

Big Shot 401

Chapter 401: Mr. Bo: Choose Whatever You Like!

What? Ugly?

This comment infuriated Gu Pinting, her beautifully shaped eyebrows and red lips skewing a bit as she angrily glared toward the door.

A woman in a plain white robe stood there lazily playing with a bolt of brocade on display by the door.

It seemed her comment was a casual toss-off; she found the red dress Gu Pinting had chosen less interesting than the brocade by the entrance.

Even more infuriating was that the charm exuded from the woman's brows and eyes was so striking that Gu Pinting herself had to admit: beautiful, truly beautiful.

It was a shame that the tattered robe she wore looked like it was made from beggar's cloth!

Gu Pinting, talented and beautiful, was a mini version of Gu Shiyin, a veritable school goddess who reigned supreme in the Gu Family and at school. How could she endure such an insult?

Storming over in her high heels, she said, "What do you know? Dressed like you're in mourning, do you even understand the concept of fashion design? Do you know about the history of Nuwa and Fuxi?"

Zuzi replied leisurely, raising an eyebrow with a faint smile, "Fashion? Not much; Nuwa, a little bit. Anyway, you're nothing like Nuwa, so stop dreaming."

Gu Pinting: "...!"

She was determined to get this role in the audition. Her family had already spoken with Director Ma Xiaogang, and if necessary, she would bring her own funding into the group; the audition was just a formality for her.

Where did this mourning-clothed woman come from, daring to flatly claim she was dreaming of playing Nuwa?

The argument at the entrance made Gu Shiyin, who was negotiating with a store clerk, turn her head.

Seeing Zuzi also shopping, she was slightly surprised.

That girl from the county had made money at the auction last night; was she so eager to spend it today?

Typical... countryside folks.

Gu Shiyin pressed her lips together and walked over: "Miss Xi, you might not know, Pinting is the designated lead actress for the role of Nuwa. You've guessed wrongly this time."

Zuzi smiled faintly, giving Gu Shiyin a casual look: "The Ancestor has never been wrong."

Gu Shiyin: "..."

Chu Qiao'en also turned around, and seeing Zuzi, felt even more complex: "Do you think buying a few nice clothes can allow you to seduce both Mr. Bai and Mr. Bo simultaneously? A woman like you, trying to have it both ways, is shameless!"

Gu Pinting was shocked, "You've met before?"

Chu Qiao'en said through gritted teeth, "Met before? It's a mortal feud! A hatred for snatching my man!"

Bai Fei was the man she eyed as her future husband, yet he was bewitched by Zuzi!

Understanding dawned on Gu Pinting, who was ready to join her friend in mocking Zuzi.

But suddenly, a stern male voice rang out from the door!

"You're mistaken. Miss Zuzi doesn't need to seduce anyone, nor does she need to have it both ways. If she wants to, she's welcome on my boat."

Bao Gucheng walked in with firm steps, his face cold and serious!

Chu Qiao'en and Gu Pinting already had some fear of him as an elder, and now that they were caught badmouthing him, they fell silent in fright.

Gu Shiyin looked in amazement at Bao Gucheng, who never went shopping, appearing outside a women's boutique: "Mr. Bo, why are you here?"

Bao Gucheng didn't even lift his eyelids, standing by Zuzi's side: "I was just passing by."

Gu Shiyin: "..."

She had invited him countless times to dinner, to auctions to have fun, and he always said he had no time, but now he had gone all the way to the auction for Zuzi, and was "just passing by" while she shopped?

The heart pierced by a dagger last night received several more cuts at this moment.

Zuzi chuckled softly, "Xiao Cheng seems to have time."

Bao Gucheng glanced around, "Pick any clothes you like here, I'll have them packed."

Chapter 402: The Fabric is Too Poor; The Tailoring is Also Bad

Chu Qiao'en and Gu Pinting held their breath: "...!"

Even though they are usually wealthy, they couldn't easily buy clothes from this shop. It was only thanks to Aunt Shiyin that each of them got a piece.

Zuzi just arrived and can choose whatever she wants?

Never mind, this isn't something just anyone can do; with Bao Gucheng stepping in, it's actually possible.

For a moment, their gaze towards Zuzi was filled with barely concealed envy and jealousy.

Gu Shiyin bit her lip and reminded Bao Gucheng, "Mr. Bo, you can't just pick any of Lin Suyu's clothes, each piece is very precious..."

Before she could finish speaking.

Zuzi shook her head and said, "No need, Xiao Cheng. I don't want the clothes here."

Gu Shiyin and the others thought, at last, the county girl has some self-awareness, realizing that such precious clothes aren't for her.

However, the next second.

Bao Gucheng asked, "Why? Don't you like them?"

Zuzi's red lips curved slightly: "Hmm, their fabrics are too poor."

Gu Shiyin and her group: "...!"

They were almost spitting blood!

She said Suyu's clothes have poor, quality fabric?

"Do you have any common sense? These are premium silks and satins, high-quality fabrics only enjoyed by high society, and you say the quality is poor? Are you just nitpicking to find an excuse?" Gu Pinting could not hold back and mocked.

Zuzi thought seriously for a moment: "If Ancestor has to nitpick for you, then it's the cutting that's not good."

To achieve first-class tailoring, it seems you would need to tailor clouds in the sky for a thousand years to make clothes look somewhat decent.

Apparently, this tailor is not skilled enough.

Gu Shiyin was breathless for a long time, then she pursed her lips and said softly, "Perhaps Miss Zuzi is used to wearing her own style of clothes..."

Gu Pinting could not take it anymore: "My aunt is a direct disciple of the designer, her designs have won countless awards, are you better than the fashion judges? If you're so great, why wear a white sack?"

Bao Gucheng's face darkened.

Gu Pinting had a lot more to say, but it got stuck in her throat.

Zuzi was nonchalant: "This piece by Ancestor is pretty good, gifted by a neighbor in the countryside, it's very comfortable to wear."

The neighbor from the original owner's home had handcrafted the white robe with needle and thread, and even placed two small pieces of extra fabric in her bag, quite an honest and simple neighbor.

Gu Pinting didn't dare to make bold remarks in front of Bao Gucheng, so she rolled her eyes in private: Haha, never seen the world, and considers countrified scrap fabric as treasure, yet dares to criticize my aunt's designs and fabric quality?

Really a country bumpkin!

"If Miss Zuzi doesn't like it, let's try another shop, there are many haute couture brands with women's clothing over there." Bao Gucheng was very patient.

Zuzi nodded, stepping outside: "Actually, I didn't come to buy clothes, I just wanted to check out the fabric."

"Buying fabric?"

"Uh huh. It's Xiao Bei's birthday, and I'm invited to the party on behalf of Xiao Sha. Ancestor can't go empty-handed, I must pick a gift for Xiao Bei."

Bao Gucheng's mind went through several loops before realizing the "Xiao Bei" Zuzi mentioned was actually Elder Gu, Gu Bei.

Calling your own grandfather Xiao Bei?!

Giving a birthday present of fabric?!

Zuzi's unique style, Bao Gucheng could somewhat accept.

What he couldn't accept was that she picked gifts for her grandfather, for Xi Rubao, and even her pets... but never considered him?

Is he not worthy of a gift chosen by her own hands?

Chapter 403: Mr. Bo Lines Up to Buy Tea for the Ancestor

Bao Gucheng felt a bit depressed.

His emotions surged up!

But his face remained calm as water: "Okay, then I'll go with you to pick a gift."

Zuzi suddenly raised her little face and asked with a smile: "Xiao Cheng, what kind of gift do you like?"

Bao Gucheng: "..."

Caught off guard, his mood soared and plummeted!

Did she finally notice him waiting silently in the shadows?

Bao Gucheng's Adam's apple bobbed, and he said modestly: "I like whatever Miss Zuzi gives."

Zuzi was taken aback for a moment, then laughed: "Xiao Cheng, I'm asking you what kind of gifts men generally like, to avoid sending something not to Xiao Bei's tastes."

Xiao Bei = Grandpa.

Bao Gucheng: "..."

He's unworthy, ultimately he's unworthy.

The two were talking, and Xi Rubao came running from the other end of the corridor: "Sis, Sis! I wanted to get you two cups of those trendy tribute teas, but the queue is so long, it'll probably take one or two hours, so I came back to tell you... wah wah wah!"

Seeing Bao Gucheng was also there, she excitedly lowered her voice and called out "Brother-in-law."

Bao Gucheng responded with a mild "Hm": "You want bubble tea?"

"My sister hasn't tried it, and I want her to try it, especially that slogan, 'If you love her, queue for her tribute tea!' Ah ah ah, I've decided to go back and queue again! I love my sister, I want to get her the tribute tea!" Xi Rubao regained her fighting spirit.

Bao Gucheng stopped her: "You two go shop for girls' stuff. I'll queue."

Xi Rubao was delighted and whispered again: "Brother-in-law! Aren't you working on this weekend?"

Zuzi: "Um, thank you, Xiao Chenger."

She just wanted to see how it differed from floral water.

The three left Suyu.

Listening to the store, Gu Shiyin and others felt a pang!

Suddenly the bubble tea in their hands lost its flavor.

After all, the tribute tea Zuzi was going to drink was bought by the ever-busy Mr. Bo himself!

They were watching Zuzi and the others disappear at the staircase.

A sharp voice urgently reprimanded from behind:

"Shiyin, what are you daydreaming about? Wasn't there a girl in white buying something just now? Why didn't you tell me?"

Gu Shiyin turned around, saw her mentor Lin Suyu unexpectedly coming to the store in person, and quickly averted her gaze, speaking respectfully:

"Teacher, I'm showing two juniors your works. The girl in white you mentioned, was it my niece Gu Pinting?"

She seized the opportunity to recommend her: "Teacher, my family's Pinting is about to play Nuwa in a drama, if she wears our designed clothes in the show, it would be a great advertisement, right..."

Before she finished speaking, Lin Suyu interrupted: "My clothes don't need to appear in vulgar TV dramas."

She shot a disdainful glance at Gu Pinting's white chiffon dress: "Not her. The girl in white I talked about was wearing a plain white robe."

White robe?

All three people instantly thought of one name.

Could it be Zuzi?

Gu Shiyin asked in confusion: "Teacher, is there something important about this girl in white?"

Lin Suyu's voice was grave and filled with longing: "That white robe she was wearing, from afar, looked like the rare Heavenly Silkworm Silk of the world. Only Heavenly Silkworm Silk could produce such ethereal and graceful fabric, could create the true fairy style with wide sleeves..."

Saying this, she once more glanced disdainfully at Gu Pinting's white chiffon dress: "And not this common fake fairy style flooding the streets!"

Chapter 404: This Slap Really Hurts! Her Special Way to Become Beautiful!

Fake Fairy Style!

Gu Pinting's pretty face immediately turned awkward.

Clearly, the brand she was wearing was always known for the fairy style, yet Lin Suyu actually said she was a cheesy fake. It was too heartbreaking.

In fact, the white feather gown she wore today was a hit from last season by a major brand, worn by many minor celebrities. The feathers lightly trembled with her every move, and alone it looked quite elegant and magnificent.

But who let her run into Zuzi.

Standing opposite Zuzi, who was dressed in an all-white robe, her feathered dress seemed like a mirror reflecting a poorly drawn clown, with a style that was dragging and cumbersome.

And Zuzi, the real deal, wore a white dress with sharp cuts and not a trace of excess design. When she walked, the smooth and comfortable fabric created a graceful line, naturally perfect.

In Boss Lin Suyu's eyes, Zuzi's style was the true fairy.

Lin Suyu is a heavyweight in the fashion design circle. Who dared to rebut her words?

Even Gu Shiyin had to agree with a smile: "Teacher, you're right. The fairy style is the hardest to grasp, one wrong step and it's easy to become tacky. That's why I want to give Pinting the Fire Phoenix you praised last time to take to her audition..."

Lin Suyu was not interested in any Fire Phoenix or Gu Pinting's audition, she impatiently interrupted Gu Shiyin:

"Stop telling me these useless things. I just want to know if you've seen where that lady in white went just now? I need to ask her where I can buy Heavenly Silkworm Silk. I want to study the cut of her dress carefully, it's simply divine, absolutely brilliant..."

Divine cut!

The faces of Gu Shiyin and the others froze.

The plain white dress of the countryside girl they always mocked, now received such a high-level evaluation from a fashion mogul.

The humiliation was too intense.

Lin Suyu looked at the dumbfounded trio, getting more and more irritated: "Never mind, talking with you is futile, I'll find her myself!"

Taking two steps, she turned back to Gu Shiyin and added: "My designs are not suitable for tacky little celebrities. As for what you've designed, that's up to you!"

Gu Shiyin nodded awkwardly: "Yes, Teacher!"

Gu Pinting wished she could find a hole to crawl into: "..."

Tacky little celebrity, wasn't she indirectly referring to her?

After Lin Suyu left, Gu Pinting clutched Gu Shiyin's arm and cried: "Aunt, Boss Lin looks down on me, wuwuwu..."

Gu Shiyin sighed: "Teacher Lin is rather aloof. She might just be too curious about Zuzi's dress, not necessarily looking down on you. Pinting, you have to think, maybe Zuzi put a lot of effort into dressing up today, while you didn't even put on makeup and just casually wore something you've worn before. It's not comparable..."

Gu Shiyin's consolation turned Gu Pinting's sorrow into joy: "Exactly, I wasn't prepared at all today, that's why I got outshone by that country bumpkin!"

Glancing at the light green jade bracelet on Gu Pinting's wrist, Gu Shiyin seemingly casually reminded her: "Grandfather is hosting a banquet at home tonight. I'll invite Teacher Lin to attend, so dress up well. Teacher Lin might see you differently and be willing to design an outfit for you to play Nuwa."

Gu Pinting became elated, her dazzling eyes shifting, as she instinctively stroked her jade bracelet: Oh right, she almost forgot, she's heaven's favored darling.

If she wants to become beautiful, it's a thousand times easier than ordinary people, okay?

What is a country bumpkin like Zuzi anyway!

Chapter 405: Caught the Wrong Person! She's Really a Slippery Little Demon!

Gu Pinting felt better: "Aunt, it's so good to have you around, nothing seems like a big deal anymore."

Chu Qiao'en found these words somewhat familiar.

After a moment, she realized that she had said the same thing once before.

She suddenly looked at Gu Shiyin with a complicated expression. Actually, if it weren't for the embarrassing incident with Gu Shiyin's treasure appraiser alias, she would have also thought that Aunt was the most amazing person in the world.

Although now she doesn't resent Aunt for conning her out of ten million, and Aunt returned the money, there's still a small knot in her heart, preventing her from wholeheartedly relying on Gu Shiyin like Gu Pinting at this moment.

"Alright, stop flattering me. I'm your elder, so it's my duty to be good to you guys." Gu Shiyin said, patting Gu Pinting's shoulder while glancing warmly at Chu Qiao'en, "But even Aunt can make mistakes sometimes, and I appreciate your generosity in not holding it against me."

Chu Qiao'en felt a bit ashamed upon hearing this.

Aunt is still the best aunt in the world, and it's just her overthinking. She shouldn't dwell on the small incident at last night's auction.

"Aunt, is the old man hosting dinner tonight for his birthday? I'll prepare a birthday gift, could you take it over for me?"

"No need, no need, it's just a family dinner. The old man just felt like it spontaneously, though he just had a birthday banquet last month. I don't know why he suddenly wants to throw another one today, like a child acting on a whim. Qiaoen, you don't have to spend money on it."

"Aunt, if Qiaoen doesn't have to buy one, shouldn't the two of us get a gift for Grandpa? Grandpa's been into calligraphy and painting recently, should we pick a nice piece for him upstairs?"

"Hmm, that's a good suggestion, Pinting."

The three of them just came to an agreement.

Suddenly, several tall and burly bodyguards rushed into the store, heading straight for Gu Pinting. Without a word, they twisted her arm behind her: "Don't move!"

Gu Pinting was in so much pain that tears almost came out: "I'm the eldest daughter of the Gu Family, how dare you treat me like this..."

The bodyguard said coldly, "Take a picture first! Let Fourth Young Master confirm if it's this woman!"

Gu Pinting screamed, "I'm going to be a celebrity, you can't photograph my face!"

The bodyguards ignored her, swiftly took photos, and sent them out.

A few seconds later, there came a reply: "Wrong capture, it's not this woman in white. This woman's hair is like a bird's nest, just based on the hairstyle it's wrong; the girl Fourth Young Master is looking for has long, beautifully flowing hair."

Bodyguard: "...Unlucky! This bird's nest hairstyle could kill someone."

They released Gu Pinting and hurried off to search again.

From start to finish, no one apologized or explained a word to her.

Gu Pinting was furious: "These people are so barbaric, are they bullying me because I'm good-looking? I want to call the police! I want them all in jail!"

Gu Shiyin watched the bodyguards leave in haste, pondering their brief words earlier, wondering: "Could it be that Fourth Young Master Nangong is looking for someone? Mistaken identity?"

Who could it be that looks similar to Gu Pinting and has caught the attention of Fourth Young Master?

Fourth Young Master is someone who devours his prey without leaving even the bones.

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Dige.

Nangong Mo just hung up the phone, sneeringly said: "A slippery little demon, got away again."

Qiu Guosheng looked at the man in front of him who resembled a cold-faced Buddha, involuntarily trembling a bit: "Fourth Young Master, all the surveillance footage you wanted is here."

Nangong Mo's face was icy, lazily fiddling with an antique wine jar: "She gave it to you?"

His long fingers were holding the wine jar, making one's heart tremble, as if in the next second it would fall and shatter into pieces on the ground!

Chapter 406: A Man Making Money for His Woman to Spend Feels Particularly Good

Qiu Guosheng was trembling with fear: "To answer Fourth Young Master Nangong, it's merchandise from Miss Xi. She and I have a nineteen-to-one split. Master, this vase is incredibly valuable, please, you must be careful..."

This wine vase is a rare antique, personally authenticated by Professor Feng Tang, who said he would come to buy it once the National Museum approves the funds.

There were also many wealthy families who wanted to bid on it at that time.

If Fourth Young Master Nangong accidentally breaks it, even if he loses his head, he can't afford to compensate for this hole in his wallet.

Nangong Mo slightly narrowed his eyes, his rough thumb heavily caressing the patterns on the wine vase: "Heh, quite a collection of treasures from the Xi family, I see."

Not to mention the four antique jade pendants.

And a ten-thousand-year-old antique wine vase, which they just casually brought out.

"Last auction, I heard there were some fine jades?"

"To answer Fourth Young Master Nangong, there wasn't much auctioned, just a piece of nephrite jade that was quite decent, which was finally bought by Miss Gu for six million. The most valuable were actually those raw stones from gambling stones, which revealed a pair of twin tourmaline beads, extremely dazzling, at least worth tens of millions!"

"Twin tourmalines? Interesting, who bought them?"

"It was Miss Xi."

"Her again?"

Nangong Mo's long eyes revealed a trace of interest.

Xi Zuzi.

The three characters of her name slipped through his throat, giving him a peculiar feeling.

"I want this wine vase."

"Ah? Fourth Young Master Nangong, according to the rules, we have to wait for tomorrow's auction..."

"Tomorrow? Haha, it's uncertain if you'll even see tomorrow's sun."

Nangong Mo's words were cold-blooded, scaring Qiu Guosheng into bowing repeatedly: "No, no, no need to wait until tomorrow, Fourth Young Master Nangong likes it, buy it today!"

Nangong Mo chuckled with a cold snort: "You won't be short of money. In the future, if there are such antiques and jade, report to me in advance."

He casually instructed his subordinate to make a payment transfer.

Qiu Guosheng counted the zeros on the remittance slip for a long time, then swallowed: "Two billion..."

Although Fourth Young Master Nangong is a ruthless person, he is indeed very generous!

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Xi Zuzi was shopping on the street when her phone's watch rang.

Qiu Guosheng excitedly reported the sale of the antique wine vase to her and asked for her bank card number to transfer the money.

Xi Zuzi thought for a moment and sent a message to Bao Gucheng: "Xiao Cheng, do you have a bank card?"

Bao Gucheng was queuing to buy tea, and seeing the message, a slight smile appeared at the corners of his lips: "Wait a moment."

He took out a black diamond card from his wallet: "Have your sister come to fetch it."

The little woman was finally willing to spend his money, and he felt quite gratified.

A moment later.

Xi Rubao returned with a dignified black diamond card, hopping and skipping, presenting it to Xi Zuzi like a treasure: "Elder sister, I heard that this kind of sparkling black card is amazing, brother-in-law said you could use it as you wish in the future."

"Hmm, yeah."

"Sister, why are you using the card to buy a Xinhua Dictionary?"

"Uh, just testing if this card works."

"Sis, this is a black diamond card, it's unrestrained everywhere, with no spending limits!"

"Hmm, yeah."

"Big sister, why did you return the Xinhua Dictionary again?"

"Hmm, I've already memorized this book, don't want to waste money."

Xi Rubao: "..."

Bookstore owner: "..."

Bao Gucheng, who was queuing in the tea shop, received a consumption text message: "You spent 13.14 at the Golden Diamond Corridor."

Bao Gucheng's lips curled slightly.

The little woman spending his money to buy things, the feeling was rather nice.

When he looked closer at the decimal point... the corners of his lips twitched.

Is this buying a little girl's hair tie, so cheap.

Before he could take a closer look.

The next consumption text message arrived: "Your consumption refund of 13.14."

Bao Gucheng: "..."

Even the money for such a cheap hair tie, the little woman was unwilling to spend his money?!

Is she thinking he isn't earning enough?

Chapter 407: Could Mr. Bo Be the Most Tragic Boyfriend in History?

Zuzi and Xi Rubao wandered around the mall and found nothing.

"The things here... lack a bit of Spiritual Energy." Zuzi was not very satisfied.

Xi Rubao hesitated and said, "Sis, don't elderly folks usually like antiques and jade? How about... I make a painful sacrifice and give the tourmaline bead to Grandpa..."

Hearing this, Fu Xiqin immediately got nervous, clutching the tourmaline bead hanging around his neck tightly.

Yesterday, Ancestor gave a bead to Little Grass Fish, and one to him.

He would not give it to anyone, definitely not!

Seeing how Xi Rubao was indeed reluctant, Zuzi waved her hand with a smile, "No need to sacrifice, what's given to you is yours. As for tonight's birthday gift, we'll talk about it later."

While they were chatting, they ran into Gu Shiyin's group, who had just come out of an antique calligraphy and painting shop.

Gu Shiyin, with a good eye for appreciation, picked out a piece with the words "Longevity is as Enduring as the Southern Mountains" for Gu Pinting to give to Mr. Gu as a birthday gift.

Gu Pinting liked it more and more, cradling it like a treasure in her arms. Upon seeing Zuzi with empty hands, she couldn't help but scoff:

"Truly country bumpkins, come to the mall and are unwilling to even spend money, just here to enjoy the free air conditioning? Just now, Teacher Lin even dared say her clothes were made of Heavenly Silkworm Silk. I don't believe it at all, must be a mistake!"

Gu Shiyin gently chided, "Pinting, don't be like that."

It was neither painful nor itchy.

She glanced around without leaving a trace and found that Lin Suyu hadn't caught up to them here, inexplicably sighing in relief.

Was Zuzi really wearing Heavenly Silkworm Silk?

Gu Shiyin couldn't help but take a closer look at Zuzi's dress, which indeed shimmered softly with a subtle diffusion of starlight as she walked, even more elegant and beautiful than a diamond-encrusted hem.

However, a woman who is reluctant to spend money at the mall can really afford to wear Heavenly Silkworm Silk?

Could Teacher Lin be mistaken?

"Pinting, let's go. The old man's birthday banquet is important, we should head home early."

"Okay! Aunt, I heard the college entrance exam results portal will open tonight. At that time, I want to give Grandpa a surprise, along with the painting, that will be two big gifts. What do you think, Aunt?"

"Pinting's gift will certainly be the most dazzling of the entire event, Aunt guarantees."

"Aunt, the nephrite jade you're giving Grandpa is the most beautiful!"

Gu Shiyin forced a smile.

That nephrite jade was originally auctioned off, intended to be given to Bao Gucheng as a Jade Pendant.

But, Bao Gucheng's Jade Pendant was not lost, and instead, was kept safe in Zuzi's hands, so she had no excuse to give away this piece of nephrite jade, and had to give it to Mr. Gu instead.

This thought left an indescribable feeling of suffocation.

Just then, upon lifting her head, she saw Bao Gucheng striding towards them with two cups of tribute tea in hand.

The man handed the cups personally to Zuzi and Xi Rubao, the thoughtfulness and attention completely unlike the rough and unfeeling Commander Bao, just like any ordinary man treating his girlfriend and her best friends no differently.

Seeing Bao Gucheng come down from his altar, so down-to-earth in front of Zuzi, left Gu Shiyin feeling even more suffocated.

"Pinting, let's go."

"Aunt, listen, that Zuzi is still complaining about the milk tea being expensive, truly a naive country bumpkin..."

At this moment.

Zuzi took a sip of the milk tea and almost spat it out, "Just this? And you pay for it?"

Xi Rubao: "Sis, this milk tea is expensive, 38 a small cup! You don't think it tastes good?"

Zuzi mused, "Next time, Ancestor should let you guys try some free floral water."

Xi Rubao: "Sis, you're so frugal! When I go to university, I want to learn from you, save money well, and save up for the family!"

Bao Gucheng listened to the sisters' conversation, silently: "..."

A message flashed in his mind from the latest bank SMS: Your account has been credited with 180 million yuan. Note: Miss Xi's antique commission...

Does his woman need to save money? Don't be ridiculous.

The most critical issue now is,

Could he be the most tragic man in history — wanting to spend money on his woman but unable to?

Chapter 408: She's from the Countryside, You Must Not Bully Her!

As night fell, the stars scattered across the sky like chess pieces that had been nudged, appearing slightly weary.

However, Mr. Gu Bei was full of energy, pulling out an indigo Tang suit he hadn't worn for a long time. It took three servants to help button up the intricate frog buttons one by one.

"Sir, you look so vibrant today. Is there a special guest coming to celebrate your birthday?"

"Of course, my granddaughter has finally come to the capital. It's been nineteen years since we've seen each other; I have to make a good first impression on her."

"Didn't you secretly go to the countryside to see her six months ago and take a lot of supplies with you?"

"Well, I didn't see her that time. She went with her adoptive parents to the mountains to offer incense for some Brother Dog next door..."

"Brother Dog? The young lady is really down-to-earth..."

"Thinking of my poor granddaughter, it brings tears to my eyes. I warn you all, even though my granddaughter is from the countryside and doesn't know anyone in the city or the ways of the world, you are not to bully her. Treat her well!"

"Yes, sir, we wouldn't dare."

Mr. Gu was giving the servants some warnings.

"Grandpa!"

A sweet call echoed from afar.

Gu Piting, wearing the new dress given to her by Gu Shiyin, burst in like a brilliant flame.

Mr. Gu's eyes lit up, "Piting, you're dressed so festively today."

"Grandpa, are you talking about a granddaughter, are you talking about me?"

"Ahem, you'll know in a moment. Grandpa will introduce you to a relative tonight."

"Grandpa, are you going to marry a new grandma?"

"Hey! What are you thinking, silly girl, I'm introducing you to an elder sister."

Gu Piting looked puzzled.

Following Gu Piting's steps, Gu Shiyin entered with a vague sense of unease, "Dad, isn't tonight your birthday banquet?"

"Yes, it's to introduce you to that girl, and to have a birthday banquet in passing. I was afraid she wouldn't come otherwise..." Mr. Gu paused mysteriously, "Don't ask too many questions, you'll understand later."

Gu Shiyin: "..."

Gu Pinting: "..."

What kind of important person made the old man host a birthday banquet just "by the way"?

Members of the Gu Family's close relatives gradually arrived.

Apart from the eldest brother Gu Yuzhi who couldn't make it back from Qingcheng, and the fifth sister Gu Qiusha who was kicked out of the family years ago, the second brother Gu Xizhi and his wife Qin Tao, the third brother Gu Pingzhi and his wife Sun Jiao, the fourth sister Gu Mingzhu, and the sixth sister Gu Shiyin all showed up.

The younger generation, the second brother's son Gu Jingyan, and the third brother's daughter Gu Pinting, also arrived.

These relatives weren't very close in their usual interactions, and there was some undercurrent of competition between the second brother, third brother, and fourth sister for the inheritance of the Gu family business, leading to secretive tensions upon meeting.

Only Gu Shiyin, the youngest and well-esteemed Boss of Ma Jia, stood aloof from all this, having her own career and capabilities, garnering respect from the entire Gu family.

At this moment,

Gu Shiyin, seeming like the mistress of the Gu family, welcomed the brothers and sisters-in-law on behalf of Mr. Gu, and was just about to return to the hall to arrange for the start of the birthday banquet.

When she heard the sound of wheels rolling outside the door again.

Another guest?

Wasn't tonight supposed to be a family gathering?

An elderly man with gray hair descended from the car, holding a jar of wine, smiling as he walked in without even glancing at Gu Shiyin.

"Professor Feng Tang?" Gu Shiyin was surprised.

Feng Tang was a proud archaeologist who didn't show face to anyone at yesterday's auction. Yet today, he had come to wish her father a happy birthday?

Could it be that at yesterday's auction, he was too strict and harsh on her, so he's here today in private to smooth things over?

Chapter 409: Gathering of Big Shots! She has the Medical Beauty Bracelet, overshadowing Zuzi!

Gu Shiyin hadn't even had time to make sense of it.

Another car stopped at the door.

An energetic old man with a bushy beard stepped out of the car, striding into the Gu Mansion as if he were in a hurry.

"Director Ma Xiaogang?!" Gu Shiyin was even more surprised.

She had asked someone to reach out to Director Ma Xiaogang for Gu Pinting's audition, hoping to get into the crew with funding, aiming for the role of Nuwa which was bound to be a hit.

Was Director Ma giving her this much face by personally coming to her house?

The feelings of surprise hadn't yet settled.

Another shocking scene unfolded.

"Dean Huangfu? Dean Tang? Dean Pei? Dean Chu?"

The four renowned academic figures on par with Feng Tang from Imperial University—a titan in the classical music world, a founding figure of the Foreign Languages College, a leading personality in the Mathematics College, and the foremost expert in both Western and Chinese medicine—all here?

These four were the best in their fields, famous for not kowtowing to power, never showing up to curry favor or celebrate birthdays for any family, and yet they were all attending this birthday banquet at the Gu Mansion?

Could it be...

Her mentor, Dean Chu, suggested this?

After all, her primary specialization was in the Medical College, and she was one of the Ph.D. students under Dean Chu.

Gu Shiyin was receiving guests with great prestige.

She followed her mentors, thoughtfully accompanying them into the guest lounge for tea, instructing servants to quickly add tables and chairs, and telling the kitchen to prepare more dishes.

After a moment of busy work, she came out.

And froze!

There were two more heavyweight guests in the guest lounge—her esteemed design mentor, Lin Suyu, and Imperial Royal College's Principal Zhou!

She could understand why the former came, given their close relationship, but Principal Zhou of the Royal College, with whom there was ordinarily no interaction... Could it be that he'd heard in advance about her niece Gu Pinting's excellent college entrance exam results and came to recruit her?

Gu Shiyin immediately walked to the side and made a call: "Pinting, are you in your room? I have good news for you: tonight's guests are very important for you. Dress up well. Director Ma Xiaogang and Teacher Lin will be extremely helpful for your acting career, and the big shots from the two top universities, Imperial University and the Royal Academy, will have decisive influence on your college application... No need to say more, you know what to do. You must make a great first impression."

"Thank you, Aunt, you really are my dearest aunt, Mua!"

Gu Pinting was thrilled to hear the news.

She was in her room touching up her makeup.

She gently caressed the emerald jade bracelet on her wrist.

The swirling threads within the bracelet seemed to wave at her, invitingly and seductively.

This wasn't an ordinary bracelet.

The moment she accidentally found this bracelet when she was twelve, she discovered its secret—known to no one.

This bracelet had powerful medical beauty functions.

She could wish for her nose to become taller and shapelier, her skin to become fairer, her lips redder, her gaze more alluring, her figure more graceful...

The cost was minimal, needing only a drop of blood each time for sustenance.

This was the secret to her growing beauty, becoming the little beauty of the Gu Family, making waves at school.

Today's moment of being outshone by Zuzi at the mall was just because she hadn't dressed up well when she went out and didn't have a chance to drip blood to use the Medical Beauty Bracelet.

Otherwise, she would have easily outshone Zuzi!

Thankfully, Aunt's words awakened her. Tonight, she would use the charm of the Medical Beauty Bracelet to enchant those big shots, making them scramble to take her as a student!

Gu Pinging took a needle, pricked her fingertip, and let a drop of thick red blood drip onto the Medical Beauty Bracelet.

The droplet vanished the moment it touched the bracelet.

Then.

The face of the girl in the mirror visibly turned more radiant!

Chapter 410: Who Have the Big Shots Come For?

Mr. Gu entered the living room wearing a bright blue Tang suit.

Facing his ungrateful descendants, especially Gu Jingyan, his mustache twitched, and his cane hit the ground with a thud:

"Hey, you brat, you can't behave even when sent to Qingcheng, going tomb raiding again! I heard you almost got struck by lightning? I'm telling you, if you don't change your ways, you'll end up staying in Qingcheng like your fifth aunt for the rest of your life and never come back!"

Gu Jingyan was indifferent, his gaze lightly sweeping the room, not finding the figure of Zuzi: "Whatever. I don't want to come back either."

Spending a lifetime in Qingcheng would be better; he could go to the Fu Xi Palace to do research.

"You won't have any share in the inheritance!"

"Whatever. I don't want your little inheritance either."

Mr. Gu was so angry he felt dizzy: "You! How did I end up with such a worthless grandson!"

"Perhaps because like people, like son?"

Gu Jingyan's parents, Gu Xizhi and Qin Tao, were honest folks. Seeing their son defying the old man, they hurriedly scolded him while apologizing to the elder:

"Dad, please don't get upset. He just got back from the countryside after the college entrance exam. His emotions are a bit unstable, and since the results are coming out tonight, he might be a bit nervous. Please don't take it up with a kid..."

Mr. Gu hadn't responded yet.

The third daughter-in-law, Sun Jiao, laughed softly with her hand covering her mouth: "Oh my, Second Brother, Second Sister-in-law, your son is so funny, getting nervous over a college entrance exam? Our Pingting was directly admitted to the Art Department and even personally took the entrance exam with an aim to be the top scorer nationwide and wasn't this nervous."

Qin Tao felt a bit embarrassed but still continued politely: "Pingting is indeed outstanding..."

But her son Jingyan wasn't bad either.

The third son, Gu Pingzhi: "That's right, with the talent of our Pingting, inheriting the Gu Family would be more than enough. If Jingyan digs graves all the time, rest assured, Pingting will take care of him and make sure he gets something to eat and doesn't starve."

Sun Jiao followed up: "Dad, you're a learned person. Surely you don't believe in male preference, right? Having a female heir for the Gu Family would be majestic."

"I don't prefer sons over daughters. A female heir would be great too," Mr. Gu's face darkened, "But I'm not dead yet, isn't it too early to discuss this!"

Sun Jiao's lips twitched, thinking the old man was just stubborn.

Among the Gu family's grandchildren, only her Pingting was the most outstanding, talented and beautiful. Who else but Pingting could inherit the Gu family, certainly not Gu Shiyin, that old maid who can't get married, hmph!

As they were chatting,

Gu Shiyin happened to accompany a group of academic big shots into the room.

Mr. Gu was very surprised: "Oh my, Old Huangfu, Director Feng, Principal Zhou, Ms. Lin..."

The esteemed guests entered in single file, leaving him bewildered.

Some of these people he knew well, some not so much.

How did they know it was his birthday celebration today, and all came to give face?

Oh my, old man, I haven't been in the academic world for so many years, yet my standing still seems solid.

Gu Shiyin smiled and said, "Dad, I was picking out a birthday gift for you at the Golden Diamond Corridor today, and happened to run into Teacher Lin. We chatted for a bit."

This statement was very artful.

It could be understood as chatting casually with Lin Suyu, or interpreted as inviting Lin Suyu to the family banquet and asking Lin Suyu to invite other big shots.

Of course, the way she smiled suggestively seemed more like the latter implication.

Mr. Gu: "Oh, oh." So it was Shiyin who brought them.

"All guests are welcome, please come in, please!"

In recent years, the old man hasn't been in good health and hasn't gone out much, but seeing old friends and people from his circle visiting, he was quite pleased.

Little did he know,

after exchanging pleasantries for a while,

the big shots looked around, then all gazed towards the door: "Lao Gu, aren't you missing someone at this banquet?"