

Three-Time 491

Chapter 491: 491. What is destiny

Early in the morning, after learning from Elder Mu about the conversation Su Liang had last night, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu looked at each other and laughed, deciding to help relieve their elders' worries.

So, before Gu Ling and Su Liang got up, the two little ones gathered together and started writing a "script".

Yes, in order to give Mo Yan a greater shock and more pain, they felt that this play must be taken seriously and well-arranged, striving to make Mo Yan spit blood on the spot and die from anger would be the best effect.

The family had always loved their children and were happy to play along, so they all followed Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu's orders.

It wasn't until later that Su Liang and Gu Ling got up, went out, and found that Yuanming Pavilion was quiet, as if there was no one else besides them, which they found strange.

As they walked out of the Yuanming Pavilion, Su Liang laughed.

Well, it was like a party by the lake, with everyone dressed up and in attendance. Gu Xiaonuan wore a new outfit that neither Gu Ling nor Su Liang had seen before, probably given by her Aunt Yang Yu.

Today, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu dressed as "twin brothers." Although they weren't twins, they usually enjoyed playing the identity switch game, and they had many identical clothes and accessories. Today, though, they didn't switch faces, but their outfits were completely the same, making it difficult to tell who was who from the back.

There were tables, chairs, sun umbrellas, delicious food, and drinks. The table also had the tribute fruit that Gu Ling had just brought back from the palace last night.

"Master, Mistress, come on!" Ji Xiaoshu called enthusiastically.

Gu Ling and Su Liang walked side by side to join them. Weng Ran stood up with a smile, "Your breakfast is on the stove, I'll bring it over."

Yan Shiba immediately ordered Cheng Yun, "You go help!"

Cheng Yun got up upon hearing this, "Alright."

Weng Ran glared at Yan Shiba, who gave her a wink and a smirk, his face full of ambiguity.

Cheng Yun didn't know that Yan Shiba intended to bring him and Weng Ran together, but Weng Ran did.

Su Liang also knew, and as for her opinion, she thought it was just a matter of going with the flow. As long as Yan Shiba didn't pester Cheng Yun, trying to taste the sweetness of a forcefully twisted melon, she would be relieved. As for the rest, both Weng Ran and Cheng Yun were decent people, there wouldn't be any problems.

Su Liang looked around and saw that a table was filled with her masters: Elder Bai, Elder Mu, Qiao Cong, Cen Man, and Weng Ming. They were now playing a table game she had taught them earlier – not playing for money but using paper strips to stick on the loser's face...

At this point, Qiao Cong had two on his face, and Elder Bai had one, which looked very amusing.

Gu Ling and Su Liang were pulled by Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu to their designated seats, waiting for breakfast.

At this moment, Qiao Jing, who had gone out earlier, returned, leading Min Rou with a smile.

After a while, Lian Shun came with Ying Ying, who was pregnant, and Ying Ye rushed out from behind them, "Zhengzheng, Xiaoshu, Xiaonuan, I'm here!" They were specifically invited by Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu through Qi Yan.

"Where's the old devil Mo Yan?" Ying Ying asked as soon as she sat down.

Zhengzheng's little face was serious, "You'll see him soon, Aunt Ying. Don't worry."

Lian Shun was more interested in Gu Xiaonuan's space, and after Ying Ying was seated, he came over and said with a smile, "Xiaonuan, let Uncle see your treasure!"

Gu Xiaonuan smiled, greeted "Uncle Ersan," and continued to eat the delicious fruit gift from her emperor father.

Ji Xiaoshu pulled Lian Shun to sit down, "Uncle Ersan, don't worry, you'll have a chance; it's just not the time yet."

Lian Shun was overjoyed, "Alright, alright, we'll listen to you."

Cheng Yun and Weng Ran brought the breakfast over, and Su Liang asked Ying Ying if she wanted to eat some more.

Ying Ying, who had become slightly plump from pregnancy, waved her hand, "Mother's breakfast was too delicious; I've eaten a lot. I can only eat some fruit at most. You guys eat, don't worry about me."

Lian Shun laughed as he massaged Ying Ying's legs, "What kind of fruit do you want to eat?"

"The one Xiaonuan is eating; it looks delicious," Ying Ying said.

Lian Shun immediately picked the most beautiful fruit from the fruit plate, peeled it with a fruit knife, cut it into small pieces, and fed it to Ying Ying.

Ying Ying shook her head, and picked up a whole one herself, "Xiaonuan can eat it herself, and I have hands too. It's even tastier when you bite it."

Lian Shun coughed lightly, "Why didn't you say so earlier?"

"If I had said it earlier, you wouldn't have had the chance to show off your fruit-cutting skills," Ying Ying said calmly.

Lian Shun:...Indeed, at home, in order to take care of Ying Ying, he had mastered many new skills, including cutting fruit. If Ying Ying didn't eat it, he would!

When Gu Ling and Su Liang finished breakfast, Ji Xiaoshu rang the bell in her hand, “Uncle Jing, Aunt Rou, you can continue your love talk later, come back here now!”

On the other side of the lake, Qiao Jing and Min Rou, who had been strolling hand in hand, blushed when they heard Ji Xiaoshu’s teasing words and returned to their seats quietly.

“Xiaoshu, what’s next?” Lian Shun asked.

Ji Xiaoshu grinned, “The good show is starting!”

In the dungeon, Mo Yan no longer knew whether it was day or night outside. Since being locked up yesterday, no one had come to see him, and there was no water or food. His hands and feet were bound and sore, and in his half-asleep state, it felt like a long time had passed, but also not too long.

Finally, he heard the sound of the dungeon door opening, and Mo Yan slowly sat up from the ground, shaking his head to regain consciousness.

Before seeing anyone, Mo Yan heard a familiar voice – it was Qi Yan and Zhu Zan, who had thrown him into the dungeon yesterday.

“Ah, I never thought we’d have to invite him out.”

“There’s no other way; perhaps this is fate.”

Upon hearing this conversation, Mo Yan’s weary eyes suddenly lit up.

Soon, Qi Yan and Zhu Zan were in front of him.

“It was Su Liang who asked you to invite me out?” Mo Yan snorted.

Qi Yan asked expressionlessly, “Are you very pleased with yourself?”

Mo Yan sneered, “Pleased is not the word, but it’s no surprise. Kid, watch your manners.”

Suppressing his anger, Qi Yan pinched Mo Yan’s chin and stuffed a pill into his mouth.

“What did you give me to eat?” Mo Yan frowned.

“A good medicine that allows you to go out freely.” Zhu Zan said as he untied the rope on Mo Yan and pulled him up from the ground.

Mo Yan stood up, feeling his legs trembling, not only because he had been tied for too long but also because of the medicine he had just taken. He couldn’t exert any strength in his limbs, but he could barely stand.

In Mo Yan’s eyes, this was not a bad thing.

“Let’s go.” Qi Yan urged.

Mo Yan gave him a cold stare, “Where are we going?”

“The Master has prepared a banquet for you,” Qi Yan said, “Everyone is waiting for you, including the Little Master.”

Mo Yan raised his eyebrows slightly, "It seems that my granddaughter has finally resigned herself to her fate and wants to have a good talk with me. If she had known this, why bother. Let's go, I didn't see Little Nuannuan the last time I was here, but today I can finally meet her."

Qi Yan and Zhu Zan escorted Mo Yan out of the dungeon and into the outside world.

Today was sunny with a gentle breeze. The Su Mansion was filled with lush trees and beautiful flowers that were pleasing to the eye.

Qi Yan and Zhu Zan did not urge Mo Yan, who walked leisurely, admiring the scenery around him. "My granddaughter is indeed a capable person. Unlike me, who is content with hiding away without any aspirations."

Qi Yan and Zhu Zan did not respond. Mo Yan did not care; his steps grew steadier, and he appeared increasingly confident, as if he had everything under control.

As they walked, they heard footsteps behind them.

Mo Yan turned back and saw a familiar face; his eyes narrowed slightly, "Min Rou, don't you recognize me anymore?"

It was Min Rou who had arrived. Her face darkened when she saw Mo Yan, "I wish I had never known you!"

"Where are your parents?" Mo Yan asked, "Did you abandon your birth parents to prove your sincerity to my granddaughter?"

Min Rou didn't answer but strode forward. As she passed Mo Yan, she heard him say, "Although you betrayed Xingluo Island and me, I don't blame you. In my eyes, you're just like a granddaughter, as you know. There will still be many days to come."

Min Rou paused at his last words without looking back and said coldly, "You shouldn't have any illusions. What you want will never be realized!"

At Min Rou's words, Mo Yan chuckled. His laughter did not reach his eyes, "Really? Then let's wait and see. By that time, don't beg me to spare anyone for the sake of our past relationship."

Min Rou snorted coldly and walked away quickly.

Mo Yan continued to walk at a leisurely pace, talking to Zhu Zan, "You should know the current situation. Given your past affiliation with Xingluo Island, I am willing to give you another chance. If you pledge your allegiance to me again now, all our past unpleasantness can be considered unimportant. How about it?"

"Is that important to you?" Zhu Zan asked in response.

Mo Yan shook his head, "To me, neither of you matters. But my proposal is important to you – it's a second chance I'm bestowing upon you. If you don't seize it now, don't blame me for being ruthless after today."

"I'll be waiting to see how ruthless you can be," Zhu Zan replied calmly.

Mo Yan's expression showed a trace of regretful condescension, as if he had returned to the god who could easily manipulate the lives and destinies of others. In his eyes, Zhu Zan had already become a dead man.

When Mo Yan finally walked around the bend of the stone path, the scene before him opened up. He saw the exquisite and elegant Yuanming Pavilion, the lake with its mirror-like, crystal-clear water, and the people by the lake.

There were many people he had never seen before, even though Xingluo Island had been secretly opposing this family for more than a year.

Glancing around, Mo Yan's gaze settled on Su Liang's face. He wasn't shocked since he had previously caught Yan Shiba disguised as Su Liang and brought him back to Xingluo Island. Although this was the first time he saw the real Su Liang, he was no stranger to her face.

At this moment, Su Liang and Gu Ling were sitting in the middle of the crowd. Gu Ling held a lovely child in her arms. Mo Yan's eyes fell on Gu Xiaonuan, and he slowly smiled.

Everyone present had serious expressions, and no one spoke.

Ying Ying glared at Mo Yan with anger. The mother she could not remember had been killed by Mo Yan. The hardships and miseries of her and Ying Ye's past lives were inextricably linked to Mo Yan.

Mo Yan quickly noticed Ying Ying but gave her nothing more than a dismissive glance before turning his attention to Cheng Yun, his eyes gleaming, "He is..."

Su Liang answered Mo Yan's question, "Sheng Yue's younger brother."

Mo Yan nodded slightly, "No wonder. He looks very much like his mother, while Sheng Yue does not."

While talking, Mo Yan had walked to a place not far from Gu Ling and Su Liang. He stopped and reached out to Gu Xiaonuan, smiling, "May I hold my great-granddaughter? She truly looks like a little angel."

"Little angel" is a term that doesn't exist in this world, so it was meant for Su Liang to hear, since they were both time-travelers and he knew she would understand.

Gu Xiaonuan looked curiously at Mo Yan and uttered three words, "Big jerk!"

Mo Yan's face darkened slightly, but quickly returned to normal, seemingly gracious as he withdrew his extended hand, "Xiaoliang, our conflict has nothing to do with the child. It's time to be upfront. I know you want to save someone quickly, but that space belongs to me only, and it's impossible for anyone to take control of it, even if you're a Transmigrator. Originally, we could have talked it out. Regardless of anything else, your husband Gu Ling shouldn't have destroyed the path I guarded for most of my life."

Seeing the cold tone in Mo Yan's voice, Su Liang and Gu Ling exchanged glances, but still said nothing. The others just sat quietly. Qiao Cong and Elder Bai each had several strips of paper in front of them, which were taken from their faces and would have to be put back later...

"Xiaoliang, as you know, I have no vulnerabilities now, except for this body. Of course, you could threaten me by harming my body, but you should also know very well that

once the spatial magical treasure returns to my hands, none of you will be able to control me. This is the reality, and I don't need to hide it." Mo Yan's back was straight and his chin slightly raised. However, given his gaunt face and haggard expression, this gesture didn't exude much authority.

Su Liang did not speak, but Zhengzheng, who said, "What exactly do you want?"

Ji Xiaoshu frowned and asked, "Just tell us your conditions and let's not waste any time!"

It was only then that Mo Yan noticed the two children sitting beside Su Liang and Gu Ling. His gaze lowered, looking at them, his expression indifferent, "I assume you're Xiaoliang's two disciples. Remember, when adults are talking, you should listen quietly and not interrupt. It's impolite."

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu both clenched their little fists, then listened to Mo Yan continue, "Xiaoliang, there's no way for me to return now, so my condition is simple: let's genuinely reconcile and put all past grievances behind us."

"How can we put everything behind us?" Su Liang asked calmly.

Mo Yan chuckled, "Quite simple, actually. You're my granddaughter, so you should formally acknowledge me along with your granddaughter's husband and great-granddaughter. As long as the three of you kneel down in front of everyone here and give me a kowtow, and if you call me 'grandfather' and have Nuannuan call me 'great-grandfather,' that's enough. Compared to your friends who are willing to risk their lives for you, it's really nothing. You can rest assured that we'll be a family from then on, and I'll genuinely care and protect you and your daughter."

As soon as Mo Yan's voice fell, Ji Xiaoshu and Zhengzheng stood up together and said in unison, "I've never seen anyone as shameless as you!" This phrase was taught by Gu Ling and originated from Su Liang's retelling of the Three Kingdoms.

Mo Yan's face darkened with anger, "You... despicable! Su Liang, is this the kind of disciple you teach?"

Ji Xiaoshu gestured to Gu Xiaonuan, and Zhengzheng had already pulled Lian Shun over.

In the next moment, Mo Yan's eyes widened in disbelief as he watched Lian Shun grin and then vanish into thin air right before him!

"No... impossible... this can't be..." Mo Yan's vision blacked out for a moment, nearly collapsing to the ground as he felt a surge of blood in his chest and coughed up a mouthful of old blood, still repeating, "It's impossible... it can't be..."

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu had already rushed over, working together in perfect harmony to knock Mo Yan to the ground. Each of them stepped on one side of his head with their little feet, "Open your dog eyes and see what the will of heaven really is!"

Mo Yan's eyes were filled with rage, as he clearly saw Gu Xiaonuan waving her hand, and cheerfully saying, "Uncle Ersan, come out!" Lian Shun reappeared, hugging Ying Ying and exclaiming, "This is amazing!"

At this moment, the magical treasure that Mo Yan thought could return to his hands was in Gu Xiaonuan's grasp, shining beautifully and enchantingly under the sunlight.

Everyone else who had been acting in the play stood up in unison, revealing their weapons and rushing over.

Elder Mu shouted loudly, "Everyone, be careful when you start! Each person can take one strike, you can't do more than that. There are many who still want to take a cut. It's not right to deprive them of their chance!"

Lian Shun, his arm around Ying Ying, and a sword in his other hand, said, "No rush, we can cut him up slowly, once every quarter of an hour."

Before everyone else rushed over, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu delivered their scripted lines to Mo Yan, who was gasping and coughing up blood from extreme anger:

"Xiaoshu, it's hard to believe that such a scumbag has people who love him, don't you think?"

"Big brother, don't listen to him talking nonsense! What love? That person must have found a good marriage and have a family full of children and grandchildren by now, completely forgetting him! You always talk about heaven and fate, why don't you shout to the heavens and see if they care? Hahaha!"

When Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu finally squeezed out of the crowd who were attacking Mo Yan, they saw Yan Shiba leaning on the lakeshore with her arms crossed, looking completely at ease. She had "avoided" the situation earlier, preventing herself from blowing their cover.

"Aunt Yan, aren't you joining in to hack at him?" Ji Xiaoshu asked, giggling.

Yan Shiba shook her head calmly, "I've long been tired of this hacking business! I've said before that I want to make sure that old scoundrel Mo knows what it's like to drown! No rush, let's wait for everyone to vent their anger first, then I'll play with that old scoundrel slowly! I'll make sure he dies and comes back to life, and dies again! Hahaha!"

Chapter 492: If you are a man, hurry up and go.

Gu Ling and Su Liang had no interest in chopping Mo Yan themselves. At this point, scolding or beating him would be meaningless. Of course, seeing everyone get a chance to vent their anger firsthand was also genuinely enjoyable.

When everyone put down their weapons and returned to the lakeside, they resumed their previous activities: playing cards, chatting, and flirting.

"Let's begin," Qiao Cong urged Old Mu, who was shuffling the cards.

"Old Qiao, Old Bai, hurry up and put those notes back. We can't forget about our previous bets!" Old Mu reminded them of their game from before.

Old Bai and Qiao Cong reluctantly reattached the paper notes they had taken down during the act.

Qiao Cong spoke fiercely, “I don’t believe I can’t win at least once!”

The cunning Old Mu responded that winning required skill – Qiao Cong’s whimsical playing style wouldn’t make it easy to win.

While Su Liang’s five masters resumed their game, two couples from the family strolled leisurely to the other side of the lake. One pair was Qiao Jing and Min Rou, and the other was Qi Yan and Nangong Qian.

As soon as Qiao Cong returned this time, he announced his intention to have his grandchildren married by the end of the year. They had already chosen an auspicious date.

Qiao Jing and Min Rou had been engaged in a long-distance correspondence for some time, and now that they had finally met face-to-face, they were getting along quite well and gradually becoming more attached to each other.

Qi Yan and Nangong Qian had been passionately in love for quite some time, and they only awaited the settling of matters before getting married.

Lian Shun brought along fishing gear because Ying Ying suddenly said she wanted to eat fish. He declared that he would catch a couple of fat fish from Su Mansion’s lake and bring them home. The couple sat side by side by the lake and began fishing together.

The lively and heartwarming party continued, while Mo Yan, lying on the ground covered in wounds, and bleeding profusely, successfully experienced a world of pain.

After Gu Ling and Su Liang glanced at Mo Yan’s miserable state, they took Gu Xiaonuan and left, allowing Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu to do as they pleased with their playtime.

As the “screenwriters” and “directors” of today’s show specifically for Mo Yan, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were very satisfied with everyone’s performance, and Mo Yan’s reactions were entirely within their expectations. Although they were still young, they had been exposed to a lot since they were always around Su Liang and kept up to date with events. These two children knew more about current affairs and trends than some adults in their family.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu walked over to Mo Yan once more, looking down at his pained, angry, and desperate expression, exchanging a smile. They had seen it all, and Mo Yan’s condition didn’t faze them in the least.

“Senior Brother, let’s count how many wounds there are and see if anyone cut him more than once,” Ji Xiaoshu suggested.

Zhengzheng nodded, drawing a line on Mo Yan’s waist. “You count the upper body, and I’ll count the lower body.”

The two then started counting Mo Yan’s cuts, discussing whose hand each wound might have come from based on the shape and depth of the wound.

“Senior Brother, look at this cut! It’s so deep; it must have been Master Qiao who did it!” Ji Xiaoshu pointed at a wound.

Zhengzheng looked closely, comparing it to the other injuries, and said that he thought the wound from Qiao Cong was a different one. The two excitedly discussed and analyzed their guesses.

Meanwhile, Mo Yan lay there, bleeding profusely and in excruciating pain. The teasing and amused voices of the two children only made his mental state worse. Enraged and unable to take it any longer, he started vomiting blood and gritted his teeth, "You... shut up!"

"Senior Brother, he scolded us for being impolite earlier, and now he's telling us to shut up. What should we do?" Ji Xiaoshu asked earnestly, her little face serious.

Zhengzheng sneered, "Being scolded as impolite by a big villain just proves we're righteous. Our politeness depends on a person's character. However, telling us to keep quiet now is too much. seems like he still hasn't recognized the reality."

Thus, after the two children counted the injuries and calculated the number of attackers, they called for Yan Shiba.

"Auntie Yan, it's your turn!" Ji Xiaoshu shouted.

Yan Shiba was whispering to Weng Ran who was pouring tea for everyone. Without turning her head, she replied, "He's covered in blood, too dirty. Nuannuan is out on the lake, so don't let him go into the water and dirty our house's water. Later, I'll take him out to find a dirty ditch! Make sure he doesn't die!" She then continued talking to Weng Ran, "Think about it, Cheng Yun is so good-looking, has great martial arts skills, and is very kind. Can you satisfy my desire to be a matchmaker? Can you?"

Weng Ran shook her head calmly, "Haven't you already been a matchmaker?"

"When?" Yan Shiba claimed she hadn't.

Weng Ran smiled softly, "Who is it that always attributes Prince and Su Liang getting together to herself, mentioning it every day?"

Indeed, Yan Shiba used to frequently call herself Gu Ling and Su Liang's matchmaker, adamantly denying that she had been played by them. But now, she didn't care about that at all, shaking her head and denying, "No, I wasn't! They were destined to be together before they met me, it has nothing to do with me!"

"Stop messing around," Weng Ran pushed Yan Shiba away, "I'm busy. If you're this bored, go ask Cheng Yun. He'll definitely refuse and you can give up."

Yan Shiba blinked, "Don't speak too soon, I'm going now! If Cheng Yun doesn't refuse, you have to give it a try! Deal?"

However, Yan Shiba turned around to find Cheng Yun gone. She asked Su Liang, who told her Cheng Yun had gone to Huguo Temple to visit Master Huiming and pick up some vegetarian dishes.

Yan Shiba was speechless, "I'll talk to him when he comes back."

After speaking with Yan Shiba, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu exchanged glances. Zhengzheng thought for a moment and said, "Xiaoshu, if we don't care about him, his blood will soon run dry and he'll die. We haven't had a chance to use the medical skills our master taught us, so how about..."

Ji Xiaoshu's eyes lit up, and he grinned, "Great Villain, you're in luck. We, brothers, will personally heal your wounds!"

The two children had been learning medical skills from Su Liang, but because they were young, no patients dared let them practice on them. Therefore, they had only theoretical knowledge and zero practical experience. Now, looking at the injured Mo Yan, they both felt it was a great opportunity to practice medicine.

So, the two quickly ran back to Yuanming Pavilion and took out their respective medicine boxes. The boxes were gifts from Su Liang, with matching styles but different colors. The tools inside were complete, and all were specially made for them.

“I’ll take care of the upper body, and you take care of the lower body, Senior Brother. After we’re done, we’ll have Master and Master’s Wife come over to judge whose medical skills are better, okay?” Ji Xiaoshu once again started his “we must compete in everything” mode.

Zhengzheng agreed, calmly took out a bottle of hemostatic powder from his medicine box.

After stopping the bleeding, Zhengzheng lamented, “Such good medicine is really wasted on him. But if it allows more people to have a chance to take revenge on Mo Yan, then it’s worth it.”

Then, Ji Xiaoshu asked, “What medicine?”

Zhengzheng looked up and couldn’t help but laugh, “Xiaoshu, how can you start sewing directly?”

With a silver needle in his hand, Ji Xiaoshu said calmly, “Ah, I forgot the steps, it’s my first time doing this, no experience, a bit eager. In that case, I’ll remove the stitches.”

Just as Mo Yan, who had been clenching his teeth while Ji Xiaoshu’s needle pierced and sewed his flesh, trying not to scream, he suddenly felt his skin being torn apart again. Unable to bear it, he let out a miserable scream.

Ji Xiaoshu frowned, “Keep it down! Can’t you bear the pain at such an old age? What if you scare my sister? Seriously!”

Mo Yan had never experienced such suffering and humiliation before transmigrating to this day, especially from two kids whose names he hadn’t even memorized. Under the double blow to his body and mind, he vomited another mouthful of blood, tilted his head, and fainted with anger.

Seeing this, Ji Xiaoshu shook his head, “With such poor psychological endurance, how is he supposed to be a big villain? Seriously! Even that scoundrel Sheng Yue is better than him. He lost an arm and still acted like it was no big deal, knowing how to adapt to the situation!”

Zhengzheng gave his opinion, “It’s precisely the spatial magical treasure that gave Mo Yan the confidence and ability to do whatever he wanted. With the treasure protecting him, no one could harm him. His intelligence is far from comparable to that of Master and Mistress, let alone Sheng Yue or our grandmaster. If he were a little smarter, he wouldn’t have relied on the heaven-given magical treasure to end up in such a situation now.”

“Big Brother is right.” Ji Xiaoshu thought about the whole story, “This guy’s brain really doesn’t work. He’s made countless mistakes, being both foolish and arrogant. He’s a disgrace to transmigrators. Don’t ever say he’s the same as Mistress again; she’s ten thousand times smarter than him!”

Zhu Zan, who was passing by, couldn't help but sigh at the two children's conversation. Even Gu Ling and Su Liang's little disciples were so insightful and intelligent; what could Mo Yan possibly use to compete with them? Mo Yan had been relying on the magic treasure to act as he pleased. Ever since he started going against Gu Ling and Su Liang, he made one mistake after another. He didn't know who to trust, failed at managing his people, and lacked a big-picture view. Many times, he was led around by the nose by He Wei or Sheng Yue and made unwise decisions.

It's not an exaggeration to say that Mo Yan is a stupid and conceited person, who only became a threat to Gu Ling and Su Liang by virtue of the spatial magical treasure. On the other hand, having lived two lifetimes, Mo Yan was still not smart enough despite his age, which was related to his identity as a transmigrator and the spatial magical treasure in his hands. The latter gave him too much confidence. He had been hidden away for years, acting like a king on Xingluo Island, thinking that he was the only one who mattered in the world and that everything was within his reach. He never experienced any real hardships and never truly grew.

Meanwhile, Gu Ling and Su Liang walked a difficult path to reach this point, facing endless troubles and difficulties without ever stopping in their quest to improve their strength.

Even Sheng Yue, despite his young age, had clear goals and a deep mind, always able to bend and flex. Without the magic treasure, Mo Yan would be no match for Sheng Yue.

Zhu Zan came over and asked the two little ones if they needed any help.

Ji Xiaoshu said with a grin, "Uncle Zhu, you're just in time. The sun is a bit too strong. Could you help us drag the big bad guy over to the shade under that tree? We're practicing medical treatment for external injuries!"

Zhu Zan laughed, "No problem." He dragged Mo Yan to the spot designated by Ji Xiaoshu, then went to clean up the blood elsewhere and brought a small table to be placed under the tree. He also fetched tea and desserts for the two kids, telling them not to tire themselves out.

In the meantime, Zhengzheng went to the kitchen and brought a bowl of salt and sugar solution to pour into the unconscious Mo Yan. Since Mo Yan was their practice dummy for healing injuries, they had to be serious about it and couldn't let him die so easily.

When the two kids had completed the suturing and stopping the bleeding process on half of Mo Yan's body, they called Gu Ling and Su Liang over to have a look.

"Great God, you go." Su Liang said with a smile.

Gu Ling lightly tapped his toes and left the boat, leaping onto the shore. As he passed by the card table, he saw Qiao Cong's face covered in slips of paper, leaving no room for new ones.

Gu Ling stopped and said to Qiao Cong, "Master will wait for Nuannuan to have a look before tearing them off."

Qiao Cong hadn't won a single round, and upon hearing Gu Ling's words, he was so angry that his moustache bristled and his eyes widened. The slips of paper on his face were flown everywhere, "I suspect Old Mu is cheating!"

Old Mu, who had been winning all along, said cheerfully, "You just can't accept defeat."

"Who can't accept defeat? Let's continue!" Qiao Cong slapped the table.

Cen Man found Qiao Cong's reaction amusing and pointed out his problem, telling him to be more cautious when playing cards.

Qiao Cong shook his head, "Playing cards is supposed to be fun. Why bother calculating? Isn't it tiring? I won't do it!"

Old Bai agreed with Qiao Cong's opinion, "Calculating cards is exhausting, I don't do it either. Losing is just right; Nuannuan likes it."

At this time, Gu Ling had already reached the tree and saw Mo Yan.

"Master, I treated his upper body, and elder brother treated his lower body. Take a look, who did a better job?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

After taking a look, Gu Ling said that Zhengzheng's stitching was better, even and beautiful.

"Indeed, my stitching doesn't look good, but as long as it works." Ji Xiaoshu looked at the crooked centipede-like wound he stitched and felt that it wasn't as good-looking as Zhengzheng's.

"This doesn't seem very professional," Gu Ling commented. "Mo Yan doesn't have the right to say anything, but what if you get a serious patient in the future, will you still do this?"

Ji Xiaoshu scratched his head, "That's true. I only thought about being faster, but elder brother is both fast and good, so I lost. I'll just undo Mo Yan's stitches and redo them. I'll practice more!"

Gu Ling rubbed Ji Xiaoshu's head, "It's fine for today. You both are covered in blood. Go take a bath. You can treat him when he gets a new injury."

Only then did the two children who were focused on practicing their medical skills notice that their clothes and shoes were dirty, and their hands were covered in blood.

Ji Xiaoshu made a disgusted face, "I smell so bad, my sister will surely hate me! Elder brother, let's go!"

Gu Ling watched his two young disciples rush towards Yuanming Pavilion. He called Zhu Zan over, "Throw Mo Yan back into the dungeon, and then go help Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu take a bath."

Zhu Zan nodded, "Yes, Prince."

When Su Liang carried Gu Xiaonuan back to the shore, they saw two people with faces covered in paper strips waiting to take Gu Xiaonuan. One was Qiao Cong, and the other was Old White. Weng Ming had also lost a few times, but he hadn't torn off the few paper strips on his face yet, so he walked over as well.

Qiao Cong blew off the paper strips, and Gu Xiaonuan giggled, calling out, "Master!"

"Haha! Nuannuan, come! You can play with the paper strips on master's face." Qiao Cong held Gu Xiaonuan and said cheerfully.

Gu Xiaonuan began pulling off the paper strips one by one, finding it amusing to reveal Qiao Cong's face. After playing with Qiao Cong, she was taken over by Old White and pulled off the paper strips from his face as well.

Cheng Yun returned from Huguo Temple, carrying a large food box in his hand. He was about to deliver it to the kitchen when Yan Shiba stopped him.

"What's up?" Cheng Yun calmly asked. He knew that Yan Shiba had given up on him, so he wasn't afraid of Yan Shiba anymore.

Yan Shiba nodded seriously, "Since you've renounced your faith, started eating meat, and should be considering the matter of marrying a wife. After all, I've been calling you brother for so long; I'll be your sister in the future! I think you and Little Ranran are quite compatible. Think about it carefully, and don't just say no. A man cannot say no!"

Cheng Yun was stunned, "Me and Weng Ran?"

Yan Shiba nodded, "Yes! What do you think?"

Cheng Yun frowned with a strange expression, "I... do you think she'll like me?"

Upon hearing this, Yan Shiba froze for a moment, then burst out laughing, "So you've had your eye on Little Ranran for a while now? Why didn't you say something earlier? Go ask her and you'll know if she'll like you or not! Be a man and go!"

Chapter 493: 493. Cheng Yun's Confession

Cheng Yun walked to the kitchen door, where he saw Weng Ran busily in action. She was also dressed as per Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu's requests and looked striking in her new dress. Her figure was slender, her profile delicate. She made no attempt to hide the birthmark on her face. Indeed, it was as Gu Xiaonuan had mentioned – it made her look beautiful and unique, like a flower.

Cheng Yun thought about what Yan Shiba had said earlier, and as he watched Weng Ran now, it seemed something was different. Did he like her? He was not sure about the answer, but one thing he was sure of was that he had a fondness for Weng Ran.

The grown women Cheng Yun had been in contact with were not many, and the two most significant women were Su Liang, with whom he always had a good relationship, and Yan Shiba, whom he had once tried to avoid at all costs. Su Liang was just a friend to Cheng Yun when they first met and unrelated to the concepts of male or female. As for Yan Shiba, to Cheng Yun, she had overpowering female attributes that even scared him.

Weng Ran could be considered the first woman that Cheng Yun had genuinely interacted with since he left Buddhism, and one of the few people he felt comfortable around. He still remembered the first time they met at this house, as if it was just yesterday...

Weng Ran lifted the pot lid, and a wave of heat hit her face – the chicken soup was ready. She took a deep breath, smiled, and muttered to herself, "It's almost as good as the prince's." Although they were now close friends, she knew her place. Su Liang always addressed Gu Ling by his full name in

front of others, so she never dared to call him by his name. Therefore, she had always referred to him as “prince”.

A gentle smile also appeared on Cheng Yun’s face.

At this moment, Weng Ran turned around and saw Cheng Yun standing at the door and smiling.

“You’re back.” Weng Ran calmly greeted Cheng Yun, put down the pot lid, walked over, and took the food box from his hand. “It’s been quite a few days since I’ve had any of the vegetarian dishes from Huguo Temple, I’ll need to reheat these.”

“Hmm.” Cheng Yun nodded and began to help Weng Ran unload the vegetarian dishes from the food box.

“You missed out on a good show.” Weng Ran chuckled. “But I suppose you wouldn’t have enjoyed it anyway.”

“Indeed.” Cheng Yun sighed softly. “Mo Yan has hurt countless people, and I believe he should pay the price. If given the opportunity during a critical moment, I might kill him myself. But I don’t like to hurt people or take lives.”

“You’re just like the prince and Su Liang.” Weng Ran nodded. “That’s good. Everyone feels the same really. It’s just that Mo Yan has caused our family too much trouble and pain over the past few years. What he’s suffering now is his just deserts.”

Cheng Yun agreed, “Did Mo Yan die?”

“Not yet.” Weng Ran shook her head. “Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu have tended to his wounds again. They learned medical skills from Su Liang but never got the chance to use them.”

Cheng Yun paused for a moment, then broke into a laugh. “That’s a good thing.”

“Yan expressed the idea of finding a filthy ditch to let Mo Yan experience what it’s like to drown.” Weng Ran turned to Cheng Yun, “Do you think she’s too extreme?”

For some reason, Cheng Yun felt as though Weng Ran was discussing a matter of values with him. After some thought and consideration, he replied, “No. Yan, on several occasions when we were on Xingluo Island, had been forced into the water, and surely the experience was painful. Mo Yan has killed many people in this way over the years. If I were to decide how Mo Yan should die, I think drowning would be most fitting. Eye for eye is not extreme. I’m just not interested in watching him being tortured, but I don’t oppose any of these methods.”

Weng Ran raised her eyebrows, “You’ve changed a lot since your last trip.”

“Have I? What changes do you see in me?” Cheng Yun furrowed his eyebrows.

“Before,” Weng Ran thought for a moment and then continued, “your words and actions always carried a hint of your past life as a monk; now, you’re like a regular

person. I don't mean you were abnormal before, just that you fit into our family more now."

"I am a part of this family." Cheng Yun stated earnestly.

Weng Ran chuckled, "As long as you know what I mean. Anyway, you're better off how you are now."

Cheng Yun also felt that his perspectives on many things had changed, likely influenced by Gu Ling and Qiao Jing. It wasn't until he had left Buddhism that he began to witness real and vivid suffering, particularly on the picturesque Xingluo Island, where beneath the breathtaking landscapes existed awfully monstrous dens.

Because he knew about Peng Wu's ordeal and witnessed the tears of Mrs. Peng. Because he saw how the cook and mute slave's lives were controlled and manipulated by others. Because he heard about the tragic experiences of many women like Peng Wu on Xingluo Island. His last vestiges of Buddhist discipline and restraint had been completely shattered.

Cheng Yun, who once didn't want to harm anyone and would even try to remake villains using Buddhist teachings, now believed that some evildoers did not deserve to be called human at all, and must pay for their wicked deeds. If he wanted to save these evildoers, who would compensate and save the innocent people hurt by them? How unjust was that?

"Yes, I've changed," Cheng Yun sighed softly, his eyes serene. Now, the world and the people he saw were all different from before. Ordination was often a choice to escape reality. Cheng Yun never had a chance to choose when he was young. Now he had, and he was grateful for the friends he met. Without them, he wouldn't have his real life.

"Right, you haven't seen sister Yan since you came back, have you?" Weng Ran asked.

Cheng Yun was making a fire, and when he heard this, he told the truth, "I just saw her."

Weng Ran paused for a moment, then she laughed. "Did she talk to you about this and that? I don't know what's gotten into her these past few days, perhaps she's just bored and has too much time on her hands. She's been nattering about playing matchmaker and, out of the blue, fixed her sights on us, saying she wants to bring us together. Just clear things up with her; she's reasonable these days," she said.

Upon hearing this, Cheng Yun thought—deemed by Weng Ran's words—that the two of them had no chance and were completely unsuitable?

"Do you have someone you like?" Cheng Yun asked with a serious look on his face.

Weng Ran shook her head, "No. My life now is already unbelievably good. Let the rest take its natural course."

Seeing that Cheng Yun was holding the fire poker, lost in thought, Weng Ran asked with a chuckle, "How about you? Have you ever thought about marriage?"

Cheng Yun shook his head, "I hadn't initially. But after Miss Yan brought it up, I gave it some thought."

Weng Ran looked stunned, "Oh? What have you been thinking about?"

Cheng Yun hesitated a moment, "I think that settling down is pretty good. Seeing Xiaogu and Su Liang with Nuannuan, they are a family of three, so happy and so perfect. Qiao Jing will also be getting married soon."

Weng Ran looked somewhat surprised, "You are envious of them?"

Cheng Yun nodded, "Yes."

"So, what's on your mind?" Weng Ran realized Cheng Yun had changed, but she never expected such a radical change that he'd even start considering his life partner. She remembered the way he looked when she first met him, which made her want to laugh. She found it very amusing and was curious about Cheng Yun's thoughts.

After pondering for a moment, Cheng Yun said, "I think you're quite good. If you don't have feelings for anyone else, how about we give it a try?"

The spoon in Weng Ran's hand hit the edge of the pot, making a crisp noise. She felt the atmosphere suddenly become strange. Looking at Cheng Yun, she saw him looking at her too. Clearing her throat, she asked, "Are you joking with me?"

Cheng Yun shook his head, "Of course not, how could I joke about such a thing?"

Weng Ran looked somewhat peculiar, "So, because Sister Yan mentioned it, you admired the prince and big brother Qiao, and suddenly you thought getting married was a good idea. Since Sister Yan and I are the only available women around, you thought..."

Cheng Yun nodded, then quickly shook his head, "Don't get me wrong. Even if Miss Nangong and Miss Min weren't engaged, I would still think you're the best."

Weng Ran laughed out loud, "What do you like about me?"

Cheng Yun pondered seriously for a moment, "I can't really put it into words, but when I'm with you, I feel the most relaxed and at ease."

Weng Ran stopped laughing. Cheng Yun was serious. Was this a declaration of love? It didn't seem like it. At most it was a proposal to date?

"If you think I'm not suitable for you, just say it directly. It's okay," Cheng Yun reassured her.

Wen Ran fell silent again before speaking, "Not exactly... but it just feels a bit weird. We were friends to begin with, to be like Mr. Qiao and Rourou... that would be strange." She genuinely felt this way, seeing Min Rou's deep affection and doting for Qiao Cong, she felt that wasn't for her.

Cheng Yun frowned, "It would indeed be strange if we were like them. But people are different, we don't have to be exactly like them, right? I think Gu Ling and Su Liang's relationship is very good, they are in harmony with each other, it seems very... natural. Yes, that's the word, very natural."

"They're an old married couple, it's different," Wen Ran shook her head.

"I think we need to try it to know what suits us." Cheng Yun analyzed carefully, feeling that what he said was somewhat inappropriate, he quickly clarified, "It's just hypothetical, if you're willing."

Wen Ran remembered when Weng Ming first brought her to the capital city, he bluntly told Su Liang that he would be worried about her lifelong affairs. She also remembered Qiao Cong looking forward to his grandchildren getting married early so that he could be a grandfather, and Weng Ming always looked envious at such moments.

Wen Ran knew that her grandfather also hoped that she could find a good man and start a family. After all, he was old and had no other desires.

Being always respectful, after some analysis, Wen Ran thought Cheng Yun's proposal wasn't bad. She knew few men of marrying age and found Cheng Yun's company quite comfortable, and often thought he was interesting. Perhaps, trying it out wouldn't be a bad thing.

"I think we could give it a try," Wen Ran said, "Although it's hard to say whether we'll quickly discover that we're not right for each other, if there's anything to say, just say it directly, if you feel it's not working, let's break up and continue as friends, how does that sound?"

Cheng Yun nodded repeatedly, "That's exactly what I was thinking."

"Then, let's keep it a secret for now, don't let anyone else in the house know, especially Sister Yan. Otherwise, she'll definitely stir things up," Wen Ran said.

Cheng Yun completely agreed.

The two weren't love at first sight, nor were they in love due to long-time interaction. They both wanted to start a family and felt that the other was a suitable candidate. They planned to deepen their understanding of each other and see if there might be the possibility of being together.

If Su Liang were here and heard their conversation, he would definitely say, "You two are already in pretty good harmony."

Yan Shiba now knows her limits and did not announce her intentions to pair Wen Ran and Cheng Yun, and let everyone in the family know. But in fact, everyone in the family knew it, they just pretended they didn't know to avoid putting pressure on Wen Ran and Cheng Yun, fearing that they would feel awkward.

At lunchtime, Yan Shiba sneakily observed, the number of times Wen Ran and Cheng Yun made eye contact today is significantly more than before! But before lunch, Yan Shiba asked Wen Ran about her relationship with Cheng Yun, Wen Ran said that there was nothing.

Yan Shiba felt there was hope. Sometimes, one just needed to break the ice, then everything would work out. Feelings needed to be discovered, and affection could be cultivated!

That day, Yan Shiba didn't take Mo Yan out of the dungeon to find the stinky drain, deciding to wait a few days to do that. There was no rush, waiting for Mo Yan's injury to heal a little to avoid killing him with a little bit of tossing. At least one person hadn't made a move yet, that was Peng Wu. Her

disaster was inseparable from Mo Yan. Everyone else in the Peng family also wanted to kill Mo Yan.

The next day, Peng Wei brought Peng Wu and her three children to visit the Su Mansion, and solemnly thanked Gu Ling and Su Liang, as well as Qiao Jing, Cheng Yun, Old Mu and others for saving Peng Wu from her misery. Otherwise, for the sake of her children, Peng Wu would undoubtedly continue to suffer for the rest of her life.

While adults were talking, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu enthusiastically entertained the somewhat timid Axin and Ale, taking them upstairs to play.

Axin and Ale quickly became familiar with Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, who were of similar age.

When Axin and Ale played the guessing game of who they were, they completely failed to fool Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, who always guessed correctly.

Ji Xiaoshu joyfully said, "I've played this game with my eldest senior brother before."

"But you two don't look alike," Axin expressed confusion.

Then, Ji Xiaoshu and Zhengzheng quickly demonstrated the Disguise Technique, telling them how to switch identities without looking alike.

"Amazing!" Ale looked at them in awe, "Can you teach me?"

Zhengzheng was okay with that.

Ji Xiaoshu was more curious whether the twins had telepathy, Ale thought they did, Axin felt it didn't quite count.

In Peng Wu's eyes, Su Liang was exactly as she had imagined, and both Su Liang and Gu Ling were like immortals to her.

Knowing that the magic treasure had been conquered by Gu Xiaonuan, Peng Wu put her mind at ease entirely.

Hearing of the significant help from Master Feng, Peng Wei asked, "Is he not back yet?"

Su Liang smiled, "He has gone to settle the two elderly people rescued from the island, he will be back once that is settled."

"Then we will make sure to thank him again when the time comes," Peng Wei nodded.

Peng Wu's adopted daughter Xiaoyue got along very well with Gu Xiaonuan, and Gu Xiaonuan rarely encountered a little sister and loved Xiaoyue very much. They were put together for a nap in the afternoon by Su Liang.

Peng Wei, Peng Qian, and Peng Fan went to the dungeon to see Mo Yan. Su Liang told them to do whatever they wanted, no need to be polite.

When the Peng family was about to leave, Su Liang said with a smile, "Sister Peng, feel free to bring the kids to play at our house when you have time."

Peng Wu smiled and nodded, "I will frequently come to disturb you."

Axin and Ale reluctantly said goodbye to Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, holding the gifts they had given them. On the way back, they already paid respects to Qiao Jing as their master and officially became his disciples. Qiao Jing said that after his wedding, he would start teaching his little disciples martial arts, and compete with Gu Ling's two little disciples.

Before they left the gate of Su Mansion, Ale asked Peng Wu when they could come back again.

Peng Wei said cheerfully, "The invitations will be sent tomorrow for a banquet at our place the day after next, is that okay?"

Axin and Ale both cheered enthusiastically.

Mo Yan was still alive, but compared to him, Peng Wei, Peng Qian, and Peng Fan wanted to kill the man who had truly hurt and insulted Peng Wu more.

Peng Wu knew that Gu Ling and Su Liang had arranged for someone to deal with the remnants of Xingluo Island. She didn't ask directly, believing that the man would meet his retribution.

Peng Fan asked Gu Ling, who told him that he would inform him as there was any news in the following days.

Life has become peaceful again, Gu Ling and Su Liang had plenty of time to be alone and went back to their original comfortable life, reading and writing together, making medicines, chatting, or going out for walks, boating on the lake, climbing mountains, fishing, cooking, and washing dishes together.

They agreed to take the children back to Su village for a stay this year and were just waiting for Feng Ming to return and Sheng Yue to surface after dealing with the remnants of Xingluo Island.

Chapter 494: 494. Everything is getting better

After the whole family had come to express their gratitude, Peng Wei specifically held a banquet at the mansion and invited the people of Su Mansion to come over.

Two days later, Zheng'er and Ji Xiaoshu made an appointment with the Peng family's twins to go climbing together. They originally wanted Gu Ling to take them, but Gu Ling said he was busy. He and Su Liang were focusing on researching a new medicine. In the end, it was decided that Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun would take the four children to Wangxiang Mountain to play.

When it was time to set off, there were two more people in the team, one was Min Rou who came specially, and the other was Weng Ran.

Qiao Jing was, of course, very happy, while Cheng Yun thought it was a coincidence, as the family members shouldn't know about his relationship with Weng Ran.

"We invited the two aunts ourselves!" Ji Xiaoshu said with a grin, "The more people, the more fun it is!"

"That's nice," Cheng Yun nodded in agreement, his gaze once again swept over Weng Ran, who was wearing a beautiful skirt he hadn't seen before and her hairstyle was also different from the previous one.

No carriages were prepared, just four people, each taking one of the four children on horseback. Zheng'er and Ji Xiaoshu both had their own ponies, but as Axin and Ale didn't have any, they didn't ride separately today either.

Qiao Jing said he would send two good horses to his disciples later. They were all very happy.

The weather was bright and sunny, and the warm breeze was gentle.

The four adults and four children dismounted at the foot of Wangxiang Mountain. Axin and Ale couldn't help but exclaim at the sight of the high mountain peaks shrouded in mist. The mountains on Xingluo Island were not high, and although they had seen high mountains on their way to the capital city, this was their first opportunity to climb one, and they were looking forward to it.

As soon as the children got off their horses, they rushed forward. Running ahead, Ji Xiaoshu shouted, "Hurry! Let's see who gets tired first and can't walk!"

Zheng'er walked behind Axin and Ale, reminding them to watch their steps, as the mountain path was not flat, and he and Ji Xiaoshu were very familiar with this area.

Behind them were Min Rou and Weng Ran, arm in arm affectionately. Min Rou had visited the area with Qiao Jing just two days ago, while it was Weng Ran's first time. However, she had often followed Weng Ming to collect herbs in the mountains since she was a child, so she was quite experienced in climbing.

Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun tied up the horses and walked behind together, chatting and listening to the children's laughter in front of them. Their gazes occasionally fell on the two smiling girls in front.

"Are you going to move out after marrying next month?" Cheng Yun asked.

Qiao Jing nodded, "Yes, I'll get married outside. Qi Yan has already helped me buy a house. It's not big, but it's already been cleaned up."

Everyone was now gathered in Su Mansion, which was lively, but Qiao Jing felt that he needed to have his own little home when he got married. It would be inappropriate for Min Rou to marry into Su Mansion after all. They could always come back occasionally after the wedding. Moreover, he hoped to have some private time for the two of them.

Qi Jun and Ren Dong, who had already gotten married, as well as Qi Yan and Nangong Qian, who were about to get married, had all bought houses outside as well.

"That's good," Cheng Yun nodded.

"What about you?" Qiao Jing asked back.

Cheng Yun hesitated, his gaze falling on Weng Ran again. He felt that denying it would be like lying, but admitting it would mean that the two of them were still in the "testing" phase, and nothing was set in stone.

"Let's just let nature take its course," Cheng Yun said with an ambiguous smile. These days, one of the great joys of everyone in the family was to keep track of Cheng Yun's progress with Weng Ran. They saw them sneaking off to the small grove together,

and as soon as Weng Ran started cooking, Cheng Yun would rush over to start the fire and help out...

Axin and Ale were not as strong-bodied as Zheng'er and Ji Xiaoshu. This was their first time climbing a mountain, and they had started out at a fast pace, so they didn't get far before they became tired.

Ji Xiaoshu, who had run ahead, came back around to comfort them, "It's okay, my senior brother and I have been here ten or eight times before, we felt tired and couldn't walk the first time we came too! As long as we keep coming to play in the future, we'll get better!"

"Brother Xiaoshu, you're amazing!" Ale looked at Ji Xiaoshu with admiration, "You don't get tired at all!"

Ji Xiaoshu let out a chuckle, "Just average!"

Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun came forward and each carried one of the twins on their backs, telling them to rest for a while before walking on their own again.

They stopped halfway to rest, and Weng Ran handed out water to the children first, then to Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun. They had brought food, but the children said they weren't hungry and would eat at the top of the mountain.

As they continued to walk, they reached the waterfall and stream where Zheng'er and Ji Xiaoshu had been brought by Gu Ling to catch tadpoles for the first time.

Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun put the twins down, and the four children rushed to the water's edge.

Ji Xiaoshu quickly caught a tadpole and held it with both hands to show Ale and Axin, "What do you think this is?"

Ale and Axin both looked confused. There might be tadpoles on Xingluo Island, but they had never seen them, nor had anyone taken them to find them.

"This is a tadpole; it doesn't bite," Zhengzheng said with a smile, "You can touch it."

After that, the four adults sat nearby and rested, while listening to Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu explain to the twins what tadpoles are and what they turn into when they grow up, as well as the story of a tadpole looking for its mother.

Min Rou laughed, "I've grown up not knowing what a tadpole is; no one taught me. Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu know more than we do."

Weng Ran nodded, "I've seen them and know that they turn into frogs when they grow up, but I don't know as much as they do."

Not only that, but along the way, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu also introduced the herbal medicine they discovered to the twins.

Finally, before noon, the group reached the top of the mountain.

"You guys go hunting, otherwise we won't have any meat to eat," Min Rou said to Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun. Qiao Jing had hunted a rabbit during her last visit, and they roasted it on the spot, with salt and spices, which was delicious.

Today, Qiao Jing also brought spices blended by Gu Ling and bows and arrows. Hearing this, he went hunting with Cheng Yun.

Min Rou and Weng Ran found a soft, flat patch of grass that could be bathed in sunlight with a large rock nearby to place their food and spread out their picnic blanket.

On the other side, tree-climbing enthusiast Ji Xiaoshu quickly demonstrated his climbing skills to his new friends, then came down and started teaching the twins how to climb trees.

“Be careful not to fall,” Weng Ran reminded.

Zhengzheng replied, “Don’t worry, Aunt Ran, I’ll watch out for my little brothers.”

“Zhengzheng is so sensible,” Min Rou praised.

After Ale and Axin learned to climb trees and all four children were up in the trees, admiring the beautiful scenery below, Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun returned with a wild chicken and a wild rabbit.

“Master!” Ale called out to Qiao Jing from the tree, his eyes squinting with a smile.

Qiao Jing raised the fat wild rabbit in his hand, “Come down, let’s grill the meat together!”

Zhengzheng climbed down first and caught his brothers at the bottom, fearing they might fall. Then, the four children went to help.

When the wild chicken and rabbit were grilled until fragrant, the picnic began.

“What’s this?” Axin asked Qiao Jing, who was holding a small bottle. The cap had two layers, and the second layer had many small holes, allowing the powder inside the bottle to be evenly sprinkled on the grilled meat.

“This is my master’s secret grilled meat spice mix, and he made the bottle too,” Ji Xiaoshu said.

“Uncle Gu is truly capable of anything!” Axin exclaimed.

After tasting the delicious grilled meat, Ale and Axin felt they had never tasted something so delicious before. The four rabbit legs were divided among the four children, and Qiao Jing handed a chicken leg to Min Rou.

Min Rou shook her head, “I’ll have a chicken wing.”

“What would you like?” Cheng Yun asked Weng Ran.

“I’ll have a chicken wing too,” Weng Ran said.

The two chicken legs were eventually given to Ale and Axin. Cheng Yun and Qiao Jing ate most of the rest. In addition, there were fruits brought by Weng Ran and desserts brought by Min Rou.

After the picnic, Qiao Jing and Min Rou sat side by side at the edge of the cliff, admiring the view, while the four children played games together.

After Cheng Yun helped Weng Ran pack up their things, the two sat on a rock and talked.

“Our families probably don’t know yet, right?” Cheng Yun said.

Upon hearing this, Weng Ran laughed, "Do you really think they don't know?"

Cheng Yun blinked, "You mean..."

"They all know." Weng Ran said indifferently, "They just haven't confronted us about it. They're waiting for us to come clean."

Cheng Yun lightly coughed, "Is it... that obvious?"

"We live under the same roof. What do you think?" Weng Ran laughed softly.

"Should we... come clean?" Cheng Yun asked in a low voice, leaning his head closer to Weng Ran's, catching a faint scent.

"I don't mind either way. It's quite fun right now, and they find our sneaking around amusing. I find their thinking we don't know they know amusingly." Weng Ran shrugged, "But whether or not we tell them, and when we tell them, is up to you."

Upon hearing Weng Ran's words, Cheng Yun couldn't help but smile, "Indeed, it's very interesting. Let's not say anything then, let's see who breaks first and confronts us."

"If I were to guess, it would probably be my grandfather, he'll likely talk to you soon." Weng Ran made this prediction based on his understanding of Weng Ming. Weng Ming respected Weng Ran, so he wouldn't ask about his love life, but he'd definitely want to talk to Cheng Yun, asking what his intentions were and whether he was serious.

At the mention of this, Cheng Yun became nervous, "What will my grandfather want to talk to me about? What should I answer to his questions?"

Weng Ran laughed, "Why are you afraid? Just speak your heart."

"So we're... sure about this?" Cheng Yun asked somewhat nervously.

"I think it's not bad. What do you think?" Weng Ran reached out to remove the leaves that had fallen on Cheng Yun's head.

Cheng Yun immediately nodded, "I think it's great."

Suddenly, they heard Axin's voice from behind, "Aunt Ran, is there any more water?"

Weng Ran instantly stood up, "Yes. And there are two more fruits. Do you want to eat them?"

Axin drank some water, took the two fruits, and ran to his three friends not far away.

The four of them shared the fruits, and Axin said to Ji Xiaoshu, "Brother Xiaoshu, I heard Uncle Yun say that he thinks it's great."

Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, "It seems that Uncle Cheng Yun can get married this year too, a cause for celebration."

"Are Uncle Yun and Aunt Ran a couple?" Ale asked curiously.

Zhengzheng covered Ale's mouth, "Keep your voice down. They haven't gone public yet, my master's wife said it's called a secret relationship."

"Why haven't they gone public?" Axin asked, puzzled.

Ji Xiaoshu clasped his hands together and said solemnly, "Probably because Uncle Cheng Yun hasn't fully returned to secular life, and they fear the Buddha's blame, wanting to give the Buddha more time to accept his change."

Zhengzheng knocked on Ji Xiaoshu's forehead, "Stop talking nonsense."

"I think Brother Xiaoshu makes a lot of sense!" Ale expressed his support for Ji Xiaoshu.

Ji Xiaoshu hugged Ale and rubbed his head, "Haha! I was just making things up, don't take it seriously!"

On the way down the mountain, Qiao Jing and Cheng Yun caught several more prey.

After descending the mountain, Qiao Jing first escorted Min Rou back home, giving her a wild chicken to bring back as a gift for the elderly Minister Min. Then they accompanied the twins back to Peng Mansion and left behind two wild animals.

"Master, can you give us some of the best spices?" Axin wanted Peng Wu to taste the delicious grilled meat they had eaten.

Qiao Jing directly handed them the bottle of spices he had brought with him. Gu Ling had made more at home.

When Peng Wu came out to pick up the children, Qiao Jing and the others had already left, saying they would visit again another day.

"Mother, we climbed a mountain today, it was so high!"

"On the way up, we couldn't walk anymore, and Master and Uncle Yun carried us up! Brother Zheng and Brother Xiaoshu showed us tadpoles, we'll go see them again later, the tadpoles will grow into frogs!"

"The grilled meat used Uncle Gu's spices, the best taste in the world! Here, Master gave us the spices!"

Peng Wu's smile never faded. Xingluo Island was a closed-off place, and her children had not seen the outside world since they were little. Fortunately, they had met kind people and were now happy every day. Seeing her children's smiling faces, all her past pain seemed insignificant.

Feng Ming returned to the capital city a few days later than Su Liang had estimated. When he arrived home, it was already nightfall. He was dusty from the journey, looking thinner. He had been traveling non-stop for some time now.

"Master, Prince." Feng Ming bowed in greeting.

At Yuanming Pavilion, they were having dinner. Zhu Zan immediately went over, "How did it go? Was everything smooth? Are you hurt?"

Feng Ming shook his head with a smile, “No, no! Everything went smoothly. It just took me some time to help two old folks find their son! Their son is still alive, and he has started his own family; even his grandchildren are not young. He joined his relatives years ago and settled down elsewhere.”

“That’s good.” Su Liang nodded, “You go wash up first, come eat with us later, and we’ll talk more later.”

Zhu Zan accompanied Feng Ming to the kitchen to fetch water for washing up, and told him about the situation at home.

“The Peng Family just happened to move to the capital city? That’s such a coincidence and great luck!” Feng Ming was happy upon hearing the news, “Miss Peng finally had her sweet ending.”

“They mentioned you earlier, saying that they want to properly thank you once you return.” Zhu Zan filled water for Feng Ming.

Feng Ming shook his head, “No need to thank me, it’s all Prince and Master Qiao’s credit.”

Zhu Zan patted Feng Ming’s shoulder, “I still need to find an opportunity to treat you to a good drink!”

Feng Ming nodded, “I’ll definitely drink your wine!”

The two looked at each other and laughed.

Two days after Feng Ming’s return, Gu Ling and Su Liang received news about Sheng Yue: Several male corpses with different ages had been thrown one after another outside the back gate of the Lian Mansion in Jiaye City, all with a bloody six-pointed star symbol carved on their faces.

The six-pointed star was the symbol of Xingluo Island. Although no one had seen Sheng Yue, Gu Ling and Su Liang knew that this was definitely his doing. Sheng Yue was also using this method to inform them: he was carrying out the task Gu Ling had assigned him.

“Most of those who left Xingluo Island should be in the south. Sheng Yue is expected to eliminate the remaining evil and arrive in the capital city next month.” Su Liang analyzed.

Gu Ling nodded, “By then, let him see Nuannuan’s transformation into a living person.”

Su Liang coughed lightly, “He’ll be shocked, being a descendant of the transmigrators himself, but not being able to do anything.”

“That’s the effect I’m going for.” Gu Ling said calmly.

Smiling slightly, Su Liang asked, “Great God, do you still remember how aloof you were when we first met?”

Gu Ling shook his head, “Actually, I was pretending.”

Chapter 495: 495. Sheng Yue, who takes his work seriously

The news from Jiaye City came one after another, as Sheng Yue was constantly sending corpses there.

This was in line with Gu Ling and Su Liang's understanding of Sheng Yue: he was a rational egoist. He decided to follow Gu Ling's intentions because it was beneficial to his own safety and future under the current situation. Once the matter was handled, he had to let Su Liang and Gu Ling know without leaving any room for doubt.

Upon receiving the same news from Jiaye City that day, Su Liang laughed lightly, "I suspect that fellow Sheng Yue may have kept a ledger, recording who he killed on what day, how many women and children he settled, how much money he spent, and whether he was injured. He could show it to us later."

Gu Ling nodded, expressing agreement, "There's nothing wrong with that." There was nothing wrong with being egoistic, but the important thing is not to "harm others."

Two days after Feng Ming returned home, he was invited to visit Peng Mansion. He also wanted to see the children he had met on the island.

Feng Ming asked Zhu Zan to accompany him, but Zhu Zan refused, "I won't accept undeserved benefits. They invited you, so you should go. The Master said we're not servants and can make friends, and we can leave anytime. I'll consider whether to leave after I start a family. Don't think too much."

Feng Ming shook his head and laughed, "I didn't think too much, I just haven't experienced this kind of thing."

"You're so smart, what are you afraid of? Hurry up and go." Zhu Zan patted Feng Ming's shoulder.

In the end, Feng Ming didn't go alone, as he happened to see Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu who had just finished their homework and came out to play.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were already familiar with the Peng Family. After saying hello to Su Liang, they went out with Feng Ming.

"Uncle Feng, what kind of girl do you like?" Ji Xiaoshu asked Feng Ming, riding her little horse and laughing.

Feng Ming coughed lightly, "Why do you ask this, Xiaoshu? I haven't thought about it."

"You can think about it now," Ji Xiaoshu said. "I'm more familiar with the capital city than my senior brother, so I can help you find the right person."

Feng Ming couldn't help but smile, finding this matter strange and cute. These two kids actually wanted to help him find a girlfriend?

"We are serious. Senior brother, isn't that right?" Ji Xiaoshu asked Zhengzheng.

Zhengzheng nodded, "If there's someone suitable and we need to play matchmaker, we can indeed help."

Truth be told, they were both not ordinary children. Nowadays, everyone knows that they are Gu Ling and Su Liang's disciples, and they were raised by their side. They had a wide social circle in the capital city, even broader than Gu Ling and Su Liang's, as the two did not like socializing.

Feng Ming smiled, "Well, thank you both in advance. I'll think about it seriously."

As they were talking, they arrived at the entrance of Peng Mansion and were quickly welcomed in.

Ale and Axin, who were sitting obediently in the front hall, immediately rushed out when they saw Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu.

Peng Wei walked out with a laugh, greeted Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, then looked at Feng Ming and nodded secretly. Su Liang had previously praised Feng Ming for being brave, resourceful, and intelligent, and Peng Wu had mentioned that Feng Ming had previously helped their mother and son. Therefore, Peng Wei insisted on meeting Feng Ming and thanking him properly.

"General Peng." Feng Ming saluted.

Peng Wei waved his hand, "I'm no longer a general. Please come in, Young Master Feng."

"You don't have to be so polite, just call me by my name." Feng Ming was neither humble nor arrogant as he walked in with Peng Wei and saw Peng Wu. She looked drastically different from how she was on Xingluo Island.

In Feng Ming's memory, Peng Wu always had a thin face, a melancholy expression, and a trace of sorrow between her brows that could never cover her inherent determination. Compared to the other women who had been captured on Xingluo Island, Peng Wu was indeed much stronger. Many girls had perished and couldn't make it off the island alive.

But now, as they met again, Peng Wu looked elegant, her face radiant and glowing, her brows relaxed, full of valor, her lips curled in a smile as she gracefully called out, "Young Master Feng."

"Just call me by my name." Feng Ming smiled and nodded, thinking to himself that this was indeed the temperament of a lady from a military family. She had been struggling with the oppression and abuse on Xingluo Island while trying to protect her child. Fortunately, their hardships had finally come to an end.

After sitting down, Feng Ming looked outside, and the children had already run far away.

"Don't worry about them. Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu come here often, so they must have gone to the garden to play," said Peng Wu.

After serving Feng Ming a cup of tea, Peng Wei inquired if he still had any living family members.

"I should have a few distant relatives," Feng Ming replied, "but I've only heard about them from my parents when I was young. We lost contact after my parents passed away." He managed to survive on his own, learn martial arts from a master, and grow up. If it weren't for being targeted by an elder on Xingluo Island and captured as a slave, he had originally planned to join the army. At that time, the three countries' situation was tense, and with his young age, outstanding martial arts, and wit, he

could have achieved great things. If that had been the case, his life would be completely different by now.

After hearing the brief account of Feng Ming's experiences, Peng Wei couldn't help but sigh, "You are truly talented, but fate can be cruel."

Feng Ming smiled, "Everything is fine now. It is my fortune to serve the master."

"It's because of your intelligence," Peng Wei said with a laugh.

Just as Peng Fan was about to invite Feng Ming to sit with him, a servant came to report that his wife was feeling unwell. Peng Fan immediately rushed to her side.

Peng Wei also became worried and decided to ask about the situation, considering whether to invite the Imperial Physician or ask Su Liang to come and help. He left Peng Wu to attend to Feng Ming.

Seeing that Peng Wu was a bit uneasy, Feng Ming took the initiative and said, "If you're busy, just arrange for someone to take me to the garden to find the children."

Peng Wu shook his head and sighed softly, "It's fine. My brother has already gone there, and my mother must be there, too. I don't know medical skills, so I can't help." She then changed the subject, "I heard that you escorted Mr. Liu and his wife back to their home. Are they all right?"

Feng Ming nodded and recounted his experiences of sending the cook and the mute servant back home and helping them to find their son.

Listening to Feng Ming's story, Peng Wu couldn't help but empathize. Although the situations were not exactly the same, the pain of being separated from their loved ones was similar. Her parents and relatives had also suffered a great deal during those years.

"In any case, thank you – not just for saving us this time with Prince," Peng Wu looked at Feng Ming with a serious and solemn expression, "but also for being one of the very few good men I knew on the island before that."

Feng Ming sighed lightly, "The past is in the past. I believe that Miss Peng's life will get better and better. The children will also grow up healthy and happy. In that case, everything I've done will be worth it."

"I will live well," Peng Wu nodded, "and I hope you will too."

The two shared a smile before getting up and leaving the front hall for the garden.

On the way, they ran into Peng Wei, who looked very happy, so Peng Wu knew that Peng Fan's wife must be alright.

"It was just a false alarm. However, I still want to invite Old Gao to check her pulse," Peng Wei said, "Wu'er, please entertain Feng Ming well and invite him to stay for dinner. Don't be too formal with us; we're all not outsiders."

Feng Ming quickly agreed.

After watching Peng Wei leave, the two went to the garden and saw four children standing in a line, all with the same face...

_p">Peng Wu was stunned. Normally, she could easily tell her two sons apart, but at this moment, she was somewhat confused. Apparently, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu had disguised themselves as Axin and Ale. Of course, their clothes were different, but they might have swapped them on purpose, right?

The four children were about to go find Peng Wu and Feng Ming when they saw them coming. Not wanting to give themselves away, they remained silent. One of the children wrote on the ground with his foot, "Guess who we are?"

Feng Ming pointed at the child who had written the words, smiling brightly, "I guess, you are Xiaoshu. This must be your idea."

The child shook his head in silence and wrote another line with his foot, "Xiaoshu knew you would think so. I'm not him."

Feng Ming looked at Peng Wu, knowing that the subtle differences between her two sons' original appearances had also been modified by Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu. However, as their mother, she was confident that she could recognize her own children. "I will be responsible for distinguishing between Axin and Ale. Then, Feng Ming, you can discern which one is Zhengzheng and which one is Xiaoshu."

Feng Ming agreed that their division of labor was reasonable, and soon Peng Wu began to carefully observe the four children. Before long, she pulled out Ale because he had a subconscious small gesture he didn't even realize he had.

Then it was Axin's turn, who was also successfully identified by Peng Wu. One of them was dressed in Zhengzheng's clothes, and the other in his own clothes.

Peng Wu looked at Feng Ming, "It's your turn."

With only Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu remaining, they stood silently and wore the exact same expression on their faces. They were used to playing this game.

Feng Ming gave it a try, but ultimately gave up. "I really can't recognize them." Actually, he had only stayed in Su Mansion for a few days until now, and had quickly left after recognizing Su Liang as his master, so he didn't understand Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu very well.

In the end, it was Peng Wu who was able to recognize the two based on their subtle changes in their gazes.

"Aunt Peng, you're amazing!" Ji Xiaoshu gave a thumbs up. "We play this game at home, and our master often gets it wrong too!"

Peng Wu and Feng Ming went to eat fruit with the children. As they walked, Ji Xiaoshu asked, "Aunt Peng, what kind of man do you like?"

Peng Wu was taken aback, "Why are you asking this?"

Feng Ming simply smiled, and Ji Xiaoshu said that he could help Peng Wu find a match.

Peng Wu smiled and said, "Thank you, Xiaoshu, but it's not necessary. I am quite content like this, and I don't plan on getting married anymore."

“Of course, that’s fine too,” Ji Xiaoshu said. “I’m just asking. Aunt Peng, you’re still young, there’s nothing wrong with pursuing happiness! Look at my master and mistress, they’re so sweet!”

Peng Wu nodded, “They are a perfect couple, truly enviable.”

“Everyone will find their most suitable partner, and I will definitely have mine in the future!” Ji Xiaoshu spoke confidently.

Ale once again looked up admiringly, “Brother Xiaoshu, you know so much!”

With that, the topic came to a close.

Peng Wu thought that Ji Xiaoshu was innocent and cute, but his words still left her feeling a bit melancholic. Before her tragedy, she had been betrothed to a prince. They had met a few times, and he hadn’t left a deep impression on her. Now when she thought back, his face was blurry, and she only remembered a name. The Situ Imperial Family had long been destroyed, and the man had married another young lady soon after Peng Wu’s calamity, but he couldn’t withstand a bout of cold and passed away.

Time had passed quickly, and now when Peng Wu looked back, she felt reluctant to recall those seven years on Xingluo Island. Aside from her children, everything else seemed to be a blank. If it weren’t for her children, Peng Wu would have wished for time to turn back and give her a more ordinary life, but now, even that hypothesis didn’t hold true.

Peng Wei invited Master Gao, the Imperial Physician, to come. They often visited each other and became close.

Master Gao checked Peng Family’s young mistress’s pulse and said there was nothing to worry about.

After lunch, Master Gao invited the children to his house to see the koi, a special treasure that Gao Jiabao had found from another region.

So, Feng Ming and Peng Wu took the five children to visit the Gao Family. Previously, Lady Xiaoyue had been caring for the Peng Family, so Peng Wu could entertain guests.

When they left the Gao Family, the sun was almost setting.

Feng Ming first escorted Peng Wu and her children to the entrance of the Peng Mansion, watched them enter, and then took Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu back home.

As soon as they reached the entrance of their house, they heard the sound of horseshoes coming from another direction.

“It’s definitely another messenger from the south,” said Zhengzheng. Recently, there had been soldiers delivering messages almost every day.

But this time was different. The man approached, dismounted, and there was a sack on the horse’s back. From its shape, it seemed to contain a person.

It was indeed a soldier from Jiaye City, who had seen Feng Ming beside Qiao Jing before, and explained the situation. “All the others were corpses and just this one alive, unconscious, and with

their hands and feet bound, was thrown at the back door of the Lian Mansion. There was even a note on their body, written in blood, asking to have them be bound and sent to the capital city to be handed over to the prince and princess.”

Feng Ming’s expression darkened slightly, and he guessed who it might be. He asked Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu to take the messenger to see Su Liang and Gu Ling first, while he took care of the horse and the sack on its back.

Ji Xiaoshu wanted to take a look first but was stopped by Feng Ming and didn’t insist.

Feng Ming brought the horse in, locked the gate, unloaded the sack, untied the tightly sealed bag, and saw a face that was not unfamiliar. He recognized the man; he was the biological father of Axin and Ale.

Feng Ming dragged the sack straight to the dungeon and threw the man in.

On the other side, Su Liang met the messenger and learned that a living person had been brought this time. She was somewhat surprised and immediately thought about who would be singled out by Sheng Yue to be kept alive.

Sheng Yue was also the kind of person who, once he decided to do something, would try his best to do it perfectly. Since he wanted to show his sincerity and achievements, he would kill what needed to be killed, spare what shouldn’t be killed, and specially save the one that could be killed by someone else later.

Sheng Yue had known about Peng Wu’s background early on. She could be regarded as the only woman among those abducted from Xingluo Island that had any connection with Su Liang, as Su Liang had a good relationship with the Peng Family.

Therefore, when Sheng Yue killed the Zhong family members, he purposely spared the man who had tortured Peng Wu for several years and sent him as a gift.

Of course, this was an excellent “gift”. If Su Liang and Gu Ling had gone to eliminate the remnants, they would have also kept this person and handed him over to the Peng Family for disposition.

As soon as Feng Ming entered Yuanming Pavilion, he heard Su Liang ask, “Is it a man with the surname Zhong?”

Feng Ming nodded, “It’s that man.”

“Then please make another trip and inform Mr. Peng to see how he intends to deal with it,” said Su Liang.

Feng Ming then rode his horse out of the mansion and went to the Peng Family again.

Shortly after, Peng Fan arrived with two guards, following Feng Ming back to the mansion to take away the man in the dungeon.

As for how the Peng Family eventually dealt with that man, Su Liang and Gu Ling didn’t inquire further.

In Jiaye City, late at night.

Recently, corpses had been repeatedly appearing behind Lian Mansion, and the junior officer in charge probably knew what was going on; he hadn’t arranged for anyone to keep watch, but when

new corpses appeared, he would send people to report to the capital and if there were living people, he would send them directly to the capital.

A shadow entered the alley with a sack on their back.

They walked to the back door of Lian Mansion, threw the sack on the ground, dragged the corpse out of it, placed it in its usual spot, then sat on the doorstep.

The moon was moving through dark clouds, and Sheng Yue looked up at it before taking out a booklet and a charcoal pencil. Turning to a new page, he wrote a few lines by moonlight and then put the items back into his chest.

“Only two left,” Sheng Yue murmured to himself. “How did I end up like this... like a psychopath who fights evil and protects the innocent? I used to hate people like that.”

After a while, Sheng Yue got up, patted the dirt off his body, and returned the way he had come. “Only two left, so hurry up and finish them off and head to the capital. If that magic treasure can’t even control Su Liang, let’s see what that Gu Family member can do.”

Chapter 496: 496. Mo Yan’s Enchanting Days

With trepidation, Cheng Yun was finally contacted for a conversation by Weng Ming that day.

Cheng Yun, however, was not nervous, but relaxed, hoping that the conversation would end soon.

Weng Ming made up an excuse, asking Cheng Yun to help move furniture in his courtyard. Weng Ran was not at home today, she went to the Ministry Mansion to look at Min Rou’s wedding dress.

As Cheng Yun followed Weng Ming into the house, he heard him ask, “What’s going on between you and Ranran?”

Cheng Yun calmly gave the answer he had prepared long ago, “Grandfather Weng, I am pursuing Weng Ran.”

Weng Ming was not surprised, he signaled Cheng Yun to sit down and poured him a cup of tea.

The tea was hot, clearly prepared in advance.

“You’re pursuing Ranran? When did you fall in love with her?” Weng Ming inquired amicably.

Cheng Yun nodded, “Yes, but I can’t say exactly when I fell in love with Weng Ran, perhaps, this is what Su Liang refers to as the love at first sight which is realized afterwards?”

Weng Ming almost spurted the tea that had just entered his mouth when he heard Cheng Yun’s serious answer. He put down his teacup, wiped the corners of his mouth, and coughed lightly, “You young people are indeed...” However, the slight upward curve of his lips indicated his satisfaction with Cheng Yun’s answer.

From Weng Ming’s point of view, he was getting old and hoped to see Weng Ran married and find a suitable husband as soon as possible, especially as most of the young people in the mansion have paired up and gotten married, with children coming one after another, which made Weng Ming envious.

Recently, since Qiao Cong returned, he began to arrange the marriages of his grandchildren and talked frequently about becoming a great-grandfather in the coming year. Elder Mu, although seemingly alone, has an obedient disciple who he raised from childhood and is now married.

Weng Ming saw all this and heard all this, prompting him to increasingly think about Weng Ran's marriage. Ever since he came to Su Mansion, he had made up his mind that his granddaughter's husband must come from among Gu Ling and Su Liang's acquaintances. There was no doubt about their character and strength, and their future prospects were bright.

To tell the truth, Weng Ming had thought to himself that among the young, single men of suitable age in the mansion, only Cheng Yun, Feng Ming and Zhu Zan were left. Although Feng Ming was good, he was not home before. Zhu Zan was not familiar with Weng Ran and both of them did not have the intention of getting closer. Weng Ming had secretly observed that Weng Ran and Cheng Yun seemed to get along quite well.

Recently, the two began their "underground romance", and Weng Ming was pleased to see it. Today he talked to Cheng Yun, wanting to "explore the bottom", and there was one thing he needed to ask, who was the initiator?

Weng Ming knew that his granddaughter was outgoing, and Cheng Yun's beauty was second only to Gu Ling's among the young men in the mansion. Otherwise, Yan Shiba wouldn't have been so obsessed with him at first sight back then. From Weng Ming's standpoint, out of self-interest, he naturally hoped that it was Cheng Yun who took the initiative and that Cheng Yun liked Weng Ran more, instead of the other way around.

Therefore, when he heard Cheng Yun seriously say that his love for Weng Ran was a kind of love at first sight realized later, Weng Ming's heart was put at ease to a large extent.

"What are your plans for the future? Have you talked about it?" Weng Ming asked again.

Seeing Weng Ming's demeanor, Cheng Yun silently breathed a sigh of relief, and shook his head slightly, "We have not yet talked about the matter of marriage. I hope to get married sooner, but everything depends on Weng Ran's decision. Whatever she decides, I am okay with it."

Weng Ming chuckled, "If Ranran still wants to think about it, let's wait. She has always had her own ideas, and as her grandfather, I can't interfere too much. However, I feel that at your age, it's good to get married early, while I still have the strength to help you take care of your children for a few years."

Knowing that he had passed the test, Cheng Yun quickly agreed with Weng Ming's words, "I hope so too. I'll strive to get Weng Ran to agree to marry me soon. I've already asked Ajun to help select a mansion for when we get married."

Weng Ming laughed heartily, "Very good, very good. Honestly, I was initially worried that you had been a monk for too long and that your disposition and habits might take a while to change. Now it seems, my worries were unnecessary."

Cheng Yun thought to himself that his changes were largely due to Weng Ran. When he had feelings and decided to start a family, he needed to take on real responsibility, which was uniquely his. He was still learning how to be a good man, and Gu Ling was an excellent example.

If Cheng Yun before his secular life could be considered a blank page, the person who had left the most traces on this page now, was undoubtedly Gu Ling. Previously, when they went out to handle affairs together, Cheng Yun was always prepared to stand in for Gu Ling, so he had closely observed how Gu Ling handled various matters, including his views and ways of handling many things, all of which had been quite beneficial for Cheng Yun.

When Cheng Yun was about to leave, Weng Ming asked another question, “When do you two plan on informing the rest of the family? There’s no need to keep such things hidden, it’s better to be open about being together.”

Cheng Yun nodded, “Grandfather is correct. Once Ranran returns today, I will discuss it with her.”

Upon hearing Cheng Yun call him “grandfather”, Weng Ming laughed heartily, “Alright, you young ones go and discuss.”

Ranran returned in the afternoon and, upon seeing Cheng Yun, was pulled into the small grove by him.

“What’s wrong? Did my grandfather summon you?” Ranran frowned, assuming something had happened.

Cheng Yun nodded, “Yes, your grandfather summoned me.”

Upon hearing the word “grandfather”, Ranran softly coughed, “What did you two discuss?”

Cheng Yun thoroughly relayed his conversation with Weng Ming to Ranran.

Ranran began to laugh as soon as she heard the start of the story. By the end, she couldn’t help but raise her thumb in approval. “Who would’ve thought, Cheng Xiaoyun you’re quite cunning. You’ve become quite the speaker.”

Cheng Xiaoyun... Cheng Yun thought of Lian Shun, who always liked to add a diminutive suffix to people’s names, making it sound more affectionate. He liked it, this was the first time anyone called him this way, it felt strange, yet cute.

“Everything I said was from the heart.” Cheng Yun replied sincerely. His motive, aside from following his heart, was to respect Ranran and understand Weng Ming’s love for his granddaughter. Thus, what to say wasn’t a difficult task at all.

Su Liang had once said, Cheng Yun was very smart, but some of his views were restricted because of his identity as a Buddhist disciple. Now that Cheng Yun has opened up his thoughts and perceptions, he has undergone tremendous changes. Apart from his youthful and beautiful face, both his actions and mentality have become more mature.

“Regarding the marriage...” Ranran hesitated, “Do you really want to get married soon?”

Cheng Yun nodded, “Yes, if you don’t want to, I can wait.”

“It’s not that I don’t want to, everyone is settling down and Rourou won’t have that much time to spend with me anymore,” Ranran sighed a little, then giggled, “Shall we

tentatively plan to get married in the second half of the year? Recently, there are too many weddings and our family is overwhelmed; let's not add to their burdens."

A look of happiness spread across Cheng Yun's face, "Okay! I'll tell Grandfather to pick an auspicious day."

Ranran took another glance at Cheng Yun, and sighed again, "Are you still the little monk I first met?"

Cheng Yun shook his head, "Don't be ridiculous, I had already given up the monkhood by the time we met."

Ranran laughed, "You're right. As for making it public, we can just announce it to everyone at dinner. They've known for a long time anyway, we just need to make it official."

Thus, at dinner time, Cheng Yun formally announced his relationship with Ranran to everyone.

However, after he finished speaking, everyone remained silent, continuing to eat and chat as if they hadn't heard anything. Even the children who usually enjoy such news didn't react.

Cheng Yun was stunned. After preparing so thoroughly and taking the trouble to make a formal announcement, their apathy made him feel very embarrassed. He glanced at Ranran, who was looking down, unable to see her expression. Was she upset? Was everyone opposing them, or were they genuinely indifferent?

Cheng Yun wanted to say something more, but ended up sighing heavily, looking defeated as he sat back down.

The next moment, Ji Xiaoshu's voice rang out loudly, "Congratulations Uncle Cheng Yun and Aunt Ran!"

The atmosphere became lively again, like ice water suddenly boiling.

Cheng Yun looked dumbfounded as everyone congratulated him with smiles on their faces. Qiao Jing was patting his shoulder, saying, "You're remarkable!" It was as if the cooling atmosphere had been just his illusion.

Zhengzheng's serious little face asked, "Uncle Cheng Yun, did you feel the time stop earlier?"

At this point, Cheng Yun noticed Weng Ran laughing on the table and Weng Ming, who could not close his mouth due to laughter. He finally realized what was happening; the family had joined together to play a prank on him! It was so annoying!

Su Liang laughed lightly, "Actually, we are all very happy for you. Are you feeling even happier than expected now?"

Such a stirring plot... Cheng Yun held his forehead, "I almost cried earlier, you guys are all so mean. Whose idea was it?"

Seeing Cheng Yun looking over, Ji Xiaoshu and Zhengzheng immediately acted innocent, congratulating him again, "Wishing Uncle Cheng Yun and Aunt Ran a hundred years of happy togetherness" and "wishing you have a child soon."

"It must have been you two." Cheng Yun didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Ji Xiaoshu explained cheerfully, “We felt Uncle Cheng Yun’s past life was too bland and his personality too relaxed, and he needs some stimulation.”

Zhengzheng spoke his reasons, “I just wanted to make sure anytime Uncle Cheng Yun remembers this day in the future, he would laugh out loud.”

Cheng Yun laughed and ruffled Zhengzheng’s hair, mentally recording all those cheerful faces, “It indeed will.” He knew whenever he would think of this day in his remaining life, he’d surely smile, remembering those interesting, warm, and loveable family members.

Qiao Jing suggested that Cheng Yun get married on the same day as him, so their close girlfriends Min Rou and Weng Ran could also get married on the same day.

This suggestion was immediately rejected by the parents of both families.

Qiao Cong disagreed, “Qiao Jing’s wedding day is approaching, everything is ready, whereas Weng Ran and Cheng Yun haven’t started preparing. It’s too rushed, there’s no need.”

Weng Ming also disagreed, “We must carefully select an auspicious day that matches the birthday characters. We can’t treat this like a child’s play.”

Qiao Jing quietly closed his mouth and lowered his head to eat. His emotional IQ was now less than Cheng Yun’s, but Min Rou told him that his straightforward personality was good and didn’t need to change.

In the end, Yan Shiba summarized, “Both of you owe your relationship to my matchmaking. Be sure to prepare a good matchmaker red envelope, a big red envelope!”

Everyone agreed wholeheartedly. As a former admirer and enthusiast of Cheng Yun and also the closest person to Weng Ran at home, Yan Shiba’s decision to let go and withdraw was a critical prerequisite for Cheng Yun and Weng Ran to come together. Furthermore, it is indeed true that she was the earliest and most enthusiastic person who pushed them together. If you say Cheng Yun changed a lot, from being part of Buddhism to being in the worldly, Yan Shiba’s transformation was even greater – from a battlefield to a normal world, and also becoming more kind-hearted.

The next day, Yan Shiba went to the dungeon.

Mo Yan was still alive; Feng Ming or Zhu Zan would bring water and food once a day. The two who visited him most frequently were Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, who even asked Zhu Zan to help drag Mo Yan out so they could observe and record the recovery situation of the wounds they had treated. This was their first medical practice exercise, and they were quite serious about it. After recording, they would report to Gu Ling and Su Liang.

Therefore, Mo Yan’s injury recovery was not bad. The internal injuries caused by anger were ignored, but Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were serious about treating his flesh wounds.

“Do you still recognize me, you old bastard?” Yan Shiba rarely used foul language now, but occasionally saying this still felt good.

Mo Yan sat leaning against the wall. Hearing this, he looked up at Yan Shiba with a cold stare, “Just a dog that has been tamed by Su Liang.”

Yan Shiba laughed upon hearing this, “Hahahaha! Now I understand what Su Xiaoliang’s story was about, ‘impotence in spite of rage’. This is too funny, Mo Yan! If it wasn’t for the magical treasure, given your brains, you would have died eight hundred times over, ha ha!”

Yan Shiba was previously someone with fiery and easily triggered temper, and now looking back, she feels it was unbearable. Su Liang had once told her she was annoying in the past but occasionally cute, something Yan Shiba strongly agrees with.

As for Mo Yan, he is just purely stupid. Until now, he fears death, can’t let go of his absurd dignity, and even dares to insult Yan Shiba. It is really ridiculous, he has no ability to fight back, can only seek some sense of existence by mouthing off.

“You may curse all you want, if I get angry, I lose.” Yan Shiba smirked, “I’m undergoing self-improvement right now, I need some stimulation to practice. Go ahead!”

Upon hearing her words, watching Mo Yan grinding his teeth, Yan Shiba opened the dungeon door, took hold of his arm and lifted him, “You take your time to think, I have plenty of time to play with you today. I’ve chosen a good place for you, let’s head over there now.”

Mo Yan’s hands and feet were chained, and Yan Shiba dragged him out of the dungeon. That’s when he saw two “little devils” as he regarded them.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu greeted them eagerly, Yan Shiba kicked Mo Yan down, “Alright, you can begin your observation now.”

After Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu looked at Mo Yan’s wounds again, they both agreed; their first medical treatment went quite well.

“Aunt Yan can take him away in peace. We’ll observe how the injuries are when they get soaked and dirty and how it feels when they fester, then we can try the bone-scraping treatment taught to us by our teacher!” Ji Xiaoshu happily said.

Listening to this was like a thousand arrows piercing his heart for Mo Yan— not only did he wish for death, but now he also has to witness, listen, and wait for the inevitable torturous pain!

“You guys...” Mo Yan gritted his teeth.

Zhengzheng gave a warm smile, “You want us to spare you the pain? Say it, maybe we will please your wish.”

Ji Xiaoshu dragged Zhengzheng away, “Eldest Brother, you’re thinking too much. He’s just a cowardly mouse, he doesn’t have the guts.”

Yan Shiba laughed even more. As soon as the two kids walked away, she dragged Mo Yan up from the ground and left Su Mansion with him to the “good place” she had found.

Before leaving the mansion, Yan Shiba shared a piece of “good news” with Mo Yan, “Your beloved disciple Sheng Yue, is almost finished wiping out the remaining foes on Xingluo Island and will come to submit to us in the capital. You must stay alive to receive his greeting. Look at you, Sheng Yue is wily, and you dare to use him! Suddenly I feel bored. I’ll give you a riddle. If you answer it correctly, I’ll spare you today.”

Mo Yan remained silent and heard Yan Shiba ask, “It’s the New Year, your family has a donkey and a pig, and you can only kill one. Which one should you kill?”

Mo Yan frowned, “The donkey.” He didn’t understand this riddle, but he figured the donkey was probably the right answer since Yan Shiba mentioned it first.

Yan Shiba burst into laughter, “That’s exactly what a pig would think! Ha ha!”

Mo Yan spat out another mouthful of blood. Although he was a transmigrator, he had never heard of this riddle before.

Laughing her heart out, Yan Shiba enjoyed the sight of Mo Yan’s uncomfortable face, “When your beloved disciple Sheng Yue arrives, I will definitely ask him the same riddle. I’ll see how he replies and share it with you. That is, if you live to see that day. By the way, Su Xiaoliang and Gu Xiaoling plan to build a nice farm in our baby Nuannuan’s spatial magical treasure, construct comfortable houses, raise fish, plant flowers, grow vegetables; Nuannuan can then take us out and play. We won’t even have to walk, how comfortable! God sent you to transmigrate just to deliver this treasure so it could find its real owner.”

Mo Yan stopped talking. When Yan Shiba had finished speaking, Mo Yan smelt a stinky odor. They had reached the outskirts of the town and confronted by a sewage ditch with various unidentifiable things floating in it...

Mo Yan had already guessed what Yan Shiba was going to do, but he still clung onto a shred of hope, “Yan Shiba, I know you, why did you give up your free-spirited life in the martial world to serve Su Liang? She’s just good at pretending, she’s not genuinely treating you, she’s using you! The magical treasure will return to my control as long as it’s back in my hands! We can join forces then, anything we want will be at our fingertips!”

Yan Shiba kicked Mo Yan into the sewage ditch, looking speechless. “Steal Nuannuan’s magical treasure? On what grounds? Because you’re stupid, blind, or maybe because you’re older? Tch!”

Chapter 497: 497. The Discovery of the Little Tree

Yan Shiba appeared at the entrance of Yuanming Pavilion during sunset, her faint smile reflecting the glow of the waning sky. Her naturally round face with delicate features looked especially gentle.

Upon seeing her, Ji Xiaoshu immediately dropped the building blocks in his hands and ran over, “Auntie Yan! How’s Mo Yan? Is he dead?”

Yan Shiba playfully rubbed Ji Xiaoshu’s head and said with a bright smile, “Of course he’s still alive. I know how to control my strength, but I did make him experience living worse than dying. Oh, wait, not just once, several times—countless times, actually. I also found a separate place to clean him up before bringing him back, so that our house wouldn’t get too dirty.”

Zhengzheng nodded, “In that case, we don’t have to worry about him dying from an infected wound too soon. Xiaoshu and I will check on his injuries again tomorrow.”

“Where are your Master and Mistress? Upstairs?” Yan Shiba asked.

Ji Xiaoshu shook his head, “Nope, they are inside Little Sister’s space, discussing land measurement and planning for future house construction.”

Gu Xiaonuan cheerfully waved at Yan Shiba, “Auntie Yan, my parents are here!”

“Alright. They really have a lot of free time now,” Yan Shiba said. “I’ll go wash up.”

As Yan Shiba entered the kitchen to fetch water, she saw Weng Ran feeding Cheng Yun with her chopsticks.

“Oh, my goodness!” Yan Shiba exclaimed with an exaggerated expression, “Little Yun, be honest. Did the original little monk’s spirit possess you? How could you do such a thing openly?”

Cheng Yun’s cheeks flushed a deep red instantly. He had changed, but being caught by others doing intimate actions with Weng Ran was another matter entirely.

Weng Ran, on the other hand, remained calm and even teased Yan Shiba, “Don’t tease Cheng Yun. He’s shy. We’re only together because you strongly advocated for it – shouldn’t you be delighted to see this?”

Yan Shiba burst into laughter, “Feel free to kiss each other in front of me! Don’t be shy; I love to watch!”

Cheng Yun stood up, bowed his head, and walked out of the room, “You two can chat.”

Weng Ran couldn’t help but smile, “Auntie Yan, you mustn’t tease him too much! Why are you in such a good mood today?”

While Yan Shiba fetched water and washed her face in the kitchen, she recounted to Weng Ran how she had taken her revenge on Mo Yan that day.

“Great,” Weng Ran nodded. “That’s how it should be—A tooth for a tooth. It’s only fair.”

“Have you decided on your wedding date?” Yan Shiba walked over and hugged Weng Ran’s waist tightly from behind, leaning against her. Weng Ran had long grown accustomed to Yan Shiba’s clinginess. Yan Shiba often brought her pillow to sleep with Weng Ran. As for teasing Cheng Yun just now, it was just Yan Shiba’s usual playful nature.

“We have,” Weng Ran replied. “Grandfather invited people to have our birthdates matched, and they said the most auspicious date would be at the end of this year, on the sixth day of the last lunar month.”

“That’s a bit too late, isn’t it?” Yan Shiba leaned on Weng Ran’s shoulder, taking a deep breath. “What kind of meat is this? It smells so delicious! Let me have a bite.”

Weng Ran changed to a new pair of chopsticks and fed a piece of meat to Yan Shiba.

“It’s hot... but so delicious!” Yan Shiba praised. “It’s almost as good as Gu Ling’s cooking! Cheng Yun will have a great time enjoying it in the future. What a pity, I’m afraid I won’t be able to find the right person. By the time we might have to split up, Su Xiaoliang and the rest will eventually leave me. I’ll just stick with you!”

“Well, that’s perfect,” Weng Ran replied with a soft chuckle. “I happen to love having a busy, bustling household.” Talking about the wedding date again, “Grandfather also felt it was a bit too late, but he wanted us to get married on the best possible day. In the end, we settled for the sixth day of the last lunar month. I think it’s fine, actually. It’s only a few months away.”

By the time Yan Shiba had brought the dishes Weng Ran had prepared to Yuanming Pavilion and called the children to wash their hands and have dinner, Gu Ling and Su Liang had already come out of Gu Xiaonuan’s space.

Now that there were more people in the household, Nangong Qian, Weng Ran, and Qiuyue cooked more often, with Gu Ling and Su Liang occasionally helping out in the kitchen. However, they wouldn’t prepare all the dishes. Most of the meals were prepared and delivered by Wan Family Restaurant, and those in the kitchen would only make a small portion.

During dinner, Yan Shiba shared the details of her torment of Mo Yan with everyone. However, her description was too graphic and graphic, and it was not easy to eat. Old Mu stopped her at first, saying to tell the story later.

Yan Shiba snickered, “Anyway, as long as you all know that I tormented him badly. By the way, Su Xiaoliang, is there any new news from Jiaye City today?”

Su Liang nodded, “Yes. The usual. They probably won’t send any more live people.”

“When do you expect that guy Sheng Yue to arrive in the capital city?” Yan Shiba asked.

After thinking for a moment, Su Liang replied, “Based on the number of remaining enemies we know we need to eliminate, there should be only two left. Those two might have run farther away, so it’s hard to say how long it will take. If all goes well, he could be here in eight to ten days.”

“I need to have a good chat with him when he arrives.” Yan Shiba didn’t have much else to do. She had told a riddle to Mo Yan that day and had to ask Sheng Yue about it later. With no enemies left, her days became less exciting, and she had to look for ways to have fun.

One day, Feng Ming was weeding the garden when Ji Xiaoshu called him.

“Uncle Feng!” Ji Xiaoshu ran over holding a piece of dried meat. The taste of this delicious dried meat was Gu Ling’s unique secret recipe, which he had discovered himself.

Feng Ming smiled and dropped the weeds, “What do you need, Little Tree?”

Ji Xiaoshu held up the dried meat, “This is for you, Uncle Feng.”

Feng Ming leaned down, took a bite of the dried meat, and remarked, “Not bad, quite tasty.”

“Right before you came back, Uncle Feng, our dried meat made by Master just ran out. This is the freshly made new batch!” Ji Xiaoshu beamed, “Uncle Feng, have you thought about the question I asked you last time?”

Feng Ming hesitated, surprised by the sudden change of topic. “Which question?”

“The one about what kind of girl Uncle Feng likes!” Ji Xiaoshu mentioned as he spotted a tender yellow flower in the pile of weeds. He picked it, placed it by his ear, and asked, “Does it look good?”

Unable to suppress a smile, Feng Ming replied, “It looks great!”

Wearing a serious expression, Ji Xiaoshu continued, “If Uncle Feng had a wife, he could give her pretty flowers like this!”

Laughing heartily, Feng Ming agreed, “Little Tree is right. But I still haven’t figured that out yet.”

“Does it really take that long?” Ji Xiaoshu didn’t understand, “Even Uncle Cheng Yun has found someone, don’t you envy him, Uncle Feng?”

Feng Ming nodded, “I do. But everyone’s situation is different when it comes to these things.”

Ji Xiaoshu agreed, “That’s true. Uncle Feng, you’re handsome. If there’s someone you like, just be bold and confess your feelings. Be proactive in pursuing them, and a great outcome will follow!”

At these words, Feng Ming’s expression faltered for a moment, which the observant Ji Xiaoshu noticed. Ji Xiaoshu was about to leave but turned back and asked, “Does Uncle Feng already have someone in mind?”

After a moment of hesitation, Feng Ming replied, “Little Tree, go and play. If I need your help, I will definitely tell you.”

Ji Xiaoshu saw Feng Ming didn’t want to talk, so he didn’t ask further and ran away with a wave of his hand.

Feng Ming shook his head and chuckled, then continued to bend down to weed.

Ji Xiaoshu ran into Yuanming Pavilion as if he was flying, rushing up the stairs, “Master’s wife! Master’s wife!”

Su Liang was looking at Gu Ling’s design drawings. Hearing the sound, she looked up and saw Ji Xiaoshu rushing in, “Master’s wife, I’ve made a big discovery!”

Su Liang laughed softly, “What is it?”

“Uncle Feng has something on his mind!” Ji Xiaoshu told Su Liang about his conversation with Feng Ming, “Does Master’s wife know if Uncle Feng has someone he likes?”

Gu Ling knocked on Ji Xiaoshu’s forehead, “At such a young age, you’re like a matchmaker.”

Ji Xiaoshu pushed Gu Ling’s hand away, “Master, stop interrupting! I’m just concerned about Uncle Feng! Everyone else is in pairs, while he and Uncle Zhu are alone. It’s not good! Uncle Zhu has

already said what kind of person he likes, but hasn't met them yet, but Uncle Feng seems to have someone in mind!"

Su Liang smiled, "If he really does have someone in mind and doesn't want to talk about it, he must have his reasons."

"I know, I'm just a little worried..." Ji Xiaoshu trailed off.

"Worried about what?" Gu Ling started to pinch Ji Xiaoshu's ear.

Ji Xiaoshu was a bit speechless, "Master, if you're too bored, you can make more jerky. It's never enough to last more than a few days!"

Gu Ling did not respond.

Ji Xiaoshu pushed Gu Ling's hand away while speaking to Su Liang, "Could it be that Uncle Feng has fallen in love with Master's wife?"

Gu Ling twisted Ji Xiaoshu's ear, "As punishment, you have to write two more pages of characters today."

Ji Xiaoshu retorted, "Why?"

Gu Ling replied calmly, "Because you stepped in with your left foot first just now."

Ji Xiaoshu looked up at the sky speechlessly, "Master's wife, can you do something about Master?"

Su Liang said calmly, "What should I do? You two are willing to do this, it's interesting. Besides, even if Feng Ming has someone in mind, it's definitely not me. I'm sure of that."

"Who could it be, then?" Ji Xiaoshu climbed onto Gu Ling's lap, rested his arm on the table, and held his chin in thought, "Uncle Feng doesn't have much contact with many people, and I didn't notice him treating any aunties particularly differently."

Su Liang found it a bit strange, "Xiaoshu, why are you so concerned about this matter?" It must not be as simple as what he had just said.

Ji Xiaoshu said seriously, "Because Uncle Feng and Uncle Zhu don't have parents anymore, everyone else in the house is in pairs and very sweet. Someone has to help them with their marriage! Uncle Feng is the type of person who doesn't like to bother others, so even if he has something on his mind, he won't say it. It's really worrying!"

Su Liang raised her eyebrows. It sounded like Ji Xiaoshu was mischievous, but Su Liang knew he was serious. He lost his mother when he was young, and Ji Yuebai didn't have much time to spend with him for a period of time, so he was very sensitive. But from another point of view, he was very thoughtful and couldn't help but pay attention to and take care of the emotions of everyone around him. He seemed naughty and playful, but deep down, he had the warmest heart.

"Then, I'll give you and Zhengzheng a task. See if there's anything on Feng Ming's mind, but don't let him find out." Su Liang said. She didn't like meddling in her friend's emotional matters, feeling that everyone was an adult and should let nature take its course. There hadn't been any other tricky emotional problems that needed to be

solved before, apart from Yan Shiba bothering Cheng Yun. But since Ji Xiaoshu had noticed, she couldn't ignore it.

"Understood! I promise to complete the mission!" As soon as Ji Xiaoshu finished speaking, he slid off Gu Ling's leg and ran out the door, "First senior brother!"

Zhengzheng was writing characters in the next room and looked up when he heard the sound, "Xiaoshu, what's wrong?"

"Master's wife has given us a task." Ji Xiaoshu leaned close to Zhengzheng's ear to speak.

After listening, Zhengzheng pondered, "This matter..."

"Do you know what's on Uncle Feng's mind, first senior brother?" Ji Xiaoshu looked surprised.

Zhengzheng shook his head, "I don't, but now that you mention it, I recall something. However, it might just be my overthinking."

Ji Xiaoshu urged Zhengzheng, "First senior brother, hurry up and tell me what it is! Don't keep me in suspense!"

"That day, when Auntie Peng brought Axin and Ale to our house, we were boating on the lake, and Auntie Peng was sitting on the grass by the lake. I happened to see Uncle Feng looking at Auntie Peng! He might have just been passing by and stopped to watch for a while before leaving! He didn't even know I was watching him!" Zhengzheng said.

Ji Xiaoshu's eyes lit up, "I see!"

Zhengzheng shook his head, "It might just be a coincidence. Uncle Feng might have suddenly remembered something, and was just spacing out. We can't make wild guesses about this kind of thing."

"Uncle Feng is always steady and composed, he's not the type of person to suddenly stop and space out while walking." Ji Xiaoshu disagreed, "It must not be a coincidence. If Uncle Feng has fallen for Auntie Peng, it's perfect!"

"What's perfect?" Zhengzheng asked.

"First senior brother, think about it, when we asked Auntie Peng what kind of man she likes, what did she say? She said she won't get married again! Uncle Feng was right there at the time! If he happens to like Auntie Peng, hearing her say that, with his personality, he definitely wouldn't dare reveal any feelings and would be worried about causing trouble for Auntie Peng! That's why Uncle Feng would be hesitant in front of me, but wouldn't say why." Ji Xiaoshu said.

Zhengzheng listened to Ji Xiaoshu's well-argued analysis and recalled the incident, thinking Ji Xiaoshu made a lot of sense.

"So what should we do?" Zhengzheng scratched his head, "We shouldn't interfere with this kind of thing, right?"

Ji Xiaoshu rested his chin on his hand sitting next to Zhengzheng, "It's indeed difficult. If Auntie Peng is really determined not to get married or doesn't like Uncle Feng, trying to match them would be inappropriate. Besides, we're children, and when we talk about these things, adults think we're just playing."

Zhengzheng nodded, "That's right."

"But I sincerely think Auntie Peng can find someone who loves and cherishes her again. She's suffered so much and needs care. Look at my father, after my mother passed away, he found someone else to accompany him. I used to be unhappy about it, but now I think it's quite good, as long as my father is happy!" Ji Xiaoshu said.

Zhengzheng was moved by his words, "Then, the key to this matter might be Axin and Ale. Auntie Peng may be afraid that Axin and Ale won't like the idea of her getting married, but if they support it, she might not have so many concerns."

"First senior brother, you're right!" Ji Xiaoshu nodded repeatedly, "Even if Auntie Peng and Uncle Feng don't end up together, we can at least persuade Auntie Peng to let go of her concerns and bravely pursue happiness! We'll go talk to Axin and Ale, and teach them how to talk to Auntie Peng, but don't mention Uncle Feng. Just say that the other aunts all have someone by their side, and if Auntie Peng can meet someone she likes, they'd be very happy if the couple can be together! As long as Auntie Peng relents, we can get Uncle Feng to take the initiative!"

Su Liang walked to the door and smiled before returning. She heard the children's conversation and thought it was not bad. Feng Ming and Peng Wu had known each other since Xingluo Island, and if they could become a couple, it would be a good fate.

"Great God, you can't punish Xiaoshu to write characters anymore." Su Liang said, "He performed very well today, very sensible."

Gu Ling nodded, "Then, let's reward him by allowing him to write two more pages!"

Chapter 498: 498. Secret Matchmaking

"Uncle Feng, stop pulling the weeds!"

Hearing Ji Xiaoshu's call, Feng Ming walked out from behind the big tree, dusting off his clothes and asked with a smile, "Zhengzheng, Xiaoshu, what's up?"

"Yes." Zhengzheng nodded, raising the box in his hand, "Master just made some dried meat. We're going to share it with Axin and Ale. They've never tasted it before."

Seeing that the two children had already changed into their going-out clothes, Feng Ming quickly understood, "Alright, wait for a moment. I'll wash my face and change my clothes before taking you there."

"No need to hurry, it's still early." Zhengzheng said with a smile.

Feng Ming quickly got ready and accompanied Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu out of Su Mansion, heading towards Peng Mansion.

On their way, Ji Xiaoshu asked Feng Ming, "Uncle Feng seems to like working in the garden a lot." Before, he had heard Qi Yan and Zhu Zan discussing their tasks, and Feng Ming had volunteered to manage the plants in the mansion.

Feng Ming nodded, "Yes, I have loved tending to flowers and plants since I was a child. When my mother was alive, our house had many flowers and plants. She had a lot of work to do but always took good care of them."

Zhengzheng exclaimed, "Uncle Feng is a martial artist but has such a delicate and gentle heart."

Feng Ming couldn't help but smile, "Thank you for the praise, Zhengzheng. But compared to the prince, I'm far behind."

Ji Xiaoshu calmly shook his head, "There's no need to compare to my master. He's just a monster."

Feng Ming burst into laughter. Life now was so beautiful that he couldn't even dream of it. He cherished it deeply.

When they arrived at Peng Mansion, they were welcomed in quickly as they were honored guests.

First, they met Axin and Ale, who were being supervised by Peng Wei as they practiced horse stance. Ale's forehead was covered in sweat, his legs shaking, and just as he could barely hold on, he saw Zhengzheng appear in his sight and immediately straightened up, "Grandpa, Zhengzheng brother and Xiaoshu brother are here! Uncle Feng is here too!" With that, he ran towards them.

Axin continued to hold on, while Peng Wei had been pretending to be stern, but now his face was full of smiles, "That's enough for today. We'll continue practicing tomorrow. You should go and play with Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu."

Ale had already started eating the delicious dried meat, beckoning Axin to hurry up, "Brother! Brother! Come here! There's dried meat; it's so good!"

"My master made this." Zhengzheng said as he took a piece and ran over, holding it up for Peng Wei to eat, "Taste it, Lord Peng."

Peng Wei happily took it, "Made by Xiaogu? Then I must have a taste!"

Axin and Ale were taking Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu to the courtyard where they lived. As Peng Wei was about to invite Feng Ming for tea, the housekeeper reported that the Old Imperial Physician Gao had arrived.

"I almost forgot. I promised to invite him for a drink at Wan Family Restaurant today," Peng Wei said with a smile.

Feng Ming quickly said that Peng Wei should attend to his own matters and not bother to entertain him specifically. Hearing that, Ji Xiaoshu suggested, "Uncle Feng, since you like flowers and plants, why not take a stroll in the garden? We'll come to find you later!"

Feng Ming immediately agreed, "Alright."

Before Peng Wei left, he remembered that Peng Wu should be in the garden at this time. He smiled and said, "Perfect, Wu'er should be there. She's always liked playing with flowers and plants since she was a child. Xiaofeng, go right ahead!"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu exchanged a look, tacitly understanding each other: they even had the same hobby, adding 100 points to their compatibility!

Feng Ming watched Peng Wei leave, and the four children also walked away before he headed towards the garden of Peng Mansion. He had been here before and knew the way. Peng Wei hadn't arranged for a servant to come and greet him, already saying that he should not be polite, as he was not a stranger.

As Feng Ming entered the garden, he saw Peng Wu standing among the flowers, holding a pair of big scissors and carefully trimming the branches.

Today, Peng Wu was not going out. She was dressed plainly, with no jewelry, her bare face radiant under the sky. Her head slightly lowered, and her hair danced gently in the wind, making her look exceptionally beautiful and gentle.

Feng Ming couldn't help but stop in his tracks, and only after a moment did he regain his composure and called out to Peng Wu, "Lady Peng."

Peng Wu looked up and smiled when she saw Feng Ming, "You came with Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu, right?"

Feng Ming nodded, "Axin and Ale took them to play, so I came to wander around the garden. Do you need any help?"

Peng Wu shook her head, "No need. Go sit in the pavilion over there, and I'll have someone bring tea."

"I'm not thirsty." Feng Ming had already come close, bending down to pick up the cut branches from the ground and put them in a bamboo basket not far away, "I can work and talk at the same time, it won't be a bother."

"You don't have to call me Lady Peng anymore. Just call me by my name; we've known each other for so long," Peng Wu said, raising her scissors again to continue her task. She thought of the first time she saw Feng Ming on Xingluo Island when he was intently looking at wildflowers by the roadside. At that time, Peng Wu thought Feng Ming was somewhat "strange", very different from the other young people on Xingluo Island. However, at that time, she was already married and didn't dare to talk with outsiders casually. After Feng Ming discovered her, the two exchanged a brief glance, and Peng Wu hurriedly left.

Later, due to a coincidence, Feng Ming saved Axin and Ale once, and from then on, they really got to know each other. They would greet each other when they met but due to their identities, they never had a serious conversation. However, in Peng Wu's heart, if she had any friends on that demon-like Xingluo Island, the only person who counted was Feng Ming.

"Alright, Peng Wu," Feng Ming bent down to pick up a flower branch, calling Peng Wu's name with a faint smile, "The prince had made some jerky, Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu brought some for Axin and Ale."

Upon hearing this, Peng Wu's eyes became gentle, "Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu are really great kids, they are so good to Axin and Ale."

The two talked casually, not mentioning Xingluo Island anymore, but instead, talked about their new lives; especially about the people in Su Mansion. They were their mutual friends and their favorite people.

On the other side, Axin stopped eating after finishing two pieces of jerky, saying he wanted to save some for Peng Wu to try. Ale also silently withdrew his hand that was about to grab another piece. Then, Axin picked up a piece and stuffed it into Ale's hand, "Here, brother, have another one." They had grown up on Xingluo Island, hardly ever having any snacks.

"I'll ask my master to make more next time! When it's autumn, Uncle Ersan's oranges will be ripe, we'll go to the Orange Garden in Jiaye City together. We'll ask master to make us some dried oranges to eat! They're delicious!" Ji Xiaoshu said with a grin.

Axin and Ale looked forward with anticipation. They had been to Jiaye City before, but they didn't know there was an Orange Garden, and there were no orange trees on Xingluo Island either.

Zhengzheng went to the door to check that no one was around and closed it.

Axin was a bit puzzled, "What are you looking for, brother Zhengzheng?"

"I have a serious matter to talk with you guys," Ji Xiaoshu said solemnly, "Do you want to have a father?"

Axin and Ale both shook their heads without hesitation.

Axin frowned, "My father is a bad person, he always bullied my mother."

Ale's little face was annoyed when he mentioned his biological father, "We don't want a father! We just want our mother!"

Seeing that they misunderstood, Zhengzheng quickly explained, "Xiaoshu doesn't mean that. Your father is not a good person, let him go to hell! Don't talk about him or think about him anymore."

"That's right!" Ji Xiaoshu nodded, "I mean, if Aunt Peng gets married, would you be happy?"

Axin frowned, and Ale asked blankly, "Does that mean mom won't want us anymore?"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu looked helpless, it seems that their work would not be easy. However, they didn't come to persuade others, they just wanted to clarify some things.

So, Zhengzheng patiently explained their purpose to Axin and Ale.

In the end, Ji Xiaoshu concluded, "If it weren't for Aunt Peng's bad luck getting caught by villains back then, she would have married someone she likes, had children, and lived happily like my master and the other ladies."

Ale scratched his head, "So would we not exist then?"

Zhengzheng held his forehead, "No, my master said that children and mothers have a predestined connection. Even without your bad father, you would still be Aunt Peng's children."

"Then I'm relieved." Ale nodded.

Axin understood Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu's meaning, "Is there someone who has taken a fancy to my mother?"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu didn't plan to mention Feng Ming at this time, as they were worried that Axin and Ale would let Peng Wu know, causing her to misunderstand that Feng Ming had asked the children to speak for him, which wouldn't be good.

Ji Xiaoshu shook his head, "Not for now, but there will be in the future. Aunt Peng is so good. Just think, when we all grow up, get married, and have our own families, we won't be able to accompany her. How lonely will Aunt Peng be then?"

Axin thought for a moment, while Ale didn't understand and just decided to listen to his brothers.

"The other day, I heard my grandmother telling my mother that if it weren't for Divine Doctor Su's amazing skills saving my grandfather back then, he would have died long ago, and my grandmother wouldn't have lived long either." Axin sighed, "Xiaoshu, you're right. Just like uncle is always with aunt, my mother should have someone to accompany her, too."

Ale was puzzled, "But we're with mom!"

"That's not the same," Axin shook his head, "We all need our mother to take care of us, but mother also needs someone to take care of her."

"That's right!" Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu said in unison, indicating that they had finally succeeded in explaining.

Axin asked again, "So there really isn't anyone who's taken a liking to my mother?"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu still didn't mention Feng Ming, as this was just their guess and Feng Ming hadn't even admitted it yet, so they couldn't just pair them up. But it was important for Peng Wu to change her mind, not just for Feng Ming, but also for herself. It was fine if she didn't want to seek someone or couldn't find someone she liked to live with, but if she sacrificed her own happiness just for her children's sake, that wouldn't be so good.

In the end, Zhengzheng said to Ale, "Let Axin talk to Aunt Peng about this. You don't say anything, okay?"

Ale nodded obediently, "I will listen to brother."

“I will talk to mom nicely.” Axin said with a serious look on his face.

When the four children arrived at the garden, Feng Ming had already helped Peng Wu trim the flowers, and the two were sitting in the pavilion drinking tea.

Axin saw them from a distance, blinked, and his eyes brightened a bit.

That night, Axin and Ale wanted to sleep with Peng Wu.

When the four of them laid down, Ale and Xiaoyue quickly fell asleep. Peng Wu noticed that Axin seemed to be preoccupied, so he asked what was on his mind.

Before Axin said anything, he sighed softly, “I was just thinking that Uncle Gu and Aunt Su are really a match made in heaven!”

Peng Wu found it amusing that his son suddenly thought of Gu Ling and Su Liang and sighed. “Why did you suddenly think of Gu Ling and Su Liang? And why did you sigh?”

“I was thinking how nice it would be if there was someone who understands my mom by her side.” Axin looked at Peng Wu, his expression incredibly serious.

Peng Wu was stunned for a moment, not expecting to hear such words from his young son.

Axin snuggled up to Peng Wu and said, “Mom has suffered so much for us. Now that we’ve all grown up and have many people taking care of us, and have Zhengzheng and Brother Ji Xiaoshu to play with, mom should also think more about herself. If there is an uncle who shares mutual feelings with mom and can be our father, it would be quite nice too.”

Hearing this, Peng Wu’s first instinct was that the elders in the family had prompted the child to say this. She, of course, knew that many people, including Peng Wei, Peng Qian, and his wife, and Peng Fan, wanted her to open her heart and seek a good relationship again. The elders especially were afraid of her being lonely and unable to walk out of her past pain, only forcing a smile.

But when Peng Wu asked, Axin said it was not taught by the elders.

Peng Wu knew that Axin never lied since he was a child, so she didn’t ask further.

After a while, Axin fell asleep, but Peng Wu couldn’t sleep for a long time. It’s not that she was disappointed with all men because of her past experiences. She knew that there were good men in the world – she had many around her now. But as a mother of three children and a de facto widow, when it came to considering marriage again, she couldn’t be as carefree as a young girl without any worries.

Peng Wu didn’t sleep well all night, and the next day, seeing her eyes were a little red, Axin worriedly asked if it was because of what he said that troubled her.

Peng Wu smiled, “How could it be? Mom is happy to hear such thoughtful words from Axin.” She was really happy, grateful that her son had learned to empathize and care for her.

Axin hesitated for a moment, then leaned over to Peng Wu’s ear and asked, “What does mom think of Uncle Feng?”

Peng Wu was stunned, “Ah? Why would Axin ask such a question?”

Axin said seriously, "Because we all like Uncle Feng. Yesterday when I saw mom and Uncle Feng sitting together, I thought it would be nice if we could become a family."

"Don't talk nonsense." Peng Wu immediately stopped her son. "You can't talk casually about such things."

"I won't tell anyone else, just tell me, mom, do you think Uncle Feng is good or not?" Axin continued to ask.

Peng Wu looked helpless, "Mom hasn't considered such things."

"You can consider it now." Axin wasn't just saying this because he liked Feng Ming, but because he guessed that the reason why Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu came over yesterday was to set up Feng Ming and Peng Wu. In that case, maybe the answer to the question Axin asked twice, "Did someone fall for my mom," was Feng Ming.

"He is very nice, but..." Peng Wu didn't know what to say.

"I understand!" Axin nodded.

Peng Wu felt both amusement and helplessness, "What do you understand? Remember what mom said, don't go out talking nonsense."

"I know." Axin nodded again.

After the children left, Peng Wu sat alone in the room, Feng Ming's image appearing in her mind. She was lost for a moment, then shook her head and smiled. Given her current situation, even if she listened to Axin's advice to no longer live alone, she wouldn't be able to take the initiative to pursue anyone.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu went to Peng Mansion yesterday, and today Peng Wei brought Axin and Ale to Su Mansion.

When no adults were around, Axin reported his conversation with Peng Wu to Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu.

"There's a chance!" Ji Xiaoshu felt that Peng Wu might have different feelings for Feng Ming after hearing the story.

"What should we do next?" Axin asked, "Should I ask Feng Uncle if he wants to marry my mom?"

Zhengzheng thought about it, "Since Auntie Peng has changed her mind, let's go ask Feng Uncle together!"

So, Feng Ming, who was watering the plants in the garden, heard Ji Xiaoshu's enthusiastic call again.

"Are we going out to play?" Feng Ming smiled as he looked at the four children who ran over.

The four of them surrounded Feng Ming and led him deeper into the garden.

Feng Ming was puzzled, "What's going on?"

"It's important." Zhengzheng said.

When Feng Ming heard Zhengzheng say it was important, he knew it must be something big.

They stopped under a big tree. Feng Ming crouched down and looked at the children at eye level, "Now, can you tell me?"

Ji Xiaoshu grinned, "Uncle Feng, don't you really have someone you like?"

Feng Ming coughed lightly, "Why ask this again?"

"Axin and Ale said that Auntie Peng has taken back her words about not getting married." Zhengzheng smiled brightly.

Feng Ming, who was very astute, instantly understood what was going on today. His face changed, "You guys mean..."

"Uncle Feng, do you like Auntie Peng?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Axin and Ale stared straight at Feng Ming. Feng Ming was silent for a moment, then nodded, "Yes, I had feelings for Peng Wu when I was on the island, but at that time..."

"That's all in the past. Now both of you are single. If you like her, you should say so!" Ji Xiaoshu said.

Axin held Feng Ming's hand, "If my mom is willing, Uncle Feng, would you marry her?"

Ale's eyes lit up, "Once Uncle Feng moves in here and mom brings us over, we can live with Brother Zhengzheng, Brother Xiaoshu, and Sister Nuannuan! That's great!"

Feng Ming: ...Are the children thinking too far ahead?

Ji Xiaoshu happily said, "It's not necessarily. Uncle Feng can marry into their family."

Feng Ming: ...Of course, as long as Peng Wu agreed, he would be happy to marry into her family.

"How should Uncle Feng confess his feelings?" Ji Xiaoshu began to think.

Feng Ming coughed lightly, "You guys have helped me enough. I'll handle the rest myself." He had a lot on his mind and had wanted to say something to Peng Wu for a long time, but he'd never had the opportunity.

Zhengzheng immediately gave encouragement, "Uncle Feng, fighting!"

"Actions speak louder than words." Ji Xiaoshu decided to strike while the iron was hot, "Axin, you miss your mom, so let Uncle Feng take you home now."

Axin nodded, and Ale scratched his head, "Am I not going back? I don't want to leave so early."

Ji Xiaoshu hugged Ale, "I know, I know, you play here. They're going to do something important."

Feng Ming, whose plans were now crystal clear, saw that the children were trying so hard to bring them together and would not back down. He originally just worried that Peng Wu would not give him any chance. After all, as a man, it was his duty to take the initiative in such matters.

So, when Peng Wei found that Axin was missing and asked about it, he thought it was strange to hear Ale say that his brother missed his mom and asked Uncle Feng to take him home.

Gu Ling and Su Liang received their disciple's glance, and thought perhaps something good was about to happen.

Sure enough, before Peng Wei and Ale left, Feng Ming brought Axin back.

"What were you guys doing?" Peng Wei felt something was wrong.

Axin leaned over and whispered a few words to Peng Wei who was stunned. Then, his eyes shone brightly as they fell on Feng Ming. He sized him up and couldn't help but laugh when he saw Feng Ming's open and honest gaze. Peng Wei nodded repeatedly, "Good, good, good!"

Chapter 499: 499. Sheng Yue has arrived

At dinner, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu vividly told everyone how they found out that Feng Ming had something on his mind, guessed that it was about Peng Wu, then let Axin persuade her and finally helped Feng Ming successfully confess his feelings.

Feng Ming's face was filled with smiles. He had secretly loved Peng Wu ever since he was on Xingluo Island. At that time, although they didn't know each other well, Peng Wu's tenacious yet melancholic demeanor made him sympathetic to her. Hindered by their identities and situations, Feng Ming could only keep his feelings hidden and never mentioned them to anyone.

That day, when Feng Ming was invited to Peng Mansion, he heard Ji Xiaoshu asking about what kind of girl he liked and couldn't help but think about pursuing Peng Wu. After many twists and turns, their identities no longer obstructed their relationship, and he could finally stand tall as a man.

Unfortunately, on that very day, Feng Ming heard Peng Wu say she would never marry again and the courage he had just mustered up dissipated.

However, matters of the heart can't be easily let go. Feng Ming didn't give up and was still thinking about what to do when the children's ingenious plan came along.

After listening to Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu's story, everyone praised their intelligence and sensibility. After all, Peng Wu's situation was special, and if not handled well, unnecessary misunderstandings and contradictions could arise.

Ji Xiaoshu grinned and said, "Now it's Feng Ming's turn to tell us how he confessed his feelings to Peng Wu today!"

Feng Ming felt a bit awkward. Some words, he could say to Peng Wu, but it wasn't appropriate to say them in front of everyone...

Gu Ling quickly came to Feng Ming's rescue, tapping Ji Xiaoshu's forehead, "Why are you asking about such things at your age? But you did well this time so I won't make you write extra characters as a punishment. As a reward, you will write two more pages today."

Ji Xiaoshu immediately forgot about Feng Ming and complained to the elders about Gu Ling, "Master, you all saw how my teacher bullies me right? My teacher's wife spoils him too and never takes my side."

The elders criticized Gu Ling one after another; rewarding someone with extra writing was not reasonable.

Old Mu slapped the table, "I'll reward you with making a table tomorrow, would that make you happy?"

As a result, Gu Ling calmly nodded, "Fine. What kind of table do you want, Master?"

Old Mu: ...

Ji Xiaoshu weakly said, "Teacher, can I not write today and help you make the table tomorrow instead?"

Gu Ling's lips curved into a light smile as he nodded slightly, saying to Old Mu, "Master, since your disciple wants to make a table, let him do it. It's a win-win situation."

Old Mu and Ji Xiaoshu: ...

Feng Ming: Thank you, Gu Ling!

After dinner, Feng Ming and Zhu Zan sat by the lake pavilion and drank together. After a while, Qi Yan also arrived, entering the pavilion with a smile and teasing Feng Ming, "You managed to settle your lifelong affair so quickly, and you didn't give any hints beforehand."

Feng Ming filled a cup for Qi Yan, "I have to thank everyone for their care, otherwise it wouldn't have gone so smoothly."

"I really envy you." Zhu Zan said sincerely, "No matter where you are, you always know what you want and take action when you need to."

"Your destiny will come too." Feng Ming smiled and raised his cup, and the three of them clinked glasses together.

Peng Mansion.

Peng Qian and Lady Peng were shocked to learn of Peng Wu and Feng Ming's engagement from Peng Wei, who had just returned home from visiting friends. They were subsequently overjoyed.

As parents, they felt guilty about their daughter Peng Wu's past suffering and believed that they hadn't protected her well. Although their grandson was adorable, they still wished they could go back to the past and give Peng Wu a smoother life. Now that they couldn't start over, they sincerely hoped for their lovely daughter to find a good match and have someone to care for and accompany her. Peng Wei felt the same way.

However, fearing to put pressure on Peng Wu, the elders did not explicitly mention this matter, only subtly hinting at it once or twice.

They thought this would be a "difficult problem" that required careful handling, but who knew it would be solved so quickly!

In the eyes of Peng family elders, Feng Ming was simply perfect! He had known Peng Wu for a long time and had feelings for each other. He said he had liked Peng Wu for a long time and still refused to give up, so he must be sincere. Furthermore, his character and wisdom had been praised

by Su Liang. Peng Wu agreed to him so quickly, which meant that Feng Ming was special in her heart. Feng Ming had no immediate family and didn't need to worry about anyone's opposition.

They hadn't imagined it before, but now, the Peng family felt that Feng Ming was the best match for Peng Wu, without a doubt.

Madame Peng talked to Peng Wu overnight, asking about her thoughts.

Peng Wu had nodded during the day, so there was nothing to be shy or hide about at this moment. She candidly admitted that she thought Feng Ming was great and that the children also hoped she would open her heart and accept Feng Ming.

Seeing her daughter's relaxed expression, Madame Peng couldn't help but tear up and held Peng Wu's hand, saying, "Your mother is truly happy for you. This is so wonderful, truly wonderful... We won't be able to accompany you throughout your life, we only hope that for the rest of your life, you won't have to suffer as much."

Peng Wu nodded, "Mother, I understand. To be honest, during those years on Xingluo Island, Feng Ming was my only friend and the only person I trusted. I didn't know he had feelings for me, but I once dreamt that he was the one who took us and the children away from Xingluo Island by boat..." As she spoke, Peng Wu sighed and then smiled, "But we couldn't have escaped back then, as we couldn't let the children take that risk. Now, it's not too late."

Madame Peng hugged Peng Wu, and more tears flowed. She decided to let Peng Wei choose a date for the marriage soon so that Peng Wu could have a grand wedding.

Peng Wu smiled, "He said today that he is willing to marry into our family."

Madame Peng was momentarily stunned, but Peng Wu shook her head slightly, "Anyway, I don't care much about that. I think it's better for the man to marry the woman. After we get married, we can come back here to live."

Originally, Peng Wu thought it would be fine to have a simple wedding, but after hearing Madame Peng's words, she knew that her parents wanted to make it up to her, fearing she would suffer even the slightest grievance, the wedding couldn't be casual.

With that in mind, Peng Wu felt that she would be fine with whatever the elders were happy with.

Madame Peng nodded and agreed with Peng Wu's words, "That sounds good. Let's do it your way."

The date for Feng Ming and Peng Wu's wedding was quickly set. Both of them were mature in age and temperament, had mutual intentions, and had nothing standing in their way.

Feng Ming was willing to marry into the family, but not marrying into the family was also fine. This way, he and Peng Wu would have their own little home, which would be more comfortable, just like his current brothers.

As one of the matchmakers, Zhengzheng generously said that he would give Feng Ming a mansion for the wedding. Money was the least of Wan Family's concerns.

Actually, the Su Mansion was also not short of money. Su Liang told Feng Ming and Zhu Zan that if they needed anything for their future wedding, they should just ask. However, before Feng Ming could even ask, he received a generous gift from Zhengzheng.

Feng Ming wanted to refuse it, but Ji Xiaoshu advised him to accept, “Uncle Feng, don’t be so polite. We’re all family. I also want to experience what it feels like to have so much money that I can’t spend it all! It’s a pity my dad isn’t helping; he just likes to farm! We’ll probably be eating the sweet potatoes my dad planted by winter this year!”

Ji Yuebai went north again, taking his wife and youngest son with him, as if to set up a home in the north. Ji Yuebai asked Ji Xiaoshu if he wanted to go with them, but he declined. It wasn’t that he disliked his stepmother; he just felt a little redundant in that family, but seeing them happy and content, he was also happy for them.

Feng Ming nodded, “I’m looking forward to it.” To taste sweet potatoes personally planted by the former emperor of Yin Country would surely be extraordinary.

“Ah, this year is so busy! We also promised to go to Uncle Ersan’s Orange Garden to pick oranges in the autumn!” Ji Xiaoshu exclaimed, “It’s just right for Uncle Feng to accept Big Brother’s mansion as a gift.”

The reason it was just right was not only because Zhengzheng was rich but also because the Wan Family happened to have an unoccupied mansion not far from the current Peng Mansion. It wasn’t easy to buy a suitable mansion in the capital city these days, and no one lived there anyway.

Feng Ming felt that refusing any further would be disrespectful to the children, so he accepted with a nod.

As for the extra characters Gu Ling asked Ji Xiaoshu to write, there would be none, because they had agreed to make a table.

Joking aside, Gu Ling really gathered wood and tools that day and called his master and disciple, making a new table together—they were designing and building the space for Gu Xiaonuan, which needed furniture.

When he heard Gu Xiaonuan calling daddy, Gu Ling came back to the Yuanming Pavilion, carried a basket on his back, and Gu Xiaonuan sat in it, happily waving to Lao Mu and Ji Xiaoshu, “I’m here!”

Zhengzheng, who was busy cleaning wood shavings, looked up and laughed, “When I was little, did I also sit in a bamboo basket, with Master carrying me?”

When he said “little,” he was referring to just two or three years ago.

Gu Ling nodded, “Yes, that happened.” At that time, his identity was still Ning Jing, and Su Liang accompanied him to Pingbei City to take the Imperial Examination. On the way, they saved Zhengzheng and brought him along. One day, he went to the academy to meet Lin Shuzhi, and Zhengzheng clung to him, so he carried Zhengzheng in a basket with him.

Upon hearing this, Ji Xiaoshu immediately said, “Master never carried me in a basket, he’s biased!”

Gu Ling looked Ji Xiaoshu up and down, “Do you think you still fit in a basket?”

Ji Xiaoshu pouted defiantly, “As long as Master dares to carry, what am I afraid of?”

“Oh.” Gu Ling shook his head, “It’s not that I don’t dare, I just don’t want to.”

Ji Xiaoshu leaned his head on Zhengzheng's shoulder, "Big Brother, see? Master obviously favors you more."

Zhengzheng, who was already familiar with this kind of tactic, agreed, "I think so too. Don't be sad, Xiaoshu, it's okay, I'll love you."

Ji Xiaoshu: ...I can't say those things anymore. No one is taking it seriously. Big Brother is definitely a hidden villain with a gentle surface!

All together, the master and disciple made a beautiful new table.

Gu Ling placed Gu Xiaonuan on the table, and she bounced around happily.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu also climbed up and bounced around together, saying they wanted to test if the table was sturdy enough.

"I want to join too!" Yan Shiba rushed over.

Lao Mu coughed lightly, "Stop fooling around, be careful not to fall. Come down." He finished speaking, held Gu Xiaonuan in his arms, and walked away.

"Big Brother, don't fall."

"Xiaoshu, don't fall."

No one cared about the little brothers, so they held each other and jumped down from the table together.

Su Liang called them from the second-floor window of Yuanming Pavilion, and they all rushed in, Yan Shiba following as well.

Gu Ling was left alone to wipe the new table clean, tidy it up, and move it to a well-ventilated and rain-sheltered spot to dry.

"Su Xiaoliang, with all the peace in the world now, you still don't like going out. Are you pregnant again?" Yan Shiba asked as soon as she entered the room.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu immediately fixed their sparkling eyes on Su Liang's belly upon hearing this.

Su Liang shook her head, "I'm not. But you can be."

Yan Shiba sighed, slumping down in her chair like a bag of bones, "It's not that I don't want to, but I don't have a man! Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu, you didn't even think of finding me a partner, and I'm heartbroken."

Ji Xiaoshu coughed lightly, "Well...mainly because Yan Auntie seems to like monk-type men, which isn't easy to arrange!"

Yan Shiba burst into laughter, "Then I'll go to Huguo Temple for a visit."

"Don't always mess with the monks," Su Liang said, "If you really want to get married, you would have been shouting for the family to find you a partner."

Yan Shiba smiled slyly, her expression lazy, "That's true too. Seeing all of you paired up, I feel I must find someone good...not just good, but someone who would give you all an unexpected feeling when you learn of it. Otherwise, it's so boring! If it's boring, why get married in the first place? Why live?"

"As long as it's beyond our imagination, there are endless possibilities. Just be happy," Su Liang said. "I have something to do recently, and I don't need to go out. When Sheng Yue arrives and settles the matter with him, we'll watch Min Rou and Nangong Qian's wedding and then return to Su Village."

"Hasn't Sheng Yue finished all the people who need to be killed? He should be here soon," Yan Shiba said. The news sent a few days ago declared that the remnants on the "list" had been completely wiped out.

Speaking of Sheng Yue, he arrived.

Yan Shiba looked amused, "Today's so boring. I'll greet him! And I have something to ask! I'll also take him to visit his good Master! Speaking of it, Sheng Yue and I are acquainted. He caught me back then, wounded me severely, locked me in the snow for such a long time, and even changed Nian Ruxue's appearance to look like mine to deceive all of you. I haven't settled this score with him yet!"

Su Liang had no objections, "You can settle the score, but make it clear that this is personal and has nothing to do with us."

"Aren't we a family?" Yan Shiba was unhappy.

Su Liang replied with a smile, "I'm afraid that when you meet him, you'll fight and let him escape in the process, thinking we're turning against him and wanting to kill him. It would become a disaster again."

"I got it! I got it!" Yan Shiba disappeared as soon as she finished talking.

Zhengzheng suddenly thought, "Will Auntie Yan tell Sheng Yue that Little Sister is now the owner of the spatial magical treasure?"

Su Liang shook her head, "No, she won't. We talked specifically about this before. Your Master will personally inform Sheng Yue."

"Why?" Ji Xiaoshu was confused.

Su Liang smiled, "Your Master has been looking forward to seeing Sheng Yue's wonderful expression when he finds out that another Transmigrator's descendant can be recognized by the space. He's been anticipating it for a long time."

Zhengzheng chuckled, "I want to see it too!"

Ji Xiaoshu spoke, his voice melancholic, "Master indeed has the right to be proud. Although Master and Mistress didn't let the spatial magical treasure recognize them, they are the parents of the owner of the magical treasure! So amazing!"

Zhengzheng asked, “Then, when the time comes, will Sheng Yue be so shocked that he’ll turn dark again?”

Su Liang nodded, “Even if he turns dark, it’s no big deal. Your Auntie Yan is just waiting to roll up her sleeves and properly teach him a lesson.”

Chapter 500: 500. Damn good fortune

Sheng Yue stood under a big tree in the Su Mansion, looking at the blue sky through the gaps in the leaves.

It was very quiet around him. Qi Yan only said to wait here and did not directly take him to the Yuanming Pavilion, although he had been there before and was no longer an enemy.

After waiting for a moment, Sheng Yue suddenly felt danger approaching. His eyes narrowed, and he dodged to the side, pulling out the longsword at his waist. When he turned around, he saw a woman in a blue dress attacking him with murderous intent.

Sheng Yue recognized Yan Shiba at a glance. He was especially familiar with Yan Shiba’s face, not only because he had captured her but also because his first real-time facial surgery was on her.

In the beginning, when Sheng Yue took Nian Ruxue away from Xingluo Island, he thought she might be of use. He later chose to turn Nian Ruxue into Yan Shiba, not because he thought she could help him accomplish anything significant, but because he wanted to try the “divine technique” his mother taught him and see whether Su Liang could find out that Nian Ruxue was fake.

Therefore, Sheng Yue was more familiar with Yan Shiba’s appearance than anyone else.

At this moment, seeing Yan Shiba appear meant something important to Sheng Yue: the problem he and Gu Ling had not solved when they parted in Jiaye City might have been solved – those who were trapped in Mo Yan’s space were all safe!

Did Su Liang successfully gain control of the space? Or did Su Liang and Gu Ling find a way to make Mo Yan release people? The latter possibility was not high because once Mo Yan regained control of the space, he would undoubtedly counterattack, which was his nature...

In the blink of an eye, the two exchanged a few moves, and numerous thoughts flashed through Sheng Yue’s mind.

In terms of strength, a healthy Sheng Yue was stronger than Yan Shiba. However, since he had lost his arm, they were almost equal now.

Sheng Yue knew why Yan Shiba had a grudge against him. They had private enmity unrelated to the Su Mansion.

However, Yan Shiba’s actions did not make Sheng Yue think that Gu Ling and Su Liang wanted to kill him. He dared to come because he knew that the couple would no longer see him as an enemy.

Sheng Yue also did not say anything, if they were going to fight, then so be it, he was not afraid of Yan Shiba.

The two fought more and more intensely. Soon, most of the people in the mansion gathered to watch.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu started to analyze the situation seriously.

“Aunt Yan’s move just now was so fast! I want to learn!” Ji Xiaoshu exclaimed.

“Sheng Yue, with one hand less, is still so strong. No wonder Master said that he is the key to solving the Xingluo Island problem.” Zhengzheng thought Sheng Yue’s swordsmanship was exquisite too.

“He’s not the key. The most important person is my little sister.” Ji Xiaoshu smirked.

Zhengzheng nodded, “Of course. Xiaoshu, who do you think will win?”

“Of course Aunt Yan will!” Ji Xiaoshu offered to bet with Zhengzheng.

Zhengzheng laughed, “That’s perfect because I think Sheng Yue will win. Aunt Yan is a bit too impatient, and Sheng Yue’s way of fighting is very calculated.”

Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba did not hear the audience’s comments.

At first, Yan Shiba didn’t show a real intention to kill Sheng Yue; her past experiences had made it easy for her attacks to appear fierce and murderous.

This battle lasted for half an hour without a clear winner being determined. In the end, it had become a test of their physical strength and stamina.

Yan Shiba was naturally competitive and not one to give up easily.

Sheng Yue knew Yan Shiba’s temperament, and if he lost, he would be taunted by her constantly in the Su Mansion. Therefore, he had no intention to stop first either.

Seeing the two grow increasingly slower, the other spectators lost interest and left, leaving only Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu.

Ji Xiaoshu rubbed his eyes, “When will it end?” He was already tired from standing and watching.

Zhengzheng said, “Sheng Yue just injured Master’s favorite tree with one stroke. He’s in trouble.”

“Which one?” Ji Xiaoshu looked in the direction of Zhengzheng’s finger, his expression baffled. “Master’s favorite tree? I didn’t know that. It doesn’t seem special.”

Zhengzheng chuckled, “Now that Sheng Yue has wounded it, it will be Master’s favorite tree.”

Ji Xiaoshu immediately understood and burst into laughter, “You’re right, Big Brother!”

Yan Shiba gasped for air across the clearing, finally spoke, “You despicable man! If you don’t admit defeat, I’ll leave you without both hands today!”

Ji Xiaoshu sighed as he saw Sheng Yue’s calm face. “Yan Auntie was too aggressive at the beginning. It seems she’s going to lose.”

In the next moment, Sheng Yue attacked again. Yan Shiba dodged but fell to the ground, her neck now held at sword-point by Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue remained expressionless. “If it’s because of our previous grudges, I formally apologize to you. Our positions were different then. You should be able to understand me with your past experiences.”

This kind of apology infuriated Yan Shiba. Pushing away Sheng Yue's sword, she stood up and scolded him, "If you truly want to apologize, kneel down and kowtow for me! I'll forgive you then!"

Sheng Yue frowned slightly and shook his head. "If you had won today's contest, I would have knelt down to apologize with no complaints. But you've lost, just as I once defeated you and captured you, without any help and in a fair and square fight. I thought you'd understand the law of the jungle in the martial arts world better than anyone."

Ji Xiaoshu rubbed his forehead, "He's actually kind of right. Auntie Yan really lost this time."

After all, back then, Yan Shiba was still the leader of assassins, not a person of Su Mansion, and had not yet retired from the underworld. Sheng Yue didn't know Yan Shiba's connection with Su Liang during their fight, and only spared her life afterward because of that.

Whether it was before or now, in terms of intelligence and martial arts, Yan Shiba couldn't suppress Sheng Yue.

Upon hearing Sheng Yue's words, Yan Shiba was even more furious. She was angry at Sheng Yue, but also at herself for not defeating him even though he had only one hand left!

Sheng Yue was right. Yan Shiba was proud, and if she lost, she lost. Even one point weaker was still weaker, and she wouldn't rely on Su Liang and Gu Ling's support to oppress Sheng Yue, as that would hurt her self-esteem!

"Ah! Bastard! Scoundrel! You wait! One day, I'll make you kneel before me!" With that, Yan Shiba picked up her fallen blade and vanished in an instant.

Zhengzheng sighed, "Auntie Yan's pride has been hurt." She had forgotten her bold words to ask Sheng Yue a question in front of Su Liang and how she would handle Sheng Yue.

Ji Xiaoshu shrugged. "It can't be helped. If Sheng Yue wasn't so strong, Master would have severed more than just one arm. Is there anyone still alive who Master truly wants to kill?"

"Mo Yan is alive, but his situation is special. Besides, he should be dying soon."

Zhengzheng replied.

Sheng Yue sheathed his sword and walked toward the two children. They had met before, also here, and that encounter had been unpleasant. The children had pelted him with snowballs at that time.

"Was it your Mistress who got Mo Yan's space?" Sheng Yue tried to make his expression friendlier. He knew that both kids held special status in the Su Mansion and shouldn't be offended.

Zhengzheng smiled, "Actually, it was my Master. When he got home, he tried again, and it worked."

Sheng Yue was taken aback. "Gu Ling? Impossible."

Ji Xiaoshu grinned. "Big Brother, don't lie to him. You'll have to tell him the truth sooner or later, anyway."

Sheng Yue looked at Ji Xiaoshu as he continued. "Actually, the chosen one is right under our noses."

Sheng Yue froze again. "You guys..."

"It's me!" Ji Xiaoshu pointed at himself. "What? You don't believe me? Do you look down on me?"

Sheng Yue: ...Ale and Axin are more obedient. He should be able to meet them soon since he knew that the Peng Family had moved to the capital.

Sheng Yue, of course, didn't believe Ji Xiaoshu had obtained the space. In his eyes, besides Mo Yan, the only one who might have the space recognize them was Su Liang. Even then, Su Liang might fail, and the others had no chance at all.

However, the two children's words only made Sheng Yue even more confused. If it really was Su Liang, why would he hide it?

The two children didn't say anything offensive to Sheng Yue anymore. Seeing that he didn't believe them, they took him to the Yuanming Pavilion.

On the way, Zhengzheng said, "If I have the chance, can you teach me those powerful sword techniques you used earlier?"

Sheng Yue nodded, "Sure."

"Hey! Was it that easy for you to wipe out the remnants of Xingluo Island? Weren't they all masters, yet all of them were taken care of by you alone?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Sheng Yue's expression was light, "If it was a fair and square fight, I wouldn't have been able to kill them. But they were out in the open, and I was hidden. It was easy to strike."

"That's true," Ji Xiaoshu nodded. "You were there to kill, not to compete. With your strength, taking them down one by one in secret was just a matter of time."

Upon hearing this, Sheng Yue realized that the two children had remarkable knowledge and insight for their age. They truly were Gu Ling's and Su Liang's disciples.

"Is Cheng Yun here?" Sheng Yue asked.

"Yes." Zhengzheng answered. "And Uncle Cheng Yun is getting married this year."

Sheng Yue was stunned again, pausing mid-step, "Getting married? To whom?"

After all, Cheng Yun was his own younger brother. Now that he wanted to live a different kind of life, some of his ideas naturally differed from the past. It wasn't accurate to say that he was concerned about Cheng Yun since Cheng Yun was in a better situation than him now. Rather, he paid more attention to Cheng Yun compared to others.

When they were on Xingluo Island, Cheng Yun had yelled at Sheng Yue to fight, which left Sheng Yue speechless. They had actually met when Cheng Yun was a monk, but it was a one-sided encounter. He had visited Cheng Yun, who hadn't seen him and didn't know about him. Now, Cheng Yun had changed so much that it was as if he had become a different person.

Sheng Yue had considered the possibility of Cheng Yun getting married and having children in the future, but he didn't expect it to happen so quickly.

"Aunt Weng Ran," Zhengzheng said.

Sheng Yue knew who Weng Ran was – the granddaughter of the Divine Doctor Weng Ming. In the past, Xingluo Island had dedicated elders searching the world for famous doctors, capturing them to serve as their exclusive doctors. All the doctors captured were aged and inevitably died on Xingluo Island. As for Weng Ming, he had been a target for investigation but they hadn't found him at the time. By the time they found Weng Ming, Xingluo Island was already on its way to ruin. Sheng Yue hadn't been involved in those specifics and was unaware of the details.

"Congratulations to him," Sheng Yue thought it was nice, just a bit unexpected. Although Cheng Yun had said he wanted to kill Sheng Yue, Sheng Yue had never thought of harming Cheng Yun. Sheng Yue didn't have any feelings for Pu Cheng; their past interactions were just using Pu Cheng for his own benefit. But Cheng Yun was different from Pu Cheng.

As they were talking, they reached the entrance of the Yuanming Pavilion.

Gu Ling approached from another direction.

"Master, Miss Yan fought him and lost," Ji Xiaoshu immediately reported to Gu Ling.

Gu Ling gave a slight nod, "You two go back." After saying this, she looked at Sheng Yue and said, "Come with me."

Then, Sheng Yue followed Gu Ling to a pavilion by the lake to talk.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu ran to the second floor of the Yuanming Pavilion and sat on the windowsill, staring out, but they couldn't hear what was being said.

The last time he visited Su Mansion, Sheng Yue had sat in the same spot and discussed cooperation with Gu Ling. Now, his state of mind was very different.

"The account book," Gu Ling said with two words.

Sheng Yue raised his eyebrows slightly and took out a book from his chest, handing it to Gu Ling. He was a bit surprised that Gu Ling knew him to such an extent. After all, only he knew about the record keeping of his killings; Gu Ling could only have guessed it.

Actually, it was Su Liang who had guessed, but Gu Ling didn't explain. She took the account book and started reading it.

Sheng Yue sat silently, watching the sparkling lake beside him.

Gu Ling quickly finished reading. Sheng Yue recorded everything clearly: the date and time he killed someone, the evil acts that person had committed to the best of his knowledge, and the related women and children he had saved and how he settled them.

Upon checking, Gu Ling found that the amount recorded in Sheng Yue's account book for resettling women and children was exactly the same amount he had given, not a penny more or less. Indeed,

this was an account book. Gu Ling was the payer, and Sheng Yue used the money to do his job, keeping a record of the expenses.

“Did you travel all the way here without eating or drinking?” Gu Ling asked indifferently. Sheng Yue had to spend money on food and clothing too.

“I sold the jade pendant Mo Yan gave me. It was worth a lot of money,” said Sheng Yue.

“Thank you for your hard work,” said Gu Ling.

Sheng Yue was stunned for a moment. Since he entered Su Mansion, he had been stunned several times. He hoped Gu Ling would say such words, but hearing them from Gu Ling’s mouth felt a little strange. After all, it was agreed that Sheng Yue was atoning for his sins. It was normal for Gu Ling not to be friendly, and Sheng Yue didn’t care too much. As long as they were not enemies in the future, peace would suffice.

Sheng Yue asked the biggest question on his mind, “Did Su Liang succeed with the space?”

Just then, Ji Xiaoshu’s voice came from the Yuanming Pavilion, “Master, your little sister is looking for you!”

As if he hadn’t heard Sheng Yue’s question, Gu Ling got up and left the pavilion, “We’ll talk later.”

Seeing Gu Ling flying across the lake and quickly entering the Yuanming Pavilion, Sheng Yue sat there waiting, feeling more and more strange. If Su Liang had made the space recognize the master, he wouldn’t be surprised. Why did he ask three people and none of them would tell him?

After a while, Gu Ling reappeared, holding Gu Xiaonuan in his arms, crossing the lake, and entering the pavilion.

Seeing Sheng Yue as a stranger, Gu Xiaonuan smiled and called out, “Uncle!”

A faint smile appeared on Sheng Yue’s face, “My last name is Sheng.”

“Uncle Sheng!” Gu Xiaonuan waved her little hand at Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue felt that this little girl was much cuter than Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, and she looked so much like Gu Ling.

After greeting Gu Xiaonuan, Sheng Yue repeated the question he had asked earlier.

Instead of looking at Sheng Yue, Gu Ling picked up the account book from the table and gave it to Gu Xiaonuan to play with.

Gu Xiaonuan took the account book, smiling happily, and waved it at Sheng Yue.

In the next moment, Sheng Yue’s eyes widened as he watched the account book disappear into thin air! Of course, he knew what this meant! It wasn’t Su Liang but Gu Ling and Su Liang’s daughter, a baby only a little over a year old, who controlled the space!

Sheng Yue then saw with his own eyes Gu Xiaonuan ‘transforming’ the account book back — it was obvious that although she was very young, she was already the space’s master and used it freely.

Gu Ling looked at Sheng Yue's stunned face, the corners of his lips lifting in amusement, "Do you have any other questions?"

Sheng Yue clenched his only fist, his voice full of resentment and indignation, "It's so unfair! I'm also a child of a transmigrator! Why can't I do it? Why!?"

Gu Ling said calmly, "The reason is actually quite simple."

Sheng Yue stared at Gu Ling intently, "What reason? What possible reason could there be?" He was about to explode from anger. This was a million times more heartbreaking than Su Liang getting the space! After all, he had once pursued such treasures so hard, putting in immeasurable effort and time, only to end up empty-handed, doing everything for someone else, someone who should be similar to him based on their relationship with transmigrators!

Sheng Yue wanted to know the reason; he truly felt like a joke at this moment.

Then, Gu Ling spoke again, "Because my Xiaonuan is beautiful."

Sheng Yue: ...

Gu Xiaonuan didn't know what the adults were fighting about. She saw the beautiful ring on Sheng Yue's hand and wanted to have a closer look. She climbed from Gu Ling's leg onto the table and held Sheng Yue's hand.

Sheng Yue was full of anger, but not towards Gu Xiaonuan. Seeing her smile sweetly and take the initiative to approach him, he thought she wanted the ring, so he took it off and gave it to her, "This is a gift for you, for our first meeting." It was left by his mother, but it didn't matter now.

Gu Xiaonuan sat on the table and played with the ring, while Sheng Yue glared at Gu Ling, grinding his teeth, "Gu, you really have a damned good luck!"