

Almighty D 21

Chapter 21: Call Him Daddy!

“Hmm.” Li Qiandong nodded.

In truth, Li Qiandong was even more worried about the CIS situation than Cen Shaoqing.

However, there was nothing that he could do.

They had searched far and wide, but a mogul who was capable of solving their problem had yet to appear.

“Alright. You can go home first.” Cen Shaoqing massaged his temples with his long, slim fingers.

Li Qiandong turned around to leave, but just as he was about to walk out of the door, Cen Shaoqing’s voice was heard from behind him.

“Turn on the light while you’re there.”

Li Qiandong was speechless. He had even suspected that Cen Shaoqing had him coming to the room in the middle of the night just so he could turn on the light. However, he did not have any proof.

The next morning, Ye Zhuo checked her phone while she munched on a steamed bun. Her expression was nonchalant while her jade-like fingertips pressed on the screen gently. All of a sudden, she stopped at a website.

It was a house rental advertisement.

It was a three-bedroom house at a rental of 5000 bucks a month. The terms for payment would be one month's worth of rental as a deposit and three months' worth of rental fees in advance. It was a direct rental from the landlord, and the rental was considered somewhat reasonable.

Ye Zhuo clicked to enter the page and communicated with the landlord online to make an appointment so that she could see the house. After breakfast, she headed over.

It was a resettlement housing estate where the residents were primarily senior citizens and migrant workers. It was not considered a great location, but as compared to the basement, it was more than a hundred times better.

She wanted to rent the house on the first floor that came with an attached little garden in front.

The landlord was a very kind old woman. She wore glasses and spoke with a local Yunjing accent.

Through the conversation, Ye Zhuo learned that the old woman was actually a scholar. Before her retirement, she was a professor in Yunjing Province.

"Little Ye, how many family members are going to stay here?"

Ye Zhuo answered, "My mother and I, as well as my uncle."

The old woman nodded. "I don't have any requests other than hoping that all of you are hygienic people. The previous tenant was a young married couple that appeared to be rather hygienic. Unfortunately, I didn't expect that they'd turn the house into a messy kennel! The house was filthy and smelly! I'm just going to be blunt here; some people are just bright and shiny on the outside but rotten on the inside!"

Even though it had already been some time since the incident, the old woman was still very furious every time she talked about it.

In response, Ye Zhuo chuckled and said, "Don't you worry, madam landlady. My family members are neat freaks. If you're still worried, you can come and check on the house periodically."

Upon saying that, the old landlady was quite relieved. "Oh right, Little Ye, how old are you now?"

Ye Zhuo answered, "I'm 18 years old this year."

"Do you have a boyfriend?"

Ye Zhuo smiled. "I'm still in school."

The old landlady added, "There are many people who start dating in school these days! In truth, it's fine to date early as long as it doesn't affect your studies...."

Ye Zhuo did not expect the old woman to be rather open-minded.

After signing the tenancy agreement, Ye Zhuo did not head home right away but went shopping at the electronic mall to get a computer. She accepted the SSS-ranked mission last night, so she would not be able to do it without a computer.

Frankly, a desktop would be more useful in completing missions, but it was not convenient to carry along, so she had to get a laptop that she could also set up into a workstation when she was home.

The assembly process is troublesome but useful!

All of a sudden, Ye Zhuo started to miss her other world. In fact, she missed the computer that she owned.

As she reminisced, she chose a computer. She would assemble it according to her preferences, so she did not mind the brands. In the end, she chose the cheapest laptop she could find. Then, she purchased a lot of hardware.

Noticing that Ye Zhuo purchased so many accessories, the owner of Computer City said in astonishment, "I didn't know that you're an expert, young maiden."

Ye Zhuo smiled and said humbly, "I don't know much, so I'm trying to fiddle with it casually."

The owner was well aware that it was just a humble remark. It was impossible for someone to purchase with such precision if one was just fiddling around.

Upon returning home, Ye Zhuo began to assemble her laptop.

Her sleeves were rolled up high to reveal her long, slim, alluring arms. The intact laptop was dismantled into pieces everywhere such that there was no way to tell that this was previously a laptop.

"Zhuo Zhuo, what are you doing?" Ye Shu entered the room after knocking on the door. She asked out of curiosity, "What's that?"

Ye Zhuo answered, "It's the computer that I just purchased. It seems to be broken, so I'm dismantling it to check."

"Can... Uh, can you still put it back together again?" Ye Shu was dumbfounded.

Ye Zhuo raised her hand to wipe away the sweat beads on her forehead. "Yes, I can. It's going to be fine."

Upon saying that, Ye Zhuo continued to speak again, "Oh right, mom. We're moving tomorrow."

"Moving?" Ye Shu was stunned for a moment.

Even though it was bad for one's health to live in a basement, the housing price in Yunjing Province was rather steep, so how could they afford to rent a house elsewhere?

Ye Zhuo smiled and said, "There's no need for you to worry about money issues. I made some money from the stocks and funds that I invested in a few days ago. I paid off the money I borrowed from my classmate, and the remaining money is enough to cover one year's rent."

In truth, the money was gained from the gambling house's winnings.

Ye Zhuo had yet to familiarize herself with the rules in this world, so how could she take the risk to invest in stocks? She did what she was most skilled in, of course.

Her money was only enough to rent a house for the time being.

But once she completes the first mission and receives the advertised reward, the sum should be a very good income.

After all, it was an SSS-ranked mission, so the reward should be rather attractive.

"Sure, then I shall pack up," said Ye Shu.

Ye Zhuo smiled and said, "Mom, throw away the old antiques that should be thrown away. The house that I rented is fully furnished, so you and uncle will only need to bring over some clothes."

Ye Shu felt unwilling to part with her things. Nevertheless, she replied, "I shall pack it up and send it to the recycle store then."

"That's a good idea." Ye Zhuo nodded.

If Ye Zhuo were to log on to the tech website now, she would certainly see that the world news on the website were all talking about her.

Dog-next-door posted, 'Have you seen it? A mogul claimed the SSS-ranked ten-star difficulty mission that has been posted for half a month! @Niohuru.YZ'

DA_LittleDai posted, 'F*ck! Awesome mogul! Please guide me, mogul @Niohuru.YZ.'

ShangguanYuheng posted, '...Could it be that you haven't noticed that Niohuru is a newly-registered novice member?'

I-am-123456 posted, 'Damn it! It really is a new account!!!'

 posted, 'My f*cking mind is blown!'

8thfloor00 posted, 'Looking at Niohuru reminded me of the retarded version of me from ten years ago....'

Ihaveahusky posted, '*Sobbing in silence* I have been waiting eagerly for so many days, yet why hasn't a real mogul claimed my SSS-ranked mission?'

Father-of-2 posted, 'If anyone is capable of completing the mission, I shall call him 'daddy'!'

I-am-ChenHao posted, 'I second the motion!'

Gonewiththewind001 posted, 'Screenshot saved!'

Live_everyday_happy posted, 'Screenshot saved!'

TimeFlies posted, 'Screenshot saved!'

'...'

No one believed that Niohuru was capable of completing the SSS-ranked mission. Nonetheless, it did not take long before everyone's attention was distracted by something else.

After finding out that they were moving tomorrow, Ye Sen was delighted. "I'm going to drive the company truck over tomorrow and move our furniture there."

Ye Zhuo smiled and said, "The truck is a little excessive. We don't have anything much either, so it is fine to move everything in a van."

"I shall get the van then." Ye Sen nodded.

At night, Ye Shu packed up all her things. Her small items of sorts still mounted up to a small heap.

"Zhuo Zhuo, shall we throw away the television as well?"

Ye Zhuo tilted her head to the side as she looked at it. "Throw it away. I thought it didn't work anymore?"

"Alright then."

Even though these items have already malfunctioned, Ye Shu's purchases were still with her own hard-earned money. She could not bear to bring herself to sell all these items and even throw them away. Her eyes reddened with sorrow.

She had to catch up to the steps of time. Her daughter was so outstanding so she could not allow herself to slow her daughter down.

With this step, she could finally move out from the basement that she lived in for over a decade. The neighbors were all envious of Ye Shu. "Congrats, Ye Shu! You can finally move out of here."

Chapter 22: Moving Day

A chubby woman walked into the house and asked in puzzlement, “Ye Shu, did your family make a fortune? Did you win the lottery? How are you moving away so easily just like this?”

Ye Shu was supposed to be a mistress... Could it be that she had... returned to her former profession?

Otherwise, where did her money come from?

The chubby woman pondered over and over again.

However, Ye Shu solved her dilemma by looking over to Ye Zhuo with a smile. “It’s all Zhuo Zhuo’s contribution. The child is quite intelligent, and she managed to make some money from her stocks investment....”

Upon hearing that, the chubby woman said enviously, “Ye Shu! You raised a good daughter! If my Little Yue had your daughter’s capability, I bet our family would have moved out of here too!”

A daughter raised by a wealthy family was different from the rest here. It was expected if she were raised with good morals; however, this one was even capable of making money!

Upon saying that, the chubby woman looked toward Ye Zhuo and said, “Zhuo Zhuo, how did you make the investment, huh? Teach our Little Yue too at your convenience so that she can make some money and take us out of this damned place!”

The people around them immediately chimed in and said, “Teach our children too!”

Ye Zhuo smiled. “Investing in the stock market is just like a gamble. There are wins and losses. Some people lose so much that they became bankrupt too. I don’t have the qualifications to teach that, and I can’t guarantee that anyone will be profiting from it.”

Upon hearing that, the chubby woman’s expression changed at once.

'Narrow-minded! She is too narrow-minded! She would not even agree to share a small amount of knowledge. She must have only made a small return, right? What was so impressive about that? She is just an illegitimate child! Had it not been her capability to make some money, who would even notice her? Who does she think she is? Does she really think that she is still the precious daughter of a wealthy family?'

The chubby woman feigned a smile on her face. "There's a saying that a distant relative is not as helpful as a close neighbor. We have been neighbors for so many years... you won't refuse to help us with this little favor, right? Oh Zhuo Zhuo, let's make some money together!"

They had been neighbors for so many years, so what did Ye Zhuo have to lose from teaching her daughter?

Nonetheless, had it not been for Ye Zhuo's ability to make money, she would have refused to pay any attention to an illegitimate daughter raised by a mistress!

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo's expression remained the same. "Madam, this is not an issue of whether I'm willing to teach or not, but it's an issue of my not being able to guarantee if Little Yue can make money after I teach her...."

"If you can make a profit, then why can't our Little Yue make a profit too? Our Little Yue doesn't have any fewer limbs than you!" The chubby woman then said in an eccentric tone, "It's fine if you don't want to teach, but why do you have to come up with so many excuses!? I will just consider this experience as me finally seeing your true colors! Due to your hesitation, I believe that your money was not made from stock investments, but it is perhaps made in some dubious ways, right? In this entire neighborhood, who isn't aware that your mother is a...."

Ye Zhuo's interest was piqued. She lived two lives, yet it was still her first time meeting such a shameless person. However, she had never been a person who would do nothing when she was bullied.

She raised an eyebrow and looked at the chubby woman with a smile. Then, she enunciated her words clearly and interrupted the chubby woman by saying, "Madam, you're right. I uh, I'm genuinely capable of making money. However, I'd rather teach the nobodies I meet by the roadside than teach your daughter, Little Yue!"

'I refuse to do it!'

'What can you do to me, huh!?'

Ye Zhuo did not have many hobbies, but she certainly enjoyed the feeling when others detested her yet were incapable of getting rid of her.

The chubby woman turned green with rage and pale with shock from being scolded. She was furious, yet there was nothing that she could do to refute either.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo felt like her entire body was at ease after saying everything that she wanted to say!

She felt high-spirited, and the air was serene where she was right now!

Unsurprisingly, Ye Shu was dumbstruck in astonishment from the side.

She saw Ye Zhuo as a rather gentle and quiet person all this time, so she figured that Ye Zhuo was a soft maiden; she certainly did not expect Ye Zhuo to be so ferocious! Even a person like the chubby woman in front of her was rendered speechless after being scolded by her.

One should know that the chubby woman was a renowned old shrew in the area.

No one could triumph over her in an argument.

Ye Sen was also slightly stunned, but he reacted to the situation soon enough. He opened the door of the van and said, "Sis, Zhuo Zhuo, let's go! Why do you have to talk nonsense with a person who can't stand seeing others in a better place?"

Ye Zhuo nodded and helped Ye Shu to get into the car.

Gazing after the van disappearing into the streets, the chubby woman could finally react to the situation. She let out a 'bah' ferociously and said, "What the heck! You're just a small woman intoxicated by success! Gross! You're a bastard child that one wants! What a tramp!"

In the car, Ye Shu looked at Ye Zhuo. "We've all been neighbors for many years, and we meet each other day in and day out. What you did earlier was not very nice."

"What's not nice about that?" Ye Sen had his hands on the steering wheel as he chimed in, saying, "Why are you still being nice and kind to a two-faced person like Li Sanhua? I have wanted to scold her that way for some time! Sis, you're too weak! Otherwise, back in those years..."

Li Sanhua was the chubby woman's name.

At this point, Ye Sen seemed to have realized something, so he immediately changed the topic of conversation by saying, "Oh right, Zhuo Zhuo, shall I take a left turn at the next junction?"

"Mmhmm, you're right." Ye Zhuo nodded.

It did not take long before they arrived at the entrance of the housing area.

After living in a basement for so many years, Ye Shu was a little unaccustomed to moving into a three-bedroom house with adequate sunlight. She looked at the brand new furniture in the house and said, "Zhuo Zhuo, the rental for this house must be very expensive, right?"

Ye Zhuo replied, "It's fine, it's not very expensive. Oh right, please allow me to show you around the house. This is the dining room, this is the living room, and over here, we have the kitchen..."

"Zhuo Zhuo, which one is my room?" Ye Sen's voice was heard coming from the inside.

"You can take whichever room you want," answered Ye Zhuo.

Upon hearing that, Ye Sen chose the second bedroom. "I'll take this room then."

Ye Zhuo continued, "If uncle is taking the second bedroom, you should take the master bedroom, mom."

"Zhuo Zhuo, it's better for you to take the master bedroom! You're a young woman while I'm old, so what's the point of staying in the master bedroom?" Ye Shu declined.

Nevertheless, Ye Zhuo carried Ye Shu's luggage to the master bedroom. "You're taking the master bedroom, and it's set! You're not allowed to decline, or I'm going to be angry!"

"I can do nothing with you." Ye Shu shook her head helplessly then said, "What would you like to have for lunch? I'll cook for you."

Ye Shu's health was rapidly improving by the day. Other than her penchant for sleeping in during the morning, she was especially energetic at other times.

Ye Zhuo chuckled and said, "I'll enjoy any food that my mother makes."

They bought some ingredients on the way here, and the kitchen utensils in the house were all fully stocked, so it was very convenient to cook in the kitchen.

Ye Zhuo went to her room, turned on her laptop, put on her headphones, and logged on to the international website to begin the CIS database development project.

In truth, if the CIS project was in her other world, it should be done in less than three hours.

However, she was missing a lot of things now. Even though it was a simple task for Ye Zhuo, she still needed to spend two days or so to complete it.

The artificial intelligence in this world was too low of a standard that she would need to operate many programs manually.

Ye Zhuo managed to complete half of the design and keyed in some programs into it before Ye Shu informed her that lunch was ready from outside the door. "Zhuo Zhuo, it's time for lunch."

"Alright, coming over now," answered Ye Zhuo. Then, she saved her completed work before she headed to the living room.

To celebrate the move today, Ye Shu had cooked braised pork in brown sauce and fish soup.

After lunch, Ye Zhuo returned to her room to work on the design again.

In the evening, Ye Zhuo headed to work in the barbecue shop.

Granny Cen was here again. She greeted Ye Zhuo in excitement upon seeing her.

"Ye Zi!"

"Granny Cen, you're here." Ye Zhuo walked over with a smile on her face and wrapped her arm around Granny Cen's.

Granny Cen took a glance at Ye Zhuo. She realized that Ye Zhuo did not show any signs that she was uncomfortable whatsoever. It seemed that the young maiden was really not bothered by her being a beggar.

Granny Cen said, "Ye Zi, I've been waiting for you for a very long time! If you're not here, they won't even let me take a seat!"

Ye Zhuo brought Granny Cen to a table at the corner. "You must be starving after waiting for such a long time! What would you like to have? I'll serve it to you."

Granny Cen rubbed her tummy. "I am really starving! Ye Zi! Can I have lobster noodles and deep-fried Hemiptera?"

“What’s a Hemiptera?” Ye Zhuo looked at Granny Cen in puzzlement.

Chapter 23: Kneel Before The Mogul

Granny Cen pointed at the photo on the menu and said, “This is it.”

Ye Zhuo took a glance at it and found that the deep-fried Hemiptera was actually deep-fried cicada pupa. She smiled and said, “So it turns out that you’re referring to this, huh!?”

It was early summer in Yunjing Province, and one of the favorite delicacies that people enjoyed during the season was deep-fried cicada pupa.

It was not an easy feat to catch the cicada pupa, so the selling price was a little high as well. They cost five bucks each.

“I’d like to have ten!” Granny Cen requested.

“Sure.” Ye Zhuo nodded without feeling any reluctance.

Granny Cen did not forget to remind her as well, “Little Ye Zi, don’t forget the lobster noodles too.”

“Don’t worry. I won’t forget it.” Ye Zhuo looked back at her with a smile. “Please hold on.”

Granny Cen nodded.

Ye Zhuo turned around to get the food.

Upon seeing that, Sister Liu said out of curiosity, "Little Ye, is that old woman a family member of yours?"

Ye Zhuo replied, "We just got acquainted with each other yesterday. The old woman is all by herself; life's not easy for her."

"You're treating her to a meal although you're not acquainted with her? Child, are you a fool?" Sister Liu continued, "There are way too many swindlers out there these days hoping to get a free meal! They're targeting naive little girls like you specifically!"

Sister Liu was making frightening remarks just to scare Ye Zhuo.

There were truly way too many swindlers in the world today. Many of their victims were deceived to the point where they went bankrupt.

Ye Zhuo smiled. "If every person looks on and does nothing, won't there be no warmth in this world?" If the old woman that took Ye Zhuo in chose to look on and do nothing back then, how would she be who she was now?

"You have a point too." Sister Liu added, "However, do be careful, Little Ye. It's fine to treat her to a meal but don't ever let her swindle money out of you."

Ye Zhuo nodded ever so slightly. "Noted."

It did not take long before Ye Zhuo came back with a bowl of lobster noodles and deep-fried cicada pupa in a tray.

Granny Cen stood up in excitement, and she was almost drooling at that point. "My lobster noodles! My deep-fried Hemiptera!"

"Please eat it slowly. The noodles are fresh out of the pot; it's very hot."

“Mmhmm mmhmm.”

A luxury car was parked by the side of the road with Mu Yourong seated in the backseat.

Ye Zhuo’s change was too drastic to the point where it made Mu Yourong feel an ineffable sense of threat.

Mu Yourong could only sigh in relief, knowing that Ye Zhuo was presently performing lowly chores.

She convinced herself that she was just being too high-strung.

What kind of attainment could a lowly person like Ye Zhui achieve anyway?

Nonetheless, she still could not allow herself to be at ease.

She had to plan in advance so that she could ensure that Ye Zhuo remained a lowly person for the rest of her life!

Mu Yourong attempted to recall everything that happened in her past life with great effort. She had to avoid encountering the person that brought her all her misery and, instead, pass that on to Ye Zhuo!

Mu Yourong narrowed her eyes ever so slightly and cast her glance on Ye Zhuo. She suddenly felt that the old woman that Ye Zhuo was speaking to looked rather familiar. She spoke aloud, “Is that the old woman from the Cen family?”

The assistant seated at the front seat answered, “Yes, miss.”

“The Cen family has fallen, just as expected.” The corners of Mu Yourong’s lips curled up faintly while her gaze was filled with mockery. “It has only been a few days, and she has already turned into a beggar! The saying ‘birds of a feather flock together is spot on!’”

She was just thinking about how much attainment a deadbeat could possibly achieve when her assistant immediately echoed her and said, "You're right, miss. That damned old woman from the Cen family is simply tarred with the same brush as that faker, Ye Zhuo! Why didn't she take a good look at herself first before she had the nerve to come to the house and talk about the engagement? If I were her, I'd be so embarrassed that I'd bury myself in the ground!"

Upon hearing that, Mu Yourong retracted her gaze. "Alright, let's go home."

Mu Yourong then pondered for a moment before she continued speaking, "Are there any updates from Lin Wuyue and Zeng Rou recently?"

Ye Zhuo humiliated Lin Wuyue and Zeng Rou so severely last time around, so she believed that these two people should not be as quiet as they were now.

Then, her assistant turned around and whispered something in Mu Yourong's ear.

Upon hearing that, Mu Yourong smirked. "Then we shall give them a hand."

Mu Yourong was an intelligent person. She was well aware that she could not personally engage in many matters, so she could only do it via Lin Wuyue and Zeng Rou.

By doing so, she could maintain her good reputation and also simultaneously achieve her goals. It was simply akin to killing two birds with one stone.

...

With the CIS project, the first thing that Ye Zhuo did after she got home from work was turn on her laptop and log on to the international website.

She sat in front of her laptop, fully absorbed in the task. Her fingers tapped so swiftly on the keyboard that they formed into streams of remnant shadows. The 'clacking' sounds of the keyboard filled the room while the light cast from the display screen reflected on her face and added a tinge of coldness to her.

After a short while, she pressed on the 'enter' key, and the laptop's display screen immediately showed, 'Upload successful!'

The project was accomplished!

Ye Zhuo checked again and ensured that it was fine before she logged on to the international tech website and sent the person a message, 'I'm done; shall I send it over to you now?'

Li Qiandong was online, coincidentally.

He furrowed his brows when he received the message.

Could a little novice complete the CIS project properly?

It seemed to be impossible, so Li Qiandong did not take it seriously; he replied casually, 'Send it over.'

Thus, Ye Zhuo sent over the document.

Li Qiandong was dumbfounded when he saw the document on his computer displayed clearly.

His hands were literally trembling from excitement.

F*ck!

Mo, mogul?

Li Qiandong swallowed a gulp of saliva.

He could not be dreaming, right?

Li Qiandong gave himself a hard slap.

“Ouch! It hurt!”

He was not in a dream, right?

Meanwhile, the person on the other side continued to send a message, ‘If you can confirm that it’s all good, please click ‘mission completed’.’

It was only after the original poster confirmed that the mission was completed that the person undertaking the project could receive their commission and score.

Li Qiandong immediately clicked on ‘confirm’ and then sent over a message, ‘Expert, please take my knee!’

This person was a real expert!

Before the person on the other end could reply, Li Qiandong continued to send another message, “Expert, please approve my friend request!”

Ye Zhuo was stunned by what she read. Did they not already add each other as friends previously?

Then, she checked on her friends’ list and found that it was still zero... Could it be that the friend request did not go through previously?

Ye Zhuo did not mind small details like this, so she clicked to approve the other person’s friend request.

Li Qiandong disliked Niohuru for being a little novice previously and felt that the person did not deserve to be on his friend list, so he deleted the request.

Unexpectedly, it seems that the little novice was a true expert!

It was Li Qiandong's first time experiencing the feeling of being proven wrong.

"How may I address you, expert? Li Qiandong continued to type, 'Is it convenient to connect with you via a voice call?'

'You may address me as Niohuru. It's not convenient for me to have a voice call right now.'

Li Qiandong wanted to say something, but the person had already gone offline.

The person who took on the project behaved just like an expert! Aloof and cold! Like royalty!

Ye Zhuo had just logged off when the website published a global announcement.

'Congratulations to user Niohuru.YZ for completing the SSS-ranked ten-star difficulty mission!'

It was a very low-profile announcement, yet it was like a blast to countless tech moguls.

DA_LittleDai posted, 'F*ck! F*ck! This person is a mogul for real! @Father-of-2, @I-am-ChenHa, why haven't you kneeled and called him daddy??Do it quickly!'

Happy1985 posted, 'Some people were mocking him for being a new member yesterday; are you embarrassed for being proven wrong now?'

8thfloor00 posted, 'Kneel before the mogul!'

Announcement:

[User I-am-ChenHao had already changed his name to 'Niohuru.ChenHao.]

[User Father-of-2 had already changed his name to 'Niohuru.Father-of-2.]

[User DA_LittleDai had already changed his name to 'Niohuru.LittleDai.]

The following posts were all users changing their names.

The prefix names were all Niohuru.

Niohuru.LittleDai posted, 'From this day onward, we are the Niohuru clan!'

Niohuru.8thfloor00 posted, 'From this day onward, Niohuru is our daddy!'

 posted, 'Hello eldest brother! Hello brother @8thfloor00! I'm your weak brother.'

Happy1985 posted, 'So... are all of you little tadpoles looking for your daddy?'

After Ye Zhuo went offline, she received a money transfer notification. It started with the number 8 and amounted to a six-figure number.

Ye Zhuo felt more comfortable after receiving the money.

On the other side of the table, Li Qiandong ran wildly to Cen Shaoqing's room with the laptop in his arms. "Brother Fifth! Brother Fifth!"

Chapter 24: Meet His Match

“What’s going on? Why are you panicking?” Cen Shaoqing looked like he had just woken up. He had black silk pajamas hanging down loosely with a rubber waistline at his waist. His firm abdomen and six-packs could be seen clearly.

Even a man like Li Qiandong could not help but gasp in astonishment upon seeing Cen Shaoqing’s figure. Nevertheless, he could not care about expressing his astonishment now. He said eagerly, “Brother Fifth, the CIS project has been completed.”

Upon hearing that, the usually calm and composed Cen Shaoqing had a change in his expression. “Show me.”

Li Qiandong proceeded to pass the laptop to Cen Shaoqing.

Cen Shaoqing opened the laptop and narrowed his eyes. “Who did this?”

“It’s that novice, Niohuru.” Li Qiandong continued to speak, “Frankly, I really didn’t expect Niohuru to be an expert....”

This person was truly an expert. The hundreds of staff members in Cen Enterprises did not manage to solve it; yet, Niohuru managed to do it in less than three days. It was truly impressive!

Cen Shaoqing carried the laptop with one hand, and his other hand moved the cursor on the touchpad. “Inform the others to begin a video conference in ten minutes.”

“Alright.” It was a rare occasion for Li Qiandong, who had been used to being carefree, to turn serious at once. He took the laptop from Cen Shaoqing and walked in the direction of his room.

Meanwhile, Cen Shaoqing went to the dressing room and got dressed.

Even though he was dressed formally, his wardrobe mainly consisted of Chinese-style robes. The colors were all very plain and clean.

Ten minutes later, the video conference began on the dot.

Even with a screen between them, a glance from the person in the display was enough to send shivers down one's spine.

Two hours later, the video conference ended at last.

Cen Shaoqing picked up the teacup and took a sip. He moved the prayer bead in his hand as usual and assumed a carefree mannerism. "Look into the Niohuru person."

Li Qiandong was stunned for a moment and asked, "What Niohuru person?"

Upon saying that, Li Qiandong reacted to the situation quickly and added, "Sure, I'll send someone to look into this matter."

Cen Enterprises had a large assembly of talented men. There was certainly no lack of outstanding internet-savvy geeks.

Three years ago, Cen Enterprises had even recruited the renowned Hacker W to serve its cause.

Under normal circumstances, W would only need ten minutes to get to the bottom of his target's family background. However, it was different today.

A few hours had passed, yet there was no update from W.

Li Qiandong sent a WeChat message to urge him.

After a long wait, W finally replied, 'The person's firewall is too strong. Give me more time.'

Li Qiandong was stunned for a moment before he typed his reply, 'Is this really W?'

The message had only just been sent when a video call came in.

Li Qiandong tapped on the phone to pick it up, and W's face was displayed on the screen.

"F*ck! It is you in the flesh! I was still under the assumption that it was someone else!" Who would have thought that the renowned W would encounter a problem too?

It seemed that Niohuru was more impressive than he had imagined!

W put on a long face. "Brother Li, who is this person that you assigned me to investigate, huh? I've already switched two computers!" It was W's first time encountering such an impressive opponent. Not only did he not manage to hack into the opponent's data, but on the contrary, he was blocked twice.

It was too exhilarating!

In fact, W had even thought that he was in a dream.

He had been doing this for so many years. Even if he was not the top hacker in the hacker world, he was one of the best at his job. He never imagined that he would encounter a worthy opponent today.

Li Qiandong replied, "It's a very impressive expert! Call me when you have answers."

"Alright." W hung up the video call.

W was very interested in this impressive expert now that he met his match. He went to look into the expert again after hanging up the video call.

Li Qiandong had just turned off his phone when the sound of someone knocking on his door was heard.
“Mr. Li, Master Cen is asking for you.”

“Coming.”

Li Qiandong answered before he headed off to meet Cen Shaoqing.

“Any results?” Cen Shaoqing was seated on the executive chair with a tea set placed in front of him. While speaking, his pair of beautiful hands shuffled through the tea utensils leisurely. The puff of vapor emitted from the tea set off his delicate facial features and enshrouded it with a layer of mistiness.

Li Qiandong shook his head and said in schadenfreude, “Not yet. W managed to meet his match this time. Do you have any idea how unpleasant W’s expression was earlier? It was really amusing...”

Cen Shaoqing furrowed his brows ever so slightly upon hearing what Li Qiandong said.

He was well aware of W’s capability. When he found out that Niohuru completed the CIS project, he sensed that the person was no ordinary man. Nonetheless, he had never expected that the person would still surpass his expectations.

Li Qiandong talked for a long time and noticed that his throat was parched. He looked around the room and asked, “Brother Fifth, do you have mineral water in your room?”

The reason he asked for mineral water was not because he did not enjoy tea. Instead, it was because Cen Shaoqing was not fond of others touching his tea set.

In fact, this did not only apply to his tea set... he was not fond of letting anyone touch anything that belonged to him, including his dear mother.

Cen Shaoqing was an eccentric man who was prone to frequently changing moods just a few years ago. However, his temperament became much better after he began practicing Buddhism and vegetarianism.

Nevertheless, despite his improvements, he still did not manage to change his strange habit of disliking others touching his belongings.

Cen Shaoqing took out a bottle of mineral water from the drawer and passed it to him.

Li Qiandong received it with both his hands.

Then, Cen Shaoqing said, "If W is unable to find anything, leave it to the international division then."

Li Qiandong nodded. "Alright."

Li Qiandong left the room and logged on to the international tech website to leave a comment for Niohuru. 'Expert! Expert! Can we add each other as friends on WeChat, please?'

The expert was obviously online yet did not reply even after a long while.

Li Qiandong felt confused in his heart. Could it be that the expert was upset about something? Did the expert blame him for deleting her friend request previously?

The more Li Qiandong thought about it, the more panicked he became.

He hastily typed out a message to apologize to the expert, 'I'm sorry, expert. It was my fault for accidentally deleting your previous friend request because of my butterfingers. I really didn't do that on purpose. A great man rarely stoops to pettiness or harbors grievances for past wrongs; I am sure you're a magnanimous person, so please forgive me this time!'

'Expert, I'm kneeling before you.'

'Expert....'

Li Qiandong sent a lot of consecutive messages to the expert, yet the expert did not reply. In the end, he decided to give up because there was nothing else he could do. After browsing for a bit, he arrived at the forum's page.

He could see that the entire forum was discussing Niohuru.YZ.

In fact, some people changed the prefix of their names to Niohuru to worship the mogul.

Ye Zhuo had gone to take a shower when the messages came through. She did not expect that someone would have sent her so many messages in such a short time.

She took a quick glance and realized that she did not fail in adding the person as a friend previously, but it was the person on the other end who deleted her.

Nevertheless, Ye Zhuo was not the kind of person who cared about such details. She gently tapped the screen with her fingertips and replied, 'It's fine.'

After receiving the text message sent by Ye Zhuo, Li Qiandong was under the assumption that his vision was blurred. He hastily rubbed his eyes a few times and confirmed that it was not a delusion before he hastily replied, "You're truly a good man, expert!"

'Oh right, expert, can I add you as a friend on WeChat?'

Ye Zhuo was uninterested in having a stranger get closer to her, so she replied, 'You can talk to me here.'

This expert behaved just like an expert would!

He replied with such a personality.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo suddenly heard voices from outside her room. Was there a guest in the house?

Ye Zhuo raised an eyebrow and closed her laptop casually. Then, she got dressed and walked into the living room.

There, she saw two people that she had never seen before.

One of them was a middle-aged woman who was slightly older than Ye Shu, and the other was a young female. In total, three people were seated on the sofa chatting.

Noticing Ye Zhuo's arrival, Ye Shu hastily stood up and said, "Zhuo Zhuo is here! Come quick, this is Auntie Lian, and this is Shasha."

The guest was Ye Shu's best friend who grew up with her, and her name was Zhou Yuelian. Even though they were not biological siblings, they were closer than real siblings.

Over the years, Ye Shu owed it to Zhou Yuelian for her financial assistance.

Ye Shu's two biological sisters could not even measure up to half of Zhou Yuelian.

The female next to Zhou Yuelian was her daughter, Lin Shasha.

Lin Shasha was 20 years old this year, and she had very beautiful facial features as well as a head full of long, curly hair. She was a very enthusiastic girl.

Ye Zhuo greeted them respectfully, "Auntie Lian, Shasha."

Zhou Yuelian stood up. "Shu, is this your daughter, Zhuo Zhuo?"

Ye Shu nodded. "Yes."

Zhou Yuelian held Ye Zhuo's hand and sized her up meticulously. Her eyes were filled with surprise and awe. After a long while, she said with reddened eyes, "Shu, she looks just like you! She looks just like you! Zhuo Zhuo looks like you!"

Ye Zhuo's face was indeed 50% similar to Ye Shu's while 30% was similar to... that man from back in those years. Nevertheless, Zhou Yuelian would never allow herself to say that aloud.

Chapter 25: Not The Slightest Bit Is Controlled By Man

It was because the man back in those years had already hurt Ye Shu enough. If she were to bring him up again now, it would only sadden Ye Shu even more.

Lin Shasha liked Ye Zhuo very much. It did not take long before the two young girls were acquainted with one another. Even though Ye Zhuo was two years younger than Lin Shasha, Lin Shasha could not feel that age difference between them at all.

They were very fond of chatting with each other and even regretted meeting each other so late in their lives.

In truth, Lin Shasha was feeling slightly anxious at the beginning. In her mind, beautiful girls were usually aloof and arrogant.

For example, there was Mu Yourong. Mu Yourong was beautiful, and she performed well academically. Mu Yourong had never looked Lin Shasha straight in the eyes before.

In contrast, Lin Shasha failed her midterm examination and failed to get accepted into high school. Thus, she came out to work after she graduated from junior middle school. Hence, Mu Yourong despised her even more from then on.

She mocked Lin Shasha both openly and behind her back countless times. Specifically, she mocked her for being an illiterate who could not be valued by others and claimed that Lin Shasha could only be a pauper for the rest of her life.

Lin Shasha wrapped her arms around Ye Zhuo's arm and said, "I was still under the assumption that beautiful people like you are hard to get along with! I didn't expect that you're an exception, Zhuo Zhuo."

To which Ye Zhuo replied, "You're very beautiful too, Shasha." Ye Zhuo did not say that as flattery but genuinely felt that Lin Shasha was very pretty as well.

Lin Shasha was slightly shy, so she said, "I am not. However, I'm telling the truth. Zhuo Zhuo, you're so different from Mu Yourong. Mu Yourong was arrogant and cold to the point where I didn't even have the courage to talk to her...."

Ye Zhuo rubbed her chin and said in all apparent seriousness, "It's possible that she was arrogant and cold because... she is not as pretty as I am."

If an ordinary person were to make such a narcissistic remark, the people around them would be revolted to a certain extent.

However, when Ye Zhuo made the remark, it was not, but on the contrary, it felt like she made a lot of sense. It felt as if she was supposed to say that.

Lin Shasha was clearly elated. What sort of amazing darling was this person!?

"Shasha, do you have WeChat? Shall we add each other on WeChat?"

"Sure." Shasha then took out her phone, and they added each other on WeChat.

Lin Shasha continued to speak, "Zhuo Zhuo, why isn't there anything on your Moments page?"

Ye Zhuo answered, "This is a new account."

Healing that, Shasha adjusted her phone to selfie mode. "Shall we take a selfie?"

"Sure." Ye Zhuo took the initiative to wrap her arm around Shasha's shoulder.

Next, both of them took a selfie together at the sound of the photo snapping.

"Shasha, please send me the photo that we've just taken. I shall post it to my Moments page."

"Alright." Lin Shasha immediately sent the selfie that they had just taken to Ye Zhuo.

Then, she said, "I'm going to post it too." To have a friend as beautiful as Ye Zhuo, she had to show off a little, naturally.

In the living room, Zhou Yuelian was very happy for Ye Shu to be able to reunite with her biological daughter. "Shu, I can see that Zhuo Zhuo is a very well-behaved child, and she is not the same type of person as Mu Yourong. You're about to enjoy the sweet bliss that comes after hardship ends."

One could see a person's moral standing from the person's words and actions. Mu Yourong used to look down on people, and she always behaved arrogantly as if everybody else was beneath her.

However, it was not the same with Ye Zhuo. There was no sign of arrogance at all. To say the least, Zhou Yuelian's first impression of Ye Zhuo was extremely favorable.

Ye Shu smiled and said, "Zhuo Zhuo is a very good child. The reason why we managed to move out from the basement is due to her contribution."

Zhou Yuelian patted Ye Shu's hand and said in all sincerity, "Shu, it's not easy living as a single woman. You shouldn't be stubborn anymore; go and find someone to be with instead. This way, you'll be more at ease too."

Ye Shu shook her head. "I'm living pretty well this way."

After experiencing a series of heartbreaking events in the past, Ye Shu would never believe in love anymore.

In the past, she pledged eternal loyalty to that man. But in the end, what did she get in exchange? She got deceived...

Zhou Yuelian heaved a sigh. "Shu, for a man like that... is it really worth it?"

Zhou Yuelian was a witness of that incident back in those years.

She watched helplessly as Ye Shu stepped into the trap of love, step by step.

No one knew better than her how terrible Ye Shu's life was over these years.

"I didn't do it for him." There was no expression on Ye Shu's face as she held Zhou Yuelian's hand and said, "I really do feel that I'm living pretty well alone."

Zhou Yuelian continued to speak, "Shu, you're only 38 years old this year. You're still young, so you can't feel like there's no good man in this world just because of a failed relationship. You should learn to let go of the past and accept new things."

"Little Lian, I know that you're doing this for me. However, I really don't have the time to think about those things now. I only want to protect Zhuo Zhuo." She told the truth.

After experiencing so much, Ye Shu did not have the slightest idea what she wanted now. The only thing she wanted to do was to watch Ye Zhuo grow into an adult and find the happiness that she deserved.

In fact, she had let go of the past. It was water under the bridge, so what was there to be disappointed about anymore?

Every living thing in this world is a life; everything in this life is destined, and not the slightest bit is controlled by man.

“I’m only worried that it’s going to be too hard for you to be on your own.” Zhou Yuelian turned to the side and hugged Ye Shu.

They were both women, so she was well aware of how difficult life was for a single mother.

Ye Shu patted Zhou Yuelian’s back. “Little Lian, I’m fine.”

It had been so many years, yet Ye Shu did not find it to be too arduous.

Realizing that Ye Shu was not looking into dating again, Zhou Yuelian did not continue to press on this topic anymore.

It was ten in the morning in the blink of an eye. Ye Shu was preparing to cook.

Ye Zhuo walked out and said, “Mom, there’s no need to make lunch anymore. I ordered takeout for us.”

“Alright.” Ye Shu nodded.

Zhou Yuelian said sulkily, “Child, why are you wasting money on takeout? We’re a family, so it will be fine to have anything.”

Ye Zhuo smiled and said, “It will be fine as long as you don’t mind the takeout, Auntie Lian.” Ye Zhuo had just received a large sum of commission, and there were guests in the house, coincidentally. She wanted to seize the opportunity to have a proper celebration.

At half-past eleven, the takeout was delivered, just on time.

Looking at the logo printed on the takeout’s packaging, Lin Shasha was rendered speechless.

The restaurant was famous for its scrumptious food, and the average individual's bill there was extremely high.

It was a restaurant that common people could not afford to eat at.

Ye Zhuo was too generous! As a result, the hosts and guests were elated during the meal.

...

Li Boyang saw Ye Zhuo's post on her Moments page at once.

She looked amazing in the photo with well-defined eyes and brows.

Then, he looked at the girl posing next to her.

Quickly, Li Boyang's depression changed. If he was not mistaken, the girl was Lin Shasha... She was his cousin's middle school classmate.

He heard his cousin bring her up frequently during conversations in the past.

From what he knew, Lin Shasha did not do well academically and did not manage to get into high school. She joined the workforce after graduating from middle school. She was also his cousin's so-called "teaching reference" of a bad example.

The saying of 'birds of a feather flock together' was true.

If Ye Zhuo wanted to excel, she would not be mingling with people like Lin Shasha.

Ye Zhuo really had... Abandoned herself in degeneration.

In the evening, Ye Zhuo went to work at the barbecue shop.

Li Boyang was seated at the bar while he worked on his homework. It was the first time he did not take the initiative to greet Ye Zhuo.

It came as a surprise to Li Boyang that when he did not greet Ye Zhuo, Ye Zhuo actually ignored him by not greeting him either.

The feeling... was a little unpleasant.

Li Boyang could not stand it, so he walked over. "Ye Zhuo."

"What's going on?" Ye Zhuo looked up ever so slightly.

Li Boyang said, "Are you acquainted with Lin Shasha?"

"Mmhmm." Ye Zhuo nodded. "She's a good friend of mine; are you acquainted with her too?"

Li Boyang shook his head without any unusual expression on his face. However, disgust visibly emerged in his eyes. "I'm not acquainted with her, but my cousin is. She is my cousin's classmate in middle school, and I heard that Lin Shasha started working after she graduated from middle school... is that true?"

Chapter 26: Who Are You To Be So Despotic?

Everything was fine, so why did Li Boyang suddenly bring up Lin Shasha's educational background?

Ye Zhuo furrowed her brows ever so slightly as she asked, "What are you trying to say here?"

"Don't misunderstand me. I don't have any opinion of Lin Shasha." Li Boyang continued to speak, "I only think that we will need to prioritize our studies at this stage of our lives now. After all, knowledge can change our lives. Therefore, it's best for you to stay away from the people who only graduated middle school like Lin Shasha...."

Li Boyang had a favorable impression of Ye Zhuo, so he genuinely hoped Ye Zhuo would become more outstanding. There was no need for her to be overly exceptional, but at the very least, he wanted her to be able to catch up to him.

"What's wrong with being a middle school graduate? A good educational background can only show that a person's gained more knowledge than ordinary people. However, a good educational background doesn't represent one's accomplishment. The real accomplishment should come from one's heart, so how is it related to a good educational background? Some people are too comfortable that they are aloof and feel that it's already impressive enough to have a good educational background. In truth, these people will never know that they're the ones with a limited view of the world!"

Ye Zhuo enunciated her words clearly and continued, "Could it be that your good educational background has allowed you to badmouth others behind their backs?"

Li Boyang was completely dumbstruck by Ye Zhuo's response. He was blushing scarlet from embarrassment after being criticized by Ye Zhuo to the point where he felt that the classics that he read over the years were for nothing. The extent of his knowledge was actually less than a middle-school student! This realization made Li Boyang narrow his eyes.

Nonetheless, he was only commenting about Lin Shasha. Why did Ye Zhuo have to be so irritated?

Ye Zhuo spoke so ostentatiously because his comment had hurt Lin Shasha's image and her own ego. It seemed that Ye Zhuo was afraid that others would despise her!

At the thought of this, Li Boyang felt better in his heart. "Ye Zhuo, calm down first. I didn't mean that; I was only making a casual comment."

Ye Zhuo then took a glance at Li Boyang. "Shasha is a friend of mine, and she is a very kind, sweet person. Your casual comment had already hurt her without you noticing."

Li Boyang hastily apologized, "I'm, I'm sorry...."

"Take note of that next time." Ye Zhuo spoke in a cold tone. Upon saying that, she turned around and walked to the other side of the shop.

For some unknown reason, Li Boyang had a very strange feeling when Ye Zhuo said, 'take note of that next time.' It felt just like a teacher lecturing a student who committed an offense.

Perhaps, that was why he subconsciously apologized to her. Could it be that it was just an... illusion?

All of a sudden, Granny Cen walked out from a corner. She nodded in satisfaction as she gazed after Ye Zhuo's departing silhouette.

'Not bad, not bad!'

The more she learned about the young maiden, the more fond of her she became.

She was not someone who put up a facade in front of others and behaved differently behind their backs.

...

In the gambling house...

Ye Zhuo had not stepped into the gambling house for three consecutive days.

Meanwhile, Cen Shaoqing stood at the corner with a hand on the guardrail. He spoke in a nonchalant tone, "It has already been three days; you've lost."

Li Qiandong frowned deeply. "She's going to come for sure! Brother Fifth, you must believe me. It's not time yet!"

Li Qiandong was proud of himself for seeing through countless women! With his experience, how could he possibly be mistaken? Ye Zhuo would certainly turn up tonight.

Unfortunately for him, there was still no sign of Ye Zhuo even after they waited for a long while. Could it be that she was still playing hard to get?

"Do a live streaming of you eating sh*t now." Cen Shaoqing tilted his head to look toward Li Qiandong.

He looked so breathtaking that even when he was cussing, there was utterly no sense of inharmoniousness.

Eat sh*t? ... For real?

If Cen Shaoqing did not bring this up, he would have forgotten about this deal.

Cen Shaoqing stepped forward and walked ahead. "Remember to send me the link to your live stream upon my return."

"Don't, Brother Fifth...." Li Qiandong stretched out his hand to tug at Cen Shaoqing's sleeve.

"A man should take responsibility for his words and actions." Cen Shaoqing looked back ever so slightly as he spoke. "However, it's genuinely an abomination for a man to eat sh*t...."

Upon hearing that, Li Qiandong heaved a sigh of relief.

He knew that Cen Shaoqing would never entrap his good friend this way.

How could Cen Shaoqing really make him eat sh*t, huh!?

Who would have thought that Cen Shaoqing would deviate from the topic of conversation by saying, "We shall replace it with raw pork intestines. I will send someone to bring you 1kg of pork intestines later."

What?

Raw pork intestines?

Cen Shaoqing wanted him to eat raw pork intestines?

Pork intestines still carried a very intense funk even after it was cooked, let alone eating it raw. One should know that Li Qiandong would not even eat cooked pork intestines, so making him eat a raw one was even worse than making him eat sh*t!

It felt as if Cen Shaoqing could read Li Qiandong's mind. 'It's better for you to do a live stream of you eating sh*t then.'

Li Qiandong was speechless.

F*ck!

That was merciless!

So cruel!

Li Qiandong immediately yielded. "I was wrong, Brother Fifth! I'll eat it; I'll eat it, is that okay?"

“Let’s head home.” Cen Shaoqing kept the prayer beads while his gaze swept past the scene downstairs.

Li Qiandong immediately followed him and said in a slightly reluctant tone, “Brother Fifth, can we discuss the pork intestines idea? Firstly, I’m certain that Ye Zhuo is playing hard to get; perhaps, she is trying to lead you on for a few more days. If she’s not coming here today, she will certainly come tomorrow! I guarantee it! I swear!”

Cen Shaoqing spoke in a nonchalant tone, “So what if she still isn’t here tomorrow?”

Li Qiandong clenched his teeth. “I’ll take 2kg of pork intestines then!” The reason why Li Qiandong was so confident was because he was convinced that Ye Zhuo would certainly come.

Since Ye Zhuo had already drawn Cen Shaoqing’s attention earlier, it did not make sense for her to give up at this crucial juncture.

Consequently, Cen Shaoqing nodded ever so slightly. “We shall place a new bet then.”

“Don’t worry, Brother Fifth. I will certainly not let you down this time.” Li Qiandong caught up to Cen Shaoqing with a smile on his face.

...

On the other side.

Ye Zhuo and Ye Sen were walking home.

The faint moonlight cast a layer of pure white glow over their bodies.

Ye Zhuo said, “Uncle, you still need to get up early in the morning every day. There’s no need for you to come and get me from now on. It’s fine for me to walk home alone.”

Ye Sen furrowed his brows. "How is that fine!? You're a girl! It is so dangerous for you to walk home alone at night! What if you're in danger? Who's going to protect you?"

Ye Zhuo smiled and answered, "I can protect myself."

Ye Sen took a glance at Ye Zhuo and felt rather speechless. He said, "Look at you with your tiny arms and legs. Someone can pick you up with just one hand, so how can you protect yourself then, huh?"

Even though Ye Zhuo was very tall at about 1.72 meters, she was too skinny. Her tiny wrists looked like they would snap very easily. In fact, every time the wind blew strongly, Ye Sen felt like picking up a few rocks and placing them in Ye Zhuo's pockets. Otherwise, he was worried that Ye Zhuo would be blown away by the wind.

"You don't know who's going to pick up who yet." Ye Zhuo raised an eyebrow.

Ye Sen shook his head helplessly. "Little girl, all you do is brag!"

Just then, a few people were standing not too far away with cigarettes that flickered in their hands. They appeared to be standing closely together while making perverted jokes.

Under the moonlight and street lights, they saw Ye Zhuo and Ye Sen walking toward them. One of them hastily tossed away the cigarette in his hand. "Brother Tao! Brother Tao! Look over there!"

Upon hearing that, the leading young man with tattoos on his body stood upright and looked toward the specified direction. "Buck up, everyone! Is the camera ready?"

"Don't worry; Brother Tao, it's ready!" The young man next to him raised the camera in his hand.

The other few people hastily took out the steel pipes that they hid in advance. These steel pipes reflected cold radiance under the silver-white moonlight's reflection.

Ye Sen noticed the group of people in front of him. He narrowed his eyes and felt an ominous feeling in his chest.

It was fortunate that he had been picking Ye Zhuo up after work on time; otherwise, Ye Zhuo would be at a severe disadvantage tonight.

“Zhuo Zhuo, something feels wrong with the people in front. Remember to hide behind me later.” When he was speaking, Ye Sen had already moved himself in front of Ye Zhuo, subconsciously.

“Stop!” Meanwhile, a steel pipe blocked Ye Sen’s path.

Ye Sen raised his head to see a few fierce faces. “How dare you be a tyrant in Brother Sen’s witness!? Are you unaware that this area here is my territory?”

The tattooed young man grabbed Ye Sen’s collar and lifted Ye Sen just like that. “Heh, you’re such a trash talker, huh!?”

At that moment, Ye Sen had just noticed the tattoos on the young man’s neck.

It was...

The tattoo was especially used by the gangsters in this area.

Ye Sen’s throat was choked, and his expression changed drastically while cold sweat permeated his forehead. He stuttered, “So, so it turns out you’re Brother Tao, huh!? It seems that there’s a conflict between people on the same side this time. I didn’t manage to recognize that it was you, sir. You’re a great person who is big-hearted and magnanimous; there’s no need for you to lower yourself to the same level as a nobody like me....”

“Let go of my uncle.” Ye Zhuo took a step forward from the side and displayed a nonchalant gaze. The moonlight cast a layer of faint glow on her jade-like delicate face. “You have three seconds.”

“Hah...” The tattooed young man lifted Ye Sen with one hand and turned his head to look toward Ye Zhuo. He was stunned for a moment, but then his surprise slowly turned into disdain.

The little girl was such a big talker!

“3, 2, ...” Ye Zhuo began counting down with her arms crossed. The corners of her lips curled up ever so slightly in a cold yet tyrannical manner.

Noticing that Ye Zhuo was so despotic, Ye Sen panicked. “Brother Tao, this is my niece. The child doesn’t know any better; please don’t bother her. Zhuo Zhuo! You’re a child, don’t meddle with these adult matters. Go home, quick!”

Chapter 27: Wait And See

Ye Sen was panic-stricken.

He was already a grown man, so it would not be a big deal for him to get beaten up. He would be able to recover in three days at most.

However, it was different for Ye Zhuo. Ye Zhuo’s skin was delicate; her arms were tiny, and her legs were skinny. If she were beaten into a cripple or became disfigured, her life would be over.

Yet, his niece was a fool. She was still feigning her bravery despite the severity of the situation.

It was over! It was over!

She was doomed.

“Screech...”

Meanwhile, the silence of the night was suddenly broken by the sound of a car braking abruptly.

The person who was driving the car was Li Qiandong.

Fortunately, he noticed the situation over here from afar.

So many adult men were actually bullying a young girl... What a really shameless bunch of people!

Witnessing this kind of situation, he had to help her out, of course. “Brother Fifth, you should wait in the car for a while. I’m getting out to check on the situation.”

According to the trick used in romance novels, when a weak, beautiful girl was robbed, the greatest hero in the world would descend from the sky to save the girl, and the beautiful girl would be beyond grateful such that she would pledge to marry the hero.

The more Li Qiandong thought about it, the more excited he became. Hence, he rolled up his sleeves in preparation to get out of the car and beat up the people!

Cen Shaoqing, who was seated at the backseat, had already placed the prayer book on his lap and looked toward the outside with a gentle frown.

From his visual field, he could only see the side silhouette of a person. She had a slim waist and a pair of long, straight, slender legs. In fact, her waist was so slim that... it seemed like it would break with just a snap.

Even though he could not see her face, he felt that the person seemed familiar for some odd reason.

Then, Cen Shaoqing moved the prayer beads again without any change in his expression.

Li Qiandong opened the door and got out of the car.

At the same time.

The word '1' came out softly from the delicate red lips of the person who was speaking.

Ye Zhuo placed her left hand over her right hand and cracked her knuckles loudly.

It may have sounded slow in description, but it was certainly swift in action. No one could see how she made her move.

"Pow!"

"Thud..."

Li Qiandong stepped out of the car. He was dumbstruck upon witnessing the scene before his eyes. He swallowed a gulp of saliva anxiously.

He could see that the weak, fragile girl had one hand squeezing the tattooed young man's neck while her other hand was slapping the man's face loudly. It did not take long before the terrifying palm marks emerged on the tattooed young man's face.

"How dare you offend the madam! I can see that you don't want to be in the gang anymore, right?"

What the f*ck? The weak, fragile girl... How did the fragile girl lift a man with just one hand?

How did the fragile girl slap a man to the point where his face went swollen?

Li Qiandong actually took a moment to feel his own face just from observing the scene. He suddenly felt a little pitiful for the tattooed young man.

Ye Sen was dumbfounded as well. His eyes widened in surprise as he looked at Ye Zhuo.

What... what the f*ck!?

His eyes were not playing a trick on him, right?

Was this really his niece?

Meanwhile, the other gangster who was lying on the ground secretly cast a glance at his companion.

The companion nodded and clenched the dagger in his hand tightly. He suddenly got up from the ground and stabbed the dagger toward Ye Zhuo's chest.

The tip of the dagger emitted a cold radiance under the street lights' reflection.

It happened in just an instant...

Li Qiandong did not even manage to call out – 'watch out'.

"Pow!"

The person had already been kicked to the floor again by Ye Zhuo.

Li Qiandong was dumbstruck again and left in shock.

F*ck! That was amazing!

It was then that Ye Sen reacted to the situation. He turned around and sat on the gangster's body and punched the gangster over and over again. "How dare you do a sneak attack!? How dare you behave rampantly!? How dare you offend my niece!? I'm going to beat you to death today!"

The gangster was stunned from being beaten up, so he apologized repeatedly. "I'm sorry, sir, madam. We... we won't do it again..."

The other gangsters from the side had also joined in to apologize in haste.

At that point, Ye Zhuo loosened her grip leisurely.

The tattooed young man that had been lifted by her dropped to the ground with a thud. He hastily begged for forgiveness. "Madam, it's our fault for not recognizing you. We beg you for your generosity; please forgive us..."

"Leave."

The tattooed young man felt as if he was relieved from a heavy burden. He then led the other gangster to flee in fear.

"Stop." Ye Zhuo seemed to have remembered something, so she spoke.

The gangsters who were fleeing in fear stopped at once. Their expressions were filled with terror.

In fact, one of them had even peed himself.

"Ma... madam, is there anything else?" The tattooed young man turned around and spoke shakily.

Ye Zhuo raised her hands to tidy up her hair and enunciated her words clearly, "Go back and inform the person who sent you here that I will let her know the reason why flowers are so red."

The tattooed young man hastily nodded. "Sure, madam. So... can... can we leave now?"

Ye Zhuo then waved her hand to dismiss them.

The tattooed young man immediately ran away without looking back. He ran as if he had motorized legs because he was afraid that Ye Zhuo would change her mind in the next second.

All thanks to Ye Zhuo, these people became marathon-running candidates after they reformed themselves. Of course, this was much later on.

"Let's go home, uncle." Ye Zhuo turned around to look toward Ye Sen with an expression that was calm beyond comparison.

She made it look as though the person who exuded tyranny and evilness earlier was not her.

Meanwhile, Ye Sen looked at Ye Zhuo in bewilderment and said subconsciously, "Sure, madam...."

At this point, he seemed to have realized something, so he hastily caught up to Ye Zhuo and corrected himself, "Sure, my niece."

At that point, Li Qiandong was able to catch a glimpse of the person's face clearly.

Was it Ye Zhuo?

Li Qiandong drew a cold breath.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo furrowed her brows in displeasure and rolled down her sleeves slowly. Her glance swept over him as she said, "What are you looking at!? Haven't you seen a woman before!?"

Her gaze was ice-cold, akin to the freezing ice in the dead of winter.

All of a sudden, Li Qiandong's legs buckled subconsciously. He had only recovered from the surprise when Ye Zhuo and Ye Sen's silhouettes vanished into the dim alley.

Was that person earlier really Ye Zhuo?

Li Qiandong stretched out his hand to slap his face.

It hurt.

It seemed as though he was not dreaming.

If that person earlier was Ye Zhuo... was she... putting on an act?

Li Qiandong walked to the driver's seat absentmindedly and turned his head to look toward Cen Shaoqing. "Brother, Brother Fifth, that person earlier seems to be Ye Zhuo."

"I saw it." Cen Shaoqing rifled through one page of the prayer book in his hand.

"Do you think she's putting on an act?" Li Qiandong asked.

Cen Shaoqing flipped through another page of the prayer book but did not speak.

Nevertheless, Li Qiandong continued, "Brother Fifth, I think that she is putting on an act. At first, I was still a little uncertain, but I can confirm it now. Ye Zhuo will certainly turn up at the gambling house tomorrow night. If I lose, I won't just eat 2kg of pork intestines... it won't be an issue for me to eat 5kg instead!"

"I shall wait and see." The corners of Cen Shaoqing's lips curled up ever so slightly.

...

Ye Sen was still in a trance when they reached home.

He went to pick Ye Zhuo up every night to protect her. He certainly did not expect that he would end up being protected by Ye Zhuo instead today.

The feeling was truly... quite intriguing.

In contrast, Ye Zhuo did not feel anything unusual about what happened. After they arrived home, she went straight to bed after taking a shower.

...

The next day, Li Qiandong arrived at the gambling house early and stood at the guardrail on the second floor. He monitored the situation downstairs without even blinking his eyes in fear that he would miss something.

However, he still did not see Ye Zhuo's silhouette until past three o'clock in the morning.

Time passed minute by minute. Then, a staff member made his way to the front of Li Qiandong and said respectfully, "Mr. Li, Fifth Master sent me to request your presence in the room."

"Noted." Li Qiandong turned around, pushed open the door of the reserved room, and entered.

Cen Shaoqing was seated on the sofa. He did not seem quite like his usual self. His long legs were crossed, and he had a cigarette between his fingers and a string of prayer beads in his left hand.

He looked both like God and the Devil, with coldness permeating from his abstinent aura. His aura alone kept people at a distance.

The tassel of the prayer beads was wrapped around Cen Shaoqing's fingers as he spoke, "I thought about it for a moment and figured that we should just forget about the live streaming thing."

Upon hearing that, Li Qiandong felt like he had just been pardoned. He smiled and said, "Thank you, Brother Fifth..."

Li Qiandong did not even manage to finish his sentence before the deep, attractive voice was heard once again, saying, "I've already ordered someone to prepare 5kg of pork intestines; you can have it here."

Chapter 28: What Sort Of Torment Is This?

Have it here? For... for real?

Li Qiandong's knees buckled.

Suddenly, the door to the reserved room was pushed open, and a servant entered the room with a tray of pork intestines.

It was very fresh, with blood still seeping from it. One could even smell the strange fishy stench from ten meters away.

"Let's begin." Cen Shaoqing then rubbed the prayer beads in an exceedingly slow motion.

Meanwhile, his tone was exceedingly nonchalant.

"Brother Fifth..." Li Qiandong was even stuttering from anxiety. "I thought you, you, you are a vegetarian? I... I shall become a vegetarian to accompany you from, from, from now on!"

Cen Shaoqing took a glance at him and said, "A real man keeps his promise and is firm in his action."

Li Qiandong stepped forward and walked to the front of the table with great difficulty before he took a seat. "Brother Fifth..."

"Eat."

It was only a simple word, yet it made Li Qiandong lose the courage to decline. He picked up a piece of bloodied pork intestine with his chopsticks numbly, shut his eyes, crossed his heart, and stuffed it into his mouth.

The taste... was really f*cking awful!

However, Li Qiandong still endured it and swallowed it down. Sadly, right after that, his stomach began to churn frantically. Then, he hastily ran to the washroom and wished that he could vomit his gallbladder out.

Cen Shaoqing then stood up and furrowed his brows ever so slightly. "Keep the rest for the live stream then."

Upon saying that, he turned around and left the room.

Li Qiandong was confused.

Shouldn't Cen Shaoqing have said, 'There's no need to eat the rest'? ...did he mishear it?

Brother Fifth was a devoted Buddhist who was kind-hearted beyond comparison. Since that was the case, how could Cen Shaoqing possibly bear to watch him eat the raw pork intestines?

He was certain that he misheard that.

Right!

At the thought of that, Li Qiandong was relieved. He washed his face calmly and then left the gambling house.

But just as he was heading out, the gambling house's manager came running after him while gasping for breath. "Please hold on, Mr. Li."

"What's going on?"

The gambling house's manager passed a bag to Li Qiandong. "Mr. Li, this is the pork intestines that Master Fifth had us wrap for you. He wanted me to remind you to stream yourself for his audience upon your return."

Li Qiandong was rendered speechless. What sort of torment was this?

...

It was the day for Ye Zhuo's follow-up consultation with Chen Qiaoye's husband.

After one week of consuming the prescribed medicine and a period of recuperation, Yi Tao appeared just like his old self without any obvious improvement.

Only Ye Zhuo was aware that more than half of the parasites in his body had already been eradicated.

"Has he been taking the medicine on time these days?" Ye Zhuo asked.

Chen Qiaoye nodded. "We did as instructed by you, Ms. Ye. He takes the medicine on time every day."

“Great then.” Ye Zhuo turned over Yi Tao’s eyelids. “Next, he will need to be soaked in medicinal baths. I will write a prescription for you. Let him soak in the medicinal bath twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.”

“When will my husband recover to his healthy self?” Chen Qiaoye inquired.

Ye Zhuo answered, “He will be able to regain his consciousness after taking the medicinal bath for a month. By that time, he should be able to get off the bed to walk about.”

“Really?” Chen Qiaoye was elated.

Ye Zhuo nodded and then lowered her head to write down a prescription that she passed to Chen Qiaoye.

Meanwhile, the sound of rushed footsteps was heard coming from the door.

“Qiaoye! Qiaoye!”

The person was none other than Chen Qiaoye’s mother-in-law, Li Wenru.

“Mom.” Chen Qiaoye walked over to welcome her.

“Qingyue, you’re here.”

Li Qingyue, who accompanied Li Wenru, greeted her cousin-in-law.

Chen Qiaoye nodded in return.

Then, Li Wenru held Chen Qiaoye’s hand in excitement. “Qiaoye, is the miracle doctor here?”

Chen Qiaoye answered, "She's here! She's inside."

"Take me to her, quick."

"Alright, please follow me."

Chen Qiaoye took Li Wenru and Li Qingyue to the bedroom.

At that moment, Ye Zhuo was examining Yi Tao's pulse.

Then, Chen Qiaoye took the initiative to introduce, "Mom, this is Ms. Ye."

"What?" Li Wenru was stunned for a moment.

Even though she was well aware that the miracle doctor was a woman, Li Wenru had never expected her to be so young.

Judging by her appearance. She looked to be about 17 or 18 years old at most.

Could a person like her really be a miracle doctor?

In fact, Li Wenru had even doubted if the young maiden was capable of differentiating between a flu and a fever... Was she here as a prank?

In Li Wenru's heart, Chen Qiaoye had always been a steady, trustworthy person. She did not expect that Chen Qiaoye would actually do something so improper this time.

Chen Qiaoye had disappointed her greatly.

Li Qingyue narrowed her eyes while the corner of her lips curled into a disdainful smirk.

She was under the assumption that Chen Qiaoye's so-called miracle doctor was someone impressive.

It turned out that the person was the fake daughter of a wealthy family that every Yunjing resident knew about – Mu Zhuo. Oh, that was not right... She was known as Ye Zhuo now!

Who was there in Yunjing Province that did not know that Ye Zhuo was an illiterate deadbeat?

Nevertheless, at the thought of the jar that contained the Annox Parasite, a vigilant look emerged in Li Qingyue's gaze once again.

A deadbeat would not have the capability to extract parasites out of a human body.

Moreover, Li Qingyue had seen Ye Zhuo in the past. Ye Zhuo always had thick makeup on in the past. Yet, the current Ye Zhuo did not have the slightest resemblance to her past self.

Li Qingyue clenched her fists tightly while a glint glimmered past her eyes.

"Mom, this is Ms. Ye." Noticing that there was no reaction from Li Wenru, Chen Qiaoye repeated herself.

Li Wenru had only reacted to the situation after that. She nodded and cracked into a rigid smile. "Hello."

She was still the matriarch of a wealthy family, after all. Even though she doubted Ye Zhuo's capability, Li Wenru did not express it explicitly.

Ye Zhuo smiled. "Hi."

Li Qingyue stood next to Li Wenru with a hand covering her mouth. The look in her eyes turned from astonishment to disbelief. "You, you're... Mu Zhuo?"

If another person were in her place, the person would feel slightly awkward upon hearing the remark. After all, the name 'Mu Zhuo' had a bad reputation attached to it.

However, Ye Zhuo acted as if she could not understand the insinuation behind the remark. She raised her chin in a graceful yet dignified manner and said, "That's me, but I'm Ye Zhuo now."

Li Wenru turned her head to look toward Li Qingyue. "Qingyue, do you know her?"

Li Qingyue nodded.

After learning that Li Qingyue was acquainted with Ye Zhuo, Li Wenru was relieved, so she said, "Qingyue, please follow me outside. I'm sorry, Ms. Ye. I have something to say to my niece."

"Please, go ahead." Ye Zhuo nodded.

Li Qingyue smiled at Ye Zhuo in a friendly manner and then followed Li Wenru obediently.

Outside, Li Wenru immediately inquired about Ye Zhuo's situation. There was a word known as 'genius' in this world. Li Qingyue herself was a rare talent too. Hence, the people that she was acquainted with were primarily people with outstanding talents as well.

As a result, Li Wenru wondered if this Ye Zhuo was especially gifted in medicinal practice. Perhaps, Ye Zhuo could really cure her son. Li Wenru felt much more steady in her heart at the thought of this situation.

However, an awkward expression appeared on Li Qingyue's face. "Uh... aunty, how should I tell you this...?"

"What do you mean?" Li Wenru furrowed her brows.

Li Qingyue replied, "Ms. Ye has been commissioned by my cousin-in-law, after all...."

“Don’t mind her; just tell me the truth, Qingyue.”

“Uh...” Li Qingyue hesitated for a moment. “Alright then. That Ms. Ye in there was actually the daughter of the Mu family; she was known as Mu Zhuo....”

As soon as those words were spoken, Li Wenru’s face turned ghastly pale.

“So you’re saying that she’s the fake daughter of the Mu family who took what belonged to someone else?”

Li Qingyue nodded. “Don’t be angry, aunty. I believe that it’s possible that my cousin-in-law is unaware of Ms. Ye’s true identity....”

How could Li Wenru possibly not be furious?

A deadbeat whose bad reputation was known to all was here to treat her son? Was this not a joke?

Chapter 29: Let Him Try

Li Wenru’s face turned green with rage and then paled with fear. She was so furious that she could no longer keep calm.

‘Ridiculous! This is truly ridiculous!’

“Aunty, calm down.” Li Qingyue wrapped her arm around Li Wenru’s arm and said in a gentle tone, “Based on what I know of my cousin-in-law, she is not a muddle-headed person who can’t tell what’s right and wrong. I’m sure that she has her own reasons for commissioning Ms. Ye. Perhaps, Ms. Ye really has the capability to cure Yi Tao?”

Li Wenru suppressed the rage in her heart with great effort. "Has the capability? Who in Yunjing Province doesn't know that the fake daughter of the Mu family is an illiterate deadbeat? If she is to be labeled as 'capable', then anything is possible in this world! I think that Chen Qiaoye is trying to kill Tao Tao!"

"Aunty..." Li Qingyue continued, "One man's words can influence others into thinking badly about someone else. I believe that it's possible we might have misunderstood Ms. Ye. I think that Ms. Ye might not be as bad as she was claimed to be in the rumors."

Li Wenru looked toward Li Qingyue helplessly. "You're too naive, Qingyue! You actually believe that a deadbeat is capable of practicing the art of medicine. If Ye Zhuo is really a miracle doctor, her reputation in Yunjing Province won't be this awful! Everyone has eyes. If she is truly that impressive, how could anyone have the audacity to slander her?"

A deadbeat would always be a deadbeat. Regardless of how she packaged herself, she would never be a genius.

Upon hearing that, Li Qingyue furrowed her brows. "Aunty, what you said seems to make a little sense... After all, the general public's perception is always perceived to be unclouded."

Before her voice died away, Li Qingyue changed the topic of conversation by saying, "However... I heard from my cousin-in-law that Ms. Ye was introduced to her by her second uncle. They're a family, so my cousin-in-law's second uncle wouldn't intentionally harm her. Aunty, let's not complicate the matter too much. What if there's a favorable turn of events and a miracle is to appear? What if Ms. Ye managed to cure cousin for real?"

Not only did Li Qingyue's remark fail to console Li Wenru, but on the contrary, it infuriated Li Wenru even more.

Chen Qianye's second uncle was Chen Dafeng. Chen Dafeng was not a simple person, but he graduated from a renowned medical university and was very skilled in pharmacology. The traditional Chinese medicine dispensary that Chen Dafeng's family ran had already been passed down for close to a century. So, how could a person like this introduce a deadbeat to treat Yi Tao's illness?

Any person with discerning eyes could see what was happening at one glance! It was obviously because Chen Dafeng and Chen Qiaoye coveted the Yi family's inheritance. They wanted to kill Yi Tao and then go for the Yi family's inheritance! Shameless!

Both the uncle and niece were truly shameless!

The more Li Wenru thought about it, the more furious she became. She wished that she could choke Chen Qiaoye to death right away. "They're doing this to kill Tao Tao so they can usurp our Yi family's inheritance!"

"Huh?" Li Qingyue drew in a cold breath, and her face turned paler. "It, it can't be, right...."

Li Qingyue noticed the change in Li Wenru's expression. She quickly said, "Aunty, let's not indulge in blind conjectures anymore. It's possible that she and her uncle were deceived by Ye Zhuo. I can personally guarantee you that my cousin-in-law is not the kind of person who plots against her husband. She loves Yi Tao very much. Otherwise, Yi Tao wouldn't have insisted on marrying her by threatening to commit suicide back in those years."

As soon as the statement was made, it immediately brought up some bad memories in Li Wenru's mind.

Chen Qiaoye came from a common family, and her parents were just ordinary wage earners. It was completely out of her league to marry into the Yi family. Had it not been Yi Tao who insisted on marrying her by threatening to commit suicide, how could she possibly allow Chen Qiaoye to marry into the family?

Li Wenru was not very fond of Chen Qiaoye. The truth had proven that she had not misjudged her because Chen Qiaoye was precisely the b*tch that Li Wenru knew she was! She was actually trying to kill her son now!

Lin Wenru stood up swiftly with a 'whoosh' and stormed toward the bedroom in a rage.

"Aunty!" Li Qingyue immediately caught up to Li Wenru.

In the room, Ye Zhuo had already left, leaving only Chen Qiaoye, who was giving Yi Tao a sponge bath.

The towel was soaked in medicinal herbs, so there was the faint scent of medicinal herbs lingering in the air.

“B*tch!” Li Wenru walked over and delivered a slap to Chen Qiaoye’s face.

“Mom!” Chen Qiaoye’s face turned sideways from the brute force of the slap. Then, she turned back and looked at Li Wenru incredulously.

“B*tch! Wicked woman!” Li Wenru said in rage, “You don’t deserve to call me mom! Our Tao Tao must really be blind to fall for a wicked woman like you!”

“Mom, what’s going on?” Chen Qiaoye covered her face while her entire body was trembling.

She knew that her mother-in-law despised her all this time. However, the woman had never hit her before.

Li Qingyue tapped on Li Wenru’s back to soothe her. She took a step forward and said in a gentle tone, “Cousin-in-law, please don’t be mad at aunty for being so furious. Do you know who Ms. Ye is?”

“What do you mean?” Chen Qiaoye was stunned for a moment.

“Ms. Ye was the eldest daughter of the Mu family in the past. You should be aware of the matters with regards to the eldest daughter of the Mu family.” Li Qingyue then continued, “Even the skilled doctors from local and foreign countries couldn’t cure my cousin’s illness. Ms. Ye is only 18 years old this year... is she really capable of curing my cousin? Moreover, I heard that... Ms. Ye is even illiterate!”

Chen Qiaoye continued to speak, “Mom, Qingyue, you’ve misunderstood Ms. Ye! Ms. Ye is a very gifted person. This is the prescription written by her for Yi Tao. Look at her penmanship! Do you think this is written by an illiterate?”

It was a very pleasant-looking Lu-style Chinese calligraphy writing that was written in forceful, vigorous strokes with adequate profoundness.

Li Qingyue narrowed her eyes. She noticed that none of the medicines listed in the prescription was effective in eradicating parasites but only slightly effective in nourishing one's body and vitality.

It seemed that all of this hype about curing him was just a false alarm. For a second, she was truly under the assumption that the deadbeat Ye Zhuo was so capable.

Li Wenru tore up the prescription passed to her by Chen Qiaoye instantly; she pointed at Chen Qiaoye and said, "I won't give you the permission to feed my son some nonsense medicine! Please get out and leave our Yi family now!"

Chen Qiaoye's entire body was shivering. "Mom! You're going to end Yi Tao's only way to live!"

"Shut up, b*tch!" Li Wenru delivered another slap. "Do you think that I'm unaware of your filthy scheme with Chen Dafeng? You want to kill Tao Tao so you can usurp our Yi family's inheritance! Let me tell you this... as long as I'm here, you will never get it! You will never possibly prevail!"

"No... I don't...." Tears streamed down Chen Qiaoye's face. "I hope that Yi Tao can get well soon more than anyone else. If I can, I'd give up my life in exchange for Yi Tao's life."

It was not a lie.

She had been married to Yi Tao for many years, and their relationship had always been inseparable.

Li Qingyue stood on the side. "I can understand your feeling, cousin-in-law, and I'm also aware that there's a saying that one will try anything in a desperate situation. Ms. Ye's bad reputation is clearly out there, so how can you expect us to trust her?"

"Get out! Get out now!" Li Wenru pointed at the door and instructed.

“Cough cough cough!” Meanwhile, Yi Tao, who was lying on the bed, suddenly woke up. He sat upright and vomited a huge gulp of fresh blood. The bright red blood stained the white blanket.

“Tao Tao!”

“Yi Tao!”

Li Wenru and Chen Qiaoye pounced toward him simultaneously.

“Qiaoye...” Yi Tao held Chen Qiaoye’s hand and said weakly, “I’m so, so sorry that I couldn’t protect you....”

Chen Qiaoye shook her head while crying. “I’m fine, I’m fine....”

Upon saying that, Yi Tao looked toward Li Wenru. “Mom, I’m begging you not to make things difficult for Qiaoye. You doing this is making me feel... really sad in my heart....”

Li Wenru wiped away her tears. “Silly child! This b*tch is trying to get you killed! Why are you still defending her!?”

Yi Tao spoke with great difficulty, “Mom, you’ve misunderstood Qiaoye. Qiaoye is not that kind of person! There’s no need for all of you to let a dying man like me affect the family’s good relationship. Mom, I hope that when I’m gone, you will treat Qiaoye like she is your own daughter....”

“You won’t die! My silly child, you won’t die!” Li Wenru bawled aloud.

Yi Tao continued, “I know my body well and that I can’t escape death regardless. Just let me give Ms. Ye’s prescription a try; otherwise, I won’t die in peace....”

Chapter 30: Can I Add You On WeChat?

After being ill for such a long time, Yi Tao was well aware of his condition. He knew that he did not have much time left.

Rather than just do nothing and die this way, he might as well give Chen Qiaoye a gleam of hope.

He knew that Chen Qiaoye trusted Ye Zhuo. He was already prepared to go, but he did not wish to leave behind any regret in Chen Qiaoye's life.

Upon hearing that, Li Wenru held Yi Tao's hand and said while bawling, "Tao Tao! My silly child! They are trying to kill you! That Ye Zhuo is good-for-nothing! How can she be skilled in medicinal practice, huh!?"

Yi Tao squeezed Li Wenru's hand. "Mom, I've never asked you for anything much all my life... will you please promise me this for once? I'm begging you...."

At this point, Yi Tao vomited another gulp of fresh blood.

Noticing her son's condition, Li Wenru had no other choice but to nod in consent. "Alright! Alright! I promise you!"

"Thank, thank you, mom..." Yi Tao hastily turned his head to look toward Chen Qiaoye. "Qiaoye, thank mom, quick."

"Thank you, mom."

Li Wenru turned her head away because she refused to look at Chen Qiaoye.

She really had no idea what sort of drug Chen Qiaoye must have fed Yi Tao that made Yi Tao trust her so much. What a b*tch!

“Tao Tao, just rest and recuperate.” Upon saying that, Li Wenru turned her head to look toward Chen Qiaoye. “Come with me for a moment.”

“Mom, don’t make things difficult for Qiaoye, please.” Yi Tao clutched Li Wenru’s hand tightly.

Li Wenru patted Yi Tao’s hand. “Don’t worry.”

Chen Qiaoye followed behind Li Wenru as they went to the study room.

Then, Li Wenru’s originally smiling face immediately dimmed. “Chen Qiaoye, if Tao Tao is unable to pull through this time because of you, I want you to pay for his life with your life!”

Chen Qiaoye looked at Li Wenru and said calmly, “Ms. Ye said that the effect can be seen in a month after taking this medicine. Don’t worry, mom. If anything were to happen to Yi Tao, I won’t drag out my ignoble existence either. Please give me a month.”

In the end, Chen Qiaoye bowed deeply in salutation.

Li Qingyue stood outside the door and eavesdropped on the conversation going on inside. Her eyes were filled with gloomy coldness.

Now that she had confirmed that the prescription given by Ye Zhuo was utterly useless, she would not stop Yi Tao from continuing to consume it naturally. If he were to die from consuming the medicine, it would save her the effort of having to take action.

Yi Tao was the only son of the Yi family, and he had yet to bear any heir to the family until now. Li Wenru loathed Chen Qiaoye to her bones, so if anything were to happen to Yi Tao, who would be the sole successor of the family? It would be her, of course!

She had already been plotting for this day for way too long. In the end, heaven rewarded the faithful one. Now, she would only need to wait for Yi Tao to fall into eternal sleep patiently.

It did not take long before Li Wenru opened the door and walked out of the study room.

Li Qingyue immediately stepped forward. "Aunty."

Li Wenru replied, "Qingyue, let's go."

"Mmhmm." Li Qingyue nodded.

After walking out of the villa, Li Qingyue said, "Aunty, you didn't get into an argument with my cousin-in-law in there, right? Cousin-in-law is really something! How can she trust Ye Zhuo so much, huh? If anything were to happen to Yi Tao, you and uncle...."

The remaining words to her sentence were self-explanatory.

Meanwhile, Li Wenru heaved a sigh. "Your cousin is obsessed with her; what can I do... Qingyue, it's good that I still have you by my side in this period."

Li Qingyue was her maternal niece, after all. Additionally, she was so outstanding. If anything were to happen to Yi Tao, Li Qingyue would be the Yi family's only hope.

Li Qingyue said, "Don't worry, aunty. I will always be right by your side, no matter the situation. Just like how you were there for me when I was young."

"Good child." Li Wenru hugged Li Qingyue; she was visibly moved. "That b*tch, Chen Qiaoye! I won't let her go so easily!"

From an angle that Li Wenru could not see, the corners of Li Qingyue's lips curled into a proud arc.

After Li Wenru and Li Qingyue left, Chen Qiaoye returned to the room once again.

Yi Tao laid on the bed and looked at Chen Qiaoye. He said guiltily, "I'm sorry, Qiaoye... for letting you down...."

"It's fine. Yi Tao, I'm willing to do anything for you as long as you can get well." Chen Qiaoye looked at Yi Tao and said with a hoarse voice, "Do you really believe that Ms. Ye can cure you?"

"Mmhmm." Yi Tao nodded.

"Did you know that Ms. Ye is the child from the Mu family's switched-at-birth incident? Her reputation in the circle is really awful."

Yi Tao held Chen Qiaoye's hand. "A gentleman gets along with others but does not necessarily agree with them; a vile person does not get along with others but pretends to agree with them. That is all hearsay. I trust you, and I trust Ms. Ye too."

"Thank you." Chen Qiaoye lowered her head and kissed Yi Tao's forehead.

...

On the other side of things in the gambling house, Li Qiandong stood at the guardrail on the second floor, observing the situation downstairs.

He wanted to prove to Cen Shaoqing that Ye Zhuo was playing hard to get.

He was certain that Ye Zhuo would step into the gambling house again. However, he had not seen Ye Zhuo at all these days.

Li Qiandong narrowed his eyes. "Could it be that she is using another trick?"

"Mr. Li, Fifth Master is looking for you." The voice of the gambling house's staff member interrupted Li Qiandong's train of thought.

“Coming.” Li Qiandong turned around.

Cen Shaoqing was seated on the sofa with a laptop placed on his lap. His fingers moved across the keyboard swiftly, with his beautiful finger as charming as jade enshrouded in a layer of faint coldness.

“Turn on the laptop. I have something to send to you.”

“Ah, sure.” Li Qiandong immediately picked up the laptop next to him and logged into his account.

Cen Shaoqing operated the laptop with one hand while his other hand grabbed the prayer beads on the table habitually as he began rubbing it. “I’ve sent it.”

“What’s this?” Li Qiandong was puzzled.

Cen Shaoqing replied, “Send it to Niohuru; he’ll know what to do.”

Li Qiandong was stunned for a moment and then asked, “Is this the newest version of the OS system?”

Cen Shaoqing nodded gently.

OS was the artificial intelligence system developed by Cen Enterprise.

Cen Shaoqing began developing it from the age of 16 and finally managed to make a breakthrough when he was 20 years old. He then brought the OS AI system into people’s daily lives.

After ten years of development from Cen Enterprises’ scientific research team, the OS 3.0 era was finally initiated.

However, just as they were about to make a breakthrough to version 4.0, an unprecedented difficulty emerged. The AI development would allow mankind to develop it themselves, but it would turn into something that would dominate mankind if there was any small error.

This was not just a shocking statement to attract attention; mankind would be too powerless in the fight against technology. Therefore, the team had no choice but to stop the research and halt the 4.0 plan.

Li Qiangdong did not expect that Cen Shaoqing would trust the expert, Niohuru, so much. Even though he idolized Niohuru a lot, he did not think that the expert had the capability to do what was required.

It was the OS' AI system! The professional research team assigned to it was made up of a thousand people that had only managed to break through to version 3.0 after developing it for ten years. Could Niohuru, who worked alone, bring it to version 4.0?

Li Qiangdong logged on to the international tech website in shock.

He brought up the chatbox and typed, 'Is the expert there? I have something that I'd like to seek your assistance!'

'Go ahead.' It was a very brief reply.

Li Qiangdong described the problem briefly.

'How much?'

Li Qiangdong did not expect that the expert's reply to be so straightforward. He turned around to look at Cen Shaoqing. "Brother Fifth, the expert is asking how much...."

"Pass me the laptop."

Li Qiangdong passed the laptop to Cen Shaoqing.

Cen Shaoqing hooked the prayer beads at his thenar and received the laptop; he typed a message before sending it, 'You may decide on the commission when the task is complete.'

'Are you sure?'

'I'm sure.' Even though there were only two words, it exuded a gush of invisible domineeringness.

So, it turned out that all the capitalists had no lack of money, just as expected. Ye Zhuo rubbed her nose habitually on the other side of the screen. 'Deal!'

Cen Shaoqing operated the laptop to send over the file, and the person on the other side clicked 'accept'.

Cen Shaoqing then continued to type, 'How long will it take?'

'The time is not guaranteed, but it won't exceed two months.' Ye Zhuo took a glance at the document and figured that it was on an AI system. In order to fix the system without the complete infrastructure, she estimated that it would take about one month.

In short, two months was considered a conservative number. If it were in her own world, it was just a trivial issue that could be solved in a day.

It had been a very long time since Cen Shaoqing had last encountered such a confident person! Cen Shaoqing moved the prayer beads in his hand again while his other hand was still on the keyboard. The light cast from the laptop's screen enshrouded his facial features faintly at that moment. Then, he raised an eyebrow ever so slightly. "Can I add you on WeChat?"