

## Finest 91

### Chapter 91 Qiaoqiao, My Darling (Part 1)

Lin Wanrong had just left the main courtyard and he had barely caught his breath when a maid came to report, "Brother Lin, you must hurry to the reception hall. It is said that an esteemed guest is here to see you."

Could it be that Miss Qin Xian'er is here? Lin Wanrong was startled. He had grown increasingly familiar with this young woman and had developed a deeper understanding of her temperament. She appeared gentle and charming on the outside, but within, she was rather narrow-minded and easily offended.

Upon arriving at the hall, he saw a young master in conversation with Young Master Guo. The young man immediately clasped his fists in greeting when he saw Lin Wanrong, "Brother Lin, it's been a long time. I, Luo Yuan, have come to visit."

Lin Wanrong was surprised, "So it's you, Brother Luo. I thought it was"

"You thought it was Miss Qin Xian'er, didn't you?" Luo Yuan laughed heartily.

Lin Wanrong forced a smile, "Let's not talk about that. I'm having a headache."

Luo Yuan was perplexed, "That's odd. Most men in the world would envy you, so why aren't you happy?"

Lin Wanrong made a sour face, "It's like seeing but not being able to eat. Isn't that bitter?" Luo Yuan was taken aback, then joined Lin Wanrong in a hearty laugh.

Luo Yuan was the son of the governor, and his visit was a major event. Since the two Misses Xiao could not meet him due to propriety, Lady Xiao stepped in to receive him instead.

Lin Wanrong had just parted from Lady Xiao moments ago. Seeing her still as beautiful but with traces of fatigue on her face after only a short while, he sympathized with her difficulties with the alliance.

After exchanging pleasantries with Luo Yuan, Lady Xiao turned to Lin Wanrong, "Lin San, since Master Luo thinks so highly of you, you should keep him company and have a good talk."

Luo Yuan quickly responded, "I dare not. Brother Lin is highly talented. I am here to learn from his wisdom."

Seeing the Governor's son getting along so well with Lin San, Lady Xiao was surprised. She knew Lin San was talented, but it was astonishing that even the Governor's son held him in such high regard. Recalling his analysis of the alliance earlier that day, she was convinced that Lin San was not a simple character.

However, it was a great advantage for the Xiao family to have a good relationship with the Governor's son. Lady Xiao nodded and smiled, giving Lin Wanrong a knowing look, signaling him to attend to Luo Yuan properly, then excused herself.

Luo Yuan was not one to sit still for long. After a brief chat, he proposed, "Brother Lin, why don't we go out for a walk? I won't lie, I feel a bit out of place here."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily. He appreciated Luo Yuan's straightforwardness. He was also considering the same thing. The restaurant should be nearly renovated, and he hadn't seen Qiaoqiao for quite some time. Even though he had been accompanied by two beautiful women these past few days, the naive little girl was always in his thoughts.

Lin Wanrong was now acting under Madam's order to keep this Governor's son company, so leaving the mansion was naturally not an issue. He had accepted Qin Xian'er's invitation to go out a few days ago, but it had always been at night. Today, leaving the mansion during the day, he felt immensely refreshed. He laughed, "Brother Luo, without you, it wouldn't be easy for me to step out."

Luo Yuan was about to ask him why, but seeing him dressed in blue with a small cap, he understood. He paused, then asked, "Brother Lin, with your talents, are you really planning to serve as a servant in the Xiao family for life?"

This was the third person to ask him this question, each one with a distinguished status. Lin Wanrong wondered, do I really have such abilities? Everyone seems to think so. Perhaps I've been too modest. He smiled slightly and replied, "Brother Luo, life is short, fleeting like a white horse passing a gap. If we chase after something in everything, life can become too exhausting."

Luo Yuan respectfully clasped his fists, "Brother Lin, your words are always so profound. Luo Yuan is enlightened."

As they walked and chatted, Luo Yuan suddenly asked, "Brother Lin, has that Cheng Ruinian been giving you any trouble?"

Lin Wanrong was taken aback, "Trouble? What kind of trouble?"

Luo Yuan explained, "You may not know much about Cheng Ruinian, but I am well aware. He has always harbored improper intentions toward Miss Qin. Now that you're so close with Miss Qin, wouldn't he cause you trouble?"

Lin Wanrong thought about it. Indeed, being a powerless servant, if that Cheng really sought to retaliate, it would be quite troublesome. With this thought, Lin Wanrong suddenly remembered the organization Dong Qingshan had set up. If he could bring Luo Yuan into it, they'd have nothing to fear.

After a while of walking and chatting about interesting things from different places, Luo Yuan once again marveled at Lin San's extensive knowledge. Before long, they arrived at the restaurant Lin Wanrong had purchased. After more than ten days, the renovation was basically complete, and the restaurant had completely transformed.

Luo Yuan was surprised, "Huh, has this restaurant changed hands? How come I didn't know?"

Lin Wanrong didn't clarify, smiling, "Brother Luo, just follow me."

As they ascended to the second floor, the newly arranged tables and chairs were neatly arranged, exuding a gentle fragrance. This floor, designed as a public restaurant, had been refurbished by Lin Wanrong according to the modern restaurant format, divided into different sections. Despite the many tables and chairs, it didn't seem chaotic, but rather clear and orderly. In the hall, at Lin Wanrong's request, colorful flags were hung across, and not far apart, six large candlesticks hung from the ceiling, creating an elegant setting.

Luo Yuan had never seen a restaurant in such a layout before. He admired it for a moment, then praised, "Brother Lin, this is no ordinary restaurant. The unique vision and exquisite craftsmanship of the owner are evident from the arrangement alone. Ah, why hadn't I thought of this before? A

restaurant could be arranged like this! This place is certain to prosper, earning bucket loads of money each day."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, "Brother Luo, I accept your good words."

Luo Yuan, puzzled, asked, "Brother Lin, could it be that you... Oh, why didn't I think of it? Apart from you, Brother Lin, who else could have such talent? Brother Lin, I truly admire you."

Lin Wanrong shook his head, speaking earnestly, "Brother Luo, I won't hide it from you. This restaurant is indeed mine. However, it's not open for business yet. Once it opens in a few days, you must bring your friends over. All your friends will receive a platinum VIP card from my restaurant, which offers a 30% discount on all purchases, including drinks and seafood. As for you, Brother Luo, feel free to come by anytime. This place is your second home."

Luo Yuan laughed heartily, "Since you're so generous, Brother Lin, I won't stand on ceremony. I do enjoy free food and drinks."

The two laughed together, and they ascended another floor. The spacious hall on the second floor was similar to the first, but with more open seating and a large stage in the middle. Luo Yuan curiously asked, "Brother Lin, what's the purpose of this stage?"

Lin Wanrong smiled, "Brother Luo, do you remember when we went to Miaoyu Pavilion to listen to the opera?"

Luo Yuan replied, "Yes, I remember."

Lin Wanrong nodded, "Brother Luo, what do you think if I invite some famous courtesans to sing here?"

Luo Yuan's mouth fell open, as if in disbelief. In those days, those who ran restaurants did so in a straightforward manner, serving food and drinks. These kinds of gimmicks were unheard of. But on second thought, if famous courtesans were indeed brought in to perform, this place would undoubtedly be packed.

Luo Yuan sighed, "Brother Lin, I don't know how you come up with these ideas. Just based on this, your place is bound to be a hit."

Lin Wanrong chuckled inwardly, My ideas come from spending time in bars. Many of the bars he used to frequent had house bands, and with a good DJ, the atmosphere was absolutely electric. While he didn't have a house band, there were plenty of famous courtesans along the Qinhuai River known for their singing. With some money, he could invite them over, not only as a gimmick but also to raise the level of the restaurant. That was why he had hired the two girls, Little Cui and Little Lian.

The two men ascended to the third floor, which was partitioned into individual private rooms, arranged meticulously, and quite eye-catching. What was most unique was that each private room had a name inscribed with gold lettering on the door. One was named Plum Blossom Room, another was called Soaring Dragon Chamber, and the one nearest to them was named Flowing Time Suit. Luo Yuan couldn't help but admire inwardly. He considered himself talented, but facing these creative ideas, he felt them to be inconceivably innovative.

Moving up, they were greeted by four golden characters - "Wealth, Nobility, Talent, Intellect". The fourth floor was divided into two large rooms, both facing Xuanwu Lake, offering picturesque views. The rooms were decorated with noble elegance, less like a restaurant and more like a tranquil study. Complete with stationery, ink, and a qin rack by the window, the design was indeed ingenious.

Upon reaching the fifth floor, Luo Yuan was completely astounded. The room had no partitions, just some carvings around the edges. The window screens were all pushed open, allowing a cool breeze to flow in. It felt as if one was walking in mid-air, evoking a sensation of walking in the sky.

Lin Wanrong was inwardly nodding in approval as he looked around. Although he had not personally supervised the construction, that girl Qiaoqiao had fully understood his intentions, decorating the restaurant with grace and uniqueness, to his utmost satisfaction.

"Big Brother..." Dong Qiaoqiao was talking with a woman when she noticed Lin Wanrong. She paused, her face lighting up with wild joy. Ignoring the woman she had been talking to, she shrieked and ran over.

When she reached Lin Wanrong, she involuntarily stopped, staring blankly at him. She opened her mouth, then closed it, her eyes welling up with tears. After a long while, she finally opened her lips lightly and said, "Big Brother..."

Chapter 92 Qiaoqiao, My Darling (Part 2)

With just that one sentence, she could say no more. The tears streamed down her cheeks; despite having a thousand words to say, she found herself unable to utter even one.

After being apart for several days, Qiaoqiao, still as lovely as ever, looked noticeably thinner. Seeing her cry, Lin Wanrong hurriedly took her hand, "Qiaoqiao, what's wrong? Are you upset seeing me?"

Biting her lip, Qiaoqiao focused her gaze on his face, and softly said, "No, Big brother, you know that seeing you always brings me joy."

Lin Wanrong's eyes swept across the room, noticing two dried out steamed buns on the counter, their surfaces marked with tiny teeth prints. Seeing her emaciated appearance, his expression changed. "Qiaoqiao, why are you eating only this?"

"Ah" Qiaoqiao let out a small cry, hastily hiding the buns, her gaze fixed on her own toes, daring not to look at him.

An angry look crossed Lin Wanrong's face as he looked at Dong Qingshan behind him. "Qingshan, you explain."

Dong Qingshan had never seen his boss angry before. Frightened, he quickly explained, "Boss, our money has been tight lately because of the renovations. Sister said that you work hard for our money, so we should spend less. She brought many steamed buns, and that's all she's been eating every day"

"Damn it!" Lin Wanrong shouted, slamming his fist on the table, a deep ache in his heart. While he was out enjoying himself, Qiaoqiao was suffering alone. He despised himself.

"Big brother" Seeing the self-blame in his eyes, Qiaoqiao quickly took his hand and gently called out.

Lin Wanrong's eyes were moist. Seeing Qiaoqiao's tear-streaked face, yet still carrying a soft smile, his heart felt shattered. He gently stroked Dong Qiaoqiao's face, speaking deeply, "Qiaoqiao, my darling"

Hearing his words, Qiaoqiao's tears overflowed, a bitter sweetness in her heart. "Big brother" Before she could say more, she found her lips sealed by a passionate kiss.

Everyone froze in disbelief, including Luo Yuan, Dong Qingshan, and the woman who was just talking to Dong Qiaoqiao. In this era, holding hands in public was already shocking, let alone such a passionate display. Had they ever seen such a scene?

Luo Yuan thought to himself, the boss is indeed the boss, always impressing.

The woman who had been talking to Dong Qiaoqiao blushed and quickly lowered her head, too shy to witness the scene.

Qiaoqiao felt as if she was melting in the warm embrace of the man she longed for day and night. Smelling the masculine scent of her big brother, she lost all her strength, her body going limp in his arms. She forgot where she was, forgot her status, only feeling a strange magic emanating from him, binding her to him forever.

Lin Wanrong savored the sweet scent of the young girl. He sucked on her sweet tongue, gently stirring it in her mouth. Qiaoqiao felt an overwhelming sensation she'd never experienced before. Holding her big brother tight, tears of happiness fell onto her cheeks.

What Qin Xian'er, what Xiao Qingxuan, what Eldest Miss and Second Miss, none of them could ever compare to his precious Qiaoqiao. In that moment, Lin Wanrong had eyes only for this obedient and captivating little girl. If he ever let her down, he would consider his life a failure.

After a long while, Lin Wanrong released the little girl, gazing at her deeply and said resolutely, "Qiaoqiao, you are my most precious treasure in this life. I, Lin Wanrong, swear to the heavens, if I ever let you down in this life, may I be struck by thunder and never have peace"

"Big brother" Qiaoqiao interrupted him, tears in her eyes, her slender hand covering his lips, "Don't make such vows. You are a man of great things. No matter how you treat Qiaoqiao, Qiaoqiao will have no regrets."

"Qiaoqiao" Lin Wanrong was deeply touched, hugging her tightly, "My darling, my precious, my dear, my sweetheart."

Listening to such mushy sweet nothings, Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan felt their skin crawl. This Big brother can really say anything, they thought.

Qiaoqiao was both embarrassed and delighted, her heart pounding uncontrollably. How could Big brother say such things, it's so embarrassing, she thought, Yet I still want to hear him call me darling.

Remembering the sensation of Big brother's kiss, she felt weak all over, her face burning like fire, yet her heart was filled with happiness. Seeing the three of them staring at her, she suddenly let out a gasp, Oh no, how could I do such an embarrassing thing in front of so many people? It's all Big brother's fault, he's so bad.

Qiaoqiao's face was as red as blood, she gave Lin Wanrong a shy and slightly reproachful look, then quickly turned around and ran downstairs.

Lin Wanrong shouted loudly, "Darling, don't go too far, I have something to tell you later, just for the two of us to hear."

Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan were sweating buckets, This Big brother, he's really too shocking.

Seeing Luo Yuan and Qingshan's astounded expressions, Lin Wanrong didn't even blush. He chuckled, "Oh, I didn't realize everyone was here. I hope I didn't disturb anyone."

Luo Yuan shook his head and sighed, "Brother Lin, after seeing you, I've come to realize how useless the concepts of etiquette and decorum really are."

Lin Wanrong chuckled, "Etiquette? What's that? I've never heard of it."

Dong Qingshan, being young and spirited, had always admired big brother Lin greatly. Now that he was about to become his brother-in-law, he was even more delighted. He echoed Lin Wanrong's words loudly, "Exactly, Big brother, as long as you like it, you should do it. Why care about anything else?"

Luo Yuan gave Lin Wanrong a thumbs up, "Brother Lin, I am completely convinced by you."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, introduced Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan to each other, and then noticed there was another woman standing nearby. He was so engrossed in the passionate kiss with Qiaoqiao and the jovial conversation with Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan that he hadn't noticed an extra person was there. He looked up, and with just one glance, he was rooted to the spot.

The woman was around eighteen or nineteen, with willow-leaf eyebrows, an oval face, rosy cheeks, and cherry lips. She wore a goose-yellow dress that perfectly accentuated her petite and proportionate figure. In terms of appearance and demeanor, she was no less than Xiao Qingxuan. But unlike Xiao Qingxuan's icy demeanor, this woman seemed to have a naturally tranquil aura. She stood there like a cluster of serene flowers, at peace with the world. Even Lin Wanrong, who was accustomed to joviality, felt a sense of tranquility in her presence.

Good heavens, Lin Wanrong sighed inwardly. "Where did this girl come from, with such an aura? In front of her, even a man of many words like myself is rendered speechless."

Fortunately, Lin Wanrong was the kind of man who feared nothing. This young lady seemed so tranquil, so he felt compelled to disrupt that tranquility. Therefore, he asked with a grin, "Miss, I don't think we've met before, have we?"

The woman was taken aback. All the men she had met before were respectful and refined in front of her, she had never met such a ruffian. However, she had already witnessed Lin Wanrong's shocking actions just before, so his ruffian behavior seemed trifling in comparison. She responded with a faint smile, "I have not had the pleasure of meeting you before, sir."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, "That's an interesting way to put it, since we meet by fate, I won't ask for your name, lest I be labeled a rogue."

The woman thought it was funny, thinking to herself, If you're not a rogue, then who is? But since she was good friends with Qiaoqiao and the man before her was Qiaoqiao's beloved, she couldn't voice these thoughts.

Luo Yuan, seeing the woman talking to Lin Wanrong, was about to introduce her to Lin Wanrong when he caught a stern glance from the woman, making him close his mouth obediently.

Ignoring the woman, Lin Wanrong asked Qingshan, "Has the Meiwei Restaurant been completed?"

Dong Qingshan nodded, "Yes, it's completed. We've been waiting for you to pick a lucky day for the grand opening."

Lin Wanrong, who had come with a plan, nodded, "I've checked the almanac, and the ninth day of the tenth month, which is three days from now, is an auspicious day for construction, moving, and business opening. Let's choose that day."

Dong Qingshan nodded, "My sister also picked that day. She said we should wait for you to finalize it."

Lin Wanrong shamelessly stated, "Of course, my Qiaoqiao and I are of one heart and one mind."

Luo Yuan shook his head and sighed, wondering how Lin Wanrong could have such thick skin.

While they were talking, Qiaoqiao, her cheeks still flushed, shyly brought tea up from downstairs, avoiding eye contact with Lin Wanrong and the others. When she reached Luo Yuan, she said, "Young Master Luo, please have some tea."

Luo Yuan accepted the tea with surprise and gratitude, saying, "How could I trouble Madam to serve me? My apologies."

Dong Qiaoqiao was both startled and delighted. She stole a glance at Lin Wanrong and saw that her big brother was encouragingly smiling at her. She felt joyful, and this also gave her a boost of courage. Holding a cup of tea, she offered it to the woman, saying, "Sister Ning, please have some tea."

The woman smiled slightly and teased, "Qiaoqiao, now that you're married, you should serve your husband tea first."

Dong Qiaoqiao let out a small gasp of surprise and embarrassment, immediately lowering her head. But she carefully handed the cup of tea to Lin Wanrong, saying, "Big brother, please have some tea--"

Lin Wanrong felt an increasing fondness for this girl. He took the cup of tea and placed it on the table, taking her hand and saying, "Qiaoqiao, come sit next to your big brother. I want to have a heart-to-heart with you." Qiaoqiao gently nodded and obediently sat next to him.

Lin Wanrong said, "Qiaoqiao, why didn't you tell your big brother when you were in trouble? Do you still see me as an outsider?"

"No, not at all," Qiaoqiao quickly explained. "Big brother, you're a man of great importance. Why should you worry about these trivial matters? I can handle them."

## Chapter 93 Winning Over

Lin Wanrong sighed inwardly, I don't know what kind of luck I've stumbled upon to meet my precious Qiaoqiao. It really tugs at my heart. He tightly held Qiaoqiao's hand and said, "From now on, you are not allowed to keep these things to yourself. Tell your big brother about it. If there are any problems, big brother will solve them."

Dong Qiaoqiao's beautiful eyes were moist, and she gently bit her lip, softly saying, "Qiaoqiao understands. Big brother, you are Qiaoqiao's sky."

Lin Wanrong felt a sweetness in his heart, just like eating honey. He hadn't expected that this little girl Qiaoqiao could even beat him at sweet talk. His heart was full of joy, and he whispered, "Qiaoqiao, my darling" Dong Qiaoqiao's heart pounded twice, and then she was unable to think anymore.

Cough, cough, Luo Yuan couldn't stand to watch anymore, and hastily interrupted their romantic interaction with a fake cough. Lin Wanrong looked up to find several pairs of eyes on him, clearly dissatisfied with how he was leading astray the pure little Qiaoqiao.

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily and asked, "Qiaoqiao, how much silver are we short of now?"

Dong Qiaoqiao shook her head and said, "Big brother, we still have 500 taels of silver left. We should be frugal. We'll have more income after the restaurant opens."

Lin Wanrong nodded, pulled out a large amount of loose silver from his bosom, and reassured her, "Qiaoqiao, big brother has plenty of silver. Feel free to use it. Don't mistreat yourself. Remember, you are my priceless treasure."

"Big brother" Qiaoqiao's face turned red as she softly called out, feeling a little weak. She really couldn't bear to hear his words, which made her heart race, and yet she loved to hear them.

Lin Wanrong then asked about the preparations for the opening. He genuinely wanted to win over Luo Yuan and didn't treat him as an outsider. He even asked about the restaurant in front of him. Dong Qiaoqiao was smart and capable and had prepared everything he had instructed, which made Lin Wanrong very satisfied.

"Qingshan, how are things on the side of Hung Hing?" Lin Wanrong asked, glancing at Luo Yuan unintentionally.

Seeing the men talking, Dong Qiaoqiao cleverly started a conversation with sister Ning.

Dong Qingshan was also a quick-witted person. Seeing his big brother ask in front of Luo Yuan, he knew there must be a deeper meaning, so he straightforwardly answered, "Recently, we've been accumulating strength. The manpower of Hung Hing's three halls is already sufficient. As per your instructions, big brother, we've found some trained brothers to practice martial arts with the others to enhance their combat abilities. However, it seems there's unrest in the city with Wu Zhenghu lately. There've been several times when they've come to scout our territory in the south of the city. Big brother, I think a confrontation with Wu Zhenghu is inevitable."

Luo Yuan, as expected, was someone who loved excitement. Upon hearing this, he couldn't help but get intrigued. He quickly grabbed Dong Qingshan's hand and said, "Brother Qingshan, what is this Hung Hing you're talking about? And what does 'scout our territory' mean? It sounds interesting. Tell me more." Luo Yuan, being a year older than Dong Qingshan and not possessing the airs of a rich young master, found it easy to connect with him.

Dong Qingshan glanced at Lin Wanrong, and seeing his big brother nodding, he proceeded to explain the situation about Hung Hing.

When Luo Yuan heard about the fierce battle with Li Ergou outside the city, his eyes widened in excitement. He exclaimed, "Exciting, so exciting! How did I miss such an exciting event?"

Dong Qingshan further explained Hung Hing's principles and structure, its aim to protect the weak and prevent violence. Luo Yuan was moved by this. What a great ideal! If they could follow this ideal, once Hung Hing grew stronger and eliminated the bullies who exploited their power, and unified Jinling city, there would be no underworld in Jinling city anymore.

Lin Wanrong listened to Dong Qingshan spinning tales, and laughed to himself. In the past, when dealing with small-time thugs, Qingshan would talk about seizing money and women. Now, facing the highly educated Luo Yuan, Qingshan came up with the grand idea of eliminating bullies and

creating harmony. This was indeed very persuasive. No need to say, he must have used this tactic to expand Hung Hing recently. Why hadn't he noticed this talent in the boy earlier?

Suddenly, Luo Yuan stood up and said, "Qingshan, I want to join Hung Hing. You won't object, will you?"

"This" Dong Qingshan looked at Lin Wanrong with a troubled expression, but seeing his smile, he said, "I have no objections, but we still need to ask my big brother's opinion."

Luo Yuan glanced at Lin Wanrong and said, "Brother Lin, this big brother must be you, right?"

He had been waiting for this moment, Lin Wanrong nodded and said with a stern face, "Brother Luo, you've heard what Qingshan just said. Although our goal in Hung Hing is ambitious, the road to achieving it is winding and long, and may even involve a lot of violence. You need to think it through. Moreover, your status is noble"

Luo Yuan quickly shook his head, "That won't be a problem. My father is very enlightened and doesn't interfere in my or my sister's affairs. As for the issue of violence, as you said, big brother, it's just a means to an end. To be honest with you, I've never tried to fight someone before in my life."

Brilliant! Lin Wanrong was elated. He had been wondering how to persuade Luo Yuan, but to his surprise, Luo Yuan had persuaded himself first. He pretended to be serious and said, "Brother Luo, you can join Hung Hing, but you have to follow our organization's rules, no matter who you are. Upholding justice and trust, loyalty and courage, loyalty to the organization, never betraying - can you do all these?"

"Uphold justice and trust, be loyal and brave, be faithful to the organization, never betray." Luo Yuan stood up, pointed his right hand to the sky, and solemnly swore.

"Good brother, from now on, you're part of Hung Hing," Lin Wanrong grabbed his hand and laughed heartily, feeling truly proud. People of this era took oaths very seriously, and Luo Yuan had effectively tied himself tightly to the chariot of Hung Hing with these few words. How could this not make Lin overjoyed?

After some thought, Lin Wanrong found Luo Yuan to be smart, agile, and intelligent. He complemented Dong Qingshan's assertiveness and they could benefit from each other. So, he said,

"Brother Luo, from now on, the affairs of Hung Hing will be handled by you and Qingshan. Qingshan is young and impulsive, you'll have to guide him."

Luo Yuan, being intelligent, understood that Lin Wanrong's words placed him in the position of a strategist for Hung Hing. He greatly respected Lin Wanrong, and found Dong Qingshan agreeable, so he laughed heartily, "Don't worry, Big brother. Qingshan and I will work hard to ensure no one underestimates Hung Hing."

The three of them laughed together. Dong Qingshan then repeated the matter of Wu Zhenghu of the city, "This Wu Zhenghu has formed the Black Dragon Association with several hundred brothers. He managed to establish and grow in the city because he has backing. I've been investigating for a while, but there's no concrete news, only that the person backing him is surnamed Cheng."

Lin Wanrong wasn't too familiar with the officialdom of Jinling city, but he did know a young master surnamed Cheng. Wasn't the Commander-in-chief's surname Cheng?

"Surnamed Cheng?" Luo Yuan frowned, "Big brother, there aren't many powerful figures surnamed Cheng in Jinling city. Could it be Cheng Ruinian?"

Lin Wanrong grinned, "Apart from him, I guess there's no one else."

Luo Yuan had an existing feud with Cheng Ruinian, and hearing this, he became more enthusiastic, "Heh, even better. Then let's start by crushing the Black Dragon Association, and see what this Cheng can do!"

If it had been earlier, Lin Wanrong would have been more cautious, but now it was different. Wu Zhenghu of the Black Dragon Association only had the son of the Commander-in-chief supporting him, but Lin Wanrong had the son of the Governor as his brother, which was a lot more impressive.

"Big brother, if that Wu Zhenghu comes to the south of the city again, what should we do?" Dong Qingshan asked.

"Brother Luo, what do you think we should do?" Lin Wanrong, shifting the conversation, tossed the question to Luo Yuan.

Luo Yuan thought for a moment and snorted, "If they come again, we fight. If we keep avoiding, it only shows weakness. And our Hung Hing has just been established, the foundation isn't stable,

many people are watching. If we appear too weak, it would damage our reputation. It would be better to use this opportunity to publicize and raise the flag of Hung Hing, further expanding our influence. The Black Dragon Association, without a clear understanding of our strength, would definitely not dare to act rashly. My only concern is, our strength is still somewhat inferior to the Black Dragon Association. If a real fight breaks out, how should we respond?"

Lin Wanrong nodded. Luo Yuan's analysis made some sense. The enemy was at their doorstep; if they didn't fight back now, the reputation of Hung Hing would be ruined. However, if they were to retaliate, with Hung Hing's current foundation, they were no match for the Black Dragon Association.

He pondered for a while, then suddenly waved his hand and said, "Fight, we must fight fiercely. Hung Hing's foundation is weak and our experience is limited, we can only grow slowly through conflict. But we can't fight blindly, we must concentrate our superior forces, eliminate their effective strength, and catch them off guard."

Luo Yuan pondered, "Big brother, how should we fight?"

Lin Wanrong explained, "Here's a simple example. In some areas, we could deliberately show weakness to numb them, making them more daring. When they let their guard down and penetrate deeper into our territory, we gather our greatest strength and defeat them one by one, gradually exhausting their power."

Luo Yuan asked, "Big brother, you mean not to fight them head-on, but hit and run?"

"Correct, concentrate our local superior forces and deplete their effective strength. When we're used to fighting and have grown stronger, then we can eliminate them in one fell swoop," Lin Wanrong confidently declared.

Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan nodded together. The strategy proposed by their big brother indeed made sense. As the conversation became more lively, Luo Yuan suggested going to check on their Hung Hing brothers. Lin Wanrong was also somewhat worried that expanding Hung Hing too rapidly might attract spies, so he also wanted to take a look. The three of them left and headed directly towards the south gate of the city.

Chapter 94 Number One Beauty and Talent in Jinling

There was an abandoned mansion outside the south gate of the city, where Dong Qingshan had set up the base for Hung Hing. After defeating Li Ergou, the south of the city had become Hung Hing's territory. Their income was just enough for self-sufficiency. Dong Qingshan, heeding his Big brother's advice, spent all the money on training Hung Hing and building a good relationship with his fellow brothers.

At that time, Hung Hing had nearly three hundred members, including one hundred core members. It was truly beginning to take shape. Dong Qingshan invited a few brothers who had been martial arts instructors to teach everyone practical fighting skills. In these street battles, the one with more experience and skills was bound to win.

Lin Wanrong and Luo Yuan both looked pleased. Luo Yuan, unable to contain his excitement, even attempted to wrestle with Li Beidou, which of course ended in a disaster.

Luo Yuan, a man who loved excitement, didn't mind losing to Li Beidou at all. Instead, he got along well with Li Beidou and the others.

Lin Wanrong silently acknowledged that Luo Yuan was not to be underestimated. He had an open mind and skills. If used properly, he could be a great asset. He heard that the daughter of the governor, Miss Luo, was the number one beauty and talent in Jinling. Although he hadn't met her, he imagined she wouldn't be too bad. Given Luo Yuan's personality, Lin wondered what kind of person the Jiangsu governor Luo Min would be, who was able to raise such children. He must have some abilities.

Remembering that he needed alcohol to blend perfumes, Lin Wanrong asked Dong Qingshan to find some distilleries and bring back some fermented yeast filtered from impurities.

By the time the three of them returned to the restaurant, it was already noon. The woman who Dong Qiaqiao called Sister Ning was still there. Lin Wanrong smiled at Qiaqiao and said, "Qiaqiao, we're all starving. Do you have anything to eat?"

Qiaqiao carefully dusted off his clothes and said, "The food and wine have been prepared for you. We've been waiting for you to return."

Feeling warm, Lin Wanrong thought, This girl is really indescribably good. He took her small hand and said, "Let's go up together."

The restaurant was about to open, and all the kitchenware and cooking utensils were already prepared. The hired chefs had started to come over to familiarize themselves and practice, so preparing a banquet was no problem.

After a day of intimacy with her "big brother", Dong Qiaqiao was shy but very pleased. She didn't mind spending a little extra money to prepare a very lavish feast.

Qiaqiao prepared some dishes with great care. Most of them were Lin Wanrong's favorites. Seeing more and more affection in her big brother's eyes, she felt that no matter how hard she worked, it was worth it.

According to the customs of this era, men and women were supposed to sit separately. Lin Wanrong didn't care about these rules, he insisted on having Qiaqiao sit down with him.

Qiaqiao was both surprised and delighted, but she didn't dare to break the rules. Lin Wanrong took her hand and called her "little darling" in a flirtatious whisper. Dong Qiaqiao felt weak all over and obediently sat down next to him. She felt that in one day with her "big brother", she had broken more rules than she ever had in her entire life. But it was all because of big brother's love for her, that made her feel endless joy.

Lin Wanrong said to the woman, "Please sit down, miss. Gathering together is a sign of fate. Since you are friends with Qiaqiao, you are naturally my friend as well. In my place, you can talk about anything, just don't be polite."

Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan both broke into laughter. The woman gave Luo Yuan a stern look, and Luo Yuan didn't dare to laugh anymore.

The woman gracefully accepted, "Since big brother insists, I would seem pretentious if I refused." She sat down next to Qiaqiao.

This little girl is so friendly. She doesn't even know my name, but she calls me big brother, Lin Wanrong thought to himself, unaware that she was just following Qiaqiao's lead in addressing him.

Dong Qiaqiao curiously asked, "Big brother, you've been with Sister Ning for half a day, and you still don't know her?"

"Meeting once is fate. Whether we know each other or not is secondary," Lin Wanrong raised his glass and laughed, "Today is our first time hosting guests at the Food for Immortals. Let's all drink to this. Qiaoqiao, you can have a bit too. It's fine with big brother here."

Dong Qiaoqiao softly agreed and took a sip of the strong liquor. Her face flushed a little, her skin as clear as snow, breathtakingly beautiful. Lin Wanrong gently squeezed her hand and gave her a smile.

Luo Yuan drained his glass and laughed, "Big brother, is this restaurant called Food for Immortals? This name appeals to both the old and young, it really has a certain taste."

Dong Qingshan also finished his drink in one gulp, "This is the name big brother chose, it hasn't been put up yet. I also thought of a name, but I was too embarrassed to say it."

"What name did you come up with?" Dong Qiaoqiao looked at her younger brother, affectionately smiling.

"Too Delicious, how about that?" Dong Qingshan said proudly.

Everyone burst into laughter. Lin Wanrong said, "Good, Qingshan. If we open a second branch, I'll use Too Delicious as the name."

"Really, big brother?" Dong Qingshan jumped up in excitement.

Lin Wanrong pretended to be stern, "What, are you doubting my word?" Everyone laughed again.

The easygoing atmosphere made Dong Qiaoqiao lean more into her big brother. She was less shy, laughing, "Today is our first time hosting guests at the Wealth and Talent. Will it be harder in the future?"

"Yes, we will have to rely on our abilities in the future." The woman called Sister Ning glanced at Lin Wanrong and laughed. She was close with Qiaoqiao, they shared everything, and she often came to accompany Qiaoqiao during these days, so naturally, she knew a lot of things.

Only Luo Yuan in the middle didn't know about this matter. Qiaoqiao then told Lin Wanrong's agreement, Luo Yuan was surprised, "Big brother, so we're actually riding on your coattails today. In the future, we'll have to get in based on our talents?"

Lin Wanrong chuckled, "This hall is called the Wealth and Talent. If you lack talent, you can still get in by spending a few golden leaves."

In the midst of the lively atmosphere, Dong Qiaoqiao suddenly pulled Lin Wanrong aside, "Big brother, you mentioned the other day about framing the couplet for the Wealth and Talent. Have you thought of the couplet yet?"

Lin Wanrong pointed to his head, "It's all stored up here. Qiaoqiao, go get my pencil."

When Dong Qiaoqiao brought the pencil, Luo Yuan and the woman looked a bit puzzled. The woman named Ning looked at the strange thing in Lin Wanrong's hand and asked, "Brother Lin, is this a pen?"

"Of course, it's a pen, and it's much easier to use than a brush." Lin Wanrong chuckled and swiftly wrote on the paper that Dong Qiaoqiao had brought.

Sister Ning, who was sitting next to Dong Qiaoqiao, leaned over to take a look. The writing was flowing and elegant, the font something she had never seen before, unique and distinctive.

"Smoke Veils The Pond With Willows In A Tender Hush" Sister Ning read softly, then frowned, whispering, "Big brother, is this a couplet?"

Lin Wanrong laughed, "Miss is really smart. This is a small couplet that's been passed down in my hometown. I've brought it out to embarrass myself today."

Sister Ning pondered for a long time, then reluctantly shook her head, "This couplet implies the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. It seems simple but is incredibly difficult. I can't match it."

Lin Wanrong thought to himself, It's not surprising that you can't match it. In thousands of years in China, only a few people have been able to.

Luo Yuan was taken aback when he heard the woman say this. If even she couldn't match it, this couplet was too difficult.

Sister Ning thought for a while longer but still came up with nothing. She shook her head helplessly, thinking, Today, I finally witnessed how formidable he is, so she didn't dwell on it and continued to read.

The second line was also the first half of a couplet "Smoke Trails Along The Vibrant Eaves, Mirrored In The Eyes Of Swallow." Seven homophonic characters, describing smoke trailing along the beautiful eaves to the swallow's eyes.

[The original text is and read as Yn yn yn yn yn yn yn]

Sister Ning, who prided herself on her overflowing talent, was already taken aback by the first sentence. The next one was even more challenging. She pondered for a long time but couldn't come up with a neat lower couplet.

Luo Yuan, who was also quite talented, realized from these two couplets that his learning was far behind.

Lin Wanrong smiled at Qiaoqiao, "These two couplets are shorter. Qiaoqiao, take them for framing and place them on the fourth floor." He quickly wrote down two more lines, "These two couplets should be placed on the fifth floor. Anyone who can match either of them will be invited to enjoy the scenery of the Xuanwu Lake for free."

Sister Ning hurriedly took the paper from Qiaoqiao's hand and looked carefully. The first couplet to be hung on the fifth floor was, "Eight Bridges Above, Eight In The Middle, Eight Below, Totaling Twenty-Four Bridges." This was a reference to the four bridges, all located in Yangzhong County, Jiangsu. Using this as a couplet to praise the bridge was brilliant.

Sister Ning clenched her teeth, thinking, 'I refuse to believe that I can't match even one.' She then looked at the last couplet, White Pagoda Street, Yellow Blacksmith, Red Furnace Alive, Black Coal Burning, Green Smoke Rising, Blue Light Flashing, Purple Iron Quenched, From North to South Striking East to West."

After thinking for a while, she felt completely deflated. All four couplets were equally challenging to match. Despite her talent, she found herself utterly helpless in front of these four couplets, which was a rare occurrence.

Seeing Qiaoqiao concentrating on the couplets, Lin Wanrong knew she was also thinking. He took her hand and asked, "Qiaoqiao, what about you? Do you have a neat lower couplet?"

Qiaoqiao raised her eyebrows, looked at him shyly, and laughed, "Big brother, how could I come up with a good couplet, especially when yours are so challenging. I think only Sister Ning can match them. Sister Ning is the number one"

"Qiaoqiao." Sister Ning's face was a bit flushed. She couldn't match any of these couplets, which was naturally embarrassing. She hurriedly interrupted, "These four couplets, any one of them is a unique masterpiece in history. How could I possibly match them?"

## Chapter 95 Who's Crueler?

Lin Wanrong nodded and said, "Miss, you mustn't lose heart. These four couplets have been passed down in my hometown for a thousand years. Through the heat of summer and the chill of winter, through dynastic changes, they have stumped countless talented individuals, yet only a few have been able to complete them accurately. Today, I'm curious to see if our Great Hua's talents can break this peculiar cycle."

Sister Ning shook her head and sighed, "Under the heavens, the number of talents who can answer such a challenge is as sparse as the morning stars. It's a rare chance to encounter one. Today, big brother has shown me that there are always higher skies. I used to think that after learning some poetry and prose, no one in the world could surpass me. Only today did I realize how shallow I am. I thank big brother for enlightening me. I'm truly grateful."

With that, she actually stood up and gave a light curtsy to Lin Wanrong, expressing deep respect.

Lin Wanrong hurriedly said, "Qiaoqiao, please help your friend to her feet. Miss, you mustn't say such things. The couplets aren't my creation; I merely relayed them. There's no 'enlightenment' here. You're truly too modest."

Dong Qiaoqiao, holding her hand, laughed, "Big brother knows so much that even if he spoke for three days and three nights, he wouldn't finish. Sister Ning, there's no need for formalities here. If you have any questions, just ask."

Sister Ning nodded and sighed, "If I have the time, I certainly want to learn more from Big brother."

Lin Wanrong silently felt goosebumps, thinking, If I have to discuss poetry and prose with you, I'd rather go home and mix perfumes - that's much more comfortable.

He quickly changed the topic, lifting his wine cup, "Today is a rare occasion for joy, so let's raise our glasses and drink heartily." Luo Yuan and Dong Qingshan were both open-minded people. Hearing Lin Wanrong's words, they were delighted. This brother was not only talented but also daring and audacious - a true character.

The three drained their cups and enjoyed the drinking. Even Dong Qiaoqiao had several sips, her smiling face blooming like a flower as she leaned on her brother.

On the other hand, Sister Ning maintained a slight smile, abstaining from the alcohol, and just quietly watched them converse, ever so serene.

Lin Wanrong silently sighed, wondering how this girl developed such a character, tranquil as water, uncompetitive, and somewhat hermit-like.

"Since we're in high spirits today, Qingshan, Luo Yuan, I'll teach you a drinking game," Lin Wanrong, ignoring Sister Ning, engaged Dong Qingshan and Luo Yuan, "In the world of martial arts, who can avoid getting slashed? A slash kills you, a slash kills me"

Dong Qingshan and Luo Yuan, those two young fellows, were intrigued by the drinking game. They shadowboxed a few punches and couldn't stop laughing. Dong Qiaoqiao watched Lin Wanrong, her heart full of admiration, thinking that everything about her brother was unique.

Even Sister Ning gave Lin Wanrong an extra glance, a faint smile on her face, but her eyes remained calm and unflustered.

After finishing the feast, Lin Wanrong had a discussion with Qiaoqiao and Qingshan about the details of the restaurant's opening in the following days, making sure they were all on the same page. Luo Yuan and Sister Ning seemed quite familiar with each other, and the two of them were engaged in conversation.

Seeing Qiaoqiao clearing the table and heading downstairs, Lin Wanrong quickly followed and caught her hand, saying, "Qiaoqiao, let me do it."

"Big brother," Qiaoqiao hurriedly protested, "this is a woman's job. You shouldn't be doing such menial tasks."

Without a word, Lin Wanrong took the dishes from her and placed them on a nearby table, saying, "Qiaoqiao, there's no such thing as women's work or men's work. I love you, and I can do anything for you."

Moved beyond words, Qiaoqiao couldn't help but throw herself into his arms, shyly saying, "Big brother, I love you and respect you. For you, I am willing to do anything."

Lin Wanrong's heart pounded in his chest, thinking he was smitten by this young girl. Gently lifting Qiaoqiao's chin, she blushed and trembled slightly, but didn't resist his touch. She closed her eyes, anticipating the thrilling moment to come.

With a soft whimper, Qiaoqiao felt as if a layer of fire ignited on her body. Lin Wanrong held her petite body tightly, exploring her tender lips endlessly.

She smelled so sweet, thought Lin Wanrong, holding her slender, boneless waist, gently caressing and enjoying the intoxicating sensation of her soft skin.

Weak and powerless, Qiaoqiao slumped in his arms, letting his tongue explore her mouth. His touch made her shiver with a tingling sensation, as if electricity was coursing through her body.

"Big brother..." Feeling a hot object pressing against her lower abdomen, Qiaoqiao, having had intimate contact with Lin Wanrong before, knew what it was. Her heart pounded wildly as she buried her head in his chest, too shy to look at him.

Lin Wanrong slipped his hand inside her clothes, lightly stroking her smooth skin. Heat spread through Qiaoqiao's body, and she felt as if she was falling into a whirlpool, a great pull that was terrifying yet filled with fiery desire.

"Ah!" Qiaoqiao shrieked, feeling a sudden coolness on her chest. Lin Wanrong's hands had moved upwards, holding her delicate breasts.

Feeling as if her life was being seized, she could only breathe heatedly. Her face was as red as fire, and she timidly nestled against Lin Wanrong, not daring to look at him.

While kneading the two tender, red peaks, Lin Wanrong's arousal pressed insistently against Qiaoqiao. Experiencing the exquisite pressure between her smooth belly and his heat, he whispered in her ear like a sly wolf, "Qiaoqiao, let's... do some research tonight."

"What kind of research?" Qiaoqiao asked tremblingly.

"Some physical research," Lin Wanrong shamelessly replied.

"Ah!" Qiaoqiao exclaimed, her face flushed with blood. Summoning a strength she didn't know she had, she quickly pushed him away and ran downstairs. Her voice, delicate as a mosquito's hum, echoed through the air, "Big brother, I'm yours, I'll always wait for you."

At the Meiwei Restaurant, Lin Wanrong was contemplating whether or not to spend the evening with the young girl. But then he saw a figure rushing from afar; it was Young Master Guo.

Upon seeing Lin Wanrong, Young Master Guo rushed over like he'd found his savior, urgently saying, "Lin San, quick, quick. Cousin Yuruo has been looking for you all afternoon, she said she has something to discuss with you."

Oh, you can't hold back anymore, can you? Lin Wanrong shook his head and said, "Young Master, I'm obeying the madam's orders. I'm currently accompanying Young Master Luo and don't have the time to discuss anything with the young lady."

Young Master Guo had finally found an opportunity to please the Eldest Miss, he couldn't let it slip away. He hurriedly grabbed Lin Wanrong's sleeve and said, "Lin San, I see that my cousin is quite anxious. Please go quickly. Her temper isn't very good, you know. If she gets upset, who knows what will happen."

Her temper isn't very good? My temper is like a storm! Seeing Guo Wuchang run off sweating, Lin Wanrong felt somewhat sorry for him. Being so manipulated by a woman, he didn't know whether to be happy or feel pity for him.

After sending off a dejected Guo Wuchang, it was already quite late. Lin Wanrong glanced at Qiaoqiao. Remembering his words from the afternoon, Qiaoqiao's heart pounded, thinking, Could big brother really want to...? I'm so embarrassed.

Just as she was deep in thought, Sister Ning walked over and said, "Big brother, I want to have a heart-to-heart with Qiaoqiao tonight. I hope you don't mind."

Lin Wanrong thought, It really isn't a good day today. He simply smiled and didn't respond to Sister Ning's words. Instead, he took Qiaoqiao's hand and said, "Qiaoqiao, you've worked hard these past few days. Once I have some free time in a few days, I'll come see you again. By then, you can't run away." Dong Qiaoqiao was both shy and reluctant. She gently nodded, her face as red as if she had applied rouge.

Dong Qingshan saw off Luo Yuan and Lin Wanrong. They hadn't gone far when they saw a group of people coming from the opposite direction. One tall man dressed in black stood out in the crowd.

Dong Qingshan quickly pulled Lin Wanrong's sleeve and said, "Big brother, that's Wu Zhenghu, the leader of the Black Dragon Association."

Lin Wanrong merely responded with an "Oh," his gaze not falling on Wu Zhenghu, but rather lingering on the young master next to him in contemplation.

Luo Yuan snorted, "As I suspected, this Mr. Cheng is backing them." The young man next to Wu Zhenghu was Cheng Ruinian, whom they had previously met at Miaoyu Pavilion.

Lin Wanrong seriously said to Luo Yuan, "Brother Luo, there's something I want to ask you. I need you to tell me the truth."

Luo Yuan was taken aback for a moment, then said, "Big brother, what are you talking about? I have nothing to hide from you."

Lin Wanrong nodded and said, "Your conflict with Cheng Ruinian isn't just about the rivalry, is it?"

Luo Yuan nodded, "Big brother, I won't hide it from you. This actually has to do with the situation within the court. My father and Cheng De both hold official positions in the court, and they should have had a collegial relationship. However, Cheng De is corrupt and forms factions for personal gain. He's a key member of Prince Cheng's faction. My father disapproves of him and has reported him several times to the Ministry of War, but he was always protected by Prince Cheng. This led to some animosity between him and Cheng De, so I naturally don't get along with Cheng Ruinian."

Lin Wanrong nodded. These political faction matters seemed simple, but they were the most complex and hardest to figure out. Once Governor Luo Min of Jiangsu and Cheng De became enemies, it wasn't something that could be easily resolved; their two families naturally became mortal enemies.

Only then did Lin Wanrong feel relieved. If Luo Yuan wasn't determined to fight with Cheng Ruinian, Lin Wanrong would naturally have to reconsider the relationship between Hung Hing and the Black Dragon Association and adjust his strategy.

"Who is this Prince Cheng?" Lin Wanrong was not very familiar with the political arena of Great Hua. Now that he had met Luo Yuan, who was well-versed in these matters, he naturally wanted to learn more.

"Great Hua's late Emperor had three sons. The eldest died young, leaving only the current Emperor and Prince Cheng. Before the Emperor ascended the throne, Prince Cheng controlled the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Personnel, while the Emperor controlled the Ministry of Household and the Imperial Guard. The late Emperor hesitated for a long time on the matter of succession. Prince Cheng, known as the Virtuous Prince, respected talents and had countless capable people under him. He was originally the most likely candidate, but for some reason, the late Emperor passed the throne to the current Emperor."

While Luo Yuan was being circumspect, Lin Wanrong already knew that there must have been a lot of things that happened. The matter of princes fighting for the throne has been present since ancient times, and it must have been the case between Prince Cheng and the current Emperor.

"Does this Prince Cheng have a lot of power?" Lin Wanrong asked with a frown.

Luo Yuan sighed, "Prince Cheng controlled the Ministry of Personnel for many years. His disciples are all over the world, and a third of the high-ranking officials in various provinces come from his school. Do you think his power is great?"

Lin Wanrong sighed deeply, "The greater his power, the greater the danger. He who sleeps beside the bed cannot allow others to sleep soundly. The current Emperor must be extremely wary of him, and in the end, I'm afraid it will cause an uncontrollable situation."

Luo Yuan looked at Lin Wanrong, deeply admiring his insight. Seeing his straightforwardness and lack of reservation, he felt grateful, clasped his fists, and laughed, "Big brother, I'm truly grateful for your understanding."

Lin Wanrong said to Dong Qingshan, "Qingshan, it's not suitable for you to meet them now. Go back first. Brother Luo and I will handle this." Dong Qingshan nodded and left.

Cheng Ruinian also spotted Luo Yuan and Lin Wanrong. He said something to Wu Zhenghu next to him, and their group started walking towards them.

"Brother Ruinian, what a coincidence to meet you here," Lin Wanrong gave a signal. Luo Yuan nodded and, with a hearty laugh, took the initiative to meet them.

Cheng Ruinian flashed a sinister smile, saying, "Brother Luo Yuan, I didn't expect you to be in such high spirits. Why, didn't you go to Miaoyu Pavilion today for some wine?"

Luo Yuan laughed heartily, replying, "Not today, Brother Ruinian. Going to those pleasure quarters without you seems to lack some fun. I wonder when you will be free to join me in these escapades?"

Lin Wanrong listened to Luo Yuan and Cheng Ruinian's banter on the side, silently laughing to himself. He hadn't expected that Luo Yuan could bluster so well.

Cheng Ruinian, noticing Lin Wanrong standing by Luo Yuan, shot him a ferocious glance. But with Luo Yuan present, he dared not cross the line. Instead, he said to Wu Zhenghu next to him, "Some lowly people have quite the nerve, forgetting their status and daring to harass Miss Qin Xian'er. If I see him doing that again, I will surely break his dog legs."

Damn you, thought Lin Wanrong, but he managed a fake smile, saying, "What Young Master Cheng said is right. If anyone dares to harass Miss Qin again, let her break his dog legs."

Cheng Ruinian muttered an acknowledgment but was left speechless. He had tried to visit Qin Xian'er multiple times, only to be turned away each time. Yet, a mere servant was invited by Miss Qin herself. It was clear who was actually harassing her. Cheng Ruinian swallowed the bitter pill silently, feeling indignant. He shot Wu Zhenghu a look, who stared back at Lin Wanrong without uttering a word.

As Cheng Ruinian walked away, Luo Yuan asked, "Big Brother, what should we do now?"

A ruthless glint flashed in Lin Wanrong's eyes as he said, "We've already crossed swords with him, there's no turning back now. Brother Luo, if you trust me, follow my advice."

"Please, tell me, Big Brother," Luo Yuan urged.

"If Cheng Ruinian doesn't bother us, then fine. But if he dares to lay a hand on us, we must not show mercy. In fact, we should strike first if necessary. Brother Luo, in these gang fights, being soft-hearted is the worst mistake. If we wait until he hurts our loved ones, it will be too late for regrets," Lin Wanrong stated coldly.

Being a smart man, Luo Yuan nodded in agreement. "Big brother, you're absolutely right. We can't just sit and wait for death. Perhaps taking the initiative will yield unexpected results." His eyes flickered as he gritted his teeth and added, "There's an old saying: 'To shoot the man first, shoot his horse. To catch a thief, catch his king.' If this fool Cheng Ruinian dares to stir up trouble, we should directly" He made a slicing gesture across his throat, a fierce light flashing in his eyes.

Lin Wanrong's heart skipped a beat. Damn, this Luo Yuan was ruthless!

In truth, Lin Wanrong himself didn't particularly have any conflicts with Cheng Ruinian. It was just that their Hung Hing gang had clashed with the Black Dragon Association, and the latter had Cheng Ruinian supporting them from behind. Moreover, Luo Yuan had become his own brother now. Since Luo Yuan had issues with Cheng Ruinian, Lin Wanrong naturally had to help his brother, hence he began plotting against Cheng Ruinian. In fact, Cheng Ruinian probably didn't know at this point that the servant from the Xiao family he looked down on had such audacity, daring to plan on how to oppose him.

This young Brother Luo, who usually seemed harmless to both humans and animals, surprised Lin Wanrong when he became fierce. He was as merciless as Lin Wanrong himself, who admired this secretly.

Cheng De, the Commander-in-Chief, held a rank equivalent to that of a military district commander, while Luo Yuan's father, Luo Min, was the Governor of Jiangsu, the head of a province. If these two sides were to fight, it would indeed be quite a spectacle. This also indirectly indicated that the conflict between Luo Min and Cheng De had completely escalated.

Lin Wanrong chuckled, neither confirming nor denying, and said, "I didn't hear anything. I heard nothing." His tone shifted, "You should let Qingshan know tomorrow to keep an eye on their movements. Once they bully us, we mustn't be careless."

Luo Yuan nodded, "Big brother, don't worry, I know what to do."

Born into an official's family, Luo Yuan may not seem very impressive usually, but when it came to plotting and scheming, he was remarkably capable.

Lin Wanrong thought to himself, 'What kind of person is Luo Min to have raised such a son?' However, with Luo Yuan's help, Lin Wanrong felt more at ease. Not to mention his intelligence, his background alone made Hung Hing unbeatable. Of course, the premise was that Luo Min didn't fall from power. As for Luo Yuan's loyalty to him and to Hung Hing, Lin Wanrong wasn't worried at all. He trusted his judgment. This Luo Yuan would surely be a great asset in the future.

As they walked for a while, Luo Yuan suddenly chuckled, "Big brother, I almost forgot something. On the fifteenth of this month, it's my grandmother's sixtieth birthday. My father will hold a large banquet for her. Please be sure to honor us with your presence. I will introduce you to my father and we can have a family chat."

Lin Wanrong, taken aback, laughed, "Brother Luo, don't forget my current status. I'm just a servant of the Xiao family. How could I be qualified to attend your grandmother's birthday?"

Luo Yuan laughed, "Big brother, you're too modest. In fact, I have already invited Young Master Guo, Eldest Miss Xiao, and specifically mentioned you. Even if you don't want to come, you have no choice."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, "So you had it all figured out. Well, if that's the case, I will gladly obey."

By the time he got back to his courtyard, it was already dusk. He had drunk a bit too much today, and wanted to go back to rest early. As he approached the gate, he saw a woman sitting in front of his room.