

## Chapter 2586 The Banquet

Miles didn't react even after receiving such a harsh reprimand from Bennett. Instead, he simply nodded and stepped back, acknowledging his mistake.

On the other hand, Ophelia felt wronged on his behalf. So, she shrugged off Miles' restraining arm and responded sternly, "Uncle Bennett, my parents entrusted me to Uncle Miles before they passed away. Plus, Grandfather personally acknowledged Uncle Miles as his adopted son. He is part of our family."

Then, she continued, "As for Mr. Larson, he was personally invited by Grandfather himself. If you are dissatisfied, you can take this up to Grandfather. There's no need to make sarcastic remarks here."

Bennett's face instantly turned dark as Ophelia spoke against him. "You! Young lady, how dare you speak to your Uncle like this? If your father hadn't died so early..."

Before he could continue his rant, Erwin suddenly tapped his shoulder with his folding fan. "That's enough; we're family. We shouldn't exchange barbs here. In fact, we really shouldn't be fighting at all."

Once he said his piece, he turned to Matthew and said with a warm smile plastered on his face, "Mr. Larson, it's a pleasure to meet your acquaintance. I apologize for the embarrassment. Please take a seat."

Matthew merely smiled faintly upon receiving Erwin's invitation and nodded agreeably. Even though he was already wary of Erwin, the series of actions the man had taken only made him even more watchful.

This person was clearly a master at hiding his schemes behind a smile.

On the other hand, Ophelia's reaction surprised Matthew. He didn't expect this girl to possess such a strong temper.

Nonetheless, the atmosphere gradually relaxed under Erwin's careful mediation. The two, who were just butting heads earlier, had sat down calmly.

As the banquet went on, it was clear that Erwin had taken up the mantle of being a gracious host.

"Mr. Larson, welcome to the Zedler Family. May I ask where you came from?"

Matthew naturally couldn't reveal the whole truth when faced with Erwin's inquiry, especially when this man was already on his watchlist.

"Mr. Erwin, you're too kind. I have been staying in Hulwin prior to this. I only came all this way after receiving Old Mr. Zedler's invitation."

"Oh, I see. Since Father values you so highly, Mr. Larson, you have to be very skilled in medicine, right?"

"Ah, Mr. Erwin, you truly flatter me. I'm just in my 30s and have only just begun my journey in the medical field. In fact, I'm just a practicing doctor in Hulwin. Perhaps it was my skill in resurrection elixirs that caught Old Mr. Zedler's attention."

Erwin's smiling face froze for a split second upon hearing Matthew's response. Meanwhile, Mr. Bennet had no qualms in scoffing in disbelief, "You're truly young and arrogant. Claiming to possess such miraculous elixirs with your skill!"

Compared to his impulsive younger brother, Erwin was clearly more cunning.

"Mr. Larson was clearly just joking. You really shouldn't take things so seriously all the time, Bennett."

Although he still wore a smile on his face, he was well aware that he wouldn't be able to extract any useful information from Matthew. So, he gave up on his probing after receiving answers that were filled with fluff and nothing of substance.

As a result, the whole banquet suddenly fell into an awkward silence.

That lasted until the sound of hurried footsteps came from outside the room.

Everyone's attention immediately shifted to the servant who suddenly barged into the dining hall.

"Mr. Erwin, Mr. Bennett," the newcomer hastily greeted before leaning down and whispering into Erwin's ear.

Erwin's face was filled with delight as he sprung to his feet.

"Mr. Larson, I apologize, but I have some personal matters to attend to. Please excuse me."

Before he left, he signaled for Bennett to follow.

Then, the two of them turned and left without another word.

Bennett quickly caught up to his elder brother after leaving the banquet.

"Erwin, did you manage to obtain any valuable information?"

Erwin shook his head in response to his brother's question. The initially thrilled expression on his face was replaced with one of gloom.

"He's a sly one. There's nothing of value in his answers. Still, we know one thing at least. His medical skills are probably extraordinary. Otherwise, our father wouldn't have invited him personally."

"Is that so? Should I just take care of him then?" Bennett's lips curled into a sinister smile as he suggested.

Erwin simply rolled his eyes in exasperation and ignored him.