

Big Shot 411

Chapter 411: The Little Ancestor's Buddha-Style Face Slap, First Form

Who are these old guys waiting for?

Mr. Gu looked at the door, puzzled: "Huh? No, I didn't invite any other guests."

It's all family, just waiting for Zuzi to arrive.

Zuzi, this granddaughter, has quite a stubborn temper. If it wasn't for Old Man Bao giving him a lousy idea to ask her to come under the pretense of congratulating Gu Qiusha, she might not even be here.

Oh right, Old Man Bao hasn't arrived yet.

Could it be the old folks are waiting for Old Man Bao?

Mr. Gu felt a bit sour inside; does Old Man Bao really get more love than him, both having retired from the scene?

As he saw a group of bigshots eagerly looking at the door, his third daughter-in-law Sun Jiao brought the freshly made-up Gu Pinting over to him: "Dad, Pinting is here to congratulate you!"

Gu Pinting wore a red dress, looking very glamorous. With the enhancement of cosmetic surgery bracelets, even with light makeup, she was captivating, quite like a movie star.

Sun Jiao was very satisfied and proud of her daughter's overwhelming presence.

Looking at Gu Jingyan's unimpressive family: the father being honest and clumsy, the mother plump and slow-witted, and the son rebellious and socially awkward... She felt her branch was the rightful choice to inherit the Gu Family legacy.

Who knew.

Mr. Gu didn't even turn his head, waving his hand: "Got it, Pinting already congratulated me earlier, she did."

What's with this somewhat perfunctory attitude?

Sun Jiao thought her daughter was very pretty and cute, so why didn't the old man even glance at her? He seemed all absorbed, craning his neck, looking outside. Who was he waiting for?

She glanced puzzledly at Gu Shiyin.

Gu Shiyin walked over with a smile: "Third sister-in-law, I'll take Pinting to see the director."

Today is a perfect opportunity, practically a private audition.

Gu Pinting, feeling excited, lifted her dress obediently, following behind Gu Shiyin towards Director Ma Xiaogang.

"Director Ma, long time no see. This is the niece I mentioned to you, Pinting. Don't you think she has a classical beauty, quite like Nuwa when she was shyly dating Fu Xi..."

Gu Shiyin introduced.

Ma Xiaogang glanced at Gu Pinting out of courtesy.

Her glamorous appearance indeed had impact, causing him to blink a bit, but he had seen plenty of such beauties in the entertainment circle. He said out of politeness, "Sure, sure, come over for the audition at that time."

Gu Pinting's heart was pounding wildly: the big director noticed her at first glance and asked her to audition!

Gu Shiyin sensed something was off, so she asked: "Director Ma, do you think Pinting's look needs any adjustments? She's seriously looking to make an effort in this film, and she just finished her college entrance exam, so she's available all summer..."

Director Ma's eyes turned to the door, and like everyone else eagerly waiting, he absentmindedly replied: "Oh, summer? Then just come over, I'll have a role for her..."

Gu Pinting was thrilled: "Really, Director, you don't need an audition, just cast me as Nuwa..."

Ma Xiaogang: "Yeah, one of the clay figures Nuwa made. Feel free to pick one."

Gu Pinting: "...???"

Clay, clay figures?

Isn't that like an NPC without lines or a name?

"No, Director, you might have misheard. I want to audition for Nuwa..." Gu Pinting was about to cry. This is not something to mess up.

Who knew.

The next second, Ma Xiaogang sprang up, eyes lit up, almost bouncing to the door: "She's here!"

Chapter 412: Wishing He Could Announce to the World That This is His Own Granddaughter!

Gu Pinting was completely stunned.

The reaction of Ma Xiaogang this time was a world apart from when he first saw her.

Who could it be? Who could make the Empire's top director so excited that he jumped up to greet them?

Gu Pintong couldn't help but look in Ma Xiaogang's direction.

She saw the edge of a plain white robe float gracefully into the doorframe.

Before the person arrived, the voice was heard: "Ancestor comes late, Xiao Bei. Although today isn't your zodiac birthday, I still wish you many happy returns."

That languid yet clear voice, who else could it be but Zuzi?!

One word "Ancestor" left the entire room stunned.

Only Gu Jingyan pouted: So even Grandpa can only call Xiao Bei, and my Xiao Yan isn't of a much lower standing.

Zuzi walked into the hall amidst a hush.

Her dark eyes and white teeth, she was as graceful as a jade fairy.

Clearly without makeup, yet illuminating the room with splendor.

The white robe she wore seemed like the pure dew formed by a blooming white rose, emitting a mesmerizing fragrance. In comparison, Gu Pintong's red dress faded into insignificance, like dry rose petals without any spiritual energy.

For some reason, Gu Pintong's mind immediately recalled a sentence once said by Zuzi: Empress Nuwa didn't particularly like wearing red.

Director Ma rubbed his hands: "Miss Xi, it's been so long since we parted in Qingcheng, I've missed you. Now that it's summer break, would you have time to partake in the event I'm preparing..."

Before he could finish, Huangfu Yaxian cut in: "Classmate Xi, my Empire's Classical Music Research Center is completed. I invite you to cut the ribbon. Would you be willing to join us..."

While extending the invitation, Dean Pei abruptly interjected: "Oh, you're Classmate Xi? I've heard from your math teacher, he insists I personally invite you..."

Principal Zhou unapologetically pushed him aside: "Don't pay attention to him and his trivial math college. Our Imperial Royal College has everything, I'm the principal, Classmate Xi, please consider..."

An array of elderly gentlemen were vying to converse with Zuzi.

Suddenly, Lin Suyu squeezed into the center and grabbed Zuzi's arm, her eyes kind: "You're the girl in white yesterday, wearing Heavenly Silkworm Silk, aren't you? You've brought out the soul of those clothes, while others rely on them for beauty, you bestow them with spiritual energy..."

Zuzi smiled: "Little Lin, do you like it? I'll have the neighbors back home send you a few sets later."

Lin Suyu nodded deeply: "I love it so much!"

For a big shot in the fashion design world to say "love it so much", what kind of divine clothing could this be?

At this moment, Gu Pintong stood dazedly behind the crowd of big shots, like a forgotten little one, unable to react.

Gu Shiyin's heart raced, watching as the big shots vied fervently to converse with Zuzi. So this is who they've been eagerly anticipating?

Tonight, they had come for Zuzi!

Wait, Zuzi... why had she come to her house? Could it be that the confrontations at the auction, in the Golden Diamond Corridor weren't enough; did she really have to chase them here to cause embarrassment for her and Pinting?

"Miss Xi, today is a family dinner. Perhaps you could step aside and we can talk another day?" Gu Shiyin wanted to issue a polite dismissal.

But unexpectedly.

Just as she issued the dismissal, it was angrily slapped down by Mr. Gu: "Lao Liu, you're usually so clever, why are you so thoughtless today? Zuzi is here at my special invitation, no stepping aside!"

Gu Shiyin choked on her words.

Then Zuzi gently replied: "Indeed, Xiao Bei is thoughtful. I'll step in for Xiao Sha."

At this moment, not only Gu Shiyin, but even the Gu Family's second, third, and fourth sons simultaneously exclaimed: "Dad, she is...?"

"Zuzi is my dear granddaughter from the Gu Family!"

Hmm, the word "outside" doesn't sound good, so he omitted it!

Mr. Gu's eyes were filled with pride, and he gazed at Zuzi with immense affection.

Chapter 413: Not Allowing Him to Regret, Recognizing Xiao Sha

Mr. Gu's remark stirred a wave of reactions.

Among the Gu Family, only Gu Jingyan remained calmly seated, while the others all jumped up from their chairs and gathered around Mr. Gu:

"Dad, you scared me to death, who did you have another granddaughter with?"

"No way, didn't they say it was Xiao Sha's... Damn, could it be that she's the daughter of Fifth Sister Sha Sha?"

"Who did Sha Sha marry back then? Was it someone named Zhang or Li? What was this girl's name again? Li Zuer? Or does she carry our family name, Gu Zuer?"

"She definitely doesn't carry the Gu name! Dad, didn't you drive Gu Qiusha out long ago? How come her daughter, an outsider, can still show up here? That's too much of your authority..."

"Oh Dad, what Xiao Sha did back then wasn't a small mistake, getting pregnant before marriage and marrying with a bastard child, it's unforgivable!"

"Third Brother, don't say that..."

The Gu family members reacted differently.

The second family was relatively decent, only somewhat shocked.

Gu Mingzhu was more reserved, barely speaking; while Gu Shiyin was subtle, probing around.

The third family was particularly agitated, afraid that Xi Zuer had come to contend with their Pingting for inheritance rights, continuously bringing up the past of Gu Qiusha being driven out.

Mr. Gu was so angry that he couldn't lose his temper in front of the guests, his beard twitching.

Xi Zuer squinted, seeing their reactions, and began to understand why Gu Qiusha hadn't been accepted back by the Gu Family all these years.

Even if the old man regretted it, there were unfilial descendants blocking him, not allowing him to reconcile with Xiao Sha.

With bright eyes and in a lazy tone, she said, "Oh, since the ancestors are still outsiders, then we won't go in. Let's part ways here. Little grass fish, let's go."

She stepped towards the door to leave.

Xi Rubao, who was a step late coming from the restroom, was bewildered, not knowing what had happened.

But if Sister says to go, then we go. No matter how powerful the Gu Family is, we don't care for it.

Seeing both granddaughters at the door, ready to leave out of anger, Mr. Gu could no longer care about his dignity and shouted at the third family, "Shut up, all of you."

Then he personally, leaning on a cane, tried to stop them, "Zuzi, Baobao, you're already here, do you want your grandfather's birthday to end in such an unhappy way? The birthday cake hasn't even been cut yet!"

Xi Rubao: "... Do I look like a kid greedy for your birthday cake?"

Xi Zuer suddenly turned back, smiled sweetly, "Birthday egg? What is that?"

Mr. Gu was taken aback.

Then he wiped away an old tear.

Poor granddaughter never having a piece of birthday cake in the countryside all these years!!!

"Zuzi, Grandpa had the head chef make a three-layer birthday cake, cheese on one layer, strawberries on another, and raw chocolate on the last. You must try it. If you like it, I'll have the head chef make a five-layer one for you tomorrow morning..." Mr. Gu said earnestly, personally holding Xi Zuer's arm, bringing her inside.

Xi Zuer: "Alright."

Xi Rubao: "..."

Sister! You really don't seem like an ancestor longing for birthday cake!

Watching Mr. Gu personally bringing Xi Zuer back.

The third family was envious!

Sun Jiao secretly pinched her husband Gu Pingzhi's arm, giving him a sharp look: Think of something, you fool, your only daughter's inheritance rights might be cunningly taken away!

And all those excellent mentors, professors, directors, all about to be snatched by an outsider, leaving your precious daughter without even a sip of soup!

Chapter 414: The Gift from the Little Ancestor Stuns Everyone!

Gu Pingzhi coughed and forced out a sentence, "Dad, this Zuzi visiting today, isn't there some other motive?"

Sun Jiao immediately nodded enthusiastically in agreement with her husband.

But the second daughter-in-law, Qin Tao, couldn't help but mutter gently, "What's the point when we're all family? Maybe you're just overthinking it."

Sun Jiao sarcastically retorted, "Oh please, unlike you, sister-in-law, who is so carefree and plump, we are just worrywarts, afraid that Dad might be tricked since he's getting older."

Carefree and plump?

Qin Tao's face flushed with embarrassment.

After she gave birth to a son, her weight never came down. Gu Jingyan is already eighteen, and her weight remains at the peak of her pregnancy—160 pounds!

No matter what method she tried, she couldn't lose this weight.

And mind you, she's only 1.6 meters tall.

That's really tragic.

Even if she were a fairy, having the same weight and height would be unbearably tragic.

So over the years, Qin Tao has often been mocked and ridiculed by Sun Jiao, her sister-in-law.

Plus, Qin Tao doesn't like dressing up. Her clothes are outdated, her hairstyle unkempt, and standing next to the flamboyant duo of Sun Jiao and Gu Pinting, she looks like an old grandmother.

But even after being mocked like this, Qin Tao couldn't help but softly say a fair word, "I think Miss Zuzi seems quite nice, just purely here to wish Dad a happy birthday, without all the ulterior motives you think about."

Sun Jiao: "Oh dear, sister-in-law, are you willing to guarantee that? Are you Zhang Shen or Master Wu Ming, able to read faces and predict intentions? Then why don't you offer more strategies for your second brother's business so that he stops making bad investments and buying the wrong properties!"

Second brother Gu Xizhi has a knack for misfortune; everything he buys loses money, and everything he does fails.

But being mocked by your family right in front is hard enough to bear.

Gu Jingyan was swiping his phone on the side and couldn't bear it any longer, yelling, "Sun Jiao, Grandpa told you to shut up!"

Sun Jiao: "..."

Damn, the whole second family is a mess, with just this boy showing some guts, what a shame he's a tomb raider!

As the second and third families bickered, Zuzi smiled sweetly and snapped her fingers lightly, "No need to argue, Ancestor is here, of course, I have other motives."

Sun Jiao: "See, I told you!"

Mr. Gu: "Zuzi, whatever your request is, just say it, I'll fulfill anything for you!"

He paused and lowered his voice a bit, saying, "Except... for that matter with Xiao Sha, you don't know the real situation from back then, so it's better not to ask."

Zuzi smiled enigmatically, "Hmm, that's not what I'm asking. My purpose today is to personally come and give you a birthday gift."

Birthday gift?!

Mr. Gu was genuinely pleasantly surprised.

Meanwhile, Gu Pinting and others grew nervous.

Zuzi's broken wine jar at the auction, and her usual worn-out robe, have both proven to be rare and priceless treasures.

Could this county girl have hidden treasures, aiming to charm the old man today and overshadow them?

The big shots on the other side were also very curious, especially Huangfu Yaxian, who had seen Zuzi play the Konghou, Sheng Xiao, and Fu Xiqin at grand events, was particularly eager to know what impressive gift she would bring out.

It must be something unique, right?

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd.

Zuzi, unhurriedly, took out a few pieces of candy from her white robe.

First, she gave one to the second daughter-in-law Qin Tao: "Losing weight isn't hard, get some good sleep, and you'll lose weight."

The third family looked on enviously, then mocked, "Nonsense! If you could lose weight by sleeping and eating candy, who would need beauty pills?"

Zuzi ignored them, glanced at the second brother Gu Xizhi and fourth sister Gu Mingzhu, and sighed, "It's not that Ancestor won't give you gifts, it's just that I haven't had time to make candy recently. I'll give you some next time, okay."

Then she gave the last piece of candy to Mr. Gu, "Although it can't extend your life or change the Book of Life and Death, it will keep you from having insomnia."

Everyone: "..."

Damn, the birthday gift is just a candy?

Truly remarkable!

Chapter 415: The Mouse's Child Can Burrow, Squeak, Squeak, Squeak!

Zuzi boldly divided two candies, giving one to Mr. Gu and the second daughter-in-law Qin Tao, leaving everyone dumbfounded.

The third family didn't receive a single coin as a gift, originally feeling quite embarrassed, but seeing that the second family also only got one candy, they couldn't help but feel the situation was both ironic and amusing:

"Truly like father, like son; and a rat's child will know how to dig. Gu Qiusha married a country bumpkin, and their offspring turned out to be so rustic, bringing such an embarrassing gift, tsk tsk..."

Sun Jiao covered her mouth and laughed.

Zuzi gave her a fleeting glance, which suddenly made Sun Jiao feel a bit unnerved. Why did it feel like she had offended a deity?

She wasn't wrong, after all—a rat's child will indeed dig!

Country folks really just bring candy as a meeting gift, and only a single piece at that, such stinginess.

Out of the blue, Mr. Gu slapped the table: "You from the third family, if you don't want to eat this meal, then leave, don't spoil our appetite!"

Sun Jiao's smile became even more strained.

Embarrassed, she said, "Dad, I..."

Gu Shiyin tried to mediate: "Dad, third sister-in-law is just straightforward, she didn't mean anything else. On such a joyous day, everyone has carefully prepared gifts for you, why don't you take a look at them one by one before the meal? Especially Pinting's gift, she took a long time to choose it for you..."

Her voice was gentle and mild, which slightly calmed Mr. Gu's anger: "Alright."

Sun Jiao gave Gu Shiyin a grateful look.

In the whole family, only this little sister-in-law understood the situation, helping her smooth things over while highlighting Pinting's effort.

Gu Pinting quickly brought out the already prepared scroll.

With the help of Gu Shiyin, she unfurled it on the spot.

On the meter-long scroll were four large characters in cursive script: "Longevity as eternal as the southern mountains."

Mr. Gu's face was benevolent, and his mood improved considerably: "Not bad, not bad, this child has good taste in choosing calligraphy, isn't this the work of the renowned calligrapher Chen Qiulan?"

Gu Shiyin's eyes flickered: "Yes. Dad, you've always loved Chen's unrestrained cursive style, right?"

Mr. Gu: "Yes, indeed."

Then suddenly, he turned serious: "This piece must be worth hundreds of thousands, Pinting, you're being too extravagant. You've just graduated high school and haven't even gone to college, your living expenses aren't much, how did you learn to spend money recklessly?"

Gu Pinting laughed, as if waiting for this moment: "Grandpa, this is my first paycheck from a commercial poster shoot, how could giving it as a birthday gift be considered wasteful?"

Oh, Aunt really is prescient, even the lines were prepared for her in advance, as expected Grandpa would be so demanding.

"You've earned advertising fees already?" Mr. Gu was surprised, then appreciatively patted Gu Pinting's shoulder, "Not bad, not bad, you've got potential, better than these uncles, aunts, and brothers."

The second family couldn't help but feel a little ashamed.

Gu Xizhi's business ventures were continually losing money, Qin Tao was a not too lucrative "plump" housewife, and Gu Jingyan was always thinking about digging up graves... sigh.

The third family, however, beamed with joy.

Especially Sun Jiao, who seemed as if her own daughter was about to ascend the throne as an Empress, and she herself the destined Empress Dowager, proudly straightening her neck, laughing non-stop:

"Dad, my Pinting not only has talent and looks, but also hasn't fallen behind in her studies, hehe... squeak squeak squeak..."

Just as she was boasting, suddenly, she realized everyone was looking at her strangely.

Embarrassed, she laughed twice more: "Squeak squeak squeak..."

The sound scared her out of her wits.

She, she, she—how did she make a sound like a mouse's squeak?

Chapter 416: The Little Ancestor's Buddha-Style Face Slap, Second Form

Old Third, Gu Pingzhi, nervously pulled his wife Sun Jiao's arm: "What are you doing? Dad told you to shut up, but instead, you're afraid no one notices you, huh?"

Sun Jiao covered her mouth, terrified and dared not utter another word.

She felt her mouth and throat burning as if they were on fire, like beginning ulcers.

But it couldn't be that her voice became hoarse like a mouse squeak, could it?

All she said just now was, would a rat's child dig holes?

—Wait!

Thinking of this scene, Sun Jiao was even more frightened and turned her head sharply to look at Xi Zuzi.

Only to find Xi Zuzi looking at her with a faint smile as if saying, do you want to test if your daughter is also a rat that digs holes?

Ah ah ah.

Sun Jiao sat like she was on pins and needles, afraid that Gu Pinting would squeak in public too!

Luckily, Gu Pinting was still showing Mr. Gu that piece of "Longevity as Nam Sharn," with Gu Shiyin explaining beside her, creating a harmonious atmosphere.

Gu Pinting's birthday gift received unanimous praise from everyone.

Even the bigwigs like Huangfu Yaxian slightly nodded: "Not bad, the calligraphy and painting are quite elegant, this child really knows how to choose."

Gu Pinting was overjoyed!

Next, Gu Pingzhi gave a fan surface, Gu Xizhi gave a pair of antique tea cups, and Gu Mingzhu gave some freshly picked new tea from summer...

When it came to Gu Shiyin, she cheerfully took out a nephrite jade auctioned for six million to be carved into a personal seal:

"Dad, I noticed your wooden seal has aged, try this jade seal to see if you like it? I didn't decide whether to engrave 'Gu' or 'North,' so once you decide, I'll have it carved."

Mr. Gu's eyes lit up: "This jade..."

"Dad, you can't complain about the cost, okay. Who else would I spend the money your daughter earns on if not you?"

This sentence made Mr. Gu beam with joy.

"Great, wonderful. Just in time, Old Man Bao and I are having Master Chen Qiulan guide us in our calligraphy. When it comes to my seal, it can't lose to Old Man Bao's hehe..."

"Of course. Dad, this nephrite jade is of excellent quality, you won't find another like it."

Gu Shiyin's grand finale gift caused quite a stir.

Sun Jiao watched with envy, feeling a bit jealous that Gu Shiyin stole the spotlight from her Pingting, but also afraid to open her mouth and squeak, holding back her sarcastic remarks was so hard!

Fortunately, Gu Shiyin was not keen on showing off, after presenting her gift, she turned with a smile to Xi Zuzi: "Didn't Miss Zuzi just give candy, could it also represent your sister..."

The entire room was reminded and once again thought of the incredible scene of Xi Zuzi giving candy earlier.

Just giving a piece of candy was already suffocating.

If it also represented Xi Rubao giving...

Xi Zuzi unhurriedly and somewhat philosophically spoke: "No, our little Bao has her own little items to give as she pleases."

Xi Rubao: "...!" Her sister called her Bao baby, sob sob sob.

Saying this, Xi Zuzi turned to Mr. Gu: "Xiao Shan, could you lend me your four treasures of the study."

Mr. Gu had been delving into calligraphy lately, and his study was well-stocked with top-quality paper and ink; hearing this, he immediately had someone arrange it, eagerly anticipating: "Is little Bao going to write for Grandpa?"

Xi Rubao: "Yes!"

Gu Pinting listened and secretly smirked: Truly, a rural bumpkin. Didn't they see the seal Aunt just gave and the masterwork of Chen Qiulan I gifted?

To brandish a brush in the face of a master's artwork, how presumptuous!

The long strip-shaped redwood table in the reception hall was already set with brushes, ink, paper, and inkstone.

Xi Zuzi touched the rice paper, her eyes narrowing slightly: "This paper won't do."

Chapter 417: Instantly Slay the Master's Calligraphy Treasure!

Gu Shiyin said softly, "This is the top-quality rice paper I specially bought from Huizhou for Dad. Zuzi probably hasn't seen it before, right? Aunt won't blame you."

The implication was, if you haven't seen such good things, randomly commenting will only make people laugh at you.

Xi Zuzi acted like she didn't hear, and just turned to Lin Suyu saying, "Little Lin, where's that fabric you brought today? Let me take a look."

Lin Suyu was taken aback.

Her gift hadn't even been unwrapped yet, how did Xi Zuzi know she was going to give a piece of fabric?!

But since it was Xi Zuzi making the request, she didn't hesitate at all, immediately taking up the gift box from behind, and opening it: "A piece of plain brocade handspun by me. I hope the old master won't dislike it, and that Miss Zuzi will appreciate it."

"Wow—!"

Everyone was filled with envy.

Lin Suyu always held herself in high regard. Even the nobles and dignitaries who wanted her to design clothes had to follow her rules and queue up to place an order.

It's safe to say that getting a piece of clothing from Suyu is almost impossible. Not to mention her exclusive brocade fabric, which she would never sell separately.

Today, Lin Suyu actually took the initiative to give a whole piece of brocade, enough to make two sets of beautiful custom dresses, right?

Such a heartfelt and precious birthday gift.

However.

Xi Zuzi stepped forward to stroke the fabric, and only nodded slightly: "It's alright."

Alright? Just alright?

What kind of divine tone is this?

Unbelievable!

Everyone looked at Xi Zuzi in shock as she picked up the fabric and laid it out on the long table.

Everyone thought Xi Zuzi was going to show the old master the preciousness and rarity of the fabric, but who knew, Xi Zuzi directly took scissors and cut the fabric into a two-meter-long, half-meter-wide piece!

Then she said to Xi Rubao, "Write on it."

Everyone was so shocked they couldn't breathe normally anymore.

Such expensive brocade, and it's actually being used for writing?!

The brocade, white as gauze, never mind whether it can absorb the ink, even if it could, the entire piece would be ruined!

Yet, Xi Rubao agreed very straightforwardly, "Sure, sis!"

The thick ink was generously brushed onto the clean brocade,

immediately soaking through.

The words "Fortune As" appeared.

"It's just a very ordinary handwriting, not that good looking..." Gu Pinting couldn't help but comment, "Even the underachievers from our school's calligraphy class write better than these chicken-scratch letters... squeak squeak!"

Gu Pinting had just sneered two sentences.

Suddenly she discovered, she and her mother Sun Jiao both let out odd noises.

When she covered her mouth, she was horrified to find a blister on her lip.

Ahhhh, her magnificent beauty, painstakingly crafted with the medical beauty bracelet, it couldn't be ruined by a blister!

Gu Pinting immediately jumped up and rushed to the bathroom, frantically pricking her finger and dripping blood into the bracelet.

Facing the bathroom mirror, she anxiously watched the blister—not moving a bit!

Dammit, even the medical beauty bracelet can't get rid of this blister?

Drip blood!

Drip blood!

Keep dripping blood!

...

Five minutes later.

Gu Pinting emerged from the bathroom, her face pale, the blister on her lip had finally shrunk a little but hadn't completely disappeared. She had to apply a thick layer of foundation to barely cover it up.

Returning to the hall.

She found everyone surrounding Xi Zuzi and Xi Rubao, visibly very excited.

On the brocade scroll in the hands of those two country folks, the four big characters "Fortune as East Sea" appeared, elegant and dynamic.

Especially the two characters "East Sea," distinctively different from the previous writing, particularly refined and bold, with a majestic aura she had never seen before!

Even more infuriating, she had no idea who, actually hung up the "Longevity as Southern Mountain" she had just gifted right next to it.

No comparison would've been fine, but with this comparison, the cursive "Longevity as Southern Mountain" looked like a clumsy, awkward child standing timidly next to "Fortune as East Sea."

Especially those two characters "East Sea," arrogantly standing there like a grand and imposing Ancestor!

The gift she presented was just easily overshadowed by the Xi sisters.

Chapter 418: Actually, the Ancestor Just Disliked Cang Jie's Ugly Characters

Gu Pinting couldn't hold back, despite knowing she might squeak like a mouse, and rushed over saying, "These two characters definitely weren't written by that country bumpkin!"

The two plain words, Fu Ru, she had seen Xi Rubao write them personally.

How could the later two words, East Sea, come from the same hand?

Who knew.

Everyone was looking at her with strange expressions.

Mr. Gu frowned even more: "Pingting, I'm really disappointed in you. You keep mentioning country people, but your ancestors were country people for eight generations. I, as your grandfather, also used to plant rice in Qingcheng's countryside. Who are you looking down on?"

Gu Pinting choked, cold sweat dripping: "Grandpa, that's not what I meant, I..."

Zuzi smirked: "You just look down on our Bao Bao, who can write characters made by Cang Jie, seal scripts created by Fu Xi?"

Gu Pinting was bewildered. She was known as a top student among the elite in the capital, just like Nangong Meng, achieving perfect scores in all subjects. Yet, what was this ancient seal script that Zuzi just mentioned? She had never heard of it!

Luckily, Gu Shiyin quickly pulled her aside and explained in a low voice: "Among the ancient characters created by Cang Jie, most are symbols and totems, but some characters oddly resemble modern line drawings. Nobody knows why. These two characters, East Sea, are almost identical to those on the murals excavated from the Fu Xi Palace, even Master Chen Qiulan has been trying to imitate that style. Unexpectedly, Xi Rubao could write those two East Sea characters so similarly..."

Gu Pinting grew more confused as she listened.

She only knew regular script, cursive script, and running script, like the calligraphy she gave her grandfather. Isn't that master's cursive script high-class?!

Why is there yet another unknown ancient seal script!

Director Ma Xiaogang was quite fascinated by Xi Rubao's calligraphy. Hearing this, he couldn't help but glance at Gu Pinting: "Did you just say you wanted to audition for Nuwa? How can you act if you're not even familiar with Fu Xi's self-made script? Fu Xi created the ancient seal script to write love letters to

Nuwa, without this historical knowledge, you can't capture the essence of the female lead! Acting isn't just about having a pretty face; you need culture and charisma!"

Zuzi coughed softly.

Cough cough, Xiao Ma, you're overthinking it. Actually, it was just that Cang Jie's characters were too ugly, and she couldn't bear it, so she had her brother modify a few common ones. What's this love letter nonsense? That's non-existent.

Yet.

Ma Xiaogang's serious scolding resonated deeply with the elders present: "Exactly, there are too many plastic surgeries these days, a pretty face is easy to come by, but the knowledge in one's head can't be accumulated overnight..."

Gu Pingting: "...!" She was so embarrassed she wished she could find a hole to crawl into.

The persona of the beautiful top student collapsed right then and there.

No one cared how uncomfortable she felt at the moment, everyone surrounded Xi Rubao, hoping he could also write the second half, "Longevity as Nanshan," to pair them up.

Xi Rubao put down the brush, giggling: "My high school class was called East Sea Class, so I love writing the two words East Sea. Those scholars in the Nanshan Class next door are too pretentious. I don't like writing Nanshan!"

He winked at Zuzi: Sis, you only taught me the two words East Sea last night, I haven't learned the rest, wah wah wah.

Everyone: "...!" Such an odd reason.

Gu Shiyin saw the exchange of glances between Zuzi and Xi Rubao, being as perceptive as she was, she instantly guessed a bit, and gently teased, "Bao Bao, do you not like writing it, or... can't you write it?"

Xi Rubao puffed his cheeks: "... This person is so annoying, always hitting the mark!

Zuzi smirked, speaking in a leisurely, half-joking tone—

Chapter 419: It's Better to Have Endless Blessings than to Live a Hundred Years; College Entrance Exam Results Can Now Be Checked!

"The Ancestor thinks the phrase 'Fortune Like the East Sea' is more suitable for wishing Xiao Bei a happy birthday. After all, the more fortune, the better. But 'Longevity Like the South Mountain,' isn't as desirable..."

Zuzi lazily spoke up.

Gu Pinting looked at the phrase 'Longevity Like the South Mountain' she had given, feeling as if a knife had been stabbed into her heart: "Why is it not desirable? Squeak—"

It was hard for her to bite her tongue and swallow back the rest of the squeaks.

Mr. Gu was also curious: "Zuzi, go on."

Zuzi blinked her beautiful eyes, her voice filled with melancholy: "What good is living as long as a mountain, when in the end you're the only one left in the world, with all your knowledge of time's vast changes, but no one to share drinks and songs with. Would you want to live that way?"

The third eldest, Gu Pingzhi, blurted out: "I would! Doesn't that mean you've become an invincible ancestor? How awesome!"

Sun Jiao also said: "I would too, being immortal sounds great!"

Gu Xizhi and Qin Tao shook their heads in unison, exchanging a glance: "We wouldn't want that, being lonely and long-lived by yourself really isn't meaningful."

Sun Jiao sneered: "Second sister-in-law, if you were slim and graceful and beautiful, you wouldn't think that way, hehe, Squeak—"

Ahh, how is it after so long she still makes mouse noises?

Is heaven forbidding her to mock others for being fat?

Sun Jiao thought to herself, she had always mocked Qin Tao for her barrel-like figure before, and nothing had happened, so why does it backfire today the moment she opens her mouth to ridicule?

Mr. Gu pondered for a moment, slowly nodding: "Zuzi has a point, it's an honest truth. There's really nothing admirable about 'Longevity Like the South Mountain,' life and death are fated. Rather than forcing a long life, it's better to have a life filled with fortune, enjoying every moment."

Gu Pintong: "... Grandfather actually believes the distorted logic of that county girl, Zuzi!

"Grandfather, you will surely have a life filled with happiness." Xi Rubao said sweetly.

A sweetheart's call to grandfather touched Mr. Gu once again.

Sha Sha's pair of daughters, truly wonderful, truly wonderful.

One is lively and charming as children should be, the other is pure and candid that makes people smile.

Unlike Gu Shiyin who is always mature and steady, Gu Pintong who loves to dress up and show off, Gu Jingyan who focuses on his own interests... sigh, why didn't he find these two lovely sisters earlier to keep by his side.

Mr. Gu was filled with regret and complication, and a tinge of heartache thinking of Gu Qiusha whom he hadn't seen for years.

He wanted to make amends through the children, holding Zuzi and Xi Rubao's hands: "Come on, let's see if you like grandpa's cooking..."

Everyone took their seats in the dining room.

Due to the many unexpected distinguished guests, three tables were set up.

Zuzi and Xi Rubao were directly seated by Mr. Gu at the main table, sitting closely on either side of him, with the likes of Huangfu Yaxian as the esteemed guests next to them.

Even Gu Shiyin didn't get to sit at the main table, only sitting at the second table to host the Gu Family.

Gu Pintong had even less status, being seated at the third table with her parents.

In prestigious and noble families, seating arrangements are very important, directly relating to a person's status and value within the family.

Gu Pintong had never suffered such grievances growing up, now finding herself at the last seat!

Her eyes watered, wanting desperately to go to the bathroom to freshen up her complexion, hoping her grandfather would notice his charming granddaughter suffering in the corner, squeak squeak squeak!

Sensing her daughter's low mood, Sun Jiao angrily glared at Zuzi, who was chatting and laughing freely with the important guests at the main table.

"Pintong, don't be sad. In five minutes, the high school entrance exam results can be checked. Mom will help you check and announce it on the spot, you'll be the star of the evening!"

The glory moment of the perfect student is about to arrive.

Those two folks from the countryside, their pride won't last long!

Chapter 420: Tea Master: The Ancestor Really Didn't Mean to Slap Your Face

Five more minutes, and it would be her moment of glory.

Gu Pinting licked her dry lips, enduring the insignificant seating arrangement at this moment.

"Mom, keep an eye on the time. Once the result inquiry channel opens, check my results immediately."

"Of course, darling! Pour this glass of wine now, and soon you'll toast to your grandfather and sit next to him. Those two country bumpkins only know useless things. When it's time to compare results, they'll be utterly embarrassed in front of those big shots and will make room for you..."

"Mom, I'm nervous."

"Oh, what are you nervous about? It's not like it's your first time coming first in the exams."

"No, Mom, I'm afraid if I really come first nationwide, it might scare these VIPs..."

"Haha, truly my daughter—squeak!"

Sun Jiao covered her mouth in panic. Thankfully, she was at the third table, so no one noticed her occasional squeaky outbursts.

Second table.

The dishes were being served one by one.

Gu Shiyin graciously and considerately served food to everyone.

In front of her was an exquisite set of teaware as she personally brewed Kung Fu tea for everyone.

Years of practice made her movements flow like running water, incredibly beautiful, even attracting guests at the main table to turn back and request a cup: "Miss Gu Six's tea is truly at the level of a tea master!"

Gu Shiyin modestly and humbly smiled: "I've been learning from the chief etiquette officer at the President Residence for some time, my skills are not refined, please excuse me."

"Wow—! Miss Gu Six's etiquette was learned at the President Residence, no wonder her demeanor is so poised, a true lady!"

"This is already excellent, if that's unrefined, then our tea brewing is simply a rustic technique."

"Miss Gu Six is renowned indeed, truly talented in every art."

"In today's young people's trendy terms, it's called 'wearing many hats'... unlike us old folks who have only worked in one field, doing one thing our entire lives."

The courteous praises rang out sporadically.

Gu Shiyin maintained a low-profile smile, neither arrogant nor humble, winning back quite a bit of goodwill.

At the main table.

Feng Tang had no interest in tea, holding the wine jar, he began pouring wine for everyone.

"Hey, Lao Feng, this wine smells so good, what brand is it?"

Feng Tang grinned sheepishly: "Miss Xi gave it to me, a divine brew!"

After multiple painful experiences of "passing out from just one drop," he finally figured out the right way to drink from this wine jar: it must be diluted at a ratio of one to a thousand to avoid passing out from just one drop.

Therefore, tonight's entire jar of original wine concentrate actually contained only one drop from the jar given by Xi Zuzi.

Even so, its aroma wafted for miles, intoxicating all who smelled it.

There was no going back; ever since tasting Xi Zuzi's wine, Feng Tang couldn't drink mundane wine anymore.

Even Moutai tasted like plain water.

So he brought this wine wherever he went.

"Let's toast to Mr. Gu... May his fortune be as vast as the East Sea, hahaha!"

Feng Tang led the toast, and everyone, recalling Xi Zuzi's explanation of the blessings as vast as the East Sea, couldn't help but smile knowingly and drink it all in one go.

After drinking this glass of wine, everyone was stunned.

The table fell silent for a few seconds.

Everyone unanimously raised their glasses again: "Fill me up, quick! Don't stop me, I can drink a pound of this wine tonight!"

Feng Tang hugged the wine jar tightly: "... Dream on, I just wanted to make you envious that I have a gift from Miss Xi, and you're going too far?"

A pound? In your dreams!

In under half a minute.

Gu Shiyin, the "tea master," and her brewed green tea were no longer of interest to anyone.