

## Chapter 1181 - Sausage

### Sausage

Yang Gongming smiled faintly, "Just tell me. You sound uneasy."

Guo Xuehua hummed as a response and reorganized her thoughts before telling Yang Gongming about the marriage contract between Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi.

After hearing her out, Yang Gongming remained silent on the chair as if he was deep in thought.

"Dad," Guo Xuehua couldn't stop herself from saying, "I think it's a bit too much. We treated this marriage seriously and announced it to the public. How could they make such a contract beforehand, marriage isn't a game."

"It's fine, it's not like we're releasing it out to the public. Only our family knows about this. Besides, that contract isn't legally valid. It's their marriage certificate and wedding ceremony that are valid. Ruoxi's only moving out, it's not a big deal."

"Dad, but...but it's about her attitude. I don't mind it, but I don't wish to see Yang Chen being treated this way...it pains me..."

Yang Gongming took a deep breath, "What did Yang Chen say about this?"

"What else can he say? He said he'll beg for her forgiveness soon. I don't get it. He's daring when it comes to other stuff, but he becomes a coward when it comes to women. It's not like he lacks admirers, why must he stay fixated on one woman?" Guo Xuehua grumbled.

Yang Gongming chuckled, "It's a good thing. It means that he has his own principles. He lived overseas for most of his life and his blood is filled with viciousness. He's capable and he likes to take actions alone. He's a real man, but these qualities of his won't be beneficial towards his family and children. Women are his weakness, and this will make him mature."

"Dad, what do you mean by that?" Guo Xuehua was puzzled.

"Place yourself in his shoes. Back when Pojun disappointed you, you weren't able to forget about him. It's not that easy to leave someone you once loved. It's normal for young lovers to break up and reconcile. You're their mother and mother-in-law, you can't take sides. Ruoxi lost her mother at a young age and she hardly experienced parental love. Her feelings towards you are special, care for her more and empathize her. Her family background caused her to have an odd personality but she's kind. I'm pretty satisfied with her even though her family background brings criticism. Besides that, the other women may love Yang Chen, but they may not be able to have him under control."

Guo Xuehua's heart softened at the thought of Lin Ruoxi and the times they had spent together. Even though she had complaints about her, they have had a fair share of warm moments together.

"Then...dad, what do you think I should do? Should I apologize to Ruoxi and beg for her forgiveness?" Guo Xuehua asked.

Yang Gongming sighed, "Silly, why would you get involved with their relationship problems? Yang Chen might look flighty, but he knows what to do. Think about it yourself, I have only one thing to say...they won't be accompanying you for the rest of your life..."

Guo Xuehua held onto the phone with a dazed expression before smiling, "Thanks dad...I know what to do now."

Yang Gongming chuckled, "I've been meaning to talk to you guys about the kid."

"Lanlan?"

"That's right," Yang Gongming said, "Bring her along on your next visit. I want to meet my great-granddaughter."

Guo Xuehua chuckled, "Nothing gets past you, I thought you'd be upset about this."

"Duh, Ruoxi registered her surname as Yang. How can I be uninformed when a new member has been added to our clan? Besides I have approved her request which means I've acknowledged the child as one of us. Now that the four generations of the Yang clan are complete, I have to meet her."

Guo Xuehua's eyes turned watery, "Thank you dad, I know you did this for me...thank you..."

Yang Chen returned home in the evening with a lethargic expression. He had been meaning to visit Lin Ruoxi, but he was afraid of making things worse.

Once he entered the house, he was greeted by Wang Ma who was getting ready to leave the house with two large suitcases.

"Wang Ma, where are you going?"

Wang Ma looked up and showed him an embarrassed smile, "Sir, I'm not going anywhere. I'm bringing some stuff over to miss. She didn't pack a lot of clothes with her. I've got to bring her clothes since it's winter."

"Where did she move to?" Yang Chen asked hurriedly.

Wang Ma smiled through her pursed lips, "Don't worry, Miss bought a house in Nanshan today. It's quite peaceful there and the security is good. She'll be alright."

Yang Chen nodded. He knew about the mansions in Nanshan. It was far from Xijiao Villas, but it was still a wealthy area. The mansions there were built along the mountain trails, a place that was filled with marvelous mountain views.

Even though transportation wasn't convenient there, the environment and land area outweighed it.

For someone with a personality like Lin Ruoxi, it made sense for her to move over there.

Yang Chen saw Wang Ma out after she told him about Lin Ruoxi's new house address and decided to go over to talk during the weekends.

He then went over to the sofa to rest. Feeling bored, he turned on the news channel.

Just as he turned on the television, they were reporting about Yu Lei's act of purchasing the Century Department Store with a high price.

It looked like Lin Ruoxi managed to take good care of her company even though she wasn't doing well emotionally.

Right at this time, Minjuan arrived home with Lanlan.

She was carrying Lanlan's backpack while Lanlan was holding onto four sticks of fried sausages.

Her oily lips showed that Lanlan already had a lot of snacks on her way back. Children could never resist the temptation of the roadside's food stalls.

Lin Ruoxi gave Lanlan lots of allowance as she had a good appetite. Minjuan always lets her eat whatever she wants, so it was a relief that Lanlan's figure barely changed.

Yang Chen's heart warmed at the sight of his daughter.

He waved his hand and motioned her over, "Chubs, come and give daddy a hug."

Lanlan stuck her tongue out and made a face, but she still jumped and landed on her Father's thighs.

An ordinary pair of father and daughter would never be able to do movements like that.

Yang Chen held onto her tummy and pinched her calves with his other hand. He could never resist her chubby flesh.

"Daddy, is mommy not home yet?" Lanlan asked.

"Mmh..." Yang Chen hesitated before saying, "Mommy went out to do something, she won't be back so soon."

Minjuan sighed softly. She heard about it from Wang Ma but there was nothing she could do other than take care of Lanlan.

Lanlan's gaze was filled with complex emotions, "Did mommy leave because I'm naughty..."

"Silly girl, what are you saying? You're so obedient, mommy will never abandon you." Yang Chen smiled.

Lanlan pouted, "Last time mommy said she was going somewhere far, and she never came back for a long time. Now that I've found her, I can't let her go again."

It felt as if someone had whipped Yang Chen's heart and it pained him to see her innocent and hopeful gaze. Cracks were starting to form on his stone-like heart.

"No, it won't happen. I promise you. Mommy will only be out for a short while; she'll be back soon to see you." Yang Chen extended his pinky, "Come, let's do a pinky swear."

Lanlan giggled and locked her pinky with him before kissing his cheeks.

Children's emotions change quickly, and soon she was back to munching on her fried sausage cheerfully while humming her newly learnt nursery rhyme.

Yang Chen touched the oily and sloppy kiss from his daughter, feeling cheered up.

## Chapter 1182

### One

At this time, Guo Xuehua came downstairs and was relieved to see them getting along with each other. She paused for a second before sitting next to them on the sofa and extending her arms towards Lanlan, "Lanlan, be a good girl and give granny a hug."

Lanlan lifted her butt and sat on Guo Xuehua's thighs. She licked her lips, tasting the last bit of the sausages while asking, "Granny, what are we eating for dinner?"

"You're such a little foodie. All you care about is food, a normal family wouldn't be able to raise you," Guo Xuehua pinched her granddaughter's nose, "We're having braised ribs with radish tonight. There's plenty of ribs."

Lanlan pouted, "Ribs aren't good. There are bones, Lanlan only eats meat."

"We can feed the stray dogs with the leftovers. It's a good thing." Guo Xuehua smiled.

Lanlan smiled and nodded hard.

Yang Chen felt at ease to see that his mother was able to play with Lanlan like normal. Just when he was about to go upstairs to shower, Guo Xuehua called him.

"Son, sit down."

"Mom, is there anything you want to tell me?" Yang Chen mumbled.

Guo Xuehua motioned Minjuan to bring Lanlan away so that she could talk to Yang Chen privately. She looked at him deeply before smiling, "I've asked someone to book me an airplane ticket to Beijing, I'll be leaving tomorrow."

"Beijing?" Yang Chen was taken aback, and he said with a frown, "Mom, are you worried that I'll blame you? I don't think it's anyone's fault, you did it because for me, and I understand that."

Guo Xuehua shook her head, "I know you're rational and I'm grateful for that. But...I think it's time for me to go back to Beijing. Your grandfather needs my care and I've not stayed with your father for a long time. I haven't been visiting my own family too..."

Yang Chen had never met his maternal grandparents. He wasn't interested in them and if they didn't come over to meet him, he wouldn't take the initiative either.

Even though Yang Chen felt that she was doing this because of what had happened yesterday, her reasoning was still valid.

"If that's what you think, I've not much to say. It is quite convenient to travel back and forth anyway." Yang Chen said.

"Your grandfather was right. I'm older than you by one generation and I'm already in my fifties. Even if I can live a long life because of you, I should still spend the rest of my life with my husband...Yang Chen, I've decided to leave but I can't ignore the matter between you and Ruoxi. Even though I feel apologetic

towards her, I can't apologize to her since I'm not the only one to blame for it...but here's something for her."

Having said so, Guo Xuehua took out the Fengxiang bracelet and passed it to Yang Chen.

"Give this bracelet to Ruoxi the next time you see her. Tell her that I have returned to Beijing. That I gave this to her and even if she doesn't want it, I won't give it to anyone else. She'll always be my daughter-in-law even if she hates me." Yang Chen sighed internally, and his heart warmed up at her apologetic smile.

It was the best she could do.

"I understand, I'll relay your words to her." Yang Chen said earnestly.

Guo Xuehua smiled happily, "One more thing, your grandfather wants to meet Lanlan and get closer to his great-granddaughter. You two should be fine with it, right? Since Lanlan is already registered as our family member."

Yang Chen didn't think it was weird since Yang Gongming wasn't one to care about blood relations. He was doing this to please Lin Ruoxi and strengthen their family bonds.

"You'll have to ask Lanlan, but she'll definitely follow you if you tell her about the good food in Beijing." Yang Chen chuckled.

Guo Xuehua shook her head helplessly and grabbed his hand, "Don't disappoint me, I hope that our family will always be complete!"

Yang Chen said nothing else and nodded firmly.

The next day, Guo Xuehua had an early breakfast before leaving for Beijing. Lanlan and Minjuan went with her too.

Even though there were plenty of maids in the Yang clan, Minjuan was much more experienced in taking care of Lanlan.

It wasn't hard to apply for leave in Lanlan's kindergarten since Guo Xuehua was pretty influential in most of the cities.

Once they had left, the only ones at home were Yang Chen and Wang Ma.

Yang Chen thought there was no point in cooking at home, so he told Wang Ma to live with her daughter for some time. She could also go to Lin Ruoxi's mansion in Nanshan and take care of her during the day.

As for himself, Yang Chen didn't worry as he could eat and sleep wherever he wanted.

During the afternoon, Ma Guifang came over and when she learned that Guo Xuehua had returned to Beijing with Lanlan, she left without saying much.

The next two days felt especially longer for Yang Chen. He had the urge to visit his wife that he didn't even have the intention to find the other ladies.

It was an odd experience for him.

Back when their relationship was doing well, he kept flirting with the other ladies but now that his wife no longer cared about him, he lost the heart to do so.

Two days passed and it was finally the weekend.

Yang Chen calculated Lin Ruoxi's usual wakeup schedule before driving over to her residential area. The security guards recorded Yang Chen's personal information before he was allowed in.

Lin Ruoxi bought a 400 square meter mansion which was located at the waist of Nanshan. Not far from her place was a man made waterfall and a terrace garden, together they made up a beautiful view.

People could move into the nicely renovated mansions immediately which served to make things easy for rich people.

Yang Chen parked his car and walked to Lin Ruoxi's house. It took some time for Lin Ruoxi's face to show up at the intercom.

She was still dressed in her pyjamas with unkempt hair and bare face. The dark eye circles beneath her eyes showed that she hadn't been sleeping well.

Lin Ruoxi cocked her head and stared at the screen for a long time with a dazed expression as if she couldn't recognize Yang Chen.

After some time, she finally snapped out of it and snorted. A second later, Lin Ruoxi turned off the intercom!

Yang Chen stood in front of the door with a stiff smile. He had been refused entrance.

While scratching his head, Yang Chen took a few steps back and observed the mansion's layout.

Once he saw the balcony, he jumped onto it with a light bounce.

The balcony was elegantly decorated with some parasols and European styled table sets.

Before he could step into the house, Lin Ruoxi had walked out to the balcony with a cold expression.

Yang Chen brightened up, "Dear, did you come out here to see me? Why did you come out with only pyjamas? It's cold outside..."

"Leave. I don't want to see you." Lin Ruoxi cut him off.

Yang Chen's face fell, "Hey...hear me out first. It's been two days; you shouldn't be angry anymore."

"Angry? I'm not angry, why would I be? There's no point in being angry at some people." Lin Ruoxi sneered.

Judging by her attitude, Yang Chen knew it was impossible to coax her, so he took out the Fengxiang bracelet and walked towards her.

"I don't care if you're still mad at me. I want to tell you that mom went back to Beijing with Lanlan and she told me to tell you this. She feels sorry towards you, but she couldn't apologise to you personally. She told me that she'll only give this bracelet to you and even if you refuse to wear it, she wouldn't give it to any other woman."

Lin Ruoxi cast a complex gaze at the jade bracelet, but she still stayed rooted to the ground.

Yang Chen held her hand gently and pushed the bracelet into her wrist.

Lin Ruoxi's eyes brimmed with tears but when she snapped out of it, she pulled the bracelet out of her wrist and pushed it back to Yang Chen.

"I don't want it, take it back. This is for the daughter-in-law of the Yang clan. Our marriage is based on a contract, I don't want to be a fake daughter-in-law."

Lin Ruoxi turned around and wiped her eyes. It seemed as if there was no way to change her mind.

Yang Chen's head was throbbing, "Lin Ruoxi, we're no longer young, we're adults as well as parents. I beg of you, please stop being so headstrong. Why are you so stubborn? We're married and I've been thinking about you for the past two days. Can't you be more considerate? I admit that I've misunderstood you, I was wrong for doing that. But you never told me about the things you've done, it makes sense for me to have suspicions! Oh, so you're allowed to hide things from me, and I'm not allowed to suspect you? Let's be fair, mom already took a step back for you. Can't you be more open-minded? Contract marriage? F\*ck that sh\*t, I spent millions on the wedding to marry you. You think my money came magically?!"

Lin Ruoxi whipped her head around with a furious expression, "Are you saying that I should be obedient to you because you spent a lot of money for me? Should I go bankrupt to pay you back?!"

"I...you...you know that's not what I meant!" Yang Chen was provoked too, "I wouldn't have suspected you if you had told me everything from the beginning!"

"This isn't anything new. You guys have always been suspicious of me, the last time it was Li Jianhe and now there's this. If you really trust me, you wouldn't have helped outsiders to bully me! Also, if you think I'm insensible and mannerless, why should I stay with you when you're not satisfied with me?! Wouldn't it be better for you to find the other ladies if I left you?"

Yang Chen touched his forehead. Anger filled his mind and he raised his voice, "Lin Ruoxi! Why must you compete against me? I've tolerated you and accommodated you because I love you, but that doesn't mean that I'm afraid of you!"

"Love me? Hah..." Lin Ruoxi stared at him with dreary eyes. With a trembling voice, she said, "You said you love me but have you thought about my feelings when I'm with you? Do you know that some things will only cause misery in my life...to me, you're one of those things."

Yang Chen stared right into her eyes and proclaimed with a firm voice, "To me, there aren't a lot of things or people in this world that can make me happy, but you're one of them."

### **Chapter 1183 Face Reality**

Lin Ruoxi swallowed her words at Yang Chen's penetrating gaze.

It felt as if his words had materialized into a stone that stone penetrated a frozen spring in her heart.

She stared into his eyes for a long time before letting out a breath. With pursed lips, she told him, "You're truly selfish."

"I admit that I am, which is why I'll never agree to the divorce. I will never let you leave me. I won't kneel and beg to you, nor would I apologize over this anymore. You have the right to remain here but you're mine and that will never change."

"You're always unreasonable towards me." Lin Ruoxi's jaw tightened.

"I want you to face reality," Yang Chen said with a stern expression, "You think mom had let you down for inviting them over to our place. You think we're bullying you for suspecting you twice. Aren't you being too harsh? You can throw a tantrum at me and I can take it, but you've ruined everyone else's mood because of your temper. Do you think it's your privilege to do so? Why must you compete with me? I'm your husband and she's your mother-in-law, we're a family. Must you cause such a commotion?"

"You..." Lin Ruoxi muttered, "I knew it, you've never felt sorry towards me."

"I'm stating the truth."

"It pains me because I know everything you said is the truth!"

Having said so, Lin Ruoxi ran back to her house and shut the glass door behind her.

Yang Chen watched her from the balcony, but he didn't bother to run after her.

The chilly morning breeze brushed past him and he breathed in the fresh air before jumping off the balcony.

He had no plans on being overbearing as it looked like Lin Ruoxi still couldn't accept reality.

Feeling gloomy, Yang Chen sped out to a small supermarket by the suburbs and bought a packet of low-quality cigarettes to smoke on his way home.

The taste of nicotine calmed him down.

Even though I'm a rich person, I still can't live like one. Bad cigarettes are still my thing... and good cigarettes just don't taste the same.

Yang Chen was planning on playing games the whole day to relax, but he received a phone call from Tang Wan as soon as he got home.

"Dear, where are you?" It sounded as if she was stifling a laugh.

Yang Chen chuckled bitterly, "Your tone, why does it sound like you know something?"

"Don't you know businessmen have to be well-informed? It's about you after all. Why? Did you argue with your wife? I heard that she moved out?"

Yang Chen's face fell, "How did you know? Did Qianni tell you?"

"Tsk, Qianni isn't a blabbermouth, she wouldn't tell others. I went to your house when I got home, and no one was there. I called Wang Ma and she told me. Why? Were you trying to hide it from us? Didn't you know that someone like me with ulterior motives have been waiting for this day to come? I've always viewed Lin Ruoxi as my rival." Tang Wan giggled.

Yang Chen laughed at her joke, "You'll have to wait for a long time. We have to live separately for two years for the divorce to be valid."

"Hmph, I bet she'll move back in a few days. I shouldn't even think about it." Tang Wan chuckled, "Can you go shopping with me? You haven't been spending time with me."

"Come on, you always say that you're busy," Yang Chen rolled his eyes, "Where are you? I'll come to pick you up."

"I'm at home. Tangtang went to Los Angeles with Yuan Ye. She said that they're spending their Christmas at Disneyland. I'm so lonely..."

Yang Chen sighed deeply, feeling old suddenly.

So that's where youngsters go for a date. Why haven't I thought of that? I should bring Lanlan there next time.

Yang Chen arrived at Tang Wan's place and minutes later, she walked out with a grey sweater and a black pencil skirt.

Yang Chen always had the impulse to touch her every time he saw her. Even though she was no longer young, her appearance was well-maintained that it looked like she was still in her twenties.

"What're you looking at? Start driving." Tang Wan chided with a blushed face.

Yang Chen smirked and nodded.

Tang Wan scrunched her nose and frowned when she smelled the cigarette smoke, "Why do I smell smoke? Did you smoke in the car?"

"Mmh."

"Are you that distressed? You haven't been smoking before this," Tang Wan wasn't pleased, "I thought my man was special, but it turns out that you're not mentally strong after all."

Yang Chen forced a laugh, "You're ruthless...fine, I'll quit smoking. Where do you want to go?"

Yang Chen wasn't upset since she was just worried about him.

Tang Wan thought for a moment, "It's cold so let's not walk on the streets. Let's go to the mall, we can have our lunch there too."

Yang Chen was fine with anything and drove to a high-end shopping mall located in the city centre. He was eyeing on the restaurants located on the highest floor.

Even though Tang Wan wasn't looking for anything, she couldn't stop herself from trying on clothes, bags and accessories in the stores.

If this was an ordinary day, Yang Chen wouldn't be accompanying her to a shopping mall. He'd rather play games and sleep at home. However, he accompanied Tang Wan since he wasn't in a good mood and also because he hadn't been spending time with her recently.

Tang Wan went straight to the luxury goods, ignoring the brands like Balenciaga, Dr Martens and Lancôme.

With one of her hands in Yang Chen's, Tang Wan picked up clothes and bags that were worth more than ten thousand dollars while the sales associate served her carefully.

Yang Chen didn't understand fashion, thinking that the apparels from Chanel and Gucci seemed odd. The non-luxurious brands looked far more comfortable than these apparels.

"Hey, if you want to buy clothes, let's look at the ones downstairs. These clothes are for fashion shows, there's no point in looking at these." Yang Chen suggested.

Tang Wan scrutinized the details on the outfits while replying, "You don't get it. If I don't wear branded outfits when I go for business meetings, people would think that I'm incompetent. People nowadays care a lot about appearance."

Yang Chen curled his lips, "They're materialistic, you don't have to be like them. Why must they care about the brands, they don't represent your value."

Yang Chen was reminded of the time when he first met Tang Wan. It seemed like she had always been willing to pay for things, like the limited-edition Land Rover she bought. That was far pricier than Lin Ruoxi's Bentley.

"It's fine to be materialistic. If it wasn't for materialistic women, luxurious brands would've gone out of business. Your wife's company profit wouldn't rise so quickly if it wasn't for them." Tang Wan chided.

"You're exaggerating." Yang Chen was astonished even though he had a rough idea of Yu Lei International business scale.

Tang Wan rolled her eyes at him, "It's obvious that you don't pay attention to the company...her new patent has been winning her collaborations with Prada, Hermes and Burberry. The profits from these products were ten to a hundred folds. Why do you think she was able to take over companies continuously?"

It dawned on him then and he sighed in response, "She's talented in the business field but she still needs to learn more about being a wife."

Tang Wan giggled and Yang Chen was puzzled, "What are you laughing about?"

"Nothing, you said she's talented, but I think you're exaggerating it. Well, I admit she's good at it, but her accomplishment has something to do with her identity as the premier's daughter." Tang Wan replied.

"What do you mean?" Yang Chen furrowed his brows.

Tang Wan linked arms with him and spoke nonchalantly, "Businessmen like us need to do things at the right time, at the right place and with the right people. Having the right people isn't that hard, you just need to hire that person. As for the right place, it depends on luck. If Yu Lei didn't choose the fashion industry, it might've not survived in this world where the fashion industry is getting more and more exclusive. The hardest part is doing things at the right time, normally it depends on the government's policy. It's like God's command...as long as you do things according to the policy, you don't have to

worry about business opportunities. If the policy doesn't support you, failure is guaranteed no matter how resourceful you are. As long as the policy exists, you'll always have investors."

Yang Chen understood immediately, "Are you saying that Ning Guangyao has been helping Yu Lei with the policies? Is that why her business has been going well?"

"Mmh..." Tang Wan's expression became serious, "You have to be careful of the Ning clan and Ning Guangyao. Even though he had never acknowledged her for the past years, if he ever confessed to Lin Ruoxi about the things he had done, Lin Ruoxi would be touched. If your wife acknowledges him as her father...it would be a disaster."

### **Chapter 1184: It's Been A While**

Yang Chen blurted out when he saw her stern expression, "Why are you suddenly telling me about this?"

Tang Wan sighed, "I didn't tell you previously because I was busy with work. I also looked into stuff and found out about some secrets circling the four major clans."

"Secrets?"

"Mmh...I followed my grandfather's last words and I wanted to find out about the man who murdered my father and what relationship he had with Hongmeng but...I found out that the hidden clans were behind the Ning clan."

Yang Chen was slightly taken aback, "How did you know that? I only thought about it when I saw two Ning clan members who are in the Soul Forming stage."

"What? the Ning clan members are out here? It looks like the Ning clan is planning to intervene with the mundane world." Tang Wan said.

Back when Yang Chen fought with Yan Buwen, he heard from Tang Zhechen that the Tang clan was associated with Hongmeng. His son, Tang Lun died because of Hongmeng but no one knew about the exact details.

Tang Wan went through Tang Zhechen's belongings in Beijing and went through some documents before she understood what had happened.

"I found a book from my grandfather's hidden documents. He wrote everything he knew about the relationship between our clan and Hongmeng. The reason why our clan focused on our businesses instead of the military was because our clan had been providing resources to Hongmeng for generations. Thus, our clan isn't as strong as the other three clans when it comes to military powers."

"Hongmeng need resources from a mundane clan?" Yang Chen was puzzled.

"Of course," Tang Wan pulled Yang Chen onto a long bench, "Think about it, the hidden clan members train in the mundane world, this meant that they would also bring all sorts of resources back to the borders. Then Hongmeng wouldn't just send one messenger out. They are humans after all, especially those who had grown up in the borders. Their parents might be cultivators, but they still need to eat and drink in the beginning. Besides, Hongmeng needs all sorts of ingredients to make pills and artifacts. I'm

not sure how big the border is but their resources must be limited. Ingredients cost money, so instead of searching all around the world, they'd rather find a fixed supplier."

"So Hongmeng helped the Tang clan. Even though your clan is focused on doing business, you guys can still be part of the four major clans because of them. Am I right?" It finally dawned on him.

Tang Wan nodded, "That's right, at least that was how things were when my grandfather was still alive. Before that, our clan has been servicing Hongmeng for centuries but now that my grandfather has died and not only did we have conflict with Yan Buwen, we also killed the Hongmeng messenger, so I doubt Hongmeng will trust us for the time being. However, it won't be that easy for them to find a new clan that is as wealthy and influential as our clan to help them source for material and resources. They won't be able to succeed easily. So...Hongmeng messenger visited our clan last week and contacted us. Since Tang Huang and I have equal standing in the clan, we're the only ones who knew about this."

"Are you...referring to the Absolute Sword Taoist?" Yang Chen asked.

Tang Wan was startled, "How did you know that?"

Yang Chen told her about the time when the Absolute Sword Taoist came after Rose and how he bribed the Taoist. Tang Wan was amused by the story.

"It's him. He was so cocky, but since we couldn't fight back, Tang Huang and I listened to his commands. Only then we know we have a team in our clan that only listens to the clan leader's commands. They are in charge of transporting the resources to the borders of Kekexili. The Absolute Sword Taoist received orders from Hongmeng that we are still appointed to supply resources to Hongmeng. If Hongmeng has any requests, the Hongmeng messenger will inform us and we will send it to the borders."

Yang Chen nodded and asked, "What about the reason behind your father's death, did you find out about it? Why did your grandfather say it was Hongmeng's fault?"

Tang Wan sighed, "I don't know, grandfather didn't write it down. From what I remembered, my father was losing sanity and he killed my mother before killing himself...I didn't dare to think about it a few years ago. From what I remember, there wasn't anyone from Hongmeng..."

While saying so, Tang Wan shook her head, "I don't want to think about it." "I'm not done talking, from my grandfather's notes, I found out that amongst the hidden clans, the Xiao and Luo clans are weaker whereas the Ning clan is the strongest. Through a century long collaboration with Hongmeng, we learnt that the Ning clan in Beijing is a branch of the Ning clan from the hidden clans. This was why the Ning clan had always been influential."

Yang Chen was puzzled, "I knew that but how is this related to Ruoxi?"

"Of course it does!" Tang Wan said, "Even though Ning Guangyao is part of the branch, he's still in control of an independent major clan in the mundane world. The hidden clan wants Ning Guangyao to keep their bloodline going, regardless of their achievements. But, Ning Guangyao's only son, Ning Guodong has been missing for a long time. Even though he kept the information hidden, he can't hide it from us. If the Ning clan fails to find Ning Guodong, doesn't it mean that he no longer has successors? Do you think the hidden clan will let him be in charge of the mundane clan?"

It felt as if a mine had gone off in Yang Chen's brain. His gaze turned cold and he sneered, "No wonder he was desperate to become a kind father. So he's looking for a successor to secure his position."

"Why, he went to find Lin Ruoxi?" Tang Wan asked.

Yang Chen nodded, "The day when I met the two Ning clan cultivators who are in the Soul Forming stage was when Ning Guangyao came to our house to persuade Lin Ruoxi. But he did too many disgusting deeds so she couldn't accept him."

Tang Wan was worried, "I'm worried that she will accept him eventually. If that happens, Ning Guangyao might manipulate Lin Ruoxi to trick you. After all, you must have gained the attention of Hongmeng and the Great Ancient clans. They just aren't ready to leave the borders. But Ning Guangyao is from the mundane world and is the representative of the Ning clan in the mundane world. He can do anything for his own benefit, he can sacrifice anyone..."

Even though Yang Chen was secretly worried, he rocked a smile, reminded of the time when Lin Ruoxi begged him to let Ning Guodong go, "I don't think so, Ruoxi shouldn't be that gullible."

Tang Wan smiled faintly, "I hope so..."

"Alright!," Yang Chen stood up and stretched his body, "I came out to relax with you, not to talk about serious stuff. Come, let's continue to shop."

Tang Wan didn't want to think about it anymore either. She linked arms with Yang Chen and visited multiple shops in an excited manner.

Half a day passed by as they shopped and Yang Chen finally felt better.

Night time arrived and they went to a restaurant near the shopping mall. It was a perfect time for them to have dinner together, since Yang Chen didn't need to go home for dinner and Tang Wan was staying alone for now.

Right after they ordered a few dishes, Tang Wan suddenly suggested, "Let's have some drinks. It's cold outside so it's perfect to have some alcohol."

Yang Chen chuckled, "I know you're trying to comfort me by asking me to accompany you but I'm not planning to relieve my frustration with alcohol."

"I didn't say it's for you, I want to relax too." Tang Wan chided.

Yang Chen obliged and asked the secretary to bring them two bottles of Kaoliang. They didn't need Maotai or Wuliangye, normal alcohol worked well since they were in a small restaurant.

Tang Wan wasn't used to drinking such strong alcohol but she didn't want to change it. She kept eating a few bites of food with every sip, like a cat who is eating hot food. couldn't stop itself from eating spicy food.

Yang Chen chuckled, "Stop drinking if you aren't used to it. Your face is flushed."

Tang Wan licked her lips and furrowed her brows, "I usually only drink wine and champagne, it's quite interesting to drink something strong occasionally. It's fine, you can send me home if I get drunk anyways. I don't need to be afraid of bad guys."

Yang Chen shook his head, feeling speechless.

After some time, Yang Chen was about to stop her from drinking when a couple walked into the restaurant and Yang Chen looked over with a puzzled expression.

The man was tall with sharp features and the petite woman next to him was smiling as they made their way in.

Yang Chen sensed their existence ages ago because this man's cultivation was at the final phase of Xiantian. His Xiantian True Qi was domineering.

"Tianlong, Yezi?"

Yang Chen was bewildered to see them walking towards him. He hadn't seen them in a long time.

Tang Wan glanced over but she didn't know them so she kept drinking quietly.

"Young master Yang, it's been a while. You're still dashing as ever, oh wait, you're far dashing than before." Tianlong chuckled.

Yezi looked at Tang Wan curiously as they recognised her, "Brother Yang, Miss Tang, you wouldn't blame us for interrupting your meal right?"

## **Chapter 1185**

### **Girdle**

Tang Wan was puzzled when Yezi called her. She couldn't understand how they knew her since she was already tipsy from drinking.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly, "Don't flatter me...nothing good happens every time you guys show up. What is it again this time?"

"Young Master Yang, don't say that. We're not troublemakers," Tianlong smiled sheepishly, "We're here to ask if you've noticed anything odd in Zhonghai."

"Odd? What kind?" Yang Chen was puzzled.

Yezi asked curiously, "Brother Yang, your subordinates didn't report it to you? Some suspicious people have come to China and they're lurking around Zhonghai."

"I don't have subordinates; the Sea Eagles' mission has been terminated so I sent them back to Europe. I'm alone here in Zhonghai." Yang Chen replied

"I didn't know about this, no wonder you didn't hear any news," Tianlong said in understanding.

"What exactly are you guys talking about? Who's here?" Yang Chen furrowed his brows.

Worry was evident on Yezi's face, "The Sword in the Stone from Scotland and the Dark Parliament from Europe. Oh yeah, Camarilla's subordinates and Sabbat are here with the Dark Parliament this time. There's also some small group of power users but they're not of our concern."

Yang Chen was confused, "They came to Zhonghai? For what? Are they here for God's stone again? I don't have it anymore!"

"Of course not, even if you do have it, they wouldn't dare to fight you."

"Why are they here then?"

Tianlong exchanged glances with Yezi before she spoke up, "Magical Girdle."

Yang Chen was startled at first, but the word sounded familiar. He was stunned when he realized what they meant, "Are you talking about Aphrodite's legendary weapon, the Magical Girdle?"

In Roman mythology, the Goddess of Beauty, Venus had a weapon that was irresistible even to the Gods, the golden girdle around her waist.

Apparently she once used the girdle to bedazzle the Gods and took control of their mind. She then competed with Athena and Hera over beauty and all the Gods chose her as the Goddess of Beauty.

Well, it was all a myth. Something that was made up by humans under the Gods involvement to invoke their worship and belief.

Yang Chen had never heard from Christen if she really had the Magical Girdle but just like Hades never told him about the Helmet of Invisibility when he passed Yang Chen the divinity.

Such weapons weren't important to the Gods who had been alive for millennia.

Besides, even if Christen had the abilities, Yang Chen doubts she could really control Zeus.

"You said they're lurking around Zhonghai, does it mean the Magical Girdle has appeared in Zhonghai?" Yang Chen asked.

Tianlong sighed, "We're not sure about that. We couldn't locate the source of this information."

"Then how did they know about this?"

"Someone used the Magical Girdle to control the special forces soldier and it was caught on tape. That video was sent to the Sword in the Stone, the Dark Parliament and other minor organizations. The location stated on the video was the basecamp of the Jiangnan military zone, near Zhonghai." Yezi replied.

Yang Chen furrowed his brows, "You guys watched the video? Where is it? Let me watch it."

Yang Chen was starting to get serious as the whole thing sounded fishy.

Tianlong was already prepared, and he took out his phone to play a 20-second video.

In the video, a blurry silhouette was seen to be controlling a group of soldiers with a golden girdle as if they were his puppets. The soldiers aimed their guns towards their comrades and fired shots simultaneously!

It was a short video, but it happened only a week ago!

The Yellow Flame Iron Brigade couldn't find any clues about the silhouette and was planning to veil it up, but the video was sent to most international organizations.

"The user of this girdle announced that he found this artifact by accident, but he couldn't control it so he's planning to give up on it. He hid the girdle somewhere in China and those who find it will be the next owner..." Tianlong chuckled dryly.

Yang Chen contemplated for a moment while knocking on the table, "Weird. Technically, if it's really the Magical Girdle, Aphrodite who's in the States would have sensed it but there's no reaction from her. Besides, the artifact can't be used by anyone, you would need to have divinity. Who is that silhouette...what is his motive for doing this?"

"We don't know about that, but such an artifact is definitely tempting since it could bedazzle the Gods and control their mind. Besides, the golden girdle's description is the same as on the ancient records. It looks legit. Young master Yang, think about it. The Sword of Thanatos in France, the Holy Grail in Zhonghai. These are ordinary artifacts and people were already fighting over it, let alone an artifact from one of the twelve Gods! Even if the Sword in the Stone and the Dark Parliament knew something was off, they wouldn't miss out on a chance like this!"

"But even if they really found it, can they keep it?" Yang Chen chuckled.

Tianlong shook his head, "Judging from the current situation, they must be thinking that they can use the girdle too since the guy could use it and the fact that Venus never took it away. Especially the vampires with half God-like abilities, they must be hoping to break through the shackles by getting the artifact. With their original powers, they might challenge the Gods."

Yang Chen stifled a peal of laughter, "Why does it sound like a trap? I don't think you guys should stop wasting time, let them do whatever they want."

Yezi tried to please him with a smile, "Brother Yang, you're the eldest descendant of the Yang clan, you should help us. The sorcerers from the Sword in the Stone and the knights are manageable but our Yellow Flame Iron Brigade wouldn't survive if the vampires showed up."

"Shoo, I can't even handle my own wife, let alone be involved with these matters. Aphrodite hasn't said anything, why would I intervene with it?" Yang Chen rejected the offer for help immediately. He didn't want to be involved in it since it wouldn't bring him any good.

"Then...brother Yang can you help us ask the Goddess of Beauty if she's willing to show up. If the powerful vampires decided to fight over the Magical Girdle, we wouldn't be able to keep things under control." Yezi pleaded.

Yang Chen thought it wasn't a difficult request, so he nodded, "Fine, I'll call her later."

"Call her now, the earlier the better," Yezi said anxiously.

Yang Chen was speechless, but he still took out his phone and dialed Christen's number.

Once the call went through, Christen asked immediately, "Hades, are you calling to ask me about the Magical Girdle too? My precious girdle isn't stolen! It has always been with me so stop asking me about

it, please! The girdle in the video looks the same but it definitely isn't my Magical Girdle! There are so many power users in this world like the Soul Sorcerers from the Sword of the Stone. They can create illusions too, so why must it be the Magical Girdle's doing?!"

Yang Chen smiled sheepishly, "Why are you so agitated? I'm just calling on behalf of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, they don't dare to ask you themselves. I knew it, how can you not know about it when someone is using your artifact."

Christen clenched her jaw, "Poseidon, Artemis and Hermes called me before you and they woke me up from my sleep. Don't get involved in this matter, let them look for it. But if I find out who the culprit behind this is, I'll skin that person alive!"

### **Chapter 1186 This Is Romantic**

"You should hate Raphael, he's the leader of Sabbath and he's the one who's subordinates followed Camarilla to Zhonghai." Yang Chen chuckled.

Raphael was the leader of the Tzimisce clan, who was also the God of Shepherd, Hermes.

Christen wasn't interested in talking about him, "He's a weird guy, he wouldn't let his subordinates know that he has divinity. Hades, I'll be frank with you, our artifacts are connected to our divinity. This was why Artemis could sense it when Selene appeared in Korea, even when she was half a world apart. The only artifact that can't be traced is the missing Helmet of Invisibility that is technically yours...uh...it's actually a crown. Because this artifact is meant to conceal everything that can be traced so only the user can sense it. It's the only exception among the other artifacts."

"No wonder...the previous Hades find it... It's untraceable." Yang Chen understood it now.

Christen yawned, "Alright, I'm going back to sleep. If you're free, help me see who's the culprit. Tell me and I'll kill him personally! Does he think by hiding in China we wouldn't dare to kill him...?"

Yang Chen laughed dryly before hanging up.

Tianlong and Yezi breathed out in relief as they listened to the whole conversation. A conflict wouldn't easily arise as long as the girdle isn't real.

"If that's the case, we'll be leaving now. We'll inform you once we have tracked down the culprit." Tianlong said.

Yang Chen waved his hands hurriedly, "Please don't, this has nothing to do with me. Goodbye!"

After sending Tianlong and Yezi off, Yang Chen was lost in thoughts, but he stopped thinking about it when he couldn't figure things out.

Half an hour went by and most of their dishes were served.

Tang Wan had been quiet the whole time, drinking by herself. Her cheeks were already flushed as she looked in front of her with a dazed expression.

"What happened to you? Don't force yourself if you can't drink." Yang Chen chuckled.

Tang Wan puckered her lips and burped, "I haven't felt so relaxed while drinking...I drank too much...Chinese spirits are too strong..."

Yang Chen was speechless. While chuckling, he picked up some food with his chopsticks and placed it into her bowl, "Alright, stop drinking. Eat and we'll go home."

Tang Wan bit her lips and smiled at him sweetly before eating in a leisurely manner.

Yang Chen finished most of the food with big bites and paid the bill before leaving.

Once they stepped out of the restaurant, the chilly air crept up to their skin.

Tang Wan was staggering, her legs were wobbly, and she kept bumping into things.

Yang Chen wanted to pull her but Tang Wan wriggled away.

"Don't pull me...I want to walk by myself..." Tang Wan tittered.

Yang Chen was amused, "Don't throw a fit. Do you want me to make you sober? I can do that."

Tang Wan pouted, "I'm fine, I'm not drunk...eh, it's because I'm happy!"

Tang Wan wobbled, while Yang Chen followed from behind.

The passersby smiled at them. It was a pleasant view to see a beautiful woman like her walking on the streets drunk.

Yang Chen was worried that she would trip so he walked in front of her and bent down, "Alright, stop throwing a fit. Get on my back, I'll carry you."

Tang Wan pushed him and pointed at the street while putting her other hand on her waist!

"I said I'm not drunk, listen to me...I can still walk home alone no matter how much alcohol I had...I don't want a man to carry me...women have pride too..."

"...And you say you're not drunk." Yang Chen sighed while shaking his head.

It was his first time seeing her drunk. Her usual calm and collected attitude were replaced with a silly drunk girl, she looked really cute in his eyes.

Tang Wan was oblivious and after walking a few more steps, her legs gave in and she almost fell!

Thank goodness Yang Chen was right beside her and he pulled her onto his back, ignoring her struggle.

Her thighs were wrapped around Yang Chen's waist and she stayed still on his back. She pressed her body close to his body and breathed into his ear...

"Yang Chen..."

"Hmm?"

"Dear..."

"I'm here..."

“Hubby...”

“I’m listening, say something.” Yang Chen didn’t bother to make her sober. She must have been feeling tense for a long time that she let herself get drunk next to him.

Tang Wan giggled and smacked her lips.

“I miss Tang Jue...”

“Tang Jue?”

“Mmh...hubby...I want to go to Russia...”

“Go if you want to see your brother. But he’s already a grown-up, it’s fine if he wants to do his business there.” Yang Chen replied.

“He’s not...he’s so silly and thinks he’s smart. If it wasn’t for me...other people would’ve been a bad influence on him...”

Even though Tang Wan often scolded her brother, she still cared about him deeply since they were siblings and their parents had passed away.

“You’ve had it rough for the past years. Do you miss your parents?” Yang Chen said with a gentle voice.

Tang Wan’s lips curled, “No.”

“Is it because you were too young, so you don’t remember them anymore?”

“No...Tang Jue was young so he doesn’t remember...I remember mom and dad...but I know that even if I miss them...I still can’t see them, so I stopped thinking about them.”

Yang Chen stopped in his tracks and he turned to look at Tang Wan silently. It sounded as if she was talking in her sleep since she was still in a daze.

“Don’t pity me...” Tang Wan suddenly pouted.

“I’m not pitying you,” Yang Chen smiled, “It wasn’t easy for you too, but don’t worry, I’ll take care of you while you take care of Tang Jue and Tangtang.”

“Heh...that’s good, I’d rather be hated than be pitied...”

Halfway saying that Tang Wan laid her head on Yang Chen’s shoulder and fell asleep.

Yang Chen smiled and continued to walk towards the parking lot...

It was a quiet night..

The winter sunlight shone into the bedroom and the chandelier reflected the sunlight, reflecting silhouettes on the ceiling.

Yang Chen woke up on the soft bed, breathing in the sweet scent of his woman.

After bringing Tang Wan home, Yang Chen stayed for the night and slept with Tang Wan in his arms.

Tang Wan woke up earlier than him and she looked at Yang Chen with sparkly eyes.

“What are you looking at? There’s no refund even if you think I’m not handsome enough.” Yang Chen joked.

“You...did you do anything to me last night?” Tang Wan asked suddenly.

Yang Chen froze, “You’re too direct. Why did you ask me this? You were dead asleep, I’m not that desperate.”

“Why didn’t you wake me up? Didn’t you say you can make me sober?”

“I thought you were cute drunk, there was no need to make you sober.” Yang Chen rubbed her nose with his.

Tang Wan’s face brightened up, “I thought you prefer to be direct, but it turns out you can be romantic too.”

“This is romantic?”

“To me it is.”

Yang Chen curled his lips, “If that’s the case...Tang Wan, can I talk to you about something?”

“What is it?”

“Can you refrain from drinking in front of other people? At least not strong alcohol. You can only drink in front of me.” Yang Chen said.

Tang Wan blinked and thought about it before replying, “I still need to drink sometimes but I promise you that I won’t drink much. Why did you say this?”

Yang Chen showed a jealous expression, “Because I don’t want others to see this cute side of yours.”

Blood crept up her cheeks and she lowered her head while biting on her lips.

“Don’t say that...I’m embarrassed. I’m already 40 years old, I’m not cute...”

Yang Chen said with a stern expression, “Stop talking about your age in front of me. Listen to me, age might be important to you before you start cultivating but I’m confident that it’ll increase our lifespans. We can live for a few hundred years, and if we enter the Tribulation Passing stage, we can even live for a few thousand years. Do you think those 40 years will matter?”

Tang Wan looked up with a flustered expression. She had never thought about it, he was right. If her lifespan became longer, why would she need to care about her age?

### **Chapter 1187 Do Not Go So Far**

Time on the bed always went by so quickly. Even though Yang Chen wanted to spend more time with Tang Wan, he had to let her leave, as she had to go for a meeting.

Just when he was about to drive out to buy breakfast and eat it in the office, he was suddenly reminded of something. Now that Lin Ruoxi had moved out, would she make breakfast for herself?

Or would she miss out on her meals like how she did in the past?

Even though she had some cultivation level, she still needed to take care of her body since she wasn't in the Xiantian stage yet.

Yang Chen was impressed by himself; he was becoming more and more caring.

Being caring wouldn't hurt, it might help to please her.

After buying a bunch of food from the breakfast stall, Yang Chen went straight to the headquarters of Yu Lei and rode the lift to the highest floor.

Just when he was about to walk into the president's office, Zhao Hongyan walked out of her office.

Yang Chen hadn't seen her for her long time, but she hadn't changed much, besides from getting more and more confident.

She was holding a bag of breakfast filled with milk and all sorts of food.

Zhao Hongyan cowered when she saw Yang Chen, "Oh...it's you, I thought President Lin's here."

Ever since that night, they hadn't had the chance to meet. It was pretty awkward to bump into each other in the corridor.

Yang Chen was slightly embarrassed, "Where's Ruoxi? She's not here yet?"

Zhao Hongyan smiled shyly, "Did anything happen between you and President Lin? Why did she tell me she has moved? She'll be late for work cause her house is further away."

"Let's not talk about that," Yang Chen didn't want to wash his dirty linen in public, "Is that breakfast for Ruoxi?"

"Mmh, President Lin asked me to prepare this..." Zhao Hongyan didn't dare to look him in the eyes, and she mumbled with a blushing face.

Yang Chen gulped when he noticed her shy gazes. The atmosphere was getting too amorous, a woman he once shared a passionate night with was talking to him like this.

He could have said some simple greetings, but nothing came out of his mouth.

Before this, Zhao Hongyan could still talk to him normally but as time went by, the feelings that she had been trying to suppress were starting to show up.

Just when they weren't sure how to continue the conversation, the lift's door opened once again, and Lin Ruoxi walked out of it.

She froze when she bumped into them.

One look at Zhao Hongyan's face was enough to tell her what had happened and Lin Ruoxi's expressionless face turned chilly.

"President Lin, you're here," Zhao Hongyan breathed out in relief and passed the breakfast to her, "Here's what you asked me to get."

Lin Ruoxi ignored Yang Chen and took over the bag. With a nod, she made her way to her office right away.

Just when she was about to walk past him, Yang Chen stopped her with a grin, "Ruoxi, I bought you breakfast too, have some of it."

Lin Ruoxi chuckled, "Are you sure it's for me?"

Yang Chen was taken aback, "What do you mean by that?"

"I think Hongyan hasn't eaten too. Don't waste money on me, you can pretend that I saw nothing." Lin Ruoxi glared at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen understood immediately, and he couldn't stop the anger from creeping up, "Lin Ruoxi, even if you want to throw a tantrum, you shouldn't go that far! I just bumped into Hongyan here. Even if you think I'm up to no good, you can't say that to Hongyan!"

Lin Ruoxi turned around abruptly. Her brows were knitted together, and she raised her voice, "When did I throw a tantrum? How did you get that message?! Why would you get so agitated if you're innocent?!"

"I..." Yang Chen's face turned red. He wasn't expecting to quarrel over such a small matter.

He was angry at Lin Ruoxi's suspicion towards him, but he couldn't deny the fact that he had spent a night with Zhao Hongyan. If he chose to lie, he couldn't possibly face his guilty conscience...

Zhao Hongyan got anxious too and tried to explain things, "President Lin, don't misunderstand things. I just bumped into Yang Chen, he brought breakfast for you, I...there's really....nothing between us..."

She started to hang her head low as she said that.

It pained Yang Chen to see her act like this. He made up his mind and pushed the bag of food into her hands.

"Take it, there's always someone who would take it since she doesn't want it." Yang Chen didn't care about Zhao Hongyan's refusal and insisted that she take the food.

After doing so, he walked towards the lift without looking back.

Zhao Hongyan felt guilty and she spoke to Lin Ruoxi softly, "President Lin, don't be angry at Mr Yang. He really brought this for you, please take it..."

Lin Ruoxi glanced at the big bag of food and gave back the one she had bought for her, "Take these too, I don't have an appetite today."

Having said so, she walked to her office with a pale face...

Zhao Hongyan stood at the same spot in a daze as she stared at two sets of breakfast. She couldn't get Yang Chen out of her mind, especially when he passed her the food...

At the same time, back in the Yang clan's dining room.

The dining table was filled with all sorts of snacks and appetizers.

The most eye-catching one was the huge plate of roast duck. It was prepared in a way that one could just wrap the roast duck with wraps and dip it in the sauce before eating it.

Those sitting by the table were Yang Gongming, Yang Pojun, Guo Xuehua and Yang Lanlan.

The huge plate of roast duck was roughly the size of three ducks, and it was placed right in front of Lanlan.

She had the wraps in both of her hands and she swallowed them without chewing on it.

If it wasn't for the scale of their kitchen, they wouldn't have been able to roast three ducks for her.

Yang Gongming sipped on congee and looked at his great-granddaughter with a smiley gaze.

Guo Xuehua, on the other hand, looked at Lanlan with a helpless expression, asking her to slow down.

Yang Pojun's expression was the weirdest. He didn't hate nor like Lanlan. He was just staring at her as if he couldn't handle her.

"Lanlan, is it that good?" Yang Gongming asked.

Lanlan nodded hard, "Great-grandfather, Lanlan loves it. Can I have roast duck for lunch too?"

"Again? You've only been here for a few days and you've already eaten 20 roast ducks. No more roast duck!" Guo Xuehua glared at her.

Lanlan pouted her greasy lips.

Yang Gongming stopped his daughter-in-law, "Eh...Xuehua, let her eat what she wants. It's not like we can't afford it. It doesn't matter as long as her tummy doesn't hurt."

"Dad, this isn't good. We try not to let her eat so much in Zhonghai. A girl can't eat so much, what should we do when she grows up to be the same?" Guo Xuehua was worried.

"She's just a kid. Why? Are you forcing her on a diet? Other people are worried about their children not having an appetite and you guys are doing the exact opposite. Don't you dare restrict her. She's a special kid so she should be raised specially." Yang Gongming was stern.

Guo Xuehua felt helpless, but she could only oblige.

Lanlan smiled sweetly, "Great-grandfather is the best!"

"Haha, Lanlan, yesterday you said you wanted to look at ponies, so I told your grandfather to bring some ponies into the stable. Do you want to ride ponies today?"

Lanlan jumped out of her highchair and ran to Yang Gongming's side to peck on his cheeks, "Great-grandfather is the best! Mommy only got me a fake pony, not a real pony!"

Yang Gongming was all smiles from her cuteness. He caressed her cheeks and let her eat her breakfast before turning to Yang Pojun, "Pojun, are the ponies here yet?"

Yang Pojun nodded respectfully, "Father, they reached here yesterday. I chose them from the racetrack, but...I don't think it's good to give her whatever she wants."

“Why? Don’t you want to treat your granddaughter well? Her parents can be stern to her but there’s nothing wrong with us spoiling her as her elders. Besides, girls should be taken care of, she looks sensible too.” Yang Gongming said nonchalantly.

Yang Pojun wasn’t on the same track with his father. He disagreed with his son adopting a child before giving birth to one, but he only sighed, not daring to disobey him.

### **Chapter 1188 Angry Horse**

Yang Gongming read his expression and he said in displeasure, “Don’t think that she’s not your granddaughter just because you two are not related. Yang Lie is your son and he still betrayed our clan. Blood relations? It’s worthless!”

“Father, we never found Lie’er, why are you so sure that he betrayed our clan? Maybe he has his own reasons?” Yang Pojun defended his son.

“He’s narrow-minded, he won’t succeed in life.” Yang Gongming said with a stern face.

Guo Xuehua heard him, and it didn’t feel good. However, she didn’t dare to speak up since Yang Pojun was reprimanded by Yang Gongming.

When they were almost done eating, Yang Gongming told them, “Both of you join us at the barn later. Exercise a little bit since you two know how to ride a horse.”

Guo Xuehua seemed troubled, “Father, I don’t think I can join you guys, I promised my mom to celebrate my nephew’s birthday today.”

“Oh, your brother’s son, Guo Yue?”

“You remember him.” Guo Xuehua nodded.

“I see...alright, you should go back and visit your family more often. If that’s the case, I won’t force you. Get some gifts from the storeroom, don’t look too stingy. An old man like me won’t join you then.” Yang Gongming smiled.

Guo Xuehua waved her hands, “How could I ask you to attend, it’s just my nephew’s birthday. My parents would be glad to hear about the gifts.”

“Xuehua, I’ll go with you.” Yang Pojun butted in.

Yang Gongming glared at him the moment he talked, “Hmph! Why would you join her when you’ve never been interested in these kind of events?! Are you trying to run away so that you don’t need to accompany me?”

Yang Pojun shook his head and smiled sheepishly, “Father, why would I think that? Fine, I won’t go, I won’t go...”

Having said that, Yang Pojun looked at Lanlan who was still eating her roast duck with a complicated expression...

Lanlan chewed on the meat continuously and was confused to see her grandfather looking at her weirdly but she didn’t think too much about it since she was still a kid.

After lunch, Guo Xuehua chose a few gifts before going back to her parents' house.

Even though their house wasn't far away, Guo Xuehua still wanted to accompany her parents.

Yang Gongming rested for a short while until Lanlan pestered him to bring her to the barn.

Yang Pojun was unwilling to join but he couldn't disobey his father's orders.

The barn was located on private land 1 kilometre away from the Yang mansion.

Yang Gongming's biggest joy in his retirement life was planting crops and raising animals, so this place was full of birds, some horses and other animals.

Most of the pets here were given to Yang Gongming by other people to please him. The pets here were taken care of by someone else and he was only here occasionally.

After a short car ride, they arrived at the barn which was filled with the smell of grass and excretions.

Lanlan wasn't bothered by it, staring at the caged animals with a beaming gaze instead.

Under the caretakers' lead, Yang Gongming and Yang Pojun followed Lanlan and looked at the animals one by one.

Lanlan listened to him seriously as if she was planning to memorize the animals species. Sometimes she would ask the caretakers some questions which made them laugh.

"Uncle, this peacock has so many feathers. Is it tasty?"

"Uncle, the fox stinks, it must be tasty right?"

"This bird is good, skinny ones aren't tasty..."

Cold sweat dripped down the caretakers' forehead. As expected of a general granddaughter, she had a taste for everything.

They walked around for one hour before they reached the middle of the barn. Some of the ponies were already grazing on the grass there.

Yang Gongming asked one of the staff, "This pony, is it safe?"

"Yes, sir, we chose the most docile pony. Miss Lanlan will be alright."

"Alright," Yang Gongming walked to Lanlan and caressed her head, "Lanlan, let uncle carry you up the pony."

Lanlan shook her head and smiled sweetly, "Great-grandfather, Lanlan can go up myself!"

Having said so, she jumped up two meters and landed on the white pony in a graceful manner!

Everyone was shocked. They couldn't believe their eyes; how did a young girl manage to do that!

Even though Yang Gongming and Yang Pojun heard about her abilities from Guo Xuehua, they weren't expecting this.

The pony was startled too, neighing while kicking its hooves around.

“Ah! Miss Lanlan! Be careful!!”

Chills went down the staffs' spines. When they were preparing the ponies for her, they never imagined this to happen!

Lanlan giggled and urged the pony to move, “Run pony! I’m riding a pony! Go! Go!!”

The white pony kept quivering when Lanlan held on to its neck. Feeling scared, it started to gallop around the field!

Its butt kept bouncing up and down, trying to toss Lanlan off its back!

Regardless of how calm Yang Gongming usually was, he yelled at the staff anxiously, “Quick, pull the pony! Don’t let my great-granddaughter fall!!”

“Father, how can they chase after her!” Yang Pojun showed a bitter smile.

“What should we do?! Think of a way!!” Yang Gongming roared.

The staff started to yell at Lanlan to hug the pony’s neck tightly. They could no longer worry about being hit by a horse and they rushed forward to pull the pony’s reins.

However, the frightened pony seemed to have lit up the fuse to a bomb.

The other horses were starting to get restless and just when the white pony ran past a manger, one of the black horses tugged on its reins and broke it!

“Neigh—”

The black horse ran in a berserked manner and chased after the white pony!

Lanlan slapped on the pony’s neck, “Run pony! The big black horse is after you! Run!!”

Lanlan slapped it too hard and the white pony lost its sense of direction, running towards Yang Gongming and Yang Pojun instead!

“Sir! Sir, run away!!”

The staff were chasing after the horses and couldn’t manage to return to his side. The white pony’s sudden change in direction almost made them faint!

Yang Gongming’s legs weren’t agile anymore and when he wanted to run, the pony was already close to him!

Yang Pojun’s face fell and he rushed forward and stood in front of him to take the blow for his father!

“Pojun! Move!!” Yang Gongming yelled.

It all happened in a split second, there was no room for hesitation.

Right at that moment, the white pony’s limbs gave up and it fell onto the ground.

It skidded forward and Lanlan gasped while landing onto the ground on her tiptoes, completely unharmed!

Everyone had just breathed out in relief, but their next breath got stuck in their throat when they noticed the black horse coming after her!

“Lanlan!!” Yang Gongming’s heart stopped beating for a second when Lanlan stood completely still!

She looked at the ferocious black horse with a curious gaze and when the horse was almost in front of her, she raised her fist and jumped!

“Pow!!!”

A loud crashing sound was heard from the black horse’s stomach and the next thing they saw was the black horse neighing as it flew away!

Clouds of dust flew around the horse as it landed onto the ground with a loud thud. There was a bloody hole on its chest!

Its limbs twitched for a few times before it stopped moving completely!

Lanlan landed on the ground, her body drenched in blood. With an innocent expression, she licked the horse blood around her lips.

“Bad horse, you deserved this for bullying white pony.”

Everyone was dead silent. The chilly breeze blew on their ears which hurt like cuts from knives.

Even Yang Pojun who was used to brutal scenes was shocked to see this.

After Yang Gongming had got over the initial shock, a contented smile formed on his lips as he stared at Lanlan who was looking at the dead horse angrily...

It took some time for the staff to snap out of it and they quickly moved forward to take care of the fainted white pony and the dead black horse.

Even so, their attention was still fixated on Lanlan. The shock from her actions almost drove them nuts!

She was only in kindergarten? They had heard about Yang Chen’s extraordinary abilities but how could his daughter be this powerful?!

Lanlan wasn’t happy and she pouted while walking to Yang Gongming, “Great-grandfather, I want to shower. It stinks...”

Yang Gongming chuckled and carried her in his arms, “Lanlan, even though the black horse was bad, you can’t just kill it. You shouldn’t kill animals anymore, do you understand?”

Lanlan blinked, “Is it like killing the bad guys? Daddy says we shouldn’t kill those who are only a little bit bad, we should kill the big bad guys. Am I right?”

Yang Gongming was stunned for a second but he nodded immediately, “Yes.”

Lanlan didn’t really understand what he meant but she still responded. Soon after, she smacked her lips together and said, “Great-grandfather, since the black horse is dead, let’s have black horse meat for dinner!”

The hair on the back of their necks stood up as everyone else stared at the innocent-looking girl. They could even feel pins and needles in their legs.

Chapter 1189 - Just For A Few Minutes

### **Just For A Few Minutes**

Night arrived in Zhonghai and a young woman dressed in a black and white dress was seen standing outside one of the houses in Xijiao Villas.

She was bouncing on the ground and rubbing her hands together to warm herself up because of the cold weather.

A few minutes later, a black BMW stopped near her.

A bright smile showed up on her face while she ran towards the car.

Yang Chen got out of the car while holding onto a huge plastic bag. He frowned when he saw her cheeks had turned red from the cold wind, "Zhiqing, why did you wait for me outside? Don't you know it's cold?"

Xiao Zhiqing giggled and hugged him before linking her arm in his, "It's fine, it's good to have some fresh air too."

"Silly girl," Yang Chen chuckled. Her gesture warmed his heart, "You can't cultivate, and your vessels are too Yin. Take care of your body, it hurts me to see you like this."

"Really?"

"Of course." Yang Chen pecked her cheek.

Xiao Zhiqing smiled at him shyly, "I don't know why but I didn't see you for a day and it made me anxious. I was thrilled when you told me you'll be coming over for dinner. I wanted to wait for you outside so that you can see me earlier, even if it's just for a few minutes."

Yang Chen felt touched, and couldn't bear to nag her, so he held her hands and walked towards her house.

Wang Ma bought the villa for her daughter and ever since Wang Ma moved over, their place became Yang Chen's second home.

Their interior was the same as his own house except, the decorations were much simpler.

Wang Ma walked out of the kitchen with two dishes in her hands when she saw Yang Chen, "Sir, you're here. There are two more dishes, dinner will be ready once I get them out."

Yang Chen nodded and placed the plastic bag onto the table, "Wang Ma, I have some food here. Bring a pot out, we can heat these up."

"Hubby, did you buy food? It smells so good." Xiao Zhiqing looked at the plastic bag curiously.

Yang Chen said nonchalantly, "It's nothing, just some hot and spicy soup. It's cold so I bought some on my way here, some of the ingredients are cooked and some are raw."

“What is hot and spicy soup?” Xiao Zhiqing was puzzled.

Yang Chen and Wang Ma were stunned at her question.

“Zhiqing, you’ve never eaten hot and spicy soup before?” Wang Ma asked.

Xiao Zhiqing nodded with a dazed expression and mumbled, “I left the borders and escaped overseas in a hurry. I’ve never tried a lot of food...”

Wang Ma’s gaze softened. She forced a smile and told her, “That’s true, I never thought about this. You had a tough time my child, life hasn’t been good to you.”

“It’s not a big deal, I can bring her out tomorrow and we can find a night market or roadside stall and eat there the whole day.” Yang Chen chuckled.

“Thank you sir, Zhiqing is happy to be able to spend time with you.” Wang Ma said gratefully.

Xiao Zhiqing nodded hard and looked at him with eyes filled with expectation.

Yang Chen sighed internally; he was glad to see them being so happy. *I did so many things to make you guys happy, but some people can’t be pleased easily like Zhiqing...*

Wang Ma moved quickly and soon after, the ingredients for the hot and spicy soup were cooked.

Just when they were about to eat, someone opened the main door.

“Oh, it smells so good! I’m late, I’m late... Wang Ma! Zhiqing! I’m here again...”

The person who yelled while coming in was no one else other than An Xin who was dressed in a white coat with a Dior bag in her arms.

An Xin stuck out her tongue cheekily and tittered when she saw Yang Chen, “Hubby, you’re here too. Are you here for dinner as well?”

Yang Chen looked at her with a lopsided smile, “Why does it sound like you’re always here for dinner?”

“She says it’s boring to eat by herself, and She wanted me to cook for her before this. She gets even more excited whenever my mom cooks for me. She’s been quite busy recently, so I have not seen her in awhile.” Xiao Zhiqing said.

Wang Ma seemed to know about this too, “Sir, you might not know this, but Miss An Xin is close to Zhiqing. She always takes her out for shopping and teaches her about makeup. They’re close.”

“Yeah, I’m not a freeloader.” An Xin giggled and placed her shopping bags onto the floor before sitting next to Xiao Zhiqing.

Yang Chen realized he hadn’t been paying attention to his women, he had no idea who was closer to who. Now that he thought about it, Rose was closer to Mo Qianni since they stayed together whereas An Xin was closer to Xiao Zhiqing since their personalities were similar.

Yang Chen wasn’t sure how their relationship would progress, but he was surely looking forward to having a big family with them.

Once they started eating, Xiao Zhiqing kept chatting with An Xin. As Xiao Zhiqing didn't have any girlfriends to talk to in the past, even though she was curious about fashion and makeup, she didn't know much about it.

Coincidentally An Xin used to be a flight attendant and since she was born in a rich family, she knew a lot of stuff. Her cheerfulness kept the conversation going, so they clicked with one another immediately.

Halfway through dinner, Xiao Zhiqing was reminded of something and asked An Xin, "An Xin, where did you go for the past few days? I thought you went on a business trip."

An Xin pouted, "It's so annoying, the board of directors and my employees kept pestering me about my meetings. My brain almost exploded."

"Did something happen to your company?" Yang Chen was concerned.

An Xin sighed, which was rare for her to do so, "Mmh, a competitor got a cleaning energy hotel project when they received funds from a company overseas. Our company has always been in the lead for our food services and hospitality industry. Now that the government supports their project, our stocks will definitely drop if they succeed..."

"Is it that bad? Didn't the Liu clan give all their assets to your clan? There are companies that can compete with you guys?!" Yang Chen was surprised.

"Of course there are! Things are constantly changing, including companies. It's easy to build a strong company as long as you have talented people and relations. Most importantly, they have the government, so we have to deal with them carefully. We couldn't think of a way, so I ran back here. I'll faint in the office if I don't take a break any sooner." An Xin rolled her eyes.

Xiao Zhiqing tugged Yang Chen's sleeves, "Hubby, An Xin's so pitiful. Help her, please. Don't you have lots of money? Can't you buy that company?"

Yang Chen furrowed his brows and feigned anger, "Nonsense, how can I do that? They didn't pull any tricks, nor did they plot against us. They competed against them fairly and if I tried to intervene just because I'm rich, wouldn't that make me a thug? Even if I bought the company, what about the others? I can't buy all their competitors. Even if An Xin lost the company because of them, I can still take care of you guys. There's no need to be afraid."

"Alright, alright, I was just asking. An Xin's company was passed down to her from her ancestors, it'd be a pity if she lost it."

An Xin sounded helpless, "I've thought that doing business and managing a company wouldn't be hard but ever since I became the chairman, I realize it wasn't that easy. I started to feel helpless in a lot of things, which is why I admire Sister Ruoxi. She became the president at a much younger age and she's getting better and better. She's so awesome..."

A hint of bitterness crept up Yang Chen's face when Lin Ruoxi was mentioned, and a mocking smile formed on his lips.

Wang Ma was deeply concerned, "Sir, I haven't asked you this, but did you go and find miss for the past few days? Did she agree to come home?"

An Xin and Xiao Zhiqing looked at Yang Chen with worried gazes. Even though they didn't ask him, they would still care about this for various reasons.

### **Chapter 1190: Keen Sense of Smell**

Yang Chen let out a heavy breath before looking up at Wang Ma with furrowed brows, "Wang Ma, I think...I think Ruoxi won't be back so soon."

Wang Ma's jaw dropped in surprise, "Why would you say this? What happened?"

Yang Chen didn't bother hiding it and told them how Lin Ruoxi shut him out of the house and how she got mad at him over breakfast.

"Wang Ma, I really can't think of a way to solve this. I don't get it; I brought her breakfast because I thought of her. Bumping into Hongyan in the corridor isn't something that I can control. I can't just walk away when I see her. I'm sure Ruoxi knew who I was trying to meet so why must she quarrel with me?"

Yang Chen was frustrated. An Xin and Xiao Zhiqing looked at him with a complex gaze but none of them spoke.

Wang Ma kept quiet for a while before consoling Yang Chen, "Sir, I know you're upset that miss treated you that way, but I'm sure she knows you were trying to be nice to her. However, sometimes when women think about something, they don't consider what is right and what is wrong, nor do they care who is responsible for it. These aren't important..."

"What does she want then?" Yang Chen asked.

"Attitude." Wang Ma replied.

"Attitude?"

"That's right, women care about the man's attitude towards them," Wang Ma smiled, "It might sound exaggerated, but I think even though she's at fault for treating you that way, your attitude was one of the problems. For example, you went to ask for her forgiveness, but you didn't tell her you were coming over to her place and acted as if she would listen to you. Miss couldn't have felt good about it. She has always put up a strong demeanour but she's actually soft at heart. She would have forgiven you as long as you speak to her nicely. As for today's breakfast, you should have kept smiling instead of talking back to her. She was just trying to throw a tantrum and there's no way she thought that you bought breakfast for Assistant Zhao."

It dawned on Yang Chen. It...it did sound right; he was acting too confident and thought that it would be easy for her to forgive him. Even though he apologized to her earnestly, he didn't feel a sense of danger and figured it was natural for her to forgive him.

"that makes sense..." Yang Chen smiled sheepishly, "But Wang Ma, things between us have worsened and I don't dare to face her now. I'm not sure if she's still angry at me."

An Xin blinked suddenly when she heard this, "How about...I go and see her?"

"You?" Yang Chen chuckled, "An Xin darling, aren't you the most afraid of Ruoxi?"

An Xin pouted, "I'm afraid of her but she doesn't mind seeing me because I look easy...I can check on her and ask her about things."

"Ask about what?" Yang Chen asked curiously.

An Xin bit her lips, "Uh...about...about my company, I'm sure she can help me since she's talented in the field of business."

Yang Chen smiled but it did sound like a good idea. If Lin Ruoxi was willing to help An Xin, it also meant that she didn't really hate him.

After dinner, Yang Chen watched a drama with the ladies until An Xin had to leave early since she has a meeting tomorrow morning.

Yang Chen volunteered to see her off and he hugged her waist while talking to her in a gentle voice, "I know you always look happy because you don't want to show everyone how stressed you are, but I know you're not in a good state now that your family business is facing trouble. Tell me if you're tired. I'm your man, I can't just watch you suffer and do nothing."

An Xin showed a bashful smile and laid her head on Yang Chen's chest, "I know that, but I also think that I shouldn't rely on you for everything. I'll feel useless. When I was young and insensible, I never liked my dad, so I ran away from home. I became a flight attendant, thinking that I don't need to care about the company or do business. But when the fate of my employees was on me, I realized my dad had it rough too...but he's no longer here. Even so, I hope that I can keep my father and my grandfather's legacy going."

They hugged in the dark for a short moment until Yang Chen let go of her and pinched her cheeks, "Don't be afraid. Go and meet Ruoxi tomorrow, she's closer to you compared to everyone else or she wouldn't have bullied you. She might not be good at singing, dancing or having fun, but she's really good at doing business. At least that's how she kept my temper under control."

An Xin curled her lips, "I know, I'm the easiest to bully."

Yang Chen kissed her, "They bully you, but I'll pamper you."

Having said so, Yang Chen took out some wrinkly 10-dollar bills from his pocket and pushed into her hand.

An Xin furrowed her brows, "Hubby, why are you giving me money?"

"Oh, you can buy some glutinous rice balls with this to comfort yourself," Yang Chen tried to trick her, "Well, if you don't like it...you can buy it for your Sister Ruoxi...remember to buy Zhao's glutinous rice ball...there's a branch right below the Yu Cong building. Don't tell her I told you to buy it or she'll get jealous!"

"Glutinous rice ball? But...but I don't like it..."

An Xin understood what he was trying to say before she even finished her sentence. Laughter escaped her lips when she noticed his 'innocent' face, "You're trying to use me to please her. Hmph, I thought you really cared about me...you don't dare to give it to her personally, so you used me. You're so mean."

“Come on, I told you to eat it first and to only give it to Ruoxi if you don’t like it. I thought about you first.” Yang Chen was thick-skinned.

“Hmph, then why didn’t you give me more? I’m not that poor even if my company is in trouble, you should give me more, like a few billion dollars so that I can buy that company.”

“It’s my sincerity that matters, money isn’t important. Also, this is my pay...”

Yang Chen patted her butt, “Alright, darling, go back and have a rest. Goodnight...”

His face would go scarlet if he stayed there any sooner. Yang Chen ran back into the house, having decided to sleep at Xiao Zhiqing’s room tonight.

The next morning, Lin Ruoxi was interrupted by a knock at her office door.

“Come in.”

Lin Ruoxi was looking at the graphs and data on her monitor, not bothered to look up at all.

Once the door opened, Zhao Hongyan walked in with a smile and told her, “President Lin, Miss An is here to see you.”

“Miss An? Who? Do I have guests today?” Lin Ruoxi turned around with a confused gaze.

Zhao Hongyan shook her head, “It’s Miss An from the An Group, she’s...”

“I won’t meet her!” Lin Ruoxi cut her off with a cold voice.

“Oh, yes...” Zhao Hongyan was stunned and just when she was about to nod in response, An Xin showed up right behind her.

“Tadaa! Sister Ruoxi! It’s me! How can you refuse to meet me, I even brought something for you!”

An Xin ran into the office while giggling, Zhao Hongyan couldn’t even stop her.

“Wow, your office is so huge and stylish, but doesn’t it feel empty being here alone? Do you want me to buy some plants and decorate this place for you?”

An Xin sat on the couch and started to chat with her.

Lin Ruoxi furrowed her brows, but she couldn’t possibly kick her out since she was already in here. With a glance towards Zhao Hongyan, she got Lin Ruoxi’s signal and shut the door behind her as she left.

Lin Ruoxi organized her folders before taking a seat on the couch. Just when she was about to ask her a question, something caught her gaze and she froze.

“Glutinous rice ball?”

“Eh...Sister Ruoxi, you have a keen sense of smell. It’s still sealed but you can already smell it?!” An Xin was shocked.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes, “Dummy, it’s written on the packaging!”