

Bigoted 911

Chapter 911: The Right to Love

No matter how cold and calm Bo Ye was, she couldn't stand Fu Tingyan saying such things in public. Furthermore, she was still dressed as a male.

"Wasn't he afraid that others would misunderstand him?" she wondered.

It had been four years. Every time she was careful not to let Fu Tingyan find out, it was also because of Bo Yin's request. Bo Yin didn't want others to find out that she was a girl, or else he wouldn't allow her to learn martial arts.

She ignored Fu Tingyan's words and carried her luggage down the stairs.

Fu Tingyan, who had been completely ignored, frowned and followed after her. "Bo Ye, do you really care so much about what other people think?"

Shi Yan arrived just in time. As soon as he got out of the car, he saw Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye. He opened the car door first and then went forward to take their luggage. "Young master, I feel that you have changed quite a lot in the past few years of martial arts training."

Fu Tingyan smiled and asked, "Is my Grandma doing well?"

"The Old Madam is doing quite well. She's waiting for your return at the old house," Shi Yan said with a smile.

After the luggage was placed in the car, Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye got into the car. Shi Yan also got into the driver's seat and drove towards the old house.

Fu Tingyan put one hand on his forehead and looked at Bo Ye. Four years had passed, but her face was still as cold as ice. "You haven't answered my question just now."

Bo Ye turned her head to look at him but didn't answer.

Fu Tingyan asked again, "Do you really care so much?"

Only then did Bo Ye reply. "I'll go back to Zhongtai tomorrow."

Fu Tingyan knew that she had to go home eventually, so he didn't ask her to stay. "I'll give you a lift."

"No need." Bo Ye refused.

"It's settled then. I'll book a plane ticket for you." Fu Tingyan took out his phone, then as if he had thought of something, he said, "We just came back from Fengyi Mountain. You can rest for two days before going back. Otherwise, I'll feel sorry for you if you overwork yourself. I'll book a flight ticket for you the day after tomorrow."

After saying that, he did not give Bo Ye the chance to refuse and started booking the plane ticket.

Bo Ye was rendered speechless.

He was still as domineering as before.

After hearing Fu Tingyan say that, the corner of Shi Yan's mouth twitched a few times. He raised his head and looked at Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye in the rearview mirror. A weird thought crept into Shi Yan's mind.

After Fu Tingyan booked the plane ticket, he made a call to Jiang Yu.

"Xiao Yu, I'm back in Jiangcheng."

Jiang Yu was surprised, but at the same time, he was very happy. "So soon? Why didn't you tell me in advance? So that I can pick you up at the airport."

"I want to give you a surprise. I'll come out for a drink tonight."

"Okay, we haven't seen each other for more than a year."

Fu Tingyan came back, and Fu Tingyu brought his wife and son to the old house for lunch.

The little grandson returned from his martial arts training, and the eldest grandson brought his granddaughter-in-law and great-grandson back for lunch. The Old Madam specially asked the kitchen to prepare more dishes, which were the favorite dishes of Fu Tingyan and Fu Tingyu's family.

The Old Madam waited at the door early so that they could see her at a glance when they returned.

Fu Tingyu's family of three arrived first.

Xiao Jiu had just walked into the courtyard when he saw the Old Madam standing at the door. He ran over with his short legs.

"Grandma," Xiao Jiu called out while holding the Old Madam's hand.

"Xiao Jiu, how long has it been? You've grown taller again."

The Old Madam was getting old. She could only hold onto the door frame and slowly squat down. When she looked at her great-grandson, her eyes narrowed into slits when she smiled.

Xiao Jiu said, "Grandma, how have you been recently? Uncle is back. Grandma must be very happy."

The Old Madam hugged Xiao Jiu and said happily, "Grandma is also very happy to see you. We haven't seen each other for some time. Grandma has missed you a lot as well."

Fu Tingyu held the girl's hand. Seeing the Old Madam so happy, he went forward to help her up.

"Grandma, sit down and wait. It's tiring to squat."

"It's okay. Xiao Jiu is too adorable." The Old Madam looked at Xiao Jiu. Her eyes were filled with happiness.

"Grandma."

The call attracted everyone's attention. They saw Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye walk in.

The Old Madam saw her grandson whom she had not seen for a few years. She was so happy that tears filled her eyes, so she ignored the fact that Fu Tingyan's hand was still holding Bo Ye's. It was a little ambiguous.

However, Qin Shu saw it. After not seeing each other for a few years, Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye had lost their innocence. They had also grown a lot taller.

However...

She looked at their hands and wondered, "What was going on?"

Fu Tingyu also saw it. His pitch-black eyes swept across the two people who were walking towards him. He didn't want to ask anything while the Old Madam was present.

Fu Tingyan stopped in front of the old madam. He looked at Fu Tingyu and Qin Shu and called out, "Brother, sister-in-law."

Qin Shu couldn't help but laugh when she saw Fu Tingyan calling her sister-in-law with a straight face. "Little Yan, your mouth is sweeter than before."

Fu Tingyan only smiled and didn't refute, because he had already taken Qin Shu as his sister-in-law from the bottom of his heart.

"Yan, you're finally back. I missed you so much, Grandma." The Old Madam hugged Fu Tingyan and tears fell.

"Grandma, I missed you too." Seeing the Old Madam crying, Fu Tingyan also felt a little uncomfortable. He patted her back gently with his big hand.

"It's been three years. Let Grandma take a closer look at you." The Old Madam raised her head and looked at Fu Tingyan, who was much taller than her. As she sized him up, she said, "You've grown taller and more handsome. You're more like a man now."

Fu Tingyan smiled and asked, "Grandma, do you mean that I wasn't a man in the past?"

Fu Tingyu reminded, "Grandma, Xiao Yan has just returned. Let's go in and eat first. We can talk while we eat."

"Yes, yes. Little Yu is right. I was so focused on talking. Let's go in first and talk while we eat." The Old Madam pulled Fu Tingyan and even held Xiao Jiu's hand as they walked in.

Fu Tingyan did not forget to hold Bo Ye's hand. In order to prevent himself from being shaken off by Bo Ye, he kept a firm grip.

Bo Ye did not break free from his hand and said softly, "Let go of me for now."

"I won't let go. You'd better be mentally prepared." After Fu Tingyan said that, he held her hand and followed the Old Madam inside.

This time, Qin Shu saw it clearly. Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye were holding hands like a couple. She pinched her husband's palm.

Fu Tingyu looked at Fu Tingyan holding Bo Ye's hand as if he couldn't bear to let go. He couldn't help but frown.

Qin Shu asked him in a low voice, "What do you think?"

Fu Tingyu said, "I'll ask after dinner."

Qin Shu said again, "I think Yan is serious."

Fu Tingyu pursed his lips. He really couldn't tell that his brother liked this kind of thing.

Seeing that her husband didn't say anything, Qin Shu reminded him again, "Everyone has the right to love, regardless of gender."

Fu Tingyu hadn't made any comments yet. Hearing his wife speak up for his younger brother, the corner of his mouth twitched. Before his younger brother could say anything, she had already spoken up.

Qin Shu actually just wanted her husband to be mentally prepared because she was sure that Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye had a relationship. Looking at Fu Tingyan's posture, he would definitely say something shocking later. It would be better to help her husband to be prepared for it.

The maids brought the dishes to the table one after another. The table was full of various dishes, which includes fish, meat, seafood, and vegetables..

Chapter 912: Important Announcement

Everyone sat around the dining table. They were all one big family, so there were no small talks.

The Old Madam picked up her chopsticks. She was not in a hurry to eat. Instead, she reminded Fu Tingyan, "Yan, eat more. It's been a long time since you've eaten the food cooked by the chef in the old house."

"Grandma, I know. You eat your food. I'm not an outsider." Fu Tingyan picked up his chopsticks and looked at the food in front of him. He saw what Bo ye liked to eat, so he put some into her bowl. "Eat more. You need to put on more weight."

The Old Madam liked Bo Ye quite a lot. She also knew that her grandson was very good to his friends, so she didn't mind.

Fu Tingyu and Qin Shu, who were sitting opposite each other, couldn't turn a blind eye even if they wanted to. Fu Tingyan's words sounded a little too ambiguous to them.

You need to put on more weight?

How did he know of it if he hadn't seen it?

How did he know of it if he hadn't touched Bo Ye's body?

Bo Ye felt the gazes from the two people opposite her. No matter how calm and composed she was, she couldn't help but turn her head and say to Fu Tingyan, "Don't worry about me. Eat your own food."

Fu Tingyan ignored her words. "You just eat whatever I give you."

Then, he continued to put food into Bo Ye's bowl.

Xiao Jiu knew that Fu Tingyan had returned from learning martial arts. He took a small bite of his rice and said, "Uncle, can you teach me martial arts after dinner?"

Fu Tingyan smiled and said, "Yes. After dinner, we'll go to the backyard."

Halfway through dinner, Fu Tingyan felt that it was necessary to say something at this time. He raised his head to look at the Old Madam and Fu Tingyu. "Oh right, Grandma, and big bro, I have something to say today."

Qin Shu stopped chewing and raised her leg to kick her husband's foot.

"Look, Fu Tingyan is going to make the announcement," said Qin Shu inwardly.

Fu Tingyu looked at his younger brother opposite him and waited for him to continue.

The Old Madam said, "Yan if there's anything, we can talk after lunch. There's no rush."

In order to make the Old Madam and his brother pay attention to this matter, Fu Tingyan deliberately emphasized his tone, "Grandma, this matter is very important, so I want to say it now so that you can be prepared."

In the end, he didn't forget to give the Old Madam a prior warning.

It was the first time the Old Madam had seen her grandson so serious, and she wanted her to be mentally prepared. She was a little curious about what her grandson wanted to say.

In order to respect her grandson, she put down the chopsticks in her hands. "Yan has grown up and has something important to say. Go ahead, your brother and I are listening."

Before saying anything, Fu Tingyan glanced at Fu Tingyu across from him and realized that he had been looking at him. He couldn't help but feel a little nervous. After all, coming out of the closet was not a small matter.

For this reason, he even went to the internet to look up some things about coming out of the closet. It could be said that there was only a 5% chance that a family that could accept coming out of the closet. Even though it was a free world and people didn't care about coming out of the closet as much, but some families were still bothered by it.

Some people were kicked out of their homes and their bank cards were frozen because they came out of the closet. While others were accepted by their families.

Fu Tingyan had been preparing a whole year for this moment.

He wanted to let Bo Ye know that he could come out of the closet or not care about other people's thoughts.

This was also the reason why he wanted Bo Ye to come home with him.

Seeing that Fu Tingyu didn't show any other expressions, he retracted his gaze and said, "Grandma, I like Bo Ye."

The Old Madam didn't think too much about it. "I know that you have a good relationship with Bo Ye. I also like Bo Ye."

Qin Shu also stopped eating and looked at Fu Tingyan's confession in front of everyone. Although it was within her expectations, she was still a little surprised.

Fu Tingyu frowned and still didn't say anything.

Bo Ye had just eaten a mouthful of rice when he heard Fu Tingyan's words. She didn't know whether to swallow or spit the rice in his mouth. She was left in an awkward position.

Fu Tingyan explained again, "Grandma, when I say I like Bo Ye, I meant that I want to be with him for the rest of my life, just like big brother and sister-in-law."

"Oh." The Old Madam was old and her reaction was a little slow. She seemed to have suddenly thought of something and stared at Fu Tingyan with widened eyes. "What did you say? You and Bo Ye, you're both men. How can you be together?"

Bo Ye did not expect Fu Tingyan to suddenly come out of the closet. He did not even discuss it with her.

It was also at this time that she understood what he meant when he said that she should be mentally prepared.

She grabbed Fu Tingyan's hand and explained to the Old Madam, "Grandma, he was joking, you don't have to believe him."

"Oh, I knew it, how can two men be right? So it was a joke, it scared me to death." The Old Madam was really shocked and only then did she relax.

Fu Tingyan turned his head to look at Bo Ye. He didn't know whether he was disappointed or not by her reaction. In any case, he felt a little uncomfortable.

He ignored Bo Ye because no matter what Bo Ye thought, he had already made up his mind.

"Grandma, I'm not joking. I'm making it official today."

The Old Madam was stunned for a long time before she asked, "What do you mean?"

Fu Tingyan held Bo Ye's hand tightly and repeated, "Because I like Bo Ye. I want to be with him for the rest of my life, which means that we will get married."

"But, you are also a man. How can a man and a man ... be married?" The Old Madam didn't know what to say. She turned her head to look at Fu Tingyu, "Little Yu, tell him that men and men can not be together."

Fu Tingyu tried to comfort the Old Madam. "Grandma, let's eat first. I'll talk to Yan later."

The Old Madam was slightly relieved when her eldest grandson spoke. However, she had lost her appetite.

Fu Tingyan looked at his brother, Fu Tingyu. His expression was not good either. This was all within his expectations, so he was mentally prepared.

Bo Ye looked down at the rice bowl in front of her. She too had lost her appetite.

After lunch, Xiao Jiu originally wanted to practice martial arts with his uncle. Seeing that the Old Madam was unhappy, he held her hand and walked into the courtyard. "Grandma, after lunch, you have to walk to digest your food. It's good for your health."

"Xiao Jiu is so sensible. Let's take a walk with Grandma." The Old Madam's heart softened when she saw Xiao Jiu. The grandma and grandson held hands and walked to the backyard.

At this time, only Fu Tingyu, Qin Shu, Fu Tingyan, and Bo Ye were left in the living room.

Fu Tingyu and Qin Shu sat at the head seat and looked at them without saying a word.

Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye stood in the middle of the living room with their backs straight.

In the living room, it was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop. The atmosphere was a little tense because of Fu Tingyu's aura.

After a moment of silence, Fu Tingyu's voice was a little cold. "Say what you said at the dinner table again."

Fu Tingyan straightened his back and said one sentence after another, "I like Bo Ye just like how you like my sister-in-law. I want to be with him for the rest of my life."

Fu Tingyu asked again, "When did you start liking men?"

He had watched his younger brother grow up. If he really liked men, he should be able to tell a little.

Fu Tingyan explained, "I only like Bo Ye. It just so happens that he's a man. I'm not interested in other men at all."

Bo Ye turned his head to look at Fu Tingyan.. She pursed her lips, and complicated emotions welled up in his eyes.

Chapter 913: Tragic

Fu Tingyu turned to look at Bo Ye, who was standing beside Fu Tingyan. He had seen her several times, and this was probably the first time he was sizing her up seriously.

Bo Ye's body was slightly thin, and his height was about the same as a girl's, about 5.6 feet.

In terms of looks, Bo Ye could be said to be very good-looking.

However, he still could not understand why his brother liked a man.

He looked at Fu Tingyan again. "Then have you ever thought that liking a man is just a momentary curiosity of yours?"

Fu Tingyan said, "Bro, I spent more than a year to admit that I like him. After studying martial arts on the mountain for a few years, I thought very clearly that I was not just curious, but very serious."

As soon as Fu Tingyan finished speaking, the living room fell into silence once again.

It was rare for Qin Shu to see Fu Tingyan speak so seriously about something. She remembered that in the apartment at Imperial College, Fu Tingyan was always in an argument with Bo Ye. Maybe that was how relationships were developed.

When she saw Fu Tingyan, she couldn't help but think of Fu Tingyu when she was young. The two brothers were really a little alike.

She said, "The matters of love are your own matters. If you are truly sincere, your brother will definitely not interfere too much. By asking this, he is also asking you to take responsibility for what you have said."

Fu Tingyan had thought of all the outcomes, but he didn't expect Qin Shu to say these words. It was obvious that she was speaking up for him.

"I understand. I will also take responsibility for what I have said."

Fu Tingyu turned his head to look at his wife. Her words had prevented him from saying anything else.

Feeling the man's gaze, Qin Shu looked at him sideways. She raised her brows at him as if asking him that was she wrong?

Fu Tingyu looked away helplessly and then at the two people opposite him again. "What about him?"

"Coming out of the closet was my personal choice. It was to make it easier for me to pursue him. As for him..." Fu Tingyan turned his head to look at Bo Ye. "He doesn't hate me."

Speaking of which, he was a little useless. In the past three years, other than knowing that Bo Ye didn't hate him, he hadn't made any progress at all.

Bo Ye pursed her lips and remained silent.

The meaning in Fu Tingyan's words was already very obvious. He had come out of the closet before the two of them are together.

Having had no progress in the past three years ... it was a little tragic.

Fu Tingyu then thought of the time he had spent chasing his wife. It was even more tragic.

Fu Tingyu said, "Call your mother and let her know in advance."

Fu Tingyu reminded Fu Tingyan to call his mother and not his father. His father might not be able to accept that his son liked men.

"I got it, Bro." Fu Tingyan asked him tentatively, "Bro, you don't object?"

Fu Tingyu sneered. "You live your life, not me."

Fu Tingyan was rendered speechless.

Although what Fu Tingyu said made sense, why did he feel that his brother was gloating?

Fu Tingyu then instructed, "As for grandmother, she's getting too old to be shocked, so let's keep things between us."

Fu Tingyan asked, "If grandmother asks, what should I do?"

"Wait until you're really together, then we'll talk." Fu Tingyu was really unable to accept it. After he said that, he stood up and didn't forget to hold his wife's hand as they walked out.

Qin Shu followed the man's footsteps. When she passed by Fu Tingyan, she didn't forget to cheer him on. "Good luck. I hope you can get the beauty back soon."

Fu Tingyan smiled and said sexily, "Thank you, sister-in-law, for your kind words."

The corner of Fu Tingyu's mouth twitched as he heard their words.

After Fu Tingyu and Qin Shu left, only Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye were left in the living room.

Bo Ye didn't say a word from the beginning to the end.

Fu Tingyan didn't expect her to say a word. It had been three years, it was already a good thing that she didn't just turn around and leave.

Bo Ye looked up at him. "Why didn't you mention coming out of the closet to me?"

Fu Tingyan said, "Didn't I just say that coming out of the closet is to prove my determination to pursue you, and also to prove that I don't care about other people's opinions?"

Bo Ye said, "There's still no need to come out of the closet."

"Let's not talk about this for now. It's already done." Fu Tingyan looked down at him. "Then when can you give me an answer?"

Bo Ye replied, "I haven't thought about this."

Fu Tingyan had heard similar words many times, so he had some immunity. He said, "Then let's start thinking about it from now on. I have plenty of time and patience."

Bo Ye could not stand Fu Tingyan's passionate and persistent gaze. "I'll go and call my brother."

After saying that, she did not wait for Fu Tingyan to reply. She turned around and walked out. At the same time, she took out her phone and called Bo Yin.

Fu Tingyan stared at Bo Ye's receding figure for a while. He did not understand, Bo Ye clearly did not hate him, nor did he hate his touch. He had already done something more intimate than kissing, so why did she keep rejecting him?

Was it not done thoroughly enough?

Or was it because...

Just as he walked out of the living room, he heard the man say, "Bo Ye is a man."

"I know, but your brother likes him," Qin Shu said the main point.

Fu Tingyu couldn't help but ask, "Is it because he wore a skirt when he was young?"

Qin Shu had seen the photo of Fu Tingyan wearing a skirt when he was young. He was cute and soft. Who would have thought that such a cute child was a boy?

She held back her laughter and said, "It shouldn't be. Don't be so conflicted. Just let nature take its course."

Although Fu Tingyu advocated freedom of love, he had even given the Old Madam the silent treatment because of this. Seeing that his wife had always spoken up for his younger brother, he was a little surprised. "Your ability to accept things is quite fast."

Qin Shu laughed. Could she say that when she was at Imperial College, she had already noticed something?

But she didn't say it. She was afraid that Fu Tingyu would ask her that why didn't she prevent this from happening?

She asked back, "Baby Yu, don't you like to see me dressed as a man?"

Fu Tingyu emphasized his tone, "You're a woman dressed as a man, but he's not. You can't be compared."

A woman dressed as a man?

Qin Shu thought of Bo Ye's height, which was about the same as hers. Her face was much more exquisite than a man's.

"It shouldn't be, right?" wondered Qin Shu.

Fu Tingyu said, "But you look good in men's clothes."

Qin Shu turned to look at her husband and thought if she had met him as a boy in the beginning, would there have been another story?

The Old Madam was too old to know about men and men, so Fu Tingyu went to comfort her.

Qin Shu went to play with her son. When she walked over, she realized that her son had a poker card with him. At that moment, he was holding a poker card in his hand. He was using the tree in front of him as a target to practice the skill of cutting leaves with poker cards.

She stood by the side and watched. Xiao Jiu was very smart. Since he had taught him last time, not long had passed since then. He had already learned it well. He could hit the leaves in the distance and cause them to fall.

"Sister-in-law." Fu Tingyan walked over and saw the scene in front of him.. He was stunned. "Xiao Jiu, who taught you this poker technique?"

Chapter 914: Difficult Choice

"I taught him." Qin Shu tilted her head and looked behind Fu Tingyan. She didn't see Bo Ye, so she asked, "Where's Bo Ye?"

“He went to call his brother.” Fu Tingyan looked at Xiao Jiu and thought of his brother when he was young. Although he was born late, he had heard from his elders that his brother was very smart when he was young. He could learn any skill very quickly.

“What is your relationship with Bo Ye Now?” Qin Shu was half curious as his sister-in-law, she should be concerned about him.

Fu Tingyan’s reply was concise and comprehensive. “He hasn’t agreed to it.”

“Oh.” Qin Shu understood what that meant. Fu Tingyan was pursuing Bo Ye, but Bo Ye hadn’t agreed yet, so she kindly reminded him, “Then you have to work harder. You have been practicing martial arts for four years.”

Even if Qin Shu didn’t remind him, Fu Tingyan also knew that there must be a reason why Bo Ye didn’t agree.

He suddenly remembered those times when he wanted to help Bo Ye solve his physical needs, but Bo Ye rejected him.

“Was it because he didn’t like me, or was it for other reasons?” wondered Fu Tingyan.

At night, Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye went to find Jiang Yu for a drink.

Jiang Yu had changed quite a lot. He was dressed in a suit and leather shoes. He had changed from his previous youthfulness, and his personality had become more calm and steady.

In the past year, not only did he study in the company, but he also took the master’s degree exam to become a professor. He was so busy that he only had time to sleep.

Fu Tingyan asked, “Have you been in contact with Ye Xue recently?”

Jiang Yu shook his head. “No.”

Everyone’s mood changed due to the mentioning of Ye Xue.

The three of them drank wine and began to talk about their careers. As a member of a noble family, they had never come across any challenges in life.

Fu Tingyan drank while thinking about his career. He definitely had to do something he was interested in.

For example, gaming.

Bo Ye stayed at the old house for two nights. The next morning, Fu Tingyan ignored Bo Ye’s objections and accompanied her on a plane back to Zhongtai.

On the plane

Fu Tingyan stared at Bo Ye for a long time and asked, “When we get to your house, how are you going to introduce me?”

Bo ye replied, “Friend.”

Fu Tingyan was stunned for a moment.

“Well, that’s good enough for me. At least it’s only a few letters away from a boyfriend,” he thought to himself.

“Have you settled the matter of your family’s marriage alliance?”

Bo Ye realized that Fu Tingyan’s memory was really good. It had already been a few years, yet he still remembered about the marriage alliance.

“I won’t agree to it, ever.”

Fu Tingyan was quite satisfied with this answer. “If you really have no choice but to make a marriage alliance, then make a marriage alliance with me.”

Bo Ye tilted her head to look at Fu Tingyan. Although she didn’t say anything, her eyes still showed that she was surprised.

Fu Tingyan said, “I don’t care what other people think.”

In this regard, he was the same as Fu Tingyu.

Bo Ye looked out of the window. There was a thick layer of clouds outside. She asked, “Do you think that if you persist, there will definitely be a result?”

Fu Tingyan replied, “If I don’t persist, there will definitely be no result.”

Bo Ye pursed her lips. She did not know what to say. When he thought of Bo Yin, who had been waiting for her at Zhongtai, her lips pursed even tighter.

When they got off the plane, Bo Ye brought Fu Tingyan to her private apartment.

Fu Tingyan looked at the duplex apartment in front of him. A hint of doubt flashed in his eyes. “This is your home?”

“Yes, I live alone.” Bo Ye was the first to walk in. Then, she took out the key to open the door.

Bo Yin had bought this apartment for her and even hired a housekeeper for her. She hadn’t been back for more than four years, and the housekeeper would come every day to clean up, so there was no change from before she left.

Fu Tingyan followed her in and took a look at the furnishings inside. The simple style suited Bo Ye’s personality.

If it weren’t for the fact that Bo Ye was in a hurry to return to Zhongtai, he actually planned to move out of the old house. He already knew which house he wanted.

“Sit down and rest for a while. I’ll go get some water.” After putting down his suitcase, Bo Ye took the jug and went to fetch some water.

Fu Tingyan looked at Bo Ye. She had never mentioned her family. The only person she had mentioned was her brother, Bo Yin.

When he occasionally asked, Bo Ye didn't say anything.

He walked over. "Where are your parents? Do they know you're back?"

Bo Ye was stunned. She only came back to her sense when the jug was full.

Fu Tingyan saw this and a hint of doubt flashed in his eyes. He waited for a long time, but there was no answer. He asked again, "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Bo Ye replied indifferently, "I was placed in the Bo family."

"Placed in the Bo Family? So, the Bo family isn't related to you by blood?" Fu Tingyan thought of the marriage alliance. Did they use Bo Ye as a tool for the marriage alliance?

Coupled with Bo Ye's coldness, he couldn't help but guess that the Bo family didn't treat her very well.

Fu Tingyan had been successful since he was young, and the Fu family didn't need a marriage alliance.

That was why he was so angry.

"The Bo family adopted you, but they didn't treat you well. They even used you as a tool for the marriage alliance. There's really no need to stay in such a family. We'll go to the Bo Family tomorrow and break off the relationship. You'll come back to Jiangcheng with me."

Bo Ye directly rejected, "There's no need."

Fu Tingyan was puzzled. "You still want to stay in such a family?"

Bo Ye replied, "My brother treats me very well."

Fu Tingyan recalled that back in the imperial city, Bo Yin had used force to bring Bo Ye back. He was afraid that Bo Ye had run away because she wanted to avoid the marriage alliance.

No wonder she had asked him if he was interested in learning martial arts. At that time, he had seen the hope in Bo Ye's eyes for self-improvement.

"He didn't hesitate to use force to bring you back, but he couldn't stop the marriage. He drove you from home to school. Is this the result of your brother treating you well?"

Bo Ye's voice turned cold. "Who are you to comment on him?"

This was the first time he heard Bo Ye speak to him in an unfamiliar tone. Fu Tingyan was stunned for a few seconds.

Bo Ye said again, "You can leave tomorrow."

Fu Tingyan asked a little angrily, "Are you driving me away? Just because I said something I shouldn't have about your brother?"

Bo Ye did not explain. Instead, she said, "Like I've said before. You and I can be friends, but that kind of relationship cannot be allowed."

Fu Tingyan was dumbfounded. Seeing how determined Bo Ye was, he still did not give up and asked again, "Is there really no possibility at all?"

Bo Ye was silent for a while before giving him a single reply. "No."

Fu Tingyan's hands, which were hanging by his side, suddenly clenched into fists. "Say that again."

Sensing that Fu Tingyan was losing control of his emotions, Bo Ye could not help but hesitate. However, when she thought of the promise she made to Bo Yin, she could only grit her teeth and repeat, "We can be friends, but we can't be anything more."

Fu Tingyan sneered. "How can there be such a simple friendship? Like what I've said before, between you and me, it's either lovers or a stranger. It's your choice."

Bo Ye pursed her lips and fell silent.

Fu Tingyan repeated his words again. "If you choose to be lovers, I can wait for you to accept me.. If you choose to be strangers, that means, literally, we'll be strangers."

Chapter 915: Making You Feel the Pain

Be a stranger forever?

They had been together for almost five years, and their relationship had already surpassed that of good friends.

Bo Ye hesitated.

"Why aren't you saying anything?" Fu Tingyan felt that he might really be driven mad. He suddenly understood why his brother had tied Qin Shu to his side in the first place.

He couldn't understand it without experiencing it.

However, he couldn't tie Bo Ye to his side. This might be the difference between him and his brother.

"I, Fu Tingyan, am not the kind of person who pesters others. As long as you say the word, I promise I won't appear in front of you ever again."

Three years had passed. Fu Tingyan felt that he could wait. He had a lot of patience.

However, Bo Ye rejected him so decisively without any hesitation.

Then, it would be better to end the pain today.

Bo Ye felt very uncomfortable. Her heart had never ached like this before.

She asked, "Are we really going to go this far?"

"Bo Ye, I've been studying martial arts in the mountain for four years. I've never forced you to accept me. I have plenty of time to wait. Even if you want to hang on to me for the rest of my life, I'll accept that. But what about you? Do you want to use the relationship of a friend to trap me and then watch you be with someone else? Do I still have to watch as a friend? And then give you my blessings? I'm sorry, but..."

He did not finish his sentence.

He smiled. "Since you've rejected me so bluntly, then just give me an answer. That's all I need."

Bo Ye gripped the hem of her shirt tightly. The words seemed to be squeezed out from between her teeth. She asked stiffly, "Are we really going to be strangers?"

Fu Tingyan already knew the answer, yet he had to force Bo Ye to say it out loud. Now that he had heard it with his own ears, Fu Tingyan finally knew how uncomfortable it was.

"Strangers? Is this your answer?" asked Fu Tingyan.

Bo Ye pursed her lips, tacitly agreeing.

Fu Tingyan sneered, "I get it now."

Bo Ye remained silent, but her heart ached. Her chest felt as if it was blocked by something. It was so uncomfortable that it was difficult for her to breathe.

Fu Tingyan stopped laughing and looked at Bo Ye coldly. "But, I'm not willing to leave just like that."

Bo Ye looked at him in confusion, not understanding the meaning behind his words.

Fu Tingyan stared at Bo Ye for a few seconds, then suddenly took a few steps forward and pulled her into his arms. His big hand grabbed the back of Bo Ye's head and kissed her fiercely.

The kiss was full of plunder, and Bo Ye was unable to resist.

The sweetness of the spread in her mouth, but it did not stop there.

At that moment, the door was suddenly pushed open. Bo Yin stood at the door and was dumbfounded when he saw the scene in front of him.

When Bo Ye saw the person standing at the door, she wanted to push Fu Tingyan away forcefully. However, he was too strong for her.

After kissing Bo Ye, Fu Tingyan took a big bite on Bo Ye's neck before letting go.

Bo Ye gasped in pain. She looked at the person who had suddenly gone crazy in front of her in disbelief.

Fu Tingyan sneered. "Does it hurt? It'd better hurt. I want you to feel the pain. I want you to know that it hurts here." He pointed at his chest. "It hurts more than you do."

After saying that, he released Bo Ye and turned to leave.

This was probably the most elegant moment of his life so far.

It was also the most painful experience of his life.

Fu Tingyan sneered inwardly. "I now know what they mean by a worthless relationship!"

It was probably referring to him. He plunged his head into the pain without any regret or thought of stopping.

He did not expect it to end like this.

When he passed Bo Yin, he said, "If you don't have the ability to protect him, let him go."

When Bo Yin came back to his senses, Fu Tingyan had already walked out. He looked at Bo Ye and found that her lips were red and swollen, and there was blood. There was also blood slowly oozing out of her neck.

Bo Ye stood in front of the bar counter. Her body was stiff and she couldn't feel any pain for a while.

"Bo Ye." Bo Yin didn't have the time to ask what had happened. He quickly took out the medical kit with a dark face and bandaged Bo Ye's wound.

Bo Yin had come over because he had received a call from Bo Ye. He didn't expect to see any of this.

The person he had carefully protected for more than a decade was taken into another man's arms. Although he was very angry, his heart still ached for her.

When Bo Yin bandaged Bo Ye's wound, she did not say a word and remained silent.

After he had finished bandaging Bo Ye, Bo Yin asked, "What's going on between you and him? Didn't you promise me?"

"I promised you. I didn't go back on my word. Bro, I'm a little tired. I want to go to bed."

After saying that, Bo Ye did not wait for Bo Yin to speak. She stood up and walked straight into her bedroom. She then closed the door as if isolating herself from all pain and unhappiness.

Bo Yin squatted in front of the sofa and looked at the tightly shut door with his brows furrowed.

Fu Tingyan took a plane back to Jiangcheng overnight, but he did not return to the old house. Instead, he went to Jiang Yu's house.

Jiang Yu had been living alone ever since he returned to Jiangcheng, so his house was quite empty.

Fu Tingyan explained the situation in a concise manner.

"We brothers are really on the same boat. We are both single." Jiang Yu sighed and poured a glass of wine for Fu Tingyan and himself.

"But Bo Ye is a man. It's normal that he won't accept you. You can still learn from your mistakes," he advised.

"Come on. I Won't fall in love again. Even if I'm gay..." Fu Tingyan smiled and looked at Jiang Yu. "I'd rather be with you. At least you won't be so heartless."

"You're drunk. You're not my type." Jiang Yu smiled and shook his head. He picked up the wine and started drinking.

"You're not my type either." Fu Tingyan laughed softly. He picked up the wine glass and drank it in one gulp. He felt that it was not enough. He picked up the wine bottle again and was about to drink from the bottle, but Jiang Yu snatched it away, "Don't drink anymore. Go and sleep. Just treat it as if you've died once. When you wake up tomorrow, you'll be a brand new guy."

"Don't mind me. I'll drink some more. Then, I'll sleep until the sky turns dark. Maybe I'll be able to recover with full health then."

“Okay, I’ll leave some wine for you. Go to sleep after you’re finished.”

Jiang Yu tidied the table and only left a small amount of wine for Fu Tingyan. Then, he left the room.

When he went to work the next day, he didn’t wake Fu Tingyan up and allowed him to sleep until whenever he pleased.

Jiang Yu was now the president of a branch. He would be very busy every day. He had an assistant by his side, but he still lacked a secretary.

“President Yu, yesterday, the human resources department selected three more suitable candidates for the secretary position. Are you going to interview them personally, or should I do it for you?” Special Assistant Xu asked.

“I’ll leave that to you,” Jiang Yu replied without raising his head.

“Yes, sir.” The assistant turned around and walked out of the President’s office. He went straight to the interview room. The three candidates were already waiting there.

Ye Xue was a little nervous because this was her first time interviewing for the position of secretary. The receptionist had said that the requirements were very high. She did not have any problems with her academic qualifications, but her communication skill was her weakness. She was afraid that she would be eliminated.

Fortunately, she was the last one to be interviewed, so she still had time to mentally prepare herself.

Chapter 916: Do You Have a Boyfriend?

The two girls in front of her went in for the interview one after another. When they came out, both of them were smiling, which meant that the interview went very smoothly.

Ye Xue was very confident in her abilities, except that her communication skills were her weakness. However, she was much better than she was a few years ago.

During the interview, Ye Xue could respond to all the questions raised by the interviewer smoothly.

Special assistant Xu asked, “May I ask, do you have a boyfriend?”

Ye Xue was stunned for a moment, then she asked, “Does a secretary have such a request?”

Special assistant Xu explained, “This question can be answered or not answered. The main reason is that we wish the secretary to be focused on his or her work instead of somewhere else. I’ve fired two secretaries before because their attention was in the wrong place. I wonder if Miss ye can understand what I mean?”

Ye Xue heaved a sigh of relief. She almost thought that the company would ask about her personal matters. As for what special assistant Xu meant, she roughly understood that they were recruiting capable secretaries and gold diggers.

“I understand. Special assistant Xu, you can rest assured that my attention will be on work.”

Special assistant Xu said, "In that case, go back and wait for further notice. If you don't receive the notice within two days, it means that you didn't pass the interview."

"Thank you, Special assistant Xu." Ye Xue tightened her shoulder strap and turned to leave the interview room. Only after coming out did her nervous mood ease up a little.

Now, she just had to wait for the result.

However, she had also prepared for the worst. The worst-case scenario was that she would go to another company for an interview.

The reason why she came here was mainly that Xinyue Group was one of the top five companies in the country. It was a perfect place to start a career.

Ye Xue fastened her bag and walked out of Xinyue Group's office building.

It was very easy to take a taxi near the entrance of the company.

Jiang Yu walked out of the office building with even steps.

The driver, Xiao Yang, had already driven the car to the entrance of the company. When he saw his boss coming out, he took the lead to open the car door and wait.

Jiang Yu walked to the front of the car and was about to get in when he saw a figure not far away from him from the corner of his eye. He paused as he got into the car. He felt that the figure looked like Xiao Xue.

He suddenly raised his head to look at the roadside and saw a military green figure sitting in the taxi. He could not see the person's face clearly.

Could it be that he had seen wrongly?

Jiang Yu got into the car with a trace of doubt.

Special Assistant Xu also got into the car and reminded him, "Sir, there's a meeting at two o'clock in the afternoon."

Jiang Yu was still thinking about the figure he saw just now when his phone suddenly rang, pulling his thoughts back.

The call came from Mrs. Jiang.

"Mom, what's the matter?"

"Son, aren't you short of a Secretary? I found one for you. She's outstanding in all aspects."

Jiang Yu glanced at special assistant Xu with a cold gaze.

Special assistant Xu lowered his head guiltily. He didn't want to say it, but the other party was his boss's mother. How could dare keep anything from her?

Jiang Yu retracted his gaze and replied, "Mom, I've already found my secretary."

“That’s fine too. Let your secretary do something else. I’ve already asked Lin Wan to report to your company tomorrow. It’s settled then.”

After saying that, Mrs. Jiang hung up the phone, not giving Jiang Yu a chance to refuse.

She looked at the phone and sighed. “Alas! Mom is doing this for your own good. Only with a new start can you forget about Xiao Xue.”

Actually, Mrs. Jiang didn’t even know who Xiao Xue was. She had heard Jiang Yu call Xiao Xue’s when he had a fever. As someone who had been through it, she could roughly guess what was going on.

Jiang Yu frowned. “Special assistant Xu, you know that my mother arranged a secretary for me, and you went to interview new secretaries for me. Good one.”

Special assistant Xu quickly explained, “President, I wouldn’t dare do such a thing! Madam is only asking about your recent situation. I only said that you’re very busy and didn’t know that Madam arranged a secretary for you.”

Jiang Yu’s brows were still furrowed and wondered. “Who is this Lin Yuan?”

Special assistant Xu asked carefully, “President, are we still going to hire a secretary?”

Jiang Yu said, “The company can’t lose its credibility. We’ll hire a secretary, but we’ll first arrange something else for her to do.”

Special assistant Xu said, “Understood.”

A few days later, in Bright Garden

Fu Tingyu received a call from his mother. “Son, what happened to Yan?”

Fu Tingyu asked, “You already know about it? Don’t you agree?”

“I agreed. But yesterday, I asked him how his progress was and when he was going to bring his boyfriend over. He said that his career was more important now and that he wouldn’t consider his personal problems for the time being. Did you hear that from him? There’s obviously a problem.”

Mothers knew their sons well. When she heard that, Mu Shengwan knew that something must have happened to her youngest son.

Fu Tingyu said, “My younger brother has been working in the company for a day and has moved out of the old house. He even registered a company. As for personal issues, I haven’t heard about them. Mother, don’t be anxious. I’ll go ask him.”

“It’s fine if Yan doesn’t want to talk about it. I feel like he has suddenly grown up. There will always be bumps on the road in life. Only through experience can he grow up,” Mu Shengwan said earnestly.

“I know, Mother.”

Fu Tingyu hung up the phone and called Fu Tingyan again.

“Come to Bright Garden for dinner tonight.”

Fu Tingyan: "Alright, Bro."

Qin Shu waited for Fu Tingyu to hang up the phone before asking, "What's wrong with Yan?"

Fu Tingyu said, "Maybe there's a relationship problem."

Qin Shu nodded. She guessed that there must be a conflict between Fu Tingyan and Bo Ye.

It was almost dinner time

When Fu Tingyan came to Bright Garden, he bought a toy.

Xiao Jiu knew that Fu Tingyan was coming when he came back from school, so he brought Boss to guard the Moon Cave Door. When he saw Fu Tingyan walk in, he carried Boss and went up to him.

"Uncle, you're finally here."

Fu Tingyan smiled and squatted down. He handed the toy he bought to him. "Xiao Jiu, look what Uncle bought for you."

"Uncle, this is the latest model of the remote-controlled plane. It's also the sales version. I was planning to buy this model, but I didn't expect my uncle to buy it for me. Uncle, you're so nice."

Xiao Jiu looked at the remote-controlled plane in his hand. This model of the remote-controlled plane cost more than 15,000 dollars. It was very good in terms of the material and the performance. It had a navigation function and could also be used for aerial photography. The battery could last for an entire day.

Fu Tingyan saw that Xiao Jiu liked it, so he was happy. "After dinner, uncle will play with you."

"Okay, uncle. Let's go in first. My parents are already waiting inside." Xiao Jiu held Fu Tingyan's hand and walked inside.

At the dining table

The four of them sat around the dining table, eating dinner slowly.

Xiao Jiu had the same eating habits as Fu Tingyu. He was elegant and quiet.

Xiao Jiu was thinking about the remote-controlled plane, so he ate a little faster than usual.

Fu Tingyan ate the dinner in front of him carelessly. From time to time, he would look up at the two people opposite him. Usually, his brother would ask him to come to Bright Garden for a meal because he had something to tell him. If he didn't have something to tell, he wouldn't ask him to come to Bright Garden for a meal.

However, his brother said nothing and they were halfway through the meal.

He asked, "Bro, is there something you wanted to say?"

Chapter 917: The Trouble Caused by Giving a Man a Massage

Fu Tingyu looked up at Fu Tingyan. He appeared no different from usual. With an air of indifference, he asked, "What's the progress with your problem?"

“Oh.” Fu Tingyan swallowed his food and responded casually, “I’ve decided to put my career first. I’ve already given up on the problem.”

Fu Tingyan continued with his meal, seemingly unconcerned by Fu Tingyu’s question. He still preferred the food prepared at Bright Garden to what he was eating now.

Fu Tingyan meant that it was useless for a bachelor like him to consider anything more than his career since he was not in a relationship. Therefore, it was pointless talking about anything else for the moment.

Fu Tingyu and Qin Shu looked at each other. They both knew how significant the matter was.

Fu Tingyan had come out of the closet the day he returned. His words were firm and resolute, broking no room for discussion, and there could be none when he spoke so seriously.

It had only been a few days since he made the announcement. Had he given up on the idea already?

Qin Shu shot Fu Tingyan a glance. For him to speak so calmly made it sound like more than two days had passed since the day of the incident.

Could something have happened when they sent Bo Ye back?

Xiao Jiu finished his last mouthful of rice. He wiped the stains around his mouth using a paper napkin. After which, he turned to Fu Tingyan and said, “Uncle, I’m full.”

“I’m done too. Let’s go. Uncle will bring you to the backyard to play.” Fu Tingyan put down his chopsticks, mimicking his nephew’s actions. “Brother, sister-in-law, I’ll bring Xiao Jiu to the backyard to play for a while.”

Fu Tingyu nodded. “Okay.”

Fu Tingyan lifted Xiao Jiu from his chair and carried him to the backyard.

Qin Shu watched Fu Tingyan carry Xiao Jiu away, “Xiao Yan seems to have been deeply hurt by the incident.”

Fu Tingyu knew his younger brother well. He was not one to give up so easily – not after he had made such a reckless declaration. Everyone has a bottom line; it just so happened that his younger brother expressed it differently from most others.

Fu Tingyan’s bottom line was his pride.

“I’m sure he’ll bounce back soon enough.”

“I hope, for his sake, that it’ll be as you say.” Qin Shu murmured.

“Oh right, I’ll be going to Xiyan tomorrow with Mo Chengxu. I shouldn’t be gone for more than a few weeks. The dress ought to be ready by then. We can take our wedding photos when I return,” Fu Tingyu said.

“Okay. Don’t worry about me. I won’t be at home.” Qin Shu continued eating.

Fu Tingyu paused and turned to his wife. Seeing her indifferent expression, he asked, "Aren't you going to come with me?"

Qin Shu shook her head. "No, I plan to go to Nan Yue."

"What are you going to Nan Yue for?" Fu Tingyu asked.

"Do you still remember Yun Yao?"

"Yes, I do. Are you going to look for Yun Yao?"

"Yes. Yun Yao asked for my help, so I'm going to see what I can do for him."

"... You agreed?" Fu Tingyu's eyes darkened.

"I did. I'm not going to Nan Yue just to return a favour, you know. I'm also going to see Master Baili."

Qin Shu missed Master Baili. She did not know what had transpired between Master Baili and her mother for him to leave so suddenly.

Fu Tingyu could see that Qin Shu had already made up her mind, so he did not stop her. "Fine. Be careful when you go."

"Don't worry. I'll be fine. You, on the other hand, should bring a few more bodyguards with you," Qin Shu reminded him.

Fu Tingyu nodded. "I will."

Qin Shu ate another two mouthfuls before whispering in Fu Tingyu's ear. "You've been so busy at work lately. Would you like a massage later?"

Fu Tingyu was in a bad mood, but when he felt Qin Shu's breath against his skin, her voice in his ears, his throat tightened, and his heart raced. It was like a feather tickling his heart.

It was not the end, however. Qin Shu worked her way around Fu Tingyu's tense shoulders, easing the knots through the thin fabric of his navy blue shirt. Her soft touch sent a jolt down his spine, tingling the firm muscles around his shoulders and back.

"I taught myself a few tricks. This technique is said to improve sleep and relax the body. What do you think?"

He could feel Qin Shu's body against his; the heat radiating off of her, coupled with the heater in the dining room, quickly made him feel hot and thirsty.

"It's amazing... No, it's more than that..." Fu Tingyu rasped, his voice full of expectation.

—

Fu Tingyu worked through the night, only exiting his study in the wee hours before dawn. He immediately went for a shower.

When Qin Shu stepped out of the small study, she happened to see Fu Tingyu walking out of the bathroom with only a towel wrapped around his waist. His black hair was still dripping wet.

Fu Tingyu had a killer figure, the envy of any runway model. He had muscles in all the right places, chiselled, clearly defined, and yet supple.

His six-pack abs were displayed, tapering to a cut, V-shaped mermaid line. The position of the towel was just right to expose the sexy mermaid line. He was the epitome of masculine perfection.

Fu Tingyu dried his wet hair with a towel. He became aware of a presence at the door and looked up, seeing his wife staring at him. "Weren't you going to give me a massage? Let's start."

"Okay." Qin Shu smiled.

Fu Tingyu led the way to their Alaskan King-sized bed, beckoning over his shoulder for Qin Shu to follow. He was eager to receive the massage promised to him.

"Give me a moment. Let me get the essential oil." Qin Shu squatted by the bedside table and opened the drawer. She took out the bottle of essential oil she had prepared beforehand.

Opening it, she poured out a little and applied it to Fu Tingyu's back.

"I'm going to start," she said as she eased him in.

"Okay," Fu Tingyu responded. He could feel Qin Shu's hands working their way up and down his back and around his shoulders; her touch sent a current through his skin, pulling at his nerves and pinning his muscles. Now and then, he could not help but tense up when she kneaded a particularly sensitive spot.

Qin Shu adjusted her strength every time she felt him tense. Applying too much pressure was as bad as using too little; it had to be just right. "Relax. Close your eyes and enjoy it."

Fu Tingyu did not say a word, doing his best to unwind.

He could not tell if Qin Shu was trying to help him or torture him instead.

Around half an hour into the session, Qin Shu asked, "Baby Yu, how do you feel?"

"You mean how I feel now?" Fu Tingyu quipped hoarsely.

Qin Shu nodded. "Yes. If it feels good, I'll continue for a while more."

Fu Tingyu managed a muffled laugh. "Come closer, and I'll tell you."

Qin Shu supported herself on the bed with both hands, confused. She did as her husband bade, leaning in closer. "How do you feel?"

"I feel good, so good that I can't hold out any longer." Fu Tingyu lunged forward, grabbing her arm and pulling her into his arms.

Qin Shu only felt the world spinning around her. Suddenly, she felt a pair of warm lips pressing against her, catching her off guard.

Though taking her by surprise, Qin Shu could guess what Fu Tingyu wanted.

Wasn't it supposed to be just a massage?

How did she end up in this position?

Fu Tingyu eyed her hungrily. "Babe, what do you think of my massage?"

"You tricked me! All you want is revenge!" Qin Shu cried unhappily.

Fu Tingyu chuckled. "Babe, you've got it all wrong. How could I think of taking revenge?"

"Y-you rascal!"

"Babe, don't you think my massage is better than yours?"

Fu Tingyu used all of Qin Shu's techniques on her. At times, his strength was light and at others, heavy. He concentrated his efforts in a specific area.

Qin Shu could not take it anymore, and so she threatened, "Enough, enough. If you don't stop, you'll force my hand!"

Fu Tingyu chuckled again, "Babe, you've sure got some moves. Let me help you there... I'll give you your heart's desire.."

Chapter 918: Chao Yan Found Out

Qin Shu vowed she would never give Fu Tingyu a massage again. She did not want to set herself up just as she had done so.

Fu Tingyu knew every inch of her body. He knew how to make her cry out in pleasure and pain.

He knew her weak spots and what would make her beg for mercy.

It was not until midnight that Fu Tingyu stopped tormenting Qin Shu, hugging her to sleep with a self-satisfied smile.

—

The next day...

Qin Shu only woke when the sun reached its zenith. The space beside her was empty. Fu Tingyu had already left.

Recalling the events that occurred the previous night, she sighed. "Tingyu was in good spirits... His physical condition has improved."

Fortunately, she had booked an afternoon flight, or she would have missed the plane.

After breakfast, Qin Shu went to look for Xiao Jiu.

She found Xiao Jiu in the backyard, crouching in the horse stance.

It was part of his daily routine, and he could now hold that position for an incense stick's worth of time.

President Ba sat on his haunches atop the stone table housed in the pavilion, eyeing Xiao Jiu curiously. When he caught sight of his mistress, he hopped off his perch and dashed towards her.

"Meow!"

Qin Shu gave President Ba a fond smile. He had always been like this. Though several years had passed since she got him, President Ba was still the same as ever. She had her doubts about President Ba's seeming timelessness, but she always shelved them in the end.

Xiao Jiu noticed his mother's appearance and called out happily, "Mommy."

Qin Shu took a seat by the stone table. The bench she sat on was laden with cushions stuffed with goose feathers, soft and warm.

She glanced at the stone table. Four-fifths of the incense stick had already burned. Xiao Jiu could rest in a while.

Turning her attention to Xiao Jiu, she wheedled her son gently, "Mommy is going abroad in the afternoon. I'll be back in five days. You stay at home and be good for Mommy, okay?"

Xiao Jiu maintained his horse stance and did not move. He asked, "Can't Mommy bring me along? I promise I'll be good! I won't cause any trouble."

Xiao Jiu seldom took the initiative to follow her. Perhaps it was because he was older and liked to see new things.

"Do you really want to tag along? It won't be all fun and games; Mommy's going there to run some errands."

Xiao Jiu nodded vigorously. "Yes, I want to go with Mommy."

Qin Shu mulled over her son's request. She was not planning on doing anything dangerous. It should be fine for Xiao Jiu to go with her.

She could not bear to reject him – not when he behaved so sensibly.

"What about school? Don't you want to spend time with your friends? If you go with Mommy, you won't see them for at least a week."

"I know everything the teacher teaches. It's boring! I'm not going to miss anything, even if I miss a few days of school. I want to spend time with Mommy!" Xiao Jiu answered seriously.

Her son's words struck a chord. Giggling, she said, "Mommy would not know what she would do without you either."

"Then... Does that mean I can go with Mommy?" Xiao Jiu asked, hopeful.

Qin Shu smiled gently. "Of course, you can come with me. My Xiao Jiu is so obedient. How could I bear to disappoint you?"

"Mommy's the best!" Xiao Jiu nearly jumped with joy. If it were not for the fact that time was not up, he would have buried himself in his mother's arms.

Qin Shu helped Xiao Jiu with his luggage once she had decided to allow him to follow her.

Xiao Jiu packed everything his mother picked out for him, bringing even the remote-controlled plane his father had bought for him.

Besides Xiao Jiu, Qin Shu had Ye Luo and President Ba accompany her. They would watch over him while she was busy.

Qin Shu dressed in men's clothing for convenience's sake. The outfit she chose was similar to the one she wore to Qingyun Manor.

Xiao Jiu took a few seconds to recognize his mother when she walked out of the master bedroom. Stunned, he asked, "Mommy, why are you wearing your brother's clothes?"

Qin Shu wore a black hoodie over a plain shirt with matching pants. With her hair hidden under her hoodie and her immaculate features, no one would have known she was a woman and mother of a young child.

In her present get up, Qin Shu gave off the image of a sunny and handsome young man.

She bent down to look at her son and instructed, "You should call your mother Mommy at home, but when we're out, you should call me Big Brother, okay?"

Although Xiao Jiu found his mother's instructions puzzling, he did not ask for an explanation. He knew there must have been a good reason for his mother to do what she was doing.

"Okay, Mommy."

Qin Shu held her son's hand. "Let's go."

—

The plane arrived at Nan Yue at four in the afternoon the next day.

Yun Yao told Seymour to pick him up.

It appeared that Young Master Ling had brought a bodyguard and a little boy with him. In the boy's arms was a black cat.

"Young Master Ling, who is this boy?"

Xiao Jiu gripped Qin Shu's hand tightly and answered before his mother had a chance to respond. "I'm his younger brother."

Surprise flashed in Seymour's eyes. "Ah, so it's Young Master Ling's younger brother. Please follow me to the car."

Qin Shu held her son's hand and got into the car. Ye Luo sat in the passenger seat.

Seymour said, "I believe Young Master Ling already knows what the problem is. There has been another breach in Qingyun Manor's security. My master hopes you'll be able to catch the perpetrator."

"I'll try my best," was all Qin Shu said upon learning of what had happened at Qingyun Manor.

She spoke in the same tone as she had the first time they met. It was Low-key and modest, but not subservient. "Then I'll have to trouble young Master Ling."

—

Two hours later, at Qingyun Manor...

Yun Yao personally received them.

"I've asked someone to prepare breakfast. Young Master Ling should rest after the meal. I know how long the journey must have been for you to arrive so soon."

Qin Shu did not refuse Yun Yao's hospitality. She was quite tired after the long flight to Nan Yue.

She would need all her faculties if she hoped to catch the culprits responsible for the breach in Qingyun Manor. Being sleep-deprived would only hamper her abilities.

The courtyard Yun Yao arranged for them was not very large. It was smaller than the one she and Fu Tingyu had had.

The food arrived shortly.

Qin Shu led Xiao Jiu to a seat at the table and sat down. Just as she picked up her chopsticks, she noticed Ye Luo standing to one side with President Ba in his arms. She smiled, gesturing to an empty chair, "Sit down and join us. While we're here, you don't need to stand on ceremony."

Xiao Jiu also turned to look at Ye Luo. "Uncle Ye, let's eat together. We should rest for a bit after breakfast."

Ye Luo remained hesitant, President Ba nestled in his arms. It went against propriety. It just was not done.

Xiao Jiu could see Ye Luo's inner conflict and hopped off his chair, going up to the uncertain man with his hand outstretched. "Uncle Ye, let's eat together. After we have a good rest, you can teach me martial arts."

Just like that, Ye Luo was pulled to the dining table by Xiao Jiu. President Ba leapt out of Ye Luo's arms and settled himself on the chair adjacent to his human chauffeur, anxiously waiting for Ye Luo to prepare his meal.

Ye Luo was well aware of President Ba's preferences, having spent a lot of time with the nefarious cat. He rolled his eyes, knowing President Ba's intentions. It was almost second nature to him by now.

Ye Luo gave in once seated at the table. He picked up a fish and placed it in a clean bowl for President Ba.

"Meow," President Ba meowed at Ye Luo and dug into his meal.

Breakfast passed quietly. After which, Qin Shu tucked Xiao Jiu in bed.

Ye Luo and President Ba rested in the room next door.

Once she was sure Xiao Jiu was sound asleep, Qin Shu exited the room and went to her own.

She sent a message to Chao Yan before taking her nap.

[Qin Shu: Has an antidote been administered?]

A message caught her attention just as she was about to sleep. It was a reply from Chao Yan.

[Chao Yan: Are you in Nan Yue?]

Questions filled Qin Shu's mind. No one knew she was in Nan Yue except for them. How did Chao Yan know?

[Qin Shu: How did you know I'm in Nan Yue?]

Chapter 919: A White Lie

Qin Shu wondered if Chao Yan had been keeping an eye on her movements of late.

She would not put it past him. He always was one to look out for her.

[Chao Yan: I've been following your movements these two days.]

Qin Shu relaxed a little when she read the message. Chao Yan was still as frank as he had always been.

[Qin Shu: I'm in Nan Yue. Have you been treated for your poisoning?]

[Chao Yan: Yes. I'm better now. Will you be visiting Chao Yan Manor?]

Qin Shu heaved a sigh of relief. It was good that he had recovered from his poisoning.

Chao Yan Manor?

She remembered Chao Yan Manor as the estate on the other side of Mount Qi. She had met Chao Yan there.

Had he changed its name?

[Qin Shu: There are some matters I need to settle before considering anything else.]

[Chao Yan: Okay, I miss Xiao Jiu.]

"..." Chao Yan had only met Xiao Jiu once. It had been three years since he had last seen her son. Why would he miss Xiao Jiu?

Qin Shu put her phone back on the bedside table and closed her eyes to rest.

"Knock, knock..."

A series of knocks at her door woke her. She did not know how long she had slept.

"Knock, knock..."

The knocks on the door continued.

Qin Shu rubbed her eyes and got up, still feeling sluggish. When she opened the door, it was Seymour who greeted her. "What's the matter?" She asked, annoyed.

Apologetic, Seymour said, "I'm sorry to disturb your rest, Young Master Ling. It appears the perpetrator has returned, and my master would like you to seize this opportunity to capture the culprit in one fell swoop."

"Give me a second." Qin Shu picked up the laptop she had packed in her backpack and stepped out of her room. "Let's go."

"Young Master Ling, please follow me."

Seymour led the way, and Qin Shu followed.

Xiao Jiu was sleeping in the adjacent room. When Seymour knocked on the door, he also woke Xiao Jiu.

He woke in an unfamiliar room. Unlike most other children, Xiao Jiu was not in the least bit scared or rather, he did not allow it to show on his face. Calmly, he got down from the bed and wore his shoes. After which, he went to his mother's room and knocked on the door a couple of times, "Mommy, Mommy."

Ye Luo heard the commotion and stepped out of his room. "Young Master, the Young Madam is not inside."

Xiao Jiu turned around when he heard Ye Luo. "Uncle Ye, where did Mommy go?"

"Seymour called the Young Madam away," Ye Luo said.

Xiao Jiu thought of the man who picked them up and spoke of something called 'hacking'. "I want to look for Mommy."

Ye Luo did not waste his words asking Xiao Jiu why he was looking for his mother. He merely placed President Ba on the ground and said, "President Ba will lead you to her."

"Meow." President Ba stared at Xiao Jiu. Then, as if reaching a decision, he took the lead and strode in a certain direction, covering a surprising distance on his four short limbs.

Seeing this, Xiao Jiu broke into a trot, tailing President Ba closely.

Ye Luo accompanied Xiao Jiu and President Ba, just in case.

Qingyun Manor boasted quite an impressive security network, its defence nigh impenetrable to all but a select few. For Yun Yao to be so worried, it meant that the other party's hacking skills were a notch above his own.

Seymour led Qin Shu to the study. Yun Yao was seated at his desk, annoyance seeping out from under his mask of calm.

Two men sat at desks perpendicular to his own. Each of them faced a monitor, furiously typing away.

No one needed to guess what they were doing; it was obvious to anyone in the know.

Hearing the approaching footfalls, Yun Yao looked up and saw the young man he had not seen in four years. Age had done nothing to mar his beauty. "Young Master Ling, you're here." Yun Yao stood up and offered his hand by way of greeting.

“How long has it been?” Qin Shu asked.

“Ten minutes. Sorry to trouble you, Young Master Ling.” Yun Yao replied.

Yun Yao gave up his seat automatically, inviting Qin Shu to take over.

Qin Shu wasted no time getting down to business. She set her laptop to one side and studied the display shown on the screen before her.

Without overthinking the situation, her hands danced on the keyboard, typing in code sequences rapidly.

“Do you know what the other party’s intentions are?” She asked, her eyes fixed on the screen.

“I don’t know...” Yun Yao stared at the delicate fingers flitting about on the keyboard, mesmerized. Those hands were not as large as the average man’s, glowing fair and bright. It was so unlike anyone else he knew. They were beautiful.

Although Qingyun Manor was strong, they were not so strong that they were unbeatable. The competition was fierce.

Hackers were a common problem.

Qin Shu glanced at the two men opposite her. Why were two highly skilled hackers unable to catch one?

At this time, Xiao Jiu entered the study hot on President Ba’s heels. He was not intimidated by the older men in the room and hastened to his mother’s side.

President Ba sauntered over casually.

Once he was certain of Xiao Jiu’s safety, Ye Luo stood guard outside and did not enter.

Xiao Jiu peeked over his mother’s shoulder. His mother’s hands flew across the keyboard at an astonishing speed, crafting complicated code sequences.

Though his mother had taught him the basics, it was all theory without any real, practical application. He had never seen his mother demonstrate her abilities before.

It was a rare opportunity to learn. Seeing something firsthand is always better than hearing it from someone else. The experience is not the same.

Xiao Jiu realized he had been a toad in a well. What he practised was child’s play compared to his mother’s true ability; the difference was like heaven and earth.

Not only was he slow, but also wholly ignorant to the intricacies of code crafting. He had not even memorized the basics, let alone what his mother achieved with a flick of a finger.

Qin Shu was aware of her son. Hoping he would learn something from watching her, she decided to turn the event into an impromptu lesson.

Yun Yao eyed Xiao Jiu seriously. He looked like a student eager to learn. It was not difficult to perceive the child’s uncanny intelligence.

Qin Shu paused, feeling a little regretful. Perhaps she had been too heavy-handed... "The other party has retreated."

Yun Yao frowned. The other party evaded capture and posed a significant risk since he did not know their motives.

"They'll probably try again," Qin Shu said.

"Are you confident in their capture?" Yun Yao asked.

"I'll do my best." Qin Shu was not so arrogant to believe herself infallible.

At this moment, Xiao Jiu pointed at the computer and exclaimed, "Brother, look at the computer."

Qin Shu swivelled around. The other party had retreated, but now they were back already?

Her hands returned to the keyboard.

It was her territory. She could do whatever she wanted with a click of a button.

Xiao Jiu noticed a laptop by the side. It was his mother's.

He grabbed it and booted it up. After connecting to the internet, he imitated his mother and began coding.

Yun Yao shook his head knowingly. He had read the siblings like a book. True to his older brother's pedigree, the younger also knew how to hack, and his skill was not half bad for someone his age. His hands might not have been a tenth of his brother's speed, but if kept at it, there was little doubt he would become a force on par with his elder sibling. Yun Yao firmly believed the young boy would be amazing when he grew up.

Yun Yao could not fathom the amount of time, patience, and dedication needed to reach his current level.

While other children his age were playing outside, this young boy practised increasing his hand speed.

Abruptly, Qin Shu asked Yun Yao, "What'll happen if your computer is hacked?"

Yun Yao's solemn expression said it all. "My computer houses many secrets. If those are leaked, our losses will be unimaginable."

"I'll do my best." Qin Shu's hands did not stop moving even as she spoke. Seeing her son hard at work, Qin Shu was struck with inspiration.. "Xiao Jiu, do you see that red dot on the computer screen? I talked about it in one of our lessons."

Chapter 920: Master Baili's Secret Code

"Got it, Brother." This was the first time Xiao Jiu was with her mother, so she was quite excited. She listened to her mother's instructions and logged into the computer.

Qin Shu said again, "Just go around that red dot."

Xiao Jiu did as he was told.

The two hackers from Qingyun Manor looked at the two people in front of the desk, one big and one small. They felt that those two people weren't taking this serious, especially that little boy. He probably wasn't even four years old yet.

The two hackers were hired by Qingyun Manor at a high price. They were ranked in the top five on the hacker rankings.

"Master Yun, we are in the top five on the hacker rankings. Even if you don't trust us, don't let a nameless nobody and a child make us look bad."

"Master Yun is clear about our ability. There are very few people who can surpass us. I'm afraid that if we can't do something, nobody else can."

Yun Yao did not tell the two hackers that what happened a few years ago was done in complete secrecy.

Therefore, they did not know the strength of the person in front of them.

Yun Yao chuckled. "Your strength is obvious to me. If you can't solve this, I will definitely hire someone else that can."

He glanced at the two brothers at the desk and said, "If you think that I invited these people here to embarrass you, we can make a bet."

One of the hackers asked, "What bet?"

Yun Yao said, "Well, we can bet on the fact that these people are more skilled than you. If I lose, I will pay you double the price we agreed on. If you lose, you will not be paid a single cent for your next three years in the Qingyun Manor."

The two hackers looked at each other. They did not believe that a person who was not even fully grown and a child could be more skilled than them.

"Okay."

Yun Yao smiled and did not say anything else. Yun Yao looked at Xiao Jiu and found that Xiao Jiu had a calmness that far exceeded his young age. If this were any other child, they would have refuted him long ago.

Xiao Jiu turned a deaf ear to their words. All his attention was on the computer in front of him.

Speaking of computer skills, Xiao Jiu had inherited the superior genes of his parents completely. He liked to use his strength to prove naysayers wrong, preferring to let the results speak for themselves.

Qin Shu ignored everything that had happened so far. She asked Xiao Jiu to follow her as a distraction. This was because Qin Shu was not confident of stopping the other party, and had thought of this method just in case.

She would know whether the other party was strong or not after a few rounds.

Those attempts just now indicated to Qin Shu that the hackers on the other side were very strong. Perhaps they were even stronger than her.

“Master Baili’s words were untrue,” Qin Shu thought to herself.

He said that as long as Qin Shu learned well, she would be the number one hacker.

In the past, she believed it unwaveringly.

Now, this seemed to be complete nonsense.

With Master Baili’s carefree personality, the credibility of the words he said would have to be doubted.

Qin Shu was doing her best to stop the other party from entering. She could not help but start to doubt the opponent’s identity.

Qin Shu wondered if her opponent was the black knight that ranked first on the overall rankings.

“I’m just an imposter. Do I actually want to fight?” Qin Shu questioned herself internally.

Just as Qin Shu focused her attention on stopping the other party, they sent her a message.

“Who are you?”

Qin Shu’s gaze froze. She was still curious about who the other party was. It was completely unexpected that her opponent would lose patience and ask her first.

“There’s candy in your pocket.”

Qin Shu replied briefly.

Yun Yao, who was standing at the side, saw the conversation on the screen and the corner of his mouth twitched. Was this some kind of code?

Qin Shu’s hand, which was rapidly typing on the keyboard, suddenly stopped. When she saw the sentence on the computer screen, she was completely stunned.

“Watch out for cavities.”

After a while, the other party sent another statement.

“I’m not playing anymore.”

Qin Shu felt an inexplicable sense of familiarity when she saw that statement.

In the time it took for Qin Shu to get over her shock, the opponent had retreated. This time, it was real. There was no trace of the other party at all.

Xiao Jiu saw that the red dot that he had been chasing had suddenly disappeared. He also stopped what he was doing and looked at Qin Shu in puzzlement.

Qin Shu was stunned for a long while before she said to Yun Yao, “The other party has retreated. They should not be returning again.”

Although Qin Shu's tone was not completely certain, Yun Yao also guessed that the other party might not be coming when he saw that statement about not playing.

"Thank you for your trouble, Young Brother Ling."

"I'll take my leave." Qin Shu stood up, held her son's hand with one hand, picked up the laptop on the desk with the other hand, and walked out.

Xiao Jiu followed obediently, without even glancing at the two hackers who looked down on them just now.

Yun Yao looked at them. "Did you see that?"

The two hackers looked at each other and were at a loss for words.

"Remember, three years." Yun Yao left the hackers with these words and turned to walk out.

On the other side.

There was a man clad in a gray hooded coat, sitting in front of the computer. His hood was oversized, so it covered most of his face, exposing only his beautiful lips and a thin, good-looking chin. The man's amber eyes stared intensely at the computer screen, and he seemed to be deep in thought.

Another man standing next to the sofa at the side saw that the man in front of the computer was sitting still and could not help but feel a little impatient. "Can you do it or not?"

The man in front of the computer raised his eyebrows and looked at the man who was standing beside the sofa. He smiled and stood up. His hands were in the pockets of his coat. "I'm not playing anymore."

After saying these words, he walked past the group of bodyguards at a calm pace and left.

The man who was standing beside the sofa was angered by these three words. "What's wrong with you? You can't waste our time like this. right?"

These words did not anger the man. He still walked calmly with a hint of nonchalance. Step by step, the man disappeared into the crowd.

The man standing by the sofa lowered his head to look at his master and carefully asked, "Master, should I find someone else?"

The man who was addressed as Master waved his hand. "It's useless unless you can find the black knight."

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Qin Shu held her son's hand and returned to the courtyard where they lived. Why did the conversation she had just now feel like she was talking to Master Baili?

Qin Shu knew that Master Baili had disappeared for more than ten years and had never appeared since. She wondered if that person could really be Master Baili.

“If that truly was Master Baili,” Qin Shu thought, “then why didn’t he recognize me?”

“There’s candy in your pocket.” This hacking skill was taught to Qin Shu by Master Baili. He always said this when he joked with her, and said that the statement was a code.

As they walked, Xiao Jiu noticed that Qin Shu was a little absent-minded. He looked up and tugged at her hand. “Mom, what are you thinking about?”

Qin Shu came back to her senses and looked down at her son. She smiled and praised Xiao Jiu, “It’s nothing. You did well today, Xiao Jiu.”

Xiao Jiu said, “I’m a weakling compared to Mom.”

Qin Shu could not help but laugh. “Well, you’re just a beginner. What you’ve done is already very good. After you practice some more and keep learning, you’ll certainly be better than Mom.”

Xiao Jiu asked, “Really?”

Qin Shu said, “Of course it’s true. Has Mom ever lied to you?”

Xiao Jiu smiled. “Then I will continue to work hard. I want to be better than you soon, Mom, so I can be of more help to you.”

Qin Shu nodded. “Yes. My Xiao Jiu is the best.”

After this matter was settled, Qin Shu planned to go to the ancient City of Wind and Moon.

When Qin Shu said goodbye to Yun Yao, Yun Yao wanted to ask her to stay for two more days, but she politely refused.

“I still have something to do.”