

## Big Shot 681

Chapter 681: Almost Exposed the Intimate Moment with the Young Boy!

Watching Gu Shiyin scramble away in a panic, leaving the Phoenix Ancient Book on the ground, Zuzi chuckled.

With a slight flick of her fingers, the ancient book floated up lightly from the floor and returned to its spot on the shelf.

Only then did she walk up the stairs, handing the lunchbox in her hand to Mr. Gu: "Xiao Bei, don't get upset."

Mr. Gu was still trembling with anger, but upon hearing this, he looked a bit more kindly and couldn't help but sigh deeply:

"Zuzi, what did I do to deserve this? How did I end up with such unfilial descendants, the third son as well, and now Lao Liu too... I watched Lao Liu grow up to be so gentle, mature, and steady. How did he end up talking crazily and daring to say anything after just a little drink?"

Silly Xiao Bei, do you really believe she went crazy from drinking?

Zuzi smiled slightly but didn't reveal the truth: "This double-skin milk is excellent, soothing and calming. You should try it."

"Zuzi, to be honest, when Lao Liu was born, it was because Sha Sha left home. I felt empty inside and raised her as if she were Lao Wu. Alas, her character and Sha Sha's are ultimately different. Maybe I shouldn't have had such a foolish idea that someone could replace someone else. It's my failure to teach her properly..."

"Xiao Bei, you need to understand, even an Ancestor can make a crooked clay figurine. It's perfectly normal to raise a child who turns out differently; don't dwell on it."

Mr. Gu: "..."

Zuzi, your metaphor for comforting people is indeed, unique.

Mr. Gu invited Zuzi back to the study, chatting and eating the double-skin milk.

He always felt as if he had missed something important just now, but he couldn't recall it.

After a while, a thought flashed through his mind: "Zuzi, what did Lao Liu say earlier about you and Bao Gucheng... some kind of affair? Isn't that kid supposed to be tutoring you? How dare he have evil intentions towards you?"

Zuzi rested her chin seriously: "Xiao Bei, don't worry, he hasn't been flirting with the Ancestor."

Ordinarily, it's the Ancestor who seeks out boys, asking for a sniff.

To put it seriously, is it the Ancestor who needs to flirt with boys?

Right?

Mr. Gu was still a bit uneasy: "I recently saw in the news that men nowadays are unreliable. Male teachers, male bosses, even male relatives, all bully little girls. Zuzi, you should be careful living outside. It'd be best if you moved back home, wouldn't it? Live with your mom."

Zuzi considered seriously again: "Well, she's busy. The Ancestor doesn't want to disturb her."

Mr. Gu thought to himself that was true: "That child is so engrossed in her drawing that she forgets everything else. Alas, you must be careful with the men out there; none are any good!"

Looking at his pretty and adorable little granddaughter, the old man couldn't help feeling that all the men outside harbored ill intentions!

At this moment.

In Gu Qiusha's bedroom on the top floor.

She was bent over her desk, drawing.

Beside her, Gu Yuzhi sat quietly, peeling tangerines for her considerately, occasionally getting up to make tea, adjusting the room's temperature and humidity. As it neared midnight, he wanted to coax her to sleep.

His sister wouldn't do anything unless she was lost in her work.

Once she picked up a paintbrush, everything else was forgotten, and she would just say, "I have to do a few more comic pages. I promised my fans; I can't delay the updates."

Every time this happened, Gu Yuzhi wanted to blurt out: Drawing comics, drawing comics, I wish I were that comic!

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After Zuzi left, Mr. Gu thought left and right but still had a shred of doubt, and couldn't resist calling Elder Bao: "Old Bao, are you asleep?"

Chapter 682: The First Round of Direct Confrontation!

"Couldn't sleep! My bratty son at home got me so worked up I couldn't sleep!"

"Ugh, me too, my family's naive Lao Liu got me all riled up. Hey, why is Gucheng upsetting you? Isn't he unwilling to go on the blind date?"

"Don't even mention it. This time he went, you know that Bai He from the Bai Family, right? Such a nice girl, but that brat told me he wasn't interested. He even lectured me to mind my own business. Can you believe this?"

"..." Mr. Gu listened, growing even more suspicious. Bao Gucheng always refuses to go on blind dates, and he wasn't interested in Bai He. Doesn't this imply that he might actually have feelings for his own granddaughter, which is why he rejected the blind date?

That can't happen, they're of different generations!

Mr. Gu was so shocked he quickly came up with a lousy idea, "Lao Bo, just find a few more matches for him! Don't put all your eggs in one basket!"

Unexpectedly, Elder Bao said, "Ugh, that's not why I'm mad. I'm mad because, when I checked later, he got along perfectly with Miss Bai. They had lunch together, chatting and laughing. They even went to that TV drama set, and Miss Bai personally made him something delicious and brought it over. Tsk tsk, I never realized that brat had such a sultry side. He gets so close with the girl, yet he acts all innocent in front of me. Hmph!"

Mr. Gu: "... " Damn, you nearly scared this old man to death with your half-told story.

Since Bao Gucheng and Bai He are progressing well, he doesn't need to worry about the little cabbage in his own yard being snatched away by some different-generation hog.

What a relief!

"Lao Bo, it seems like this blind date approach works pretty well. Geez, you made me think I should arrange blind dates for my Lao Wu and little granddaughter too!"

Gu Qiusha has divorced, just the right time to find a suitable young talent.

Zuzi and the baby could also start looking early to avoid being tricked by poor students in college, repeating Sha Sha's old mistakes.

"Oh, I have experience with this. Let me help you with arrangements. Your Lao Wu's age is a bit old, so it's a bit tricky, but it will take some time. However, it's easier to find someone for your little granddaughter. How about the young master Bai Fei from the Bai Family?"

"Sure, arrange it!"

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The socialite party in the capital city, after a month or so, has sent out invitations to the elite socialites once again.

In the socialite group, everyone was discussing in surprise:

"Why so soon? Last month, wasn't there just an event for Miss Xing's return? I thought the next one would be during the winter skiing season."

"What's the theme this time? Let me see... Oh, a French cuisine tasting? I love French dishes."

"Is there a French chef? Does it mean I don't have to fly all the way to Paris to enjoy authentic French cuisine? That's worth going."

"They mentioned a mysterious guest, a true inheritor of French cuisine, an innovator of new French dishes... Goodness, such grand titles, who could it be?"

"Could it be the chef from Famo Mansion? Isn't that place a social media hit lately? But some said it's really good, and others said it's a major letdown and very smelly... I'm so confused about whether to try it or not."

Amidst the chatter,

Gu Shiyin chimed in: "Hey, ladies, let me introduce the new chef at Famo Mansion, Chef Cao, Cao Yumei. Once you try her dishes, you'll love them and find them unforgettable."

Only then did everyone realize that Gu Shiyin had pulled a newcomer into the socialite group.

Everyone watched this "chef" curiously.

"How come we've never heard of you before?"

"Are you a true inheritor of French cuisine? Were you raised in Paris?"

"You're not a fraud, right? Can you say something in French for us?"

Chapter 683: The person who truly cares for you, you should also respond with sincerity

Fang Yumei finally had the chance to make a name for herself in such a high-end social circle.

Although her body felt like it was wrapped in several swim rings at the moment, her mood was as cheerful as a sunny day.

Speaking French?

Too easy!

After all, she was an English teacher, and though she wasn't fluent in French, she could still manage a line or two to save face.

She immediately sent a voice message with the simplest phrases, "Hello everyone, please guide me, and enjoy my food."

The socialites in the group weren't really fluent in French either, but seeing her quick response, they showered her with praise:

"Not bad at all, seems she does have some foreign flair."

"French cuisine is the noblest in my heart. Chef Cao, please do not disappoint us."

"A socialite cocktail party, right? I've decided, I'm going!"

Fang Yumei breathed a sigh of relief while holding her phone. Finally, she had the stepping stone into the socialite circle. Master Gu was really putting in effort for her and helping her!

The Master even said he would invite many journalists and big shots from live streaming. She must seize this opportunity to make a big splash and become famous!

Only by becoming a true socialite could she securely hook Fourth Master.

By then, those little brats like Xi Rubao, Xing Yue, and Wu Qianman wouldn't be crushed under her feet?

But she couldn't quite understand when Master Gu inadvertently said that hosting a socialite cocktail party was some sort of a direct declaration of war?

She couldn't understand it well.

With whom is she declaring war?

Isn't it just the meaning of making her name with one battle?

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In Xi Rubao's livestream.

She was demonstrating the making of a double-skin milk dessert.

"You gently lift this thin layer of milk skin, then pour the stirred milk back in... let it sit and solidify, and it will form two layers of milk jelly, that's double-skin milk, give it a taste and see if it's delicious? For those cuties who like, I'll select ten people to receive a delivery of double-skin milk."

Xi Rubao, with Bai He's consent, revealed the exclusive recipe of double-skin milk in the live broadcast.

The comment section was bustling:

"Amazing, my Cabbage Carp, changing from a learning streamer to a food streamer?"

"No, my Cabbage Carp is just adding another layer of Ma Jia!"

"I really want to eat the double-skin milk made by my dear Cabbage Carp, nowadays to eat some traditional Empire snacks, one has to find them in alleyways. Those big hotels and such have been taken over by fancy western restaurants, ridiculously expensive, and the taste is just so-so."

"Yeah, yeah, I miss that taste from childhood..."

"But my boyfriend thinks Chinese food is too basic. He says only in Western restaurants does one feel the atmosphere when dating. Honestly, I really want to tell him I've had diarrhea several times from eating steaks and curry!"

The heated discussions of the fans also made some professional food industry folks jump in excitement:

"You guys are absolutely right! I'm in the restaurant business, my family's old brand Chinese restaurant is almost crumbling, the whole mall is filled with French cuisine, Japanese food, Southeast Asian cuisine... squeezing traditional Empire dishes to the brink with no space to survive..."

"Same here, awful, my wife told me to sell the restaurant quickly and find another path..."

"A former Chinese cuisine chef here silently raising my hand, I've been forced into changing careers to become a Western cuisine apprentice, following the master every day to fry various meat steaks, smear all sorts of high-calorie salad dressings, to the point of vomiting..."

The complaints were so intense.

To the extent that Xi Rubao couldn't handle it and closed her mic, looking towards Xi Zuzi for help:  
"Sister, how do I answer?"

Xi Zuzi was sitting on Bao Gucheng's lap, eating the fresh lotus seeds the man peeled and fed her, she smiled and said, "For those who treat you with sincerity, you should repay with sincerity."

Chapter 684: Mr. Bo Wants a Title Now! The Title of a Partner!

Zuzi's simple statement made Xi Rubao thoughtful, and in a moment, she had a revelation!

"Sis, I get it now. The fans support me so tirelessly, I should give back what I can! I understand, they don't need vague responses, they need tangible help!"

Xi Rubao's eyes sparkled, and she resolutely turned on the microphone again:

"Friends from the dining industry earlier, raise your hands. Herbal Fish has decided to start a live stream series on traditional Empire cuisine. You provide the material, and I'll promote it for free."

"Our three hundred million fish fan battle capabilities are absolutely solid! Not to mention, within our fish fans, those who like traditional snacks can find you easily."

"Don't just sit there, send me barrage messages and let me know, who was that brother running a longstanding Chinese restaurant in the Golden Diamond Corridor? Speak up, what's your shop name?"

"Shi Hui Jian? Got it, I'll remember that, the first stop will be to check out your place, and see if it's tasty or not, I'm doing a secret visit..."

While Xi Rubao was busy buzzing with excitement, she decided on the fly to start a new live stream theme.

Across the sofa, Bao Gucheng was also lost in thought.

"If someone sincerely treats you, you should repay with sincerity as well... is that what Miss Zuzi thinks?"

"Mhm, yeah."

"Then if someone sincerely hopes to be Zuzi's partner, would she be willing to treat them as a partner too?"

Bao Gucheng blurted out awkwardly.

It came out fast, his brain hadn't yet crafted a more concise, tactful wording, but his lips spoke as if they were precious jewels.

Zuzi had just tasted a lotus seed.

Though not as sweet as those from the Turquoise Pool, and with a hint of earthiness and bitterness, they were still top-grade in the mortal realm. Ancestor didn't mind.

Ancestor only fusses about the air.

"Hmm, is Xiao Cheng'er talking about... celestial partners? Those who agree to dual cultivation?"

Bao Gucheng: "..."

Though the term "celestial partners" sounds grand, it's too highbrow, not as down-to-earth as "partners."

However, he knew the little woman had a unique vocabulary.

Whatever she says goes.

"Yeah, celestial partners, would Miss Zuzi be willing to make such an agreement with someone?"

Zuzi shook her head, "Nope."

She didn't even pause for a second of thought and directly refused.

It was so fast, she didn't bother explaining why.

Watching Bao Gucheng's look of dimming disappointment, the little crow beside them sighed silently, "Ancestor, you are harsh."

But Fu Xiqin commented heartlessly, "Well, it's normal, Brother Jin, you've forgotten that even a thousand years ago, the Ancestor rejected my lord in one swift word."

There's no way a boy would receive better treatment than my lord.

The next moment.

Zuzi cheerfully added, "Although we can't be celestial partners, the sincerity Xiao Cheng'er lets Ancestor smell, Ancestor will definitely repay in kind. Or, does Xiao Cheng'er want something else?"

Little crow: "..."

Fu Xiqin: "..."

Ancestor, are you hinting at asking the boy for something else?

What else!

Ancestor, clarify clearly!

Otherwise, as the male creatures in this world, we're all going to misunderstand!

Bao Gucheng set down the lotus seed and scooped up Zuzi, carrying her horizontally. He said to the freshly finished streaming Xi Rubao, "Borrowing your restroom for a bit!"

And just like that, he carried Zuzi to the restroom!

Xi Rubao: "..."

Ah, ah, ah, what are you two doing in broad daylight, sis and brother-in-law?

Restroom.

Bao Gucheng steadied Zuzi and set her on the sink, but her long legs were still wrapped around his waist.

"Miss Zuzi, you said I can ask for something else? Hmm?"

Chapter 685: The Ruthless Little Ancestor

Zuzi sat on the marble washbasin, her slender legs wrapped around Bao Gucheng's waist, the pristine white skirt fabric wrinkled between them.

Her pure, clear eyes blinked, "Hmm, Xiao Cheng, is there anything else you want? Ancestor will try to satisfy you. For example..."

The next second, they both blurted out almost simultaneously—

"For example, truly becoming my woman, merging with me into one!"

"For example, helping you resist your fated calamity, allowing you to live a few more days?"

What followed was silence. An awkward silence.

Bao Gucheng's face, initially flushed with anticipation, gradually lost its color, growing somewhat cold and solitary.

Zuzi pursed her red lips slightly, exhaling a gentle breath of celestial energy, and after a while, she spoke slowly, "Xiao Cheng, Ancestor doesn't do Dual Cultivation, especially not with mortals, okay."

The man's tone was bitter, the depths of his dark eyes seemed to churn with hidden turmoil!

"So, in your eyes, I'm just as ordinary as other men?"

"This..." Zuzi thought for a moment, "Not exactly."

After all, Xiao Cheng smells better than other men!

The cold solitude in Bao Gucheng's eyes finally showed a sparkle, like a dying ember reigniting, bringing back a glimmer of hope.

He pondered, "Are you worried that my lifespan isn't long enough to take care of you for a lifetime?"

Rumors about his short lifespan have been around for a while.

This little woman is really concerned about this?

Zuzi looked at the light swirling above his head, once bright but now faint to the point of vanishing, and sighed softly, "Mm-hmm."

Everyone is born with their own destiny.

Some are strong or weak, short or long.

Bao Gucheng's fate is strong and vibrant, its radiance pure and righteous, yet it has an abrupt ending, in other words, a short-lived mortal.

Even if his first half of life is dazzling with achievements, when his fate runs its course, everything will collapse.

Though Ancestor doesn't need someone to take care of her for a lifetime, she also can't make any promises of Dual Cultivation with someone near death; what if it accelerates his depletion of energy?

Moreover, there's a difference between the celestial and the mortal, she and he... can't possibly cultivate that way, can they???

Hmm, come to think of it, Ancestor seems never to have seriously studied how to cultivate; she directly refused that bastard brother of hers before, too.

While Zuzi pondered, the tall man slowly covered her with his body.

He wrapped her in his powerful arms, his thin lips close to her ear, whispering or lightly kissing, "I promise you, from now on I'll treasure my life, avoid taking risks, and stay with you for as long as the heavens allow, okay?"

Once his retirement report is approved, once he understands the old stories, he'll accompany her to read, even if the sky falls, he won't care.

Will this put her at ease?

Zuzi took a deep breath as his strong spiritual energy swept over her completely, almost making her lose reason and agree.

But after hesitating, she still didn't relent, "A word spirit must not speak falsehoods, Ancestor can't deceive you, Xiao Chenger."

Bao Gucheng felt a sharp pain in his heart, the hope that had just ignited was shattered again, he truly wished he were deaf at that moment, unable to hear this final response.

He would rather she deceive him!

The little crow perched on the edge of the bathtub, looking sympathetically at Bao Gucheng's back, "Ancestor is truly heartless. Xiao Cheng, don't be persistent."

Fu Xiqin sat beside it, sighing along, "Sigh, Xiao Cheng is so fragrant, yet Ancestor remains unmoved. This level, indeed, is the exemplar, leader, idol, and paragon of gods and immortals across all realms..."

Chapter 686: Hardworking Mr. Bo Who Cherishes Life!

Xi Rubao watched eagerly as Zuzi and Bao Gucheng went into the restroom.

After that, there was no sound.

It didn't seem like there was any ruckus, no thunderous passion?

Or maybe brother-in-law is particularly refined, and can keep quiet even when being affectionate with my sister?

Oh, I shouldn't think about it, they're still young, it's embarrassing!

As her face blushed, the restroom door suddenly opened.

When they went in, Bao Gucheng was holding Zuzi, but when they came out, they were one after the other. Although they were holding hands, the intimacy was slightly different from before.

Could it be that brother-in-law finished so quickly?

Xi Rubao thought as she looked at Bao Gucheng's somewhat stern expression, while her own Ancestor Sister's face was still relaxed, unbothered by anything, she was again baffled: "Sister, brother-in-law, you guys..."

Bao Gucheng's expression returned to calm as he said, "You should rest early; I'll pick you up tomorrow to attend an event."

"Ah, brother-in-law, what event?"

"A banquet by the Bai Family."

"Is it that really cute Miss Bai, the one you had a blind date with?" Xi Rubao blurted out, then realized she was wrong, "Ahem, not the one you declined for a blind date, brother-in-law!"

"Mm."

Bao Gucheng turned to Zuzi, staring at her intently, and seriously asked, "If I can't have someone, then she can't either, right?"

Even though he was sure that Zuzi wouldn't like women, he couldn't help but want confirmation.

If that Xiao Bailian tried to steal her away for Dual Cultivation, he would have to guard against it, he must be present at the banquet.

Zuzi nodded cheerfully this time, "Uh-huh, she can't either."

Bao Gucheng finally got a moderately satisfying answer, "See you tomorrow."

As long as the young woman doesn't agree to anyone else, he still has time and opportunity.

Isn't she just afraid he'll have a short life?

Then he would strive to defy fate and change his destiny, wouldn't he?

He was determined to live a long life, always staying by her side.

Xi Rubao looked strangely at Bao Gucheng's swift departure, even more puzzled: "Huh, why is brother-in-law leaving so early today?"

Normally, after her live broadcast ended, brother-in-law would stay with her sister, showering affection on the couch for quite a while.

Zuzi thought for a moment, "Maybe... he's going back to work out?"

Xi Rubao: "Ah, working out in the cold dead of night? Are you sure, sis?"

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Special Squad Training Base.

In the middle of the night at the training field stands.

Several guys from the "Pioneering Ancestors" group chat lined up, staring fixedly at the training field, where Bao Gucheng was finishing a ten-lap weighted run, doing half an hour of push-ups, then trashed two punching bags in the boxing ring, still full of spirit and refused to stop, moving on to the target range to demolish some targets...

Everyone swallowed hard.

Yin Hu: "I told you, he's definitely heartbroken..."

Wei Yang: "Heartbroken men are really not to be messed with... this fighting capability is terrifying..."

Shen Hou: "The stamina is also terrifying!"

Chen Long stroked his chin, looking puzzled, "He told me to clean the car for tomorrow's trip to the Bai Family. Even if he's heartbroken, I can't imagine him moving on so fast with Miss Bai? It doesn't seem like his melancholic nature."

Wei Yang: "No clue."

Shen Hou: "Maybe he's excessively sad and looking for a substitute?"

Yin Hu: "Why doesn't he consider Miss Gu?"

Everyone looked at Yin Hu, glaring at him fiercely, "Enough already, mention Gu Shiyin one more time, and we're done with you!"

Chapter 687: Don't Divulge Mr. Bo's Matters to Gu Shiyin

Yin Hu awkwardly pursed his lips, "Sorry, I'm used to it... But why do you all have such a deep prejudice against her?"

Wei Yang: "Haha, it's not prejudice, it's just looking down on her! Her streaming persona, her auctioneer persona, her writer persona, which one of them is clean? Only brainless people would idolize her!"

Yin Hu: "... She, she's made a lot of mistakes, but she's really turned over a new leaf now. Can't she be given a chance?"

Chen Long: "Do you think giving a murderer a chance is fair to the victims?"

Yin Hu: "... It doesn't seem to be as serious as murder, and I heard that tomorrow Miss Gu is hosting a party, it's for charity, entirely to promote culinary arts, with no ulterior motive, really! She's actually quite an enthusiastic person, always willing to share whatever skills she has..."

Everyone: "... Hu Zi, you're really brainwashed. Back in the day, she taught you a few martial arts moves, and you were already under her spell?"

Yin Hu: "That's not exactly it... Recently she's been teaching me again and even gave me the secrets of the Five Animals Play. Do you guys want to take a look together?"

Chen Long glared at him with a helpless look: "Not interested. Remember, how you choose to associate with her is your business, but don't let it affect your brothers, especially don't affect Mr. Bo, or reveal anything about Mr. Bo. Got it?"

"I'm still measured about that." Yin Hu pursed his lips.

Just then, in the distance, "bang—bang—bang—" a series of rapid sounds.

Immediately followed by a "boom—!"

Everyone exchanged glances: "Great, in less than a minute, another target at the shooting range is wasted."

Mr. Bo, your body is already strong enough, you really don't need to keep torturing the training equipment like this.

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At the top floor of the Golden Diamond Corridor, at the end of the hallway, there's a traditional Chinese restaurant called "Affordable Jian."

The owner, Zhou Youjian, was a sturdy man, who inherited the restaurant, opened by generations of his family. But now, it's on the brink of decline.

Early in the morning, the mall's property manager came to collect the rent: "Boss Jian, this month's rent is due. If you don't pay today, we'll have to evict you."

Zhou Youjian sighed in distress, "Can you give me just one more day? Or deduct it from my deposit first? A friend is coming for dinner today..."

The property manager looked at the empty restaurant and couldn't help but laugh, "Boss Jian, this is a high-end mall, with patrons who are all high-profile figures. If your poor friends are coming, just treat them to a simple lamb soup outside. Why blow a day's rent worth thousands for the sake of entertaining a friend? Don't you know how to do math?"

Zhou Youjian, with his sturdy build, was left a bit unsteady by the ridicule.

He glanced at his phone.

Yesterday, in the live stream of a big influencer, Grass Carp, it was mentioned there would be support for expanding the influence of traditional Empire cuisine. They specifically mentioned his name, promising to come for a covert visit, check if his dishes were tasty, and help promote if they were. He didn't want to miss the opportunity.

But it was already mealtime, and not a single customer had arrived. Maybe Grass Carp wouldn't come at all...

A popular streamer with billions of fans, casually saying something like that, how could they have the time to come to his declining restaurant?

The property manager saw him standing there dumbly, increasingly convinced that the owner and his restaurant were beyond saving, and unceremoniously, almost poking him in the forehead to evict him:

"I'm telling you, look at the Famo Mansion opposite. Look how the line stretches to the elevator. That's the kind of restaurant that has a future. I advise you, close up shop sooner rather than later!"

Chapter 688: The Duel between Chinese and Western Cuisine! Mr. Bo's Great Spirit

Zhou Youjian was stung by this blatant mockery.

Famo Mansion is just a western restaurant that opened a few years ago. Taking advantage of the craze for French cuisine in the capital, it spent a lot of money poaching seasoned chefs from other western restaurants and recently hired a young internet celebrity chef, creating what they call an internet-famous restaurant.

It cooks whatever is trendy, without any fixed style of its own.

But such a western restaurant, which seemed to have no style or heritage in Zhou Youjian's eyes, had beaten his long-established Chinese restaurant to a pulp, causing their revenue to plummet like a freefall.

Recently, it became even more exaggerated. Because the rival devised some chef-special red wine foie gras, even the long-time patrons of his establishment were lured away, and they showed no signs of returning.

His "Shi Hui Jian" hadn't seen a customer walk through the door for several days. The costs for rent, utilities, and staff salaries alone amounted to over 20,000 a day, and the losses were mounting.

Could it be that he really had to admit defeat, ruining his family legacy of a restaurant and closing down for good?

Looking at the bustling Famo Mansion across the street, with the queue numbers already over five hundred, while he had none...

Zhou Youjian sighed heavily, having to admit that though the property manager's words were harsh, they might be true: "Alright, I'll close today... uh, could I, plead to waive today's rent of ten thousand for us?"

Forced into such a predicament, he couldn't even afford his pride for the sake of survival and had to beg humbly.

After all, saving ten thousand could give the employees a bit more severance.

But just when the property manager was about to respond.

A tall, plump man burst out of the restaurant: "Dad, you can't close! Teacher Cao Yu said she'll come, and she always keeps her word, she never breaks a promise!"

"But... son, she might not come today, and we can't hold on until tomorrow."

"Dad, can't you wait a bit longer? Trust me! All of us who watch the livestreams together, learn English, study ancient texts, and I'm learning drawing... have improved rapidly. Now that Teacher Cao Yu is finally teaching culinary arts, our family can't miss this opportunity!"

The property manager listened with a bout of laughter: "Old Zhou, is there something wrong with your son's head, should see a doctor. Wasn't there a recent scandal with a streamer selling things and harming people? Don't get hooked on live streams, your son hasn't even taken college entrance exams, what will he do in the future."

"I'm taking the art major exam! Who needs your concern!"

"Fine, I'm too lazy to worry about your family. Today's rent of ten thousand can't be waived! We can't run a charity just because you have no business, can we? Vacate by tomorrow morning, or see you in court!"

Negotiations fell apart, and the manager stormed off.

Son, Zhou Yingjun, watched his father's dejected figure and scratched his head: "Dad, since they'll deduct the ten thousand anyway today, why not wait for Teacher Cao Yu?"

Zhou Youjian looked down the corridor, the elevator was full, and everyone was heading to Famo Mansion, none to Shi Hui Jian.

The aroma wafting from Famo Mansion made even him a bit tempted...

His voice was parched: "You go review for your art exam, I'll wait here."

The restaurant had no way out; it was doomed either way... Saying they were waiting for Xi Rubao was more like he wanted to stay quietly by the entrance alone.

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At this moment.

Bao Gucheng had already arrived at the hotel, picking up Xi Zuzi and Xi Rubao to get into the car.

Last night, he exercised till dawn, took a quick cold shower, and had a brief rest, but was still full of energy at the moment, showing no signs of last night's exertion.

Chapter 689: The Little Ancestor Says No, But His Actions Are Very Sincere

After last night's event, Bao Gucheng had decided to increase his exercise intensity every day, cherish his life, and avoid reckless behavior, using his strong physique and endless time to prove that he could be with Xi Zuzi for a very long time!

He personally drove the two sisters to attend the banquet at the Bai Family.

Xi Zuzi appeared as usual, seemingly unaffected by last night's events, her attitude towards him unchanged or awkward. She smiled and exclaimed, "Xiao Cheng'er is here!", then sat in the back seat of the car.

It was Xi Rubao who seemed a bit nervous, always wondering if something was different between her sister and brother-in-law.

Why didn't her sister sit in the front passenger seat?

Was her sister sitting in the back to accompany her or to avoid her brother-in-law?

No, her sister didn't seem to be the type of girl who overthinks things like this...

With a belly full of question marks, she discreetly glanced over and noticed that Xi Zuzi somehow had an extremely old-looking... thread-stitched book in her hand.

It was really old, the paper so fragile that it seemed like it would crumble to dust at a touch.

Xi Zuzi flipped through it and tossed it aside.

Then Xi Rubao witnessed an even more astonishing scene.

In the palm of Xi Zuzi's hand, a stack of... bamboo scrolls appeared out of nowhere?!

A long series of bamboo strips strung together, the kind only seen in ancient costume TV series, spread wide, the tool used by ancient people for recording before the invention of papermaking.

How did it end up in her sister's hand?

Xi Zuzi casually flipped through them and tossed them aside again.

Others read ten lines at a glance; she read a thousand.

Clearly, she hadn't found what she was looking for.

The next second.

The bamboo scroll instantly changed into pottery shards!

Then in the following second.

It turned into a pile of hemp ropes.

In the next moment.

It changed to seashells...

Xi Rubao was dazzled, "Sis, what are you... playing with?"

Xi Zuzi's fair hands were finally empty: "Hmm, just looking for some anecdotes."

Regarding how to practice dual cultivation with mortals, she had never tried it nor heard of it, so she planned to find if there were any records in this regard.

Who knew, through the ages, there really wasn't any record of immortals having relationships with mortals?

Only the stories of the Seven Fairies and Dong Yong, Niu Lang and the weaver, but those were clearly just storybook tales.

After all, ancestors knew the Seven Fairies and the weaver and didn't seem like the type to fall for a mortal, especially since if there was such gossip, Fu Xiqin, being a chatterbox, would've eagerly added to it and reported to her.

"Ancestor, are you looking for dual cultivation matters?"

Fu Xiqin discerned the situation, with her gossipy little eyes rolling around, "Let Qin Qin find it for you! Qin Qin knows that in many of the master's palaces, there are those little picture books and clay figurine action movies, hehehe..."

A little black crow slapped him on the head: "Be serious! Ancestor is looking for information on immortal and mortal dual cultivation, not those things of your master, everybody knows about those."

Fu Xiqin: "Ow, Brother Jin, don't hit the head, hit the... butt! Actually, I think, whether immortal or mortal, men think alike, right? Practicing should be no different, all the same positions, right? Oh no, Ancestor, didn't you brutally reject a little boy? Why are you still looking for stories on immortal and mortal dual cultivation?"

The little black crow: "..."

Xi Zuzi: "..."

With a flick of her fingers, a silence spell!

Can't ancestors occasionally not be lazy and be a bit industrious and studious?

With Fu Xiqin silenced over there, Xi Rubao received a phone call, her expression suddenly turned a bit strange, and she lowered her voice, unable to suppress her surprise and disbelief:

"Sis, you'll never guess what big thing Grandpa did?!"

Xi Zuzi didn't see the need for such mystery, her tone calm as usual: "Hmm, did Xiao Bei also find an... arranged date for Ancestor?"

The word "also" made Bao Gucheng, who was driving, glance in the rearview mirror.

The two words "arranged date" caused the smoothly traveling car to suddenly jolt vigorously!

Chapter 690: Why does the little ancestor hint at this reason? Mr. Bo suddenly very pleased  
Bao Gucheng slightly furrowed his brow.

Mr. Gu, being such a refined and elegant person, is actually as bored as that old man in his family, arranging blind dates for the younger generation?

Who else to arrange but Zuzi?

Shouldn't he first arrange for Gu Qiusha?

Bao Gucheng's eyes were deep as he kept the car steady on the road, listening to Xi Rubao in the back seat spilling beans like beans to Xi Zuzi: "Sis, you're amazing! How did you predict this? I was scared to death just now, Grandpa actually wants to set you up on a blind date, and do you know who the date is?"

"Hmm, Xiao Bai?" Xi Zuzi smiled lazily.

Xi Rubao: "... " Cough, cough, she nearly fell under the seat.

Bao Gucheng: "... " That brat Bai Fei, didn't he make up an international pharmaceutical academic seminar to keep that brat away for at least a month abroad?

Xi Rubao finally calmed her heartbeat and composed herself: "Sis, nothing can be hidden from you, it's really Mr. Bai. Grandpa said Mr. Bai was so excited upon hearing about the matchmaking with our family

that he took an overnight international flight for more than ten hours to rush back. We're supposed to meet him at Bai He's banquet later, what do we do when we see him?"

She sneaked a glance at Bao Gucheng who was driving; her brother-in-law looked pretty calm with his large hands on the steering wheel, but won't he actually lose his cool when they arrive at the Bai Family?

Ah, it's all Grandpa's fault; if there's a blind date, why not consider Mr. Bo as the first choice?

In the midst of a freezing atmosphere, Xi Zuzi suddenly chuckled softly, seemingly with indifference: "Little grass fish, do you remember what you promised your fans yesterday?"

Xi Rubao was asked and looked a bit puzzled, her mind not catching up: "Huh? What?"

What did she promise?

Instead, it was Bao Gucheng driving, multitasking, who casually said: "You promised to go to a traditional restaurant, try their dishes, and promote the traditional dining industry of the Empire."

"Oh yes, that's right! Brother-in-law, I was planning to go, but isn't it Bai He sister's date today, so I thought I'd visit on another day."

"No time like the present; let's go today," Bao Gucheng said.

"Ah, but brother-in-law, the Bai He sister's family dinner..."

"She can bring the food over."

"But brother-in-law, there's another problem, I can't recall the restaurant's name at the moment, I need to check the live stream later..."

"It's Shi Hui Jian."

"Brother-in-law! No wonder you can become a General; you're amazing with such a photographic memory!"

Bao Gucheng didn't care about these compliments, but through the rearview mirror, he gave Xi Zuzi a glance.

Xi Zuzi's lips held a faint smile, though she hadn't voiced an opinion, she didn't object either.

His mood suddenly lifted a few notches.

Though he remembered these details, if it weren't for Xi Zuzi's prompt, he wouldn't have thought of using this excuse to refuse dining at the Bai Family.

Why would Xi Zuzi hint at this reason?

Even though she cruelly refused to dual cultivate with him, she definitely wouldn't fancy that brat Bai Fei!

Thinking this, Bao Gucheng's happiness deepened, as he turned the car around and looked towards the direction of the Golden Diamond Corridor.

Xi Rubao quickly called Bai He and informed her about the sudden change of venue.

Bai He, though a bit regretful that Xi Zuzi couldn't come to see her boudoir, was happy to dine and play with Xi Zuzi wherever it might be.

So, she energetically arranged for the servants to load her purchased ingredients into the car, along with her usual pots, plates, and spices, and headed to the Golden Diamond Corridor.

On her way out, she happened to meet Bai Fei, who had just got off the plane, rushing in with dust and dirt...