

## Physician 21

### Chapter 21

“You bastard. Do you have any idea what you’re saying? A fake? Believe me when I say that you will be taken away at any moment now for defamation! You didn’t come to Virtuous Benevolence Hall with good intentions today, did you?”

The young girl’s face burned with rage and despise. In her eyes, Ye Chen was merely uneducated trash! He was trying to smear Virtuous Benevolence Hall’s reputation!

The security guards nearby noticed Ye Chen as well. As they started their approach to apprehend Ye Chen, the old man snapped out of his dumbfounded shock just in time to dismiss the security guards with a small wave of his hand.

The old man gave Ye Chen a long look and told him in a serious tone, “Young fellow, one can be nonchalant with the food they put into their mouths, but one should be selective in the words that they spit out. To tell you the truth, I’m Zhu Rende, owner of Virtuous Benevolence Hall in River City. I obtained the painting with a hefty amount from an auction in the Capital City. More than three hundred collectors have examined it for its genuineness, and everyone established that the painting was the original one without any exceptions! Are you insinuating that those collectors are a bunch of scams now that you claim that it’s a fake?!”

Ye Chen did not expect the old man standing before him right now to be the owner of Virtuous Benevolence Hall. In spite of that, Ye Chen continued anyway, “That’s right. Those collectors are definitely scams.”

“You—” Even with all of his patience and virtue, Zhu Rende could not bear to hear Ye Chen speak in this manner!

After all, he was among the three hundred collectors too!

Zhu Rende's face flushed a furious red. At that moment, there was nothing he wanted more than to smack Ye Chen with the cane in his hand!

He swallowed the bursting anger back down into his throat and raised his cane to point at the painting. He said, "Alright! Very well! Brat, since you claim that this painting is fake, you should at least give me an acceptable reason! If you don't... Hmph! You'll have to forgive me for what I'll do next!"

Seeing her grandfather in this state, the girl hurried over to hold him and whispered, "Grandpa, calm down. The doctor said you shouldn't have any emotional outbursts. Why did we even bother talking sense to this country bumpkin anyway? Watch me get rid of him with a kick!"

With that, the girl kicked one of her legs out toward Ye Chen. He was surprised at the presence of qi in her kick.

'Another ancient martial artist? Fascinating. Seems like there's more to Zhu Rende's family than meets the eye.' thought Ye Chen.

The old man's face paled when he realized the amount of strength his granddaughter exerted in that kick. Unfortunately, it was too late for him to stop her.

Instant regret flooded his head. After all, with this kick, this brat would suffer irreversible injuries even if he survived the attack.

This girl had been learning from a very influential person in Jiangnan Province since she was young after all!

'Oh well, guess I'll have to send over a few hundred thousand directly to the brat's family for his funeral. Consider it compensation to the brat's parents and insurance for the rest of their lives.' The old man thought.

Back to the scene.

The girl's leg was about to crash on Ye Chen's body. Yet, Ye Chen did not move an inch. It was as though he was too stunned to do anything but.

The girl enjoyed this moment very much. There was no better expression in the world than the expression of pure shock on those ruffians' faces.

Since the days of her youth, she had lost count of the number of obnoxious men she had beaten up. Even those boys from influential families could not escape her beatings. What else could be said for this brat who looked like he was not backed by anyone important?

However, the instance her leg landed on Ye Chen's body, the arrogance on the girl's face vanished. Slowly, it was replaced by shock, and eventually, utter horror!

It felt like her leg had landed on a piece of hard wall and could not move an inch further!

How was that possible?

A single kick from her was enough to break apart two solid sandbags!

Yet, her leg failed to move even an inch forward no matter how much strength she exerted.

Ye Chen shook his head helplessly and said, "It isn't good for a girl to practice martial arts that are meant for men. You might end up incapacitated. This is your first and last reminder."

After that, Ye Chen reached an arm out and gave a small push. A wave of qi surged out and forced the girl away. Fortunately, Ye Chen had suppressed his strength and the girl only landed with her butt on the ground.

"The release of True Qi! How is that possible?!"

Waves of horror surged in the depth of the old man's heart. After witnessing the attack from Ye Chen, the old man could confirm that Ye Chen had reached that particular realm!

However, how was it possible for a young martial artist like him to achieve that?

The old man's heart was in his throat when he saw Ye Chen pushing the girl away. Thankfully, his granddaughter did not suffer any injuries. He heaved a long sigh of relief.

However, the girl was unwilling to admit her defeat. She patted her bottoms briefly and rushed toward Ye Chen with newfound determination. Much to her surprise, Zhu Rende was one step ahead of her and approached Ye Chen before she did. He cupped his hands together and gave Ye Chen a bow. With an apologetic voice, he said to Ye Chen, "I'm very sorry, mister. Please forgive us for our rashness."

After saying that, the old man glared at the girl and ordered, "Zixuan, hurry up and apologize to this mister!"

The girl's eyes widened. She stared at her grandfather in surprise, as though she was waiting for the punchline to a joke that she did not understand.

Her? Apologize? In your dreams! She was Zhu Zixuan, the precious daughter of the Zhu family! No one has ever dared to make her apologize, and this was a fact that remained true since birth.

"Grandpa, how can you apologize to this country bumpkin? Think of your status, grandpa. Even the head of River City's government has to..." Zhu Zixuan hurriedly reminded him.

Before she could finish her sentence, the elderly man interrupted her with a loud shout.

"Keep your mouth shut! Apologize at once or else, from today onward, you won't be Zhu Rende's granddaughter anymore!" There was a slight tremble in his voice.

He was nervous. In fact, he had not been this nervous since he fought in the war about a decade ago!

The reason behind his fear manifested in the form of a martial arts grandmaster who was currently standing before him—a martial arts grandmaster who was capable of unleashing his True Qi!

A grandmaster of that caliber was someone that countless families in Huaxia would attempt to curry favors with! He was not someone anyone could afford to offend!

Even if Zhu Zixuan's master was present, he would not dare to mess with this person either!

The old man observed Ye Chen closely, afraid that Ye Chen would cut down his own granddaughter in a fit of fury.

On the other hand, Zhu Zixuan was still trying to come to terms with the fact that her grandfather just threatened to cut off their relations because of a stranger. Was she not her grandpa's favorite this whole time?

Why was it different today?

Her grandfather's eyes were firmly glued at her—a constant hinting from him to her. Resigned, she stepped forward and gave a half-hearted apology, "I'm sorry."

Ye Chen glanced at Zhu Zixuan and replied nonchalantly, "If this happens again, I won't let you live."

As he spoke, the aura that he exuded transformed completely. Now, it felt like he was a god from the heavens, looking down at the mortals who roamed the lands.

As a fellow martial arts practitioner, Zhu Zixuan was one of the first to feel Ye Chen's transformation. She looked at the young man before her in surprise. Who would have guessed that he would turn out to be a powerhouse too?! Moreover, there was a long way for her master to come up to Ye Chen's level. The difference in their auras was as wide as a chasm!

How was that possible?

There were powerhouses more powerful than her master in this world?

More importantly, how old was this fellow? How did he achieve so much at such a young age?

She suddenly realized that her back was thoroughly drenched in sweat. Her chiffon top clung tightly to her damp body, appearing slightly transparent.

Zhu Rende was drenched in sweat as well. Upon hearing that Ye Chen was not going to pursue this further, he sighed in relief. He cupped his hands together and bowed again. "Thank you for your help, mister. I'll make sure to discipline ZiXuan's behavior after this."

Ye Chen did not reply. As he started to turn around and leave, Zhu Rende spoke again.

"Mister, please hold on."

Ye Chen's eyebrows furrowed. He asked without turning around to face Zhu Rende, "What else?"

Zhu Rende hurried his steps toward Ye Chen and said tentatively, "Mister, you mentioned that this painting was a fake just now. Would you care to disclose the source of your discovery?"

The reason behind Zhu Rende's approach was not for the painting's sake—it was to retain Ye Chen!

## Chapter 22

If the Zhu family from River City managed to win over the support of a martial arts grandmaster, then their status in River City would sky-rocket!

Coupled with the fact that the Zhu family's business in medicinal herbs was not exactly outstanding, dissent had already started to arise among the Zhu family in Jiangnan Province. They might even denounce the Zhu family in River City as part of their subset.

Where would Zhu Rende go then?

The only way he could ensure the subset Zhu family would be taken seriously by the main Zhu family in Jiangnan Province was to maintain close relations with this young man before him!

Ye Chen contemplated for a while before turning over to Zhu Rende and said, "If you wish to find out the authenticity of this painting, take it down and bring it to me. I'll prove it to you."

Zhu Rende did not hesitate. He immediately ordered the security guard to remove the painting and handed it over to Ye Chen.

In his heart, he knew that even if this painting was the real deal, it was worth nothing if compared to this young man in front of him!

"Mister, please enlighten us..."

Before Zhu Rende could finish speaking, Ye Chen tore the priceless painting into two!

Everyone was stunned witless by the unexpected action.

The security guard who removed the painting was stupified by the foolery.

The customers standing in line were baffled as well.

The old doctor who was on pulse diagnosis for the elderly thought his heart almost stopped.

Motherf\*cker, that was Virtuous Benevolence Hall's pièce de résistance!

You tore it without consulting anyone just because you felt like it?

Worse than that, you had to do it in front of the owner, Zhu Rende?

What the f\*ck! Even if death was what you sought, this was not the way to go!

The security was about to make a move toward Ye Chen when he received a glare from Zhu Rende. He shouted, "Don't disturb that mister! Go back to your position!"

The security guard's mouth could not stop twitching when he heard Zhu Rende referring Ye Chen as 'mister.'

Damn, it was still a valid question to ask if the young man had even passed his twenties, yet the Great-grand Old Master Zhu addressed him with the honorific 'mister?'

Ye Chen could not be bothered with everyone's reaction and fished out a small piece of note from the tear in the painting.

The note was so small that most people would not notice its existence.

"You'll know when you read the writing on it with a magnifying glass."

Zhu Rende took the note carefully from Ye Chen and had someone fetched him a magnifying glass. When he deciphered the words on the note, his aged face paled.

"Grandpa, what did you see?"

Zhu Zixuan poked her head out in curiosity. When she saw the note under the magnifying glass, she burst out in laughter.

Written on the note was this: "I wonder which idiot would end up buying this fake. I'm so sorry about that, bro. — Liu Yuan, 2002."

The truth was out. Liu Yuan was obviously the culprit behind this forgery!



What was more exasperating was the fact that he had the audacity to leave such a message behind!

It was as though Liu Yuan had traveled through time to call Zhu Rende an idiot. One really could not blame Zhu Rende for his reaction!

Zhu Rende only recollected himself after a long while. He ordered his staff to burn the painting straight away. Then, he looked at Ye Chen and bowed again. "Thank you for your assistance, mister. Otherwise, I'll still be in the dark. Oh, right. I didn't quite catch your name. How should I refer to you, mister? And why did you show up at my humble Virtuous Benevolence Hall?"

"Ye Chen. Chen from 'xing chen' 1 . I'm just here to buy some medicinal herbs."

Zhu Rende beamed. He could use this reason to befriend Ye Chen! In the entire River City, who would be more suited to talk about medicinal herbs than himself from Virtuous Benevolence Hall?

Suddenly, a thought occurred to Zhu Rende.

'Ye Chen... Why does this name sound so familiar?' Zhu Rende thought.

He immediately recalled the incident that happened five years ago.

In a single night, the Ye family in River City was massacred by that influential person from the Capital City. Among the family of three, one of them was called Ye Chen.

Ye Chen should be around ten years old when it happened. After five years, he would have been almost the same age as Mister Ye who was standing before Zhu Rende now.

The entire shebang did not merely cause an uproar among the people in River City but also attracted the attention of powerful people in Jiangnan Province.

Yet, no one had intervened because that powerful person from the Capital City was untouchable. For him, destroying a small clan was as easy as crushing an ant.

For that, the Zhu family from Jiangnan Province had Zhu Rende investigate the massacred Ye family in secret. Therefore, Zhu Rende was quite clear on the affairs related to the Ye family in River City.

The late Ye Chen had a low social standing in River City. Despite being a young master in his family, he was constantly the target of abuse and insults by countless members from other clans. Rumor had it that he became a shut-in and attempted suicide, to no avail.

Perhaps, for a disabled person like him, to die was a relief.

Then, Zhu Rende glanced at the young man in front of him and shook his head. He sighed. 'How did two people sharing the same name end up so differently? One of them was a useless piece of trash trodden on by many, while another is a martial artist grandmaster who reigns above everything else, nearing the peak of heaven...'

It would never occur to Zhu Rende that Ye Chen, who now stood before him, was the same piece of downtrodden trash who everyone thought was dead!

That piece of trash had returned!

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Zhu Rende jerked back into reality from his memories. He smiled lightly and said with respect, "Mister Ye, would you tell me what medicinal herbs you need? I shall send them to your address."

Ye Chen did not stall. He fished out a list and passed it over. "I need all the medicinal herbs on the list. The more the better. As for the payment, just charge me according to the market price."

Zhu Rende gave the list a quick scan and froze.

He expected Ye Chen to request some typical medicinal herbs for healing wounds, but he was taken completely by surprise when most of the medicinal herbs on the list were rather valuable and rare!

Other than that, a lot of herbs on the list had contradicting properties! If anyone consumed the mixture of herbs without knowing any better, it would undoubtedly be fatal!

“Mister Ye, this prescription is extremely poisonous...”

Ye Chen brushed Zhu Rende aside and headed for the door. He said on his way out, “Pay no mind to the prescription. You’ll only have to get me everything on that list. I’ll pick them up personally tomorrow.”

With that, he disappeared from Virtuous Benevolence Hall, leaving a dumbstruck grandfather-granddaughter duo.

Soon, both of them recollected themselves.

Zhu Zixuan could not hold it back any longer and asked her grandfather, “Grandpa, don’t you think you might have placed that brat on too high a pedestal? I’ll admit that he’s very powerful, but there are still many powerhouses in River City. What is a mere martial artist like Ye Chen in comparison?”

Zhu Rende’s gaze was still fixed on Ye Chen’s retreating silhouette. He sighed and said, “Zixuan, you’re still not seeing the big picture. Do you know what I saw just now?”

“What?”

“The emergence of a grandmaster.”

Zhu Zixuan almost shrieked when she heard the word ‘grandmaster.’

She apprenticed her master in martial arts since she was young. Of course, she knew what the word ‘grandmaster’ entailed!

“Grandpa, are you sure? He’s too young to be a grandmaster, isn’t he? How’s it possible for a grandmaster to act like him?”

Zhu Rende started to laugh loudly, then, as swiftly as his laughter came, it died abruptly. He said in a serious tone, “You thought wrong! He’s not a grandmaster. He’s someone more terrifying than a grandmaster!”

“Zixuan, remember this! From today onward, we from the Zhu family will do everything to win over this person!”

Chapter 23

Naturally, Ye Chen was unaware that he became the Zhu family’s newest target to win over.

Right now, there was nothing he wanted more than to cultivate in peace, and journey to the Capital City to kill the man on top of the food chain.

After exiting Virtuous Benevolence Hall, Ye Chen wanted to hail a taxi at first. However, possibly because it was the rush hour, not one taxi passed by after he had waited for the whole day.

‘Oh well, I’ll just run back. This place isn’t that far from the apartment,’ Ye Chen thought.

Ye Chen pulled the hood of his hoodie over his head and started running with steady footsteps.

If anyone paid attention, they would be sure to notice the qi flow underneath his feet.

Running down the street, he noticed that River City had undergone vast changes in the last five years.

The Fragrant Barley Garden Cake Shop was no longer located at the corner of Youth Street. Instead, a few milk tea shops popped up in its place.

Ye Chen remembered that his mother often brought him there for cake. This was his fondest memory.

‘How time flies. Mom and dad’s death anniversary is coming up soon...’ Ye Chen thought.

All of a sudden, Ye Chen’s eyebrows twitched. The corners of his lips curled into a mischievous smile.

He was being followed!

Somebody had a death wish!

Ye Chen quickened his footsteps. Soon, he came to an alley and disappeared into it.

After a few seconds, a man with a cap on showed up in the alley. He scanned his surroundings with mild surprise on his face.

“I lost him? That’s not right. This is obviously a dead end. Where did the guy run off to?”

Before his strings of complaint ended, a dark shadow descended from the heavens!

The shadow did not allow his opponent the privilege of response. A pair of strong arms seized his throat and lifted him off the ground!

Bang!

The hand slammed his body mercilessly against the wall!

That simple slam in brute force was enough to make the man in the cap feel like his internal organs were smashed into bits.

He was completely appalled. He could not move an inch of his body. It felt like his movements were suppressed under a huge weight!

He struggled with all his might with the hopes to release himself from the binds to no avail. The pair of arms were akin to cold hard stone.

His face was red from suffocation. The redness started receding into a greenish pallor. His eyes were bloodshot and all the veins in his neck popped in monstrous clarity. He felt the last of his consciousness slipping away. It was only a matter of time before he stepped into the jaws of death.

Just when he thought death was inevitable, Ye Chen loosened his grip and slammed the man onto the ground!

“Who sent you? Zhu Rende?”

It was the only person Ye Chen could have thought of. After all, he had just revealed his true powers. It was reasonable for Zhu Rende to send someone to investigate further.

The man in the cap sucked in the largest breath he could manage. For the first time in his life, he could taste how sweet fresh air was.

After a long moment, he finally turned to look at Ye Chen with panic-stricken eyes.

The man standing before him was absolutely terrifying! In the few seconds of their initial encounter, he experienced the sensation of being locked in death's embrace.

He hastily fished out a photograph from his pocket and handed it over carefully to Ye Chen. “Bro... I... I really didn't mean to. The whole River City is frantically searching for you both openly and secretly. Anyone who finds you will be rewarded with a million bucks. I was attracted by the offer and that's why I followed you. Please don't kill me, I have elderlies and young children at home...”

Ye Chen snatched the photograph over and scanned it. It was indeed a picture of him.

The whole River City was looking for him?

Ye Chen's eyebrows furrowed gloomily. Had people in River City started to notice that he was alive after all?

Or was it because the man from the Capital City had come to end things once and for all?

If that was the case, Ye Chen could not have asked for a better outcome.

He would have to announce his return to everyone in River City one day no matter what!

“Do you know who's offering the bounty?” Ye Chen asked.

For reasons unknown to himself, the man in the cap kept feeling that he was enveloped by a layer of unusual air that was reminding him that he would not escape death if he lied!

“It's the Shen family! Shen Haihua! I don't know anything else, please! Also, I've heard that in the past few days, Shen Haihua is expending more and more people in his force. It's said that he had utilized every surveillance in his search for you...”

Ye Chen finally understood everything.

He gave Shen Haihua three days to live. Without Ye Chen's prescribed medicinal pills and elixirs, Shen Haihua would die!

Only a man on the verge of death would do something as desperate as to hunt Ye Chen.

As for whether he would save Shen Haihua... Ye Chen did not particularly feel merciful. It depended entirely on his mood then!

“Go and tell Shen Haihua. If he wants to live, stop playing dirty tricks like this and come see me personally!”

Ye Chen’s voice was embedded with a trace of True Qi. His words sounded like rolling thunder in the capped man’s ears. Before he could respond, Ye Chen disappeared into thin air.

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North of River City, Dragon Leap Bay Villas. The Shen family.

Dressed in a Tang costume, Shen Haihua paced back and forth in his living room with his eyebrows creased. What he looked like currently was merely a shadow of his former charm.

Shen Haihua originally worked as a newspaper editor. In his youth, he rode along the waves of reformation, quit his job, and started his factory across the sea. After thirty whole years, he finally established the huge North Name Corporation! He was rather well-known among the upper-class people in River City, attending various government meetings and charity banquets.

However, this influential person was currently at his wit’s end!

He only had one day left to live!

If he failed to find the miracle doctor, his life and everything he created would be destroyed!

For the past two days, he dared not shut his eyes and had instead used everything in his power searching for the miracle doctor!

Yet, no matter how hard he tried, nothing came up!



It was as though the miracle doctor appeared out of nowhere.

The only detail he knew was that the miracle doctor was named Ye Chen!

He went to the River City Police Station and extracted all the information they had on every man named Ye Chen, yet none of their profiles matched!

He also dispatched around a dozen people to keep watch over City North Park where Shen Mengjia first encountered Ye Chen.

Still, nothing!

Ye Chen was like a practical joke the heavens played on Shen Haihua!

They gave Shen Haihua hope by giving him three days to live, then put him in utter despair yet again!

Next to him, Madam Shen asked anxiously, "Haihua, do you think that Miracle Doctor Ye might have left River City? Else, it's impossible that we can't find any trace of him."

Shen Haihua stopped pacing and clenched his fists. As though somewhat annoyed, he said, "I've posted people at all the stations and kept watch over all routes. It isn't possible that he left River City. If there's still no news, there's only one way left. I'll have to search everyone's homes one by one. No matter what it takes, even if I have to turn the entire River City upside down, I will find Miracle Doctor Ye."

The phone rang right at this moment!

Shen Haihua shot across the living room like an arrow released from a bow. He snatched up the phone and said a little breathlessly, "Is there... Do you have news?"

His entire body trembled in anticipation.

“President Shen, I’ve got news on Miracle Doctor Ye. He sent someone to give you a message,” said the voice at the other end of the phone.

“What?! Hurry up! Tell me quickly now! Are you trying to kill me with impatience?” Shen Haihua shouted.

“Miracle Doctor Ye said if you want to live, then stop playing tricks and go find him personally!”

Hearing that, Shen Haihua felt as relieved as a man who just discarded a heavy rock from his shoulders. He snatched up another mobile phone that was on the table next to him.

“Get the car ready, now!”

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Grand City Apartments.

When Ye Chen arrived home, he found Sun Yi had already woken up and was in the midst of dolling up.

Today, Sun Yi was exceptionally sexy. Her long silky hair rested on her shoulders over a white crop-top that ended above her navel. Underneath her shirt, she wore a black leather skirt. Matched with a pair of stilettos, she was the epitome of feminine gorgeousness.

Her figure was definitely one of the best he had seen.

Chapter 24

Sun Yi heard sounds behind her and knew that Ye Chen had returned.

She turned around to face him before giving another small spin on her delicate stilettos. Blinking her eyes in excitement, she asked, "Tell me, tell me. Do I look pretty in this?"

"Pretty..."

His answer seemed to have made her day. With a cheerful mood, Sun Yi turned around and continued putting on make-up, humming a light tune as she went.

"What are you dressing up for?" Ye Chen asked.

Secretly, he wished Sun Yi would not attend any banquets (or any form of events at all) dressed like this. Think of all the lechers who would enjoy this ultimate eye-candy!

Although there was nothing between him and Sun Yi at the moment, he had already thought of Sun Yi as the person dearest to him in River City after living together for the past few days.

Sun Yi tucked a loose strand of hair behind her ear and turned around to smile at Ye Chen. She said, "When a woman puts on makeup, it inevitably means she's going shopping..."

"Shopping? With who?" asked Ye Chen unthinkingly.

Sun Yi rolled her eyes at Ye Chen and explained, "With you, of course. Who else? It's a Saturday today, and it's finally my day off. Just the right time to bring you shopping. Take a look at what you're wearing! Sloppy mess or a messy slop, take your pick. We should get you a mobile phone on the way too. I'd hate it if I can't contact you during an emergency."

A surge of warmth blossomed in Ye Chen's heart when he heard Sun Yi saying all that. In this familiar but equally strange city, there was no one else who cared for him like Sun Yi.

Then, he looked down at his own attire. In spite of what she said, he still felt pretty good about how he looked. "But I don't like shopping."

“No, you must go!” Sun Yi dismissed Ye Chen’s idea. She continued, “Actually, I’m curious to see what you look like if you dress up. You might even sweep some ladies off their feet~”

Ye Chen glanced at Sun Yi in her gorgeous get-up. He looked as though an idea had occurred to him suddenly and said, “It’s not impossible to get me to go out... You’d have to change.”

“Done.”

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After an hour, Ye Chen and Sun Yi—now dressed in a sports attire from head to toe—walked out of Grand City Apartments.

Sun Yi thought Ye Chen was quite something. She actually gave in to his request. Which girl in the world would go shopping in a sports attire? If it was not because of Ye Chen’s insistence, she would prefer never to dress like this in her lifetime.

Fortunately for Sun Yi, with a figure like hers, not even a sports attire could conceal the brilliance of her beauty.

Her attire did not stop many men on the road to turn around and look at her.

River City Myriad Links Square.

Sun Yi first brought Ye Chen for a haircut. With his mess of a hair cut and trimmed, Ye Chen looked perkier than ever.

Added with a pair of dashing, sharp eyebrows that slanted downward onto a pair of piercing dark eyes, they accentuated his thin lips which remained in a perpetual pursed state and the angular contours of his face. He had a tall and strong build, yet not to the point of being beefy. His looks and physique combined to give an impression of solitary aloofness.

“Are we not going to mention how you’ve transformed into another person after a haircut? If you take a walk around any university grounds, I’m sure many girls will gather around you like flies.” Sun Yi lamented.

Suddenly, a thought occurred to her. She poked Ye Chen’s chest a few times and asked nosily, “Tell me honestly, do you have a girlfriend? Do you want me to introduce you to someone? The Magnificent Group is not short of single little beauties, you know~”

Ye Chen shook his head.

For the past five years, he traversed the threshold of life and death, frantically pursuing the path of cultivation. Revenge was his only fuel and hope. How could he ever afford the time to think of being in some lovey-dovey relationship?

Seeing Ye Chen’s answer, Sun Yi asked again with curiosity, “Don’t tell me you’re one of those innocent, loyal virgin puppies who have never been in any relationship?”

Ye Chen’s eyebrows creased. He suddenly recalled an event in the past.

Five years ago, when Ye family still existed, he once had a crush on a girl.

The girl was called Chu Shuran. She was the prettiest girl in school at the time with countless admirers at her feet.

Despite being born to an influential family, he felt as inferior as any ordinary Joe and did not dare to confess his admiration.

Until one day, he mustered all the courage he had and sneakily slipped a love letter to Chu Shuran. He thought the letter would just be ignored and its existence dismissed like a rock that sank into the sea. Yet, much to his surprise, Chu Shuran requested to meet up with Ye Chen at the hill behind their school on the same day itself.

Chu Shuran told Ye Chen that if he could snatch the microphone from the school administrators the next day and express his love for her in front of everyone, she would agree to be in a relationship with him. At that time, Ye Chen was still fairly ignorant of worldly affairs. For the sake of something as ridiculous as love, he actually went and did it the following day.

He ignored everyone's ridicule. He only hoped that Chu Shuran would fulfill her promise to him.

He did not expect what happened next. Chu Shuran rejected him in front of everyone and wagged a finger at Ye Chen.

She said, "You're a piece of useless trash. How dare you pursue someone like me? You're a toad lusting over a swan's meat. 1 Don't think too highly of yourself just because you have the Ye family behind you. In my eyes and the entire Chu family's eyes, you and your parents are worth nothing!"

That was the beginning of Ye Chen's downward spiral. His nickname, 'trash,' spread to every corner in school.

On the day it happened, he overheard a conversation with his own ears in the toilet that it was all a ploy—a bet between Chu Shuran and the other young masters in River City.

They were betting on how trashy the Ye family trash could be!

With what he did, Ye Chen proved to them how much of a trash he was.

To this day, Ye Chen could clearly remember how everyone extended their fingers at him and their laughing faces ridiculing him.

Ye Chen woke up from his reminiscence. His lips curled into a cold sneer.

Indeed, Ye Chen from five years ago was undeniably trash.

However, what was Chu Shuran to him now?

So what if she was from the Chu family, the leader of the Four Great Families in River City?

One day, Ye Chen would be the one standing at the top of the world, telling everyone that he, Ye Chen, left his mark there.

When that happens, everything in River City would be nothing but an insignificant speck of dust to him!

Standing next to him, Sun Yi noticed Ye Chen's shifting moods and thought that she had accidentally hurt his ego. She hurriedly apologized by saying, "Uh... I shouldn't have said that. There's nothing wrong with being a virgin. I'm a virgin too... So, I guess we're even now, right?"

Ye Chen could not help thinking how adorable Sun Yi looked when she was nervous. He joked, "If that's the case... We have no plans tonight anyway, why don't we dedicate our virginities to each other? Then, we'd be even too."

Sun Yi did not expect such a bold statement from Ye Chen. She turned red all the way to the tips of her ears. Noticing that a few passers-by turned around to look at them, she gave Ye Chen a mean glare and said, "Nonsense. If you want my virginity, you'd have to pick a star from the sky and bring it to me!"

Ye Chen raised an eyebrow and asked in a serious tone, "For real?"

He knew that at the highest state of cultivation, one could transcend voids and control the sun and moon at will.

How insignificant would plucking a star off the sky be for him then?

Naturally, Sun Yi would not believe that Ye Chen could do it and nodded frantically, as though she was pounding garlic in a mortar with her delicate chin.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. I, Sun Yi, will not go back on my words. Alright, stop fooling around now. Now, let's go get you some clothes. How can you not notice how tattered your clothes are? You'd even wear them through the day! This is the big city, after all! Oh, right. Didn't you have some of those medical

prescriptions? I'm sure if you sell a few of those, you'd be able to afford taking over Myriad Links over here."

Despite it being the truth, Ye Chen would never do that.

It was true that he possessed countless prescriptions. If he sold them off recklessly, however, it would attract unwanted attention from those with power. His main concern was that it might disrupt the balance in Huaxia.

The safest way was to work his way up and be in complete control of power before he started selling his prescriptions. Otherwise, he would set fire to himself!

The prescription for low-level Beauty Pills was not too precious in the first place, seeing how it only had wonderful effects among cosmetic companies.

Chapter 25

...

Sun Yi led Ye Chen on the shopping trip and stopped when they passed by a store with 'Armani' printed on top.

Truth be told, she really wanted to step into the store and get Ye Chen a set of clothes. After all, men had to keep up appearances.

If Ye Chen was dressed in this, it would hinder some people from messing with him. However, she hesitated at the thought of the prices in the store.

After years of working with her tears, sweat, and blood for the Magnificent Group, she purchased a car and an apartment. That did not leave her a lot in her savings. If she bought a set of clothing for Ye Chen from here, then she would truly be broke.



Should they go in? Or no?

Ye Chen noticed Sun Yi's indecisiveness. He glanced at the store and realized the reason behind her hesitation.

Despite everything that happened, he was once the young master of an influential family in decline. Of course, he recognized the fashion brand, Armani.

On their way here, Sun Yi mentioned that she would pay for everything no matter what. Ye Chen did not doubt that Sun Yi was having an internal debate on whether to get him something from the store.

“Let's move on. Clothes from this brand aren't my thing. Oh, look, the Adidas shop next door has an ongoing promotion. I'm quite fond of sportswear; they're really comfy. Also, we've only known each other for a few days. Why are you getting me such expensive things? Are you trying to be my sugar mommy?”

After saying that, Ye Chen took a few steps forward before getting pulled back by Sun Yi.

“But I wanna see what you look like if you dress up in the set on display!”

“That's not necessary. They just slap on the brand anyway. There are stores selling similar clothes next door...” Ye Chen said with a shrug.

“But...”

As Sun Yi and Ye Chen focused on their argument, a surprised shout came up behind them.

“Sun Yi! Is that you?!”

Sun Yi froze momentarily when she heard the voice. Then, she turned around to see a woman dressed in rather fashionable clothes.

The mood shift was as clear as the sun on Sun Yi's grimacing face when she saw the woman.

Ye Chen scanned the woman. Although she looked quite attractive, she was several grades inferior when compared to Sun Yi.

Moreover, it was quite the coincidence that Ye Chen recognized the woman too.

She was Ye Chen and Sun Yi's classmate in senior high—He Qian.

Ye Chen remembered her clearly for several reasons. Other than the fact that He Qian was once Chu Shuran's supporter, He Qian often found ways to mess with Ye Chen. Insults spilled from her lips like a snake spitting venom—useless Ye, Ye the Useless, or other variations of the same insult.

A tall and good-looking man clad in branded goods was standing next to He Qian. His eyes ogled Sun Yi's breasts like a greedy beast.

“Sun Yi, I can't believe it's you! Why didn't you attend the high school get-together last year? I heard that you're currently working at The Magnificent Group? Are you selling beauty products? It's really hard to earn a decent amount of money selling beauty products nowadays. My advice to you is that you should hurry up and marry yourself off to some rich man. Easy peasy~”

It was hardly possible to miss the haughty undertone in He Qian's words. Her family was substantially well-off. Even though she might not be of the same social class as Chu Shuran, it was enough for her to show off in front of others.

Moreover, He Qian found out that Sun Yi was from a poor family since high school. Otherwise, there was no reason why Sun Yi had to give up on university after Gaokao and start working.

Sun Yi threw a glance at He Qian without any intention of replying. As she started to pull Ye Chen away, He Qian opened her mouth once more. “Oh, Sun Yi, I haven't seen you in years. I see that you've gotten

yourself a boyfriend. But... Your boyfriend looks somewhat mediocre. Other than his pretty face, his taste in clothing... Tsk tsk tsk... I assume he's just as poor as you.

“Oh well, that's understandable. The poor from the gutters flock together. Speaking of which, why does your boyfriend look somewhat familiar?”

He Qian's eyebrows mashed together like she was trying to recall something. Suddenly, she slapped her thigh and laughed. “That's right! Do you still remember that insignificant trash from the Ye family from five years ago? What a toad that lusted over a swan's meat! Can't believe he confessed his love to our dear Chu Shuran! Huh, your boyfriend here kinda looks like that useless Ye. Sadly, the trash died too young, too early. Otherwise, our darling Chu Shuran would enjoy making fun of him more.”

Ye Chen's expression was piercingly cold. It never occurred to him that after all these years, these insignificant ants still remembered what happened that day.

As he was about to make a move to shut her up, Sun Yi stepped forward and wagged an angry finger at He Qian. She shouted, “He's gone now! How dare you make fun of a dead person like this? Also, He Qian, don't make it sound like we're friends! We hadn't interacted with each other after graduation!”

With that, Sun Yi dragged Ye Chen into the Armani store!

If she once hovered between the decision to get Ye Chen these clothes, she had no doubts now! She told herself that even if this was a one-way ticket to bankruptcy, she would still buy them!

This was her statement to everyone to prove that she was making her own way in the world!

Just like that, Ye Chen was forcefully dragged into the store.

He Qian and her boyfriend glanced at the store and sneered, “What is a broke-ass person like you doing in Armani? I'd like to see how you shop!”

“Jun, look at how dirty your clothes are. Should we hop in and get a few sets for you?”

He Qian said in a flirtatious manner, holding onto her boyfriend's arm and shaking it. Her voice was sweet and coquettish, melting down all his defenses.

"Of course, silly. You know my net worth itself is enough to clear everything in this shop. But... Can I get a friend over for some fun tonight? Let's play that game..." Jun licked his lip, feeling very excited.

A hint of disgust flashed across He Qian's eyes. However, to please the man before her, she nodded in embarrassment and answered, "You men are so naughty~"

...

In Armani.

Seeing Ye Chen and Sun Yi's getup, the store attendant seemed somewhat skeptical, but she still attended them politely.

Sun Yi was unfamiliar with men's fashion too, but when she noticed He Qian and her boyfriend approaching, she frantically pointed to the set of clothing on the display rack and hissed, "Uh... We'll take the set worn on the display mannequin over there."

The attendant scratched the back of her head. This was her first encounter with customers like Sun Yi and Ye Chen. They were going to pay without trying the clothes on?

Another contributing factor was that the set of attire on display was of a limited edition. It cost a few hundred thousand.

"Miss, would you like your boyfriend to try it on?" The attendant asked politely.

Hearing the word 'boyfriend,' Sun Yi blushed like a tomato. "No... No need. He has almost the same figure as the mannequin. It should fit him like a glove. Wrap them up for me please..."

After she said that, a voice that embodied all misfortune in the world crept up behind her again.

“Ooh, Sun Yi, you’re getting this? I didn’t mishear it, right? Do you know how much this cost? This is the latest design from Master Terence. Don’t let your attempt to protect your ego backfire on you~”

He Qian got on Sun Yi’s nerves like a ghost that would not stop haunting her. At this point, Sun Yi could not care less about how much the clothes cost. She ordered the attendant, “Hurry up and wrap this up for me. We’re kinda in a rush...”

Wasting no time, the attendant brought the clothes to the counter and totaled up the bill. Then, she told Sun Yi with a smile, “Miss, your purchase has exceeded 200 thousand, therefore you’re automatically upgraded to Armani’s premium membership. You can now enjoy a five percent discount on new arrivals. After the discount, your total bill is 390 thousand...”

When the attendant mentioned 390 thousand, Sun Yi’s half extended hand froze in midair. Her bankcard hung limply in her grasp.

The f\*ck?

390 thousand for a set of clothes?

What sort of a joke was that? Even luxury items would not cost as much!

Nevertheless, the issue at hand was that at the very most, there were only three hundred thousand bucks in her bank account!

Chapter 26

The store attendant of Armani extended a hand to retrieve the bank card in Sun Yi’s hand. Before she could do that, Sun Yi drew her hand back abruptly. Her sudden movements shocked the attendant.

“Miss, you’re...”

Sun Yi pretended to look at the clothes once more. Her eyebrows mashed together to form a frown and said, "I've decided that the colors on this attire don't look good on him at all. We'll browse for another."

Without waiting for anyone's response, Sun Yi grabbed ahold of Ye Chen's hand and headed toward the exit.

If anyone found out she did not have enough money on her card, she would end up embarrassing herself for real.

Before they could leave the Armani store, He Qian appeared—no one knew when—and blocked the entrance. Her amused grin was affixed on Sun Yi's face.

"Sun Yi, oh, Sun Yi. Don't tell me you don't have enough money to make the purchase? If that's true, why bother coming to a place that only the upper-class can afford?"

He Qian raised her fair chin up high. Her eyes were full of disdain and contempt as she looked at Sun Yi.

Anger burned in Sun Yi's heart, yet she replied politely, "It's my right to decide what I want to buy. It doesn't concern you. I think the colors don't suit him at all. What's the problem with that?"

He Qian sneered, "Oh, I know the truth. You don't have enough money in your card, do you? There's only so much you can earn from selling beauty medicine. Oh, that's right. You still have a boyfriend, right? Don't tell me he's broke too? Two broke asses in Armani. Haha! What a joke."

He Qian was getting ahead of herself. She took a few steps forward and teased, "Don't expect me not to know how poor you were since senior high. You managed to gain more than six hundred marks in Gaokao that year, didn't you? You should've been able to enroll in the Key University in the Capital City, but why didn't you? That's because you wanted to earn some quick money to foot your younger brother's medical bills, right? Why is it so hard to admit that you're broke?"

Redness bloomed on the rims of Sun Yi's beautiful eyes. There was nothing she wanted more right now than to walk over and give He Qian a slap!

However, she knew very well that if the slap found its way to He Qian's face, Sun Yi would lose her footing in River City.

He Qian had a good relationship with Chu Shuran. The Chu family had immense power and influence in River City. If Chu Shuran decided to target Sun Yi, Sun Yi would no doubt become unwelcome in River City.

It did not matter to Sun Yi if she was forced out of River City. However, she was concerned that they would target her brother too. She did not want that.

Therefore, she must swallow her grief and make sure the slap never happens, no matter what.

“Cat got your tongue? I'm right, no? It's sad enough that you're poor, but pretending to be rich? What a joke. Then again, you're quite a looker. So, why don't you marry a rich man and be done with it? You'd get whatever you want then, wouldn't you?”

He Qian was getting carried away. She pointed to her boyfriend and said, “Oh, right. I forgot to introduce you. This is my boyfriend, Zhao Jun. Wanna know where he's working at? I'm sure you've heard of North Name Corporation, haven't you? North Name Corporation is worth so much more than your pathetic Magnificent Group. My Jun is none other than the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) in North Name Corporation, earning five million annually. Would you think about that!”

He Qian was about to continue when a lazy voice intercepted her.

“What CFO? I'll give you a UFO.”

The voice belonged to no one else but Ye Chen.

He could not endure the conversation any longer. He Qian remained the same after so many years had passed. Give her the chance to speak, and she would bullshit her way to heaven, as though she was above everyone else in the world. He could never comprehend where people like her get their confidence from.

He Qian finally noticed Ye Chen's presence after he had interrupted her speech. She scanned him from head to toe and said, "Oh, I forgot about you, you poor f\*cker. I was just starting to wonder what your greatest achievement might be. Don't tell me you're a garbage collector? We have a bottle of mineral water in the car. Do you want it?"

He Qian and her boyfriend laughed.

Ye Chen shook his head. Sounding rather confident, he said, "I'm a miracle doctor. A miracle doctor with the power to decide life and death."

Everyone lapsed into a deafening silence after he spoke. Then, they exploded in laughter.

"Haha! Sun Yi, oh, Sun Yi. You've got yourself an interesting boyfriend there. Miracle doctor? Deciding life and death? Hahaha... I can't do this anymore... I'm going to laugh myself to death... Ow, my stomach hurts..."

Sun Yi rolled her eyes at Ye Chen too. She whispered, "Mentioning that job of yours in front of me is fine, just not with anyone else..."

The image of the ridiculous banners he made popped up in her head.

Ye Chen touched his nose with a helpless feeling forming in his heart. Why was it that no one believed the truth even when they were being told nowadays?

He was an authentic miracle doctor.

Was there not a fella named Shen Haihua who was tearing the world down to search for him? Must he drag that fella over to testify?

Oh, right. If Ye Chen recalled correctly, Shen Haihua from the Shen family called all the shots at North Name Corporation...



Thinking about that, Ye Chen suddenly shifted his gaze to He Qian's boyfriend with a strange expression on his face.

Sun Yi could not bear to hear all the insults Ye Chen was receiving and tried to pull Ye Chen away.

“Let's go. You should leave the clothes. We're not taking them anymore...”

However, Ye Chen did not budge. He stared at Sun Yi intently and asked, “Do you really want to see me wearing this?”

Sun Yi froze. For reasons unknown to her, a sense of impending doom started to grow.

In the blink of an eye, Ye Chen approached the cashier, retrieved a card and said to the store attendant, “Wrap it up. Swipe the card.”

Sun Yi's mouth was agape in horror. Had Ye Chen lost his mind?!

What in the world was he doing?!

There was no one clearer than Sun Yi when it came to how much money Ye Chen had.

He could not afford to pay his own rent!

As a matter of fact, he just borrowed three thousand bucks from her!

How could he afford something that cost several hundred thousand?!

Moreover, He Qian was watching them from the back. If the card failed, she would rain the cruelest insults on him!

'Ye Chen, oh, Ye Chen. Why must you be so rash?' Sun Yi lamented internally.

After observing what went on for a while, the store manager 1 realized that Ye Chen and Sun Yi had no money.

As the store manager was about to turn down Ye Chen's request to swipe the card, she accidentally glimpsed the card in Ye Chen's hand from the corner of her eye.

All of a sudden, her face paled.

That was the VIP Black Card issued by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China!

You could only apply for the VIP Black Card if you had more than ten million in savings!

After working at Armani for three years, it was not difficult for her to recognize the card for what it was.

She gave a hasty smile and said politely, "Glad to have you, sir. As you're using the VIP Black Card, in collaboration with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, we shall give you another ten percent discount after the original discount for this..."

Hearing that, everyone's face changed. Nobody expected that the card in Ye Chen's hand to be a VIP Black Card!

He Qian stepped forward and spat in an accusatory tone, "Don't think you'll be able to get away with a fake card! If the transaction fails, you'll go to jail for fraud!"

Sun Yi gave Ye Chen a tug, too. She said anxiously, "Take the card back. We're leaving now! It's fine. Better to be humiliated than being sent to the police station!"

Ye Chen turned his gaze on Sun Yi, who looked like she was about to pull her hair out. Ye Chen smiled. "Do you have so little faith in me? Do I look broke to you?"

Sun Yi almost fainted. It was not an issue of whether he looked broke or otherwise—he was definitely broke!

What came next was out of everyone's expectation. Other than passing the card over to the store manager, Ye Chen announced proudly, "Swipe it! Just swipe it! Also, I don't need any discounts! Charge me the original price! This man, I, am not short of money today!"

Parvenu much?

So be it!

'I'll be a parvenu for the day!'

Chapter 27

At the moment, the store manager was stunned into silence.

In all of her years of service as the store manager, she had never encountered a customer as peculiar as Ye Chen.

A customer who turned down discounts? Not just that. A customer who insisted on paying the original price?

She began to wonder if this customer whom she initially thought was invaluable was actually a nutjob.

Even so, there was nothing she could do other than follow his instructions.

"Sir, please key in your password..."

He Qian refused to believe that the man dressed in cheap rags could afford the clothes. She teased, "Brat, I'd like to see you key in the password! We'll see if poor f\*ckers like you can play this game!"

Then, she turned sharply to Sun Yi. "Sun Yi, oh, Sun Yi. Where did you pick up this man from? You have horrible taste, I'm telling you. I know all about your little crush on that useless garbage from the Ye family five years ago! And that after the Ye family incident, you buried all of them. I'm so confused. What is so great about that useless piece of sh\*t from the Ye family?"

"I thought after that good-for-nothing died, your taste would improve. Who would've expected that you're still the same after all these years? Look at that dude next to you! What's good about him? Why don't you go ahead and sell your body then? Your customers might even turn out better than this guy!"

The more words He Qian spat, the more overboard she went. Tears started welling in Sun Yi's eyes.

Sun Yi might allow everyone to walk over her this way, but she would never allow anyone to speak ill of the late Ye family.

Sun Yi clenched her fist. Her nails dug into the flesh of her palm, and blood started to seep out from the cuts.

On the other hand, He Qian continued yapping, "Sun Yi, do you want me to refer customers for your whoring business..."

Before He Qian could finish her sentence, a black shadow flashed across her face.

Everyone heard a loud slap before she could even respond!

Ye Chen's palm landed squarely on her face.

That slap had flung He Qian to the floor.

It even sent a tooth flying out of He Qian's mouth!

“I've been wanting to slap this mouth of yours for a while now. If you're not a woman, you're probably dead a long time ago.”

Ye Chen's voice was extremely cold. It was the kind of coldness that permeated until it hits their bone marrow.

He had intended to do slap her a long time ago. If it was not for Sun Yi's continuous objection, this b\*tch would not be talking now.

People like her, if merely tolerated, they would take advantage of the situation and become even worse!

In the past five years where Ye Chen traversed between the realm of life and death, he had reached an understanding that enemies should all be eradicated once and for all!

No one saw it coming. It did not occur to anyone that Ye Chen would hit her out of nowhere.

He had sent a woman to the floor with a slap in front of everyone.

Although Sun Yi felt an unspeakable joy at the sight, her heart skipped a beat whenever she thought about the repercussions.

Sh\*t.

They were doomed.

An epiphany hit her—every time she brought Ye Chen out, the fella would always run amok!

The word 'tolerate' did not exist in this man's dictionary! There was only the terrible temper of a fearless man!

A few days ago, he taught River City's Chen family a lesson and was sent to the police station. If it was not for the fact that he had done it out of self-defense, Ye Chen would have faced death certainly!

However, the same could not be said this time because Ye Chen was the one who started it!

A turmoil of emotions raged on in Sun Yi's heart.

Consciousness returned to He Qian. With a head of messy hair, she got to her feet, extended a finger at Ye Chen, and roared like a crazy person, "How dare you hit me?! Nobody has ever hit me before, not once in my lifetime! No one! Believe me..."

Before she could finish, the card reader rang in a clear and crisp voice, "Transaction successful. We hope that you had a pleasant time shopping with us..."

It was at this moment that the world descended into a deafening silence.

Sun Yi froze in her tracks.

He Qian was similarly stunned too, forgetting the pain on her face.

A successful transaction?

This was not a small amount! The price could easily be the equivalent of an employee's income for years!

Garbage collector?

Could he have picked up a VIP Black Card when collecting garbage? Then pay the total of a few hundred thousand without as much as a twitch on his face?

Impossible!

“This... This must be fake... You must have colluded with the store beforehand! How could you afford to pay otherwise?” He Qian accused aggressively in a volume that was borderline howling.

The expression on the Armani store manager’s face darkened when she heard He Qian questioning their credibility. “Miss, Armani is an international luxury brand. Why would we do something like that? If you continue to damage our reputation, we have the right to blacklist you!”

He Qian did not expect everyone to be pointing their fingers at her. She hurriedly turned around to Zhao Jun and begged, “Jun, they’re all ganging up on me. You’re a man. Shouldn’t you be helping me?”

Zhao Jun nodded. He patted He Qian’s back and stepped forward to pass a name card to the store manager. “Good day. I’m the Chief Financial Officer of North Name Corporation. Firstly, I’d like you to apologize to my girlfriend. You should know that the collaboration between North Name Corporation and Armani was established just a few days ago. I don’t wish for the collaboration to be affected because of you. Your meager salary won’t be able to afford it!

“Secondly, this man attacked someone in public and he did it in your store. You have the right to chase both of them out! After this, I’ll get my lawyer to deal with this too.”

Zhao Jun straightened up to look at everyone after that. He was enjoying his display of power.

From the corner of his eyes, he leered at Sun Yi, wondering how her gorgeous body looked like beneath the sports attire.

Zhao Jun planned to ask for this woman’s Wechat ID after settling the issue. Perhaps, if he threw in a bunch of money, he would get her to bed. Then, he could have as much fun he wanted.

Hearing Zhao Jun’s threat, the store manager was shocked into silence.

The collaboration between North Name Corporation and Armani had indeed been established just a week ago!

If she did anything to ruin the collaboration, the consequences would be too dire for her to bear!

The store manager did not doubt the authenticity of the information written on the man's name card. His proud bearing was clearly displayed before her. It was the bearing of someone with a high position in a huge corporation!

She scuttled over to He Qian and apologized with a bow, "I'm so sorry, miss! I didn't know who I was talking to just now..."

He Qian pointed at Ye Chen and Sun Yi and said, "What are you waiting for? Send the poor f\*cker and the whore out now!"

Once the words slipped out from her mouth, another slap to her face followed!

It was not Ye Chen who did it but Sun Yi this time! She had lost her patience!

Sun Yi kept taking a step back in situations like this but that did not mean she was an easy pushover! Which woman in the world would be able to withstand endless insults about being a whore?

Ye Chen could not help nodding at Sun Yi's action.

Just because Sun Yi was a woman did not mean that she should be meek and let everyone walk over her. A woman had to be tough when dealing with a troublesome character like this!

Zhao Jun saw his chance. He stepped forward and said to Sun Yi, "Miss, it's not right to hit someone. I have a few relatives and friends in River City's police station. Your action can definitely guarantee you a few days' stay.

"But seeing that you're a girl, I'll give you a chance. Tonight, you shall go to the Hilton Hotel and accompany me for drinks. Do that, and I'll think about letting you off the hook."



His lewd smile was well hidden from everyone.

However, Sun Yi saw through his intentions. She knew exactly what he meant. She opened her mouth and presented him with only two words, "F\*ck off!"

Zhao Jun did not expect someone from a tiny corporation selling medicine would reject him like this. He hmped coldly and said, "If that's the case, just wait and see, you bastards. From today onwards, I'll exert pressure on the Magnificent Group on behalf of North Name Corporation. We'll see how long you can last in River City!"

Zhao Jun's expression was hideously savage! He would not mind falling in love with the feeling of being in power.

Yet, his proud moments were short-lived. Someone threw cold water on him!

A steady voice rang behind him and said, "Such ambitious sentiments! Today I, Shen Haihua, would love to find out who's using my North Name Corporation to harass Miracle Doctor Ye!"

Chapter 28

Zhao Jun froze on the spot when he heard the voice.

He knew very well whose voice it belonged to.

Half a year ago, he had to hear it almost every day in his office.

This was Shen Haihua's voice.

The founder of North Name Corporation!

The indisputable existence in the entire North Name Corporation!

However, after being diagnosed with a terminal disease, Shen Haihua stopped appearing in the office.

All the directors in the corporation seemed to think that North Name Corporation would lapse into an inheritance war and the position of the president might go to Shen Haihua's children.

As for Zhao Jun's own post as CFO, he owed it to his father!

When everyone started to panic in the corporation, his father—in order to obtain more shares in the corporation—pushed Zhao Jun to the front line.

Zhao Jun was aware that he could never have gotten the position on his own.

Now, the rightful owner had appeared! Zhao Jun's back was drenched in sweat.

Zhao Jun turned slowly on his back. When he came face to face with the man clad in a Tang costume, he felt the last of his spirit escape him.

It was Shen Haihua!

Was he not... dead? Did he come back to life?

Was that a person or a spirit?!

“Uncle Shen... What brought you here? I heard that you were sick, right?”

Whatever arrogance he had just now had been suppressed into the utmost minimum. There were even hints of flattery in his smile.

Shen Haihua harrumphed coldly. "Hmph! If I reached here any second later, I'm sure someone will destroy my entire life's work!"

Zhao Jun's smile froze, but he still extended a hand out to him. He said politely, "Uncle Shen, you must be joking again. That's right. Are you here to inspect how the collaboration with Armani is doing?"

Zhao Jun initially thought that Shen Haihua would hold back from embarrassing Zhao Jun because they were outside in public. Yet, much to Zhao Jun's dismay and surprise, Shen Haihua simply slapped Zhao Jun's hand away with a loud "piak!"

Then, Shen Haihua stormed off toward another direction.

Looking at the direction where Shen Haihua was headed, only three people stood there.

Ye Chen, Sun Yi, and He Qian.

Both Sun Yi and He Qian were in a state of confusion. What reasons did the president of North Name Corporation have to come over?

Could he be here to help Zhao Jun pick up the pieces?

Seeing Shen Haihua walking toward her, He Qian mistook it as an attempt to console her. Feeling flattered, she hurriedly close in on the distance between her and Shen Haihua.

"Uncle Shen, I've heard so much about you from Jun. Really, you don't have to come to us personally. We can deal with these two ourselves. I'll inform my family about this later. By then, none of them will be able to escape!"

He Qian threw a nasty glare at Sun Yi after speaking.

It was as though He Qian's eyes were screaming at Sun Yi: "This is the real meaning of power! This is how influence works! A poor f\*cker like you will never understand this feeling!"

Sun Yi's legs trembled. She knew this incident had attracted a lot of unwanted attention, yet she would never have expected Shen Haihua to show up in person.

If North Name Corporation blacklisted them and made it difficult for them to make a living in River City, Ye Chen and her would no longer be able to survive here.

As everyone engaged themselves in an unspoken understanding, Shen Haihua shot past He Qian and went directly for Ye Chen. His usually austere face was now laden with smiles. He said respectfully to Ye Chen, "Mister Ye, I've found you at last. If you're still in hiding, I'll probably be dead."

Shen Haihua's every word sent everyone into a kind of absolute silence until the sound of a falling needle could be easily heard!

Everyone's eyes bulged.

Shen Haihua actually used a low and submissive tone to speak!

He sounded like he was attempting to flatter Ye Chen!

Moreover, he used an honorific!

Mister Ye!

You 1 !

Why would a bigshot like Shen Haihua speak in such a submissive way to a young man?

Moreover, Shen Haihua had been looking all over for Ye Chen? He would die if he could not find Ye Chen? Was it not too much of an exaggeration?

Gulp!

The scenario hit Sun Yi hard. She stood next to Ye Chen with a face full of horror. Gulping down a mouthful of saliva, she remained stunned on the spot.

Sun Yi's eyes were glued at Ye Chen. She could not believe all of this was happening!

Did he not travel to River City only recently? How did he get to know influential people like Shen Haihua?

Another crucial detail was that Ye Chen could make Shen Haihua speak in such a submissive manner!

At this moment, she felt a layer of fog enshrouding Ye Chen, preventing her from seeing him for who he really was.

He Qian backed away involuntarily. She rubbed her eyes and wondered if she saw everything in the wrong way.

Yet, reality gave He Qian a cold hard slap! 'Why would this fella know Shen Haihua? Impossible! Absolutely impossible!'

Everyone waited for Ye Chen's response—it was the only thing that could explain everything!

A few seconds passed, then Ye Chen looked at Shen Haihua and said, "I gave you, the Shen family, a chance. You didn't appreciate it!"

Shen Haihua did not expect Ye Chen to be as difficult to persuade. Tentatively, he said, "It's my fault for not teaching my children well, Mister Ye. Today, I'll make my embarrassing excuse of a son apologize to you!"

After saying that, Shen Haihua spun around and shouted to the man sulking in the corner, "Menglong! Get your ass over here and apologize to Mister Ye!"

Although extremely embarrassed, Shen Menglong shuffled out from the corner he was hiding in when he heard his father's bark. He stood in front of Ye Chen with his head bowed. He did not say anything.

“What are you waiting for? Kneel in front of Mister Ye and apologize!”

Shen Menglong clenched his fists. Rage was burning in his heart, but he went down on his knees with a plop eventually!

“Mister Ye, I was wrong that day. Please forgive me!”

He had no choice but to kneel. If he refused, death would be inevitable!

Some distance away, Zhao Jun watched Shen Menglong kneel in utter shock.

He knew very well what kind of personality Shen Menglong had because they grew up together!

Shen Menglong would never bow his head to anyone, and he would never kneel before someone!

However, how could Zhao Jun explain what was going on before his eyes right now?

His eyes slowly shifted toward Ye Chen. He felt an impending sense of doom.

Zhao Jun was afraid that he went overboard with his pretentiousness and offended someone important!

Could it be that the fella came from Jiangnan Province? Or was he from a bigger family?

If that was the case, he was as good as dead!

Zhao Jun's thoughts sent his knees shaking.

Meanwhile, as the main lead in the whole incident, Ye Chen swept his eyes coldly over the kneeling Shen Menglong and ignored him. He patted the dumbstruck Sun Yi and said, "Let's go. The second floor is the female clothing department. Let's pick something for you too. Today, I have money to spend!"

With that, he left Shen Menglong and Shen Haihua where they stood and led Sun Yi away.

The store manager could not process what had just happened. She had met countless arrogant people in her life, but as of this moment, none of them could compete against this man!

Who the hell did he think he was?

Of all the people she knew, she could not think of someone more aggressive than Shen Haihua.

After Ye Chen left, Shen Haihua recollected himself. With a dark expression, he landed a kick on his son's body.

"Look at what you did! If we can't get Mister Ye to agree today, you'll never have to get up again."

After saying that, he turned to look at Zhao Jun and barked, "Zhao Jun, did you offend Mister Ye just now? Don't you dare think that I don't know anything about what you and your dad did in the past! You'll pack up your things and get lost today! And your dad, Zhao Deming! Even if I die, I won't allow you two to get any shares of the company! Get lost!"

When it seemed like Shen Haihua had finished venting, he took a few deep breaths and hurried after Ye Chen.

Everyone started to follow. Shen Haihua simply told everyone off. "Don't even think about following me, all of you useless piece of sh\*t!"

Chapter 29

...

After Shen Haihua left, He Qian jerked awake from her trance and tugged at Zhao Jun's hand. "Jun, what should we do..."

He Qian's voice was so coquettish Zhao Jun could not stand it anymore. He raised a hand and gave He Qian a cold, hard slap!

"It's all your fault, BI-TCH! You're the reason I lost everything! How dare you ask me what's next? Do you want to die? Dig a hole and bury yourself!"

As though it was not enough, Zhao Jun landed a kick on He Qian!

"I'm telling you, He Qian. You better keep your condescending eyes to yourself! No one will be able to save you next! Get the f\*ck outta here!"

He Qian's face was as pale as paper. Her eyes had lost their former gleam.

She knew there would no longer be a future with Zhao Jun.

She assumed that all of Zhao Jun's gifts in the form of sports cars and houses would be taken back too.

He Qian stared long and hard at Ye Chen and Sun Yi's departing silhouette, clenching her fists.

It was all their fault!

If it was not because of these two, how could she lose everything?



Since young, He Qian thought she was nobility. Her status was not something that someone who led a Cinderella-esque life like Sun Yi could be compared to.

He Qian was jealous of Sun Yi's good looks and figure. She would not lose the opportunity to make fun of the despicable woman!

It was the same five years ago, and it would be the same five years later!

However, what she failed to realize was that Sun Yi had long surpassed her!

He Qian was curious as to who the hell was that guy that came with Sun Yi?

Who was he to bend the head of River City's Shen family, Shen Haihua, to his will?

Did Shen Haihua not call him Mister Ye? Was Ye his surname?

There was not a Ye family in Jiangnan Province, right? Then... Was there a Ye family in River City?

Rather unlikely too.

Hold on, there was the Ye family that got massacred!

Suddenly, a name floated up in He Qian's mind—Ye Chen!

That trash from the Ye family! The same one whose love confession to Chu Shuran sent him spiraling down the endless depth of humiliation!

Then, taking Sun Yi's relations with that man into consideration, perhaps, the mysterious man was truly Ye Chen!

As He Qian reached the conclusion, her mouth fell open and her pupils widened in terror.

“Ye Chen... Didn’t die? How’s that possible? And he’s back?”

After a seemingly endless pause, He Qian suppressed the shock she felt and retrieved her phone immediately. With decisive fingers, she called a phone number that was both strange and familiar at the same time.

At last, the call connected. A voice devoid of warmth spoke at the other side of the phone, “What do you want?”

“Shuran, I have something very important to tell you!”

“What is it? Say it!” The lady at the other end of the phone sounded impatient.

“I... I think I saw Ye Chen...”

“What?!” He Qian heard the sound of something crashing from the phone. It sounded like the phone had fallen onto the ground. After a while, a female voice continued, “Which Ye Chen? Our classmate from senior high? That useless Ye?”

“Seems... like it, but I’m not quite sure.”

“Come to the Chu family house in two hours!”

The call disconnected.

...

Ye Chen led Sun Yi around the mall for about an hour and had bought around five or six pieces of clothing for her.

Despite saying that it was unnecessary, the moment Sun Yi stepped into the female clothing department, her eyes beamed like the sun—she had no resistance over beautiful clothes.

Even so, Sun Yi chose only those on discount for the entire trip. The shopping spree only cost Ye Chen one or two thousand bucks.

Ye Chen had asked Sun Yi to ignore the prices several times, but she refused.

Therefore, Ye Chen had no choice but to let Sun Yi choose at her own will.

‘At this age and time, women like her are almost impossible to find,’ Ye Chen thought to himself.

During the entire hour, Ye Chen noticed Shen Haihua was following them. Shen Haihua often looked like he was about to speak yet swallowed his words in the end.

Ye Chen paid him no mind and let Shen Haihua followed them as he pleased.

Ye Chen believed a man on the verge of death could not do as much as stirring up a wave.

Once their shopping spree came to an end, Ye Chen and Sun Yi took the elevator down to the carpark. Once they found their car and was about to put down their clothes, they saw Shen Haihua bringing along a pile of clothes over.

“Why are you here?” Ye Chen was clearly pissed. He creased his eyebrows into an annoyed arc.

Shen Haihua gave a small awkward laugh and proceeded to put the clothes into Sun Yi’s car. Then, he said politely, “Mister Ye, I think you’ve misunderstood me. I’m not here for you. I’m here for the lady.”

Sun Yi pointed at herself with a peculiar finger and asked, “President Shen, you’re looking for me?”

Shen Haihua retrieved a bank card and said in a serious tone, "Miss, since you know who I am, I'll save the trouble of introducing myself. In truth, my purpose in coming here this time is to give you a personal apology for the rude treatment you received from my staff. It's all my fault for not managing them better. This is a token of gratitude from North Name Corporation, please take it."

With a glance, Sun Yi knew that there should be not less than five million bucks in the bank card. However, she would never accept money that came out of nowhere like this.

"There's no need to pay. I didn't lose anything just now, so you can take it back, President Shen."

Sun Yi refused without any hesitation.

Sun Yi's refusal was well within Shen Haihua's expectations. He withdrew the bank card and pointed to the clothes that he placed into the car just now. "Since you refuse to accept my money, you'll accept these clothes that I've casually chosen for you, I hope? They're not expensive. Point being, even if you return them to me, I'll have no use for them."

Sun Yi shifted her attention to the clothes. Soon, her face was full of surprise. These were all the clothes that she was happy with after putting them on in the fitting room. Yet, she did not purchase them because she did not wish to spend Ye Chen's money meaninglessly.

As a matter of fact, she felt a little regretful when Sun Yi and Ye Chen got to the car. Who would have known that Shen Haihua had bought every single piece without a miss?

It was apparent that Sun Yi was pleased, but she still refused. "I'm sorry, President Shen. I don't need these either. I appreciate your kind intentions."

Ye Chen noticed how pleased Sun Yi was, so he said, "Since President Shen is being very thoughtful, why don't you accept them, Sun Yi? He can't wear those clothes as a man anyway."

Needless to say, Shen Haihua had enough tricks to put himself in this current position.

Shen Haihua knew he was unable to get through to Ye Chen. Therefore, he had started working his way through Sun Yi.

Shen Haihua managed to observe Sun Yi's real objects of interest when they went shopping. Ye Chen was impressed by Shen Haihua's acute observation.

“But...”

Sun Yi was about to say something when Ye Chen interrupted her with a pat on her shoulder. “Get the car running. I'll be with you soon.”

“Okay...”

After Sun Yi got into the car, Ye Chen did not beat around the bush. He said to Shen Haihua, “I'll give you another chance this time. I'll go to the Shen family house at nine in the morning tomorrow. Also, you'll leave me alone. Don't disturb my life or the people around me. Otherwise, I can cure you but I can also take back your life.”

“Oh, and for the second stage of the treatment, I'm charging you 80 million.”

Hearing Ye Chen's words, Shen Haihua's body started to shake violently! Redness started to blossom around his eyes!

Nobody could comprehend the emotions that had seized Shen Haihua at the moment!

He trailed behind Ye Chen for an entire hour just to hear him say that!

Mister Ye's words meant that he, Shen Haihua, had regained his right to live!

“Thank you... Mister Ye... Thank you. You're my parents reincarnated 1 ! If there's anything you need, people from the Shen family will always be at your service!”

The sentence was uttered from the bottom of Shen Haihua's heart.

Ye Chen was the one who had returned his life to Shen Haihua!

Shen Haihua needed only a nod from Ye Chen's head to be able to live on!

Ye Chen ignored Shen Haihua. He simply opened the car door and sat inside.

Soon enough, the car disappeared from the basement parking of Myriad Links Square...

Leaving behind Shen Haihua, who was secretly wiping off the tears from his unreadable face.

Chapter 30

River City, Sonorous Calls Lake.

Amidst the serene environment, a huge mansion perched in the middle of the lake.

The famous Green Lake Mountain of River City sat behind the mansion. It could be said that the mansion had the best feng shui in the entire River City.

Of course, there was another more crucial reason! One of the most influential families lived here—the Chu family from River City!

The history of the Chu family in River City could be traced back to the Ming Dynasty where the Chu family ancestor was a general in the Ming Dynasty!

He once rode into war alone and killed nearly thousands of his enemies! Then, he managed to retreat from war!

The Chu family's name prospered ever since the war!

However, the Chu family gradually declined over time. Yet, they managed to retain a seat among the Four Great Families in River City!

Their position was unchallenged here!

Presently, a young lady was watering the plants in the courtyard of the Chu family mansion.

The young lady was extremely beautiful. She wore a black tight tank top and a pair of casual white pants which brought out her tall and slender figure. She looked endlessly elegant and charming.

The young lady was the daughter of the Chu family, Chu Shuran.

While Chu Shuran watered the plants, a hint of gloom flashed across her beautiful eyes.

She often had nightmares since the eradication of the Ye family from River City. A bloodied young man would often appear in her dreams, and despite not being able to see his face clearly, she was sure that the young man was Ye Chen.

Ye Chen, the same person who she had humiliated in public.

Five years ago, Chu Shuran only meant it as a joke. However, she had begun to feel regretful of her action.

She sighed, placed the watering can on the ground, and mumbled, "Why do I keep thinking about the fella. He's just trash. Even if he survived, he might even be living in the streets right now with that pushover personality of his and become actual trash."

It was at this moment that He Qian walked over, appearing slightly out of breath.

“Shuran, I finally met you! It’s been around half a year since we last met! I see that you’ve gotten prettier. I can’t even start to guess how many men have fallen prey to your beauty!” He Qian said excitedly.

Chu Shuran merely nodded half-heartedly. “Sit.”

“Okay.” He Qian felt Chu Shuran’s cold indifference too. He Qian knew that after staying overseas for three years after graduation, Chu Shuran had returned a different person. He Qian could not help feeling like they had grown apart.

“You said you saw Ye Chen. Are you sure it’s the same Ye Chen who confessed his love to me?” Chu Shuran asked in a flat tone as if she was indifferent to the matter.

He Qian nodded and gave Chu Shuran a recap of what happened at Myriad Link Square today.

At first, Chu Shuran listened without any expression on her face, then her eyebrows furrowed together. At the end of the story, she had descended into a thoughtful silence.

After a long while, she lifted her head and asked, “You’re saying that you’re not sure if that person is Ye Chen? He only looks like Ye Chen, and his surname’s coincidentally Ye?”

He Qian was stunned by Chu Shuran’s response, but she nodded anyway.

“Shen Haihua is an acquaintance of mine. He’s a person whose experience is second only to his ego. You said he bent and bowed to a young man. It’s not impossible.

“But Shen Haihua must look up to the young man a lot, or that the young man is someone with a powerful disposition!”



“Even if that useless Ye survived, what could he achieve in five years?” Chu Shuran said confidently while fiddling with her plants.

He Qian was about to say something before Chu Shuran continued, “The Ye family disappeared five years ago. Ye Chen’s long gone too. Even if he lived on in East Money Lake, he’s probably just another tramp.

“This world doesn’t have a place for a lowly ant like him. He’d only be mercilessly crushed by the rules of the world, then he’d succumb eventually. Wasn’t the incident at the Cloud Lake Manor five years ago enough proof yet? He Qian, do you understand what I’m saying?”

He Qian could no longer keep up with Chu Shuran’s line of thought. The current Chu Shuran seemed to exude a form of unexplainable pride. No matter the words she spoke or the look she gave He Qian, Chu Shuran seemed like she above everything.

He Qian knew that Chu Shuran’s temperament must have originated from her unshakable confidence.

He Qian had heard about how the great-grand old master from the Chu family in River City had just entered some martial arts realm at their high school gathering last year. That might have propelled the Chu family into becoming the first family in River City to step up and gain a position among the families in Jiangnan Province.

Was that the source of Chu Shuran’s confidence?

“Shuran, what if- I’m just saying, what if... the person I saw today was really Ye Chen?” He Qian persisted.

Chu Shuran stopped fiddling with her plants and gave a cold laugh.

“So what if Ye Chen has returned? River City is no longer the same city five years ago! I, Chu Shuran, am no longer the same Chu Shuran five years ago!

“It doesn’t matter if Shen Haihua bows to him or if he’s a person with extreme power!

“Once he stands in front of the Chu family door, he can only stare dreamily into the Chu family just like he did five years ago!”

Once Chu Shuran finished her sentence, He Qian looked somewhat pale. She felt oppressed by Chu Shuran’s imposing manner.

There was nothing He Qian wanted more right now than to ask what happened to Chu Shuran these past few years, but she had already issued a removal order.

“Perhaps I can only admire Chu Shuran for my entire life. I wonder what kind of man will be able to conquer her,” muttered He Qian to herself.

...

Grand City Apartments.

Ye Chen and Sun Yi returned home with a handful of shopping bags.

Sun Yi, who had just returned from a shopping trip, made Ye Chen a feast out of excitement.

She made him two dishes of meat, a dish of vegetables, and a bowl of soup.

Ye Chen ate six bowls of rice before stopping, and that gave Sun Yi quite a shock.

She knew Ye Chen was a glutton, but she did not expect him to be that much of a glutton.

“Are you the reincarnation of a hungry ghost? Those who don’t know might think that I’ve been starving you!” Sun Yi snickered.

Ye Chen swept up all the leftovers, patted his stomach, and said with a smile, "Truth be told, I haven't had a meal like this in years. In the past, my mom used to..."

At this point, Ye Chen stopped abruptly. Then, he smiled. "Let's not talk about the past. Seriously though, you're a great cook. Will you cook again tomorrow?"

Sun Yi knew Ye Chen must have thought about his late parents. For some reason, it touched her at the softest corner of her heart. With tears welling at her eyes, Sun Yi pledged in all sincerity, "If you want, I'll cook for you every day from now onwards. How's that for a landlady? Not bad eh?"

"What, you're saying you're never going to marry?" Ye Chen blinked. "Or are you indirectly confessing your love for me? I'm telling you, there are many criteria to meet to become my wife."

Sun Yi perked up in curiosity. "Tell me, I'll help you look around."

Ye Chen cleared his throat and spoke in a serious tone, "Number one, big boobs. Number two, big boobs. Number three, still big boobs... Say, I think you fit those criteria perfectly. Shall we make do?"

Sun Yi picked up a pillow from the sofa and threw it at Ye Chen!

What an infuriating man!

"Sure, go on... Throw more of them at me... Stretch further before you throw. That would hurt more..."