

Valiant Life 211

Chapter 211: Reclaiming Ceremony

Outside.

When Lin Fan saw the scene before him, he was dumbfounded. "What are you all doing?"

Everyone didn't even drink their wine. They were all snatching the only dish on their tables. Right after the dish was taken by one person, the person next to him would snatch the dish away. They didn't even leave the fish bones. They placed the bones into their mouths and chewed.

The waitresses stood at the side, staring blankly. How long have these people not eaten?

Servings of 'squirrel mandarin fish' disappeared in the blink of an eye. The plate was even cleaner than if it had been washed. The waitresses had smelled the dish's fragrance and knew how great it smelled. However, they had no idea how it tasted.

Fraud Tian was immersed in the aftertaste, "You came late. You missed out on a delicious delicacy."

Wang Ming Yang hadn't had more than a few mouthfuls. It wasn't that he didn't want to eat more, but he hadn't managed to snatch any more of it. He looked at Lin Fan. "This squirrel mandarin fish is truly scrumptious. How could I have never eaten this before? Don't worry, we'll get a few more servings of it. I'll make sure we're all filled up."

The shop owners cheered. That squirrel mandarin fish was really too delicious. It lingered in their memories.

Lin Fan laughed. His dish had gained recognition from these people. It felt good.

Wang Ming Yang then asked, "Weren't you going to cook? Where's your dish?"

Lin Fan chuckled, "Haven't you eaten it already?"

Suddenly, the place went silent.

Everyone looked at Lin Fan. "You mean that squirrel mandarin fish was made by you?"

Lin Fan laughed coolly, "Is it unexpected...?"

In his mind, everyone would cry out in shock, then frantically praise him. However, there was a difference between his imagination and reality.

One of the shop owners cried out, "Heavens, gods, why must you be so cruel? Why must all delicious food be made by Master Lin's hands? Could it be that we have to queue for this next time too?"

"Those scallion pancakes made us endure so much suffering already. Now there's this delicious squirrel mandarin fish as well. How can we carry on like this?"

The crowd was upset. Then, they looked over at Lin Fan, "Master Lin, can we have another serving?"

Lin Fan smiled thinly. The crowd was looking at him with pleading eyes, hoping for another serving. He hadn't even tasted the dish yet.

At that moment, the waitresses brought out the rest of the dishes.

Lin Fan waved his hand, "One serving is enough. Try the other dishes."

Someone asked, "Are these made by you too?"

"Nope. How could I have so much energy? These are made by the chefs," replied Lin Fan. These guys were really addicted.

Everyone sighed in frustration. How could these dishes possibly compare to Master Lin's?

After eating that 'squirrel mandarin fish', they had no appetite for the other dishes. It was like heaven and earth. They were simply incomparable.

Even so, everyone was still joyous.

"Come, let us drink to Master Lin."

"Cheers!"

...

The meal lasted until 1.30 pm. Everyone went back together. Meanwhile, Wang Ming Yang kept thinking about Lin Fan. He wanted to invite Lin Fan to his place and have his girlfriend buy some ingredients. His intention was clear. He wanted Lin Fan to cook for him. However, would Lin Fan abide by his wishes? Definitely not.

In the blink of an eye, several days passed.

Nothing much happened during this period. The news on Weibo regarding the human traffickers gradually died down but not without many people joining the fight against the human traffickers. With the help of these volunteers, many children managed to find their families. However, many more of them were still unable to contact their families.

Nevertheless, it was huge progress. At least it was much better than before. More children returned to their families and it was beneficial to their growth.

However, that Autumn Sword Fish Killer who had always brought joy and excitement to Lin Fan's life was nowhere to be seen. It was as if he just disappeared all of a sudden and was never seen on Weibo again.

Meanwhile, in a certain gym.

Autumn Sword Fish Killer was on the treadmill. His sweat dropped like rain. His first love had given him too big of a hit. He vowed to get back that dashing body that he once had.

That 150kg fatty was training in the gym. It was a magnificent view that drew the attention of many people. But even amidst their laughter and doubts, Autumn Sword Fish Killer didn't cower.

A while ago, he had felt the urge to give up but when he thought of what happened a month ago, he gritted his teeth and thought, I can't give up. I have to succeed. I have to slim down and give everyone a pleasant surprise. I have to show my first love that I haven't changed a bit since last time.

Those mocking and doubtful eyes surrounding him were completely ignored. He lowered his head and kept training. He dismounted the treadmill and began doing squats. He took a deep breath and slowly squatted down.

Zzzt!

His exercise tights suddenly burst open at his butt.

The surrounding people all started roaring with laughter but Autumn Sword Fish Killer still kept his head down and kept training. "Keep laughing. I, Autumn Sword Fish Killer will not admit defeat," he thought.

...

The previous day, Lin Fan had gotten a call from Liu Xiao Tian. He had been hoping that Lin Fan could attend the reclaiming ceremony of the children. Lin Fan didn't decline. After all, it wouldn't be bad to go take a look. At least he would be able to see those who had lost their children find them back. These parents would finally be able to emerge from their dark pits into the light.

Looking at the time, it was about time to go. Lin Fan gave Fraud Tian and the rest a holler, then he prepared to go to the venue. Wu You Lan knew about it and she wanted to go as well.

At the venue.

Lin Fan ran into Liu Xiao Tian.

Lin Fan said, "How is it? How many parents came?"

Liu Xiao Tian was so busy that his whole head was full of sweat but he was smiling widely. "It's not bad at all. With the help of the volunteers, we've contacted over 600 parents. There are many of them already here and some of them will be here soon.

It was a huge improvement. This wasn't a task that could be done overnight. In the past, people didn't record the DNA of newborn babies so it was difficult to locate the relatives of someone. However, hospitals now made records of the DNA of each newborn baby and it was exactly for the purpose of locating a child if he/she got lost.

Wu You Lan stood next to Lin Fan. "Let's go and see the children."

Lin Fan smiled. "You seem to really like children."

Wu You Lan blushed slightly, then she nodded. "Yep, I really like children. I want to have two children next time. A boy and a girl."

Lin Fan laughed. What is she telling me that for? It's not like I can make two children for her. Still, girls who like children are cute. It means that they are kind-hearted.

When they reached the back, they saw a group of children sitting together. Some of them were playing around while some of them were just lost in thought. There were several volunteers around taking care of them.

When they saw this scene, Lin Fan furrowed his brows because he realized that some of the children were crippled and it was because of the human traffickers.

Some of them had had both legs broken and because they had been broken for too long, even with today's medical advancements, they could not be healed. They could only crawl around with their two hands.

In fact, many of the children didn't have smiles on their faces. They were dull and gloomy as if wallowing in despair. This was the result of young souls being hit by traumatic events. Somewhere along the way of the cruel treatment by the human traffickers, they had developed this mental illness.

To recover from it would probably require great effort.

It couldn't be done in a short time.

Wu You Lan's eyes turned slightly red. "These human traffickers really are cruel. How could they do something like that?"

Lin Fan sighed. There were even crueler, more brutal realities that they couldn't see. Because those children had already been killed. Those that had been saved could only be considered lucky to not have to face that brutality.

Chapter 212: F*cking d*mn it!

There were many children and volunteers as well. To Liu Xiao Tian and the rest, it was a lot of pressure. In order to ensure that not a single case went wrong, they did strict inspections of each child's parents. Their birth certificates, IDs, and other documents had to go through the database once.

Although they had already communicated with the parents, it was now time for the handing over of the children. As policemen, they couldn't be careless.

The parents had all arrived. The leaders stepped on stage to speak. The topic of their speech was slightly obscure but it was mainly to remind the parents to accept the situation before their eyes. Some of the parents were very emotional and didn't think much of what was said but the policemen, on the other hand, were very anxious.

Because in there, there were many cases that might not turn out ideally.

After the conference ended, it was time for the claiming of the children. Some of the parents were close to tears from the anticipation. Their pain from losing their children was something no one else would ever understand. When they received the calls from the police, they had thought it was a scam. Eventually, under the police's confirmation and guarantee, they believed it and came over the next day in order to take back their children.

They had been waiting for too long, so long that they had started to get numb.

Liu Xiao Tian came forward. He wiped the sweat from his forehead. "Fortunately, the government built a new Children's Welfare Institute a while ago. Otherwise, we wouldn't know how to make arrangements for all these children."

Lin Fan nodded. "You've worked hard."

Liu Xiao Tian shrugged. "When I'm wearing this uniform, there's no such thing as working hard. It's all part of my duty."

Lin Fan patted Liu Xiao Tian on the shoulder, then in a slightly surprised tone, he said, "You got promoted..."

Liu Xiao Tian didn't think much of it, "With the leaders' trust in giving me this post, the burden on me has only gotten heavier. I have to give 120% effort from now on."

Lin Fan laughed. Just as he was about to say something, a loud noise came from in front.

"What's going on?"

Liu Xiao Tian was uncertain. "I don't know, let's go take a look."

Wu You Lan, who stood by the side, watched as those families found their children. Their sobbing faces as they hugged their children made Wu You Lan's eyes turned slightly red as well. This scene was really emotional. But at that moment, a noise came from in front. She didn't know what was going on.

When they reached there, there was a middle-aged lady pushing a member of staff away as she said, "This isn't the child that I lost. She's not..."

The staff member stepped forward once again, "Big sister, this is really your child. We have already done investigations. You came to the police station to report that you lost your child before too."

Liu Xiao Tian came forward with a stern look on his face. "What's going on?"

When the staff member saw that a superior had come, he said, "Inspector Liu, this lady says that this isn't her child but we have already done thorough checks. This child is the child she lost four years ago."

Liu Xiao Tian glanced at that child just sitting idly on the wheelchair. In the child's lifeless eyes, a slight gleam of hopefulness shone for a moment, then died down again. Liu Xiao Tian sighed in his heart. "My dear big sister, do you not want to claim her?"

This child was crippled on both legs and could only sit on the wheelchair for the rest of her life. Getting prosthetic limbs was not impossible but it was an expensive investment. This child had gotten kidnapped when she had been one and now she was five. She lacked spirit as compared to typical children. She had also suffered a huge blow to her heart. When the lady saw her like this, she probably didn't want to claim her.

Even if she brought her back, she would only be a liability.

That was what Liu Xiao Tian thought.

The middle-aged lady was evading any eye contact. She waved her hand, "It's not that I don't want to claim her but this really isn't my child."

When she received the call from the police, she had been extremely emotional. Her daughter had been kidnapped for four years and she had never thought she would find her again. When she lost her child, she and her husband had been heartbroken for a year but because they were still young, they had another child and it was a boy. Since a new life had entered, their grief and suffering started to disperse.

Every now and then, she did think that she might find her daughter back but now that it really happened, she didn't dare to claim her daughter.

Before this, she had followed the staff member's directions to find her long-lost child. She had been overcome with joy at first. When she saw that her daughter had lost both legs and was so skinny that her skin wrapped around her bones, she wanted to embrace her. However, her legs felt heavy as if they were filled with lead. Eventually, she slowly stepped back and gave a call to her husband and told him about the situation.

There was silence on the call. It was only five minutes later that her husband spoke, "Maybe that's the wrong child." Then, he hung up.

She had imagined the scene of herself reuniting with her daughter countless times but she had never thought it would be like this. She had thought that when she saw her daughter, no matter how her daughter looked, she would still accept her naturally and love her even more. However, when faced with the reality, she hesitated. A lifetime was a very long time, she didn't dare to...

Wu You Lan saw the scene in front of her, then she looked up at Master Lin. "Is that her child?"

Lin Fan didn't reply. In this situation, he was powerless. He could see that that child was that lady's child. However, this child being crippled on both legs was possibly something that her parents couldn't even dare to imagine. It wasn't that she didn't want to claim her daughter, but she didn't dare to.

The little girl sitting on the wheelchair looked at the lady, then, with a voice like a mosquito, she squeaked, "Mama..."

The lady's heart was struck. She stepped backward and waved her hand. "I'm not your mama, I'm not..."

The lady ran away embarrassedly, ignoring the shouts of the staff member. She didn't want to stop. Nobody knew, but her eyes had already turned red and puffy long ago.

When Liu Xiao Tian saw this, he raised his hand, wanting to do something but then he helplessly put his hand down again.

This was what he had been most afraid of.

He didn't know what he was supposed to say. If it had been him in that lady's position, he didn't know what he would've done.

A look of fury appeared on Liu Xiao Tian's face "How can those human traffickers be so cruel?"

Lin Fan patted Liu Xiao Tian on his shoulder. "What's going to happen of this?"

Liu Xiao Tian rubbed the corner of his eyes, "I don't know. We'll keep looking into it. Maybe she'll be claimed eventually. However, even if she goes back to her family, it might not be pleasant. Perhaps it would be a better option to send her to the Children's Welfare Institute."

Lin Fan lowered his head and looked at the child sitting in the wheelchair. She had her head down. She looked at a loss. Her frail hands grabbed onto her clothes as if she was well aware of what was going on.

Meanwhile, when the other parents saw their physically sound children, they embraced them. When some of the parents saw their disabled children, even though their hearts were filled with grief, they wept as they hugged their children.

However, to the rest of the severely disabled children, this scene was very disturbing.

It wasn't just that lady from before who ran off frantically. Many other parents, when they saw their children's poor state, felt their hearts knot up and didn't know what to do. If they claimed their children, they would have to spend the rest of their lives sticking right by their children's sides, taking care of them. If they didn't claim their children, they wouldn't be able to have a clear conscience but even so, it would only be a temporary suffering.

"Really, d*mn it..." cursed Lin Fan.

Wu You Lan wiped the corners of her eyes. Girls' emotions were easily moved. She said, "Why must it be so cruel?"

Lin Fan sighed, then looked at Liu Xiao Tian. "I'm going to make a move first. I don't feel too good."

Liu Xiao Tian nodded. They had to take responsibility for this to the very end.

Chapter 213: The special cultural date is established!

Cloud Street!

When Wu Tian He saw that his daughter was back so early, he asked, "Why are you back so early?"

Wu You Lan shook her head, "We couldn't stay, it was too depressing."

They all turned their attention to Lin Fan. Lin Fan nodded. "Sigh, I never thought that it would turn out just as you said."

It was all as Wu Tian He had predicted. It wasn't the first time he had come across such a situation. "Sigh, those children must be suffering."

Meanwhile, Zhao Zhong Yang was broadcasting. He didn't know the full situation so he asked. When Lin Fan described the situation, everyone was astonished. They had never thought that something like this would happen.

Even the guys in the broadcast room were stunned.

"D*mn, there are actually parents like these. That's too heartless of them."

"They don't deserve to be parents."

"Guys, don't scold them. Put yourselves in their shoes. It's not such an easy choice to make."

"Sigh, that's heartbreaking. I don't know what else to say."

Lin Fan just sat there, stroking his chin and thinking about things. This matter left him reflecting. He felt that he should have been able to do something but he didn't know what.

Wu You Lan said, "I think we could do some more meaningful activities, like going to the Children's Welfare Institute to gift the children some toys or play around with them. We should help to bring them some joy, maybe it'll help them forget this tragic incident."

Lin Fan looked up. "Hey, that isn't a bad idea. Our shop is only busy in the morning anyway. We're usually pretty free."

Wu You Lan smiled, then stood up. "I've already thought of a name for our group. We'll be called 'Master Lin's Happiness Squad' from now on.

Lin Fan was reluctant. "That sounds a little weird."

Wu You Lan started laughing, "I think this name is not bad at all, what do you guys think?"

Fraud Tian just went with the flow. He would never go against Wu You Lan's wishes. "It's good, it's very good. This name has character."

Zhao Zhong Yang laughed, "I think it's not bad too."

As for Wu Tian He, it was needless to say. If he didn't support his own daughter, who would he support?

Several days later, Lin Fan had kept in contact with Liu Xiao Tian throughout. During this period, Liu Xiao Tian had been working his a*s off. Without solving this problem regarding the children, he couldn't eat happily or sleep soundly. However, the good thing was that they had finally finished making arrangements with the newly built Children's Welfare Institute. A few hundred children could move in.

Most of the parents that they had managed to contact took their children back, apart from a few due to reasons on the parents' side as well as reasons regarding the children's physical well-being. The rest of the cases were settled satisfactorily. However, there were still 650 children, who either were not able to find their parents or were unclaimed by their parents, that moved into the Children's Welfare Institute.

The personal information of these children had already been distributed to each province's police stations, where specialists continued to search for their parents. Perhaps results could be attained soon.

However, on the bodies of these 650 children, there were disabilities, some more serious than the others. Hence, the largest issue that they faced was whether their parents would claim them. This was another troublesome reality.

On that day, Cloud Street's shop owners saw that Master Lin's shop was very busy. Wang Ming Yang had called several trucks and there were many children toys in them, along with some food ingredients. The shop owners were puzzled.

One of them asked, "Master Lin, what are you doing?"

Fraud Tian smiled and replied, "Those children who got kidnapped by the human traffickers have already settled in at the Children's Welfare Institute. We're going there to give them some gifts and also host a meal for the children, hopefully, it'll bring some joy to them.

The shop owners were stunned. They thought of the delicious food of Master Lin's and their hearts started beating faster. However, when they thought of the fact that Master Lin was cooking for the children, they immediately abolished that previous thought. Those kidnapped children were already so pitiful, how could they possibly try to steal the children's food.

However, regarding such a meaningful activity, the shop owners were quite interested, so they looked at Lin Fan and asked, "Master Lin, can we go with you?"

Lin Fan, who was busy working, looked up and smiled. "Sure, we were just lacking manpower. But you may not be able to eat my dishes over there."

The shop owners waved their hands and said, "That's not a problem. Such a meaningful activity, we have to join in. We'll notify the rest right now and see if they want to join."

Lin Fan looked at the shop owners from afar and a wide smile appeared on his face. There really were a lot of loving people. This thing was the least he could do.

These presents and these ingredients had been bought by Lin Fan himself. He earned so much money but had nowhere to spend it, so why not use it meaningfully?

Not long after, to Lin Fan's shock, all the surrounding shops had been closed by their owners. He hadn't expected this. He had thought that there would only be a few people joining and he hadn't expected everyone to be so proactive.

A clock shop's owner said with a smile, "Master Lin, today is the 20th. We feel that this is a meaningful thing. Why, not on the 20th of every month, we close our shops for a day and visit the Children's Welfare Institute as volunteers? Let's make this day a special date for Cloud Street. What do you think?"

Before Lin Fan said anything, the other shop owners started discussing happily, "This is a great idea! We should have our own culture on Cloud Street. It's settled then. From now on, the 20th of each month will be Cloud Street Volunteer Day. We'll all close our shops for that day."

Lin Fan looked at the crowd, then smiled. "Looks like I won't be able to get away without tiring myself out today. Everyone is giving their all, so I have to as well. Let's go all out today."

The shop owners said, "Little Boss, just do your best. Don't tire yourself out too much."

"Master Lin must be fired up today."

Just like that.

Cloud Street Volunteer Day on the 20th, it was passed down over time and even became a special culture of the street. Of course, these only happened much later on.

In the car.

Wang Ming Yang sighed, "Brother, you really have the ability to rally supporters."

Lin Fan waved this hand, "How was that my ability? It's because everyone is too kind. Hey, where's your girl?"

Wang Ming Yang smiled. "You can't steal a brother's girl, you know? I never thought that you would be thinking of my girl."

Lin Fan laughed, "F*ck off. I'm just asking out of concern."

Wang Ming Yang replied, "She got a role in a movie and went to Zhongzhou. She might only be back in a few months. This woman... Even though she's with this diamond of a young man like me, she still wants to face some struggles on her own, so I let her be."

Lin Fan said seriously, "Wait patiently. If you miss this chance, you may not find a better woman that's destined for you."

Wang Ming Yang said earnestly, "Don't worry. Just because of those words from you, I won't leave her even if I'm beaten to death."

The vehicles started moving one by one, towards the Children's Welfare Institute. The shop owners each drove their own private cars as they followed behind.

Chapter 214: Where are these clowns from?

Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute.

When Lin Fan reached, he realized Liu Xiao Tian was there as well. "You guys are here too?"

Liu Xiao Tian saw Master Lin and instantly smiled. "Master Lin, what are you all doing here? Right now, we're assigning the children to their rooms. At the same time, we're checking for any hidden dangers in the institute.

"We're not doing much, just bringing some gifts and helping to brighten the children's moods," said Lin Fan with a smile. He then pointed to the cars behind. "Those are the shop owners from Cloud Street. When they heard about this incident, they all wanted to come and help. It wouldn't be a problem, would it?"

Liu Xiao Tian laughed and waved his hand hurriedly, "How could it be a problem? They're more than welcome. We were just lacking manpower. Now that they're here, we can share the load."

"Alright, you don't need to worry about us. We'll unload the stuff and distribute them to the children. Oh right, have any more parents been contacted?" asked Lin Fan.

Liu Xiao Tian nodded. "Thanks to the help of the volunteers, we've managed to contact some more parents. They're already rushing here. This matter needs to be taken care of slowly. It can't be rushed. About the incident that day, I've thought it through. That's a special case. If these parents don't want their children, then let's wait till these children grow up and become promising individuals. We'll see if these parents regret it.

Lin Fan smiled. "Chief Liu... No, I should call you Inspector Liu now. Your thinking seems flawed, why does it sounds like you're sore?"

Liu Xiao Tian burst into laughter, then patted Lin Fan on the shoulder. "Alright, alright, I was just kidding. I'll leave your side up to you then. Hey, that's the welfare institute's director. Director Huang, let me introduce someone to you!"

Liu Xiao Tian called out to their front. At that moment, Director Huang, who was standing there, heard his voice and rushed over hurriedly, with a face full of smiles. Her welfare institute was moving in the right direction and it was all thanks to the kindness of the people in society.

"Director Huang, this is Master Lin. The man who contributed greatly to the raid on the human traffickers," Liu Xiao Tian introduced.

Director Huang was in her fifties, slightly plump and with a kind-looking face. She smiled and said, "Ahh, I know of Master Lin. Nice to meet you, Master Lin."

Lin Fan shook hands with her., "You are too courteous, Director Huang. Just call me Lin Fan. I brought some gifts here with my neighbors today. And I was also thinking of having some fun with the children. I hope it's not a disturbance to you all.

Director Huang waved her hand. "Of course not. You are more than welcome. How could you call it a disturbance?"

Lin Fan looked and Director Huang and broke into a smile. He did a reading of Director Huang's fortune. Nowadays, it was hard to judge a book by its cover. Especially in this situation, Lin Fan didn't want those poor children to fall into the wrong hands once more. However, the result turned out well. This Director Huang was very kind-hearted. In her lifetime, she wouldn't get married, nor would she have children. She would just devote her life to serving the Children's Welfare Institute.

Director Huang left for a moment.

Liu Xiao Tian asked with a smile, "You were staring at Director Huang just now. Were you trying to see what kind of person she was?"

Lin Fan gave a short laugh but didn't say anything. However, how could Liu Xiao Tian not know? He knew how amazing Master Lin's fortune-telling was. Someone else might not have believed it but he definitely believed it. Liu Xiao Tian said, "If it was someone else, I wouldn't dare to guarantee it but this Director Huang is someone I absolutely trust."

Lin Fan replied, "Yep, she really is pretty good. Alright, let us split ways and get to work. I'll be making a feast today and it's really stressful."

Liu Xiao Tian was startled. "You?"

Lin Fan nodded. "What's wrong? Could it be that there's an issue with that? You'll know how skillful I am in a while. However, I'm afraid I will be dead tired later on."

After some more chatter with Liu Xiao Tian, Lin Fan headed back to the cars. He spoke about the process of unloading the stuff from the trucks and brought them inside. What made Lin Fan surprised was that that wealthy Wang Ming Yang lifted the items with greater ease than anyone else. It was slightly scary.

When Wang Ming Yang saw those skeptic eyes of Lin Fan, he chuckled, "Back then, before I became wealthy, I moved bricks at construction sites. Even those Indian laborers were no match for me. Take a good look."

Lin Fan laughed. Successful people aren't successful for no reason, and Wang Ming Yang was no exception. Many people were envious of him for having such a high net worth at such a young age but nobody knew how much pain he had suffered before he became successful.

The shop owners took the toys, clothes, and stationery and gave them to the children. To the children, they were still stuck in the darkness and they became nervous and fearful when they saw these strangers. They didn't even smile. However, the loving shop owners had enough patience to slowly interact with the children.

Meanwhile, Lin Fan just got to the kitchen.

This time, he was going to use the large wok. If he hadn't attained the Ba Gua Zhang skill, he might not have had the strength to do it but now, there was nothing to worry about.

In the kitchen, some of the elderly lady chefs saw this youngster enter and were curious. They knew that there were volunteers around helping out, but it was a first for someone to enter the kitchen.

Lin Fan nodded at the elderly ladies. "Could I trouble you all to help me wash the vegetables? I'll be cooking today."

That day, he had to do his best and make a unique Jiangsu meal.

Moreover, the ingredients had all been handpicked by Lin Fan. He prepared all the ingredients that he wanted to cook with, then started to work on them.

With the children's tastes in consideration, Lin Fan specially chose a few dishes. For example, chicken in tomato sauce, saute pork fillet shreds, fried fish with pine nuts and other tasty dishes were the main dishes for the meal.

The elderly ladies washed the vegetables while Lin Fan held the vegetable knife in his hands. On the chopping board, he sliced without making a sound and it was insanely quick. Those elderly ladies, who had still been doubtful of him at first, were all stunned when they saw this scene. They knew then that they could never compete with his skill.

Lin Fan piled up all the cut vegetables. To most chefs, it would be difficult to control the taste of the dish using this large wok but to Lin Fan, it wasn't a problem at all.

One after another, extremely delicious and priceless Jiangsu dishes were born for the first time at the Children's Welfare Institute. And in the kitchen, the only witnesses were those elderly ladies.

The ones who had the opportunity to taste them, however, were the children. This, to Lin Fan, was a meaningful thing.

Outside.

The shop owners each had two children with them. They were parents themselves, so naturally, they could feel the changes in the children's hearts. They were very different as compared to typical children.

They didn't like to talk. Their facial expressions and their eyes were covered in fear and anxiety. Especially when the shop owners accidentally made loud sounds when they put down the gifts, the children would be startled and lose their heads.

The canteen had already been decorated. It was like a theme park. The children sat in front of the tables as the shop owners and the volunteers chatted with them. Some of the shop owners and volunteers, when they saw the physical disabilities of the children, felt sorrowful but they held the tears. They didn't want to show it in front of the children.

One of the shop owners was all smiles as he stepped on stage. "Let us invite two tigers onto the stage..."

It was a performance programme for the children.

Then, a child looked up and said nervously, "Two tigers, I've seen that before..."

The shop owner on stage was startled. He wanted to give these children a pleasant surprise. He smiled and said, "This is different, one of these tigers has no buttocks and one of them is invisible."

Meanwhile, the shop owners who were about to step on stage to perform were stunned. They cursed in their hearts. What kind of trick is that? Wasn't it just one with no eyes and one with no ears?

What's that about one with no buttocks and another invisible one?

But since it had already been said, they could only summon up their courage and go on stage.

The shop owners wearing their tiger costumes went on stage, "Woof woof! I'm the tiger with no buttocks."

The other shop owner went on stage too, baring his teeth and brandishing his claws, "Meow! I'm the invisible tiger..."

Some of the nervous children were amused. "That's not the sound that tigers make..."

"That's a little dog's bark"

"That's a cat's sound."

The shop owners below the stage with the children were all amused too. What kind of clowns were they? Still, when they saw that the children had relaxed a bit, they were all smiles.

Not long after. A pungent fragrance suddenly filled the canteen.

"It's time to eat..."

Chapter 215: We should look at the good side of things

Then, the children were all attracted to the show on the stage. They weren't particularly interested in food but to the shop owners, the main star of the show was here.

The aroma slowly filled the air. When they saw the dishes, the shop owners were stunned. The dishes looked as beautiful as art pieces. Furthermore, as the dishes came nearer to them, the aroma filled the air. They felt the urge to eat them but they didn't as they thought of the current situation. Then, along with the children, they said, "Let's dig in, let's dig in..."

The children that were attracted to the show also smelled the aroma. Then, they were all stunned as they saw the dishes on the table.

Besides these children, the shop owners were also attracted to the dishes.

A child that lacked a limb was mesmerized by the smell. His eyes stared intently at the dishes before him. "Uncle, I want to eat some..."

He spoke softly and gently as if he was afraid.

The shop owners reacted, "Alright, alright. I will get some dishes for you."

The 'tomato chicken' dish looked amazing. It was all red and the chicken meat was covered in sticky tomato sauce. It looked extremely delicious.

The children stuffed pieces of chicken into their mouths. When the meat entered their mouths, their expressions changed. They couldn't control their emotions. "Uncle, I want more, I want more..."

The show had brought happiness to the children and the food helped them to speak as if they had forgotten everything that happened.

When the delicious food entered their mouths, their taste buds were tantalized. Even their hearts were infected with love for the food.

This scene wasn't a rare sight in the canteen. Many of these children had such facial expressions when they tasted this deliciousness.

Director Huang stood behind them. She was shocked when she witnessed the scene. Initially, she had thought that she had to be patient with these children for them to open up. She hadn't expected things to be done so quickly.

As each beautifully made dish was being presented, the entire canteen was filled with an unbearable aroma. The shop owners forcefully swallowed their saliva as they witnessed the children eat with such pleasure. Even they felt unbearable.

"Uncle, I want more."

The shop owner said, "It's a little hot. Let uncle blow it for you." Then, he took a small bite of the meat and pretended to blow at it. "It's not hot anymore."

The child said, "Uncle, you ate half the meat..."

The boss quickly swallowed the small piece of meat. The taste was simply too d*mn good. It was a masterpiece by Master Lin. It was so satisfying.

However, in order to answer the children, the shop owner gently coughed, "The meat simply contracted as it lost heat. Come, let's eat another dish. Let me blow it for you again."

The children were speechless. "..."

The atmosphere in the canteen was really lively. Everyone was mesmerized by the culinary skills of Lin Fan. To them, everything tasted like heaven on earth. It was a special and unique feeling. They couldn't describe the feeling of eating the dishes. They hadn't known that Master Lin's culinary skills were that good. It was law-defying.

Wang Ming Yang was also dumbfounded after he secretly ate a piece of meat. The taste was simply impossible to describe. It was too d*mn delicious. It tasted even better than those made by international chefs.

It was unmatched.

In the kitchen.

Lin Fan was extremely busy and his forehead was filled with sweat. But he wasn't bothered at all. He wanted to let everyone be as happy as possible.

He continued hustling until he finished the last dish. When the dish was served, he heaved a sigh of relief. It was finally done.

When he approached the canteen, he smiled as he witnessed that the children were mesmerized by the food. To Lin Fan, that was extremely satisfying.

The shop owners said, "Master Lin, come here!"

Lin Fan smiled as he saw that every single dish had been completely eaten. Even though he cooked everything, he didn't even have an opportunity to eat anything.

The activities continued until the afternoon.

Liu Xiao Tian was in awe of Lin Fan. It was the first time that he had tasted such delicious food. It was simply one of the greatest surprises of his life.

Liu Xiao Tian patted Lin Fan on his shoulder. "The parent of one of the children has arrived. Do you want to have a look?"

Lin Fan was a little taken aback. He worriedly asked, "What's the situation with the kid?"

Liu Xiao Tian sighed, "He has a missing limb."

He knew exactly what Master Lin was worried about. After that incident, he was also afraid of it. If it was like the previous incident, it would be a second heavy blow to the children. Sometimes, he wished that these handicapped children wouldn't have to face such trauma again but things were out of his control.

In the office.

When Lin Fan and Liu Xiao Tian entered the office, Director Huang was speaking to a middle-aged woman. The woman looked thin and pallid.

The middle-aged woman went towards Liu Xiao Tian. "Is my child here?"

Lin Fan looked at the situation and wasn't sure what was going to happen. But he had to face the truth no matter what.

Liu Xiao Tian nodded. "He is currently outside. But I have to inform you about your child. I hope you can be mentally prepared."

The middle-aged woman shook her head. "I've been looking for him for six years. I can accept anything. I want to see my child right now."

Lin Fan opened the door to let the child enter the room.

As the child had been tortured by the human traffickers. He was frail and weak. His psychological health wasn't good either.

When the middle-aged woman saw the boy, she was extremely emotional. She looked at the boy's eyes and face and she could confirm that he was the child that she had lost. She immediately went forward to hug him and felt the empty sleeve. Lin Fan and the rest weren't sure of what was going to happen.

The middle-aged woman grabbed onto the empty sleeve and looked at her child. Her tears started to flow down her face. Then, she hugged the boy even tighter.

"No matter what you become like, I will never forsake you. You are my precious treasure. I will protect you and you will never end up in the hands of the evil again," the middle-aged woman cried.

Lin Fan and Liu Xiao Tian looked at each other and they smiled. Although sometimes things were infuriating, there were instances that moved them too.

The child looked a little happier as he was being hugged by the woman. After all, blood is thicker than water. Then, he rested his head on the woman's shoulder. He patted her back with his only arm. "Mommy..."

Liu Xiao Tian smiled. He allowed them to interact for a while before saying, "Let's process the documents."

The middle-aged woman held the child's hand and nodded. She was extremely grateful to them. She immediately took out her personal identification. This was a moving sight to Lin Fan and the others. There was still some hope in this world. If their opinions were swayed by solely the negative occurrences, things would be awful for them.

Everything was processed smoothly.

Lin Fan smiled at Liu Xiao Tian. "I feel so much better after this. That day, too, I only focused on the bad occurrences but there were actually so many other parents that were willing to accept their children."

Liu Xiao Tian nodded. "Yeah. I heard the people on Cloud Street have agreed to come here on the 20th of each month?"

Lin Fan nodded, "This was all initiated by the people on Cloud Street. Although they aren't able to help a lot of people, they wanted to be involved in this to help these children out."

Liu Xiao Tian smiled. "Should I do an announcement for you guys? The world should know about this."

Lin Fan waved his hands. "It's okay. You should know how the netizens are these days. People would say that it's all an act. Let's take it slow. Furthermore, they didn't agree to do this to fish for compliments. There's no need to advertise it."

Liu Xiao Tian lamented, "You're the most responsible young man I've ever seen."

Lin Fan smiled. "You're the only policeman I know that loves to be at the forefront of things."

The both of them just looked at each other and laughed.

...

Chapter 216: Conflict

A few days later.

Cloud Street!

They were continuing with their peaceful lives.

Lin Fan stood at the entrance of the shop and did some stretches. His life was indeed carefree but he was thinking of how to make his life more meaningful.

"Life is like a dream. The riches and fame won't matter as we approach death. We'll still end up as a pile of mud."

In the shop, everyone was talking amongst themselves but when they heard Lin Fan's words, they gradually became silent.

Fraud Tian was shocked. "You're so young but so pessimistic, are you thinking of leaving home?"

Zhao Zhong Yang asked in disbelief, "Master, you're not much older than me. Your words are a little frightening."

Even Wu Tian He raised his head and looked stunned.

Lin Fan smiled. "No, I was just lamenting. I was just thinking about things and I thought I am capable of doing something more meaningful with my life."

Fraud Tian asked, "What meaningful things?"

Lin Fan just smiled. He didn't have a complete answer for him yet. He just said, "Follow me to the welfare institute to teach the children there some things. Do you think it's a good idea?"

Fraud Tian was stunned. "Are you thinking of teaching the children how to read fortunes or martial arts? Or even how to make scallion pancakes?"

Lin Fan was a little taken aback. It sounded a little absurd. It wasn't a good idea to teach these children how to read fortunes. But martial arts seemed like a decent idea although it wasn't the best either. As for making scallion pancakes, that was completely out of the equation. Besides Lin Fan himself, nobody else could learn it. Furthermore, these skills weren't suitable for the children. If he had some other skills, it would be pretty good for him to teach these children. For a Master like Lin Fan to teach them, it would definitely be of some help to them in the future.

But these were merely thoughts. Sometimes, he would lie on his bed and think of the increasing classes of knowledge that he was gaining from the Encyclopedia. There were so many classifications and if he found a suitable one, he would be able to teach the children

about it. He could let them learn from young and at least possess a useful skill when they grow up. Furthermore, they would become extraordinary if they had a skilled teacher like Lin Fan.

This idea wasn't something that could be materialized overnight. He had to think through it carefully.

"You fraud, I feel like you're looking down on me," Lin Fan chuckled.

Fraud Tian waved his hand. "How could it be? How could I look down on our Master Lin? I think fortune-telling is a decent idea. It can help these children to become fortune-tellers in the future and we can start a clan..."

Lin Fan was amused. "Stop, stop right there. You're getting nowhere with your thoughts."

Fraud Tian laughed. He was just trying to ease the situation.

At the Shanghai Airport.

Two people walked out of the airport. Wang Ming Yang was waiting outside. He quickly approached them when he saw them, "Brother, you're here..."

Wu Yun Gang had been busy settling the mess back in Beijing. His company was finally out of trouble. Now that he was done resolving things, he returned back to Shanghai to thank Master Lin properly.

This time, Wang Ming Yang looked at the person beside Wu Yun Gang and was stunned. "Isn't this Chief Sun? Why are you here in Shanghai?"

Chief Sun was Wu Yun Gang's friend but Wang Ming Yang didn't really like him. He always felt that there was something wrong with him. He didn't really have a likable personality; he was a two-faced backstabber. But Wu Yun Gang had a good relationship with him. Wang Ming Yang had warned him about this before but Wu Yun Gang wasn't bothered by it. After that, Wang Ming Yang hadn't mentioned it anymore.

He didn't have the right to interfere with his friendships. He just distanced himself away from Chief Sun.

Chief Sun smiled. "I heard from Brother Wu that everything was resolved because of Master Lin. So, I decided to come and have a look."

Wu Yun Gang sighed, "I really have to thank Master Lin. He literally saved my life! I have made ample preparations before coming here to thank him."

Wang Ming Yang smiled. "Brother, don't think about it too much. That brother of mine doesn't expect you to thank him. We're all friends and we ought to look out for one another."

Wu Yun Gang said, "I had to depend on you this time since Master Lin treats you like his own brother."

"Don't say that," Wang Ming Yang shook his head and said. He didn't want to discuss this further. He was Lin Fan's true friend and he was sincere towards him. It wasn't because of any hidden motive.

"Let's talk in the car."

In the car.

Chief Sun looked at the two of them chatting happily with each other. Then, he said, "Could you get Master Lin to read my fortune?"

Wu Yun Gang and Wang Ming Yang were happily chatting but they stopped when they heard Chief Sun's words. Just as Wu Yun Gang wanted to reply, Wang Ming Yang said, "You have to see your luck. Master Lin's shop has a rule for fortune-telling. You need to queue up and only ten people are selected each day. If you're not chosen, he won't read your fortune."

Chief Sun was stunned. "There's such a rule? Aren't we all friends? I'm sure he would make an exception for me."

Wang Ming Yang waved his hand. "It's not nice to do that. For Yun Gang's case, I had to beg my brother to make an exception for him. I guess you should just forget about it. If you really want to have your fortune read, you should queue up."

Wu Yun Gang looked at Chief Sun and realized that his expression had changed. He looked a little unhappy. As a friend, he tried to mediate the situation. "Brother, let's see how things go later. Master Lin will likely give us face regarding this. If not, you could just queue up for it."

Wang Ming Yang was a little angry but he didn't express it. He just smiled. "If Chief Sun really wants to have his fortune read, he should queue up. My brother is pretty strict with the rule and I'm afraid he won't make an exception for an average person."

Chief Sun chuckled, "Brother Wang, what do you mean by that? We are worth billions of dollars. Are we considered to be average people?"

Wang Ming Yang laughed, "To others, we might not be average people. But in the eyes of my friend, we are really average people."

Chief Sun waved his hand. "I don't believe that. I'll just throw money at him. Will he reject that? In this world, there's only a handful of people that don't love money."

"Stop the car!"

Wang Ming Yang shouted.

The chauffeur stopped the car at the roadside.

Wu Yun Gang was stunned. He anxiously asked, "What's wrong? What was that for?"

Wang Ming Yang looked at Chief Sun sternly. "Sun Lian Ming, please be mindful of your words. You can throw money at anyone else but you just said you'll throw money at my brother. You're humiliating my brother. Let me warn you, if you dare to speak of him like that again, don't blame me for falling out with you."

Sun Lian Ming was infuriated. What was the meaning of that? Was he warning him?

Wu Yun Gang tried to mediate the situation. "Hey, my two brothers, what's that for? Brother Wang, don't be angry. Brother Sun was just kidding. Brother Sun, don't talk about it anymore. Master Lin is my savior. You can't just use money to humiliate him, right? Please stop saying such things."

Wang Ming Yang snorted. He was already unhappy with Sun Lian Ming but because of Wu Yun Gang, he had to put up with him. Now that he tried to humiliate his brother with money, he couldn't take it anymore.

Sun Lian Ming was infuriated but he tolerated it and smiled. "Chief Wang, don't be angry. I was just kidding."

"Continue driving," Wang Ming Yang said. Then, he snorted again, "You'd better not treat my brother as a joke."

Chapter 217: It's better not to say

Cloud Street!

Lin Fan was holding Zhao Zhong Yang's phone which was recording a broadcast.

Me Under The Skies: "Master Lin, I would like to contribute to these kids. Who should I look for?"

Small Hero: "Me too, I won't donate to Brother Yang anymore. I'll save up and do some good deeds for them."

Mary Lotus Sprout: "Although Brother Yang is my idol, I have to give him up. I want to do something meaningful too."

Secret Dragon Border: "666..., you guys are absurd..."

Lin Fan laughed at the comments, "Actually, you should just do your best for these things. For example, you could just make a small donation to a welfare institute near your hometown. You don't have to donate a large sum as long as you are willing to donate. You could also donate some books and toys. These are also useful. But the best form of assistance would be to treat the disabled fairly and with respect. If you pity them and treat them differently, it might cause the greatest harm to them."

The crowd in the broadcast scrolled through the comments. They all felt that Master Lin's words were true and had some logic behind them. At the same time, they felt a sense of warmth within the broadcast. They felt empowered.

Zhao Zhong Yang suddenly appeared in the broadcast. "In the future, I will donate one-third of the broadcasting profits to the children's welfare institute. Do you think I'm awesome?"

What hurt Zhao Zhong Yang was that the people in the broadcast just ignored him and focused on Master Lin.

"Brother Yang, move! We want to look at Master Lin."

"Brother Yang, our donations are for the children. You mustn't be greedy. We will let Master Lin oversee this."

"That's right. Master Lin, please watch him carefully. Don't let Brother Yang slip..."

Zhao Zhong Yang pretended to be heartbroken after reading the comments. Then, he walked towards Elder Dog Nicholas and said, "Doggy, they don't believe me. Looks like only you believe me."

The dog that was lying there flat on his stomach raised his head slightly and turned away. Then, he went to sleep again, completely ignoring Zhao Zhong Yang.

Lin Fan pointed the phone at Zhao Zhong Yang and the netizens laughed hysterically at the scene. Even a dog ignored Brother Yang.

Then, Lin Fan looked outside and passed the phone back to Zhao Zhong Yang.

"Master Lin..." Before Wu Yun Gang reached the shop, his voice could already be heard.

Lin Fan hadn't expected Wu Yun Gang to visit him. Then, he stood up and waited at the entrance. "Chief Wu, have you completed your tasks in Beijing?"

Wu Yun Gang chuckled, "I've completed them. That's why I've rushed over to see Master Lin."

Wang Ming Yang laughed, "Let's talk when we enter. This time, Brother Wu specially came to show appreciation for what you did. He didn't manage to thank you properly when he rushed off that time."

Lin Fan waved his hands. "You don't have to be so polite. As long as you're okay, that's good enough."

Sun Lian Ming looked at Master Lin and thought that he wasn't capable at all since he was so young. But he had personally witnessed Wu Yun Gang's situation. If not for Wu Yun Gang, he wouldn't have believed in Master Lin's powers. Then, he just stood aside and didn't say anything. He looked around and thought that the shop was small and the interior was hideous but the people inside were even weirder.

There were two old men, one with a head full of white hair and the other looked haggard. There was also a young chap broadcasting in the shop. As for the lady, she looked pretty decent but she didn't even serve them tea or water.

In the shop.

Lin Fan smiled as he said, "I heard from Ming Yang that you managed to retrieve all the money that was lost?"

Wu Yun Gang nodded. "Yeah, I managed to do so. Luckily, I got back in time. If not, things would've been unimaginable."

This incident had indeed been resolved in time. If he had waited for those people to fly overseas, it would've been a lot harder to resolve this issue. Therefore, to Wu Yun Gang, Master Lin was a savior.

Wang Ming Yang stood beside them and said, "This time, Brother Wu is prepared to stay here for a longer period of time. He wants to stay in your shop and help out for a while."

Lin Fan chuckled, "This is such a small shop. It wouldn't be nice for him to do that."

"It's okay, it's okay. I typically come here to shop. After this incident, I've decided to be more cautious. So, I'm thinking of investing in Shanghai and I would like to see if there's anything worth investing in. At the same time, I can find out more about Master Lin," Wu Yun Gang chuckled. He had indeed been frightened by the recent incident. His decades of hard work had almost gone to the trash. Furthermore, he would have been in large debts.

Master Lin's favor was like a rebirth for Wu Yun Gang.

Then, Sun Lian Ming spoke, "I heard from Brother Wu that Master Lin's fortune-telling capabilities are second to none. I would like to know if you could read my fortune."

Lin Fan waved his hand. "I can read your fortune but you have to follow my rules and queue up. Our list for today is full. If you would like to have your fortune read, you can come here again tomorrow morning to queue up."

Sun Lian Ming hadn't expected things to be like what Wang Ming Yang had said. He felt that it was a little bizarre. Then, he smiled and said, "I'm a good friend of Brother Wu. We're all friends. Could you give me some face? Besides, I traveled miles for you. It wasn't easy."

"Brother Wu, what I said was true, right?" Sun Lian Ming asked as he looked at Wu Yun Gang.

Wang Ming Yang furrowed his brows. "Chief Sun, this is my brother's rules. Please adhere to them. If everyone uses the same reason, my brother would be extremely busy."

Wu Yun Gang felt a little helpless. This friend of his just had such a personality. The more you tried to stop him, the more he would want to have it. Especially since Wang Ming Yang had had an argument with him in the car, it clearly made Sun Lian Ming a little angry. Therefore, when they reached the shop, he immediately asked for it.

Wang Ming Yang looked at Lin Fan. "Just ignore him."

Lin Fan was a little taken aback. It seemed like there was a conflict between them. Then, he looked at Wang Ming Yang and realized that he looked upset. He was clearly angry at Sun Lian Ming.

Sun Lian Ming didn't hold Master Lin in high regard. He just wanted to ask him that as a challenge to Wang Ming Yang.

Sun Lian Ming was even more upset as he thought of what had happened in the car. What rights did Wang Ming Yang have to start an argument with him?

"Master Lin, could you help me out? I, Sun Lian Ming, am a sincere man," Sun Lian Ming said.

Then, Fraud Tian raised his head and looked at Sun Lian Ming. What's wrong with this man? He seems so stubborn.

Wang Ming Yang was infuriated. "Sun Lian Ming, what do you mean by that? Didn't my brother answer you already? Rules are rules. If you're unhappy with me, just tell me that. You don't have to make things difficult for my brother and stop using your relationship with Yun Gang..."

Lin Fan immediately interrupted him as he waved his hands. Then, he looked at Sun Lian Ming. After a while, he shook his head. "I just read your fortune but I think it'd be better for me not to say it."

Sun Lian Ming looked at Wang Ming Yang and laughed, "Don't you need my eight birth characters and a few details for palmistry? You can read my fortune just like that?"

Lin Fan said, "As long as the person is standing right in front of me, I don't need that."

Sun Lian Ming was laughing in his heart but he still put up a show and looked very excited. "Master Lin, since you've read my fortune, please tell me about it. I want to see if it's accurate."

Wang Ming Yang was infuriated. He immediately pointed at Sun Lian Ming and scolded, "Sun Lian Ming, what the f*ck did you mean by that? Are you treating my brother as a joke? You just want to see if it's accurate?"

Wu Yun Gang was shocked. Then, he quickly went in between the two of them and said, "Stop arguing, stop arguing..."

He was deeply regretful. What was going on?

Wu You Lan was also shocked. Aren't they both friends? Why are they fighting?

Lin Fan shook his head. "I feel that it isn't good for me to say it. But since you want me to say it, you'll have to bear the consequences. Please don't be offended. Besides, nobody loves to hear the hurtful truth."

Lin Fan didn't know what this man really wanted. Initially, he had wanted to give him some face and not say negative things to him. But he was being so rude to his brother. Why would he let him off just like that?

Chapter 218: The truth hurts

"Brother Sun, Master Lin has already said it. Just stop talking." Wu Yun Gang felt that the situation was getting a little tense. He thought that things shouldn't have to end up so awkward since everyone was friends. He regretted bringing Brother Sun to Shanghai since he knew that Wang Ming Yang didn't like him. He should've known that bringing him would cause problems.

"Just be frank and speak your mind, Master Lin, go ahead. I, Sun Lian Ming, will definitely be able to handle it," Sun Lian Ming said. It seemed as if he wasn't bothered by what was going on. He was still a little doubtful of Lin Fan's fortune-telling abilities. As for Wu Yun Gang's case, he felt that it was a case of luck.

If he really was that good, wouldn't he be a God? Why would he still be in such a small shop? He would definitely be a famous VIP and receive privileged treatment. A wealthy man like himself would be considered a small fry to him. Of course, he must be really capable in order to reach that level. But from the looks of it, for him to still be in a small shop like this, it showed that he wasn't that capable.

This was how Sun Lian Ming viewed it. He thought that everyone had the same thinking as him, which was to pursue fame and wealth.

Wang Ming Yang glanced at Sun Lian Ming. He trusted Lin Fan and since Lin Fan had already put it that way, it showed that this man wasn't a good person after all. Lin Fan had wanted to save him some face and not say it but now that Sun Lian Ming was still demanding for his fortune to be read, it showed how shameless he was.

If Lin Fan said that Sun Lian Ming would be badly beaten up later, Wang Ming Yang would definitely believe him. After all, he trusted Lin Fan a lot.

The trust had been gained from countless incidents. It couldn't be gained from just a one-time event.

Lin Fan looked at Wu Tian He. "Look at him, what do you think of his destiny?"

Sun Lian Ming chuckled, "Master Lin, I'm asking for you to read my fortune. Why did you ask him?"

Lin Fan just ignored him as he waited for Wu Tian He to reply.

Wu Tian He looked at Sun Lian Ming closely. He wasn't afraid of offending people. After all, Wu Tian He was a powerful man. If he was still his old self that pursued fame and power, perhaps even the three of them couldn't match up to his standards.

"From just his appearance, it doesn't seem good. There will be changes to his wealth. This is just a superficial analysis. I have to analyze it further," Wu Tian He said.

When Sun Lian Ming heard it, he laughed, "I'm afraid this old man here doesn't know who I am, right? You can just search my name up on the Internet. Although I'm not considered an extremely wealthy man, I still have some power in Beijing. My net worth is more than ten billion. How could my wealth be plummeting?"

Although his words weren't offensive, he sounded unhappy. It was as if he was saying that Wu Tian He was speaking blindly. It sounded as if he was trying to insult him.

Wu Tian He didn't say much. He looked at Lin Fan and said, "Master Lin, I'll let you do it. I can't read as much as you just from one's appearance."

Lin Fan smiled and nodded. Then, he took a sip of his tea and looked at Sun Lian Ming. "Since you want to know it so badly, I'll say it. After all, if you listen to it, you'll be able to change your life. If not, that'll be your fate."

Sun Lian Ming chuckled. Lin Fan spoke as if everything would come true. Sun Lian Ming was ready to let him continue bragging about his abilities. He had been through tough times and he wasn't going to be affected by just a few sentences.

If things were really true, then life would be meaningless for him.

"Master Lin, please go ahead. As long as you're accurate, I, Sun Lian Ming, will definitely listen to you," Sun Lian Ming said.

Lin Fan was laughing in his heart. It would be a miracle for him to listen to his words. He didn't like this person at all. Then, he started to speak, "Your life is considered to be pretty good. Now that you have such fame and power, it has something to do with the important person in the first half of your life. But it's a pity that..."

When Sun Lian Ming heard that, he chuckled, "What do you mean by 'important person'? I've been depending on myself all my life. It's a pity that...? Master Lin, please finish your sentence."

Lin Fan chuckled and continued, "It's a pity that you're an obstinate person. You're not willing to listen to those that have differing opinions. Furthermore, you're a two-faced backstabber. You don't hold your friends' opinions in high regard and you only care about your own benefits even if it's at the expense of your friends. The only important person you'll have in your life is your ex-wife. She deserves half the credit for your accomplishment today. However, you don't care about her anymore despite her having gone through the tough times with you..."

Lin Fan spoke fluently and Sun Lian Ming's expression changed. He looked upset and felt that Master Lin was humiliating him.

I don't hold my friends' opinions in high regard? I only care about my own benefits even if it is at the expense of my friends? What does he mean by that?

Is he trying to sow discord?

Wang Ming Yang laughed, he knew that Sun Lian Ming wasn't good. He was like a time-bomb for Wu Yun Gang. Sun Lian Ming was a ruthless man. Most people who did business with him suffered horrific fates.

If they didn't get kicked out halfway, the project would fail. Sun Lian Ming would destroy his partner's reputation and wealth just to minimize his losses. On the surface, it seemed like he was being a kind man but he always looked for ways to protect himself only.

When Wu Yun Gang heard Master Lin's words, he was stunned. He hadn't expected Master Lin's judgment of his friend to turn out like that. It was nothing like what he had expected.

"Master Lin, did you exaggerate things?" Wu Yun Gang asked awkwardly. After all, Sun Lian Ming was his friend. Now that Master Lin said something like that to him, he didn't know how to resolve the situation.

Lin Fan looked at how unhappy Sun Lian Ming was but he wasn't bothered by it. After all, it was requested by him. He had to speak the truth. But since he had spoken the truth, Sun Lian Ming was unhappy. Sometimes, it was difficult to please wealthy men like him. Then, he smiled at Wu Yun Gang. "Your fate has gone through a major change from the previous time I looked at you. Previously, you were destined to go through trials even though you were fated for wealth and fame. However, things look better for you now. Your life will be steady and you will be wealthy and powerful. But you must still be cautious. Good friends will help to bring you good luck but if you hang out with the wrong company, things will change again. As for the current situation, things are looking good for you. Just continue hustling and do not look down on others. Continue with your slow and steady progress and you will be wealthy for the rest of your life."

When Wu Yun Gang heard what Master Lin said, he just nodded. In the past, he hadn't believed in fortune-telling but now, he believed in it. He only believed in Master Lin, not anyone else.

Wang Ming Yang patted Wu Yun Gang on his shoulder, "Since Master Lin has already said it, it is definitely accurate. In the future, just listen to my brother. Good friends will bring you good fortune while bad company will destroy you."

Wu Yun Gang knew who Brother Wang was referring to and he looked a little awkward. After all, Brother Sun was his friend. He really didn't know what to say.

Then, Lin Fan looked at Sun Lian Ming again. If he didn't destroy him with his words today, he wouldn't be called Master Lin.

But if Sun Lian Ming was willing to take his words positively and make a change, he could still change his fate. As the saying goes, one can learn a lot about someone's heart just by looking at his appearance.

Of course, appearance didn't just mean physical appearance. It also referred to his spiritual and physical well-being on a whole.

An example would be Wang Shen. He looked like a sensible man. If Lin Fan hadn't looked at him closely, he would definitely not have noticed that Wang Shen was a human trafficker.

Then, Lin Fan chuckled, "Chief Sun, you have to be calm and less hot-tempered. Sometimes, the truth hurts but it can also do you good. It just depends on how you view things."

Sun Lian Ming sneered. He couldn't hide his emotions any further.

Chapter 219: What kind of stupid reason is that?

Sun Lian Ming looked at Lin Fan and said unhappily, "Master Lin, was this all from reading my fortune?"

"Brother Sun..." Wu Yun Gang wanted to stop Sun Lian Ming from being rude to Master Lin. But before he could continue, he was interrupted by Sun Lian Ming. "I don't believe in fortune-telling. I won't acknowledge the words you've said. I am truthful and sincere to all my friends and I can say that without feeling guilty. I have never done anything wrong to my friends. You're speaking as if I'm an immoral man."

Wang Ming Yang chided, "My brother has said it very clearly, right from the start. The truth hurts and you were the one who forced him to say it. Therefore, you shouldn't be unhappy since you were the one who asked for it."

Sun Lian Ming snorted, "Chief Wang, it may seem like the truth to you but to me, it's all a fraud. Today, I will show some face to Brother Wu and not be calculative about this."

Wang Ming Yang sneered, "Calculative? So what if you're calculative? What can you do to my friend? I, Wang Ming Yang, am more than willing to keep you 'company'."

They started to argue again.

"Stop arguing. Both of you, please stop talking. Master Lin, please don't be angry," Wu Yun Gang quickly said to Lin Fan. This matter was a difficult one. He hadn't expected Wang Ming Yang and Sun Lian Ming start quarreling. Furthermore, it looked like they could start a fight anytime even though it was just a small disagreement.

Lin Fan smiled and waved his hands. "I'm not angry at all. I only spoke the truth. But I have to add on."

Wu Yun Gang was helpless. My dear Master Lin, please stop talking.

Lin Fan looked at Sun Lian Ming. "Please be careful. Your physiognomy doesn't seem too good. You will have a difficult trial ahead of you. It all depends on you on how you want to resolve it."

Sun Lian Ming sneered and walked towards the entrance, "What a load of rubbish..."

Wu Yun Gang chased after him. "Brother Sun, Brother Sun, what are you doing?"

At the entrance, Sun Lian Ming shrugged his shoulders. "I can't stay here any longer. I will be heading back to Beijing first. Also, let me remind you that this type of fortune-telling is all a gimmick. Don't be cheated by it."

Wu Yun Gang wanted to mediate the situation but Sun Lian Ming just left immediately. He didn't even want to stay any longer.

Lin Fan looked at Sun Lian Ming and laughed. The truth had really infuriated him. But what could he have done about it? It was indeed the truth. He did nothing wrong at all.

Wang Ming Yang chuckled, "You can't show this kind of person any face. He's such a despicable man."

Wu Yun Gang returned to the shop and sighed, "Master Lin, I'm sorry. My friend is just like that."

Lin Fan waved his hands. "I already said what I wanted to say. If you heed my advice, please be more cautious next time. In terms of your profits, do not be involved with him. Whether you want to continue being friends with him, that's not up to me."

Wu Yun Gang nodded. Although he believed in Master Lin, he couldn't just unfriend Sun Lian Ming because of his words. But he also kept Master Lin's words in mind. In future, he would be more cautious with his wealth.

What worried Wu Yun Gang was that Master Lin had said Sun Lian Ming was going to face a trial. He wondered if it was really true.

Lin Fan noticed Wu Yun Gang's suspicious expressions. He said, "What I said was true. I didn't lie to him."

Wang Ming Yang chuckled, "He deserves it for having such a sh*tty personality. Brother Wu, I think you should just forget about it. Even if you want to help him out, he might not acknowledge your efforts. He might even think you're being nosy."

Wu Yun Gang nodded. What Wang Ming Yang said was true. For someone like Sun Lian Ming, if he didn't believe in something that you said, he would definitely ignore it, especially since it created such a conflict. If you were to continue talking about it, it would just anger him.

Fraud Tian was dumbfounded. He had witnessed everything from the start till the end. He was shocked. Was Master Lin really speaking the truth? It couldn't be that accurate.

Wu Tian He was extremely impressed by Master Lin's standard of fortune-telling. He was able to completely analyze someone just based on his/her appearance. Ever since he had

come to Shanghai from Lianzhou, he had been observing the situation of his daughter. Her fate had really been changed. Although it wasn't very obvious, things looked much better for her.

Wang Ming Yang chuckled, "Alright, Brother Wu, let's not talk about such unhappy things. Let me tell you, Master Lin is not just good at fortune-telling, he is also extremely good at cooking. Do you remember that time we had an international chef cook for us?"

Wu Yun Gang ignored what had happened and laughed after hearing what Wang Ming Yang said, "What is it? Do you want to eat it again? It's a little difficult now. The chef isn't in the pink of health and he doesn't cook as often now."

"Haha," Wang Ming Yang laughed. "I'm telling you that Master Lin cooks even better than that chef! You wouldn't know it until you eat it. You'll be addicted after just one bite. It's like comparing heaven and earth."

Then, Wang Ming Yang looked at Lin Fan. "What do you think of cooking a feast for Wu Yun Gang? Since he's come such a long way."

When he mentioned food, everyone in the shop raised their heads. Their eyes lit up and they looked like they were yearning for it.

Lin Fan laughed and shook his head. "You're such a scheming man. You must be craving for it."

Wang Ming Yang chuckled, "I'm not craving for it. It's because I've tasted your food before. If I was a girl, I would stick to you 24/7 even if I have to drug you."

"An old man like you saying such things, shouldn't you feel disgusted?" Lin Fan chuckled. This motherf*cker is teasing me.

"Haha," Wang Ming Yang laughed hysterically. "What's so disgusting about that? As long as you agree, I will fly to Thailand tomorrow to undergo an operation to change my gender."

Lin Fan chided, "Get lost!"

Then, Fraud Tian added, "Brother Wang, if you're going, please bring me along. I feel like I'm capable of it too."

Zhao Zhong Yang held his phone and pointed it at everyone. "Guys, look. Master Lin is going to be in a dilemma."

The netizens laughed as they watched the broadcast. They felt that the 'Master Lin' shop was such a fun place to be in. Initially, the atmosphere there had been a little tense but they hadn't expected things to become so lively now.

Ding ding!

Then, the phone rang.

Lin Fan looked at it and picked it up. "Mum, what's wrong?"

"Come back tomorrow."

Lin Fan was shocked, "Mum, did something happen?"

"Don't talk too much. Your dad and I picked a lady for you. She seems really good. Come back tomorrow and go for the matchmaking session."

Although he didn't use the loudspeaker, Wang Ming Yang and the others managed to hear the conversation. Then, they pointed at Lin Fan and laughed, "Look, someone's being urged to get married..."

When Wu You Lan heard 'matchmaking', her expression changed.

Lin Fan glared at Wang Ming Yang. He wanted them to shut up.

"Why are you guys so noisy..."

Lin Fan replied to the phone, "I can't go back tomorrow. Why did you arrange a matchmaking session for me? I'm not prepared to get married."

"What do you mean by you're not prepared? It doesn't require any preparation. Your dad and I have prepared everything. Just come back. This time, she's really decent. She is pretty and she just graduated from a music school. Your dad and I both know that you will like someone as pretty as her. Please listen to us and come back."

Lin Fan helplessly said, "Mum..."

"Alright, I'll stop right here. You must come back tomorrow. Your dad and I are picking clothes for you to wear. Your dad is such a clueless man. He doesn't even bother to dress up for such a big occasion like this. He said he wanted to wear old clothes. Wouldn't that create a bad impression?"

"Also, please make your dad and I proud. Elder Li that lives beside us always compares himself to your dad. Your dad only loses in one aspect: Elder Li gets to take care of his grandson everyday. Meanwhile, your dad is empty-handed. Elder Li always makes fun of him and your dad feels very lonely."

Lin Fan was speechless, "..."

What a sh*tty reason!

Chapter 220: A smokeless war

After hanging up, Lin Fan seemed very helpless. He hadn't expected his family to urge him to go for matchmaking. In the past, when he had been in high school or university, his parents didn't allow him to date anyone. Now that he had graduated, they were urging him to go for matchmaking. This made him extremely helpless.

When he had been in university, his parents would call him every night. They were afraid that he would start dating someone and wanted to make it difficult for him to go out with any girl.

He understood the meaning behind it. His parents wanted to find someone that lived in the same city and didn't want someone that lived too far away.

Wang Ming Yang smiled. "I didn't expect you to go for matchmaking. I haven't encountered such a situation before. But my friend, you're handsome and talented. You'll definitely do well."

"Don't bother about it..." Lin Fan waved his hand. He thought that he hadn't gone back in such a long time and it would be good for him to go back home.

"How could I not interfere? I have a limited edition sports car. I can lend you to drive it so that you'd look better in front of them!" Wang Ming Yang suggested.

Lin Fan glanced at Wang Ming Yang, "That would scare my parents to death. They would think that I robbed someone to be able to drive a luxurious sports car back home."

Wang Ming Yang was a little sad. "Yeah, that seems quite true..."

"It's definitely true, not seemingly true."

If he really heeded Wang Ming Yang's advice, he would be cursed. How could he think of such an idea? It would definitely cause trouble for him.

Fraud Tian stood aside and said, "Recently, I read a good novel. Why not let Wu You Lan follow you back? She can pretend to be your girlfriend. Things would be easier then."

Wu You Lan blushed. She didn't mind pretending to be his girlfriend. Although she hasn't tried it before, she was willing to do so.

Lin Fan waved his hand. "That wouldn't work. If she really pretended to be my girlfriend, I wouldn't have any peace. My mum might call me seven to eight times per day just to ask me to get married. Then, things would be crazy. I'll just make a trip back tomorrow and see how it goes."

Wang Ming Yang was extremely interested. "Bring me home with you then. I want to visit your parents too. If things don't work out, I can pretend to be gay with you. How's that?"

"Shut up, I really don't want to listen to your suggestions again. You'll definitely infuriate my parents to death," Lin Fan said helplessly. Couldn't this guy just be normal? "That's it, I'll be making a trip back home tomorrow. Please look after the shop for me."

Fraud Tian nodded. "Don't worry. As long as I'm here, the shop will be safe."

Lin Fan looked at Fraud Tian and then at Elder Dog Nicholas, who was lying down at the entrance. "Doggy, I'll be leaving for a few days. I trust that you'll look after the shop well. I'll bring a gift for you when I get back."

Elder Dog Nicholas was resting but when he heard his owner praise him like he was the most trustworthy 'person' in the entire shop, he stood up excitedly and barked. Then, he looked at Fraud Tian despicably.

Lin Fan nodded. "That's right, Doggy, do me proud."

Elder Dog Nicholas just barked.

Fraud Tian looked at Lin Fan and asked, "What did he say?"

Lin Fan smiled. "Nothing much..."

Fraud Tian didn't believe him.

Wu You Lan heaved a sigh. She felt like a failure for not being able to pretend to be his girlfriend.

Then, Lin Fan waved his hand. "Alright, let's not talk about this anymore. I have made my mind up regarding this. Come to my place tonight and I'll cook a sumptuous feast for everyone."

Zhao Zhong Yang grinned upon hearing his words. "Hooray!"

Wang Ming Yang was extremely happy too. He would finally get to eat Lin Fan's food again. If he didn't eat to his heart's content, he wouldn't stop eating.

The next day!

At the airport.

Lin Fan had brought a luggage with him. This time, he was prepared to stay at home for a few days. He wasn't in a hurry to return to Shanghai. After graduating, he had only returned home a few times per year. Sometimes, he felt that his parents would be lonely at home.

After he checked in his luggage, it was time for him to board. Lin Fan quickly proceeded to the boarding area with his ticket.

A short distance away, a person was behaving sneakily. He laughed when he saw Lin Fan walk into the boarding area.

"Haha, I'll just go on my own since you don't want to bring me along. You can't stop me now..."

An airport staff came over to this sneaky man and asked, "Sir, please present your identification. I have to check it."

To the airport security, this man was behaving suspiciously and it seemed like he was up to no good. Therefore, they needed to check on him. After all, there had been cases of terrorism.

Wang Ming Yang was stunned. He hadn't expected to be checked by an airport staff.

At the boarding entrance.

Wang Ming Yang covered his face properly so that his identity wouldn't be revealed. He knew that Lin Fan had bought the economy ticket and so he bought the first-class seat so that he wouldn't have to be in the same cabin as him. Furthermore, he would also get to exit the plane first. He could hide somewhere and secretly follow Lin Fan. This time, he had to be there for Lin Fan's matchmaking.

Lin Fan didn't sense that someone was following him. He took a nap as soon as he boarded the train. The flight back home was a rather long one and he thought it was a good idea to take a nap.

...

Guangzhou!

Lin Fan exited the airport and did some stretching. He was finally going to return home again. He felt awesome. Then, he took out his phone and made a call.

"Mum, I'm out of the airport. I'm waiting for my cab to get home."

"Please stay safe, I'll get your dad to meet you downstairs."

"Okay."

He looked at the time and it was about 12 pm. It was time for lunch. Then, he boarded a cab. At this moment, Wang Ming Yang charged out and boarded the cab behind it. He wanted to follow Lin Fan but he had to be discrete about it.

Xin Xin Apartment Block.

His mum was busy cooking in the kitchen. She said, "Go downstairs to pick up our son. He will be here soon."

His dad was watching the TV. He stood up from the couch "It's not like our son doesn't know his way home."

"Just shut up and go down. Our son hasn't returned home in such a long time. Do you have to complain so much about picking him up from below?"

"No."

Father Lin didn't dare to rebut. Then, he went out of the door and met Elder Li at the walkway outside.

Their expressions changed.

Then, they walked into the lift.

Papa Lin greeted him, "Hey, Elder Li."

Elder Li replied, "Elder Lin."

Elder Lin looked at the baby in the pram and said, "How coincidental. Are you bringing him out for a walk?"

Elder Li looked at his grandson and said happily, "Yeah! How's your son doing?"

Their expressions changed when Elder Li asked that question. Their expressions were fearsome.

Elder Lin said, "I've been waiting for your question about my son!"

Elder Li replied, "I'm not afraid to compare our sons!"

Elder Lin said, "My son is about the same. He's been working in Shanghai after graduation but he's doing well."

Elder Li chuckled, "He's young and capable indeed. My son is just an average man. He's working as a manager and his monthly salary is between seventy to eighty thousand dollars."

Elder Lin said, "Your son got married early. A group of pretty ladies has been wooing my son but he doesn't like any of them."

Elder Li said, "Your son has so many qualifications. It's normal for him to have high standards. My son isn't as capable. He's just got a virtuous wife who brings us overseas often."

Elder Lin rebutted, "A daughter-in-law that's adventurous like her would definitely spend a lot of money. My son sends money to us frequently even when we didn't ask for it."

Elder Li chuckled, "My daughter-in-law and son are always at home. They give half of their income to us. It's not like it's a lot anyway."

Elder Lin said, "I think your son is better!"

Elder Li said, "I think your son is better!"

They were still competing with each other over it and at the same time, they thought to themselves.

His son is such a nuisance, it's difficult for me to continue commenting about him.

His son is so difficult to deal with, I can't just compete with him for the sake of it.

Ding!

They reached the first level.

Both of them smiled at each other.

Elder Lin said, "Alright... We'll chat again next time."

Elder Li replied, "You can come over to my place when you're free next time."

When the both of them exited the lift, they were stunned when they thought of the things they could've said.

Elder Li thought, D*mn! I forgot to say that my son bought us a massage chair.

Elder Lin thought, D*mn! I didn't mention that my son bought me a television set last year.

...

At the entrance of the apartment block.

Lin Fan raised his head and took a deep breath before walking towards his house. After a while, he met someone that looked familiar. "Uncle Li, are you going out?"

Elder Li saw Lin Fan and smiled. "Lil' Fan is back! I just spoke to your dad. He's waiting for you at the void deck."

Lin Fan chuckled, "Alright, Uncle Li. You must be feeling happy to be able to bring your grandson out!"

Elder Li smiled. "You should quickly give your dad a grandson too. He's getting anxious."

Lin Fan nodded and said goodbye to Uncle Li before rushing to the void deck.