

Schoolgirl 441

Chapter 441: Anticipating. My Girl

Yun Jian's long eyelashes fluttered as her lips quirked up slightly at the sight of Buba pressing the rescue button.

"Oh, that's all?" Yun Jian grinned, arching a brow.

The airy tone of hers did not reflect the fret that someone who was at a disadvantage should have.

There was a small frown on Buba but he thought scornfully, 'She's just bluffing!'

He had already united forces with various bigshot assassin organizations and mercenaries, even the top assassin group worldwide, An Hun Group, had agreed to partner up!

Ha-ha, he would love to know how Slaying God could survive this time!

Buba was going to lead everyone in destroying her legendary feat today. Slaying God? They were going to bring an end to her!

So what if Slaying God was divinely skilled? Could she have defied logic and fought all of them singularly without any backup?

"I'm anticipating it!" Yun Jian sat back down on her seat nonchalantly, her gaze steady on the old geezers with a sudden flash of glint.

The murderous intent was pooling in her eyes.

The elders dared not make a move when Yun Jian stayed still. No one dared question the abilities of Slaying God.

Yet, these elders were all known names in the international scene. If outsiders were to witness the sight—a bunch of globally known bigshots sitting here in full attention and watching a carefree girl on the stool in alertness, how jaw dropping must such a scene be!

Those who knew what was going on would have thought otherwise, however, since the girl seated on the stool was Slaying God!

Tap, tap, tap...

A clatter of footsteps came from the door.

Buba kept his eyes on Yun Jian but delight bloomed in his chest. His support was here!

All the elders were elated. Their gazes on Yun Jian now a hard glare like they were going to devour her alive.

Wham!

The door that was shut just now was broken open once more. This time, the people coming through were the leaders of the assassin organizations.

Buba walked over in glee to exchange pleasantries with them before turning around and staring daggers at Yun Jian alongside the other elders.

“Slaying God, piss down from there if you know what’s good for you! Otherwise... cough, don’t blame us for being rude!” Buba scowled at Yun Jian. With these assassin organizations backing him up, Buba and the other old men were flagrant instantly.

“Hah,” Yun Jian scoffed with a press of lips.

Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard remained stationary behind her as they only obeyed her command. Yun Jian was not making any advances, so they stayed put.

“Bravo, bravo! Slaying God, since you insist on being stubborn, don’t say we didn’t warn you!” Buba hissed and was about to encircle Yun Jian with his ally.

“Let me see who dares do it!” Another voice came from the door.

There was a flicker in Yun Jian’s eyes when she heard the male voice.

Shifting her gaze, she saw Ya Dang coming in donned in a suit. It was obvious that he was here representing An Hun.

Everyone present was well aware of An Hun’s standard. That was a presence far more menacing than Gu Sha!

They were reverent at once while Buba stepped over with a lowered head to bow at Ya Dang dutifully.

“Lord Ya Dang, you’re here.”

The best assassin organization that he had invited was here to support him! Buba spat in his mind, ‘Slaying God, you’re dying today by hook or by crook!’

Lo and behold, Ya Dang did not even spare him a glance. Going around the men, he came to Yun Jian and bowed, calling out to her respectfully, “My lady!”

This was Ya Dang, a right-hand man of An Hun’s most mysterious leader. Since he was here, it meant that...

A tall man appeared at the door out of the blue. With clear eyes and straight brows, his piercing eyes raked through the hall with undisputable dominance akin to a king.

“I heard that someone’s trying to harm my girl? Is this an enmity declaration to An Hun?” The man leered, pause punctuating his words as his long legs spread in his stride.

The ever mysterious leader of An Hun Group!

Everyone was beyond shock right now. This was a person far more enigmatic than Slaying God!

Chapter 442: I’m Here To Help. Annihilated

What flummoxed them the most was Si Yi’s words.

What did he mean ‘his girl’?

A petrifying thought surfaced in their mind there and then.

Was Slaying God the woman of An Hun's leader?!

An Hun Group was crowned the top assassin organization in the world because it was ineffably powerful.

Gu Sha Mercenaries was also significant but it was currently embroiled in internal strife. How could a powerful organization be powerful when there was no unity?

An Hun had even trained countless assassins and secret agents with these people snatching up spots of their own internationally. The group itself was equipped with armaments that could rival a nation!

Under such circumstances, An Hun was actually far more formidable than Gu Sha. It also meant that offending An Hun would incite far worse consequences than provoking Gu Sha.

Hence, the majority of the assassin organizations staggered several steps back once they heard what Si Yi said. Come on, their tiny little organizations were nothing in front of An Hun Group—this was like them trying to get themselves killed!

Buba looked grim as he watched Si Yi go to Yun Jian, his tight-knitted frown almost a permanent line on his face.

This was An Hun's leader? So young?!

What mattered more was that Slaying God was his significant other?

The capability of An Hun was something Buba and others dared not imagine, but the current situation easily told them that it was either Slaying God or them who was going to die this time round.

They had no choice!

While Buba and others were numbed in shock, too late to figure out what they should do next, Si Yi was already in front of Yun Jian.

The girl stood up from her seat slowly, her eyes trained straight at the young man. She spoke softly, "What brings you here?"

Yun Jian asked not in a reprimanding tone but one that said "I'm assured now that you're here".

Si Yi's appearance made Yun Jian exhale in relief. To be honest, she was prepared to risk it all with these old men here today. While she was prepared, she was not fully confident. Even if she lost, however, she was going to make sure it was a glorious defeat.

Yet, Si Yi's arrival genuinely made Yun Jian feel like anything could run itself through a buffer as long as he was here.

"To help you." Si Yi's lips lifted a small angle, accentuating his flawlessly handsome face.

The simple three words melted Yun Jian's heart.

No assassin organization would partake in another organization's internal riot unless there was a prospect of gain, like the assassin organizations that had come to help Buba.

Si Yi, however, did not ask for any profit or request anything from her.

Three simple words were all it took to touch a tender spot in Yun Jian who had fought alone both in her previous and current lifetime and climbed to the peak of the world depending on none other than herself.

“Mn.” Yun Jian made a nod looking at Si Yi.

Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard who were standing by Yun Jian were equally baffled.

Beep, beep...

Ya Dang’s communication device rang, prompting the man to connect it immediately.

Mo Sen’s impassive but intimidating voice drifted from the device, “All 536 men in nearby islands from the enemy are annihilated.”

There was no noteworthy tempo in Mo Sen’s words but it horrified the ones in the building.

What!

Those 536 men were people the other assassin organizations had sent to back Buba up. All of them... were killed?—Personally by one of the four commanders of An Hun, Mo Sen, too!

It had been how long? And all 536 elites were annihilated?

Was this... what An Hun was capable of doing?

Chapter 443: Kill Them All. They Won’t Disclose It

The leaders of the assassin organizations who Buba had invited were standing rooted in trepidation.

They were doomed!

To help Buba take down Slaying God this time, these organizations had selected the cream of the crop in their groups. Now, they were told that the best batch of manpower in their organization were all dead!

How long had it been?

This was their repercussion for going against An Hun Group!

The organization leaders were filled with terror and regret but no one dared say anything with Si Yi around.

The best talents in their organizations were all killed. This meant that their groups would be completely paralyzed for the coming few years. So many elites were dead! The groups had spent an obscene amount of money in training each one of these people.

These were 536 individuals... It was a huge loss!

As for now, the assassin organizations resented Buba, aside from wallowing in regret about agreeing to take down Slaying God. If Buba had not extended his invitation, they would not be suffering from this loss!

Buba and the other antiques despaired at the news.

Once An Hun made a move, it was surely a revelation!

Initially, Buba had thought that he had managed to convince An Hun to help him seize Gu Sha. It was until Si Yi appeared and the message blaring from Ya Dang's communication device that all hopes left him.

He had lost.

He had lost everything.

He lost even before a battle.

Disregarding the fact that An Hun Group was on Yun Jian's side today—even without An Hun's help, Buba and others understood that they, in combination with the force of the assassin organizations, might not be able to overcome Yun Jian too.

She was Slaying God after all!

When Yun Jian saw the despair that colored Buba and the other men, she smiled.

Although she had not won based on her own ability, she could finally get revenge on Buba and the others who betrayed her and helped the Inferno Ring to abduct her brother!

Si Yi wore a small smile when he saw Yun Jian pressed her lips together in rejoice.

As long as she was happy, he would figure out a way to pluck the moon if that was what she wanted!

Mo Sen who had spoken through the communication device bolted into the place swiftly leading a squad of men from An Hun who were masked in black gauze.

He came to Si Yi and nodded at him. "Young master, annihilation is completed."

"Mm." Si Yi nodded lightly. Stood before Yun Jian, his arm had already snaked around her slim waist.

There was a pause before his piercing eyes turned sharper in his gaze. "Kill everyone here."

Everyone here referred to Buba and his comrades, even the other assassin organization leaders!

The reason was simple. Since they knew that he was An Hun's leader, they had to die.

"Understood." Mo Sen nodded and gestured to the black gauze squad he had brought in.

"We're wrong! We promise we won't seek trouble with Gu Sha Mercenaries in the future!" The other leaders were dumbfounded before they wailed.

"Hah, you have to die since you're aware of my young master's identity!" Ya Dang dashed forward with a chuckle.

Immediately, blood and gore tainted the scene.

Yun Jian knew the reason behind Si Yi's doing.

It was better for fewer people to know that he was the leader of An Hun Group.

As for those who knew about it, he would kill them!

Yun Jian pried Si Yi's hand from her waist and pointed at Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard who were still stunned, saying, "They're my people. They won't disclose it."

Yun Jian was preventing Si Yi from killing both of them as well.

There was a slight upward tug on Si Yi's lips before he squinted his eyes and replied, "I know."

'I know everything about you.'

'Of course, I won't lay a finger on your people.'

Chapter 444: Yun Jian's Confession—I Was Reborn

Yun Jian smiled as well at Si Yi's response.

It surprised Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard. Still, what stunned them more was Si Yi's earlier explicit term of addressing Yun Jian, "My girl".

Since when did their Sister Jian get together with An Hun's leader? Not that it was bad news.

Ya Dang and Mosen had not become commanders in An Hun and followed Si Yi around for no reason. The crucial factor was certainly because they were skilled.

The antiques in Gu Sha and the men from other assassin organizations were no easy targets. After all, they would not be standing still and waiting for their doom.

Even then, Ya Dang and Mo Sen gained the upper hand after a quick battle and wiped out everyone on the spot.

Upon completing Si Yi's order, both of them came to Si Yi and informed him, "Young master, all of them are eliminated."

Bodies lay scattered on the floor but Yun Jian and the rest of her companions did not even crease their brows. It was a similar scene like this back when she seized Gu Sha Mercenaries from its ex-boss.

To all of them standing there who were involved in such business, a scene like this was more than normal.

Such was how the world worked—survival of the fittest.

The ones who succeeded were crowned kings while the ones who lost died. There were no excuses or external reasons.

"Mm." Si Yi made a slight nod.

Simultaneously, Yun Jian turned to tell Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard regarding Gu Sha's subsequent reorganization. As Buba and his allies died, the positions of the elders were vacant. Yun Jian hoped that they could promote whoever was capable but had left the selection process fully to Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard.

Both of them were going to stay occupied for the time being.

Yun Jian would send people to take care of the corpses here as well.

Right now, Si Yi was already tugging Yun Jian's hand and leaving the venue.

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Both of them did not leave the forest but went to a quieter spot.

Si Yi smirked at Yun Jian when they came to a halt. His tall frame nearly covered Yun Jian's petite form.

"Slaying God," Si Yi spoke faintly with a mirthful gaze on Yun Jian.

Yun Jian's eyes were averted, not looking at Si Yi, but her heartbeat was picking up.

She had not told Si Yi her identity from the start.

He had never kept anything from her but she hid bits and pieces where she could.

"Have you gotten to know something?" Yun Jian exhaled and looked at Si Yi, her gaze probing.

Si Yi came close toward Yun Jian's face suddenly. Being taller, he had to lower his head to touch Yun Jian's face.

His breath was puffed in front of Yun Jian, his gorgeous face gaining clarity as he smiled.

"What do you wish that I knew?" Si Yi felt like teasing all of a sudden and snuggled his head against Yun Jian's collar bone.

It made the girl incredibly shy as she flushed.

Just when she thought that Si Yi was going to say more, he stood up suddenly and put some distance between them. There was a beat of silence before he said, "You don't have to tell me if you don't want to."

There was a tinge of disappointment in his voice. She was not going to be honest after all, even when he had already known the truth.

Just when Si Yi was turning to leave, Yun Jian's determined voice came up, "I was reborn. It's the sandalwood box that revived me her."

She had decided to confess to Si Yi.

Chapter 445: Telling The Truth Personally And Having KFC

Si Yi was elated.

He was not surprised at Yun Jian's rebirth nor was he shocked.

"I've long known this." Si Yi went back to Yun Jian; looking at her, it felt like warmth was flowing from his eyes to his heart.

He was happy because Yun Jian told him the truth.

He wanted to hear about it from her personally because it meant that she had genuinely acknowledged his significance when she opted to tell him about the secret that she had kept in the deepest part of her heart.

Si Yi was now certain that Yun Jian had fully accepted him.

Wanting to pull her into his embrace, Yun Jian twirled away in avoidance.

She gritted her teeth and pursed her lips, asking Si Yi with her gaze on him, “You knew? Then why are you asking?”

It was not that she was angry. She felt freed instead.

Other than Snake.Lizard, Tiger.Leopard and Qing You who knew about her rebirth, Yun Jian had never told anyone else since the incident.

As for Si Yi, he was the first person she wholly trusted and told him about it.

If there must be a reason, Yun Jian probably could not come up with one. She had just blurted it but it felt relieving.

Si Yi came around and extended his arms to wrap her into a hug again. This time, Yun Jian did not refuse it.

“I just wanted to hear you telling me the truth personally,” he said with a smile and a raise of brows.

Yun Jian who was snug in his embrace kept quiet.

Both of them did not delve into the topic. Once the sandalwood box was related, the matter extended far beyond reach.

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As Gu Sha’s old men were all dead, no one in Gu Sha Mercenaries could threaten Yun Jian now.

At the same time, Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard were swift to replace the vacant spots of Elder Buba and others with their pre-selected choices. It was how Gu Sha Mercenaries could keep moving along.

Yun Jian had returned in low profile this time but encountering Saibeier and Tulige in Hafei Island was unexpected.

As for Hua Meiling and her friends, they had been taken away. It was probably destined that Yun Jian would not meet them again in this lifetime.

Life was sometimes like this—you would meet some people and form a relationship during your trip but once you bid goodbye, it is farewell for life.

Upon solving Gu Sha Mercenaries’ conflict, Yun Jian was thoroughly settled. The operation of Gu Sha would thrive being passed to Snake.Lizard and Tiger.Leopard.

Yun Jian took Qing You back to Country Z—except the journey back now included Si Yi, Ya Dang and Mo Sen, three exceptionally attention-grabbing presences.

Palming her forehead, Yun Jian sighed at the fact. It was not like she could drive the three of them away and stop them from traveling together.

It was under a lot of interested gazes and attention that Yun Jian finally got back to her home country. Qing You hurried home to watch a cartoon once they landed, while Yun Jian and Si Yi went to pick up Yun Zhu from class.

The little boy had no school during the winter break but he had gone for tutoring since he was keen to learn.

Right now, Yun Jian was leaving the tuition center holding Yun Zhu's hand.

The boy was tugging Yun Jian's hand but when he saw Si Yi waiting for him standing beside his Lamborghini, his short legs picked up speed as he scrambled to him. Stretching his arms, Yun Zhu spoke unabashedly, "Si Yi-gege, you're back? You've promised me, you're bringing back yummy goodies for me!"

Si Yi could not help the pat at Yun Zhu's head before he tucked the boy into the car. After Yun Jian got in as well the three of them, like a wholesome family, departed to KFC for Yun Zhu's favorite food.

Chapter 446: Little Yun Zhu. A Post-Holiday Trip

After having Yun Zhu's favorite KFC, the boy was satisfied. Rubbing his filled tummy, he left KFC happily with a hand each latched on to Si Yi and Yun Jian.

With both hands tugging them separately, Yun Zhu scampered, still excited.

Little Yun Zhu had been fed well these days, his scrawny malnourished body was filling up nicely. At least his cheeks were round and squishy now and he had gotten much taller, almost to the height of Yun Jian's chest.

"Xiao Zhu, Si Yi-gege said that he's taking you to buy new clothes, as many as you want. It's going to be Lunar New Year soon. Our Xiao Zhu is going to dress up nice and pretty!" Yun Jian squatted down to pinch Yun Zhu's cheeks softly, a beautiful smile etched on her equally captivating face.

She could not help ripping Si Yi off by the way.

Si Yi who stood beside them was speechless. Since when had he said something like that...

"Yay! Let's get new clothes! Xiao Zhu's going shopping!" Little Yun Zhu grabbed Yun Jian and Si Yi's hands ecstatically as he began to bounce off the thrill.

When Si Yi saw how happy Yun Zhu was that it made Yun Jian wear a genuine beam as well, he felt inexplicably joyful. Raising his hand to catch a glimpse of the black watch on his wrist, he pulled up a small smile and said, "Let's go."

The three of them went for Longmen City's shopping paradise.

The clothes that Yun Zhu wore were in the children's section. When Yun Jian and Si Yi left the children's department holding a big bag of Yun Zhu's new clothes, they met Chu Ning at the door.

Longmen City was only so big and it was nearing Lunar New Year. Although Yun Jian had not gone to the military training camp these days, it was not a surprise to bump into Chu Ning here.

Right now, Chu Ning was hooking arms with a middle-age woman who looked rather well-proportioned.

When Chu Ning saw Yun Jian, she tugged the woman along as she ran over.

“Yun Jian’er, I didn’t expect to see you here!”

Right after that, Chu Ning was attracted by Yun Zhu’s delicate little face.

“Little brother, it’s you!” she exclaimed as she squatted down to pinch at Yun Zhu’s cheeks like what Yun Jian did earlier.

Chu Ning had met both Si Yi and Yun Zhu before. It was just that her impression of Yun Zhu was still the little boy Yun Jian had saved when they had gone hiking at Jinglian Town’s Weiwu Mountain. She did not pay much attention then, only hearing that Yun Jian had fostered him.

“Hi, jiejie!” Little Yun Zhu greeted Chu Ning politely.

“Hehe, so cute!” Chu Ning grinned at the boy before standing up.

She then turned to the woman beside her to introduce them to her before turning back around to introduce the woman. “This is my mom!”

The middle-age woman who was Chu Ning’s mother was Wen Hui.

Wen Hui had long heard her daughter lauding Yun Jian’s performance in the Special Forces, especially when she kept telling her that Team Monarch had only come to where they were all thanks to Yun Jian.

Hence, when she heard Chu Ning saying that this girl here was Yun Jian, Wen Hui greeted her quickly, “Nice to meet you, young lady!”

As they got to know each other, they went shopping together for a while since Yun Jian and Chu Ning stayed close.

Before they parted, Wen Hui seemed to like Yun Jian a lot as she invited, “Come visit us at home when you’re free. Ningning said that she’s going on a trip with her friends after Lunar New Year. You’re going together, is that right?”

It reminded Yun Jian that Team Monarch had planned to go for an outing again after Lunar New Year when they completed the mission after retrieving the jade pendant from Pete the last time.

This time, they were including their friends and family too.

If Wen Hui had not mentioned it, Yun Jian had almost forgotten about it, so she nodded at the woman promptly.

Chapter 447: Your Granddaughter, Not Bad, Not Bad

After parting ways with Chu Ning and Wen Hui, Yun Jian held hands with Yun Zhu while Yun Zhu had another hand holding on to Si Yi’s large palm as they went to the carpark.

It was six or seven in the evening, night came fast in the winter. As they went to the parking lot, they drove Yun Zhu home.

Time seemed to speed up before Lunar New Year as the eve came unannounced.

Si Yi had never celebrated the holiday. Coming from a family of the armaments business, his father, Si Chu, did not really tend to these and was usually unconcerned about him. Hence, Si Yi had lived nineteen years without celebrating Lunar New Year once.

Three days before the festival, he had gone back to An Hun Group. Yun Jian made sure he remembered to come back on the night of the new year before he left.

A family should spend Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, together.

The word 'family' made Si Yi's heart squeeze with warmth. After promising Yun Jian, he left with Ya Dang and Mo Sen.

There were a lot of things waiting for him in An Hun. After all, an assassin organization was not like Gu Sha Mercenaries—he could not just sit around as the boss like Yun Jian did.

Gu Sha Mercenaries distributed their missions online and their tasks were considered done when they contacted the clients and completed the missions. As for An Hun Group, they trained batch after batch of assassins and secret agents.

They were fundamentally different.

Xu Zetian's speed of recovery was amazing. With the help of his wife, Lin Wanru, he could now go back to Falcon Hall and take care of matters that required brains instead of brawn.

On the night of the Lunar New Year, everyone went back to their family for a reunion.

Qin Yirou planned to take Yun Jian, Yun Yi, and Yun Zhu back to the town to her birth home to spend the festival as she was a true born and bred Xinjiang Town local after all. Of course, she should go home on this night of the Spring Festival.

Yun Jian had packed up and was ready to follow Qin Yirou back at four in the evening. Holding Yun Zhu's hand and waiting in vain for Si Yi, she finally left a note in his room before taking the bus back to Xinjiang Town with Qin Yirou.

Since the last time they met, her grandmother, Zhang Meihua, had been much more watchful of her attitude toward Qin Yirou and Yun Jian, especially after she heard from Qin Fangfang and family about Yun Jian being New Cruise's director!

Back when she had first heard it, she was completely dumbstruck. She had never thought the granddaughter she looked down at the most was now the director of New Cruise, the company that had taken over the country by storm!

It boosted Zhang Meihua's ego and had been something she kept boasting about in front of her distant relatives for the duration. In spite of it, she had never told them that Yun Jian was New Cruise's director because her youngest daughter, Qin Fangfang, had told her that Yun Jian did not like people spreading this around.

Zhang Meihua was all about fawning over Yun Jian now. After all, she had her hopes high for Yun Jian to take care of her when she got older.

Just the fact that Yun Jian had started a company was already a household knowledge in Xinjiang Town.

Qin Yirou was well aware of it too. When she asked Yun Jian after first finding out about it, the latter had said that she knew Mayor Gu and had suggested a good proposal for him to invest in.

Qin Yirou believed in the made-up story and did not ask more. In fact, if she pursued it, Yun Jian might have just come clean.

By the time Qin Yirou returned to Xinjiang Town with Yun Jian, Yun Yi, and little Yun Zhu, Zhang Meihua was already hosting a banquet in her house.

People in town would usually host their neighbors and distant relatives to a good meal before Lunar New Year.

When the family of four came back, someone spoke up about Yun Jian, directing the words to Zhang Meihua, "Oh, Meihua, is this your granddaughter Yun Jian? She's so young and she's already founded her company? Huh? Not bad, not bad!"

The words sounded like a compliment but the person's tone did not sound like he was praising Yun Jian.

After all, most of them were skeptical about a young girl like Yun Jian starting her own company. It must only be a tiny company whose name has never even heard of!

Chapter 448: Her Uncle In The Bureaucracy

"Yup, our Jianjian is amazing!" Zhang Meihua's grin almost split her wrinkled face in half as she replied to the person, sounding like she shared a close relationship with Yun Jian that even her term of address had become "Jianjian".

Yun Jian did not care for Zhang Meihua's boasting, even when she was the subject of it.

Back when Qin Yirou and her were struggling, Zhang Meihua was never this kind. Back then, she had acted like she was not acknowledging she had Qin Yirou as a daughter for life.

Now when Yun Jian showed a little achievement, she was all about sucking up to her.

Yun Jian despised people like this.

It was all because Zhang Meihua was Qin Yirou's biological mother and that the latter herself was someone sentimental. To Qin Yirou, she would not actually ignore her mother forever no matter how the latter treated her.

A person's nature was destined and Qin Yirou was a kind soul. Yun Jian could only accept it.

Qin Yirou was her mother. In Yun Jian's heart, Qin Yirou was someone worth her protection and care for life.

Zhang Meihua had put up three tables of meals to host her neighbors and family.

This was a custom in Xinjiang Town as well as Longmen City.

In the days leading up to Lunar New Year, pig's head and various dishes were offered to deities. When that was done, the abundant food would be used to host friends and family and shared among them in a feast.

This was a superstitious ritual passed down from the older generation. At the same time, it remained a way to keep in touch with distant relatives and neighboring friends. After all, certain distant relatives faded out of contact when the older generation in the family passed away.

The seats around three full tables of feasts were nearly all taken.

"Yirou, come, sit over here!" Zhang Meihua waved at Qin Yirou before gesturing to her to bring her children over to the table where the man had commented on Yun Jian's young age and starting a company.

The other two tables were fully occupied and that was the only table with a handful of seats vacant. Favouring Yun Jian, Zhang Meihua had specifically fetched them bowls and chopsticks.

"Ay, sure, mom!" Hardly experiencing her mother's preferential treatment, Qin Yirou quickly brought the kids over.

Since Qin Yirou was already making her way there, Yun Jian could not possibly stand alone. Holding Yun Zhu's hand, she came to sit beside Yun Yi.

One table could fit slightly more than a dozen people. Adding Qin Yirou and family, the round table was now full. Zhang Meihua squeezed herself in, purposely slotting herself next to Yun Jian and acting like she was close to her.

"Jianjian, this is your uncle! Your uncle's in the bureaucracy in Zhe Province! He complimented you just now, said you're good!" Once Zhang Meihua sat down, she could not help pushing herself forward to introduce the person who called Yun Jian "not bad".

Yun Jian's uncle who commented on her just now was Qin Yirou's older cousin, Qin Li.

Coming from Yun Jian's generation, they were considered distant relatives to Qin Li.

Anyone with tact understood what Zhang Meihua was trying to say. She was buttering up Yun Jian while making a hint implicitly that Qin Li was authoritative as he worked with the government. For someone in the bureaucracy of Zhe Province to call her good was a shower of praise to her.

However, Yun Jian did not hear any hint of commendation from Qin Li's tone and words just now.

Chapter 449: Before A Face Slap, Thank You For Flattery

The fact was, Qin Li really did look down on Yun Jian.

It was not a stretch to say that he looked down on Zhang Meihua and family. His father and Zhang Meihua were siblings, among many others in their generation.

Coming to Yun Jian's generation now, they were not as close-knitted as their elders were. Distant relatives, who knew if they could maintain the rapport in the future generation to come?

Working in the bureaucracy, Qin Li was a habitual personification of bluster and pomposity—even more now during a reunion dinner of Lunar New Year, when friends and family gathered like today. It was the time for him to brag about his status.

It was one thing to sit around and have dinner. What was more important was talking about what they had done in the year or how much they had earned. Comparison was inevitable, more so evident among those who raked in a lot and preened while those who earned lesser were relatively meeker as they did not hold such a strong status in the society.

Qin Li was the type to show off his extravagant status and high annual income to feel on top of everyone else. As for the reason he looked down on Zhang Meihua and family, it had been his impression that the children of Zhang Meihua, his father's younger sister, had never been anything exceptional!

No one was like anyone on his side—excelling academically, enrolling in elite high schools and universities, then finally working a decent job.

The reality, however, was that Zhang Meihua and others did not seem to notice how Qin Li disdained them, saved for Yun Jian, and continued sucking up to him.

Yun Jian could care less about what Zhang Meihua said, even though the latter was obvious with what she meant, implying that Yun Jian fawn over Qin Li like her.

This way, it was like Zhang Meihua had pulled the string for Yun Jian to get to know someone authoritative like Qin Li. The woman figured that Yun Jian would owe her a favor like that.

Zhang Meihua had never thought that Yun Jian was not buying it.

“Jianjian, your uncle's complimenting you. Aren't you going to say something?” Zhang Meihua urged when she saw Yun Jian staying aloof.

As she spoke, she had even made eyes at Qin Yirou, as if asking her to make Yun Jian listen.—It was not like Qin Yirou noticed what she meant. She only thought that her mother's eyes hurt and asked in both confusion and worry, “Mom, what's wrong? Are your eyes hurting?”

“I'm fine!” Zhang Meihua huffed, heaving when she heard what her daughter said.

She could not say too much in this situation anyway. Just when she thought that Yun Jian was not going to say anything, the girl smiled and met Qin Li's eyes with a gaze that did not speak about inferiority.

“Thank you for flattery,” Yun Jian said with barely parted lips.

If Qin Li's compliment earlier was incredibly hypocritical, Yun Jian's reply was equally impassive in return.

Qin Li could not help the double take at Yun Jian upon catching the four words but he had just thought that she was nothing but a stroke of luck.

She was good for founding a small company at this age but there was no way she could be any more spectacular.

Chapter 450: A Taekwondo Demonstration And Going Up Against Yun Jian

Basically, Qin Li did not have any regard for Yun Jian—of course, he was not saying it out loud in front of everyone.

After the feast, Qin Yirou cleaned up the dinner utensils with Zhang Meihua.

Since Zhang Meihua was the host, the rest of the dinner guests were free to move to the benches and stools in the front yard to blow their own trumpets while Qin Yirou and a few other women cleaned up the tables.

“Qin Li, you must’ve made a lot this year huh? Haha, you got promoted twice. You’re close to being the head of the executive council of Zhe Province, aren’t you!” someone said to Qin Li, his tone deeply admiring.

Qin Li’s sense of superiority was roused but his words remained humble. “No no, I’m still working hard. I don’t know where I’ll end up either. It’s getting more difficult to make progress...”

Yun Jian and her peers stood aside, listening to the adults chat. When the adults finally directed their topic to the children, they began showing off their children’s achievements.

“My Huan’er is a senior in high school now. He’s just participated in a national Taekwondo championship earlier. Luckily he didn’t embarrass us, hah, he came in third,” Qin Li said.

When he spoke, his gaze flitted to his son, Qin Huan, intentionally and his tone was brimming with pride.

“Coming in third in a national Taekwondo competition? Wow, old Qin, your son’s really talented in Taekwondo!” someone threw in.

In the eyes of an ordinary citizen, a kid was already doing excellent when they could win something in Longmen City or Zhe Province. For Qin Li’s son, Qin Huan, to win in a national Taekwondo championship, that was a spectacular feat!

Qin Huan who was being praised cracked a grin.

The son of Qin Li, Qin Huan was eighteen this year. As his family was well to do, he had a better start than other children since he was a small child. He took up Taekwondo from a young age.

Achieving what he did, it was enough to boast in front of these unsophisticated relatives.

Yun Jian stood on the side, quietly watching the chatter.

Qin Li then asked his son, Qin Huan, over to demonstrate a few Taekwondo techniques for them.

Qin Huan stood before everyone arrogantly and showed several forms that he was used to practicing. In his opinion, he was doing extremely well to have won third in a national competition despite his young age.

After the short demonstration, Qin Huan was rewarded with a round of applause. He even flicked his short hair with his hand for some swagger.

“That’s all? Why don’t you go up against Yun Jian? She’s good!” Qin Fenger’s mocking tone came up.

Qin Fenger who was here—had been here all along. She was the daughter of Yun Jian's other uncle, Qin Laiqian and the house here belonged to him. Since she was not schooling during the holiday, she was back home.

It was just that she had not shared the table with Yun Jian in the beginning and there was no chance for her to challenge the latter.

Actually, Qin Fenger had loathed Yun Jian more after being scared by her hypnosis the last time. When she saw Qin Huan performing his Taekwondo skills so smoothly, she was suddenly reminded that Yun Jian seemed to know a thing or two as well.

Qin Fenger was confident that Yun Jian would not be able to beat Qin Huan, thus she spoke up to drag her down.