

Big Shot 671

Chapter 671: Female Rivals in Love Are Really Tough to Handle! They're on a Whole Different Level Compared to Male Rivals!

Bao Gucheng watched as everyone refused foie gras and flocked to grab Bai He's food.

"After a busy day, having some warm shrimp and crab porridge is just blissful!"

"Miss Bai is amazing, this Empire cuisine is so authentic, the claypot porridge even has a Chaoshan flavor."

"Wow, don't you guys think Miss Xi is even more amazing? She actually predicted in advance that someone would bring a feast for us!"

Bai He excitedly hopped over to Xi Zuzi's side: "Ancestor Master, I didn't call you because I wanted to surprise you, did you anticipate it? You and I are definitely on the same wavelength!"

Xi Zuzi smiled slightly: "Mmm, yes."

The Ancestor is always in tune with the kids.

Bai He was very happy, eagerly filled a bowl with hot porridge, especially picking the fattest crab legs and golden crab roe for Xi Zuzi: "Ancestor, try my cooking. Studying abroad is so boring, I have to do everything myself. How's my craftsmanship after all this training?"

A wealthy young lady studying into such down-to-earth skills, she was neither arrogant nor pretentious.

Xi Zuzi always took a second look at hardworking kids, and said with a smile, "Very good."

Bai He was basking in the praise, yet unexpectedly, a big hand reached over out of nowhere.

The man's slender fingers moved the hot porridge aside, only taking a cup of luohanguo tea without honey, and said in a light tone: "Miss Zuzi doesn't like greasy food, she prefers light flavors."

Bao Gucheng's expression was as annoying as it could be.

Yet Bai He dared not hit him!

Argh, how could Mr. Bo be like this, stealing my Ancestor Master from me, she's going to draw a stick figure of him in revenge, hmph!

Bai He's attempt to feed failed, but after sulking for just a moment, she was bright and sunny again: "Ancestor Master, you like light food, that's great, I'm best at making vegetarian dishes, have you tried Immortal Jumping Wall?"

Xi Zuzi hadn't answered, but everyone started joking: "We've only heard of Buddha Jumping Wall, haven't heard of Immortal Jumping Wall, Miss Bai, you're so funny."

Bai He proudly said, "Haven't heard of it, right? I invented it! All-vegetable Buddha Jumping Wall is Immortal Jumping Wall, it tastes even better and is more suited for a divine beauty like my Ancestor Master!"

Everyone: "..."

Damn, Miss Bai is a freaking genius, her words are so delightful!

Bao Gucheng: "..."

Darn, I could tell long ago this foxy lady is cunning, harder to deal with than male rivals.

Look at this foxy woman, every word she says hits the heartstrings of Miss Zuzi—

"Ancestor Master, I collected a lot of peach blossom dew, made it into peach blossom brew, you must come and try it."

"Ancestor Master, I can even make a Lotus Banquet, lotus flower, lotus root, and lotus leaf rice, I'd love to cook it for you."

"Ancestor Master, all the tableware in my kitchen are antique porcelains over a thousand years old, they're so nice to use, I wish for you to come and evaluate them!"

"Ancestor Master, my birthday is in a couple of days, I'll cook, will you come to grace it with your presence?"

"Ancestor Master, please come, it's my first time back to the country, and it's my last chance to party before I participate in the F1 racing, sob sob..."

Bao Gucheng listened grumpily, suddenly realizing something was off, why is this darn girl talking about food, trying to lure Xi Zuzi to the Bai Family?

Damn, this girl should've been enlisted as a Tactician, it'd be a waste otherwise.

"She's busy, school is starting." Bao Gucheng covering for his young woman's social engagements.

"It's okay, Mr. Bo, school starts on September 1st, my birthday is August 15th, there's still time."

"She doesn't like crowds, not interested."

Bao Gucheng's eyes grew cold.

Don't tell him that girl can't understand what's implied between the lines!

Chapter 672: The Ancestor Master is a Treasure!

Bai He responded skillfully: "Oh, don't worry, Mr. Bo, I only invite people closest to Ancestor Master, like Brother Lang Yue and Miss Qian Man... Right? You guys will come, won't you?"

As she spoke, she didn't forget to blink her starry eyes at Xi Langyue and Wu Qianman.

Although Xi Langyue wasn't fond of socializing either, seeing Bao Gucheng's unpleasant expression gave him a bit of satisfaction.

Previously, every time he encountered Bao Gucheng, he felt tormented by Bao's possessiveness to the point where he was cautious even when holding his sister's hand.

Hey, who would've thought today this suddenly appearing girl, with her thick skin and quick wit, could withstand Bao Gucheng's jealousy even better than him. He had to support her, of course.

"Yes, we will go." Xi Langyue smiled and agreed on behalf of Wu Qianman as well.

Director Ma feigned disappointment: "Oh, it seems like this old man is not welcomed, nobody invited me."

Bai He giggled like a string of wind chimes: "Come on, why not bring the whole cast and crew to my place for some fun? Ancestor Master will agree, right?"

The whole crew erupted in cheers.

They usually wouldn't have a chance to attend the birthday banquet of a young heiress.

Bao Gucheng glanced at Bai He with indifference. This girl sure knew how to push her limits, roping in the entire crew as spokespeople, truly shrewd.

Too much kindness to decline, Zuzi glanced at Bai He, then turned to Bao Gucheng: "Xiao Cheng, are you coming along?"

Could he refuse her clear and enchanting tone, her jelly-like tender lips?

Obviously not.

Bao Gucheng's Adam's apple moved: "Okay."

Taking the opportunity, he gently lifted his arm, his fingertips brushing past her cheek and lips: "The spotlights in the studio are too hot, want to go out for some fresh air?"

The girl's skin was like snow, showing a blush that revealed she had just been kissed, especially her lips, glistening and charming.

Xi Langyue, initially unaware of these details, suddenly recalled Bao Gucheng and Zuzi disappearing for so long earlier, and the prop room door being hard to find, a thought flashed across his mind: Could it be that Bao Gucheng, the wolf, took the opportunity during the filming to put his teeth on his sister?!

Anger!

Unlike Xi Langyue, upon seeing Bao Gucheng's display of ownership with that touch, Bai He only laughed more happily, following along with a bowl of double-skin milk pudding:

"Oh, the weather's hot, gotta enjoy some chilled dessert, Ancestor Master, try my double-skin milk. It's a family secret recipe..."

Bao Gucheng: "..."

Damn, couldn't shake off the tail, and now gave her a chance to show her hospitality.

Zuzi, intrigued, took a bite and nodded: "Not bad."

"Boohoo, is it just 'not bad,' Ancestor Master? This is a secret recipe passed down in my Bai Family, I thought I'd earn a 'very good' from you, boohoo."

"Ah, mainly because Ancestor once tasted even better milk pudding."

At the Queen Mother's grand banquet, she wasn't interested in any of the complex delicacies, only wanting a sip of Drunken Immortal Wine paired with some light snacks, including a Heavenly Spring Water milk pudding, smooth and fragrant, leaving a lingering taste that this god who wasn't much into food, couldn't forget.

The taste of the double-skin milk pudding brought back memories for Zuzi, who then briskly wrote a list and handed it to Bai He: "If you're interested, you can research it. Of course, Ancestor's recipes might not suit your taste."

Bai He held the paper, and her first thought was, wow, Ancestor Master's handwriting is too beautiful!

Chapter 673: Who Says a Woman's Best Destiny Must Be a Man!

The second reaction was, damn, these dish names are way too ethereal.

The third reaction... wow... wasn't this dish lost to time?

Wait, that dish and that dish seem familiar from culinary classics, listed as the origin of mythical cuisine...

Bai He held her breath.

The crew gathered around to watch were from the film industry and didn't have in-depth knowledge of food, so they didn't know these dishes' names.

But Bai He had really put in the work on food research, having studied abroad for years and missing the flavors of home, she ended up researching all the traditional cuisine of the Empire.

Her family always thought she was fooling around, that a lady from a noble family learning to cook and race was a waste, she was practically the prodigal daughter.

Even her dad and brothers thought she would only ever understand food and fun, and that her future lay in marrying a slightly awesome husband for lifelong security.

So they actively pushed her to go on blind dates!

Especially today with Mr. Bo, the Bai family took it very seriously. They hoped she could catch Mr. Bo's eye and become the young mistress of the Bao Family, then finally have a reliable top-tier man to take care of her for life.

They didn't know she had so many little hobbies!

It's just that none of them had made a name for her, unlike Gu Shiyin, whose pseudonyms were flying around everywhere... cough cough.

However, at this moment, seeing the menu written in beautiful script by Xi Zuzi, Bai He suddenly felt tears welling up: She suddenly felt she could do it.

Maybe she could prove herself, make her dad and brothers look at her in a new light, and stop rushing her into marriage.

Who said a woman's best destiny must be a man?

Living brilliantly on her own doesn't sound wonderful?

"Ancestor Master, I, I, I will definitely study hard and make it for you on your birthday!"

Bai He said, her big eyes misty, as if a diamond was about to drop any second.

People didn't know what was going on, inevitably feeling she was overreacting:

"Miss Bai you're too excited."

"Miss Bai, what did Xi give you? Is it her favorite dish?"

"Miss Bai, why do you call Ms. Xi your master?"

Bai He glanced at these curious folks, "Because... I'm not telling you! Hehe."

Xi Zuzi advised her on racing skills and recipes, she must keep it a secret to avoid attracting coveting eyes.

Seeing Bai He's clever demeanor, Xi Zuzi couldn't help but smile slightly and patted her head, "Mhm. Good girl."

This unintentional gesture detonated a large crowd of people.

Filming crew audience: "... Damn, I used to think Ms. Xi was beautiful, now I think Ms. Xi is so cool, she's clearly even more like Nuwa than Qian Man, ah ah ah.

Wu Qianman: "... Boo hoo, the exclusive head pat of mine, even Miss Bai has it now.

Xi Langyue: "... My sister is truly the cutest, why does brother also want you to pat his head!

Bao Gucheng: "... Damn, Xiao Bailian is stealing affection from my woman again!

Bai He herself: "...!"

Boo hoo hoo, I don't want to wash my hair tonight, Ancestor Master, please pat a few more times.

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That evening, another explosion occurred in Xi Rubao's live streaming room.

Since Shen Jiaqi was exposed, fans who were brainwashed by consumerism finally woke up, abandoning Shen Jiaqi, and many started to like Xi Rubao's straightforward and genuine live streaming style.

She now has over three hundred million fans.

And when she announced she'd be featuring Phoenix on the stream tonight, the "Youth Science Live" app was almost crashed by three hundred million fans.

Chapter 674: The Memory Treasure! The Phoenix Descends upon the World!

The "Qing Bo" staff were dragged back from home to work overtime on repairing the system. Finally, at exactly ten in the evening, the system was expanded and fixed. Like the fans, they eagerly refreshed their phones, waiting for Xi Rubao's livestream.

After all, it's a phoenix! Who wouldn't want to see it with their own eyes?

Many bystanders also joined the livestream room.

However, the bystanders didn't have the fan filter, nor were they waiting obediently like the fans. Before the livestream started, they shamelessly spammed comments:

"Is this something to fool a three-year-old? Livestream a phoenix? What a joke!"

"What prop is this young girl using to create a fake phoenix to justify herself?"

"Haha, could it be a wild chicken instead?"

"Livestreamers nowadays have no boundaries for marketing. I think she's just like Shen Jiaqi, always exaggerating and making things up!"

"I'll bet one dollar that when the stream starts, she'll just yell, 'Old irons, like and send ships,' and I'll throw a basket of rotten eggs at her, haha!"

Seeing Xi Rubao's livestream room being polluted by these ignorant bystanders, a group of loyal fans was furious—

[If You Don't Work Hard in Senior Three, You'll Regret It in Senior Four]: Don't compare trash like Shen Jiaqi to my great Teacher Cao Yu.

[Erzhong Scholar Is the Boss]: You passing travelers know nothing, damn it. Everything my beautiful Teacher Cao Yu says comes true. If she says there's a phoenix, then there's a phoenix!

[Every Day I Want to Jump off a Building]: Teacher Cao Yu walks the talk. No need to send ships and likes today; I'll send ships to Teacher Cao Yu! PS: After learning English with Teacher Cao Yu, I now earn over ten thousand a month as an English tutor sharing learning methods, and I don't have to do those physical side jobs anymore. Teacher Cao Yu is my guiding angel!

[190-Pound Art Student]: I'll bet all my pocket money, two hundred and fifty! Do you, this grandson, dare to bet? If there's a phoenix shown today, you owe me two hundred and fifty times! Otherwise, I'll compensate you!

Fortunately, with these loyal fans protecting the stream, the room did not fall and wasn't too disgraceful.

While the loyal fans and bystanders were still arguing.

Xi Rubao finally logged in backstage successfully, opened the livestream camera:

"Hi, fish fans, to save time, as usual, let's first talk about a learning technique, then I'll show you what a real phoenix looks like."

"By the way, you can record the learning method to review later, it's free. But the phoenix can't be recorded, just enjoy it with your eyes, if any little fish fan doesn't listen, they'll be in trouble."

"Little eyes on the screen! Listen to the lesson carefully!"

The Ancestor Sister said that the phoenix can only be watched, not filmed.

So Xi Rubao reiterated this several times before starting the formal live teaching.

Tonight, she talked about using the memory curve to memorize books and formulas, enhancing memory efficiency.

Although the Ebbinghaus memory curve is widely known, Xi Zuzi glanced at it and pointed casually, adjusting the method's time intervals, making the process that originally needed a few months to a year for lifelong memory instantly shorten to one or two days.

Xi Rubao and the entire East Sea Class experimented with it; it's one of their secret tricks for remembering things right before college entrance exams.

Otherwise, with just those few dozen hours to cram before exams, how could you memorize so many knowledge points?

At this moment, Xi Rubao shared the precious secret with everyone on the screen.

It could be said to be a memory treasure.

The billions of people in the livestream room couldn't be more excited, taking notes diligently.

"Alright, the lesson is over, now let's welcome tonight's special guest—"

Before the words left her mouth, a gust of wind blew the livestream room's window open fiercely, and along came a dazzling beam of golden light and a grand bird with long feathers, bursting in with imposing momentum.

Almost everyone obediently followed the agreement, just watched without taking photos.

Except for one person sneakily raised their phone...

Chapter 675: Indeed, men all like to be flattered in the same way!

The open window, a majestic golden bird barged in.

The long tail feathers seemed endless, slowly circling several times inside, with a large section still hidden outside in the deep night.

The bird proudly raised its beak, letting out a chirp, as if declaring "I have arrived"! Then, the golden crest flashed across the screen, practically blinding everyone with its brilliance!

The screen fell into a deathly silence.

The fans gaped with mouths open, knowing tonight's "guest" would be astonishing, but not expecting such a level of shock!

This, this, is this the legendary Phoenix Bird?

The passerby who was boasting just now fell silent instantly, thinking, damn, this scene is so real that even computer effects couldn't achieve it.

The Phoenix's long feathers shimmered with golden light and glazed with rainbow colors, swaying lightly and dazzling the eyes—such a color scheme for bird feathers is unheard of in normal life, genuinely resplendent.

The onlooker who previously bet a dollar that it would be a fake silently recharged and gifted three yachts.

The passerby who previously claimed it was just a wild chicken filling in slapped themselves in the face:
Why is my mouth so foul?

Those who previously compared Shen Jiaqi to Teacher Cao Yu quietly admitted: Shen Jiaqi's level is way too low. The study secrets and new things shared by Teacher Cao Yu, that's the real deal.

Surrender, complete surrender this time!

Xi Rubao saw the deathly silence in the live broadcast room and thought the connection had dropped, so she said into the microphone, "Hello? Is anyone still there? Um, if the software is crashing again, can we call it a day? Goodbye, Phoenix God..."

The next second.

The live broadcast screen exploded with comments—

"No no no, Teacher Cao Yu, don't stop! I haven't seen enough yet!"

"Me too, wow, not even the biology teacher could give such a beautiful lesson plan, following Teacher Cao Yu is such an eye-opener!"

"Teacher Cao Yu, Teacher Cao Yu, is the Phoenix that appears in historical records a real species? Are all the legends of our Empire true?"

"New fan here, pleading for Teacher Cao Yu to stream a little longer! I promise not to take random photos!"

"Absolutely absolutely, we all respect the word spirit, and stand by our word, please trust us, Teacher Cao Yu, let us indulge a little longer."

"..."

Xi Rubao burst out laughing.

"Of course, it's real, otherwise, do you think I'm showing you a specimen?" She continued to engage the atmosphere with a question, "So, want to guess where Mr. Phoenix likes to be touched?"

The screen exploded again—

"Ah ah ah, the Phoenix is male?"

"My knowledge base has freaking updated again!"

"I guess he likes his strong arms touched like a man... oh no, it's the wings!"

"Should be the paws, right?"

"I guess it's the belly! Does the Phoenix have a belly?"

"Why is no one guessing lips? Don't all men like kisses?"

"..."

Xi Rubao was amused by the variety of responses, she extended a finger, gently scratching a tuft of feathers under the Phoenix's chin, and chuckled, "You're all wrong, it's right here."

Sure enough, the aloof Phoenix God, after having his chin scratched, obediently purred like a content cat!

Xi Rubao thought, indeed, the Ancestor Sister's little crow likes that tuft under its chin, and the Phoenix God loves it too; male birds all like their feathers smoothed in the same place!

Chapter 676: The Price of Not Listening to the Ancestor's Advice [1]

Just as everyone was happily online "cloud watching birds" and "cloud interacting."

Suddenly, the Phoenix let out a long, angry cry, shook its golden feathers, roared at the live streaming screen, then spun around with its long tail and flew out of the window the same way it came, leaving without a word and disappearing into the vast night.

The fans were dumbfounded:

"What's happening?"

"The Phoenix god seems angry!"

"I feel like he's a bit dissatisfied with us!"

"Did someone take a secret photo?"

"Yeah, it must be that the Phoenix god sensed something and felt someone broke the promise, so he's not letting us see anymore, boo hoo!"

"Damn, that black sheep, I curse him ten thousand times ahhhh!"

Xi Rubao didn't expect this situation to occur suddenly, the Phoenix leaving without a word, if it were because someone among the fans broke the rules and took secret photos...

Her tone became more serious: "Ancestor said, there would be a price for those taking secret photos. I hereby solemnly warn you, the thief who took the secret photos, don't think you can hide behind a screen without me knowing, but you will be in trouble, and you yourself will know!"

It's rare for the little grass fish to be so imposing.

The fans all pledged: "I swear, I didn't take any photos!"

Some weakly asked: "Ancestor... who is that?"

Xi Rubao slipped up, immediately covering it up: "Ancestor is our ancestor! Well, the live stream ends here for tonight, everyone clean up and go to sleep quickly!"

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When billions in the Empire were losing sleep for a brief glimpse of the Phoenix.

In a small rented apartment in the imperial capital.

Gu Piting, who had been kicked out of her home, sat dumbly on the bed.

Because the apartment was too narrow and simplistic, just a few square meters, after placing a bed there was no place for a table, she could only curl up at the head of the bed, placing a laptop on her knees.

Gu Shiyin came to visit her, sat with her on the bed, brought her a basket of rather expensive fruits, and some cash, which moved her greatly.

"Aunt, you are always unwavering, truly kind to me..."

"Piting, you're my only niece, naturally I confide in you. I also feel that you are unwavering to me, after losing so many aliases, I've seen the fickleness of human nature, we, as aunt and niece, naturally should support each other."

"Aunt, once I succeed in my slimming, rise again, I will definitely support you!"

"Good Pinting, just take care of your health."

While chatting, Gu Shiyin casually mentioned that Xi Rubao's live stream tonight seemed quite impressive, and it was mysteriously forbidden to take photos...

Both Gu Pinting and Gu Shiyin were upset because Xi Rubao had stepped into the live streaming field, taking away their fans, ruining their live streaming careers, so they were very angry when they heard this:

"There must be something unspeakable, not allowing photos? Hehe, I must go and take a shot, and if I find her tricks, I'll report her and make sure she can't continue!"

Gu Shiyin pursed her lips, thought about what Xi Rubao said, that there would be retribution for taking photos... but did not persuade Gu Pinting not to take any photos.

On the contrary, thoughtfully helped her find the "Teen Science Live" APP, and entered Xi Rubao's live streaming room.

The two of them saw the shocking scene of the Golden Phoenix entering the live stream room!

Gu Pinting had never seen such a scene before, she stood dumbfounded on the spot.

Her fingers were stiff, was there a chance to take pictures?

Even though Gu Shiyin had seen a lot in her life, her heart skipped a beat, her heartbeat accelerated: What kind of bird is this? She had never heard of or seen anything like it before.

The Fourth Young Master Nangong of the imperial capital was known for raising sharks, which was shocking enough, but Xi Rubao actually managed to bring such a giant bird, truly capable of attracting fans!

Gu Shiyin was in shock for a while, realizing relying on Gu Pinting for photos wasn't reliable, she gritted her teeth, grabbed Gu Pinting's phone...

Click! She snapped a frontal photo of the bird!

Chapter 677: The Price of Not Listening to the Ancestor's Advice [2]

Just as she was about to take a few more photos from different angles.

Unexpectedly, the screen flickered, a flash of golden light shimmered, and the bird flew away without a word.

Gu Pinting snapped back to reality: "Aunt, is this a fake bird? It must be some sort of special effect from the show, right?"

Gu Shiyin's hand trembled slightly. She knew for sure that it couldn't be fake. You can't make something that realistic. But how did Xi Rubao, a countrywoman, get such a rare bird?

She forced herself to stay calm and swiped open Gu Pinting's phone gallery: "It's hard to say if it's real or fake. We need to study this further to find out..."

Gu Pinting: "Yes, take it back to Imperial University and ask the old professors in the biology department to take a look, expose Xi Rubao! Make her publicly apologize for faking the live broadcast!"

She could almost see the victory on her hands, clutching evidence against Xi Rubao.

Gu Shiyin shook her head: "It might be faster to give it to the reporters. They have many channels; besides universities and museums, they also have connections with underground trading markets. They can investigate everything about Xi Rubao's bird inside out."

"That's great, Aunt! You're so considerate, just send it to the reporters!"

However.

The photo album was swiped open.

In the previously taken photos, apart from Xi Rubao broadcasting live on screen, the live room was entirely empty, not a shadow of the bird.

"Aunt, are you sure you captured it just now? Was the camera aimed correctly?"

"This..."

Gu Shiyin stood stunned in disbelief.

She was one hundred percent sure she had captured a photo of the bird's face just now. How could it be a blank?

It seemed something beyond her comprehension was happening, making even someone of her stature, with many hidden identities, hesitant to make a judgment.

Why did the main subject disappear from a perfectly fine photo?

Why couldn't that bird be recorded by the camera?

This must be... a supernatural phenomenon, right?

The shock was too great for Gu Shiyin, leaving her in no mood to continue engaging with Gu Pinting. She found an excuse to leave...

After Gu Shiyin left, the room felt even more deserted.

Gu Pinting was unwilling to see Xi Rubao become so popular. Although her aunt didn't capture the bird, the fact that the rare and exotic bird appeared in the live broadcast was undeniable. She didn't need the photos; she could just leak the story to the reporters and let them investigate, right?

Then she could accuse Xi Rubao of illegally keeping wild animals!

Is there such a crime? She hadn't studied law, so she wasn't sure. Oh well, it doesn't matter, just send it out.

After writing a revelation, Gu Pinting found herself idle and suddenly remembered the popular "Famo Mansion" restaurant everyone had been talking about. Many of her friends had already gone there.

She, on the other hand, hadn't had the chance to try the famous red wine foie gras there because she'd been expelled from the Gu Family, kicked out of the cast, and had faced so many unpleasant things recently.

Now that she had a bit of money, she had to order and buy like crazy!

Half an hour later.

The foie gras was delivered to her small apartment.

The rich aroma made Gu Pinting's mouth water!

She devoured one portion quickly.

Then she immediately ordered three more portions!

After eating four portions of foie gras, she burped: "Hic, I'll start dieting tomorrow. Bracelet, I'll cut a piece of meat to feed you later..."

While patting her belly, she suddenly felt her stomach tighten.

Then she was horrified to discover that her belly had grown larger again.

What's happening?!

The last time, she had already gained 60 pounds. Logically, it shouldn't be possible for her to continue getting fatter; the next round of gaining weight was still far off.

Frightened, she rushed to the bathroom, holding a knife, and started cutting the meat to feed the bracelet.

However, it seemed that two forces inside her were tearing at her, one making her belly swell, and the other tightening her skin and flesh...

And she was being torn and ripped apart by these two forces!

Chapter 678: Retribution is Here!!!

A force was trying to make her fatter, while another force wanted her to become thinner.

Gu Pinging couldn't control herself and rolled around in the cramped apartment.

Her unhealed wounds seeped blood, leaving one bloody mark after another on the floor.

When she was utterly exhausted and could no longer roll, she vaguely heard a sharp and thin voice:
"What the hell, having you as a master is like eight lifetimes of bad luck, the blood is sour and stinks, I'm about to starve to skin and bones..."

Who?

Who was talking to her?

Gu Pinting's eyes were dazed, she vaguely saw that her hand was empty, and a green light was rolling towards the door.

It's her bracelet!

Ah, where is her bracelet going?!

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Gu Shiyin, filled with questions, returned to the Gu Family.

The inexplicably disappearing images in the photos were unthinkable, sending chills down one's spine.

She thought about checking the live broadcast replay, but this time Xi Rubao was too cunning and set it to not be replayed, deleting it immediately after broadcasting.

She also attempted to guise herself with a small account in the comment section to probe the fans whether they really saw the Phoenix, and asked if anyone had taken pictures to share with her.

As a result, she was nearly drowned by the fans' remarks—

"Are you a fake fan? Teacher Cao Yu said no photos, and you're still asking?"

"There's a price to pay for taking photos. Are you brave enough to photograph a Phoenix? Do you want to face repercussions?"

"Talking to someone who doesn't understand the word spirit is like talking to a fool. Go study Teacher Cao's lessons well before speaking here!"

"Gosh, it's an account registered today. Fake fans, get out of our comment section!"

The more Gu Shiyin read, the more alarmed she became.

After much deliberation, she couldn't help but call the old professor at Imperial University: "Mr. Zhao, sorry to disturb you late at night. I just want to ask you a question, is the mythical Phoenix real?"

Zhao Guiyi is the dean of the History College at Imperial University and also a seasoned historian.

He said in a deep voice: "Shiyin, you woke me in the middle of the night, I'm not angry, but asking such a childish question does make me mad. You're studying medicine and should uphold science. You yourself said the Phoenix exists in mythology, how could it be real!"

"But Mr. Zhao, someone live-broadcasted the real Phoenix online, I saw it with my own eyes..."

"Ha ha, things on the internet can be believed? Tell me what it looked like."

"It was huge and long, its tail coiled around a room several times..."

"Ha ha, in mythology, the Phoenix's tail isn't long, only the Flying Snake's is long."

"Its head was very large with a giant crown..."

"Phoenixes are male, where would it have a giant crown? It's fake!"

"Right, all of its feathers were golden and shimmered with indescribable other colors..."

"What color was it exactly?"

"Rainbow?"

"Ha ha, that's even more fake. A proper mythical Phoenix should be all red-feathered. This faker doesn't even pass history, truly laughable!"

Receiving Zhao Guiyi's assessment, Gu Shiyin felt a bit reassured: "Well, thank you, Professor, maybe it really was computer effects. Sorry to disturb you, goodnight!"

But the fog of doubt in her heart still wouldn't lift completely.

If it was merely computer effects, why was Xi Rubao so adamant about forbidding photography? Also, saying there would be a price to pay for taking photos? The key is, why couldn't any photos be taken at all?

Without these questions answered, the doubts couldn't be erased entirely; Xi Rubao, along with the mysterious Xi Zuzi, had secrets she couldn't fathom.

Gu Shiyin hung up the phone and went to the study to look through materials and find images of the Phoenix.

As she flipped through the pages, she suddenly realized that something was amiss...

Chapter 679: Sudden Vision Drop! The Boss of Ma Jia is Terrified by the Little Ancestor!

Gu Shiyin rubbed her eyes.

She didn't know if it was from reading late at night or if she was a bit tired, but she felt as if the words on the book were doubling and blurring.

But she was eager to find ancient texts about the Phoenix, and after finally finding a book, it was already difficult to recognize the ancient characters, and now she couldn't see clearly at all; it was incredibly frustrating.

"What light does the Feng Yu... what East... what bird..."

Gu Shiyin was going crazy.

She was, after all, a Boss of Ma Jia with proficiency in multiple professions and skills, yet now she couldn't read or understand a single book in ancient texts.

Luckily, it was late at night and the entire Gu Family was asleep, with no outsiders around.

Otherwise, she would have utterly lost face.

Just as she was about to find a bottle of eye drops to soothe her eyes, suddenly, from behind her came a lazy female voice—

"The Feng Yu hides its light, soars to the East Sea, the male sings ji-ji, the female sings zu-zu..."

That lazy yet clear and enchanting voice sent a shiver down Gu Shiyin's spine, her body stiffening: "Zuzi, how did you get here..."

She turned around and saw on the stairs a white figure, ethereal and beautiful, seemingly floating in mid-air.

The face was blurry, with a hint of a smile not quite a smile!

This sight scared seven of her souls out of six: "Ghost!"

She tumbled from the chair in the study, cutting her lip.

Zuzi watched the scene with a detached air, leaning against the railing, slightly parting her red lips: "This is Xiao Bei's house, the Ancestor's home. Why can't the Ancestor come back?"

In her hand, she held a box of double skin milk made by Bai He, very delicious.

She guessed Xiao Bei liked it; the kid had just had surgery not long ago and had insomnia at night, so why not bring some sweets over, especially since Xiao Bei was quite filial to the Ancestor and treated Xiao Sha well too.

But to deliver food at this late hour...

Hmm, so she learned from Bao Gucheng's uninvited visit to open her door and deliver breakfast, and came to surprise Mr. Gu.

Xiao Bei should be pleased, right?

After all, seeing the boy do such things, the Ancestor was quite satisfied.

As for encountering Gu Shiyin in such a sorry state, that was purely accidental. The Ancestor wasn't here to see any retribution on her.

Gu Shiyin finally steadied her nerves, wiped the blood from the corner of her mouth, and picked up the fallen ancient text book.

Horrifyingly, now the words not only blurred but seemed to float, making it impossible to recognize any of them.

She looked again at the "floating" Zuzi.

A terrifying thought finally arose in her mind—maybe she wasn't unable to see the words because it was late and she was tired; the figure on the stairs wasn't a ghost, it was Zuzi herself.

She couldn't even see Zuzi clearly!

What does this mean?

This means she had become extremely nearsighted.

Her eyes! Her vision! It suddenly deteriorated!

The ancient text book in Gu Shiyin's hands fell to the ground again, falling apart.

Her hands trembled incessantly.

She was not like those average ordinary women; she was a big shot wearing layer after layer of Ma Jia, and many of those Ma Jia skills depended on sharp and excellent vision... not to mention her medical profession, where poor vision meant she couldn't hold a surgical scalpel.

She couldn't be nearsighted, she just couldn't!

But if she continued to become nearsighted at the speed of tonight, would she go blind?

Now looking at Zuzi leaning lazily against the midway railing, Gu Shiyin felt a sudden chill surge from her feet to her head!

Zuzi did it on purpose; she definitely came in the middle of the night to make a joke out of her.

She was certain!

Yet she couldn't fathom why, since she hadn't interacted with Zuzi during the day, Zuzi could make her almost blind?

Chapter 680: Falling Out with the Little Ancestor! Don't Be a Gossip with String Badmouthing Others

Could it be that Zuzi has the power to curse others from afar?

Could it be that Zuzi also has a piece of Mother Jade like hers, capable of manipulating others to do her bidding?

Gu Shiyin's heart pounded wildly.

But on second thought, that's impossible. If Zuzi were so formidable, how could she have stayed in a remote village of Qingcheng Town for eighteen years, unable to find her own family?

Her sudden loss of vision tonight must be a coincidence.

Gu Shiyin licked her dry lips and looked towards the white figure on the stairs through her blurry vision:

"Don't think I don't know what you're up to, Zuzi. Sneaking into our house in the dead of night—are you plotting something?"

"If I hadn't caught you, were you planning to sneak into the old man's study to rummage through his files... or even change his will?"

"The old man doesn't have many days left. You're taking advantage of this time to grab more of the Gu Family's inheritance, isn't it obvious?"

Zuzi smirked: "The Ancestor seemed to have taught you not to speak ill of others behind their back."

Gu Shiyin sneered.

It's the dead of night, and even the servants are asleep. She had no need to maintain any family facade with Zuzi or say anything courteous.

Might as well tear off the mask!

"Zuzi, ever since you seduced Bao Gucheng, I knew you had ulterior motives!"

"You came to the Gu Family for men, money, status, and the will, didn't you?"

"But alas, the Gu Family isn't your little plot of land in the countryside. Don't think you can pull the strings of that fool Xi Rubao in the dark to sabotage my strategies and get what you want."

"I only didn't guard against you before, but from today, I'll officially declare war on you. Don't even think about stepping into my territory from now on!"

"Cuisine, design, medicine... whether it's Imperial University or the Gu Family, don't even dream of taking my place!"

"The old man is about to die and not thinking straight, letting you have your way like you're the ancestor. But I, Gu Shiyin, will not indulge you! If you provoke me again, I will pay you back tenfold..."

As she laid bare the imposing aura of the Boss of Ma Jia to teach Zuzi a lesson, wanting to show her that if Gu Shiyin really targeted someone, she was not to be trifled with,

little did she expect that at the climax of her speech, the door to Mr. Gu's study on the second floor suddenly swung open with a "bang!"

Mr. Gu, leaning on his cane, stood at the top of the stairs, seething with anger:

"Lao Liu, I never thought you had such a heart!"

"You act so filial and kind to me, but are you really wishing for my quick death in your mind?"

"Zuzi and Baobao unveiled all your shady dealings to pull you back from the brink, and yet you harbor resentment against her?"

"You want to declare war on Zuzi? Fine. Declare war on me first and kill this old barely-alive man, okay!"

Gu Shiyin's face turned ashen.

She had been once again outmaneuvered by that wicked brat Zuzi.

No wonder the wicked brat mentioned not speaking ill behind others' backs; she knew all along that the old man was in the study?

But she couldn't predict that, so late at night, the old man was in his study instead of the bedroom.

The problem was that no light was coming from his study.

She had been in the ancient book study downstairs for so long and hadn't heard a trace of sound from the old man upstairs!

"Dad, I didn't mean it that way, you misunderstood, I was just provoked by Zuzi..."

"Shut up, don't call me Dad, call me the old barely-alive one!"

"Old... Dad, I'm sorry, I had a little to drink today, my vision is blurry, and I don't remember what I said..." Gu Shiyin, at her wit's end, could only lie and use alcohol as an excuse.

Her lifelong reputation was about to be ruined in Zuzi's hands.

Such a simple trap, such a childish pitfall, and she actually fell into it, talking nonsense behind people's backs and getting caught red-handed by the old man.

Zuzi is truly toxic!