctors are humans too. Everyone likes to gossip."

Guan Tang's mood, due to Jiahui's words and actions, improved even more.

Guan Tang was stunned. "What big celebrity? Oh, you mean Zhuang Ning. Yes, she's a big celebrity. But, do you know who her boyfriend is?"