

## Three-Time 501

Chapter 501: I am very happy

Gu Ling nodded, "Indeed." He was very fortunate to have met Su Liang and have such a lovely daughter as Gu Xiaonuan.

However, from Su Liang's perspective, she once said that she believed Gu Ling's "good fortune" was actually a karmic reward—although his special ability he had since childhood did not bring him much assistance, but rather more burdens and even shackles at one point. But ever since he gained the ability to help others, he has never slacked off in completing the "tasks" given by the heavens using the "black fog," saving many people and eliminating many evildoers.

Sheng Yue's resentment and unwillingness did not last long, and he soon calmed down. The reality was right in front of him, unchangeable and thinking too much was of no avail. He always believed that emotions were the most meaningless things.

"Uncle Sheng!" Gu Xiaonuan put the ring on her finger, but her fingers were too thin, and the ring spun around like a hula hoop around a delicate young girl's waist.

Seeing Gu Xiaonuan's bright smile, Sheng Yue's eyes softened a bit, "Wow, impressive."

Gu Ling stood up, picked up Gu Xiaonuan, and asked Sheng Yue, "Where are you going next?"

Sheng Yue's face darkened again, "Is this how you treat a guest? The moment I entered, I was stopped by Yan Shiba calling for a fight and I haven't even had a drink. Are you trying to kick me out?"

"Do you want to stay here?" Gu Ling countered.

Sheng Yue snorted lightly, "I didn't intend to stay at first, but now I think it's not bad to stay. I want to see what kind of magic this paradise has that conquers everyone who enters."

Gu Ling's expression was faint, "Then go find Zhu Zan to arrange a room for you." After saying that, he carried Gu Xiaonuan away.

Gu Xiaonuan leaned on Gu Ling's shoulder, waving at Sheng Yue and said in a childish voice, "Bye-bye!"

Sheng Yue raised his hand subconsciously, waving twice, and whispered, "Bye-bye." He knew what it meant, but it was his first time saying it. He couldn't help but think of his childhood days with his mother, and he felt a bit melancholy.

Sheng Yue had thought countless times that if his mother had stayed in this world like Su Liang, without wanting to go back, and had not died in a quarrel with Pu Cheng, their entire family's life would have been different. He wouldn't have gone to Xingluo Island, and his father and brother wouldn't have become monks.

Unfortunately, there are no what ifs in life.

With a self-deprecating laugh, Sheng Yue knew that his father, Pu Cheng, was too selfish, and even without the accident years ago, their family would never have been as happy and fulfilled as Gu Ling's, Su Liang's, and Gu Xiaonuan's. He envied Gu Ling, even feeling jealous, but he was well aware that he could never be Gu Ling.

After calming down, Sheng Yue realized that Gu Ling's "good fortune" was far from as lucky as Mo Yan's, but rather his previous fulfillment of many karmic tasks.

Sheng Yue wondered if he had Gu Ling's special ability, would he do his best to selflessly help every person in need? He couldn't give a definite answer even if it was just a hypothesis or even if he thought he could be a good person in the future.

After sitting in the pavilion for a while, Sheng Yue saw Zhu Zan come out of Yuanming Pavilion and then got up to leave.

Zhu Zan's face was calm when he heard Sheng Yue call him, without any of the previous awe or hostility. He could only have his present good life thanks to Feng Ming's help, while Sheng Yue had earned Gu Ling's approval through his own abilities.

"Young Master Sheng, please follow me," Zhu Zan said, walking in a certain direction.

"Is Feng Ming here as well?" asked Sheng Yue. Many people had been watching his fight with Yan Shiba earlier, but Feng Ming and Cheng Yun were not among them.

Zhu Zan nodded, "Yes. Feng Ming went to Peng Mansion today and hasn't returned yet. Oh, Feng Ming is already engaged to Miss Peng, and they're getting married this year."

Sheng Yue was momentarily stunned—Feng Ming and Peng Wu? Their relationship had progressed so quickly that it was highly likely they had feelings for each other, or at least one of them did, during their time on Xingluo Island. Sheng Yue was unaware of this.

"So, that's good," said Sheng Yue, "What about you? Are you also going to get married?"

Zhu Zan chuckled, "Not me. But soon, I'll be the only bachelor left in this household. Oh, and you, Young Master Sheng, if you stay, the two of us will be bachelors. Qi Yan, Cheng Yun, and Feng Ming will all get married this year."

Sheng Yue nodded, "Don't worry, you definitely won't be the last bachelor."

Zhu Zan didn't respond to Sheng Yue's implication that he wasn't interested in getting married, but he didn't push the issue. Because such things couldn't be controlled, destiny could come unexpectedly or never arrive when sought. He wasn't in a hurry and planned to wait patiently.

Zhu Zan arranged for Sheng Yue to stay in the same courtyard as him and Feng Ming. New bedding and other items were provided. They also brought warm water for him to wash and sent him two sets of clothes he hadn't worn before.

"Thanks," said Sheng Yue, "Why hasn't Cheng Yun shown up?"

"Young Master Cheng Yun went to Huguo Temple with Miss Wen today to see Master Huiming. They might not be back until after noon." Zhu Zan said, "Is Young Master Sheng hungry?"

Sheng Yue shook his head, "Not hungry. Can I go see Mo Yan?"

Zhu Zan nodded, "Prince has given his instructions, Young Master Sheng is free to do as he wishes. You know where the dungeon is, right?"

“Yes.” Sheng Yue had been locked in the dungeon when he first visited Su Mansion.

“Then please feel free, Young Master Sheng. If you need anything, just let me know.” Zhu Zan left after finishing his words.

Sheng Yue finished the cup of tea that Zhu Zan brought over and got up from his seat. Slowly, he walked towards the dungeon, all the while admiring the splendid scenery of Su Mansion.

At the peak of midsummer, Su Mansion boasted a beautiful sight at every turn, full of natural and unblemished elegance. All the trees and flowers seemed to grow naturally, untouched by human hands, yet there was no sense of disorder.

At this moment, Sheng Yue made up his mind to stay at Su Mansion for a while, to experience its unique atmosphere and see if it truly could purify one’s mind (this was his impression of Su Mansion).

When Sheng Yue arrived at the entrance to the dungeon, he was about to enter when he heard footsteps behind him. Turning around, he saw Yan Shiba with a rotten face, as if someone owed him a million silver taels, and his gaze was filled with hostility.

“Who allowed you to come here?” Yan Shiba snorted coldly.

Sheng Yue’s expression remained calm, “Gu Ling.”

“What do you want to do?” Yan Shiba asked.

“Go and see Mo Yan’s miserable state.” Sheng Yue replied.

Yan Shiba walked up to Sheng Yue and glanced at him, “You’re such a despicable person, I can’t be sure you won’t pull some tricks, so I’ll have to keep an eye on you!”

Sheng Yue nodded, “As you please.”

“I have a question for you.” Yan Shiba said, “During the New Year, you have a pig and a donkey at home. You can only kill one of them. Will you kill the pig first or the donkey?”

Sheng Yue paused, looked at Yan Shiba speechlessly, then returned his gaze forward and answered, “If I say kill the pig first, you’ll say that’s what the donkey would think too. If I say kill the donkey first, you’ll definitely say that’s what the pig would think too. If this happened before, my choice would be to kill you.”

Yan Shiba rolled her eyes at Sheng Yue, “You dare to kill me now? I’ll give you the guts! But you must give the answer now!”

Sheng Yue nodded, “Alright. My answer is only one word.”

Yan Shiba unknowingly asked, “What?”

Sheng Yue’s thin lips opened slightly, “Scram.”

Yan Shiba’s anger exploded in an instant, and she heard Sheng Yue say, “I don’t mind fighting you again, but wait until you’re confident, so as not to waste your energy.”

Yan Shiba stopped, clenched her fists, and stared at Sheng Yue's back as he walked away, wishing she could smash him to pieces with one punch.

But not long after, Yan Shiba calmed down and caught up with him, "You just wait; I'll beat you fair and square one day, and make you kneel on the ground singing 'Conquer'!"

It was a coincidence; Sheng Yue had heard this saying from his mother when he was a child, so he knew exactly what Yan Shiba was talking about.

Sheng Yue then retorted, "Since I defeated you today, shouldn't you kneel on the ground and sing 'Conquer' to me right now?"

Yan Shiba was once again left speechless by his retort. She hadn't felt the urge to lash out and cut someone in a long time since she had settled in Su Mansion, yet Sheng Yue had twice given her that feeling today!

As they talked, they entered the dungeon and Sheng Yue saw Mo Yan.

Compared to the last time they met on Xingluo Island, Mo Yan looked much thinner, with a pale face and messy hair. He sat cross-legged on the ground, his hands and feet bound by chains, appearing as if he had been trapped there for ten or eight years. Though, in fact, it had only been just over a month.

Yan Shiba snorted softly, "That day, we let him witness Nuannuan's transformation into a living being, and then everyone in the family wanted to cut him. Each took a slash at him; Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu treated his wounds so they could practice their medical skills. A few days ago, I took him out to a stinky drain so he could experience drowning. That's about it."

Sheng Yue didn't say that he wanted to talk to Mo Yan alone. He walked closer and called out, "Master."

Mo Yan was awake and slowly raised his head upon hearing the sound. He looked at Sheng Yue, and his old eyes showed a faint light, "You... haven't died..."

"If Master hasn't died, I won't go before Master." Sheng Yue sat down on the ground, "Does Master have anything to say to me?"

Mo Yan glanced at Yan Shiba, who immediately scolded him, "What are you looking at? Your old lady is here, and you want to chat with Sheng Yue alone? About what? Let him help you get the magic treasure back, so you master and disciple can fight together? That's really laughable. Don't tell me that by now, you still don't understand that your miserable defeat had a lot to do with your good disciple?"

Mo Yan sternly said, "Shut up!"

Yan Shiba laughed even more, "Alright, alright, you guys go ahead and chat, I'll listen. Feel free to chat, don't be polite."

Mo Yan stared at Sheng Yue, "I understand you."

Sheng Yue nodded, "Mutual understanding."

Mo Yan suddenly closed his eyes, "I have nothing more to say. You can go."

However, Sheng Yue did not get up, "I have one more thing to say."

Mo Yan opened his eyes again, staring intently at Sheng Yue.

Yan Shiba raised her eyebrows, curious about what Sheng Yue was going to say.

Then, Sheng Yue spoke, "I am very happy."

Mo Yan's face turned gloomy in an instant, and Yan Shiba snorted softly.

Sheng Yue slowly stood up, looking down at Mo Yan, "I have no interest in fighting or killing you, but I used to. In the past, I always wondered why such a foolish person like you could get such a heaven-sent treasure. It's so unjust. Now, it's good that I can't get it, but Gu Xiaonuan can. I think it couldn't be better. She is a pure and kind child, and I really can't compare with her."

Mo Yan's eyes were full of anger, and he suddenly crawled up and pounced at Sheng Yue, "Despicable person! I'll kill you! I'll kill you!"

Yan Shiba watched Mo Yan's powerless fury and sneered. Obviously, Mo Yan had assumed that, given his understanding of Sheng Yue, Sheng Yue would choose to help him get the magical treasure back with his brief remark.

Unfortunately, Mo Yan miscalculated. Since Sheng Yue knew he could never become the owner of the magical treasure, why bother grabbing it? He was an extremely smart person, and he only chose Xingluo Island in the past because what he wanted was in Mo Yan's hands. Now that his obsession was gone, how could he possibly do anything detrimental to his own situation?

Eventually, Mo Yan received the final blow from Sheng Yue's words and eyes, collapsing and falling into insanity.

Sheng Yue didn't let Mo Yan touch him, and with the sound of clashing chains behind him, he had no interest in looking back. He walked straight out of the dungeon.

When Yan Shiba was about to leave, she remembered one more thing, walked to Mo Yan, and said with a smirk, "I told you I would ask Sheng Yue that question and share the answer with you. Sheng Yue's answer is a single character, and you'd never guess."

Mo Yan's eyes were bloodshot red, staring at Yan Shiba like a vengeful ghost, roaring in anger.

Yan Shiba grinned, "The answer is a single character. Get lost! Sheng Yue answered correctly. You, pigheaded fool, if you have a next life, may you be reincarnated as a pig, but still remember everything from this life. That would be the best and most fitting for you! Hahaha!"

With that, Yan Shiba strode out of the dungeon. As for when to send Mo Yan on his way and how he should die, she would let Gu Ling and Su Liang decide.

"Hey!" Yan Shiba caught up with Sheng Yue again.

Sheng Yue looked indifferent, "My name is not 'Hey'."

"Oh, despicable person, why aren't you leaving yet? What are you doing loitering around my house?" Yan Shiba snorted.

Sheng Yue shook his head, "This is not your home; Gu Ling asked me to stay."

Yan Shiba hummed a couple more times, "What did you feel when you learned that my precious Nuannuan got the spatial magical treasure?"

Sheng Yue replied, "I was very happy. I just said that."

"Pfft!" Yan Shiba was skeptical, "No way you were happy at that time, right? You must have been so angry!"

"You can think what you like." Sheng Yue said.

"I know people like you too well!" Yan Shiba snorted.

"Because you used to be like me? Even worse?" Sheng Yue retorted.

Yan Shiba kicked him, "Who's as despicable as you? Even if I wasn't a good person before, I never hurt people behind their backs!"

Sheng Yue didn't hold back, "This is the first time I've heard that Yanyun Building is an organization that harms people openly and above board? My apologies."

When the two were about to fight again, they heard Zhengzheng calling them, "Aunt Yan, Uncle Sheng, it's time for dinner!"

"Uncle Sheng? Bleh!" Yan Shiba spoke and ran ahead of Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue remained calm, walked into Yuanming Pavilion, didn't see Cheng Yun, and Feng Ming hadn't returned either. The old folks didn't bother with him, only Gu Xiaonuan waved to him with a smile.

Sheng Yue sat down at the only empty seat, greeted Su Liang with a nod, and then asked, "Can I go into the space and take a look?"

Ji Xiaoshu smirked, "If you're not afraid of being confined by my master, go ahead."

Zhengzheng shook his head, "Once you say it, there's no suspense."

"I thought the space belonged to Nuannuan." Sheng Yue said.

Yan Shiba snorted, "Nuannuan won't listen to us, why would she listen to you?"

Sheng Yue nodded, "Makes sense, but you lived there for several months, so I think, even if I were locked in there, it wouldn't be worse than your experience."

Yan Shiba: ... Is he mocking her? He must be, right? How annoying! Despicable person! One day she would teach him a lesson!

After dinner, Su Liang suggested that Sheng Yue could talk to Gu Xiaonuan himself, and Zhengzheng offered to help. He was interested in learning Sheng Yue's most exquisite sword techniques as soon as possible.

After dinner, Gu Ling tidied up, and Yan Shiba took Su Liang upstairs.

And Sheng Yue saw the "water droplet" again, looking forward to entering that long-desired space. Although he was Mo Yan's disciple, he had never had the chance to enter before. When Mo Yan was the space's owner, Sheng Yue dared not enter because he knew that the so-called master-disciple relationship meant nothing. But facing Gu Xiaonuan now, he had no concerns. He was not worried about being trapped inside.

Gu Xiaonuan was already proficient in operating the space, and at Zhengzheng's hint, she brought Sheng Yue and Ji Xiaoshu inside. Ji Xiaoshu volunteered to go in and see how far Gu Ling and Su Liang had progressed in building their houses inside the space.

As Sheng Yue disappeared downstairs, Yan Shiba was cursing him upstairs.

Su Liang listened calmly, "You can't beat him, and the angrier you get, the more you lose."

"I know! But I can't help it!" Yan Shiba slapped the table, "It's killing me! You have to help me think of a way to deal with him, or I won't be able to live my life!"

Su Liang chuckled, "I can't help you with that. After all, he has turned over a new leaf and helped a lot in the past. If you two want to fight, go ahead, but if Gu Ling or I interfere, it would seem like we're taking sides. Besides, you wouldn't want him to think you're using me to suppress him, would you? Why not focus on improving your martial arts, surpass him, and beat him down?"

Yan Shiba was speechless, "At this age, how easy is it to improve martial arts? I can't wait, just seeing him makes me want to tear his face off!"

Su Liang held his forehead, "Well, you could go to Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu. Those two have many cunning ideas, maybe they can help you."

Yan Shiba's eyes lit up, "Right! Why did I come to you? Zhengzheng and Xiaoshu must have a solution!" With that, she ran off.

Not long after, Gu Ling entered the room and heard Su Liang laughingly recounting the feud between Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue. Gu Ling's lips curled up into an ambiguous smile, "If I were to give her an idea, I'd give her a bag of medicine, and have her sleep with Sheng Yue. After all, she used to always try to do that to us, so she should like this kind of thing."

Su Liang: ...Great God is so wicked that this idea is so cheeky, it's just beyond evaluation...

Chapter 502: 502. Do you dare or not

Sheng Yue and Ji Xiaoshu stayed in the space for about a quarter of an hour before Gu Xiaonuan released them.

Returning once again to the outside world, Sheng Yue subconsciously looked around. Through the windows on the ground floor of Yuanming Pavilion, he gazed at the clear lakes and blue skies outside and took a deep breath, exclaiming, "How unfathomably marvelous!"

Even though Sheng Yue had known about portable spaces since he was little, learning from his mother and longing for it for twenty years, none of it compared to the profound feeling he had when he first entered: Possessing such a thing would truly make one feel like the master of all, able to do as they pleased.

In that instant, Sheng Yue even understood why Mo Yan was so arrogant and foolish. As long as he had the spatial magical treasure, he didn't need to think too much, and there was no need to plan or worry. Without worries, there could be no progress.

Gu Xiaonuan's giggling laughter brought Sheng Yue back to reality. His deep gaze rested on her innocent little face, and the darkness in his eyes seemed to be dispelled like mist under the sunlight.

This was the best arrangement... Sheng Yue thought. It was only at this moment he truly let go of the last trace of longing for the spatial magical treasure in his heart. Because he suddenly realized that if such a treasure truly belonged to him, he would likely be consumed by the desires and ambitions it brought, becoming a madman like Mo Yan. He wanted the magical treasure, but not to be enslaved by anyone or anything.

Human nature was fragile, and Sheng Yue had always been well aware of this, including his own humanity. In fact, he even believed that if Gu Ling or Su Liang were to obtain the treasure, they might not be able to remain unchanged for the rest of their lives.

Only Gu Xiaonuan made Sheng Yue feel that she could control the magical treasure without being controlled by it. This was because she was still a blank slate, and Gu Ling and Su Liang would no doubt take good care of her, teaching her and providing her with everything she needed. They would provide the best environment, and even the potential husband and friends she might have after she grew up were already under their tutelage.

The owner of the magical treasure should be someone as pure, kind, and rich in material and spiritual abundance as Gu Xiaonuan, so that to her, the magical treasure would be merely a tool or even a toy, rather than something to rely on for fulfilling her desires.

“Uncle Sheng?” Gu Xiaonuan called out, her sweet smile melting hearts.

Sheng Yue snapped back to reality and exhaled deeply, “Thank you, Nuannuan.”

Ji Xiaoshu was speechless, “What were you thinking just now? She wants you to hold her.”

Only then did Sheng Yue notice Gu Xiaonuan’s outstretched little hand, and he quickly bent down to lift her into his arms with one hand.

Then, Gu Xiaonuan took out Sheng Yue’s ring and put it back on the finger where it originally belonged.

The familiar feeling caused Sheng Yue to pause for a moment. Although the ring held great significance to him, when he decided to give it to Gu Xiaonuan, he never thought of taking it back.

However, Gu Xiaonuan simply found it attractive and played with it for a while before returning it to Sheng Yue.

For some reason, Sheng Yue suddenly felt a bit touched. He couldn’t quite explain why; perhaps it was because of the ring, or perhaps it was something else entirely. It was a feeling that was quite foreign to him.

“Uncle Sheng, what are you thinking about?” Gu Xiaonuan curiously looked into Sheng Yue’s eyes.

Sheng Yue also got a close look at Gu Xiaonuan’s eyes, which were very beautiful. Although her pupils were black and shiny, they reminded him of the pure, unblemished snow on Wolong Mountain in Yao City’s winter.

“I wasn’t thinking about anything,” Sheng Yue smiled.

Just at that moment, Yan Shiba came down from upstairs. Her gaze fell on Sheng Yue, and her eyes narrowed. Seeing Sheng Yue smile, she felt as if she had seen a ghost.

Then, Yan Shiba rushed over and snatched Gu Xiaonuan away, “Who let you hold my Nuannuan?”

“She did,” Sheng Yue calmly retorted.

Yan Shiba didn’t bother arguing with him and called Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu upstairs, saying Su Liang was looking for them.

The two children hurried upstairs, and Yan Shiba walked away with Gu Xiaonuan in her arms.

Sheng Yue remained alone on the ground floor of Yuanming Pavilion. There was a train model that Ji Xiaoshu had played with that day on the table. He stared at it intently for a moment, then walked to the window to take in the view before leaving Yuanming Pavilion to rest. Ever since he and Gu Ling landed in Jiaye City, he had been busy looking for people, and killing. He hadn’t slept well since rushing over from Jiaye City.

As soon as he walked out of the door, Sheng Yue ran into Cheng Yun face to face.

Cheng Yun now had his own hair, which was long enough to be tied up. Although it was still much shorter compared to others.

Ever since they openly admitted their love in front of family members that day, Cheng Yun and Weng Ran’s relationship had entered a new stage. They once thought they would never be as sticky as others, but it turns out that when young men and women fall in love, they generally want to get closer – unless there are other special reasons.

Sheng Yue’s gaze fell on Cheng Yun and Weng Ran’s intertwined hands, which quickly separated.

Looking up, Sheng Yue saw Cheng Yun’s furrowed brows. He looked very much like their mother, even more so. Sheng Yue also saw the bright red birthmark on Weng Ran’s face. He didn’t think Weng Ran was ugly; instead, he thought they made a perfect couple.

Actually, Sheng Yue knew that Yan Shiba had once been fond of Cheng Yun. He was a little surprised that she would give up on that.

“You’re not planning to stay here for a long time, are you?” Cheng Yun opened his mouth to speak. Although his tone wasn’t as hostile as it had been on Xingluo Island, it was still unfriendly, making no secret of his rejection towards Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue nodded and asked back, “You object?”

Cheng Yun snorted lightly, “Yes, I object.”

Sheng Yue nodded again, “Your objection is useless.”

Cheng Yun: ...

Weng Ran stepped in to mediate, “When did you arrive, Young Master Sheng?”

“I arrived this morning. Your younger sister can just call me by my name, or call me brother, I don’t mind.” Sheng Yue looked at Weng Ran with a gentle tone.

Cheng Yun was speechless, “Who wants to call you brother? Stop daydreaming!”

Weng Ran squeezed Cheng Yun's hand to calm him down, smiled slightly, and said, "You two can have a good chat when you have time in the future." Then she took Cheng Yun past Sheng Yue and entered Yuanming Pavilion.

Sheng Yue clearly heard Cheng Yun say, "Who wants to talk to him?"

Then Weng Ran laughed softly, "It's just a polite remark, don't take it seriously."

Sheng Yue remained calm. The person Yan Shiba hated most in the mansion was him, and the second most hated person was Cheng Yun. That's fine, they didn't end up together. As an older brother, he didn't think Yan Shiba, who was always in a state of agitation, was worthy of Cheng Yun; Weng Ran was much better suited.

At this moment, on the second floor of the Yuanming Pavilion, Yan Shiba had already handed Gu Xiaonuan to Su Liang, and then took Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu to their own room, saying there were important matters to discuss.

Seeing Yan Shiba turn around to close the door and even bolt it, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu exchanged silent glances and both felt that it must be something special.

Yan Shiba looked back and saw the two kids' curious eyes, cleared her throat, walked over and sat down, then beckoned them over, "Auntie Yan has something to ask for your help."

Ji Xiaoshu expressed surprise, "Why has Auntie Yan suddenly become so polite? Hurry up and tell us what it is, I'm really too curious!"

Zhengzheng nodded in agreement.

Yan Shiba coughed lightly, "As you know, I really hate that bastard Sheng Yue. Seeing him makes me want to tear his face apart! He wasn't even polite to me today, and I can't do anything to him yet. It's so annoying!"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu nodded together, indicating that this was more than obvious and they were well-aware of it.

"Yan-gugu, do you want us to help you deal with Uncle Sheng... Sheng Yue?"

Zhengzheng asked, "But if Yan-gugu can't beat him, we definitely can't either. We would have to ask my master to come out of seclusion, but even then, she wouldn't fight Sheng Yue just to avenge Yan-gugu. After all, he just completed a very important task and can be considered as having redeemed himself by his merits."

"I'm not asking you to fight him." Yan Shiba shook her head. "But speaking of which, if we really wanted to deal with him, it would be very easy. We could just find some kind of drug to make him suffer a living hell!"

Ji Xiaoshu put a hand on her forehead, "Yan-gugu, I need to remind you of something important. Don't forget that Sheng Yue is immune to all poisons. You can only defeat him with martial arts. Trying to poison him won't work."

Yan Shiba smacked her forehead, "I must have been too angry to think straight! How could I forget that?! Ahhh! This makes me even angrier! Why does that scumbag have such an immunity to poisons?!"

The two children waited for Yan Shiba to calm down a little before speaking again.

Zhengzheng smiled, “Actually, we’ve already discussed this with our master’s wife. Once Sheng Yue arrives, we want to test on him whether any poison would work at all. Our master’s wife said that the so-called immunity to all poisons may not be absolute. It might just be that many poisons don’t work on him, but not necessarily all of them. Nowadays, the poisons are useless, but that doesn’t mean that new ones in the future would be too. After all, are there not countless poisons in this world, discovered or not?”

Ji Xiaoshu continued to speak, “That’s right! We’ve been planning to study just how powerful his blood is! The warehouse in the maze below is full of various medicines. We’re going to have him try them all!”

Upon hearing this, Yan Shiba burst into laughter, “Hahaha! This is a great idea! Excellent! You guys are so eager to learn! So smart! This must be done and as soon as possible. We should start today before that guy escapes!”

Ji Xiaoshu asked Yan Shiba what exactly she wanted their help with since they hadn’t reached the main point yet.

Yan Shiba’s expression turned serious, “Help me to come up with a plan that will teach him a lesson without making me lose face!”

Zhengzheng immediately recalled, “Earlier, did Yan-gugu take our master’s wife upstairs for the sake of this matter?”

Yan Shiba nodded, “That’s right! But your master’s wife didn’t help me. She said it was not her place to interfere, and she couldn’t show favoritism! I’m not paying attention to her anymore; she only has eyes for Gu Meiren!”

Ji Xiaoshu agreed, “Master’s wife does dote on master the most.”

“Hurry up and help me think of a plan. I can’t wait any longer.” Yan Shiba urged them.

The two children looked at each other and furrowed their brows in contemplation.

After a while, Ji Xiaoshu’s eyes brightened, “I’ve come up with a great idea!”

Yan Shiba hurriedly asked, “Tell me, what’s your plan?”

Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, “Yesterday, didn’t Yan-gugu say that we weren’t concerned about your lifelong pursuit? But you did say you wanted to find an interesting and exciting man. I think Yan-gugu could consider trying to conquer Sheng Yue.”

Zhengzheng had a strange look on his face, while Yan Shiba angrily pinched Ji Xiaoshu’s ear and said, “You little devil! To think that I liked you so much, but in your eyes, I’m a match for that scumbag Sheng Yue? Are you trying to anger me to death?”

Zhengzheng: ...He knew it would come to this, Ji Xiaoshu had a knack for stirring the pot.

Ji Xiaoshu quickly begged for mercy, “Yan-gugu, I was wrong. I didn’t mean it like that. Please listen to my explanation!”

Of course, Yan Shiba wouldn’t really hit Ji Xiaoshu. She just pinched him lightly before letting go.

Ji Xiaoshu held his face and sat across from Yan Shiba, his eyes sparkling as he said, "I didn't mean for Yan-gugu and Sheng Yue to be together. Instead, I thought that Yan-gugu could try to conquer Sheng Yue, make him fall in love with you, and then reject him cruelly! Wouldn't that be exciting and satisfying?"

Zhengzheng shook his head, thinking that Yan Shiba would never agree to such a bizarre proposal. Besides, the situation Ji Xiaoshu described seemed unlikely to happen. Sheng Yue was not an ordinary person; he would undoubtedly see through Yan Shiba's intentions. Even if Yan Shiba were sincere, the chances of Sheng Yue falling for her were slim, at least for now.

However, Yan Shiba seemed to be instantly intrigued by Ji Xiaoshu's suggestion, "This idea... it does sound interesting! I've never deceived someone else's feelings in my life! Haha! If it's Sheng Yue we're talking about, I'd be more than happy to do it!"

Zhengzheng reminded Yan Shiba, "Yan-gugu, that man is extremely shrewd. It won't be easy to deceive him. And since you won't pursue him, trying to make him pursue you will be even more difficult."

Yan Shiba gently tapped Zhengzheng's forehead, "Who have I, your Aunt Yan, ever been afraid of in my whole life? What am I most afraid of now?"

Ji Xiaoshu raised his hand, eager to answer, "Aunt Yan is now most afraid of boredom and dullness!"

"That's right!" Yan Shiba nodded, "The more challenging it is, the more I look forward to it, haha! As for how to do it, you two little strategists must come up with plans and tactics for me. I believe you can deal with that Sheng Yue fellow!"

Zhengzheng felt that this matter was either a no-go from the start or could easily spiral out of control, but Ji Xiaoshu, who had a basketful of wicked ideas, had already suggested a plan for Yan Shiba on how to start, "Aunt Yan, why don't you just go straight to Sheng Yue and tell him that within a month, he will definitely fall in love with you, and he must marry you. If it doesn't happen, you'll be willing to admit defeat, and never bother him again. Let him accept the challenge if he dares, but if he doesn't, he can just get lost from our house! Gambling, right? Losing wouldn't be too humiliating! It would be embarrassing if he doesn't dare to fight!"

Upon hearing Ji Xiaoshu's words, Yan Shiba's fighting spirit was stirred to its peak, "Let's do it this way!"

Zhengzheng timidly said, "Aunt Yan, how about changing it to three months? One month is a little too..."

Yan Shiba shook her head, "Three months is too long, I can't wait that long!"

"So, Aunt Yan, do you have any ideas on how to conquer Sheng Yue?" Zhengzheng felt that shouting slogans so loudly without a concrete plan was a bit unreliable.

"I have you two little strategists to help me think about what to do, so I'm going to challenge Sheng Yue right now!" Yan Shiba stood up, straightened her clothes, and strode out of the room with great spirit.

Zhengzheng sighed, “Xiaoshu, I think the chances of Aunt Yan conquering Sheng Yue within a month are slim... They’re just... completely mismatched.”

Ji Xiaoshu told Zhengzheng to stay calm, “Aunt Yan likes the pursuit of excitement. She thinks this kind of thing is fun and interesting – that’s what makes it meaningful. Don’t worry, Sheng Yue will never be hurt by Aunt Yan. He’s an iron-hearted man. There won’t be any bad consequences, so what’s the harm in playing around? The conflict between those two runs deep, mainly because Aunt Yan can’t let go on her own. She needs a chance to vent. Nothing will ever come out of them.”

After some thought, Zhengzheng agreed that Ji Xiaoshu had a point. No matter how Yan Shiba tormented Sheng Yue, he wouldn’t be affected by it or let it affect him, as he would hold the real power in his hand. There was no need to worry, just let Yan Shiba have her fun, and when she finally finds it boring, she’ll give up.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu went next door and reported their proposal for Yan Shiba to Su Liang.

Gu Ling was also there but made no comment.

Su Liang found it amusing, “Xiaoshu, you really are your master’s disciple.”

Ji Xiaoshu was delighted, “Does Master think the same way? Haha! My master is so mean!”

Gu Ling silently kicked Ji Xiaoshu without taking his eyes off the book in his hands.

Ji Xiaoshu kicked back and ran off with Zhengzheng, “Eldest brother, let’s go! Let’s see how Aunt Yan and Sheng Yue’s talk went!”

After the two children left, Su Liang held Gu Xiaonuan and stood by the bed, smiling at Gu Ling, “Great God, you even said to let Yan Shiba give Sheng Yue a sleeping pill. You forgot that he is immune to all poisons.”

Gu Ling nodded, “I didn’t consider that at the time. But what if an aphrodisiac works on him? He may not have tried it before, so we can have him try later.”

Su Liang coughed lightly, “I really want to know if Sheng Yue will accept Yan Shiba’s challenge.”

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu stealthily entered Sheng Yue’s courtyard using their lightness skills. They hid in a corner and soon heard Yan Shiba’s voice.

“You bastard, just say it! Dare or not? One word! If you don’t dare, get lost right now!” Yan Shiba’s attitude was very arrogant.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu pricked up their ears, and in the next moment, they heard Sheng Yue’s calm voice, “What would I not dare? No need to wait for a month, I want to marry you right now, and we’ll become husband and wife today. Do you dare?”

Chapter 503: 503. See who’s crazier

The wind was gentle, the clouds thin, and the sunlight warm.

Both Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were stupefied, unable to believe how things had turned out: Sheng Yue didn’t even wait a month and proposed to Yan Shiba on the spot, this is too outrageous!

However, Yan Shiba’s act of issuing a challenge was also absurd, so Sheng Yue’s calm response seemed more normal.

“Could it be that Sheng Yue has had his eyes on Miss Yan all along?” Ji Xiaoshu scratched his head, the world of grown-ups’ relationships so full of strange turns and mysterious happenings. Weren’t those two supposed to be enemies?

Zhengzheng furrowed his brows slightly, “No way.” They all knew how Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba became enemies. If it weren’t for Yan Shiba’s usefulness, Sheng Yue would have killed her long ago. Sheng Yue liking Yan Shiba would only happen when the sun rose from the west.

“I think Sheng Yue is simply trying to break the deadlock this way,” analyzed Zhengzheng, “After all, Yan Shiba threw him quite a challenge. If he waited a month and said he wasn’t interested in her, he wouldn’t know what she might do within this month. But he knows her intention isn’t because she likes him or wants to be with him, so he tries to counter her directly.”

Ji Xiaoshu sighed, “That’s probably it. Sheng Yue is really difficult to deal with, and it looks like Miss Yan is going to lose this round too.”

Just as Zhengzheng was about to say something, they heard Yan Shiba’s voice again, “You bastard, how dare you joke about such a matter?”

Zhengzheng imitated Sheng Yue’s tone and whispered, “I’m not joking.” His voice and words perfectly matched Sheng Yue’s from the other side...

Ji Xiaoshu peeked his head out from behind the wall, unable to see them as Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue were inside the room, “If Miss Yan asked for my advice now, I would suggest she agree. No matter the consequences, she mustn’t back down or she’ll truly lose! This round is all about who’s crazier!”

Zhengzheng silently covered Ji Xiaoshu’s mouth, thinking it would be better for Yan Shiba to cut her losses in time, as she stood no chance of winning against Sheng Yue in wits.

Next moment, they heard the sound of a table being slammed, followed by Yan Shiba’s furious shout, “What am I afraid of? If you dare to marry, I dare to wed! Let’s see who backs down first! The loser will be a turtle and bastard!”

Zhengzheng leaned his head on Ji Xiaoshu’s shoulder and sighed, “Miss Yan is too impulsive.”

Ji Xiaoshu didn’t think too much, “Senior brother, stop worrying. They’re both adults and staying in our house; as long as Sheng Yue and Miss Yan don’t fight to the death, there’s nothing serious.”

A blue figure flashed past, and Yan Shiba had already stormed out of the courtyard.

Zhengzheng quickly pulled Ji Xiaoshu along and ran after her.

Feng Ming, who had just returned from the Peng Mansion, holding a bouquet of flowers given to him by Peng Wu, almost collided with Yan Shiba.

Feng Ming wondered why Yan Shiba was in his and Zhu Zan’s courtyard, and why her face looked so unpleasant. As Feng Ming raised his hand to greet her, Yan Shiba seemed not to see him and vanished without a trace.

Feeling somewhat puzzled, Feng Ming entered the courtyard and saw an empty room with the door open. He walked over and looked inside.

Just as Sheng Yue was about to get up to sleep, their eyes met. Sheng Yue looked calm, while Feng Ming hesitated for a moment, "When did Young Master Sheng arrive?"

"This morning." Sheng Yue's expression was indifferent, and seeing the beautiful bouquet in Feng Ming's hand, he said, "Congratulations. I heard you're getting married."

"Thank you." Feng Ming smiled. Since Sheng Yue was here and staying, he must have been approved by Gu Ling and Su Liang, so Feng Ming had nothing to say.

Then, Sheng Yue didn't invite Feng Ming in, but walked over and closed the door, "I'm going to rest."

"Rest well, Young Master Sheng. If you need anything, feel free to ask me," said Feng Ming before returning to his own room. There was an empty vase on the windowsill, and he added some water and placed the bouquet in it, letting it bask in the sun, a smile forming on his face.

After a while, Feng Ming thought of Yan Shiba again. Zhu Zan was not there, and Yan Shiba stormed out because of Sheng Yue? That would make sense, as Feng Ming knew they had a grudge against each other. Maybe Yan Shiba failed in doing something to Sheng Yue?

Yuanming Pavilion.

When Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu came in, they didn't see Yan Shiba. They didn't know where she had gone. The two then rushed upstairs to find Su Liang and Gu Ling and report the latest situation to them.

"Miss, something terrible has happened!" Ji Xiaoshu entered with a serious expression. "Something really terrible has happened!"

Su Liang frowned in cooperation, "What's wrong? Are they fighting again?"

"No!" Ji Xiaoshu shook his head. "Miss, you would never guess!"

Just then, Gu Ling, who was reading a book, got to the point. "Sheng Yue wants to marry Yan Shiba, and he wants to do it now."

Zhengzheng wore a "I knew this would happen" expression and went to play with Gu Xiaonuan.

Ji Xiaoshu ran to Gu Ling, put his little head close to Gu Ling, blocking Gu Ling's book, looked straight into his eyes at close range, and asked, "Master, be honest, can you really read minds?"

Gu Ling pushed Ji Xiaoshu's head away with one hand and turned a page in the book. "Just now you know?"

"What am I thinking now?" Ji Xiaoshu got close again.

Gu Ling's thin lips opened slightly, "You're thinking that whatever I say you're thinking, you'll say I'm wrong."

Ji Xiaoshu: ... Master is truly a demon!

Su Liang laughed softly, "Don't disturb your master's reading, tell me quickly, what happened?" In fact, she had already guessed, and was just playing with the child earlier. Yan Shiba and the two little strategists thought that Sheng Yue would never agree to such a thing, but Su Liang had always felt that Sheng Yue would definitely make a choice they would never expect.

Then Ji Xiaoshu told Su Liang about the conversation they had overheard between Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue.

"In the end, Miss Yan didn't give in, but what are we going to do about this? Are they really going to get married now? Or should we wait and see who will run away first?" Ji Xiaoshu said that adults really play big.

Su Liang countered, "Do you think anyone will run away?"

After thinking for a while, Zhengzheng said, "I think if someone is going to run away, it might be Miss Yan. Sheng Yue is completely fearless of this kind of thing and looks like he doesn't care at all."

Ji Xiaoshu cupped his face, "Sigh, I think so too. The less calm Miss Yan is, the more calm Sheng Yue becomes, and he really wins. I'm a bit regretful about giving Miss Yan this bad idea, as it now puts her in a difficult spot."

"Where is she?" Su Liang asked.

"I don't know." Zhengzheng shook his head. "We thought she would come here after running out of Sheng Yue's place, or maybe she went back to her own courtyard. Shall we go and see?"

Su Liang nodded, "Let's go and have a look."

As the two children ran off again, Su Liang saw Gu Xiaonuan was getting sleepy, so she put her on a little bed and covered her with a blanket.

"Great God, do you think Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue have a chance?" Su Liang sat next to Gu Ling.

Gu Ling took a bookmark from the table, placed it in the position he had just read, closed the book, put it down, and put his arm around Su Liang. She leaned on Gu Ling's body as they both looked out the window at the shadows of the trees outside. There was a magpie on the tree, motionless, as if it was frozen in place.

"It's possible," Gu Ling said. "One is ice, the other fire, they're quite a match."

Su Liang coughed lightly, "I've only heard of water and fire being incompatible and ice and fire poles apart. There are no good words for them, so how can they be a match?"

"Yan Shiba told Sheng Yue to marry her, and Sheng Yue immediately agreed, which is just right for them. This wouldn't happen with other people," Gu Ling said.

“That’s true,” Su Liang nodded. “If Yan Shiba said such a thing to Cheng Yun, Cheng Yun would definitely run away at lightning speed. Sheng Yue is living in our house and knows that Yan Shiba is one of our people, so he doesn’t worry about anything. But honestly, I still think there’s no hope for the two of them. The problem isn’t with Yan Shiba, it’s that Sheng Yue hasn’t shown any interest in romance yet.”

Upon hearing this, Gu Ling suddenly laughed.

Confused, Su Liang asked him why he was laughing. Gu Ling kissed Su Liang’s cheek and said, “At the beginning, didn’t you also think that I had no interest in romance? But by that time, I had liked you for a long time.”

Su Liang admitted that he was still moved by Gu Ling’s beauty and gentleness even now...

Seeing Su Liang lost in thought, Gu Ling laughed softly, “What are you thinking about?”

Su Liang coughed lightly and pushed Gu Ling’s face away. “I was thinking that I didn’t know you had a crush on me back then, but we can’t compare this situation. Are you suggesting that Sheng Yue has a crush on Yan Shiba?”

Gu Ling shook his head, “Maybe not. I’m just saying that he might not necessarily be uninterested in matters of men and women. Maybe he just wasn’t interested before.”

Su Liang keenly noticed that Gu Ling didn’t say ‘romance’ but ‘matters of men and women.’ This covered feelings and more than that, including physical aspects.

Su Liang frowned, “Great God, are you saying that if they really end up in the bridal chamber because of the bet, Sheng Yue wouldn’t mind sleeping with Yan Shiba?”

Gu Ling nodded, “He’s a normal man, and at that point, he’d even have a proper title. He wouldn’t refuse such a thing.”

“So, no matter what, Sheng Yue can’t possibly wuss out, unless Yan Shiba gives up first,” Su Liang sighed softly. “This situation is really disadvantageous for her. With her temper, the more she’s provoked, the more she’ll escalate. I just hope she doesn’t suddenly fall for Sheng Yue. As long as she doesn’t have feelings for him, other things aren’t that big of a deal.”

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu went to Yan Shiba’s courtyard and, as expected, found her there.

“Miss Yan,” Ji Xiaoshu pushed the door open and poked her head in.

In broad daylight, Yan Shiba was sitting at the table drinking alcohol alone. The room was filled with a strong smell of alcohol.

As Ji Xiaoshu and Zhengzheng entered, both thought about how to comfort Yan Shiba. But to their surprise, she laughed. “You two were eavesdropping, weren’t you?”

Zhengzheng nodded, “Miss Yan, are you alright?”

Yan Shiba burst out laughing, “What could be wrong with me? That scoundrel must have been secretly in love with me for a long time since he wanted to marry me right away!”

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu exchanged glances, both thinking that Yan Shiba was drunk and not just a little.

Yan Shiba put down her wine glass and smirked, "I'm getting married too! Aren't you going to congratulate me?"

Zhengzheng, worried, held Yan Shiba's hand. "Miss Yan, calm down. You don't have to think about the bet. We won't laugh at you, and outsiders won't know. Marriage isn't something to mess around with."

Ji Xiaoshu nodded, "Yeah, Miss Yan, I was wrong. I shouldn't have suggested that bad idea. I can go talk to Sheng Yue myself and tell him it was just a joke. We won't tell anyone else about this, other than our masters and mistresses!"

Yan Shiba didn't interrupt but kept shaking her head. After Ji Xiaoshu finished speaking, she laughed and said, "You're overthinking it. I've decided that I'm going to marry Sheng Yue! Are you shocked? That's right, I want that effect!"

Zhengzheng furrowed his brows even more, "Miss Yan, whether we're shocked or not actually doesn't matter. Your happiness is the most important thing."

Yan Shiba ruffled Zhengzheng's hair and then Ji Xiaoshu's, "Anyway, I've made up my mind. Don't try to persuade me. It's just getting married. That scoundrel is actually quite good looking, can beat me in a fight, and he's missing a hand- how interesting! And both of us used to be in the mafia!"

Ji Xiaoshu blinked, "Miss Yan, I believe now you really want to marry Sheng Yue. But what is your real intention?"

A meaningful smile appeared on Yan Shiba's face, "Hmm, this is not something you kids should be worrying about. Just wait for the time to drink the wedding wine!"

Zhengzheng thought that Yan Shiba was not thinking clearly because she was drunk, but Ji Xiaoshu felt that she really had a plan to deal with Sheng Yue, which she didn't disclose.

So, the two children ran back to the Yuanming Pavilion to share the news with their master and mistress.

Seeing that Gu Ling and Su Liang were not surprised, Ji Xiaoshu asked, "Master, Mistress, do you know Miss Yan's real purpose? Tell us, please! She won't say!"

"Have you practiced martial arts today?" Gu Ling asked.

Ji Xiaoshu was speechless, "Master, don't change the subject! We'll practice later!"

"Go now." Gu Ling said.

Zhengzheng obediently walked out, and Ji Xiaoshu ran over, stepped on Gu Ling's foot, and turned to run, "Senior Brother, wait for me!"

Gu Xiaonuan was sound asleep, and Su Liang asked Gu Ling, "What do you think Yan Shiba's purpose is? It can't be... she's planning to conquer Sheng Yue with her body, can it?"

Gu Ling nodded, "There's nothing impossible about it; that's something she could do. If it weren't for Cheng Yun being a little monk and your interference, Yan Shiba might have already caused trouble for Cheng Yun."

Su Liang held his forehead, "Sheng Yue and Cheng Yun are biological brothers, so what is this, a twist of fate? But seriously, Sheng Yue is quite good-looking and has the temperament that Yan Shiba likes. He and Cheng Yun share a common trait—they both look very abstinent. I'm referring to Cheng Yun in the past."

"What about me?" Gu Ling asked.

Su Liang couldn't help but laugh, "Great God, you were quite abstinent at first too, but now, not at all, at least to me."

"In fact, I occasionally restrain myself." Gu Ling stared intently.

Su Liang knew what Gu Ling was hinting at and hurriedly pulled the conversation back, not wanting to roll in bed during the daytime when the children could come over any time, "Yan Shiba's purpose...is that really it? This is too ridiculous, but if it happens to those two and they're both willing, it's not our place to interfere. Maybe they can develop affection over time." She meant it literally...

After a moment, Su Liang sighed lightly, "Actually, it makes sense. Yan Shiba couldn't possibly like any normal man since she'd find them boring, even the now secular Cheng Yun. Sheng Yue also doesn't seem like the type who would be into gentle girls, considering his worldly wisdom and experience, which surpasses those of a typical transmigrator. Maybe their rivalry will spark some different kind of passion?"

Gu Ling nodded, "Let's see who will have the upper hand." He also meant it literally.

At this moment, Weng Ran had just learned about Yan Shiba's plan to marry Sheng Yue and hurriedly tried to persuade her to reconsider after his shock.

Yan Shiba snorted, "Why is it okay for you all to pair up, but I can't?"

Weng Ran looked helpless, "You can find a man you like."

Yan Shiba threw out a sentence, "Then why don't you give Cheng Yun to me?"

Weng Ran: ...

Yan Shiba laughed, her face bearing her signature arrogance and defiance, "I stopped liking Cheng Yun long ago; he's way too dull for me now that he's secular! Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. I can't wait for that scoundrel Sheng Yue to kneel before me and sing 'Conquer'! So what if he's better at martial arts than me? He's just a man! Let's see how I deal with him!"

Chapter 504: 504. I want to give it a try

Wen Ran saw that Yan Shiba was determined, so she could not persuade her otherwise and had to give up and leave her room. As soon as she went out, she saw Cheng Yun sitting in the courtyard, who stood up as soon as he saw her.

"How's it going?" Cheng Yun asked.

Wen Ran shook her head helplessly, “She insists on marrying Sheng Yue, and won’t listen to any persuasion. But she doesn’t like Sheng Yue at all, Sheng Yue...”

“That guy is crazy, I don’t know if he will like Yan Shiba or not, but I feel today’s event is too childish.” Cheng Yun frowned, “I suspect that he has ulterior motives.”

“This kind of thing...” Wen Ran sighed, “It’s out of our control too. They are both willing for now. It’s up to Su Liang and the prince if they’ll interfere. If they think there’s no need to interfere, then there really is no need.”

When the two walked out of the courtyard together, Cheng Yun said that he must have a talk with Sheng Yue to find out what his true intentions were. Although Cheng Yun didn’t recognize his elder brother, they were in fact siblings. Sheng Yue was more concerned about Cheng Yun, and Cheng Yun also considered it his duty to keep a close eye on him.

By the time of sunset, the whole family, young and old, knew about Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba’s intention to marry, and they clearly understood how this strange thing had happened.

Old Bai thought it was simply nonsense. Qiao Cong said that Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba were taking advantage of the fact that they had no elder to restrain them, and made a lifelong decision so casually.

Old Mu, on the other hand, held an optimistic attitude, “Let the young people decide for themselves, they have been living independently since they were young, and can bear the consequences, good or bad. I think you all are overthinking it.”

Cen Man sighed softly, “As long as they decide to get married, I hope they can treat it seriously.” After all, the younger generation around her had smooth and happy relationships, and this was the first time they had encountered something so peculiar, which left the elders at a loss.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, two little ones who were already good at matchmaking, were also shocked by Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba’s weird tactics. They had tried to persuade Yan Shiba, but since she insisted, there was no need to say anything to Sheng Yue either. After all, they were on Yan Shiba’s side.

When dinner was served, Yan Shiba appeared, dressed up in a new dress with light makeup. She had never worn makeup before, but had recently learned from Wen Ran and Su Liang.

“Aunt Yan looks so beautiful today!” Ji Xiaoshu praised, smiling.

Yan Shiba touched the golden hairpin on her head, smiling brightly, “After all, there’s a happy event, so I’m in a good mood.” She looked around and asked, “Where’s Sheng Yue? Has he chickened out and run away?” Her eyes lit up as she spoke.

Everyone understood: Yan Shiba would rather have Sheng Yue be a “deserter” than marry him. That way, she could save both face and dignity.

However, the next moment, a faint male voice came from the doorway, “I’m late.”

Sheng Yue entered, wearing clothes that Zhu Zan had given him. He had always worn black, but this time he wore a blue brocade robe, which added an air of nobility.

Yan Shiba, who usually wore blue, also had a new blue dress. At a glance, it seemed as if the two were wearing matching outfits, and they looked quite fitting together in appearance.

When their eyes met, Sheng Yue looked calm, while Yan Shiba's eyes narrowed slightly, filling the air with a strange and eerie "fighting spirit".

Zhengzheng broke the brief awkward moment, calling out "Uncle Sheng" and urging Sheng Yue to sit down quickly.

The only empty seat was next to Zhengzheng. Just as Sheng Yue was about to sit down, Yan Shiba suddenly got up, "Change seats."

And then, Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue sat next to each other, like all the other couples or loved ones in the family.

Yan Shiba was very calm, "Stop staring at us and eat!" She then picked up a steamed bun and offered it to Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue looked at the plump white bun and recalled the first time he came to Su Mansion. After leaving the dungeon, he was in Yuanming Pavilion, when Yan Shiba threw a bun at his face. He caught it and ate it, and it was delicious.

He liked the buns in Su Mansion... He had been thinking about them for a long time. In this respect, he was quite similar to Emperor Duanmu Chen in the palace.

In the spirit of reciprocity, Sheng Yue also picked up a bun for Yan Shiba.

With that, the two displayed a polite demeanor toward each other.

So, a strange scene unfolded at the dinner table: throughout dinner, Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue took turns offering dishes to each other, eating only what the other had picked, and giving everything they had picked themselves to the other...

Ji Xiaoshu leaned in to whisper to Gu Ling, "Are they competing in an alternative way?" Just like their swordsmanship during the day, each one taking turns, neither willing to stop first, as if stopping meant losing. So childish...

Gu Ling's expression remained indifferent, "They just like each other's bowls."

Old Mu couldn't help but chuckle, "Little Yan, why don't you and Sheng Yue swap bowls?"

The atmosphere suddenly changed from strange to lively, people who wanted to laugh did, and even those who found it speechless didn't cover it up, like Cheng Yun. He really wanted to take Sheng Yue out for a fight immediately.

Yan Shiba calmly reached out and really swapped her bowl with Sheng Yue's, and then continued to serve Sheng Yue dishes, smiling gently, "You guys misunderstood, I actually just wanted Sheng Yue to taste the delicious dishes I like."

Sheng Yue nodded, "So do I."

Zhengzheng sighed with emotion, "This is really fun." From martial fights to cultural fights, it's truly harmonious, so harmonious that it's hard for people to watch!

After dinner, Yan Shiba asked Sheng Yue in public, "When do you want to get married?"

“Up to you,” Sheng Yue said.

“We should have everything we need for a wedding. You should prepare the betrothal gifts and the mansion first,” Yan Shiba snorted lightly.

Weng Ran breathed a sigh of relief, fearing that Yan Shiba would say something like getting married immediately, and Sheng Yue would not refuse. As a friend, Weng Ran still thought this matter was somewhat unreliable and wanted to persuade Yan Shiba again.

“Okay,” Sheng Yue nodded.

Everyone dispersed, and Cheng Yun stopped Sheng Yue, who was about to leave, “I have something to say to you!”

The two went to the pavilion by the lake. There were no lights in the pavilion, but the light from the Yuanming Pavilion shone on the surface of the lake, along with the bright moonlight, making it not dark.

“What do you really want?” Cheng Yun got straight to the point.

Sheng Yue’s expression was calm, “You don’t even like Yan Shiba, so you don’t need to meddle in our affairs.”

Cheng Yun frowned, “I don’t like her, but she’s my friend.”

“Is she? I am your real brother, and marrying your friend, is there anything wrong with that?” Sheng Yue countered.

Cheng Yun was a bit annoyed, “I know you don’t really mean it!”

Sheng Yue chuckled, “How do you know if I am sincere or not? Because we are brothers, and you understand me? But you don’t even admit that I am your brother.”

“Then tell me straight, what are you thinking?” Cheng Yun asked coldly.

“If I must explain, when I came to Su Mansion and saw all of you paired up, I was envious. Yan Shiba suddenly came over and asked me to marry her, and I thought it was a good idea. She knows what kind of person I am, and I did not deceive her. I only said I would marry her, not that I liked her, nor that I would spend my whole life with her. She thinks the same way. What’s wrong with that?” Sheng Yue said calmly.

Cheng Yun was stunned for a moment, “Knowing that she doesn’t really want to marry you, why don’t you refuse?”

“Cheng Yun, I am not the same as you, and Yan Shiba is not Weng Ran. You ask me why I don’t refuse, it’s because you hope I refuse. But why can’t I not refuse?” Sheng Yue said, “As for our matter, neither of us has any objections, so you don’t have to worry about it. You ask me what I will do, why don’t you first ask your friend, what is her purpose in marrying me?”

In fact, Cheng Yun probably knew Yan Shiba's purpose, but couldn't say it out loud. Weng Ran's persuasion was useless, and his own would be even more useless.

Sheng Yue stood up and looked at Cheng Yun, "You don't really believe that I would settle down."

Cheng Yun nodded, "I really don't believe it."

Sheng Yue smiled faintly, "I don't believe it either, and I don't know what the outcome will be, but I have to try to find out. My father forcibly kept my mother back then and eventually killed her by mistake, maybe you don't remember. I will never force anyone in matters of men and women, nor am I interested in pursuing anyone. Now that someone is actively offering themselves, why not be happy?"

"You two are... simply..." Cheng Yun couldn't find a proper description.

Sheng Yue walked out of the pavilion with a leisurely pace, "If you don't understand, don't think so much, it's not good for hair growth."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Yun realized that Sheng Yue was clearly mocking his short hair! He instantly became angry, having been holding in his anger, he had wanted to fight with him for a long time, and now he was even more ruthless. He jumped up and chased after him, and his palm immediately aimed at Sheng Yue's back.

Sheng Yue still showed no surprise, evading to the side, the two of them engaged in a hand-to-hand fight by the lake with their bare hands.

Weng Ran was originally on the first floor of the Yuanming Pavilion, watching the pavilion on this side, waiting for Cheng Yun to come back, but suddenly saw them fighting, he quickly ran out, and just as he was about to come over, he ran back to the Yuanming Pavilion to look for Su Liang.

Su Liang was on the second floor watching Gu Ling make Chinese knots – this year there were too many friends getting married, and they all wanted Gu Ling's personal hand-made Chinese knots.

Hearing Weng Ran say Sheng Yue and Cheng Yun were fighting, Su Liang looked out the window and told Weng Ran to calm down, "It's fine, they both know each other's limits, Sheng Yue won't hurt Cheng Yun."

"Cheng Yun always wanted to fight him." Weng Ran sighed.

"I know." Su Liang nodded, "Among men, fighting can help resolve conflicts and enhance relationships."

Weng Ran rubbed her forehead, "I'm afraid it's still difficult for those two."

"It depends on Sheng Yue." Su Liang smiled lightly, "Because of past events, Cheng Yun has a deep prejudice against him. It will take time to change that, but if Sheng Yue can truly make some positive changes, Cheng Yun will accept him."

Weng Ran couldn't help but laugh, "The first thing Sheng Yue did when he came home was to suddenly propose to Sister Yan... Not only does Cheng Yun think it's absurd, but I do too." If it were someone else, Weng Ran might choose to respect her and bless her, but her relationship with Yan Shiba is not ordinary.

Su Liang patted Weng Ran on the shoulder, "Don't think too much. Even if it was impulsiveness at that moment, they have both calmed down now and know what they are doing."

After Weng Ran left, Su Liang said to Gu Ling, "Another couple, and we'll need to add another Chinese knot."

Gu Ling shook her head, "They didn't ask me for one. I won't give it."

"They didn't ask you, but Yan Shiba told me early on that when they get married, they'll want everything others have, and not a single thing less." Su Liang said, "Although there's a chance they'll break up on the wedding night, it's not certain. What if they sleep together and find it enjoyable? Who knows?"

Ji Xiaoshu's curious voice came from the entrance, "What did Mrs. say is enjoyable?"

Su Liang coughed lightly, "Eavesdropping isn't nice, you know."

Ji Xiaoshu pushed the door open, "We didn't mean to eavesdrop. We just happened to hear it."

Zhengzheng behind him agreed.

In order to divert their attention and avoid further questions about their previous conversation, Su Liang had them go outside to watch the fight.

The two little guys hurriedly ran out.

Once out of the Yuanming Pavilion, Ji Xiaoshu said to Zhengzheng, "Actually, I heard it clearly, but I don't quite understand. Mrs. said that if they sleep together and find it enjoyable, who knows? It must be about Sister Yan and Sheng Yue."

Zhengzheng frowned, "Mrs. didn't want us to hear, so let's pretend we didn't."

Ji Xiaoshu nodded, "Come to think of it, if Sheng Yue snores and grinds his teeth while sleeping, Sister Yan would definitely find it unbearable and kick him out."

Zhengzheng: ...That's definitely not what Mrs. meant.

Weng Ran didn't go to the other side of the lake with the two children to watch the fight.

"They need weapons." Ji Xiaoshu said.

Weng Ran quickly stopped them, "We can't add fuel to the fire!"

Men fight, and without weapons, the fight turns into close combat.

As they watched, Cheng Yun threw Sheng Yue to the ground. The next moment, Sheng Yue straightened up, reversed the situation, and pinned Cheng Yun down, raising his fist.

Weng Ran frowned, but she saw Sheng Yue get up and smoothly pull Cheng Yun up from the ground, the two of them separating.

Weng Ran breathed a sigh of relief when she heard Zhengzheng say, "After all, they are brothers."

Sheng Yue and Cheng Yun didn't speak again, but leaped over to the other side of the lake one after the other.

"Little sister, don't worry. He's fine," Sheng Yue said to Weng Ran, always gentle.

Cheng Yun snorted, "Don't flatter yourself."

"We'll be family soon." Sheng Yue smiled and looked at Zhengzheng, "Didn't you want to learn my swordsmanship? Would you like to learn now?"

"Sure!" Zhengzheng immediately nodded.

Ji Xiaoshu said that although he didn't like Sheng Yue, he couldn't pass up the opportunity to learn swordsmanship. So he quickly brought out three wooden swords from the Yuanming Pavilion, which they used for practice.

Cheng Yun stood not far away, watching Sheng Yue teaching the two kids swordsmanship in the moonlight, frowning slightly, "He's winning people's hearts."

Weng Ran nodded, "But there's nothing wrong with that. He made mistakes and wants to be accepted by everyone. Besides, I think he truly likes children, not just pretending."

"He has taken children hostage more than once," Cheng Yun said, which was why he thought Sheng Yue was scum.

"After all, it's in the past, and he hasn't really harmed any child." Weng Ran held Cheng Yun's hand, "Not long ago, he rescued many women like Sister Peng and their children. You can be friends with Sister Yan, who also has an unglamorous past. Have you ever thought that you might be more critical of Sheng Yue precisely because he is your older brother?"

Cheng Yun was taken aback, "Is that so... I didn't think about it."

"If he really has changed, we should give him a chance," Weng Ran said.

Cheng Yun shook his head, "I still can't imagine what it would be like if he really gets married to Yan Shiba."

Sheng Yue taught the sword techniques Zhengzheng wanted to learn and told them to practice together tomorrow.

"Thank you, Uncle Sheng," Zhengzheng said.

Ji Xiaoshu said seriously, "Thanks. But don't think about becoming our master. We only have one master."

Sheng Yue nodded, "I really thought about it, but it seems there's no such honor. However, I already have disciples."

Zhengzheng smiled, "Are they Axin and Ale? We are very familiar with them. But..."

Ji Xiaoshu continued, "Axin and Ale have mentioned you before, but they all think you're a bad person. Besides, they've already recognized Uncle Qiao Jing as their master."

Sheng Yue sighed lightly, "It's a real pity. Actually, I mostly wanted to be Nuannuan's master."

Ji Xiaoshu immediately turned around and shouted towards the second floor of the Yuanming Pavilion, "Master, Sheng Yue said he wants to take Baby Sister as his disciple!"

Gu Ling's figure appeared at the window, speaking two words, "In your dreams."

Ji Xiaoshu mimicked Sheng Yue's tone and said, "Ah, what a pity indeed. It's getting late, so we should all go back to our dreams."

As Sheng Yue was about to leave, Zhengzheng stopped him again, "Uncle Sheng, are you really going to marry Sister Yan? You won't run away before the wedding, will you?"

Sheng Yue shook his head, "No."

"Sister Yan is actually quite nice, straightforward, and loyal. Since you two have decided to get married, it would be better if you could come to like Sister Yan. Give it a try! I believe you will discover Sister Yan's good points, and feelings can be cultivated," Zhengzheng said sincerely.

Sheng Yue, however, asked back, "Would you say the same to Yan Shiba and ask her to give it a try to like me?"

Zhengzheng hesitated, never having thought of that before, but he nodded firmly, "I will! I hope Uncle Sheng and Sister Yan can be happy, whether they're together or not."

Ji Xiaoshu hugged Zhengzheng's arm, "Big Brother, you really have a Bodhisattva's heart."

Sheng Yue nodded slightly, "Alright. I'll consider your suggestion."

"There's one more thing," Ji Xiaoshu said to Sheng Yue, "Your blood can resist all poisons, and we want to see if it works against every poison. If you don't want to..."

"Okay." Sheng Yue agreed before hearing the whole sentence, "If you need me or my blood, just ask." As he was about to leave, he turned back, "I want to see Axin and Ale, but going to the Peng family might get me beaten. Can you have them come over to play tomorrow?"

"Alright, since you agreed to our request so readily." Ji Xiaoshu said it was no problem.

Looking at Sheng Yue's retreating figure, Ji Xiaoshu suddenly asked, "Are you really determined to be a good person from now on?"

Without turning around, Sheng Yue answered Ji Xiaoshu's question, "I want to give it a try."

Chapter 505: 505. It's hard to say

Ji Xiaoshu got up early and, while dressing, brought up yesterday's events, "First, starting today, we can let Sheng Yue try the medicine. Second, we promised Sheng Yue to invite Axin and Ale over. Third, big brother, you also promised him that you would persuade Aunt Yan to like him."

Zhengzheng nodded, "We also need to practice the swordsmanship we learned last night."

"The other things are no problem. Big brother, if you really want to persuade Aunt Yan to like Sheng Yue, you might get beaten up." Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, "Aunt Yan has a bad temper and hates hearing such things the most."

Zhengzheng sighed lightly, "Once I've promised, I must do it, and I'm doing it sincerely."

Ji Xiaoshu raised an eyebrow, "So now you think it's possible for Sheng Yue and Aunt Yan to really become a loving couple? You didn't say that before."

"I wasn't seeing their situation properly before." Zhengzheng nodded, "But since they insist on getting married, I still hope they can be together happily. As for whether my hope can be realized, I don't know."

During breakfast, Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba didn't serve each other food like last night's dinner. Instead, they ate separately like strangers, without even a glance at each other.

Everyone could see that as long as Yan Shiba provoked Sheng Yue, he would definitely respond. But if Yan Shiba didn't take the initiative, Sheng Yue wouldn't bother with her.

In this way, they coexisted peacefully and still harmoniously.

After breakfast, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu went to Feng Ming and said they wanted to go to the Peng family.

Feng Ming had just gone yesterday but didn't mind going again today, so he accompanied the two children out.

On the way, Zhengzheng asked Feng Ming, "Uncle Feng, if Aunt Peng found out that Sheng Yue came to the capital city and stayed at our house, would she be unhappy?"

Feng Ming shook his head, "No. We discussed this before." Peng Wu had known long before what Sheng Yue had gone to do, and that he would come to the capital city after completing it. She told Feng Ming that her enemy was not Sheng Yue. In fact, Sheng Yue had helped her take revenge and had even deliberately sent the man who hurt her alive to the capital city for her to have the opportunity to take revenge.

The only direct conflict and enmity between Peng Wu and Sheng Yue on Xingluo Island was when Sheng Yue needed a hostage and took her two children away, causing her and her children to be separated and suffering.

However, looking at the result, it wasn't a bad thing. The children were not hurt, and there was not even any fright. Axin and Ale both said that Sheng Yue never mistreated them, didn't starve or freeze, and didn't even use harsh words. Sheng Yue's actions directly led to Peng Wu and her children being left behind when the Zhong Family fled Xingluo Island. The children had no choice, but Peng Wu chose it herself, and she certainly had no regrets.

Even if Sheng Yue hadn't captured Axin and Ale that time, and the Zhong Family had taken Peng Wu and her children, Gu Ling and Su Liang would still find them after resolving the Xingluo Island issue. However, Peng Wu couldn't be sure if she would do something during that time to escape, or if that man would kill her to avoid future troubles.

In any case, it was Sheng Yue's bad behavior that enabled Peng Wu and her children to get away from the Zhong Family earlier, be rescued sooner, and reunite with their loved ones in the capital city earlier.

Moreover, there was one point Peng Wu didn't doubt: Sheng Yue knew her background and the close relationship between the Peng Family and Gu Ling and Su Liang. That's why he chose her

children, even expecting that she wouldn't leave her children, and that Gu Ling would definitely save them.

Therefore, Peng Wu said she didn't hate Sheng Yue, and as long as Gu Ling and Su Liang approved him, she had no objections.

"That's good," Zhengzheng said, adding that they were going to the Peng family because Sheng Yue wanted to see Axin and Ale.

Feng Ming was somewhat surprised, but then smiled. "I believe you can handle it well." These two children had higher EQs than many adults, and Feng Ming and Peng Wu's fate was mainly due to their matchmaking efforts.

At the Peng Mansion, when Axin and Ale heard they were coming over and invited to play at the Su Mansion, they were very happy. They loved playing at Su Mansion the most and loved playing with Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu.

Feng Ming briefly told Peng Wu about Sheng Yue's arrival in the capital city yesterday, and Peng Wu laughed, "I know, let them go." She wasn't worried about her children's safety at all now.

Axin and Ale followed Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu as they ran into Sheng Yue's courtyard.

Sheng Yue was sitting by the window reading a book he had borrowed from Su Liang after breakfast. At that time, Su Liang asked Sheng Yue what kind of book he wanted to read, and Sheng Yue asked her to help him pick one.

Ji Xiaoshu stood on tiptoes and peeked through the window, curiously asking, "The Flower Cherisher? What kind of book is this? Is it about growing flowers?"

Sheng Yue closed the book, stood up, and said, "It's a storybook about love and romance. Not suitable for you kids to read."

Ji Xiaoshu burst out laughing, "You're actually reading this? Are you trying to learn how to get along with Aunt Yan?"

Sheng Yue shook his head slightly, opened the door, and stepped out. "It's not that I want to learn. I asked our mother for a book, and she gave me this. I thought she would give me a Buddhist Scripture or a Medical Book."

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu couldn't help but laugh at Sheng Yue's words. They suddenly felt that sometimes Sheng Yue spoke with a sense of Gu Ling's cold humor, serious but somehow still made them want to laugh.

After seeing Sheng Yue, Axin and Ale both frowned a little. Previously, Peng Wu had not told the children about Sheng Yue's repentance, because until today, she didn't know if Sheng Yue would really come to the capital city.

"You've grown taller." Sheng Yue looked at Axin and Ale and said.

Axin tugged at Zhengzheng's sleeve. He could see that Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu had a good relationship with Sheng Yue but wasn't sure how to react. After all, the last time they met was in that dark cave.

“Uncle Sheng is not a bad person. Your mother knows you’re coming, and she knows Uncle Sheng is here. Uncle Feng knows even more, and since no one has stopped you, it’s okay.” Zhengzheng said with a smile.

“Oh.” Axin nodded, Ale peeked out from behind Ji Xiaoshu, locked eyes with Sheng Yue, and quickly retracted his head.

“Actually, I wanted to apologize to both of you today.” Sheng Yue said to Axin and Ale, “Regardless of my intentions at that time, I have done something wrong against both of you, and I hope you can forgive me.”

Ale whispered to Ji Xiaoshu, “Brother Xiaoshu, can we forgive him?”

Ji Xiaoshu shook his head, “Of course not! No one forgives that easily, right? An apology has to be sincere!”

Zhengzheng laughed, “Yes, you’re right. Uncle Sheng, you have to show some sincerity.”

Sheng Yue nodded, “Alright. But I don’t have anything right now, and I don’t know how to show my sincerity.”

“That’s easy!” Ji Xiaoshu quickly offered a suggestion, “You can go to Wangxiang Mountain to catch some game and grill it for us to eat! If it’s delicious, Axin and Ale will forgive you!”

Axin couldn’t help but laugh. Ale nodded repeatedly, “Brother Xiaoshu is right! I want to eat grilled chicken!”

Sheng Yue actually wanted to ask Ji Xiaoshu if it was him who wanted to eat, but decided not to say anything. Ji Xiaoshu was helping him, so it was better not to bring up unnecessary issues. He wasn’t at the point where he could joke with the children yet.

So, Sheng Yue left the house alone to go hunting on Wangxiang Mountain.

Yan Shiba found Su Liang and asked if Mo Yan could die, “There’s no need to keep him around at this point, right? It’s a complete waste of food.”

Su Liang nodded, “You’re right, I’d completely forgotten about him. If you want to do it, go ahead and send him on his way.”

“So casual?” Yan Shiba lost interest when he heard this, “Killing him doesn’t seem that fun anymore.”

“It has its benefits: saving on food,” said Su Liang.

Yan Shiba scoffed, “In that case, it’s simpler just to starve him to death!”

“Either way, once Sheng Yue returns, you can discuss with him how Mo Yan should die. He might have some ideas,” said Su Liang.

Yan Shiba rolled his eyes, “Why should I consult with him? Who does he think he is? What right does he have to have any ideas?”

Su Liang smirked, "Wasn't it you who insisted on marrying him?"

"That's a completely different matter!" Yan Shiba shook his head, "By the way, where did he go?"

"Xiaoshu said that Sheng Yue went to Wangxiang Mountain to hunt because they wanted to eat game," Su Liang replied.

Yan Shiba sneered, "He's really going out of his way to please the children! Be careful, he might just kidnap them someday!"

"That's something I'm not worried about," said Su Liang, "If he were to kidnap someone, you're the only possibility."

Yan Shiba scoffed, "Do you really think he could fall in love with me? That would be fantastic! When that happens, I'll make him kneel on the ground and sing 'Conquer' until his voice becomes hoarse! Hahaha!"

Su Liang:... To be honest, she felt that the likelihood of Yan Shiba being conquered by Sheng Yue was greater. She didn't dare say it, or else Yan Shiba would definitely flip out.

When Sheng Yue came back from outside, he had a large basket on his back, filled with game. There were four wild chickens and four wild rabbits, all very fat and already cleaned up.

Just as he took them out by the lake, Yan Shiba's strange voice came from behind, "Yo! You didn't buy these from the restaurant, did you?"

Four children gathered around, and Sheng Yue didn't even bother to look back at Yan Shiba, "Yeah, bought them from the restaurant."

Yan Shiba was choked up in an instant, and he waved his fist angrily.

The children were all excited, looking forward to eating grilled meat, and even though they agreed to let Sheng Yue cook for them, they were all interested in trying their hand at it.

Soon, Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu asked Zhu Zan to help them bring out the barbecue grill that Gu Ling had made. They set it up in the sunniest spot by the lake.

"Master, we need spices!" Ji Xiaoshu shouted from below.

Weng Ran walked over with a smile, carrying a plate, "Here you go." Cheng Yun followed her, his eyes falling on Sheng Yue with a faint scrutiny.

It didn't take long for the lakeside to become lively. Qiao Cong, Old Bai, Old Mu and Weng Ming saw that the children wanted to eat barbecue, and they all took out their fishing gear, lined up, and decided to catch fish to grill. They even made a bet that the first person to catch a fish would be able to take Nuannuan out to play in the afternoon.

Under the children's command, Sheng Yue lit the fire and skewered whole wild chickens and rabbits on the grill.

Weng Ran helped out, and Cheng Yun joined in as well. By now, he had completely adjusted to such activities and had even learned how to kill chickens and fish.

Weng Ran looked back and saw Yan Shiba frowning and standing not far away. She hurriedly called out to her, “Sister Yan, come and help quickly! Otherwise, there won’t be any chicken legs left for you to eat later!”

It was only then that Yan Shiba slowly walked over. She pushed Sheng Yue away and stood in his place. With a light snort, she said, “If you don’t know how to do it, just stand aside and watch! Let me show you what professional skills look like!”

The next moment, Yan Shiba began to demonstrate her oil-brushing technique, which she had done before and was much more skilled at than Sheng Yue.

However, perhaps because she was too focused on showing off and not cautious enough, Yan Shiba’s oil bottle slipped from her hand and shattered on the ground...

The oil bottle was specially made by Gu Ling for brushing oil on barbecues. It came with a small brush, and there were several of them. Although the oil bottle breaking wasn’t a big deal, since Yan Shiba had made her boastful statement earlier, she now felt embarrassed.

“Broken things bring safety!” Kind-hearted Zhengzheng quickly eased the tension, “I’ll go get another one!”

Sheng Yue followed Zhengzheng away.

Yan Shiba hit her own forehead with a clenched fist, “I just get so angry when I see that bastard!”

Weng Ran teased, “But you still insist on marrying him!”

Cheng Yun seized the opportunity to ask, “Do you want to call off the wedding?”

Yan Shiba shook her head, “Impossible! If anyone is calling off the wedding, it should be him. I’m not afraid of that bastard!”

Ji Xiaoshu: ... Being stubborn is definitely Sister Yan’s specialty. The whole thing started as a bet on whether Sheng Yue would dare to marry her, but now it’s turned into a bet on whether he would dare not to. Adult relationships can be so complicated.

Zhengzheng came back with the oil bottle, and Sheng Yue held a broom and dustpan in his hands, ready to clean up the mess Yan Shiba had caused.

Yan Shiba’s face darkened, and she grabbed the broom away, “I can clean it up myself, I don’t need you to play the good guy!”

Sheng Yue looked indifferent. If Yan Shiba wanted, he would give it to her. “I’m just afraid the children would step on the broken pieces and hurt their feet. I’m not helping you.”

“Are you too embarrassed to say you’re helping me?” Yan Shiba retorted.

Sheng Yue nodded, “Yes, I’m helping you.”

Yan Shiba: ...I really want to smack the broom into Sheng Yue’s face! I’m so angry!!

Weng Ran and Cheng Yun exchanged glances, both speechless. Yan Shiba had always been thinking about how to treat Sheng Yue, but it was quite obvious that Sheng Yue knew very well how to treat her.

The aroma of grilled meat filled the air, and the children ran around chasing and playing. Suddenly, Qiao Cong stood up, laughing heartily, "I caught a fish!" A big carp swayed up from the water on the fishing rod, shimmering in the sunlight. The children immediately rushed over, cheering.

Weng Ran and Cheng Yun bumped their elbows and shared a smile. Sheng Yue was seriously seasoning the grilled meat while Yan Shiba stood behind him, staring at him intently. She even raised her hand to punch him in the air, but pulled her fist back before it could land on Sheng Yue...

Su Liang and Gu Ling held Gu Xiaonuan as they stood by the second-floor window, watching the scene below. Gu Xiaonuan held a big red Chinese knot in her arms which Gu Ling had just made. It was one of the wedding gifts for Weng Ran and Cheng Yun.

Gu Xiaonuan playfully shook the Chinese knot in her hands, and it disappeared.

"That's not for you." Su Liang pinched Gu Xiaonuan's nose.

Gu Ling smiled lightly, "If Nuannuan wants to play, I can make another one."

Gu Xiaonuan pointed below, "Find brother!"

Gu Ling, with one arm holding Su Liang and the other holding Gu Xiaonuan, jumped down from the second floor, just in time for the grilled meat.

Meanwhile, Sheng Yue was by the lake, killing the fish Qiao Cong had just caught. Although he had only one hand, he had long been used to it. The other half of his arm was also very flexible and could be used as an auxiliary tool, so it didn't affect his work.

Yan Shiba quietly walked up behind Sheng Yue and raised her foot as if to kick him into the water.

It was just for fun, and Yan Shiba didn't really want to kick him into the water. After all, the children were there, and she would be in the wrong if she did so. It would also earn Sheng Yue more sympathy, which was not worth it.

However, before Yan Shiba could withdraw her foot, she suddenly felt someone push her from behind, causing her body to uncontrollably lunge towards Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue had long been aware that someone was approaching him, and without guessing, he knew it was Yan Shiba. So, with the fish he had just killed in his hand, he swiftly moved out of the way...

With a splash, Yan Shiba fell into the water.

Realizing the trouble, Ji Xiaoshu quickly shouted, "Uncle Sheng, save Aunt Yan! She can't swim!"

Sheng Yue:... He had personally witnessed Mo Yan forcing Yan Shiba into the water several times.

The next moment, Yan Shiba's head emerged from the water. She coughed twice, wiped the water off her face, and without demanding to know who had pushed her, pointed at Sheng Yue on the shore with a hint of excitement in her eyes, "Come on, let's settle this in the water!"

Su Liang shook her head, "She's actually inspired by a new idea and thinks she might have found a way to defeat Sheng Yue." Yan Shiba had practiced in Mo Yan's forbidden area before...

Zhengzheng urged Yan Shiba to come up quickly, "Aunt Yan, come up and eat some meat!"

Yan Shiba shook her head, "Save me a chicken leg! Come on, you scoundrel! If you don't dare, just admit your defeat in front of everyone!"

Weng Ran shook her head helplessly as she handed out meat to the children, “Forget it, let her be. She seems to be having a good time. At least she’s not bored now.”

Sheng Yue handed the fish to Cheng Yun and turned to walk towards the lake, “Fine. Is it a breath-holding contest? I’ll play along.”

So, with each child holding a fragrant and crispy grilled chicken leg and the old fishermen putting down their fishing rods to eat, the crowd watched Sheng Yue enter the water, and faced Yan Shiba, three meters apart, preparing for the next round of challenge.

Gu Xiaonuan, not knowing what these strange uncles and aunts were up to but following Gu Ling’s instructions, raised her little hand, then lowered it, giggling, “Start!”

Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba both submerged themselves underwater. The first to surface would lose.

During their previous contests and the impulsive decision to get married, everyone thought Yan Shiba had no chance of winning. But this time, it was hard to say.

Ji Xiaoshu took a bite of his chicken leg, then turned to ask Su Liang, “Master, if Aunt Yan really wants to win and she does this time, will they not get married?”

Su Liang chuckled, “That’s hard to say. They never said the marriage would be canceled if one of them lost.”

“Right.” Ji Xiaoshu nodded, “Well, they should get married. I think they’re a perfect match now, always competing and progressing together. How great!”

Chapter 506: 506. Extreme Tug

A gentle breeze and warm sunshine accompanied everyone by the lake as they enjoyed delicious grilled meat, all the while staring at the lake’s surface, watching to see if Yan Shiba could make a comeback in this round.

As the children finished their chicken legs, there was still no movement on the lake’s surface.

Su Liang frowned slightly. She knew that Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue had both entered Mo Yan’s “Transmigration Road” before, so they should have excellent swimming skills. But she also knew the time limit for a normal person to hold their breath underwater. She wasn’t worried about Sheng Yue, but she was starting to worry that Yan Shiba might do anything to win, regardless of the consequences...

Just as Su Liang was about to call an end to the contest to avoid any accidents, the sound of water splashing came, and someone’s head emerged from the water, followed by a few coughs.

Ji Xiaoshu’s eyes lit up, “Aunt Yan won!”

Everyone laughed, happy for Yan Shiba, who had been trying hard to defeat Sheng Yue but hadn’t been able to. Of course, they all favored Yan Shiba.

After taking a deep breath, Sheng Yue looked around and didn’t see Yan Shiba. He heard Su Liang call his name, “Sheng Yue!”

As their eyes met, Sheng Yue understood Su Liang’s furrowed brows and immediately dove back into the water.

Zhengzheng's face tightened, "Could something have happened to Aunt Yan?"

The children began to call for Yan Shiba one after another. Just as Su Liang was about to get Feng Ming and Zhu Zan to help, Sheng Yue dragged Yan Shiba out of the lake. Yan Shiba's condition was clearly abnormal.

Sheng Yue reached the nearest shore on the opposite side of the lake.

Su Liang flew across the lake, with Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu following closely behind. Weng Ran also ran around the lake at high speed.

The smiles vanished from everyone's faces, and those who were eating grilled meat put it down, revealing worried expressions.

By the time Su Liang arrived, Sheng Yue had already started first aid on Yan Shiba. He cleared her nostrils and mouth of any secretions, then controlled water. Seeing that Yan Shiba still wasn't breathing, he knelt beside her, performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest compressions.

Sheng Yue knew these techniques because his mother had taught him after crossing worlds. Although he had never performed them before and wasn't proficient, he remembered the steps clearly and performed them perfectly.

Su Liang watched from the side, not asking Sheng Yue to move away.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu both clenched their small faces, each holding onto Su Liang's hand.

"Mother, will Aunt Yan be alright?" Ji Xiaoshu's eyes reddened, almost crying. He was the one who pushed Yan Shiba into the water, and couldn't help but feel scared.

Su Liang held the children's hands without speaking. She felt that Yan Shiba hadn't been submerged for long, and Sheng Yue's first aid methods were correct.

On the opposite shore, everyone was initially shocked to see Sheng Yue giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to Yan Shiba. They thought Su Liang would take over the rescue, but seeing her not intervene, they knew Sheng Yue must be doing the right thing.

Weng Ran's eyes were red with anxiety as well, but Cheng Yun held her hand, and the two stood together in silence, watching.

Soaked to the bone, Sheng Yue didn't notice who had arrived or what reactions the others had. He simply continued to focus on saving Yan Shiba, following the method his mother had taught him.

As Sheng Yue drew a deep breath, about to give Yan Shiba another breath, she slowly opened her eyes.

Su Liang saw this and let out a sigh of relief. Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu jumped excitedly, "Aunt Yan woke up!"

Everyone on the opposite shore relaxed. Cen Man said with lingering fear, "From now on, we can't joke around and make rash bets."

Gu Xiaonuan asked Gu Ling, "So Uncle Sheng kissing Aunt Yan made her better?"

Gu Ling kissed Gu Xiaonuan's forehead, planning to have Su Liang teach the family some first aid techniques later. She had taught the two little disciples before, but many people were still unfamiliar with it.

On the other side, the moment Yan Shiba regained consciousness, she saw Sheng Yue very close to her, seemingly kissing her. Her mind exploded and she tried to push Sheng Yue away, but she didn't have the strength.

Sheng Yue pulled away the moment Yan Shiba opened her eyes, then sat down beside her. He wiped the beads of water from his forehead, not knowing if it was lake water or cold sweat, and let out a long sigh.

Then, Yan Shiba got up, pounced on Sheng Yue, and began to hit him. "Scumbag! Bastard! How dare you take advantage of me! You're asking for death ah!"

Hearing Yan Shiba's voice, Su Liang looked skyward, speechless. She seemed to be recovering quickly, proving her brain wasn't damaged. Instead of separating the two, Su Liang flew back across the lake.

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu hurriedly ran over to break up the fight.

"Aunt Yan, you misunderstand! Uncle Sheng was trying to save you just now!"

"Yes, yes! You were unconscious in the water, and Uncle Sheng was the one who saved you!"

Yan Shiba paused with her raised fist and showed a strange expression, "Don't lie to me, he was clearly molesting me just now!"

"Oh no, that wasn't molestation, that was to save you, by giving you his breath! You weren't even breathing! Master's wife taught us that's how we should rescue someone who is drowning!" Ji Xiaoshu quickly said, grabbing Yan Shiba's arm to stop her from hitting Sheng Yue.

Yan Shiba was still on top of Sheng Yue at this moment. She furrowed her brows upon hearing this. "Really? Then why didn't that sneaky girl save me, why did he have to give me his breath?"

"It was urgent, and we were far away. He was the closest, and he knows how to do it." Zhengzheng said.

"Why does he know how?" Yan Shiba asked. "I don't even know how!"

"My mother taught me." Sheng Yue's internal strength recovered, and he pushed Yan Shiba away. Yan Shiba slapped him twice, but it was gentle and not a big deal.

Someone came to help Sheng Yue up, it was Cheng Yun. Although his brow was still furrowed, his attitude towards Sheng Yue had conspicuously changed after what happened just now. He even asked, "Why hasn't my mother taught me?"

"Because you were a little silly back then," Sheng Yue replied faintly.

Cheng Yun's face darkened slightly. Indeed, he had no memories of his mother, having lost her at a very young age and being too young to remember anything.

Weng Ran also helped Yan Shiba up and asked if she felt discomfort anywhere.

Yan Shiba shook her head and looked at Su Liang, who was eating meat on the other side of the lake, feeling angry. "Sneaky girl, I really misjudged you, you didn't even try to save me!"

Weng Ran quickly explained, "Su Liang was the first to come over and the first to notice that something might have happened to you. She went back only after Sheng Yue rescued you and you woke up."

Yan Shiba's face stiffened. "Well, she shouldn't have let that scoundrel kiss me!"

Zhengzheng couldn't help but say, "Anyway, Aunt Yan and Uncle Sheng are going to get married, so it shouldn't matter, right?"

Yan Shiba's frown tightened. Although Sheng Yue was the first to reach the surface of the lake, Yan Shiba had drowned. She was quite confident that she could win this round, reclaim her dignity, and no longer had to get married. But to her surprise, she not only lost but had lost miserably.

Weng Ran could see that Yan Shiba was in an awkward situation. It would be too difficult for her to change her opinion of Sheng Yue all at once, even though he had just saved her. In fact, the issue between the two of them was no longer about grievances or positions, but rather about saving face – and Yan Shiba was the one who cared most about face.

"Let's go back to clean up and change first," Weng Ran said, holding Yan Shiba as they started to leave.

Cheng Yun had already let Sheng Yue go and told him, "You should go back and clean up and change your clothes as well."

Yan Shiba turned her head to see Sheng Yue looking at her and snorted coldly, "I'll settle the score with you later!"

"Aunt Yan, we saved a chicken leg for you!" Ji Xiaoshu said.

Sheng Yue asked, "Do I have any?"

Zhengzhao hurriedly said, "Yes, everyone has some!"

It wasn't until Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue had each left one after the other that the lively atmosphere by the lake truly resumed.

Zhengzheng chased after Weng Ran and Yan Shiba, while Ji Xiaoshu returned to Gu Ling and Su Liang's side. For once, he took the initiative to admit his mistakes, "Master, Mistress, I was wrong, please punish me."

Gu Ling nodded, "Your punishment is that you can't eat grilled fish today."

Ji Xiaoshu hesitated for a moment and looked at Su Liang. Su Liang mimicked the tone Ji Xiaoshu usually used to tease her, "Great God, just spoil him."

Ji Xiaoshu cheered up, "I knew Master loves me the most!" He then took a plate with a grilled chicken and ran off, "I'm going to give Aunt Yan some meat to eat!"

Once he left, Gu Ling said, "We'll punish him another day when he's in a better mood."

Su Liang held her forehead. However, she knew Gu Ling was only trying to help Ji Xiaoshu relax since he felt remorseful and nervous for his mistake today. Education could wait for now, there was no need to rush in the moment. After all, Yan Shiba didn't even mind being pushed into the water. But Su Liang still wanted to have a good talk with the children about setting limits and being mindful of their jokes.

As Ji Xiaoshu peeped in with the meat in hand, Yan Shiba had already changed into clean clothes, Weng Ran was drying her hair, and Zhengzheng was massaging her legs.

"Xiaoshu, why are you hiding? Come over!" Yan Shiba pretended to be stern.

Ji Xiaoshu ran in with the meat, lowered his head, and held up the plate. "Aunt Yan, I'm sorry. You eat the meat first, so you'll have the strength to beat me up."

"Where did you go wrong?" Yan Shiba said as she tore off a chicken leg, took a big bite, and nodded. "That bitch's cooking is average, but our spices are really good!"

Wen Ran cleared his throat, "Didn't you just promise us, Yan sister that you would not call Sheng Yue like that anymore?"

"I'm used to it, how can I change it all at once?" Yan Shiba shook her head, "I can only try my best."

Ji Xiaoshu took the initiative to massage Yan Shiba's other leg, "Aunt Yan, after today's events, can you and Sheng Yue let go of your past grudges?"

Yan Shiba ate meat while complaining, "You two little guys, why do you have the same thing to say? Really!" Before Ji Xiaoshu came, Zhengzheng had asked the same question, word for word.

Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, "Big Brother and I must have a tacit understanding!"

Zhengzheng sighed softly, "Aunt Yan, I told Uncle Sheng last night to let go of his prejudices, try to get along with you, and discover your good qualities."

Yan Shiba's face was weird, "What was his reaction?"

Ji Xiaoshu answered, "Uncle Sheng said he would try! Today I feel that he really has changed!"

"So Aunt Yan, try to get along with him too!" Zhengzheng's expression was serious. Even without Yan Shiba's near drowning today, this would have been something he intended to say earlier.

Yan Shiba shook her head, "He once hurt me, and now saves me once, at most it can only be considered even! And even if he didn't save me, the ghost girl could have! He also took advantage of me!"

Wen Ran couldn't stand it anymore, "Sister Yan, if you're holding a grudge over that incident and want to settle the score with Sheng Yue, it's not reasonable."

Ji Xiaoshu said weakly, "If that's the case, everyone might think Aunt Yan can't handle it..."

Upon hearing this, Yan Shiba's face changed, and she huffed angrily, "Who says I can't handle it? Forget it, let's pretend it never happened! I won't hold him accountable, alright?"

"Aunt Yan, do you still want to marry Uncle Sheng?" Zhengzheng asked.

Yan Shiba snorted lightly, "Do you all think he's definitely not going to back down from marrying me?"

The two children nodded together, indicating that Sheng Yue would not chicken out.

Yan Shiba chuckled lightly, "Then I'm even more unwilling to admit defeat! The real competition hasn't even started yet!"

"Aunt Yan, come on! I believe you'll win!" Ji Xiaoshu said hurriedly.

Wen Ran also understood: Yesterday everyone was mostly against Yan Shiba marrying Sheng Yue, but after today's events, they were probably going to change their attitude and think they were well-suited, including Wen Ran. After all, it's hard to find another man who can arouse Yan Shiba's fighting spirit and yet subdue her. Both requirements are indispensable – without the former, Yan Shiba couldn't possibly be interested, let alone like the person; without the latter, even if Yan Shiba was interested, she would soon find it boring. The former Cheng Yun only met the first requirement, but with Su Liang's intervention, he managed to subdue Yan Shiba. Now Sheng Yue can do it himself.

After eating a whole chicken leg, Yan Shiba sighed, "Because of that bitch... bastard, I lost all my face!"

Ji Xiaoshu suggested, "Why don't Aunt Yan go find him and take back a kiss? Otherwise, won't you continue to suffer?"

Yan Shiba raised her hand, and Ji Xiaoshu ran off, "Aunt Yan, don't be discouraged, I fully support you!"

Wen Ran couldn't help but smile, "That's true, Sister Yan, if you can really go find him and take back a kiss, then your face would be completely regained."

Yan Shiba twisted Wen Ran's ear and looked at Zhengzheng, "If you're also instigating, I won't talk to you today!"

Zhengzheng smiled sweetly, "I think Aunt Yan might as well give it a try, just in case it feels good, and maybe she can conquer Uncle Sheng all at once!"

Yan Shiba paused for a moment, seemingly thoughtful, "He kissed me without my consent, so it's only right for me to kiss him back, right? If I don't, it will seem a bit cowardly, and that's not in line with my temperament!"

Zhengzheng and Wen Ran both nodded their heads in agreement.

"But looking at that face, I'm sure I won't want to kiss him!" Yan Shiba shook her head.

"How do you know it won't work if you don't try?" Zhengzheng continued to persuade. At this point, it was impossible not to consummate their relationship.

“I might as well just drug him and make him beg me...” Yan Shiba said, suddenly laughing, then Wen Ran pinched her, reminding her to be careful what she said in front of Zhengzheng.

Yan Shiba coughed lightly, “I forgot, he’s immune to poison, that won’t work.”

“So, Aunt Yan, are you going to take back a kiss?” Zhengzheng persisted.

Yan Shiba clapped the table and stood up, “Even if I don’t want to, I have to save face and ask him if he dares to stand still and let me kiss him!”

Weng Ran:... Yan Shiba hasn’t learned any lessons at all, has she ever backed down from her fights with Sheng Yue?

At this time, Ji Xiaoshu had already run over to Sheng Yue and was speaking to him, “Uncle Sheng, if Auntie Yan comes to settle the score because you took liberties with her today, I can give you an idea!”

Sheng Yue actually was in a good mood. After today’s events, he could clearly feel that everyone’s attitude toward him had changed a lot. Before, Ji Xiaoshu didn’t even like him, let alone talk to him so warmly and actively. He had to thank Yan Shiba for relentlessly picking quarrels with him, which gave him a chance to be accepted.

“What idea?” Sheng Yue asked.

Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, “You can say, let her take liberties with you in return and you’ll never resist. See if she dares?”

Sheng Yue nodded slightly, “It is indeed a good idea.”

“Hey, Uncle Sheng, do you like Auntie Yan a little?” Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Sheng Yue frowned in thought, then shook his head after a moment, “I’m not sure. I’ll have to see.”

“Don’t you think she’s very cute with her fiery personality? Being with her would be so exciting!” Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Sheng Yue shook his head again, “To be honest, it’s too noisy.”

As soon as his words fell, Yan Shiba’s weird voice came from outside the door, “How are you not annoyed to death by me then?”

When they met again, the atmosphere was still full of sparks – mostly one-sided from Yan Shiba.

“Auntie Yan, you’re here to settle accounts, right?” Ji Xiaoshu asked with a smile.

Yan Shiba snorted softly, “That’s right! I’ll admit to the matter of saving people, and I’ll write off the previous grievances, but it was my first kiss! I can’t just let it go!”

Ji Xiaoshu’s eyes lit up, “Then, what do you want to do, Auntie Yan?”

Yan Shiba looked coldly at Sheng Yue, “Do you dare to let me kiss you in return? If you don’t dare, then admit defeat, and I promise not to ridicule you!”

Weng Ran:... Yan Shiba loses all her rationality as soon as she sees Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue nodded, "It's only fair. Do as you please, I don't mind."

Weng Ran pulled the two children and walked out, "Then let's leave them be." She even shut the door from the outside.

The atmosphere suddenly became very strange, and Yan Shiba slowly approached Sheng Yue with flickering eyes.

"If you don't dare, or don't want to do it, you don't have to. I'll tell everyone you did it anyway." Sheng Yue said calmly.

Yan Shiba could not stand being goaded like this. When she heard this, her eyes narrowed slightly, and she stretched out her hand to hook around Sheng Yue's neck. A charming smile appeared on the corners of her lips as she pressed herself against him, "Let's see!"

Weng Ran and the two children hadn't left yet.

Weng Ran was a little suspicious whether Yan Shiba would start her seduction conquest plan ahead of time? After all, her plan to marry Sheng Yue was based on this idea. If so, it would be hard to predict the outcome.

Ji Xiaoshu asked, "Auntie Ran, are they already kissing?"

Weng Ran shook her head and walked away with the two children, "Let them deal with what comes next. We'll go eat grilled fish."

Ji Xiaoshu sighed sadly, "Master has punished me and said I can't eat grilled fish today! But if Auntie Yan and Uncle Sheng succeed, I'll be a great contributor! By then, I'll definitely ask Master to reward me!"

Zhengzheng laughed softly, "Master will certainly reward you with more writing practice."

"Then I'll run away from home!" Ji Xiaoshu huffed.

Zhengzheng happily said, "We'll soon be able to go play in Su Family Village with Master and his wife."

Chapter 507: 507. Talk about who conquers and who gets conquered

Wen Ran returned to the lakeside with the two children, and the grilled meat feast continued with a lively atmosphere.

Old Mu asked with a smile, "Where are those two enemies? Why haven't they come over?"

Ji Xiaoshu spoke out loudly, "Miss Yan went to settle accounts with Uncle Sheng about him assaulting her, Uncle Sheng said she could assault him back, and the two adults closed the door, not knowing what they were going to do. Aunt Ran didn't let us watch!"

Wen Ran sighed, knowing that everyone would surely understand what Yan Shiba was doing right now.

The old people shook their heads, thinking that Yan was really too reckless with no memory whatsoever, actually taking the initiative to deliver herself, really! It was a bargain for that smelly brat Sheng Yue!

The younger people just smiled without saying a word. After these two days of Yan's multiple moves and everyone's understanding of her, this kind of incident was not surprising, and they felt it was in Yan's character to directly pounce on Sheng – a long time ago, she had taught Su Liang how to tackle Gu Ling the same way.

Cheng Yun handed Wen Ran a golden-roasted grilled fish, grumbling, "These two are sick, very sick!"

Wen Ran couldn't help but laugh, "Isn't that a perfect match?"

Zhengzheng also got a grilled fish, and Ji Xiaoshu stared at it while gnawing on a rabbit leg. With Gu Ling's back to him, Zhengzheng wanted to share a bite with Ji Xiaoshu, but he dodged away, "No, I made a mistake today, and I have to accept the punishment."

With greasy lips, Ale looked sympathetically at Ji Xiaoshu, "Poor Brother Xiaoshu, come home with us today, we also have fish, we'll roast it and eat it!"

Ji Xiaoshu grinned, "I'll do it another day. I can endure."

Axin gave a thumbs up, expressing admiration. Not just because of the grilled fish, but also for Ji Xiaoshu pushing Yan into the water – he thought Ji Xiaoshu had guts, not fearing a beating.

"Big brother! Big brother!" Gu Xiaonuan ran over, opened her small fist, and there were four candies inside.

Each of the four brothers took one, and then Gu Xiaonuan ran to Su Liang's side to get new candies to share with the others.

"Next time we should bring Little Yueyue to play with Sister Nuannuan," said Axin.

"Sure, let's go to Grandpa Lin's house sometime and introduce you to our two junior brothers," Zhengzheng laughed and said.

Ale asked, "Brother Xiaoshu, I think grilled meat is delicious, so can we forgive Uncle Sheng?"

Because of Sheng Yue's rescue today, the twins' opinions of him had changed a lot, thinking he was not a bad person. Their impressions were also influenced by the attitude of Su Mansion's residents towards Sheng Yue.

Ji Xiaoshu nodded, "Well, as promised, he has apologized, so let the past be the past! In the future, if you want to learn his swordsmanship, just find him, he will be happy to teach you!"

"His swordsmanship is really good!" said Zhengzheng.

Axin nodded, "We'll go back and talk to our mother, she will definitely agree."

They finished eating the grilled meat by noon, and Gu Ling and Su Liang cooked sour soup noodles with plenty of green vegetables, which was refreshing and appetizing.

Axin and Ale took a nap together in Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu's room, and played for a while before falling asleep.

When the children woke up, washed their faces, and ran downstairs, they saw Nangong Qian wiping the vases on the first floor. Ji Xiaoshu asked her, "Aunt Qianqian, have you seen Miss Yan?"

Nangong Qian shook her head with a gentle smile, "No, Aunt Ran said she's still with Mr. Sheng."

Ji Xiaoshu looked puzzled, "Just a simple kiss, does it need to take this long? Could something have happened?"

The children were about to run outside when Nangong Qian quickly stopped them, "No need to go, they...maybe they haven't finished talking yet. Don't go over there."

Zhengzheng and Axin nodded while Ale felt puzzled and pulled Ji Xiaoshu with him.

Ji Xiaoshu let out a hehe laughter, "Let's go listen to what they're talking about!"

Nangong Qian sighed with relief when she saw Cheng Yun and Weng Ran arrive. She knew what Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba were up to, but she couldn't let the children go over there.

"Auntie Ran, what's Auntie Yan doing with Sheng Yue? She's not being taken advantage of, is she?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Weng Ran's expression remained calm, "No, in our family, Sheng Yue wouldn't dare to take advantage of her." Unless she offered herself up&mldr; At this point, they couldn't do anything about it anyway.

"Xiaoshu," Su Liang called from upstairs, "You all come up."

"Our master wants us!" Before Ji Xiaoshu could finish her sentence, the four children raced up the stairs again.

Weng Ran and Nangong Qian exchanged glances and both laughed.

"Sister Yan is really a heroic woman," Nangong Qian whispered. If it were her, her grandfather would tear her apart for doing such a thing.

Weng Ran shrugged, "As long as she's happy."

Nangong Qian whispered, "But if she regrets it afterwards&mldr;there's no turning back."

Weng Ran shook her head, "She's not the kind of person who would care about that." Yan Shiba's fuss about Sheng Yue's offense was only to save face, not because she felt she had lost her innocence or reputation. She had always been unconventional and didn't care what others thought. If she valued chastity too much, she wouldn't be Yan Shiba. Of course, she and Sheng Yue had originally agreed to get married, so no matter the reason, they were considered legitimate. It couldn't be said to be too wild&mldr;

The reason Weng Ran didn't stop them and wasn't worried was that she saw how Sheng Yue had changed. She knew very well that in this family, there might be amicable parting, but irresponsible behavior wouldn't be tolerated. The way Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue viewed "responsibility" might be different from others, but they understood each other, knew what they were doing, and were well aware of what behaviors Gu Ling and Su Liang couldn't tolerate. Sheng Yue, being the savvy person he was, would definitely abide by the rules of this family if he chose to stay.

Thanks to Su Liang's intervention, the children didn't go looking for Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue.

After playing for a long time, Feng Ming sent Axin and Ale home.

Weng Ran returned to her courtyard with Yan Shiba and waited a while before she came back, holding her waist as she walked in.

Even though Weng Ran already knew what had happened, she was still speechless seeing Yan Shiba's disheveled hair and flushed face.

Yan Shiba noticed Weng Ran and let go of her waist while giving a slight cough, "Why didn't you go flirting with Brother Yun during the day? What are you doing here?"

Weng Ran pulled Yan Shiba into the room, closed the door and windows, and poured her a cup of warm water.

Yan Shiba drank it all in one gulp, "I'm so hungry!"

"You still know you're hungry?" Weng Ran teased, "You two are just&mlr;"

Knowing that the matter couldn't be hidden, Yan Shiba simply admitted, "What's wrong with declaring love in broad daylight? As if you and Cheng Yun won't do it in the future!"

Weng Ran, although open-minded and knowledgeable about many things, hadn't gotten married yet. Upon hearing Yan Shiba's words, she immediately blushed and glared at her, "Stop talking nonsense! Are you very proud of yourself?"

Having done it, Yan Shiba naturally couldn't say she couldn't do it. She snorted and replied, "Doing pleasurable things makes one happy. If you're envious, go find Cheng&mlr;"

Weng Ran wanted to hit Yan Shiba's forehead with the teapot in her hand. She was already bold before, and now, her face had become thicker than a city wall.

However, Yan Shiba herself couldn't help but want to scold Sheng Yue. She couldn't hold back any longer and, while asking Weng Ran to massage her back, she grumbled, "That jerk&mlr;"

Weng Ran reminded Yan Shiba that they had agreed not to call Sheng Yue a jerk anymore.

"I don't care, I'm just going to call him a scumbag!" Yan Shiba said indignantly, "With just a hook of my finger, he's like a beast! I took the initiative, so of course, I can't back down! He's really too cheap, claiming he's never been with another woman, I don't believe it! Next time, I'll beat him until he tells the truth!"

Wen Ran couldn't listen any longer and poured another glass of water to shut Yan Shiba's mouth up.

After drinking, Yan Shiba sighed, "There are some things, if you haven't done them, you just don't understand, you need to do them to know the taste."

Wen Ran said in a deep tone, "Didn't you go to conquer Sheng Yue? Don't tell me you were the one begging for mercy."

Yan Shiba's eyes flickered, "How could that be? Even if I told you, you wouldn't understand! You'll know when you get married!"

Wen Ran asked, "So it seems you two have really reconciled. Do you think it's not bad being with him?"

“Two different things. I still hate him, but his face is okay, his body is not bad, and I’ll make do with it for now!” Yan Shiba said calmly.

Wen Ran: ...Whoever conquered who, she gave in, completely speechless...

After Yan Shiba took a bath, changed into fresh clothes, and was walking to the Yuanming Pavilion with Wen Ran for dinner, she suddenly laughed, “Hey! There’s another good thing I haven’t thought of before!”

Wen Ran asked what the good thing was.

Yan Shiba smirked and rubbed her belly, “After doing that kind of thing, I can have my own baby! Haha! I really want to be a mom, or I’ll be so envious when I see you all having kids later. I’ve decided that once I get pregnant, I’ll kick Sheng Yue out and let him go!”

Wen Ran looked at Yan Shiba’s “I’m so clever” expression and seriously sighed, “You’re being irresponsible to the child.”

Yan Shiba coughed lightly and lowered her voice, “I just want him to beg me, get it? When I kick him out of the house, he’ll beg me for mercy on his knees, and the scene is just so satisfying when I think about it!”

Wen Ran wanted to roll her eyes, “Aren’t you afraid he’ll really run away?”

Yan Shiba shook her head, “I’m not afraid of ghosts! If he really runs away, that’ll fulfill my wish, and I won’t have to worry about you guys accusing me of causing the child not to have a father by throwing tantrums. It’s him who wants to go, I’m more than happy!”

As soon as her voice fell, a familiar voice came from a short distance behind her, “What child?”

Yan Shiba was startled and turned back to see Sheng Yue. She instinctively wanted to run away, but after taking two steps, she realized her reaction was too intense and stopped. She pulled Wen Ran to her side, hugged her arm, and said unhappily to Sheng Yue, “None of your damn business! Be careful of being struck by lightning for eavesdropping on other people’s conversations!”

Compared to Yan Shiba’s undisguised fatigue, Sheng Yue looked refreshed. Today’s “competition” had an obvious outcome.

“I also hope for a child,” Sheng Yue said, looking at Yan Shiba.

Yan Shiba turned her head and walked away, “If you want one, go give birth yourself!”

Wen Ran couldn’t help but laugh, what a pair of enemies indeed.

Before entering the Yuanming Pavilion, Wen Ran reminded Yan Shiba that the children might ask her some questions, so she should be careful with her words.

As expected, at the dinner table, Ji Xiaoshu asked Yan Shiba if she and Sheng Yue had made up after disappearing for so long today.

Yan Shiba nodded seriously, “He apologized to me, and I, being magnanimous, decided to accept.”

Ji Xiaoshu was surprised and looked at Sheng Yue.

Sheng Yue nodded, “She’s right, everything she said.”

Su Liang: ... It seems that they have really reached a great harmony in some aspects, and Sheng Yue is also very capable. As for Yan Shiba, she didn't have any brains when facing Sheng Yue from the beginning, but there was nothing wrong with that. It's a case of one willing to hit and the other willing to endure.

Su Liang knew that Sheng Yue didn't like Yan Shiba, but she didn't stop Yan Shiba from messing around because she understood what kind of person he was. He seemed like someone who wouldn't have any interest in any woman on his own. So even though Yan Shiba took the initiative, everyone still felt that Sheng Yue was passive, but Su Liang felt that Sheng Yue also enjoyed it... Just as Gu Ling said, he's a normal man.

For these two people who, in Cheng Yun's words, "have a serious illness", who can say that starting a relationship in this way isn't the most suitable for them?

Ji Xiaoshu sighed, "Uncle Sheng and Aunt Yan's progress is so fast! It seems I've succeeded in matchmaking again! You two better prepare big red envelopes for me and Senior Brother!"

Sheng Yue nodded, "No problem."

"You're acting as if you have money," Yan Shiba mocked.

Sheng Yue looked at Cheng Yun, "I'll borrow it from my brother, he's rich."

Cheng Yun: ...Forget it, I'm too lazy to argue, I can't win against him anyway.

After dinner, Yan Shiba dragged Su Liang upstairs.

Closing the door, Su Liang asked Yan Shiba what she wanted. Yan Shiba mysteriously said, "Borrow a book."

Su Liang found it incredible. People in the mansion, young and old, often asked her to borrow books, but Yan Shiba was the least interested in reading.

"What do you want to read?" Su Liang inquired, puzzled. Why did she suddenly want to read a book late at night?

"That one." Yan Shiba winked.

Su Liang looked perplexed, "Which one?"

"Hey, what are you pretending? You must have it! It's that one!" Yan Shiba blew Su Liang a flying kiss.

Su Liang finally reacted and silently looked at Yan Shiba, shaking her head, "I really don't have it. I used to, but later I was afraid the children would find it if they flipped through it carelessly, so I got rid of it." She had come to borrow an erotic painting, which had her smirking.

"I'll go out and look for it, then," Yan Shiba said. "I don't believe I can't take him down!" This confession meant she had lost again today...

After Yan Shiba left, Gu Ling entered the room and asked Su Liang what she had come for.

After hearing what Su Liang said, Gu Ling said calmly, "Actually, I have a treasured one."

Su Liang held her forehead, "Great God, please stop, I don't need to know."

Late at night, Zhu Zan was preparing to go to bed, when he suddenly heard a noise outside. He walked to the window, and before he could open it, he heard the sound of the door opening next door, followed by Yan Shiba's clear voice, "Scumbag, let's go for another 300 rounds!"

Zhu Zan silently put his coat back on, opened the door gently, and saw Feng Ming coming out of his room as well. The two exchanged a glance and went to the garden to drink together.

After finishing a pot of alcohol, Zhu Zan yawned, and Feng Ming got up, "Don't go back, it won't disturb their elegant interest, but it's hard for us to sleep. Let's go, Zhengzheng's mansion is almost ready, otherwise, we'll have to stay at the inn."

As they left Su Mansion, Zhu Zan sighed, "I never thought that Mr. Sheng would end up with Miss Yan."

Feng Ming chuckled, "Do you envy him?"

Zhu Zan shook his head, "I sincerely envy you, but I don't envy Mr. Sheng. Miss Yan's temperament is not something ordinary people can handle."

#### Chapter 508: 508. Mo Yan's Death

Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue entered a bizarre way of getting along: compared to the warmth and harmony among other people in the mansion, these two acted like enemies during the day but slept in the same bed at night.

Yan Shiba's mouth still showed no mercy, calling Sheng Yue a cheap person with great enthusiasm. Occasionally, Sheng Yue would save face for Yan Shiba and say something nice, but only when it was his turn to speak in front of everyone. At other times, he didn't show any initiative to please her. If Yan Shiba didn't look for him, he wouldn't look for her either.

Zhengzheng was a bit worried, "Aunt Yan said she wants to have brothers and sisters for us, but if they still act like this after having a child, what will we do?"

Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, "Big brother, you're overthinking it. Don't you see that Aunt Yan and Uncle Sheng's relationship is improving?"

Zhengzheng shook his head, "I really don't see it. At lunch today, they sat together but didn't say a word to each other. They didn't even serve each other food like they never existed for one another."

"They do communicate, big brother, you just didn't notice." Ji Xiaoshu said mysteriously, "Aunt Yan secretly kicked Uncle Sheng several times under the table. One of them even hit me, but I didn't make a fuss."

Zhengzheng was stunned, "Why?"

Ji Xiaoshu analyzed, "I guess Aunt Yan is setting a trap for Uncle Sheng. If he retaliates or says anything, Aunt Yan will definitely deny it, since no one saw their actions under the table. Uncle Sheng is very enduring and knows that it's not in his favor, so he just pretends nothing happened."

"Alright." Zhengzheng held his forehead, "My mom is right, let them do whatever they want."

During their conversation, the two entered Su Liang's room to ask her something.

“Mom, Mo Yan is still alive, how should we deal with him now?” Ji Xiaoshu asked. The news about Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba had distracted them from Mo Yan for the past few days.

“How are his injuries?” Su Liang asked with a smile.

“Last time we saw him, his wounds were healing.” Zhengzheng said. He and Ji Xiaoshu had practiced medical skills on Mo Yan, so they had treated him with care.

“As for what to do with Mo Yan, you should ask Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba, let them decide.” Su Liang said.

Ji Xiaoshu shook his head, “Mom, I think it’s tough for Uncle Sheng and Aunt Yan to reach a consensus.”

“You won’t know unless you ask; there’s always a chance.” Zhengzheng said as he hugged little Gu Xiaonuan who ran over, “Let’s take our little sister to ask!”

Zhengzheng carried Gu Xiaonuan on his back, with Ji Xiaoshu hopping and jumping by his side. The three of them went to find Sheng Yue, who was alone by the lake fishing.

Hearing the children calling him, Sheng Yue put down his fishing rod, took off his straw hat, and walked over.

“What’s up?” Sheng Yue reached out and held Gu Xiaonuan in his arms.

The next moment, Gu Xiaonuan suddenly pulled out a wooden flower in her hand, which was carved and painted by Gu Ling, and handed it to Sheng Yue.

A warm smile appeared in Sheng Yue’s eyes, but he didn’t accept it and just said with a smile, “It looks great, Nuannuan should keep it for herself.”

Gu Xiaonuan then put the wooden flower on Sheng Yue’s head. Sheng Yue couldn’t see what he looked like, but he could imagine it, as Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu were both doubled over in laughter.

“Little sister has great taste, the flower really suits Uncle Sheng!” Ji Xiaoshu said earnestly.

Sheng Yue: If Ji Xiaoshu hadn’t laughed so exaggeratedly while hugging Zhengzheng after saying that, he would have believed it.

As for what they wanted to talk about, Zhengzheng only said that he would tell them after seeing Yan Shiba. So Sheng Yue didn’t ask any further.

By the time they found Yan Shiba, she was sitting by the window with a book in her hands, reading intently.

“Aunt Yan is actually reading a book, the sun must be rising in the west!” Ji Xiaoshu tiptoed over to see what Yan Shiba was reading.

Before he could get closer, Sheng Yue suddenly spoke, “Yan Shiba.”

As if startled, Yan Shiba immediately jumped up from her chair, closed the book, and hid it behind her back. Facing Ji Xiaoshu's curious smile, Yan Shiba quickly tore the book to pieces behind her back.

"What were you reading, Aunt Yan? You seemed so engrossed in it." Ji Xiaoshu nimbly jumped on the window sill, tilted his head, and asked.

Yan Shiba shook her head, "Nothing, just a random book." She then glared at Sheng Yue fiercely, "What are you doing here?" Before noticing the bright flower on Sheng Yue's head and bursting out in laughter, "Hahaha! So ugly! It suits you perfectly!"

"Aunt Yan!" Gu Xiaonuan waved at Yan Shiba from Sheng Yue's arms.

Yan Shiba walked out with a beaming smile and took Gu Xiaonuan from Sheng Yue, "Did my little Nuannuan miss her aunt?"

After Yan Shiba left, Ji Xiaoshu saw the bits of torn paper on the ground and didn't pick them up. Instead, he said with sudden realization, "I know what Aunt Yan was reading!"

Yan Shiba's face stiffened, and she secretly kicked Sheng Yue's leg.

Sheng Yue stood there indifferently. He knew, but he didn't think Ji Xiaoshu could know or guess. Although Ji Xiaoshu and Zhengzheng were both extremely intelligent, Gu Ling and Su Liang protected them well and wouldn't let them be exposed to inappropriate things too early.

Ji Xiaoshu smirked, "Is it a romance book? Uncle Sheng was secretly reading one too and we caught him. The book he was reading is called 'Cherish the Flower', what is the book you read called, Aunt Yan?"

Yan Shiba sighed in relief and blurted out a random title, "The one I'm reading is called 'Weeding'."

Zhengzheng: ...As if I would believe that.

However, Ji Xiaoshu did not delve further into the ridiculousness of the title. Instead, he suggested excitedly, "Since you both like to sneakily read romance books, why argue? There must be no arguing in the books! You should just follow the books and talk about love!"

Yan Shiba shook her head, "We can't talk like that because we're not reading the same story."

"You can choose a story and read it together." Ji Xiaoshu thought his suggestion was great. He had unintentionally overheard his master and his master's wife role-playing, and it seemed very interesting.

"Or..." Ji Xiaoshu's eyes lit up as he jumped down from the windowsill, "I've got it! You don't have to read the romance books, you can just act out the stories from the other people in the mansion! Uncle Sheng, you can pretend to be my master, and Aunt Yan, you can pretend to be my mistress. Then you can look at each other, and things will be very different, right?"

After hearing Ji Xiaoshu's bizarre suggestion, Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba glanced at each other instinctively.

Yan Shiba contemptuously looked away, "He's much uglier than your master."

Sheng Yue's expression was indifferent, "Likewise."

Zhengzheng stopped Ji Xiaoshu from making any more suggestions, "Don't talk about this anymore. We came here for another reason." What was Ji Xiaoshu thinking with all these random ideas? If his master heard him, he would be punished again.

"What reason?" Yan Shiba asked, shaking Gu Xiaonuan's little hand.

"Oh, right, almost forgot. My mistress said that you need to decide how to deal with Mo Yan.", said Ji Xiaoshu.

Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba exchanged glances once more.

Yan Shiba snorted lightly, "Starve him to death, I'm too lazy to deal with him any further!"

Sheng Yue shook his head, "Better to finish him off sooner, rather than waste food on him. The mansion will soon host happy events, and we don't want someone like him to bring bad luck."

Qiao Jing and Min Rou, as well as Nangong Qian and Qi Yan, were all about to get married. Although the ceremonies would not be held in the Su Mansion, Nangong Qian would be leaving the Su Mansion to get married.

"Whose decision will you follow?" Yan Shiba looked at the two children and asked.

Zhengzheng shook his head, "We can't kill people. We're just kids. Aunt Yan and Uncle Sheng need to discuss and come up with a decision. We're just here to ask."

Yan Shiba asked Gu Xiaonuan once more, "Nuannuan, do you like your aunt or that bastard over there?"

Gu Xiaonuan looked at the flower on Sheng Yue's head and happily made a flower identical to it — a wooden carving made by Gu Ling, a wooden vase with a large bouquet of flowers, all of which Gu Xiaonuan had collected in her space.

Seeing Gu Xiaonuan about to put the flower on her head, Yan Shiba indulgently let her play with it.

Thus, both Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba ended up with a bright, beautiful flower in their hair.

It actually looked pretty good, but on Sheng Yue's head, it clashed with his disposition and seemed a bit ridiculous. On Yan Shiba's head, it looked perfectly natural. When she smiled, she radiated charm.

Sheng Yue's eyes flickered slightly as he heard Zhengzheng laugh, "Uncle Sheng and Aunt Yan look more and more perfect for each other! Little sister thinks so too, right?"

Gu Xiaonuan clapped her little hands, admiring her "masterpiece" with a beaming smile, "Right!"

It must be said that with Gu Xiaonuan around, both Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba unconsciously softened their words. Seeing Gu Xiaonuan happy, they joined in the laughter, and the atmosphere suddenly became very harmonious.

"In consideration of Nuannuan, I won't argue with you this time." Yan Shiba said with a smile, "If you want to send Mo Yan on his way, go ahead, I'm too busy!"

Sheng Yue looked at Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, "Are you going or not?"

Ji Xiaoshu was a bit tempted, but Zhengzheng refused. Knowing that Mo Yan would die and thinking he deserved it was different from watching him being killed.

"Alright, we won't go. Let's go back and tell our master." Ji Xiaoshu was just a little curious about what Sheng Yue was going to do, not really interested in killing people.

Seeing Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu leave, Gu Xiaonuan called for her brother to go with them.

So, after the three children left together, Sheng Yue headed towards the dungeon, and Yan Shiba casually followed.

Seeing Sheng Yue look back, Yan Shiba snorted and walked up to him, "Don't flatter yourself, I just want to watch the excitement, and I have nothing better to do."

"Your flower looks nice," Sheng Yue said with sincerity.

Yan Shiba lifted her chin, "That's because I, this old mother, was born with good looks! Not like you, who wasted such a beautiful flower!"

"Then why do you still sleep with me?" Sheng Yue asked back.

Yan Shiba glared at him, "Enough!"

Sheng Yue asked back, "Are you willing to let go?"

Yan Shiba pounced on Sheng Yue's back and started twisting his ear.

Not far away, Peng Wu and Feng Ming just arrived with the three children and were startled by this passionate scene.

Ale asked curiously, "Are Auntie Yan and Uncle Sheng fighting?"

Peng Wu and Feng Ming hurriedly led the children away in silence.

Yan Shiba rode on Sheng Yue's back, and they went into the dungeon together. When they reached Mo Yan, she was still holding onto Sheng Yue's ear.

But the dungeon was dark, and from Mo Yan's angle, it seemed like Sheng Yue was carrying Yan Shiba, their faces close together, intimate.

"You guys..." Mo Yan was very surprised. Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba were people who barely knew each other in his eyes. How could they be together?

Seeing Mo Yan's incredulous look, Yan Shiba instantly became energized, gave Sheng Yue's cheek a loud kiss, and said, "What are you looking at? We're getting married! Haven't you seen a kiss before!"

Mo Yan frowned, "Yue'er, how could you fancy this kind of woman?"

Yan Shiba was suddenly furious, "What kind of woman? What's wrong with me? Tell me, Sheng Yue!"

With one hand, Sheng Yue steadily carried Yan Shiba without putting her down, and seeing Mo Yan's reaction, he calmly said, "Or do you think I'm hooking up with Yan Shiba to gain the trust of Gu Ling and Su Liang?"

Hearing this, Yan Shiba squinted her eyes. She hadn't even thought of this possibility...

Mo Yan scoffed, "Isn't that the case? Otherwise, with your character and taste, how could you be with such a vulgar woman like her?"

Yan Shiba couldn't help but want to beat Mo Yan up when she heard this. However, she heard Sheng Yue's voice in her ear, "At this point, do you still think you understand me? I just love vulgar women. As for you, the woman you've been pining for all your life might not be suitable for you. You always love to talk about fate, but fate has given you the answer."

Mo Yan's face darkened, "Yan Shiba, you don't really believe Sheng Yue would like you, do you? He is just deceiving you! Using you!"

Yan Shiba hooked her arm around Sheng Yue's neck, giggling, "No choice, I just like him like this. It'd be better if he really deceives me, otherwise it would be no fun. Little Yuexue, are you lying to me?"

"I enjoy sleeping with you, that's true." Sheng Yue said calmly. As for anything about liking or loving, he never said it, so where does the deception come from?

Yan Shiba burst out laughing upon hearing this, "The feeling is mutual!"

Mo Yan was stupefied by their conversation for a moment, and then said through gritted teeth, "You came here just to let me hear this shameless talk?"

"Who are you cursing?" Yan Shiba snorted, "Little Yuexue, I suddenly have a great idea. Since no one can beat Mo Yan in shamelessness, let's just fulfill his wish and tear off his face! Aren't you best at cutting faces while making sure they stay alive? We'll remove his skin, whole and intact, so he can have a good look at it himself!"

Sheng Yue nodded slightly, "Good idea."

Yan Shiba slid off Sheng Yue and ran outside, "Wait! I'll go ask Gu Xiaoling to borrow his carving knife!"

Yan Shiba hurried to Yuanming Pavilion, grabbed Gu Ling's knife, and ran back. When she entered the dungeon again, she called out to Sheng Yue sweetly, "Little Yueyue, I'm back!"

During this time, Mo Yan had been talking nonsense to Sheng Yue, but Sheng Yue ignored him, just sitting cross-legged on the ground, standing up only when he heard Yan Shiba's voice.

"Knife!" Yan Shiba handed the knife to Sheng Yue, excitement flickering in her eyes, "Let's start!"

Sheng Yue's face was still calm, "You be my assistant."

Yan Shiba nodded repeatedly, "No problem!"

Sheng Yue picked out a shiny sharp knife from Gu Ling's set of carving tools, looked at it carefully in front of him, the blade casting a shadow on his face. A faint smile appeared at the corner of his lips, sinister and compelling.

Yan Shiba's eyes were wide open, and since they were performing in front of Mo Yan, she didn't have to pretend. She leaned in and kissed Sheng Yue again, "Little Yueyue, you're quite good-looking!"

Sheng Yue pursed his lips and kissed her back.

Seeing the knives, Mo Yan had turned pale and knew he couldn't reverse the situation. The fear of death made him tremble, but Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba had started kissing with the knives, seemingly enjoying themselves, even embracing...

"Let's do the task first," Sheng Yue disengaged himself from Yan Shiba, "We can talk about the rest later."

Yan Shiba's face flushed, she hummed in agreement, feeling something amiss in her voice, she cleared her throat and looked at Mo Yan, "Let's start!"

When Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue reappeared in front of everyone, it was dinnertime. They had changed their clothes, looked in a good mood, and their complexions were excellent.

Especially Yan Shiba, who entered the room with a smile on her face as she held Sheng Yue's arm, making everyone feel incredulous.

They still wore the flowers Gu Xiaonuan had given them on their heads, and they seemed like a perfect match. Like the two brightly colored flowers, Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba's temperament together was unrestrained and bold.

"Aunt Yan, you guys..." Ji Xiaoshu was amazed, "What happened?"

Yan Shiba let go of Sheng Yue, reached out, and mussed Ji Xiaoshu's hair, "Nothing happened, don't meddle in the affairs of adults! By the way, I've got a trivial matter to announce: Mo Yan has gone to meet the Yama King. If anyone is interested in knowing how he died, feel free to ask me later. I won't say it now, so it won't affect everyone's appetite and frighten the children."

However, at the dinner table, everyone clearly felt that Yan Shiba's attitude towards Sheng Yue had changed. They used to really have a distance between them, but now they seemed to be deliberately maintaining distance. And when their eyes met occasionally, sparks flew.

After dinner, Yan Shiba couldn't help confiding in Su Liang, "Today when I watched him cut off Mo Yan's face, I suddenly felt he was so handsome, especially when playing with the knife. My heart was beating so fast, I almost couldn't help but pounce on him!"

Su Liang teased, "Didn't you pounce on him later?"

Yan Shiba coughed lightly, "Later... of course... it's a pity he's missing a hand, all thanks to your man, who was too ruthless!"

Su Liang was speechless, "Why don't you cut off a hand too, then you'll be even more compatible."

Yan Shiba chuckled, "Just kidding, actually his half arm is..."

Su Liang touched her forehead, "Shut up, go away. I don't want to hear about your peculiar tastes."

“You’ve been there too, what’s there to be shy about? I’ll go talk to Little Ranran!” Yan Shiba disappeared as soon as her words fell.

That night, before going to sleep, Su Liang mentioned Yan Shiba again, “She and Sheng Yue are really passionate now.”

Gu Ling suddenly frowned, “Do you think our relationship is too bland?”

Su Liang immediately shook her head, “No, Great God, don’t think too much, we are so sweet, not bland at all.”

Gu Ling got up, holding the sleeping Gu Xiaonuan, and took him to the room of Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu next door...

Chapter 509: 509. Another pair formed

Mo Yan’s body had been dumped in the random burial mound. As for his face, torn off by Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba, the two of them had taken it to study and make a human skin mask – they both expressed mutual interest in this eerie craft which would make most people’s blood run cold. And through this, they found they were very much in tune with each other, very invigorating...

Of course, there’s no longer a fertile ground for Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba to turn evil. There’s just a gray part in their humanity. Instead of doing evil, they used it against evil people. That is indeed great.

Ji Xiaoshu, a gossip kid, conveyed an “intelligence” to Gu Ling and Su Liang: Sheng Yue and Yan Shiba planned to reorganize Yanyun Building.

“Aunt Yan suggested it, saying that life would be so boring otherwise,” Ji Xiaoshu relayed earnestly, “Uncle Sheng asked her if she still wanted to do murder business like before, and Aunt Yan said it would obviously be different now, as she’s a good person now!”

Zhengzheng laughingly said, “Uncle Sheng asked whether the new Yanyun Building would only kill evil people. Aunt Yan then said Uncle Sheng was like a roundworm in her stomach. Uncle Sheng just said that he agreed because he felt that master’s good luck was due to his previous good deeds and was also because he has eliminated many evil people. He also wanted to do something similar, perhaps heaven might grant his wish, and send him another magic treasure.”

Ji Xiaoshu laughed, “Aunt Yan said that’s utterly impossible! Even if Heaven were to send, it would be sent to their child! Then Uncle Sheng said they still have to work hard on the child! Then the eldest brother dragged me back!”

“What do you think?” Su Liang asked with a smile.

“It sounds good!” Zhengzheng nodded, “We’re also looking to join the new Yanyun Building!”

“Aunt Yan will definitely agree. Maybe we could even get a position as guardians!” Ji Xiaoshu said as he climbed onto Gu Ling’s back, got shaken off, and then climbed right back on.

Su Liang shook his head, "Wait until you grow up. Such things are not suitable for you now, and you don't have the strength to protect yourself."

"How old is considered grown up?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

"Well, that's up to your master. He believes if you mastered martial arts, you can graduate." Su Liang said with a smile.

Ji Xiaoshu, lying on Gu Ling's back, asked, "Master, how far away is our martial arts from graduation?"

"We'll discuss it when you can beat me." Gu Ling said nonchalantly.

Zhengzheng groaned, "Then I'm afraid we'll never graduate."

Ji Xiaoshu was very calm, "Eldest brother, don't think like this. Wait until we grow up, master will get old, and he won't have so much strength."

The next moment, Ji Xiaoshu was grabbed by Gu Ling and thrown straight out of the open window.

In the air, Ji Xiaoshu's shout echoed, "Murdering your own disciple!"

Just as Qiao Cong was walking to the front of Yuanming Pavilion, he leaped to catch Ji Xiaoshu. With a brilliant smile, Ji Xiaoshu didn't look scared at all.

"Xiaogu, stop fooling around!" Qiao Cong shouted, pulling Ji Xiaoshu into the Yuanming Pavilion.

"Master, when will you beat up my teacher?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Qiao Cong coughed lightly, "He's not my disciple, I can't control him, and my disciple is your master's wife."

"Isn't there anyone who can control my teacher?" Ji Xiaoshu sighed, "I must beat my teacher soon, let's see how he can be arrogant then!"

Qiao Cong laughed heartily, "Xiaoshu has ambition, I absolutely support you!"

Upon reaching the second floor, Qiao Cong got straight to the point, "Jingjing is getting married tomorrow. Xiaoliang, if you have no other commitments, could you go help and see if there's anything wrong or missing in the new mansion? I don't have much experience with this either."

"Did Master not get married before?" Ji Xiaoshu asked.

Qiao Cong replied cheerfully, "That was decades ago and it was very simple, just a ritual."

Su Liang stood up, "I'll take a look. Although, I don't really know much."

Ji Xiaoshu chuckled, "Master, let's go too! Master and mistress have been married three times, right? Surely they have plenty of experience!"

So, Gu Ling and Su Liang, with Gu Xiaonuan and their two disciples, followed Qiao Cong out of the door to the Qiao Mansion.

The mansion was specially purchased for Qiao Jing and Min Rou's wedding, which was to be held tomorrow. Both the mansion's door and walls were adorned with brand new red 'Double Happiness' symbols.

Upon entering, it was a sight of joy and jubilation, with red lanterns covering the trees. This was prepared by Nangong Qian and Qi Yan. They said that during the New Year, they hung red lanterns around the mansion by the lake, and it looked particularly beautiful in the night. At that time Qiao Jing was not home and did not see it, but seeing the sister and brother-in-law's thoughtfulness, he was naturally pleased.

As they moved deeper into the mansion, they bumped into Cen Man who, upon seeing Qiao Cong, approached him, "A corner of a dish is broken. The whole set is unusable now as it's considered to bring bad luck. I'll go home and get a new set."

"Oh." Qiao Cong nodded, "Then you go."

The busiest person preparing for Qiao Jing and Nangong Qian's wedding was not Qiao Cong, but Cen Man. She took care of everything and even personally managed many things. Compared to Qiao Cong, Cen Man was more like Qiao Jing and Nangong Qian's grandmother.

Seeing Qiao Cong act so casually, Su Liang couldn't stand by and do nothing. She stopped Cen Man, who had just greeted them and was about to leave hurriedly, "Fourth Master, don't go, let Third Master go instead."

Cen Man shook her head, "He doesn't understand this stuff and doesn't know what to look for. What if he accidentally breaks something else? I'd better go!"

"Yes, I don't understand either." Qiao Cong said, and continued making playful gestures to entertain Gu Xiaonuan.

As soon as Su Liang let her go, Cen Man rushed off.

The group did a round of the Qiao Mansion, and also checked out the bridal chamber. Everything was neatly arranged and nothing was missing. Qiao Jing was too absorbed in his relationship with Min Rou to understand these matters. Most of it was managed by Cen Man. After Qiao Cong's visit today, he returned home to find Su Liang.

Su Liang and Gu Ling stood at the door of the bridal chamber and watched as Qiao Cong got the three children to roll around on the marriage bed. It was a heartwarming scene.

"Hey, Great God, don't you think the third master is a bit too much for the fourth master?" Su Liang said quietly.

Gu Ling nodded, "He's always been excessive."

They knew Qiao Cong before they knew Cen Man, and it was through him they met Cen Man. Qiao Cong and Cen Man had been good friends for most of their lives.

In Su Liang's impression, since Cen Man first appeared, her treatment towards Qiao Cong has been out of the ordinary. At first, Cen Man was blind, but after her eyes were healed by Su Liang, although she became Su Liang's master, despite all the things that happened, she was always extra caring and attentive towards Qiao Cong.

It wasn't very noticeable before, probably because there were always things going on at home. If Qiao Cong wasn't busy with work, then Cen Man was busy running errands. Everyone's attention was always focused on solving problems.

It's only been half a month since Mo Yan died three days ago, settled the Xingluo Island issue, and everyone returned home safely.

Lately Su Liang noticed Cen Man busily handling the wedding arrangements for Qiao Jing and Nangong Qian. Qiao Cong took it all in stride, busying himself with fishing or playing with the children. She was somewhat unsettled by it.

One thing was for certain, Cen Man liked Qiao Cong. They were both not young anymore, perhaps this affection has existed for many years, but it seemed Qiao Cong never saw it that way.

When Su Liang said that Qiao Cong was unfair, it was purely a complaint. He definitely wouldn't take Cen Man's efforts for granted because he knew she liked him. The root of the issue was that they were too close. To Qiao Cong, their relationship was like siblings. They could risk their lives for each other, everything else would seem trivial. And as far as Su Liang knew, Qiao Cong had saved Cen Man more than once. When Cen Man was blind, Qiao Cong was always there protecting her. He even taught her martial arts and hidden weapons techniques, all so she could have skills to protect herself.

Now, Su Liang thought, since they have feelings for each other, they could take a step further. Who says only young people have the right to fall in love and marry? Qiao Cong had been married and had children and now his two grandchildren were about to start their own families. Cen Man was alone, still unwilling to talk about her younger years, and her affection towards Qiao Cong and his grandchildren is from the heart. If she could have a legitimate identity, she would surely be very happy.

Gu Ling saw through Su Liang's thoughts, took her hand, and said softly, "It's rare that you want to play matchmaker."

Although many friends around her had come together in the past, Su Liang rarely took the initiative to matchmake. She believed that these things should happen naturally. The last two couples were matchmade by Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu, which turned out to be pretty good. Even Yan Shiba and Sheng Yue, who had a troubled past, are now living a passionate and joyful life.

"Yes." Su Liang nodded affirmatively, "This time, I want to play matchmaker." Qiao Cong and Cen Man were different, they would remain the same without someone's push. Su Liang felt that as their mutual disciple, she needed to do something.

"Is it okay? Is there anything wrong?" Qiao Cong came over with Gu Xiaonuan in his arms and asked.

Su Liang shook her head, "Everything is fine."

Qiao Cong said happily, "That's great. when they all start their families, I won't have to worry anymore."

Su Liang thought to herself, Qiao Cong hasn't been worrying much lately...

When they were about to leave the Qiao Mansion, Cen Man returned, bringing with her a set of new plates she had carefully selected.

Qiao Jing also appeared, carrying a pot in his hand. Inside the pot was a rare orchid in full bloom; it was beautiful. He had just obtained it from Duanmu Chen in the imperial palace because Min Rou loved orchids and he wanted to place it in their new room.

“You’re leaving? Wait a moment! Su Liang, I have something to discuss with you!” After greeting them, Qiao Jing first took the orchid to the new room, and then ran back to find them.

“I’ll go to Min Rou’s marriage tomorrow? Weng Ran has already told me, we will be there by then.” Su Liang said.

Qiao Jing shook his head, “That’s not it.”

Qiao Cong had already taken the three children back to the Su Mansion, and Cen Man was busy again.

“I don’t know if you have noticed...” Qiao Jing said solemnly.

Su Liang raised an eyebrow, “Does my fourth master like your grandfather?”

Qiao Jing was stunned, “You know?”

“You just noticed?” Su Liang counter-questioned.

Qiao Jing cleared his throat, “I just noticed, there had always been a lot of things going on, I just got back not long ago, and I only heard about it from my sister. However, I have known for a long time that they had a good relationship.”

“So, what do you think?” Su Liang asked.

“My sister and I both want to matchmake them together. My grandfather is thick-skinned, and he doesn’t like to listen to me, but if you speak to him, it will surely work.” Qiao Jing said.

Su Liang nodded, “I have the same intention.”

Qiao Jing’s face lit up with joy, “That’s fantastic! Senior Cen has always treated my sister and me so well. If she could become our grandmother, there would be nothing better. If my grandfather doesn’t agree, you should tell him that from now on, my sister and I only recognize Senior Cen as our grandmother, and don’t recognize him anymore!”

After leaving the Qiao Mansion, Su Liang and Gu Ling rode out of the city for a tour.

Upon returning home, Qiao Cong was showing off the new clothes he was going to wear tomorrow to the kids.

“Master, come upstairs in a while.” Su Liang said as she passed by.

Unaware of what was going on, Qiao Cong quickly followed her upstairs, “Xiaoliang, how is my master’s new outfit?”

“Very refined, not bad.” Su Liang nodded, “Master bought it himself?”

“Do I understand such things? Cen Man prepared it for me.” Qiao Cong sat down, “What did you want to see me about?”

Su Liang went straight to the point, “Master, you should get married too.”

Qiao Cong froze, “What?”

Su Liang looked serious, “Master, have you really not figured out that the fourth master likes you?”

Qiao Cong was dumbfounded, “Who?”

“You both have known each other for so many years, are you completely oblivious to her feelings for you?” Su Liang asked.

Qiao Cong shook his head, “I know... it’s not... You’re saying she likes me? That’s something else altogether! We are lifelong friends, I saved her life back then, and she has been taking care of me in gratitude ever since. It’s not what you think, we’re too old for those feelings!”

Su Liang facepalmed: ...Old straight man...

“The truth...did Cen Man tell you?” Qiao Cong started scratching his head, “Did she say she likes me? It can’t be, we’ve been... this years... haven’t you misunderstood something?”

“I didn’t misunderstand anything. Your grandchildren all know about it, even if the fourth master didn’t say anything.” Su Liang said, “From the very first day I was captured on that island and met the fourth master, I knew she felt more than just friendship for you. But then there were always things happening, and I had no chance to raise this subject.”

“More than friendship, that’s because we’ve been old friends for many years.” Qiao Cong’s expression was a bit strange, “Did you just infer this on your own? That doesn’t count! She’s good to everyone, don’t go messing around. If you get it wrong, where am I going to put my face?”

Su Liang raised an eyebrow, “So master, you mean... If I didn’t get it wrong, you’re willing?”

Qiao Cong cleared his throat, “At this age, who would still think about such things?”

Su Liang lightly laughed, “What exactly is Master referring to?”

Qiao Cong glared at Su Liang, “Getting married! What were you thinking of? Aren’t things already good as they are now?”

“It’s great, for you. You’ve someone to care for you and look after you. She even prepares your meals and clothes, and manages your grandchildren’s marriages. In the future, she might have to help you look after your great-grandchildren. You’re living leisurely, all you need to do is enjoy yourself.” Su Liang huffed.

Qiao Cong's face stiffened at her words, "What you're saying... we're all family after all, she's willing..." His voice grew weaker as he spoke, and his eyes began to flicker.

"I'm not in the mood to talk superfluous rubbish." Su Liang's expression became serious, "Some things, you know them in your heart, you didn't think of it in this way before, but now you should think clearly. The fourth master is good to everyone, but she treats you the best, unlike how she treats others. She is such a wonderful woman, and so beautiful even now. If you don't want her, I will matchmake her with another mas..."

Qiao Cong quickly interrupted Su Liang, "Stop talking nonsense! This matter can't be handled lightly! When did I say I don't want her? You suddenly raised this, I need some time to process and think it through, this isn't child's play."

"Have you thought it through?" Su Liang smiles subtly.

Qiao Cong slapped the table and stood up, "We have so many years of feelings. At this age, what else is there to think about? You should have reminded me earlier!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Qiao Cong vanished. Su Liang laughed brightly at Gu Ling entering the room, "Great God, quickly make another beautiful Chinese knot, we have another couple!"

Chapter 510: 510. Let's elope.

When Qiao Cong found Cen Man, she was still in Qiao Mansion, checking for the last time that everything had been properly prepared.

Cen Man sensed someone approaching and turned to see that it was Qiao Cong, looking somewhat surprised, "Didn't you go home with the children?"

Qiao Cong's gaze fell on Cen Man's face, and he awkwardly turned his head away, looking at the red lanterns gently swaying with the wind on the nearby trees. "I should have been the one to take care of Jingjing's matter. You've worked hard these past few days."

Upon hearing this, Cen Man laughed, "Why are you being so polite with me? Shouldn't there be any problems? Do you want to check again?"

Qiao Cong shook his head, "I trust you."

"Then let's go back and come over again early tomorrow morning," Cen Man said as she walked out.

"Hey! Wait a minute!" Qiao Cong didn't move.

Cen Man stopped and turned around, "What's the matter?"

Seeing Qiao Cong hesitate to speak, Cen Man was somewhat puzzled. They had known each other for decades, and Qiao Cong had always been straightforward and never acted polite with her.

"I... you..." On his way over from Su Liang's place, Qiao Cong thought this matter was simple. They were both of a certain age, and getting married was just a matter of

being forthright about it. However, when he faced Cen Man, he found it hard to say some things out loud.

“What’s the matter?” Cen Man looked confused, “Do you need my help with something? Is it troublesome? Just tell me.”

“For so many years, you have taken such good care of me. I should have thanked you properly a long time ago.” Qiao Cong said solemnly.

Cen Man looked at him oddly, “What’s wrong with you today? Has Xiaoliang diagnosed you with something terminal?”

Qiao Cong’s words that he had finally mustered the courage to say were choked back in his throat. He looked at Cen Man speechlessly, “What nonsense are you talking about?”

“You were the one who started talking nonsense.” Cen Man shook her head, “I was just joking. I don’t understand why you’re acting like this. Just say it, I have to go home and take care of something.”

“We...” Qiao Cong took a deep breath and said firmly to Cen Man, “Marry me!”

Cen Man was stunned for a moment, doubting her own ears, “What did you say?”

“Marry me!” Qiao Cong’s gaze was unwavering, “We’re both getting on in years, so let’s not talk about pretentious things. Now that the troubles are resolved, and the children have settled down, let’s settle down too! From now on, we’ll be partners in life, and have each other’s backs.”

Cen Man looked inexplicable, “Why are you suddenly saying all this today... Did Xiaoliang say something to you? We’re already family, and you don’t have to come to me with these words just because the children said something.”

Qiao Cong frowned, “Are you rejecting me?”

Cen Man looked at Qiao Cong and sighed, “Isn’t it great the way things are right now? It must be because the children said something. I take care of everyone because I want to, I’m happy doing it, there’s no need for this.”

“Why don’t you want to marry me?” Qiao Cong was puzzled, “Do you think I’m not good enough? Or is it because you prefer Lao Mu? Lao Mu is indeed more likable than me, but it’s unlikely you’d choose Lao Bai or Lao Wen.”

Upon hearing this, Cen Man’s face darkened a little, “I haven’t! Don’t talk nonsense!”

“Then why?” Qiao Cong pressed, “Yes, the children reminded me, I was slow to think about this issue before. But it’s not for the sake of making the children happy that I came to talk to you about this. We’ve been in a relationship for so many years, but because I only paid attention to the children before, I never thought about this aspect. It’s not that you weren’t in my heart. Now that the world is peaceful and the

children are happily settled, we should consider our matters too. Don't you believe that I'm sincere?"

Looking at Qiao Cong's furrowed brow and determined eyes, Cen Man couldn't help but pause, "Are you... really serious about this?"

Qiao Cong raised his right hand and swore, "Absolutely true, if even one word is false, I..."

Cen Man interrupted him, "Don't say such inauspicious things."

"So, did you agree?" Qiao Cong asked again.

Cen Man looked a bit conflicted, "At our age, whether we get married or not doesn't make much of a difference, we were supposed to take care of each other anyway. Marrying, I find it embarrassing."

Qiao Cong laughed at her words, "What's there to be embarrassed about? The kids can't wait to see us get married. Jingjing and Qianqian told Xiaoling that if I can't get you to agree to marry me, they won't have me as their grandfather anymore and will only recognize you."

"Is it because of..." Cen Man frowned.

Qiao Cong shook his head, "No! I just want to say, the kids are all very supportive, so you don't need to have any concerns. Getting married is still different."

"What's the difference?" Cen Man asked.

Qiao Cong blurted out, "Once we're married, we can sleep in the same bed."

Cen Man blushed, "What are you talking about?"

Qiao Cong reached out and took Cen Man's hand, both of their bodies shivered slightly. They had had more intimate physical contact than this before, but after breaking through that layer of window paper, everything was naturally different.

Qiao Cong caressed Cen Man's hand, unable to help but sigh, "You're much younger than me."

Cen Man withdrew her hand, subconsciously looking around, "Don't do this outside, someone might see."

"What's there to be afraid of? We'll be legitimate soon." Qiao Cong shook his head, "Let's go back and tell Lao Bai, Lao Mu and Lao Wen about it first!"

"Why?" Cen Man asked.

Qiao Cong snorted lightly, "So they don't keep thinking about you!"

Cen Man: ...That's not true at all.

Cen Man had liked Qiao Cong for many years. When she suddenly heard Qiao Cong confessing and saying he wanted to marry her, she hesitated, because she had long been used to hiding this feeling in her heart, and to their brother-sister-like relationship as friends and family.

After Cen Man's eyes were healed by Su Liang and she saw the light, and Qiao Cong and she both became Su Liang's masters, starting a new life together, her heart was filled with gratitude. These

two years had been fulfilling and happy, even though there had been ups and downs and risks, she felt that everything was worth it and everything was fine as it could be.

Because of this, Cen Man did not have any further thoughts about getting closer to Qiao Cong, but instead dismissed her previous desires, thinking that she was already happy enough and would not ask for her hidden feelings to be reciprocated. It was because Qiao Cong had been the only important person in Cen Man's life before, and now things were very different, she had a lot more family, so the things she had been longing for, were no longer that important to her.

With that in mind, when she suddenly heard Qiao Cong say he wanted to get married, Cen Man's first thought was: It must be the kids' idea, otherwise Qiao Cong would never say anything like that.

Cen Man didn't want to force Qiao Cong. They had been together for so many years, and she knew that Qiao Cong had no such thoughts towards her. Being with Qiao Cong was no longer as important to her, but that didn't mean she didn't care.

In other words, this feeling had become "icing on the cake" for Cen Man, who had been lonely for most of her life, instead of "sending coals in snowy weather."

The moment the two of them held hands, Cen Man knew that some feelings would never change, and the doubts in her heart disappeared instantly.

The two walked side by side out of Qiao Mansion, the usual relaxed atmosphere gone, and they both felt a little strange, but couldn't help but feel happy.

"After this, I might not fit in with Lao Bai and the others." Qiao Cong said with a laugh, "Among the brothers, I'm the only one with a wife!"

Unable to hold back a smile, Cen Man said, "It's fine if you just think about it, but saying it might get you beaten."

"Whether I say it or not, it's the same. Their envy won't help them." Although it was dusk, Qiao Cong suddenly felt that everything around him became brighter.

"Let's wait until after Jingjing and Qianqian get married to talk about it." Cen Man suggested to Qiao Cong.

Qiao Cong shook his head, "No need to wait, we should tell them today. That way, everyone will be even happier when Jingjing and Qianqian get married. We also need to start preparing for our own wedding."

"We're already this old, there's no need..." Cen Man said.

Qiao Cong shook his head again, "Age doesn't matter. We have the means now. As for our marriage, let's leave it to Jingjing and Qianqian to plan. You've been busy with their wedding after all."

Cen Man disagreed, "The children just got married, let's not disturb them."

"Then I'll handle everything, as I should have already," Qiao Cong said, "I'll ask for your guidance on things I don't understand."

Cen Man nodded, her eyes and eyebrows all filled with smiles.

By the time the two returned to Su Mansion, it was already time for dinner.

Seeing the expressions on their faces when they entered, Su Liang knew that it had been settled.

Cen Man took her seat, and Qiao Cong, like Cheng Yun before, cleared his throat and announced his good news, "Cen Man and I are also going to get married."

Qiao Jing was the first to react, clapping his hands in praise, "That's great! Congratulations, Grandpa!"

Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu jumped up excitedly, Ji Xiaoshu kept clapping her hands and exclaimed, "Wow! That's so great! Master Qiao, my senior brother and I were planning to matchmake you two next! Didn't expect we didn't even get the chance to be the matchmaker!"

Zhengzheng nodded with a brilliant smile, "Yeah, yeah, Xiaoshu and I were discussing this matter last night!"

Su Liang raised her hand, "I want to declare that I am the matchmaker this time. Master Qiao and Master Cen, don't forget to give me a big red envelope."

Old Mu clasped his hands, "Old Qiao, you've finally come to your senses! Congratulations!"

Old Bai looked at Qiao Cong and Cen Man with envy and a touch of melancholy in his eyes, and he thought of his love story that was played by fate once again.

listening to the continuous congratulations, Qiao Cong sat down with a smile and whispered in Cen Man's ear, "My mistake, for delaying for so long."

Cen Man pushed Qiao Cong and told him to be mindful since the children were watching.

As tomorrow was Qiao Jing's wedding day and Qiao Cong and Cen Man's matter had also been settled, it was a double celebration. Gu Ling took out the fine alcohol Duanmu Chen had given him and let the masters drink as much as they wanted.

Ji Xiaoshu wanted to sneak a taste, but before she could touch it, the wine cup flew away, and she raised her head to receive a knock from Gu Ling.

"Master, can I have just a little sip?" Ji Xiaoshu tried to negotiate with Gu Ling, "There's so much joy today, my senior brother and I also want to celebrate for our masters."

"Drinking alcohol is bad for kids," Gu Ling said with no room for negotiation.

"Alright, alright, then I want to drink fruit juice made by Master himself!" Ji Xiaoshu pulled Zhengzheng as her ally, "Senior brother, you like it too, don't you?"

Zhengzheng smiled at Gu Ling, "If there's any, it would be great."

Gu Ling went to the kitchen to wash and prepare the fruits, and brought out a pot of fruit juice he made with his homemade juicer.

The children each got a cup, and Su Liang one as well. In the end, Sheng Yue wanted the remaining cup, but Gu Ling gave it to Cen Man, "Wishing Master a sweet life from now on."

The children raised their cups and shouted in unison, "Wishing umasters a sweet life!"

With her heart touched, Cen Man's eyes turned red, "Thank you... really, thank you all." With such good children, it would be hard for her not to be happy.

Yan Shiba elbowed Sheng Yue, "You want to drink that fruit juice? I'll make it for you!"

Sheng Yue shook his head, "I just want to drink the one made by Gu Ling."

Yan Shiba was instantly displeased, "Be honest, do you actually have a crush on the beautiful Gu Ling? Is that why you're using me to stay in this household and see him all the time?"

Zhengzheng, who was sitting beside them, was chocked by the fruit juice from hearing Yan Shiba's bizarre remark.

Sheng Yue glanced at Yan Shiba with cold eyes, "If you dare, say those words out loud."

Yan Shiba stomped on Sheng Yue's foot under the table, "You're setting me up? Just wait till we get home and I'll teach you a lesson!"

Sheng Yue nodded, "You're welcome, I will definitely accompany you."

Zhengzheng: ...He should sit further away from these two in the future. Otherwise, he would always hear some things that he shouldn't listen to or understand...

After dinner, Old Bai, Old Mu, and Weng Ming took Qiao Cong away for drinks, saying they wanted to congratulate him properly.

Meanwhile, Qiao Jing and Nangong Qian separately approached Cen Man, expressing their gratitude and affection for her, and their sincere hope that she would be happy with Qiao Cong.

It was late at night.

Gu Xiaonuan had recently been sleeping in the same room with Zhengzheng and Ji Xiaoshu. With so many happy events in the family, Gu Ling said he wanted to be the groom every night...

At this moment, Gu Ling and Su Liang hadn't gone to bed yet. Su Liang had just taken a bath, and after Gu Ling helped her dry her hair, he continued weaving the unfinished Chinese knot.

Su Liang leaned on the recliner and watched Gu Ling busying under the light, thinking that this scene was truly picturesque.

When Gu Ling looked up, he saw Su Liang's gentle eyes, and he couldn't help but smile, "If you keep looking, will you eat me?"

Su Liang laughed at his words. The phrase came from a famous advertisement she had mentioned to Gu Ling in her past life, and she found her Great God becoming more and more adorable.

"I'll eat you later, after you finish working," Su Liang said with a hint of a smile.

"We should..." Gu Ling suddenly suggested, "elope!"

Su Liang had just taken a sip of water and almost choked, "Great God, what are you talking about?"

"It would be nice if we could elope to the moon, cut down the osmanthus trees for firewood, and roast the jade rabbit," Gu Ling said with a serious expression.

Su Liang clasped her hands together and addressed the moon outside the window, "Moon God, my husband is just talking nonsense, don't take it seriously."

"I'm serious," Gu Ling said, "There are more and more people in the family, but I just want to live a world with only the two of us."

Su Liang raised her eyebrows, "Are you willing to give up your precious daughter?"

"She'll grow up," Gu Ling said, "In a few days, we'll leave the capital and go back to Su Village with just the children, not allowing anyone else to join us."

Su Liang could tell that Gu Ling wanted some peace and quiet. Although he was actually very emotionally intelligent in front of the elders and had prepared all the wedding gifts himself, he was always willing to help the children. Even Sheng Yue said that Gu Ling had a natural instinct to help others at his core.

Actually, Su Liang had the same thoughts as Gu Ling. Although she enjoyed lively days, she still missed the simple, peaceful, and interesting times when she and Gu Ling were together in the beginning.

"All the masters have agreed to go together," Su Liang said with a smile, "But, we'll find a way to get rid of them!"