

# A Valiant Life

## Chapter 16: You are Insulting Fortune-telling

At the Youth Arts Magazine Publisher.

“Look, there’s a reporter at Little Boss’ stall!” said the shocked Huo Han as she looked over to Red Star Primary School.

“It’s no surprise, the scallion pancakes are just too delicious!”

“Huo Han, I guess your Mr. Handsome must be elated at the sight of the reporter.”

Zhong Qing Yi was also captivated by the scallion pancakes. More importantly, it allowed her to regain some dignity with her sister. That morning, she had given a scallion pancake to her sister to try. Qing Yi giggled at Qing Fan’s ridiculously hilarious expression after eating the scallion pancakes that she had bought for her. The more she thought about it, the happier she became. She just regretted not having taken a picture of her ugly expression.

“What do you mean by my Mr. Handsome? He is everyone’s Mr. Handsome, okay? Yeah, I guess Little Boss would definitely be really happy,” Huo Han smiled and said.

But what they did not know, was that they had guessed wrong.

Lin Fan was feeling depressed and helpless. If he had a cigarette, he would have silently lit one to show his sadness.

The second page of the encyclopedia was a joke.

“Unlocking the second page of the Encyclopedia. The second page involves the profession of someone close to the host.”

“Mr. Tian has been a good friend to the host, hence the fortune-telling classification will be opened.”

“Acquired Task: To become a brilliant and well-known Master Lin (in fortune-telling).”

“Task Reward: 20 Encyclopedic Points and the ability to unlock the third page of the encyclopedia.”

“Note: Upon opening a new page, the host must quickly equip himself with new knowledge, otherwise, the Encyclopedia will be withdrawn.”

While Fraud Tian was actively trying to get more customers, he realized that a pair of eyes had been looking at him viciously. The hair on his body stood on their ends and his anus expanded as he felt threatened.

“Why are you staring at me?” Fraud Tian looked at Lin Fan curiously as he did not know the intent of Lin Fan.

If Lin Fan had a knife, he would have used it to chop Fraud Tian into bits and pieces.

*Why did I become friends with someone like that?* Lin Fan thought. *What the f\*ck...*

Fortune-telling classification? Looking at Fraud Tian sitting on the small stool and the way he had been fortune-telling for others, Lin Fan felt like killing himself.

Lin Fan thought the new given classification should’ve been something better than selling scallion pancakes.

But the current situation left Lin Fan speechless. If he did not start his fortune-telling career, the Encyclopedia would have to be withdrawn. Lin Fan’s current situation was like a dream. How could he give up on the encyclopedia just like that?

“Ahhh!” Lin Fan let out a loud sigh and turned his head. Looks like he really had to go into conning people in the future.

But at that instant, a sudden outburst of information appeared in his mind as he looked at the customer in front of him.

“Yang Yong Kang, 40 years old, a language teacher in Guang Ming Secondary School, divorced. Currently raising a son and a daughter. Virtuous, charitable and has no evil intentions. Will have a fruitful end to his life.”

In Lin Fan’s eyes, the freckles and wrinkles on Mr. Yang’s face suddenly became symbols. Each symbol had its own meaning.

Lin Fan suddenly had the ability to look at someone’s entire life.

This was too damn powerful. Lin Fan blinked several times. Everything felt illogical.

Suddenly, Lin Fan suddenly let out a series of vulgarities. Lin Fan had thought that a career in fortune-telling would involve many lies. But the current situation was unusual.

“Little Boss, are you okay?” the stunned Yang Yong Kang asked Lin Fan. He had no idea what happened to him, it felt like he was possessed.

Fraud Tian looked up at Lin Fan. Did something bad just happen?

“Nothing, nothing.” Lin Fan waved Yong Kang away and continued to make scallion pancakes, but he looked at Yang Yong Kang and studied him more carefully.

More and more images appeared in Lin Fan’s mind. “Immensely good fortune, almost as if the God of Fortune watches over him.”

Lin Fan felt that things were becoming clearer to him and proceeded to look further.

“Buys a ticket from the ticketing counter outside the school entrance and wins the grand prize...”

“It seems like the God of Fortune could leave anytime and that would indicate a change in his life. Until then, Yang Yong Kang could miss out on this one-time opportunity.”

The way Lin Fan had looked at Yang Yong Kang made him have goosebumps, he felt as if someone was targeting him.

This Little Boss shouldn’t have that kind of interest, right?

Yang Yong Kang started to hallucinate and felt that Lin Fan had a vicious look in his eyes.

“Mr. Yang, do you buy the lottery often?” Lin Fan asked.

“Lottery? I’ve never bought it before. It’s all a scam,” Yang Yong Kang smiled and said. Then, he realized something and was shocked. “How did you know my surname was Yang...?”

“If I told you it was just at my fingertips, would you believe me?” Lin Fan said.

While Fraud Tian was trying to scam others, he coughed violently and looked at Lin Fan suspiciously. *This scallion pancake seller is starting to con others too*, he thought. Could it be that he has been influenced by me?

“Haha,” Yang Yong Kang laughed and thought Lin Fan was just joking. He didn’t think much of what he had said.

But Lin Fan realized what was going on; what he saw in his mind was not a fixed outcome. Mr. Yang had the blessing of fortune in his life, if he took the opportunity to achieve great fortune, he would reap the benefits of it. If not, then it would all be for nothing.

One has to be opportunistic and make the most out of the opportunities presented to him. Once he misses it, it’s gone.

When Lin Fan passed the scallion pancake to Mr. Yang, he grabbed him by the hand.

Mr. Yang was stunned and thought that Lin Fan had a thing for him.

“Mr. Yang, I could see from your face that you are destined to win big money today. Remember to buy a lottery ticket from the stall counter at the entrance of the school,” Lin Fan said it seriously to him. If it was true, it could prove that the magical Encyclopedia was invincible.

And if he did not win the first prize, he could just pretend like nothing happened.

When Reporter Wang saw what had happened, he was also shocked. In his mind, he laughed and thought, *This f\*cker must be kidding, there's already a 'fraud' beside him and now he wants to be a conman?*

Reporter Wang did not say much as he did not want to interfere with the 'show' that Lin Fan was performing.

Fraud Tian looked at Lin Fan and gave him a thumbs up for coming up with such bullshit which was even more ridiculous than what he had told people.

“This guy's crazy. Just telling someone to buy the lottery ticket straight, without fearing what would happen if he doesn't win.”

“Wow...!”

Yang Yong Kang was stunned by how serious Lin Fan was.

This...

\*bang!\*

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck the stall beside him.

“What the f\*ck!”

The sudden jolt scared the f\*ck out of Lin Fan; his heart had skipped a beat.

The people surrounding him were also scared to death.

“Lightning, it's lightning!”

Lin Fan forcefully swallowed his saliva; his heart had not settled down.

“Warning: Host is insulting the magical knowledge of fortune-telling. The host is forbidden from directly telling people their fate. It's the first and last warning, if it were to

happen again, the host will become a handicapped man from being struck by another bolt of lightning.”

Initially, Lin Fan thought it was just a normal lightning bolt but it was actually a warning from the magical Encyclopedia.

The surrounding people were so scared that they turned pale. If they had been struck by the lightning earlier, they would have died immediately.

Mr. Yang ran far away from the stall.

“Mr. Yang, don’t forget! I won’t repeat again, if not I would be struck by the lightning!” Lin Fan exclaimed.

\*bang\*

Came another bolt of lightning.

Lin Fan trembled. He waved his hands and said, “I won’t say it anymore, I won’t say it anymore, please don’t strike me.”

Reporter Wang had wanted to expose Lin Fan’s ‘scam’ in order to write some news article about it. But as he witnessed how dangerous the place had become, he quickly fled the area.

He was just there for a piece of exclusive news, not to gamble with his life.

Those who had wanted to buy the scallion pancakes were also stunned. Compared to delicious food, their insignificant lives still mattered more.

“What the f\*ck did you do to infuriate the heavens? Quick, give me \$200 and let me tell your fortune.” Fraud Tian hugged his stool and quickly distanced from Lin Fan. This chap must have f\*cked some old pig next door to have angered the heavens to this extent.

As the saying goes, ‘A fire in the city gates is also a calamity for the fish in the moat’; the bystanders would also suffer.

“What the f\*ck...” Lin Fan shouted unhappily. The f\*cker just wanted to remind Mr. Yang and felt that there wasn’t a need for another lightning bolt.

I won’t say it anymore, that’s it.

Chapter 17: Things Aren’t Looking Good

At this hour, there wasn't a single person at the gates of Red Star Primary School. Everyone was hiding far away. The power of the lightning was truly terrifying.

To the ordinary people, it was a truly mysterious power. Once you were struck, there wouldn't be a need for hospital wards; it was instant death.

Those who did manage to survive were very few, and they had to possess some kind of mysterious divine power.

"Don't come near us, brat. You must have angered the gods! Don't drag us down with you!" Fraud Tian saw Lin Fan walking towards them, and was so frightened that he jumped.

This was way too strange.

The lightning struck twice in a row, and each of them struck so menacingly.

"Oh my god..." Lin Fan looked at the crowd in front, cowering in fear of himself and felt annoyed. It was all just a misunderstanding, there was no need to be so frightened.

"Hey guys, don't you want some scallion pancakes?" Lin Fan asked.

"Not today, boss. I'll buy from you again tomorrow."

"Yeah, yeah, me too,"

"You should be careful, boss. I think it's best if we leave this cursed place quickly, in case the lightning strikes again."

The crowd mumbled in agreement and then scurried away. The scallion pancakes were important to them but it was not as important as their lives. Who knew if the lightning would strike again?

The new fortune-telling classification still required more experimenting.

After the task was completed, he now had 12 Encyclopedic Points.

Lin Fan scanned through his Encyclopedia and saw that there was nothing he could do with these 12 Encyclopedic Points.

In order to choose a class of knowledge himself, he needed at least 1000 Encyclopedic Points. A mere 12 points were really useless. All he could do was slowly accumulate more points.

It was 6 o'clock.

Mr. Yang got off from the public bus and walked towards the school.

He was an English teacher and the form teacher of the best third-grade class. He lived a meaningful and altruistic life, helping less fortunate students. Since becoming a teacher, he had already provided financial support for 32 financially needy students. To Mr. Yang, it was a blessing to be able to help so many people.

However, life couldn't always be so perfect. One day, Yang Yong Kang discovered that his wife had been cheating on him with one of his colleagues and was furious. Eventually, they got divorced, and he claimed custody of his 2 children.

At least his 2 children were hardworking and studious, and they managed to get accepted into reputable local universities.

To Yang Yong Kang, his life's greatest mission had been completed by raising his children well.

At this moment, Yang Yong Kang was just passing by the lottery stand outside the school. He reached into his pocket and found two coins.

"Mr. Yang, you absolutely have to buy a lottery ticket when you come to school."

The scallion pancake hawker's voice rang in Yang Yong Kang's head.

"That little boss really likes to fool around. These lottery tickets are all rigged, there's no way I can win," Yang Yong Kang prepared to walk straight into the school, without buying any lottery tickets.

But just as Yang Yong Kang was about to go, a loud and distinct voice rang out from the noisy lottery stand.

"This season's grand prize is \$15,000,000! Who knows who will be the lucky one to claim it!" The crowd of lottery addicts started an enthusiastic discussion.

Yang Yong Kang pondered for a moment, and then laughed to himself, "Oh well, since I only have \$2 in my pocket, keeping it with me wouldn't be useful at all. Let's just buy a ticket, and if I don't win, I'll have the Little Boss repay me."

Of course, Yang Yong Kang was only joking.

"Boss, give me one lottery ticket," Yang Yong Kang had never been to a lottery stand and was unfamiliar with how lotteries worked.

"What number do you want?" The lottery stand owner replied with a smile.

"Just give me a random number."

“Alright, this number has high odds of winning the small prize.”

The ticket was printed out in just a few seconds. Yang Yong Kang took it from the owner and placed it in his wallet as he walked towards the school.

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Due to the lightning strike, the customers were all scared away, and Lin Fan had no choice but to close his stall early.

Just within these 2 days, he had earned \$4000 from selling scallion pancakes.

This, in Lin Fan's eyes, was hard to believe.

“Selling scallion pancakes like this is really not a bad idea. If I carried on like this, becoming rich wouldn't just be a dream. It's just that this Encyclopedia's rules are really annoying.”

“Not doing fortune-telling is not an option. How troublesome!”

After keeping his stall into the apartment, Lin Fan sat at the entrance by the road and curiously observed the people that were walking past.

“Miss Wang, 28 years old, will become a famous star at Ah Mei Hair Salon near the city's west bridge. She has a hoodlum boyfriend who is mean and rarely kind. She will get plagued with illness in her later years...”

A gorgeously dressed lady in high heels walked pass Lin Fan. A pungent smell struck his nose, causing him to sneeze uncontrollably.

“Famous star?” Before Lin Fan could respond, she started giggling to herself, as if she had understood.

Lin Fan never had anything against this line of work. It was an honest way of earning money, relying on one's own ability. It was much better as compared to many other jobs.

One by one, many people had passed by and Lin Fan came up with a conclusion.

There were people from all walks of life, they had different jobs and careers, but some would die painful deaths, while others would suffer tragically in their later years.

And the reason behind it was how they lived their lives.

Kindness begets kindness and evil begets evil. This saying was indeed very true.

However, life can't always be smooth sailing, and obstacles are aplenty. As long as someone doesn't commit any despicable sins, he would have a happy ending to his life regardless of all the obstacles that he has to face.

On the other hand, people who commit evil sins may seem like they live comfortable and extravagant lives, but that is only temporary. In the end, karma will always get them.

Of course, these reflections weren't thought of by Lin Fan but were recorded in the encyclopedia.

"Lil' Fan, you're back so early today?" asked an Auntie as she walked past Lin Fan, holding her granddaughter's hand.

"Oh, Aunt Zhang, that's right. I'm not feeling too well today, so I came home earlier," said Lin Fan with a smile. He then used his fortune-telling vision and took a look at Aunt Zhang's granddaughter.

Upon looking, Lin Fan's face turned pale.

Pearl Mao was Aunt Zhang's granddaughter, but right now, an ominous energy surrounded her, almost as if the death god himself was there.

"My god, what's going on? How could it be, that a little kid like her possesses such an ominous energy?" Lin Fan was dumbfounded, and couldn't think straight.

"What's wrong, Lil' Fan?" Aunt Zhang inquired cheerily.

"Aunt Zhang, I know how to read fortunes, and I just read Pearl's fortune," replied Lin Fan.

"Oh? Lil' Fan, you had this kind of ability?" Aunt Zhang had always believed in fortune-telling, and at this moment she didn't care whether or not Lil' Fan really knew about fortune-telling but was just curious to listen.

"Then please take a good look at my granddaughter's fortune." Aunt Zhang also enjoyed chatting with youngsters, especially a handsome young chap like Lin Fan.

Lin Fan then understood the reason behind everything.

"This is all repayment for his sins."

It was all because Pearl's father dated many girls when he was young, and almost every one of them got pregnant with his babies. In the end, all of them ended in abortion.

The burden of all these sins had been passed down to Pearl.

“Aunt Zhang, things don’t look too good,” said Lin Fan sternly.

Aunt Zhang had been expecting Lil’ Fan to praise her granddaughter. She would never have expected this youngster to say something negative right off the bat, and her mood instantly changed.

However, she held her temper in and asked, “What doesn’t look too good?”

“Aunt Zhang, don’t be mad, I am absolutely not bluffing you, but if you listen to me, everything will turn out fine.” Lin Fan saw a displeased expression on Aunt Zhang’s face and knew at once that she was angry.

After all, who wouldn’t be angry after hearing something like that?

However, Lin Fan was a warm-hearted guy. To him, if he didn’t make use of it to change lives for the better, his fortune-telling power would be redundant.

Since speaking too directly would cause him to get struck by the lightning and he would become handicapped. All he had to do was say it in an indirect manner.

Chapter 18: A Little Loli Was Saved

“What’s wrong with my granddaughter?” Aunt Zhang’s expression had turned ugly. She was very displeased. Her good mood had been ruined by this youngster. If he didn’t have a proper reason behind it, she was going to teach him a lesson.

“Aunt Zhang, from Pearl’s face, I can tell that something bad will happen tonight. This ominous feeling... no, if you want to avoid it, it’d be best that you go out to have dinner tonight. Don’t eat at home regardless of what happens.”

“Note: If the host directly makes changes again...”

When Lin Fan heard this, he was startled. *Crap! I’ve barely said anything and it says that I’m being too direct*, he thought. Then, he proceeded to change the topic and speak more vaguely.

“Aunt Zhang, you believe this brat’s blabbering? If it was me, I would give him 2 hard slaps right away. Isn’t he cursing your granddaughter?” At this moment, a Mediterranean man stood by the entrance of the apartment and glared at Lin Fan with disdain.

It was his neighbor, Old Man Wang. Ever since Lin Fan moved in, they had been on bad terms.

Aunt Zhang furrowed her brows. It seemed that Lin Fan wasn't being too friendly, and she was starting to feel that he was cursing her granddaughter too.

Lin Fan took a glance at Old Man Wang and was furious, but he kept quiet and didn't bother to argue. After a moment, he looked over at Aunt Zhang again.

"Aunt Zhang, this isn't a joke, you have to believe me. This is about life and death and you have to be careful. Everything I said has a reason behind it, I'm not just making it up," Lin Fan said sternly.

"Haha, life and death my ass! You probably couldn't fit into the society in Shanghai and now you've gone crazy. Your mental illness must be pretty serious, for you to even try to bluff Aunt Zhang and curse her granddaughter," Old Man Wang insulted Lin Fan to his heart's content.

Old Man Wang couldn't stand this youngster.

*Pale and delicate, with no sense of self-respect. He doesn't even greet me when he sees me. This kid obviously doesn't know what's good for him,* thought Old Man Wang.

In an instant, Old Man Wang's face lit up. He called out, "Brother Mao, Brother Mao, come and take a look! This brat is cursing your daughter!"

At this moment, Pearl Mao's father who was riding his electric bike had just returned. When Old Man Wang saw him, he called out to him with a sadistic gleam in his eyes. *Let's teach this brat a lesson,* he thought.

Pearl Mao's father, Mao Zhong Xing, worked at a nearby company. Coming home from work and seeing his Mom and Daughter standing by the road had him curious.

However, when he heard Old Man Wang's words, he was slightly angry but didn't know what exactly was going on yet.

When Mao Zhong Xing was young, he hung out with a bad lot and got involved in many fights and conflicts, and took part in many immoral activities. He slept with many different women as well. Eventually, he got arrested and put in jail for 2 years for some incident. After his release, he turned over a new leaf and got married to an honest woman. He taught himself some technical skills and became an IT (Information Technology) manager at a company.

It wasn't enough to live a luxurious life, but he did manage to raise a healthy family, without having to worry about food or water.

“Daddy!” Pearl Mao’s face lit up when she saw him.

“What’s going on, mummy?” Mao Zhong Xing parked his electric bike by the side and hugged his daughter.

Before Aunt Zhang could respond, Old Man Wang pointed towards Lin Fan and accusingly him, “Brother Mao, this brat is saying that he knows fortune-telling to scare Aunt Zhang. He said something bad will happen to your Daughter tonight. Look how healthy she is, what could possibly happen? He must be trying to curse her!”

Mao Zhong Xing was very protective of his Daughter. When he heard this, he snapped, “You f\*cking brat, how dare you curse my Daughter! I’m going to give you a good beating!”

Bam!

Suddenly, Mao Zhong Xing’s kicked Lin Fan in his abdomen. Lin Fan couldn’t react fast enough and before he knew it, he was kneeling over on the ground.

*F\*ck... Lin Fan cursed in his mind. This f\*cker here is kind enough to give you a heads up, but you repay me with a kick in the stomach.*

“What are you doing, Zhong Xing?” Aunt Zhang immediately tried to restrain him.

This was Shanghai. If you assaulted someone and the police came, even if it was just some mild injury, you would have to pay at least a \$2000 fine or spend a few months in jail.

“I’m warning you, brat. If you spout nonsense again, I’ll kill you!” Mao Zhong Xing barked viciously. His daughter was everything to him. He would never let anyone talk bad about her, let alone curse her.

Lin Fan’s temper was now at his limit as well, but seeing how Pearl had been frightened to the point of tears, he didn’t want to cause her to be emotionally scarred. He looked over at Mao Zhong Xing.

“I’m just giving you a heads up. If you don’t believe me, then so be it. When the time comes, even if you begged me, I won’t be able to help you.”

“You...” Seeing how that brat still dared to talk, Mao Zhong Xing was just about to raise his fist and give him another beating, but his daughter, who was still in his embrace, started to cry.

“Fine, since you’re so great, let’s see. If nothing happens tonight, I want you to kneel before me tomorrow.”

“Fine, we’ll see who kneels down to who tomorrow.” Lin Fan didn’t want to argue further. His heart was filled with rage but he thought, “Forget it, he’ll be in tears tomorrow.”

“Hehe!” Old Man Wang was delighted, seeing how Lin Fan had taken a beating.

Lin Fan gave Old Man Wang a glare but decided to let it go. He had just read Old Man Wang’s fortune and saw that he would get beaten up the next day.

Back in his house, Lin Fan laid on his bed, thinking about his future.

“This scallion pancake business can’t be done regularly, and I need to find a better place to do my fortune-telling as well. Fraud Tian is always scamming people, but if I get him to help me to make a scene, that shouldn’t be a problem.”

“When I see him tomorrow, we can have a good chat.”

However, at this moment, what worried Lin Fan the most was whether or not Pearl would avoid the danger. Even though her father made him furious and he wanted to see her father kneel before him, that had nothing to do with the child. He knew that danger was imminent, yet he could only watch it happen. This was something that Lin Fan could not stand doing.

“Note: The host cannot personally intervene with heaven’s will, or he will be instantly struck by lightning.”

Lin Fan barely thought of doing something, when the encyclopedia’s distinct sound rang out.

What a sh\*tty day.

It was 7 pm.

In Aunt Zhang’s home.

“Mummy, I’m going out later. I have an appointment with a friend. Tomorrow, I’ll take care of that brat properly,” Mao Zhong Xing grunted as he finished his dinner.

“Let it go, we’re all neighbors after all. Maybe Lil’ Fan doesn’t mean bad at all,” Aunt Zhang replied as she kept the dishes.

“Mummy, don’t get involved in this. I’m going to leave now,” Mao Zhong Xing’s heart was still filled with rage. His precious and only child had been cursed by someone, how could he just let it go?

When Mao Zhong Xing left, Aunt Zhang had finished keeping the dishes as well. She took out some color pencils for Pearl. "Pearl, Granny is going to Granny Shen's house to play some mahjong. You stay at home and have fun drawing, okay?"

"Mmhhh, I got it, Granny," Zhu Zhu picked up the color pencils, and then laid down on the table and started to draw.

After that, Aunt Zhang left the apartment. She had locked all the windows and doors, to be safe.

Time passed minute by minute, second by second.

7.30 pm.

Bang!

Bam!

Game over!

A group of elderly ladies was engrossed in their game of mahjong, all smiles, and laughter.

"Old Man Zhang, what's the matter? You seem troubled.

"Yeah, weren't you fine just now?

Aunt Zhang suddenly recalled what the youngster had said just a few hours ago.

"Aunt Zhang, I'm afraid something bad will happen to Pearl tonight. This ominous energy..."

Aunt Zhang couldn't sit still, something didn't feel right, so she stood up, "Granny Shen, I have to go back to take a look."

"Ahhh, what's the matter with you, Aunt Zhang? That was only the first round!"

"I have to go and check on my granddaughter, I'll be back in a bit," Aunt Zhang felt uneasy after thinking back about what the youngster said. Without saying much, she rushed straight to her apartment.

On the way there, Aunt Zhang couldn't help showing signs of anxiety. She kept trying to comfort herself, *That youngster Lil' Fan is just trying to scare me. There's no way this fortune-telling is real.*

“Pearl! Pearl!” Aunt Zhang started yelling as she reached the apartment door, but there wasn’t any response from her granddaughter. The house was quiet.

Bang!

Aunt Zhang swung the door open, and suddenly, the pungent smell of smoke entered her nose.

And with one scan across the living room, she saw her granddaughter lying motionlessly on the floor.

“Oh my god! Pearl!” Aunt Zhang panicked.

“Help! Help!”

Aunt Zhang had a thunderous voice, and within seconds, her neighbors had all come out from their homes and frantically rushed towards the source.

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And at this moment, Lin Fan stood in the shadows and watched from afar. He heaved a sigh of relief, then took a look at his watch.

7.30 o’clock, they made it in time.

According to his vision, Pearl was only discovered after 8 o’clock, but she would have already passed away at 8 o’clock.

“Who knew that fortune-telling would be so powerful. Not a minute early, not a minute late.”

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## Chapter 19: I Became Mr. Charming

At the hospital.

“My beloved granddaughter, hopefully, nothing bad happens to you, otherwise grandma won’t know what to do...”

Aunt Zhang sat on the floor paralyzed with dread, crying. She believed that everything that had happened was caused by her. She couldn’t bear to live if anything happened to her granddaughter.

“My son, mother has let Pearl down!”

Mao Zhong Xing paced up and down the corridor, deep in thought. His thoughts were muddled. The telephone rang and his heart leaped out of his chest.

His daughter was his world, and he’d never thought something like this would happen to her.

“It’s all my fault! If I had not rushed for my mahjong game, this would never have happened.”

Aunt Zhang kept blaming herself. Even if she forgot to close the gas line then, this wouldn’t have happened so fast. Who would have thought the gas system had a fault, causing a massive gas leak.

“Mum, don’t worry. Everything is going to be alright.”

Mao Zhong Xing originally wanted to blame his own mother, but seeing her so distraught, he couldn’t bring himself to do it.

At that very moment, the doctor walked out of the room. Mao Zhong Xing and Aunt Zhang hurriedly went forward. Aunt Zhang grabbed the doctor by his coat as she was anxious to know the outcome.

“Doctor, how is my granddaughter? Is she okay?”

The doctor faced her sternly and said in a serious tone “How do you even take care of your kid? You left her alone at home... don’t you know how dangerous it can be? Especially since she is so small, if anything were to happen to her, it would be too late to even regret!”

“Yes...yes, sir.” Mao Zhong Xing and Aunt Zhang profusely nodded their heads as the doctor berated them.

“Luckily she was sent here on time so nothing really serious happened to her. If she was sent here ten or twenty minutes later, things would have turned out much worse...” the doctor could not fathom the irresponsibility of these two caretakers. Luckily nothing terrible happened that night.

“Thank you, doctor, thank you...” Aunt Zhang said weakly. She leaned on the wall in fatigue after hearing the good news. Mao Zhong Xing looked at the doctor and continued to thank him for his efforts.

“Mum, Pearl is going to be fine! Next time we’ve got to be more careful to make sure this doesn’t happen again. Mao Zhong Xin’s daughter was well and that was all. He was

lost for words and this incident taught Mao Zhong Xin a grave lesson. He resolved to go out less at night and instead, stay at home to spend more time with his daughter.

"Aunt Zhang, you should play less mahjong next time," the neighbors said as they surrounded her.

"I won't play, I won't ever play again." Aunt Zhang was traumatized. How could she ever dare to play it again?

"But if you think about it, this could only be divine providence. You sensed something amiss while you were playing mahjong. It seems that God still has his protective hand over Pearl," The neighbors said.

Hearing his neighbors, Mao Zhong Xing started to wonder too. His own mother was addicted to mahjong. If nothing serious happened, she wouldn't even leave her seat. How did she have such a premonition?

Aunt Zhang immediately thought of Lin Fan's words.

"Son, after this you should follow me to look for Lil' Fan," Aunt Zhang said as she grabbed Mao Zhong Xin.

"It is all thanks to Lil' Fan. If not for what he said, I probably wouldn't have had that premonition."

The neighbors were curious since nothing bad happened to Pearl. "Aunt Zhang, what does this have to do with Lil' Fan?"

"Mother, you should explain this fully to me. What did he tell you today?" Mao Zhong Xing asked.

"When I was sending Pearl home today, Lil' Fan was sitting at the door, and I greeted him. Lil' Fan said he was able to fortune-tell so he read Pearl's fortune and said that she would have an accident tonight, and told us to eat out instead of at home for the day." Aunt Zhang recounted the day's events.

"Also, Lil' Fan said something about the gas. But he briefly mentioned it and never said it again. He just stressed that we should go out to eat tonight."

After hearing all of these, Mao Zhong Xing was astonished. He couldn't believe it. The neighbors also had the same reaction. This was all too weird.

"Coming to think about it, it is really scary and too coincidental to be real... I only played one round of mahjong and my brain just kept on repeating Lil' Fan's warning. I had a feeling something was amiss and I thought I'd better go home to take a look. Luckily I did, otherwise terrible things would have happened tonight," Aunt Zhang said.

“How is this even possible? Lil’ Fan is just an ordinary scallion pancake seller, how could he possibly tell the future?”

The neighbors didn’t believe Aunt Zhang’s words. Although they didn’t know Lil’ Fan very well, they still saw Lil’ Fan since he was young, and they never heard of any fortune telling ability from that person before.

“Son, regardless of anything, we still have to thank Lil’ Fan. If not for his words, I can’t imagine how this night would have turned out,” Aunt Zhang said.

Mao Zhong Xing had never believed in fortune-telling, but the turn of today’s events had left his sanity on edge.

“Mum, I know this.” Mao Zhong Xing blamed himself. This afternoon, his facial appearance was a little off.

“Lil’ Fan has indeed done our family a good deed. Tonight we shall look for him. We should also bring a few gifts to thank him.”

Aunt Zhang got even more excited, the thought of kowtowing to Lin Fan seemed acceptable just to express their gratitude.

The neighbors suddenly exclaimed, “What if, when Lil’ Fan talked about the gas supply but didn’t mention it twice, was because the will of heaven cannot be divulged? I’ve read a few of these books, and they say that humans cannot violate such divine laws. Doing such a thing would shorten a person’s lifespan.”

“In the end, Lil’ Fan had his foot injured. That could only be divine retribution for breaking the Heavenly laws. In my opinion, Lil’ Fan had his life shortened.”

All the neighbors agreed unanimously.

The neighbors were all of considerable age. They certainly had experience in dealing with such spiritual matters.

“Old Man Wang does have a point. You’re a mahjong addict, one experience and you’ll always go back for more. It must have been Lin Fan using his tricks to make you feel like going back home to check on things.”

“He has a point, although I can’t really understand how Lil’ Fan had the ability to pull this off. I’ll have to find out tomorrow.”

The neighbors continued their chatter. The more they discussed, the more absurd the theories became.

However, there was still some truth in what they were saying.

Indeed, Lin Fan almost broke the heavenly law by divulging the will of heaven. However, it was done to save a life, so it was not that severe. Otherwise, Lin Fan would have been struck down by lightning.

“Son, you heard them. We all should go and thank Lil’ Fan,” Aunt Zhang said.

“Mum, there really is no hurry. It is getting late already. People need to sleep, and Pearl just survived a crisis. How about we go tomorrow in the morning to thank him?” Mao Zhong Xing said.

Mao Zhong Xing originally had his doubts, but after hearing the lengthy discussion from his neighbors, he began to believe in the supernatural a little more. There was no way this could have happened, especially when his mother is a mahjong addict.

Could it be that what they said about Lil’Fan was real? Listening to his neighbors talk about having one’s life shortened, he began to think back to the words he said this afternoon. Mao Zhong Xin fell silent.

At that very moment, Lin Fan lay on his bed, holding up a mirror to himself.

“It’s so weird, this fortune-telling ability is so powerful, yet I couldn’t foresee that my leg would get injured like that...”

Lin Fan lay there, staring at himself in the mirror. He was still dissatisfied with his current standards of fortune-telling, as he was still unable to foresee his own circumstances.

However, he realized that he had become a little more handsome today.

“Hehe...” he chuckled to himself.

Thereafter, Lin Fan fell asleep. Tomorrow was going to be the start of his fortune-telling journey.

This journey to become a well-known and respected master fortune-teller was not going to be an easy one. However, Lin Fan had a real talent for fortune telling. He couldn’t possibly fail on this journey, could he?

Chapter 20: It’s Show Time

The next day!

It was 7:30 pm.

Lin Fan woke up refreshed and more energized than ever.

“Ho! Today has to be better than yesterday!”

He hurriedly changed out, brushed his teeth and washed his face without hesitation. Lin Fan was all ready to walk his new path of becoming a fortune-teller.

He took in a deep breath as he opened the door. His morale was at an all-time high.

“I can do this!”

“Oh? You’re up early. Your leg injury hasn’t gotten you down I see,” Old Man Wang said as he sipped his morning tea while sitting on his front porch.

“None of your business,” Lin Fan retorted. Old Man Wang was such a drag. “Your fortune tells me that you will have a disastrous day.”

“Haha! How absurd! A disastrous day for you I suppose,” Old Man Wang said indignantly.

Lin Fan didn’t say anymore. He turned his back on Old Man Wang and made his way to his shop.

As he reached the front door.

“Lil’ Fan...”

A voice rang out. It was warm and familiar.

That can’t be right, Lin Fan thought to himself. Who was familiar with him anyway?

Lin Fan turned his head around, seeing Aunt Zhang and her son along with a whole group of neighbors.

“Aunt Zhang? What’s up?” Lin Fan pretended he didn’t know what was going on. He knew that they were here to thank him for what he did yesterday.

“Lil’ Fan, I can never thank you enough. If I believed what you said at first, Pearl would have never gone through so much suffering.”

After saying that, Aunt Zhang bowed down in thanks to Lin Fan.

“Ah, you don’t have to bow!” Lin Fan said cheekily. “We’re all neighbors here so we should help one another. As long as Pearl is fine, there’s nothing to worry about. Next time you shouldn’t be this careless”

Lin Fan shrugged it off naturally as he thought that it was nothing really. It didn't require any effort at all and they didn't have to keep going over it.

As Lin Fan kept on doing that, Aunt Zhang felt a greater sense of gratitude as it was really important to her.

While she tried to sleep last night, she kept on thinking how things would have turned out if Lin Fan hadn't warned her. The more she pondered, the more frightened and fearful she became.

Mao Zhong Xing suddenly did something out of the ordinary, causing even Lin Fan to be amazed"

\*Plop!\*

Mao Zhong Xing fell on his knees, head bowed. "Lil' Fan, I'm sorry for what happened yesterday. I can't thank you enough for saving my beloved daughter's life. You sincerely wanted to save my daughter, but I shrugged it off then. I hope you can forgive me!" he said reverently, "If it would please you, you can even kick me a few times."

Mao Zhong Xin was now profusely thanking Lin Fan, which was such a stark contrast from his aggressive behavior towards Lin Fan yesterday. How the tides have turned.

"Brother Mao, please get up. I am not worthy of this..." Lin Fan said, "I didn't control my emotions yesterday. To be honest my words were a little frank yesterday. If any father had heard that their daughter would be hurt, I am sure they would also have reacted the same way." Any bad blood between the two had dissipated.

When Lin Fan was telling Pearl's fortune, he also received an idea of how her father was like. Despite walking astray in his youth, he still grew up to be a fine man. If it was anyone else, it would have been out of the question to kneel in front of others in gratitude.

The neighbors saw how sincere Mao Zhong Xin's apology was, to the extent of kneeling in front Lin Fan. Lin Fan couldn't stay angry at Mao Zhong Xin.

"Lil' Fan, let us all go into the house to talk, it's too hot standing outside here"

The neighbors who followed Aunt Zhang and Mao Zhong Xing were all curious. They wanted to see what kind of abilities Lin Fan had.

A master fortune-teller who could divine the future was as good as a god to them.

Oh, what mysteries await!

Lin Fan wanted to open a fortune-telling stand a first, but seeing the current situation, he didn't think it was possible anymore.

Even the skeptical Old Man Wang became curious after seeing the large crowd say for so long.

"Old Man Ji, what are you guys doing?" Old Man Wang asked.

"We're all watching Lil' Fan. He's almost like a god. I'll let my fortune to be read by Lil' Fan"

"That bastard..." Old Man Wang said indignantly. He looked at Lin Fan, eyebrows raised and snorted. What blasphemy!

"Aunt Zhang, I can't possibly accept this gift."

Aunt Zhang pushed whatever she was holding to Lin Fan's hands.

There was a slaughtered chicken, several bottles of rice wine and a few other gifts. They were all expensive gifts, amounting to a few thousand dollars.

"Lil' Fan, I insist. If you don't, my heart will not be at peace. You have my household a huge favor."

Whatever Aunt Zhang said did make sense.

If Lin Fan had never told Aunt Zhang, Pearl would most certainly have died.

Lin Fan was on cloud nine. It felt good to be praised this much.

Other people came up to him to thank him profusely all because he helped them with fortune telling. They even came up to him to offer gifts. This definitely better than selling scallion pancakes for a living.

At this point in time, Mao Zhong Xing took out a red packet and shoved it into Lin Fan's pocket.

"Brother Mao, what is the meaning of this? I can't possibly accept this as a gift!" I've already received wine from your wife, that's good enough!

"Lil' Fan, please accept it. My household isn't exactly wealthy but just a thousand dollars to express my gratitude is nothing. Just take it as the fees for fortune telling." Mao Zhong Xing's face had a look of desperation to it.

'I guess it can't be helped,' Lin Fan thought to himself, as he pocketed the red packet.

Lin Fan's conscience was clear. After all, it was hard earned money through the use of his abilities.

After all, the saying goes that saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-floor pagoda. A thousand dollars as a gift couldn't be said to be a lot as repayment, but it wasn't a small amount after all. This definitely beats selling scallion pancakes.

Seeing so many people crowd around Lin Fan, Old Man Wang couldn't help but feel jealous and envious of him. Not only did he get gifts, but also received money. Old Man Wang sighed.

"Hey! Stop getting scammed by this youngster. To even think that he's a god. All those fortune tellers from the overhead bridge have already gone," Old Man Wang scoffed. "Who knows? Maybe it was just blind luck, or maybe it was him who released the gas!"

Lin Fan's mood immediately flipped as he frowned at Old Man Wang. He clearly deserved a spanking for saying such slanderous words.

While Lin Fan was seething with rage, a scuffle happened at his side.

\*Whomp!\*

Mao Zhong Xing lashed out, kicking Old Man Wang in the abdomen.

"Wang Zhong Ming, keep on saying those blasphemous words, I dare you. I'll break your face!" Mao Zhong Xing said aggressively. Lin Fan was the benefactor of his household. He could not bear to hear such impudence.

"Brother Mao you... you..." Old Man Wang looked at Mao Zhong Xing fearfully. When Mao Zhong Xin walked astray in his youth, Old Man Mao was especially terrified of him. After all these years, he hadn't forgotten the things that happened.

He didn't dare to say another word.

"I'll make sure you remember that Lil' Fan is my household's benefactor, and if you have any problem with that, I'll deal with you... personally."

"Don't fight, guys!" Lin Fan said. "We're all neighbors. A kick is good enough." Lin Fan felt like laughing. He predicted that Old Man Wang would have received a bearing. But where was the blood?

Old Man Wang resentfully looked at Lin Fan, and stood up and turned back to his house. While walking on the stairs, he accidentally lost his balance and fell onto the floor, hitting his nose. He started bleeding profusely from his nostrils.

"Oh, so that's it means when I predicted the bloody disaster."

...

"Lil' Fan, please read my fortune!"

"Is that how you should address him? You have to address him as Master Lin in future, not Lil' Fan anymore..."

"Yes, Master Lin sounds good. We're all neighbors here, please read our fortunes!"

Lin Fan saw how lively the crowd was. Naturally, he was ecstatic too.

These neighbors didn't really give him any trouble and it wouldn't do him any harm to read their fortunes a little. In fact, it might even be good for his reputation.

"Sure, sure! One at a time!"

Lin Fan waved his hands. It was show time. The audience better have come prepared.