Divorce Only Makes a Son-in-Law Stronger

Chapter 51. Bringing disgrace upon oneself!

"The Wang family is a long-established family in Haicheng with a profound heritage, having passed down their medical traditions for hundreds of years," Yuan Youwei was explaining softly to Lin Fan as they waited in the outer courtyard's living room. "When he was young, Mr. Wang Sr. went to the Imperial Capital as an apprentice, where he mastered the techniques of several medical lineages. After becoming famous, he developed a love for collecting ancient prescriptions and rare medicines. He even has a private medicinal garden in the backyard, planted with countless exotic flowers and herbs he has gathered.

"Lin Fan, this old Wang family mansion used to be an official's residence during the old dynasty. It's nearly on par with a Royal Mansion. Aren't you dazzled?"

Seeing Lin Fan casually scan his surroundings before withdrawing his gaze, Mrs. Xue felt a flash of annoyance. He must be putting on airs. She couldn't help but ask deliberately, "So, what do you think?"

"It's passable. Barely," Lin Fan said with a nod, not elaborating further. Compared to the Ying family's residence in the Imperial Capital, a true Royal Mansion from the old dynasty, this place naturally falls short. And that's not to mention the truly supreme sights he had witnessed, which even the Ying family estate couldn't compare to. It was, however, the private medicinal garden in the Wang family's backyard that caught his interest.

"Hmph, what do you mean, 'barely'? I can say without hesitation that our Wang family's old mansion has far more substance than the Yuan family's estate!" a steward with a sour expression on his face snapped as he walked over. "The old master has decided to see you. Follow me."

The three of them immediately stood and followed the man toward the inner courtyard deep within the mansion. Mrs. Xue deliberately lagged a few steps behind and grumbled to Lin Fan in a low voice, "Are you a complete fool, or just so arrogant you've lost your bearings? We're here to ask Mr. Wang Sr. for a favor, and you dare to look down on his home!"

Yuan Youwei was also a bit speechless and secretly shot Lin Fan a warning look.

"Who said we're here to ask for a favor?" Lin Fan murmured, shaking his head with a slight frown. "If anyone's going to be asking for anything, it will be the Wang family asking me to show mercy."

THUMP!

The steward leading the way stumbled, his entire body shuddering.

Mrs. Xue and Yuan Youwei were dumbfounded. Good heavens, could this Lin Fan possibly be any more audacious? How dare he act so arrogantly on someone else's turf?

Coming to her senses, Mrs. Xue rolled her eyes dramatically and turned her head away, fuming in silence.

Yuan Youwei's eyes, however, lit up brightly before filling with a mix of joy and concern. Clearly, Lin Fan feels I've been wronged by the Wang family, and that's why he's deliberately acting this way!

"Lin Fan, you... you didn't have to go this far for me," Yuan Youwei said, her voice tender and her heart filled with sweetness. She couldn't stop herself from linking her arm with his, her gaze full of affection.

"Huh...?!" Mrs. Xue was dumbfounded all over again, her chest heaving with indignation. It's over. It's all over. The young miss is completely lovestruck! It was clearly Lin Fan being arrogant and domineering, but in her eyes, it transformed into affection and protection!

"...As long as you're happy," Lin Fan managed, his body tensing as the corner of his mouth twitched. He couldn't say much more, so he just pretended to admire the scenery as they walked.

Just then, Mrs. Xue pulled out her phone and her expression changed as she read a message. She stepped forward and whispered, "Miss, there's been trouble at the Suxin Clinic. Someone broke into the clinic last night and ransacked the place..." As she spoke, she couldn't help but glance at Lin Fan.

"Have someone investigate it. We must find the culprit!" Yuan Youwei said, her beautiful face instantly darkening. She turned to Lin Fan with an apologetic look and shook her head. "There's nothing of real value in the clinic. It might have been the families of Ma Laosan's group venting their anger."

Lin Fan frowned again. He decided he would find some time to check the clinic's surveillance footage on his phone.

A short while later, the group arrived at the main hall of the inner courtyard. The hall was filled with people seated on both sides, all of them wearing cold expressions. At the head of the room, Mr. Wang Sr. sat with a sullen face, not saying a word.

Seeing the scene, Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue exchanged a look, their faces paling slightly. Only Lin Fan remained composed and unmoved.

"Miss Yuan, we are already aware of the purpose of your visit," a well-dressed middle-aged man declared, rising to his feet to speak first. "You want us to give up our order shares to help Lin Fan get ahead... Heh, forgive us, but we can't do that."

As his words fell, the others began to sneer.

"Exactly. Even if you, Yuan Youwei, were to compensate us for our losses out of your own pocket, we would never agree."

"Miss Yuan, you used to be a guest we could hardly get an invitation to. How have you fallen so low?"

"Hmph! To prop up a good-for-nothing who knows nothing about Haicheng's pharmaceutical industry... It's the biggest joke I've ever heard!"

One after another, they all chimed in, their words dripping with merciless ridicule that echoed through the hall. Mrs. Xue's face flushed red, and she couldn't help but glare angrily at Lin Fan. Yuan Youwei bit her lip hard, humiliation and embarrassment flashing in her eyes.

She was just about to speak when Mr. Wang Sr. raised a hand, silencing her.

"Miss Yuan, if you are still here to plead for that prodigal son, Lin Fan, then save your breath," Mr. Wang Sr. said, shaking his head, his aged voice devoid of warmth. "This young man is insolent and unbearably arrogant for his age."

"Hmph, and he dared to boast about securing orders worth four billion at the procurement conference?" The old man's face grew darker, his voice rising in pitch. "I, Wang Tianchuan, as the president of the Medical Association, wouldn't dare make such an outrageous claim! What gives him the right to say such a thing! Or is it that in your eyes, Lin Fan, this old president isn't even worth a fart?!"

BOOM!

The furious voice thundered through the hall.

Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue's faces fell, and a knot of tension tightened in their stomachs. It was clear now. The moment Lin Fan made that four-billion bet with Yuan Ruoshan, he had thoroughly offended Mr. Wang Sr.

"Lin Fan, are you mute? You were so arrogant a moment ago."

"Speak up! Go on, say something! I'd love to see what kind of nonsense you can spew now!"

"This is hilarious. He drags Miss Yuan here to suffer this humiliation, and now he doesn't even dare make a peep?"

"Hmph! No wonder the Su Family calls you a good-for-nothing who lives off a woman. I see it's true!"

The crowd erupted again, their voices rising in harsh condemnation. The atmosphere in the hall became incredibly awkward and tense.

"Hahaha, to think Lin Fan would have a day like this. He came here just to be humiliated!" In an adjacent room, separated only by a wall, Su Gang was peeking through a latticed window, grinning from ear to ear.

"Serves them right! He deserves it! And so does Yuan Youwei!" Zhang Meili whispered viciously, a wide smile plastered on her face.

"Director Su, Mr. Wang Sr. didn't lie to us. He really has made Lin Fan the laughingstock of the pharmaceutical industry!" Yang Tingting said, turning to Su Mengqing with a smile.

"That's what Lin Fan gets for his hubris. And it's Yuan Youwei's fault for being blind enough to shamelessly help him climb the ladder!" Su Mengqing said, taking a deep breath. Her eyes were filled with resentment, and the triumphant smile on her face was impossible to suppress. I was worried he'd discover we stole the White Dragon Grass, but it seems I was nervous for nothing. Good, this is very good. Today is truly a day of double joy. Not only has Su Pharmaceutical been given a lifeline, but I also get to see Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei, that shameless pair, get publicly humiliated. This is truly satisfying!

"That's right," a voice finally cut through the clamor. It was Lin Fan, meeting the old man's furious gaze. "In my eyes, you, Wang Tianchuan, really aren't even worth a fart."

Before the initial shock could even register, he coolly pointed to the tea table beside Mr. Wang Sr.

"To steal my White Dragon Grass and then have the audacity to display it right under my nose... I'm truly impressed."

For an instant, both the main hall and the side room fell deathly silent.

The smiles froze on the faces of Su Mengqing and her companions, and they all shuddered violently. Then, in the main hall, a wave of outrage erupted as, one by one, the crowd shot to their feet in a massive uproar

Chapter 52. Refuse to admit even in death?

"How dare you! Who do you think you are, Lin Fan? How dare you slander the esteemed Mr. Wang Sr.!"

"The audacity! Mr. Wang Sr. has seen every treasure imaginable. Why would he need to steal anything from you?"

"Lin Fan, don't think you can just sling mud because the Yuan family has your back!"

Some people roared, while others glared daggers at Lin Fan. A few were so incensed they rolled up their sleeves, ready to fight. At the same time, the Wang family stewards, who had been waiting outside the inner hall, stepped in and surrounded the trio.

"Master, they don't know the rules. We should just throw them out!"

"Exactly! Why waste words on such riffraff? Just give them a beating and drive them out!"

"Lin Fan! Yuan Youwei! Are you going to get out yourselves, or will the Wang family have to help you?"

In an instant, the hall was filled with righteous indignation. Everyone pointed at Lin Fan and his companions, cursing furiously.

"Miss, that... that box... it really does look like the one we bought abroad. But what if we're wrong? It would be even more humiliating for us!" Yuan Youwei's face tightened as she prepared to speak, but Mrs. Xue quietly dissuaded her. Their eyes met, both filled with unease, before they turned to look at Lin Fan.

"Lin Fan, are you sure?" Yuan Youwei asked in a hushed voice. "The Wang family is wealthy and powerful; it wouldn't be surprising if they had a similar box."

"If you're wrong, you'll get my lady into terrible trouble!" Mrs. Xue felt her scalp tingle, her heart leaping into her throat.

"I trust my eyes. I can't be wrong," Lin Fan said resolutely, his face grim. "And the herb inside is the White Dragon Grass. I can recognize its unique medicinal scent. The age, the quality, everything matches... Someone went to the clinic and stole it!"

At his words, Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue's expressions changed again. They exchanged a look, the news they had just received about the clinic being robbed flashing through their minds. Could it be? Did Mr. Wang Sr. really send someone to steal the herb?

BANG!

"Ridiculous! What an absolutely ridiculous joke!"

The next moment, an enraged Mr. Wang Sr. slammed his hand on the table and shot to his feet. "Yuan Youwei! Your Yuan family is taking things too far! I only granted you this audience out of respect for Yuan Tianguang!"

He snatched the long rosewood box, stormed over, and jabbed a finger at Lin Fan. "Your penchant for keeping a gigolo is the Yuan family's business; my Wang family won't interfere. But to bring this kind of riffraff here to publicly accuse me, Wang Tianchuan, of stealing? You? Not even your grandfather would dare say such a thing! If you don't give me a satisfactory explanation today, don't even think about leaving the Wang estate!"

His furious roars echoed through the hall. The magnates of Haicheng Pharmaceutical stared as if looking at dead men. Hearing the commotion, more Wang family members rushed in from outside, all of them grinding their teeth with murder in their eyes. Insulting the patriarch was more painful to them than being slapped themselves!

「Inside the side hall.」

Su Gang, who had nearly wet himself in fear, finally let out a long breath and began to sneer. "Hahaha, that dog Lin Fan has sharp eyes, but he forgot this is the Wang family's territory!"

"Hmph! As long as Mr. Wang Sr. denies it to the death, Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei are completely doomed today!" Zhang Meili's plump face relaxed as she patted her chest, scoffing.

Yang Tingting didn't speak, only nodding heavily in agreement.

"Exactly. Look at the Wang family's standing. Even if the origin of that White Dragon Grass is questionable, they would never allow anyone to accuse them of theft," Su Mengqing said, nodding in profound agreement as the knot of anxiety in her chest finally loosened.

Lin Fan, oh Lin Fan, you truly are pitifully foolish. Forget about publicly accusing Mr. Wang Sr. of theft; even discussing it in private would provoke public outrage! Even if the herb was stolen, once it was presented to Mr. Wang Sr., you could never speak of it again! Just wait for the show. Mr. Wang Sr. will certainly not let Lin Fan off lightly. Still hoping to get promoted at Yuandao Pharmaceuticals? In his dreams! Su Mengqing sneered, her eyes filled with the arrogance of someone who had seen through it all.

「Inside the main hall.」

Yuan Youwei bit her lip and stepped forward. "Mr. Wang Sr., please hear our explanation first. A few days ago, our Yuan family did indeed purchase a White Dragon Grass from overseas."

She took out her phone and pulled up the purchase records. "Please look. The herb and the box are identical to what you have. We later gifted this herb to Lin Fan, and he kept it in his clinic." She held the screen out to Mr. Wang Sr. and continued, "And just a short while ago, we received news that Lin Fan's clinic was robbed last night..."

SLAP!

"So what?" Mr. Wang Sr. erupted. "Are you implying that I, Wang Tianchuan, sent someone to steal it?!" With a vicious swing, he smacked the phone out of Yuan Youwei's hand, sending it flying.

"Yuan Youwei! I thought that as the designated future heir of the Yuan family, you would have some exceptional qualities," he roared, spittle flying everywhere as he pointed at her pale face. "But you're willing to commit perjury for a gigolo like Lin Fan!"

"Mr. Wang Sr., watch your words!" Mrs. Xue was now furious as well. She stepped in front of Yuan Youwei protectively, glaring at the old man. "Everything my lady said is the absolute truth, without any deceit!"

"Heh. And who do you think you are?" Mr. Wang Sr. let out a laugh born of pure rage, turning his head with a heavy snort. "A mere bodyguard dares to yap at me, Wang Tianchuan?"

However, any keen observer could see a flicker of uncertainty flash through his eyes. He was in a position where he couldn't back down. Even though the old man secretly suspected the Su Family had stolen the herb, he had to deny it to the death in front of Lin Fan, Yuan Youwei, and all the bigwigs from Haicheng Pharmaceutical. Not to mention, he was truly reluctant to part with this White Dragon Grass. So what if the Su family stole it? He was the esteemed National Medical Sage, the renowned president of the Haicheng Pharmaceutical Association, and one of the four great tycoons of Haicheng! What could two youngsters like Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei possibly do to him, even if they talked until the sky fell?!

"So, you're just going to deny it no matter what, is that right?"

The next moment, Lin Fan, his brow deeply furrowed, suddenly snatched the rosewood box. He grabbed the White Dragon Grass inside, pinched it near the root, and pulled out a long, thin silver needle!

"I offered you a way to save face, but you insisted on choosing the path to ruin. You can't blame me for this." Lin Fan held up the needle, squinting as he examined it. Sure enough, engraved on the flat end of the needle was a minuscule character: "Lin"!

"I deliberately left this needle inside when I received the herb to secure it in place. It's a custom-made silver needle, and I dare say your Wang family cannot produce one like it."

His voice was calm and not particularly loud, but it sent a tidal wave of shock through the hall. The furious tycoons from Haicheng Pharmaceutical were all struck dumb. Even the Wang family members who had been shouting for blood could only stare at each other in disbelief. Only Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue's eyes lit up. They scanned the room triumphantly, their gazes finally settling on Mr. Wang Sr.'s face.

「In the side hall.」

Su Gang's smile vanished. He turned to Su Mengqing and the others, his voice trembling with fear. "Wh-what now? Even Mr. Wang Sr. is cornered!"

"What are you afraid of? This is the Wang family's estate!" Zhang Meili slapped Su Gang on the back of the head, though her own body was trembling slightly. "Besides, even if it comes to tearing all pretenses down, Mr. Wang Sr. will have to grit his teeth and push through!"

Su Mengqing and Yang Tingting exchanged a look, their expressions turning sour. I didn't expect Lin Fan to have another trick up his sleeve... But it doesn't matter. There's no way he can force Mr. Wang Sr. to admit it. She spoke with a confidence that sounded more like she was trying to convince herself.

「In the main hall, just a wall away.」

"Well? Why has everyone gone silent?" Seeing that the entire hall had fallen quiet, Yuan Youwei couldn't help but feel a wave of satisfaction. Mr. Wang Sr. was frozen in place, his cloudy old eyes looking as if they might pop out of their sockets. His face turned from red to purple, then from purple to black, finally swelling to the color of pig liver. "Weren't you just accusing us of slander?" she taunted loudly. "Go on, keep cursing!"

Wherever her gaze fell, people blushed crimson and lowered their heads, wishing they could bury them between their legs.

"Impossible! Absolutely impossible!" The next moment, Mr. Wang Sr. trembled and let out a hysterical shriek. "This silver needle is clearly one made exclusively for my Wang family!"

Before anyone could react...

GULP! GULP!

He snatched the silver needle from Lin Fan's hand and swallowed it whole!

The sudden turn of events left everyone stunned. A moment later, they all gasped in horror. To save face, the old man was truly willing to go to any length!

"Hahaha! What silver needle? You were bluffing all along, Lin Fan!" Mr. Wang Sr. choked, his eyes rolling back. After a moment of struggle, he managed to swallow and regain his composure.

He lifted his bloodshot eyes and glared at Lin Fan, letting out a series of wild, maniacal laughs.

Chapter 53. Everyone tells lies with their eyes wide open?

"You! You!"

Seeing the old scoundrel act so shamelessly, reneging on his word without any regard for his status, Mrs. Xue was so shocked and furious she was fit to burst.

An icy chill spread across Yuan Youwei's Yu Rong as she ground her teeth in frustration. The only piece of evidence had just been swallowed by Mr. Wang Sr. They could take him to a hospital and have it surgically removed, but who in all of Haicheng could possibly force him if he refused to cooperate? They had completely exposed the man, but a moment of carelessness allowed him to brazenly deny everything.

Damn him! I could just kill him!

"What's wrong with me? Without evidence, you are openly slandering my, Wang Tianchuan's, good name! Everyone here can bear witness to that!" Mr. Wang Sr. sneered, forcing down his discomfort. "Lin Fan, Yuan Youwei, you have crossed my line time and time again!"

He snatched the long box and the herb back from Lin Fan's hands, shouting with such force that spit flew from his mouth. "This White Dragon Grass is a treasured heirloom of the Wang family! How dare you twist the truth? Do you really think my Wang family is afraid of the Yuan family?"

"That's right! I've seen that White Dragon Grass since I was a child. It's our family heirloom!"

"We only brought it out today for our esteemed guests to appreciate, and you dare to scheme for the Wang family's treasure?"

Several Wang family members, exchanging knowing glances, joined in the shouting, all of them insisting that the herb belonged to their family.

Just then, a self-righteous voice called out from outside the hall. "I, Yuan Ruoshan, can testify! I have seen this item at the Wang family home before."

Yuan Ruoshan, his face a mask of solemnity, strode into the hall and cupped his fists in a salute to the crowd. He then turned, his eyes filled with derision, and fixed his cold gaze on the silent Lin Fan.

"Lin Fan, Yuan Youwei, what are your intentions? How dare you accuse the Wang family of stealing from you?" he boomed. "Get on your knees! Kowtow and admit your mistake! If you fail to satisfy Mr. Wang Sr., don't even think about getting up!"

These words sent a shockwave through the entire hall. Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue were stunned. The other magnates of Haicheng Pharmaceutical exchanged meaningful glances.

"Yes, I, Song Qingming, have also seen it! I can testify for Mr. Wang Sr.!"

"I can testify as well!"

"Lin Fan, Yuan Youwei, kneel and admit your fault now!"

One after another, people stood up to join the chorus of condemnation, all siding with the Wang family. No one was a fool. If even Yuan Ruoshan wouldn't stand up for Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei, there was no reason for them to embarrass the Wang family. Besides, this was a golden opportunity to curry favor with Mr. Wang Sr. What did a few blatant, conscienceless lies matter?

In the side hall, Su Gang shivered, his voice trembling with excitement. "Damn, he truly is one of the four giants. Only a major figure like Mr. Wang Sr. could turn a situation like this around!"

Zhang Meili and Yang Tingting also broke into smiles. As they looked through the window at Lin Fan's group, it was as if they were looking at corpses.

"Yuan Ruoshan is the vice president of Yuandao Pharmaceuticals. The fact that even he is speaking up for the Wang family just shows how unwelcome Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei are in their own family," Su Mengqing said, clenching her fists with a vindictive smile.

Good. This is very good. As long as Mr. Wang Sr. sticks to his story that the White Dragon Grass is a family heirloom, and Yuan Ruoshan and the others corroborate it, Lin Fan and Yuan Youwei won't be able to talk their way out of this! So what if everyone knows the herb was stolen? Even if this gets back to Mr. Yuan Sr., they'll have no choice but to swallow this bitter pill and suffer in silence!

In the main hall, Yuan Youwei snapped back to reality, her Yu Rong turning ashen. "Yuan Ruoshan! You are my third uncle! How can you lie through your teeth and twist right and wrong like this?" she cried out, pointing at the sneering Yuan Ruoshan, her eyes turning red.

The betrayal from her own family felt like a vicious stab in the back.

It hurt. A raw, bleeding pain!

"Hmph, so now you remember that I'm your third uncle?" Yuan Ruoshan said with a humorless smile, adjusting his gold-rimmed glasses. Behind the lenses, his eyes were filled with hatred and disgust. "You'd rather promote an outsider than give me, Yuan Ruoshan, a second glance! And when my father was sent back to the countryside by the old man, did you ever once speak up for him? I knew you were bringing Lin Fan to the Wang family to cause trouble, so I came here specifically to stop you disgraceful pair!"

BOOM!

His heartless words, delivered with a cold, familiar face, struck her like a bolt of lightning. Yuan Youwei bit her lip so hard it nearly bled, her heart turning to ice.

In the face of self-interest, kinship and blood ties were completely worthless!

"You've gone too far! All of you, you've gone too far..." Mrs. Xue's eyes filled with sympathy as she held Yuan Youwei steady. She turned, her breathing ragged, her cold eyes blazing with fury. She wanted nothing more than to teach these bastards who twisted the truth a lesson!

"How have we gone too far? You're the ones who have gone too far! Daring to come to the Wang family's home and slander Mr. Wang Sr.!"

"Hmph, what more do you have to say for yourselves? Get on your knees and kowtow!"

"Yes, kneel and kowtow!"

"Kneel! Hurry up and kneel! If you don't satisfy Mr. Wang Sr. and the rest of us, you won't get away with a single kowtow less!"

The roars and jeers rose and fell, crashing through the hall like a torrential storm. Mr. Wang Sr.'s eyes were filled with mockery and disdain. The crowd laughed triumphantly. Even the four in the side hall, including Su Mengqing, wore smiles of gloating satisfaction.

Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue huddled together, their faces etched with resentment and despair. It seemed they had no choice but to accept this bitter defeat. In that moment, they both turned to look at Lin Fan, secretly hoping he could work a miracle and expose the true faces of these despicable people.

One second passed, then two, then three... Finally, Lin Fan's jaw clenched as he stepped in front of Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue, shielding them from the piercing glares.

He had a thousand ways to force the old man to admit the truth. But after some consideration, Lin Fan decided he would make the man confess of his own accord.

"Yuan Ruoshan, you and the others claim to have seen this White Dragon Grass at the Wang family's home before?" he began. His gaze slowly swept across the room as he shook his head. "Then why didn't any of you say a word when the Yuan family was desperately searching everywhere for a White Dragon Grass? Or is it that you, Yuan Ruoshan, the Wang family, and all you magnates of Haicheng Pharmaceutical... were content to simply watch Mr. Yuan Sr. die?"

The raucous hall fell abruptly silent. Every shout, every jeer, every demand died on their lips. Mr. Wang Sr.'s expression flickered. The other pharmaceutical magnates froze, staring at one another in stunned silence.

Damn it, this kid isn't as stupid as he looks. He found the weak spot in one move! If they admitted to knowing, it would be the same as admitting they held ill intentions toward Yuan Tianguang, the Chamber of Commerce Chairman! Damn him, he's trying to drag everyone down with him!

"Lin Fan is right!" Mrs. Xue, jolted into action, loudly demanded, "The Yuan family exhausted every resource searching for the White Dragon Grass! Why did you deliberately hide this information?"

"Yuan Ruoshan, do you realize the consequences of this? You wanted to see Grandfather die!" Yuan Youwei had also recovered. Her Yu Rong was now filled with grief and an icy fury as she stared down her uncle. "If you dare to lie for the Wang family again, you won't even be able to keep your position as vice president!"

Chapter 54. The needle is poisoned!

"No, that's not it! I didn't! I had absolutely no malicious intent toward Mr. Yuan Sr.!" Yuan Ruoshan's face cycled through several colors before flushing a deep, congested red. Lin Fan's move, it had to be said, was ruthless. If Yuan Tianguang finds out about this, I'll be branded with the ugly reputation of having harmed an elder!

"I... I only went to the Wang family after Mr. Yuan Sr. had been revived! That's when I unintentionally saw the White Dragon Grass!" Yuan Ruoshan shouted, a sheen of cold sweat on his forehead. It was a sudden stroke of genius.

"Yes, yes, that's right! The same goes for us! We weren't trying to deliberately hide the existence of the White Dragon Grass!"

"Miss Yuan, please don't misunderstand, and please don't say anything rash to President Yuan!"

"Exactly! If we'd known earlier that the Wang family had an ancestral White Dragon Grass, we would have done anything to procure it for President Yuan. Sigh!"

Seeing their opening, the executives from Haicheng Pharmaceutical all had the same idea, quickly latching onto the same excuse. They repeatedly dabbed at their sweat with their sleeves, their smiles more like pained grimaces. They had no choice. This was tantamount to selling out the Wang family. But better them than us... We can't be expected to perjure ourselves for the Wang family, not if it means offending the most powerful man in Haicheng.

Just then, Lin Fan nodded. "I see." He then turned to look at Mr. Wang Sr., whose face had darkened. "So what you're all saying is that the Wang family deliberately concealed the herb, disregarding whether Mr. Yuan Sr. lived or died?"

Damn it, Lin Fan, you son of a bitch! He's dead set on slinging mud at the Wang family!

"No, no, no! I never said that! Mr. Wang Sr., you know me! I have absolutely no intention of framing the Wang family!" Yuan Ruoshan flinched, his face burning hot. He forced a stiff smile and shook his head vigorously at Mr. Wang Sr.

"We didn't mean that either! It's all just Lin Fan spouting nonsense!"

"Mr. Wang Sr., we only learned you had the White Dragon Grass after Mr. Yuan Sr. came back to life! We knew nothing else, I swear!"

The others chimed in with hurried explanations, their faces turning green with frustration. They were all incensed by Lin Fan's deliberate provocations.

"Lin Fan! You... you bastard, cut the crap! How could our Wang family possibly disregard Mr. Yuan Sr.'s safety!" a young man from the Wang family finally snapped. He stormed forward, pointing and cursing at Lin Fan. "We... we only obtained this White Dragon Grass *after* Mr. Yuan Sr. came back from the dead!"

Watching as Lin Fan turned the tables with just a few sentences, leaving everyone backed into a corner, Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue exchanged a look. It was incredibly satisfying, and they couldn't help but let small laughs escape.

Fixing her sharp eyes on the young man, a wry smile on her lips, Yuan Youwei retorted, "But didn't you just say you'd seen this herb since you were little? Didn't you swear it was an ancestral treasure of the Wang family?"

"If Mr. Wang Sr. isn't lying, does that mean your family's medicine is so miraculous that it can make a boy grow into a man in just a few days?"

"Perhaps, Miss," Mrs. Xue added, her own lips curled in a merciless smile. "Maybe the Wang family's medicine is like pig feed, good for fattening things up in a hurry!"

"And besides, you call it ancestral? How can something you've only had for a few days count?" Yuan Youwei pressed her advantage, her tone light and mocking. "That's a bit of a

low bar, don’t you think? By that logic, are last night’s leftovers also an ancestral treasure?"

"You... you... Shut up! All of you, shut up!" The young Wang family member turned beet-red, his entire body trembling with rage. His face darkened to the color of an eggplant as he let out a hysterical, furious scream.

"..."

The rest of the Wang family gritted their teeth, their fists cracking as they clenched them. They were being insulted to their faces but couldn’t find the words to defend themselves. The sheer frustration was maddening, enough to make a person keel over. They could only swallow their anger and hang their heads in shame, wishing they could dig a hole and crawl into it.

"Humph! Mere clever words! I, Wang Tianchuan, will state it plainly right here! I was reluctant to part with the White Dragon Grass before, so what is your Yuan family going to do about it?" Unable to endure it any longer, Mr. Wang Sr. braced himself and shouted. Things had already come to this. Even if it meant earning Old Man Yuan’s resentment, he absolutely could not back down now. If word of this got out, the entire Wang family would become a laughingstock!

"So what? I was unwilling to use a Wang family ancestral treasure on an outsider! Even if Old Man Yuan gets angry, that doesn’t change the fact that you’re slandering me for stealing the herb!" Having made up his mind, Mr. Wang Sr. jabbed a finger toward the floor. "Kneel! Bow your heads and admit your mistake! If you don’t appease me, the three of you can forget about leaving the Wang family today!"

"I think you’re the one who should be kneeling," Lin Fan said lightly, shaking his head. "The needle is poisoned."

His indifferent voice wasn’t loud, but it landed in the crowd’s ears like a thunderclap on a clear day.

The needle was poisoned? Didn’t that mean Mr. Wang Sr. had willingly poisoned himself when he swallowed it? Instantly, the color drained from everyone’s faces.

"Dad, quick, spit out the needle!"

"Get the Detoxifying Pill!"

"Contact the hospital! Tell them to prepare for emergency surgery to remove the needle!"

BOOM!

The Wang family erupted in panic, scrambling in utter chaos. This was no joke. The old man was the pillar of their family. If he died from Lin Fan’s poisoned needle under such bizarre circumstances, they were finished. What’s worse is that the old bastard swallowed the needle himself. When the time comes to place blame, we won’t be able to pin a thing on Lin Fan!

"Panic my ass!" Amid the anxious stares, Mr. Wang Sr. laughed with rage, waving his hand to stop everyone. "As the esteemed National Medical Sage, how could I not tell if a needle was poisoned? Lin Fan! Don’t even think of bluffing me! What needle? What poison?"

"You have a point," Lin Fan said with an amused shake of his head. "Swallowing needles and razor blades is a trick used by petty thieves. When caught, they do it to make law enforcement hesitate, buying them time until their detention is over. Why would a man of your stature, Mr. Wang Sr., stoop to the level of such riff-raff? You’d lose all face, wouldn’t you?"

Of course, the silver needle he swallowed wasn’t poisoned. But I have a way to make it far deadlier than any poison!

With a mere thought, his spiritual energy point strength surged and spread to his fingertips. Then, Lin Fan’s eyes grew cold as he silently beckoned with a finger. Controlling Qi to manifest form, manipulating the needle from afar!

"Hahaha, you can say whatever you want, but it’s useless! Some damn poison needle... It’s fake! It’s all—HISS!"

The wild laughter cut off abruptly. Mr. Wang Sr.’s smile froze, his old face twisting in horror. He clutched his chest tightly as beads of cold sweat broke out on his forehead, and he gasped for air.

"Dad!"

"Grandpa!"

"Mr. Wang Sr., are you alright?"

At this sight, the Wang family panicked again, crying out in alarm.

"I’m fine! It doesn’t hurt! Not one bit!" Mr. Wang Sr.’s face burned, his brows knitted together in a tight knot. He stubbornly shook his head, gritting his teeth against the pain as he glared venomously at Lin Fan.

"In five seconds, if you don’t receive my unique antidote, the poison will kill you," Lin Fan stated calmly, raising a single finger and wagging it.

"Five..."

THUD!

As the countdown began, Mr. Wang Sr.'s eyes bulged. He collapsed to the ground in agony, writhing back and forth.

"Four..."

Lin Fan remained unmoved, his countdown continuing with chilling calm.

"Ah... AHH! It hurts! It's killing me!" Tears and snot streamed down Mr. Wang Sr.'s face. His pants gradually grew wet, accompanied by a foul stench. The pain was so intense he had lost control of his bladder and bowels. He felt the silver needle deep inside him, moving as if it were alive, piercing and slicing through his internal organs. The pain... It's going to kill me!

THUD! THUD!

"Dad! That's enough! Just admit it! Don't lose your life over a single herb!"

"Lin Fan! Lin Fan, please, save him!"

"We were wrong! We were wrong! We shouldn't have been so stubborn or tried to twist the truth! Please, we're begging you, save him!"

The surrounding Wang family members were frightened out of their wits. One after another, they dropped to their knees, a kneeling mass of people crying and pleading with Lin Fan.

"Three..."

Lin Fan didn't respond, simply continuing the count. His detached voice was like a command from the King of Hell, making their scalps tingle and their hearts pound with terror.

THUD!

"AHH... I give up! I give up! The herb isn't ours! Su Mengqing brought it!" Mr. Wang Sr. shrieked. He scrambled to his knees before Lin Fan, finally broken. He couldn't take it anymore. He screamed toward the side hall, just one wall away.

"Su Mengqing! You bastards, you've killed me! Get the hell out here!"

Chapter 55, the good show has just begun

THUMP, THUMP!

As his words fell, several men from the Wang family stormed into the side hall. They grabbed Su Mengqing and her three companions by the back of their collars and unceremoniously threw them into the main hall.

Sprawled on the floor, the four of them exchanged glances. They were disheveled and covered in dust, their faces filled with anxiety.

"Why did you have to be so stubborn? You should have just come out instead of covering for a bunch of thieves," Lin Fan said, glancing at Su Mengqing before squatting down beside Mr. Wang Sr.

He had long sensed at least four people hiding in the side hall, but he never expected them to be from the Su family. Perhaps they were the ones who stole the White Dragon Grass?

"Don’t get any funny ideas in the future. You can’t handle what’s mine."

"I wouldn’t dare, I’ll never dare again..." Mr. Wang Sr. was drenched in a cold sweat from the pain, on the verge of passing out. Before Lin Fan, he was like a misbehaving schoolboy, able to do nothing but shrink back and meekly accept the scolding.

SHIICK!

Lin Fan pressed his hand against Mr. Wang Sr.’s chest. A surge of Qi Force erupted from his fingertips, forcibly expelling the silver needle from the man’s body until it pierced through the skin, revealing its tip.

"All right, consider yourself lucky. You’re not going to die," Lin Fan said flatly as he plucked the needle out with his fingers.

What? That’s it? He’s fine?

Didn’t that brat say I needed some kind of special antidote to be saved?

The hall fell deathly silent before suddenly exploding into an uproar.

Good heavens, that bastard was bluffing the entire time!

"Lin Fan! You... you dared to bluff me?" Mr. Wang Sr. shot to his feet, his face flushed red and his features twisted in fury.

The other members of the Wang family who had been kneeling and begging quickly scrambled up, glaring at Lin Fan with rage.

"How did I bluff you?" Lin Fan asked deliberately, twirling the silver needle between his fingers.

"You... you damn well said it was a poisoned needle!" someone roared in frustration.

"A poisoned needle? What poisoned needle? Your patriarch just said he didn't swallow any needle and that it didn't hurt at all." Yuan Youwei exchanged an amused glance with Mrs. Xue. Stepping forward, she mimicked Lin Fan's expression and asked with feigned confusion.

"You... you... To hell with it! Su Mengqing! You can sort this out with Lin Fan yourselves!" Waves of dizziness washed over Mr. Wang Sr., his old face burning with shame. He never imagined that he, an old hand at this game, would be so thoroughly fooled by Lin Fan.

No, that's not right. Even if the needle wasn't poisoned, that agonizing pain was real!

A sliver of fear took root in the old man's heart. He simply gave a great wave of his hand and stalked to the side to sulk in a huff.

"Uh..."

Seeing this, the dumbfounded Haicheng pharmaceutical tycoons couldn't help but feel a collective shiver.

Good heavens, Mr. Wang Sr. suffered such a huge humiliation, and yet he doesn't dare to lash out at Lin Fan? It seems this kid isn't just some pretty boy kept by Yuan Youwei. He must have some real skill to have caught the eye of the Yuan family's esteemed Second Miss! We never should have gotten involved in this mess!

They all exchanged glances, their faces burning with shame. They secretly regretted bearing false witness for the Wang family.

Just then, Yuan Ruoshan, who had been stealthily making his way to the exit, froze mid-step as Yuan Youwei's cool voice rang out. "Third Uncle, I will report exactly what you did today to the family."

He turned to face her mocking smile, his own face twitching. "Don't, don't be like that, Youwei. We're family, after all!" Cold sweat beaded on his forehead, and his smile was uglier than a grimace.

"Since we're family, you can expect to face the family's disciplinary measures," Mrs. Xue added with a cold, sharp-eyed smile.

"Fine! We'll see about that! I'd like to see how you're going to secure that four-billion-yuan order!" Yuan Ruoshan's expression changed several times before he let out a heavy snort and stormed away in disgrace.

The other pharmaceutical tycoons exchanged glances, also preparing to take their leave.

"Everyone, please wait a moment," Lin Fan said, shaking his head. "The show has just begun. What's the rush? Wait a little while, and we'll discuss our partnership."

"Lin Fan! Don't be so arrogant! Why the hell would I talk about anything with you!"

"That's right! You're just trying to use the Yuan family's name to force us to give up our shares of the procurement conference's orders to help you get ahead!"

"We may have lied earlier, but that was just a joke! Don't think you can use it as leverage to threaten us!"

The tycoons shouted all at once, their faces a mixture of shame and fury.

"Believe it or not, I guarantee that anyone who walks out this door will regret it for the rest of their life," Lin Fan said, his gaze sweeping over them. He then ignored them and turned his attention to Su Mengqing and her three companions, who were slowly getting to their feet.

So arrogant. Unbelievably arrogant!

The tycoons' faces darkened with rage. But just as they started to move, an inexplicable sense of dread crept into their hearts. As veterans of the business world, they took a deep breath, suppressed their anger, and returned to their seats one by one. They decided to see what kind of stunt Lin Fan was about to pull.

All eyes swung toward the Su family members.

"Lin Fan, what do you mean by that? Do you think our Su family stole the herb?" Su Gang's face flushed crimson as he jutted out his neck and shouted at Lin Fan. "That White Dragon Grass is an heirloom of our Su family!"

"That's right!" Zhang Meili's chubby face darkened to a menacing shade. "Are you saying only Lin Fan is capable of obtaining a White Dragon Grass, and nobody else has the ability?" she screeched, her voice sharp but her confidence hollow.

Su Mengqing and Yang Tingting remained silent, their expressions impossibly grim. At this point, their only option was to deny everything, just as Mr. Wang Sr. had done. Otherwise, the Su family's reputation would be utterly ruined.

Lin Fan fell silent for a moment, then turned to Su Mengqing, who was biting her lip. "Su Mengqing, tell me yourself. Did you steal this White Dragon Grass from my clinic?"

"What are you trying to say?" Su Mengqing asked, lifting her eyes, which were filled with resentment. "If you think I stole it, then I have nothing more to say... Now that you've latched onto someone powerful, you look down on the Su family, don't you?"

Tears of humiliation welled in her eyes. Suddenly losing control, she screamed, her own eyes turning red, "Lin Fan! Do you have any idea what you've done? You've destroyed my hope once again!"

Who could have imagined that her well-intentioned act of presenting the herb would throw the Wang family into such chaos? Even Mr. Wang Sr. had backed down and lost all face before Lin Fan! Forget about getting into the Pharmaceutical Procurement Conference. If the Wang family didn't come after them for this, it would be a blessing.

Su Mengqing's face was a mask of livid fury. She clenched her fists so tightly that her whole body trembled.

"So, this is all my fault, then?" A self-mocking smile touched Lin Fan's lips. He found the situation utterly absurd. "You're right. I shouldn't have left the White Dragon Grass at the clinic, which gave you the opportunity... You were actually trying to find the other prescriptions my mother left behind, weren't you?"

"You—you, don't you dare talk nonsense! We never went to your pathetic little clinic!" Her hidden scheme exposed, Zhang Meili lost her composure. Her face burning, she pointed at Lin Fan and began stamping her feet while cursing.

"That's right!" Su Gang's face was beet-red as he joined in the shouting. "Who the hell cares about Lin Suxin's damn prescriptions! Only you would treat them like some kind of treasure!"

"Lin Fan! Why do you say we stole the White Dragon Grass? Do you have any proof?" Yang Tingting could no longer hold back, lifting her chin defiantly.

"This needle is the proof. Its tip is engraved," Lin Fan replied, his gaze turning to ice as he pulled out his phone. "You want hard evidence? Fine, I'll show you!"

He laughed, an inverse reaction to his fury, and opened the surveillance footage from his clinic.

One second, two seconds, three seconds... More than ten seconds passed.

Lin Fan's jaw clenched as he silently lowered his phone.

The surveillance footage, which should have been saved to the cloud, was missing just one file... from last night.

Chapter 56, hang up and hit!

"Hahaha! This is killing me! Lin Fan, weren't you going to show us your so-called ironclad evidence?"

When Lin Fan put down his phone without a word, Su Gang gloated and began to shout. As their eyes met, he, Su Mengqing, and the other two all secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

Good thing we were smart enough to pull the main circuit breaker at the entrance before prying open the clinic's roll-up door last night! I don't care what kind of surveillance you have, it's all useless now!

"Lin Fan, what else do you have to say?" Su Mengqing, feeling a bit more confident, challenged him loudly. "To take a huge step back, even if that White Dragon Grass was yours, what right do you have to baselessly accuse us of stealing it!"

"Exactly! Couldn't we have just bought it from somewhere else?" Zhang Meili's chubby face darkened as she pointed at Lin Fan and shouted. "With so many important people here today, you, Lin Fan, must apologize to us!"

"You must apologize! Don't think you can do whatever you want just because Miss Yuan is protecting you!" Yang Tingting tilted her sharp chin up, looking around at the assembled tycoons from Haicheng Pharmaceutical. "You are all influential figures. Surely you won't stand by and watch Lin Fan slander us!"

"This..." Hearing this, everyone exchanged glances, not daring to speak. No one was a fool. Even Mr. Wang Sr. had suffered a major loss at Lin Fan's hands. If they were to stand up for the Su family now and things backfired, wouldn't they just be humiliated again?

"Hmph. Didn't you just say that the herb was a Su family heirloom?" At that moment, Mrs. Xue could no longer stand it and asked coldly.

"Are you stupid? You believe everything we say?" Zhang Meili sneered with her hands on her hips. "If I told you to go eat shit, would you do it?"

Her words were met with a roar of laughter from the hall.

"I see. Your Su family is just like certain people here—your words are about as meaningful as a fart." Mrs. Xue's cool, beautiful face flushed crimson with rage. She clenched her fists, ready to strike.

Yuan Youwei held her back, then scanned the crowd with a mocking smile.

"Yuan Youwei, don't spout nonsense!"

"That girl from the Yuan family! Who are you talking about? Such poor manners!"

The laughter died. Their faces burned with humiliation as they turned away, snorting in anger. Mr. Wang Sr. was especially mortified, his old face flushing alternating shades of red and pale as he gripped the armrests of his chair, seething.

"Lin Fan! Cut the crap! If you accuse us of theft, then show us the evidence! Without evidence, you owe us an apology!" Su Mengqing's expression grew uglier. She stopped paying attention to Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue, staring daggers at Lin Fan.

"That's right! Stop beating around the damn bush! The Su family has a reputation to uphold. What gives you the right to spread rumors about us!" Su Gang yelled, scowling.

Zhang Meili and Yang Tingting also glared at Lin Fan, their faces twisted in disgust.

"Why should I apologize?"

After a moment of silence, Lin Fan glanced at the four of them as if they were idiots. "It's true, I can't produce ironclad proof that you stole the herb... but by presenting stolen goods to the Wang family, weren't you deliberately trying to tarnish Mr. Wang Sr.'s reputation?"

He turned to Mr. Wang Sr., shaking his head calmly. "Besides, I want to find out who stole my White Dragon Grass. What's wrong with that?"

At his words, the faces of Su Mengqing and the other three changed.

That bastard Lin Fan! He's deliberately dragging the Wang family into this! Presenting stolen goods as a gift... that's an accusation we can't wash away!

BANG!

"Guards! String the four of them up and beat them!" Mr. Wang Sr.'s old face twitched as he suddenly bellowed in fury. He was powerless against Lin Fan, so he had no choice but to vent his rage on the Su family.

"No, no, no! Mr. Wang Sr., please let me explain! We... we really didn't know it was stolen property!" Su Mengqing's face went white as she frantically tried to explain.

Su Gang and the other two panicked, scrambling backward as their legs went weak with fear. However, no matter how much the four of them argued, Mr. Wang Sr. refused to listen. At his command, several Wang family bodyguards strode forward, a long rope in their hands. In no time, they had bound the wrists of Su Mengqing and the others and hung them high from the beams.

CRACK!

A water-soaked leather whip lashed viciously across Su Mengqing's back, leaving behind a shocking, bloody welt. Cold sweat dripped from her forehead as she bit her lip, enduring the pain. She could only glare at Lin Fan with immense resentment.

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

"Ah! Lin Fan! Lin Fan, how dare you drag us into this!" Su Gang shrieked in agony.

"Lin Fan, hurry up and beg Mr. Wang Sr. for mercy! Your herb was stolen, what does that have to do with us... Ah! AH!" Yang Tingting cried and screamed.

"Lin Fan, you ungrateful wolf! The Su family raised you for four years, and this is how you repay us? It serves you right that your mother got sick and died!" Zhang Meili cursed, her chubby face a mask of savage fury as she trembled.

"Mr. Wang Sr., this is going too far. I don't think the Su family really knew."

"Lin Fan, you call yourself a man, letting three women get beaten like this? Hmph, what kind of man are you!"

Several female pharmaceutical magnates couldn't watch any longer. They stood up and glared angrily at Lin Fan.

"If you feel so bad for Su Mengqing and the others, you're welcome to take their punishment for them," Lin Fan stated, completely unmoved.

"You! You! You truly are a heartless bastard!" The women's faces twisted with anger. They weren't foolish enough to actually take the punishment, so they grit their teeth and sat back down.

"Miss, we have a lead on the clinic theft." Just then, Mrs. Xue pulled out her phone and glanced at the screen before casting a chilling look at the four suspended figures.

She played a surveillance video. Under the cover of darkness, an infrared camera captured Su Gang, leaning on a single crutch, hobbling out of an alley. He was clutching a long, narrow rosewood box.

"This is from the surveillance camera of an unmanned adult novelty shop in the alley outside the clinic." Yuan Youwei's eyes lit up. She took the phone and walked over to Su Mengqing and the others.

"When you stole the herb, you must have pulled the clinic's circuit breaker, thinking it would disable the cameras, right?" she asked with a smirk, shaking her head. "Calling you stupid would be a compliment. Did you really not know that all the properties in that district are managed by our Yuan family's Yuandao Properties? For me, getting surveillance footage from the area is as simple as saying the word."

"You wanted ironclad evidence? Then open your damn eyes and take a good look!"

BOOM!

Her cold voice crashed over Su Mengqing and the others like a series of thunderclaps.

Staring at the frozen image on the phone screen, Su Mengqing's eyes widened, and all the color drained from her face. Zhang Meili and the other two trembled, utterly panicked.

"Su Gang! You told me you bought this herb! Why did you go behind our backs and steal it!" Su Mengqing suddenly twisted her head to glare furiously at Su Gang.

Chapter 57, devoted mothers and filial children, all is chaos!

The hall instantly fell silent.

Everyone was stunned.

Zhang Meili and Yang Tingting wore shocked expressions, and both turned to look at Su Mengqing. Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue were also slightly astonished.

Clearly, Su Mengqing has been driven into a corner, Lin Fan silently furrowed his brows and shook his head inwardly. She's planning to sacrifice Su Gang to save her own skin! I have to say, this woman is truly ruthless and insidious.

"You! Shut your damn mouth! Su Mengqing, weren't you the one who told me to steal the medicine?" Su Gang's body shook violently as he suddenly cried out in grief and indignation.

He wasn't stupid. His own sister was planning to sacrifice a pawn to save the king!

"When did I tell you to steal any medicine?" Su Mengqing, her face beet red, still shouted through gritted teeth. "Tingting and I have been recovering in the hospital this whole time!"

"That's... that's right! What Director Su said is true. You were the one who brought the medicine; it had nothing to do with us!" Yang Tingting shivered under Su Mengqing's intimidating glare, then gritted her teeth and shouted back at Su Gang, her chin jutted out stubbornly.

Fuck! A pair of animals, absolute animals!

Su Gang nearly exploded with rage, quickly turning to Zhang Meili beside him. "Mom, look at them! They're putting all the blame on me! Just a moment ago they were giddy with joy, and now they're pinning it all on me!"

"Su Gang, you should just take the fall. It's not like you haven't done things like this before... one more time won't make a difference..." Zhang Meili's plump face flushed red, and her scalp tingled with dread.

It was like choosing between the palm and the back of her hand—both were her own flesh and blood. Honestly, she doted on Su Gang a little more. But now, their opponent had solid proof. Breaking in and stealing the precious White Dragon Grass was a crime that guaranteed jail time! Rather than the whole family going down... it was better to sacrifice Su Gang alone!

"Su Gang, a real man owns up to his actions... Don't worry, once you're inside, Mom will bring you delicious food every day..." Zhang Meili turned her head away, unwilling to meet the trembling Su Gang's eyes.

"Bullshit! That's all bullshit! All four of us went to the clinic to steal the medicine together! Why should I take the blame by myself?" Su Gang completely broke down, screaming hysterically. "Lin Fan! Mr. Wang Sr.! I want to confess! I want to report them!"

He turned to Lin Fan and Mr. Wang Sr., his voice thick with anger. "I'll testify! It was Zhang Meili and Su Mengqing who told me to steal the medicine! Moreover, the four of us did it together after midnight last night. There's no way I should be the only one punished!"

At his words, darkness swam before Su Mengqing's eyes, and she nearly fainted on the spot. Zhang Meili and Yang Tingting's faces turned green as they silently cursed Su Gang for his utter stupidity. The others in the hall simply looked at one another, completely speechless.

What a touching display of motherly love and filial piety... It's true what they say: birds of a feather flock together!

"Su Mengqing, did you hear that? Your own brother wants to report you. It's not us slandering you, you know," Yuan Youwei said, raising a shapely eyebrow at Su Mengqing, clearly amused.

"He... he's talking nonsense! What proof does he have to report us? Does Su Gang have any evidence?" However, before a flushed Su Mengqing could respond, Zhang Meili erupted, glaring furiously at her son.

Mother and son locked eyes, neither willing to back down.

"Zhang Meili! You're too biased! Are you going to disregard the life of your own son just for Su Mengqing's sake?" Su Gang raged, craning his neck to shout. "Do you want me to expose all your dirty secrets about hooking up with Old Xu next door?"

"You little bastard, you have the nerve to talk about me?" Zhang Meili's portly frame trembled, her face burning with shame as she screeched, "You've been gambling in secret and embezzling from the company account behind your sister's back. How dare you accuse me!"

"So what if I gamble? It's better than you sleeping around!"

"I... I must have had the worst luck for eight lifetimes to have given birth to a shameless beast like you!"

The two of them hurled insults back and forth, leaving everyone in the hall staring, dumbfounded. Their minds reeled from the chaos. Su Mengqing was overwhelmed with shame and mortification. She hung her head low, wishing she could bite her tongue and die on the spot.

CRASH!

"Enough! All of you, shut up! Do you take the Wang residence for a public latrine, where you can shriek like fishwives?" After a moment, a grim-faced Mr. Wang Sr. could no longer stand it. He violently smashed his teacup at his feet, shattering it to pieces.

The shouting stopped abruptly.

Zhang Meili and Su Gang's faces tightened. They hunched their necks and fell silent, though they continued to glare at each other.

"Beat him! Just beat Su Gang! Gag him and beat him half to death, then we'll talk!" Mr. Wang Sr. commanded, pointing a wrathful finger at Su Gang.

A Wang family bodyguard pulled off his own smelly sock and unceremoniously stuffed it into Su Gang's mouth. Immediately after, a water-soaked cowhide whip lashed down fiercely.

SMACK! SMACK! SMACK!

The whip tore the skin from his back, leaving a bloody, mangled mess. He writhed and squirmed like a maggot suspended in midair, letting out muffled, indignant cries of agony. Before long, Su Gang's eyes rolled back in his head and he passed out from the pain.

Seeing this, Su Mengqing and the other two turned away, unable to watch Su Gang's miserable state. They could only shoot frequent, hateful glares at Lin Fan.

If it wasn’t for this bastard suddenly showing up at the Wang residence, how could things have possibly escalated to this point? You jinx! Lin Fan, you’re the absolute bane of the Su Family!

"Everyone, it’s time to discuss our cooperation."

Just then, Lin Fan, who had been silent for some time, walked to the center of the hall and slowly scanned the room.

"Lin Fan, don’t be ridiculous. What gives you the right to discuss cooperation with our nine companies?"

"Even if you’re temporarily in charge of Yuandao Pharmaceuticals, it’s still just one of the top ten pharmaceutical companies. You don’t have the power to stand on equal footing with us!"

"This is a joke! We’d have to be crazy to work with you!"

Several pharmaceutical tycoons spoke up one after another, their voices dripping with sarcasm.

"Lin Fan, Yuan Youwei, I have given you an explanation for the stolen medicine. If there’s nothing else, you should head home," Mr. Wang Sr. said coldly, making it clear they should leave.

A dull ache still lingered deep within his body, but it didn’t feel like the aftereffects of poison... and the way Lin Fan had just forcibly expelled the silver needles... that was more like the technique of a high-level Martial Artist. His heart skipped a beat as he reeled from the secret shock. No wonder Lin Fan had single-handedly destroyed the Black Tiger Hall’s headquarters, and Chen Heihu, the so-called underground emperor, had simply swallowed his grievance. There hadn’t been the slightest sign of retaliation in the past few days. If Lin Fan were pushed into a corner and decided to get violent, the Wang family likely had no one who could stop him!

"I am the president of the Haicheng Pharmaceutical Association. If you are truly sincere about cooperating, then show us some real skill instead of resorting to such despicable means," Mr. Wang Sr. couldn’t help but soften his tone, truly wary that Lin Fan might act recklessly.

For a moment, all eyes were fixed on Lin Fan. Even Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue had a flicker of curiosity in their gazes.

Only Su Mengqing and the other two, still suspended in the air, looked on with contempt.

They had Lin Fan figured out long ago. He was just a brute who was good at fighting. What real skills could he possibly have to force Haicheng's nine major pharmaceutical companies to cooperate? From the looks of it, he was just bluffing.

"Fine. I need a pen and paper," Lin Fan said with a simple nod to one of the managers, seemingly unfazed by the dozens of peculiar gazes.

After getting a nod from Mr. Wang Sr., the man hurried away, returning moments later with a stack of white paper for Lin Fan.

Suddenly, the hall was so quiet you could hear a pin drop, the only sound being the swift scratching of Lin Fan's pen on paper. Everyone craned their necks to see, curious about what on earth he was doing.

One second, two seconds, three seconds... Finally, Lin Fan stopped writing. He held up the stack of papers, which were covered in minuscule script, and slowly scanned the room.

"These nine prescriptions correspond to the flagship products of your nine companies. However, their effects are faster and significantly more potent."

"I will give them for free to anyone willing to cooperate with me," he continued, his gaze turning cold. "But if you refuse, I will give them to Yuandao Pharmaceuticals to produce. With our absolute market superiority, we will drive all nine of your companies to extinction!"

As his words fell, the hall was dead silent for a heartbeat.

Then, it exploded into an uproar.

Chapter 58, Crack Down on the Top Nine Pharmaceutical Companies!

What? What was he saying? Lin Fan alone intended to suppress the nine major pharmaceutical companies in Haicheng?

That's insane! Completely and utterly insane!

Suspended in midair, Su Mengqing and the other two exchanged glances and sneered. What good is being a skilled fighter? Business isn't about brawls and bloodshed; it's about connections and tact! His outrageous arrogance alone meant people wouldn't even give him the time of day!

"Some 'absolute market competitiveness' he's talking about. Some 'wiping everyone out'!"

"Heh, in all my years, I've never seen such an arrogant idiot."

"Yuan Youwei, you're considered a titan of the Haicheng Business Community, but your judgment is terrible. You'd be better off considering my son."

The tycoons of Haicheng Pharmaceutical all laughed with rage, clearly not taking Lin Fan's words seriously in the slightest.

Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue looked at each other, both somewhat shocked. Even though they had already witnessed Lin Fan's many extraordinary deeds, the fact that he could write down alternative formulas for the flagship products of all nine major Haicheng pharmaceutical companies in an instant was truly astonishing. It was simply too difficult to believe or accept.

"What, none of you believe me?" Lin Fan asked, looking around at the sea of disbelieving faces before nodding indifferently.

"I didn't want to be this ruthless. You only get one chance, and you're the ones who rejected it."

He clutched the pages and turned to leave without a moment's hesitation.

"Wait a minute!"

Just then, Mr. Wang Sr., his brow deeply furrowed, suddenly called out to stop Lin Fan.

"Lin Fan, if you can provide the complete Bixia Pill formula, I can make an exception and lend you my support."

The old man glanced at the papers in Lin Fan's hand and shook his head vigorously.

"As for improving my Wang family's Detoxifying Pill? Hmph, I've poured most of my life's work into perfecting this formula to its current state."

"I'll stake my reputation on it: unless Medical Sage Lin Aochang himself were to act, no one possesses such medical expertise!"

At his words, the others nodded in agreement. And it wasn't just the Wang family's flagship product, the Detoxifying Pill. Hadn't each of their own signature medicines been painstakingly perfected through years of tireless effort?

And you, Lin Fan, think you can fool us by scribbling on a few scraps of paper? That's not just foolish, it's incurable!

"Lin Fan! The Bixia Pill formula was left to me by your mother!"

Before Lin Fan, who had stopped and turned, could respond, it was Su Mengqing, still hanging in midair, who grew frantic. She grit her teeth against the pain and shouted, "Whether you admit it or not, the formula should be mine! It was your mother's dying wish! Do you want her to be unable to rest in peace?"

"That's right! Lin Fan, you admitted it yourself! That Bixia Pill formula should be handed over to our Su Family!" Zhang Meili grew frantic as well, her eyes widening as she shrieked her agreement.

"So now you realize how precious the Bixia Pill formula is?" Lin Fan clenched his jaw, forcefully suppressing the fury rising in his eyes.

"Then tell me, Su Mengqing, where was the Su Family then?" He walked to stand beneath the three of them, his eyes sweeping over them with a cold glare.

"Weren't you busy sucking up to Chen Biao? Weren't you busy celebrating that dog's birthday? Now you have regrets, and you still have the damn nerve to bring this up!"

"You... you're being completely unreasonable! It's been so long! Must you hold on to it so relentlessly?" Su Mengqing flushed beet-red, gritting her teeth so hard they audibly clicked.

She had indeed regretted her actions countless times. But admit it in front of Lin Fan? She couldn't bring herself to lose face like that, even if it killed her!

"Yes, I *am* holding on to it," Lin Fan retorted with a cold laugh. "This is something I'll never get over for the rest of my life!"

"It would be an injustice to the heavens if your Su Family doesn't fall! I'm going to enjoy watching you all dig your own graves and get knocked right back to where you started!"

"You still want the Bixia Pill formula? Forget the fact that I already burned it. Even if I hadn't, I would never give it to the Su Family!"

"My mother was kind and soft-hearted, but I will not allow you to bully her! She's already dead, and you still want to ride on her coattails? You're dreaming!"

BOOM!

His cold words, that familiar yet indifferent face... It was as if a thousand steel needles had instantly pierced her heart! Pain, a raw, bloody pain!

Su Mengqing's chest heaved violently, her entire body trembling with rage.

Zhang Meili's plump face flushed with shame, and she nearly buried her head between her legs.

Beside them, Yang Tingting shrank back, not daring to let out so much as a peep. If she hadn't so strongly persuaded Su Mengqing against him back then... things would never have reached this point.

"Lin Fan, I couldn't care less about your family's drama," Mr. Wang Sr. interjected at that moment, his old face dark with impatience as he waved a dismissive hand. "If you can't produce the ancient Bixia Pill formula, then get the hell out!"

Missing out on the ancient Bixia Pill formula was a scar on his heart. The thought of that prodigal son, Lin Fan, burning it all to ashes was like rubbing salt in the wound.

"The Bixia Pill is all you've ever known in your entire life. I bet you haven't even heard the name Divine Dragon Detox Powder." Lin Fan glanced at Mr. Wang Sr., then grabbed the White Dragon Grass and the elongated purple sandalwood box from Yuan Youwei and turned to leave.

"In four days, when all nine of your companies come back begging, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

His powerful words echoed through the hall.

The pharmaceutical tycoons just scoffed, not believing a word.

But what nobody noticed was that at the head of the hall, Mr. Wang Sr.'s eyes had flown wide open in his armchair, his pupils contracting violently.

Divine Dragon Detox Powder! The exclusive, miraculous medicine of the Medical Sage Lin Aochang himself! After all, the Wang family's Detoxifying Pill was nothing more than a shoddy imitation, a counterfeit he had managed to create only after years of research, all based on a tiny sample of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder he had luckily stumbled upon!

THUD!

"Wait, Nephew Lin, please wait!"

By the time he came to his senses, the backs of Lin Fan's group were already disappearing out of the hall. Mr. Wang Sr. grew frantic and shot up from his seat to give chase.

However, he stumbled and fell flat on his face. Ignoring the strange looks from everyone, the old man, practically mad with urgency, scrambled back to his feet and continued the chase, even running right out of one of his old cloth shoes!

GASP!

Seeing this, the stunned pharmaceutical tycoons looked at each other, their hearts simultaneously dropping. None of them were fools. For something to make the

distinguished National Medical Sage lose his composure so completely... that Divine Dragon Detox Powder in Lin Fan's hands had to be something absolutely extraordinary!

After a collective, sharp intake of breath, the expressions on everyone's faces changed. Who cared about face now? They all jumped to their feet and rushed out the door after him!

This left only Su Mengqing and the other two, still suspended in midair, staring at each other in utter bewilderment.

"Director Su... was Lin Fan... was he not bluffing?" Yang Tingting asked, turning her head toward the door and swallowing with great difficulty.

"From the look on his face, Mr. Wang Sr. seemed even... even more frantic than when he came to the Su Family asking for the ancient Bixia Pill formula!"

"We're screwed, totally screwed!" Zhang Meili's plump face contorted in rage as she bellowed through clenched teeth. "Lin Fan must have lied to us! He never burned the formulas Lin Suxin left behind!"

"Those should have been mine!" Su Mengqing screamed, her eyes red with fury. She couldn't stop herself from kicking her legs wildly in the air.

But after her wild outburst, the resentment in her heart hadn't lessened at all. Instead, it was compounded by an even deeper layer of regret!

"This is all your fault!" she shrieked. "If you hadn't constantly told me to give Lin Fan the cold shoulder, would I... would I be in this situation now?"

The more Su Mengqing thought about it, the angrier she became, and tears of humiliation streamed down her face. She couldn't stop herself from twisting her body around and kicking furiously at Yang Tingting.

Chapter 59. I, Lin Fan, refuse to freeload!

"Miss, you and Lin Fan go first. I'll cover our retreat," Mrs. Xue said.

At that moment, just outside the hall doors, Mr. Wang Sr. was desperately chasing after them, so anxious that he'd even lost one of his shoes. Behind him was a massive, surging crowd. Mrs. Xue and Yuan Youwei exchanged a glance, their expressions turning grim. This has clearly provoked the entire crowd. They intend to keep us here!

"No need. They're here to ask for my help." Lin Fan shook his head and stopped in his tracks, calmly waiting for them to approach.

"Miss, look at him! Would it kill him to stop boasting at a time like this?" Upon hearing his words, Mrs. Xue's lips twitched, and she immediately complained to Yuan Youwei.

Maybe they aren't really here to cause trouble... Yuan Youwei stared intently at Lin Fan's calm face, her heart suddenly stirred.

THUMP!

The next moment, Mr. Wang Sr. rushed up to the three of them and came to an abrupt halt. Without another word, the old man fell to his knees at Lin Fan's feet, panting for breath.

"Nephew Lin, just give me the Divine Dragon Detox Powder, and I'll agree to anything you want!" He clutched Lin Fan's pant leg, his face burning with eagerness as he looked up and pleaded.

At the sight, the pursuing crowd of Haicheng Pharmaceutical bigwigs and countless members of the Wang family all skidded to a halt, petrified on the spot.

Has he gone mad? You're the esteemed National Medical Sage, the head of the Wang family, and the president of the Haicheng Pharmaceutical Association! Why on earth are you on your knees begging Lin Fan? This makes no sense!

"Dad, what are you doing?"

"Old Master, please get up! So many people are watching..."

"Grandfather, are the toxins still in your system? Don't worry, we won't let Lin Fan get away with this!"

The surrounding Wang family members grew frantic, shouting all at once. Many of the younger generation even began rolling up their sleeves, preparing to make a move on Lin Fan and his companions.

Mrs. Xue and Yuan Youwei, who had been on high alert, were also dumbfounded. They both turned stiffly, looking at Lin Fan in utter confusion. How can he be so calm? Did he anticipate Mr. Wang Sr.'s reaction all along?

"You don't know a damn thing! That's the Divine Dragon Detox Powder! The Divine Dragon Detox Powder!" Mr. Wang Sr. shoved away the relatives trying to help him up, his old face flushed with excitement. He stared directly at Lin Fan, his murky old eyes gleaming intensely. He looked like a struggling student who had been stumped by a problem for ages and had just been handed the answer key. "Our Wang family's Detoxifying Pill is complete garbage compared to his Divine Dragon Detox Powder!"

Mr. Wang Sr. shouted with excitement, his palms slick with sweat. He was certain Lin Fan wasn't deceiving him. After all, possessing the ancient formulas for both the Bixia Pill and the Divine Dragon Detox Powder was enough to prove he had close ties with Medical Sage Lin Aochang.

Excellent. This is absolutely excellent. If I can obtain the ancient formula for the Divine Dragon Detox Powder, I'll not only fulfill my lifelong dream, but Tianchuan Pharmaceuticals will finally break out of the Southwest provinces and dominate the entire pharmaceutical market of the Xia Country! With such a massive prize on the line, kneeling and begging is nothing. I'd call him my own father without a moment's hesitation!

"Hiss... I have a vague recollection. Isn't that supposedly the exclusive wonder drug of Medical Sage Lin Aochang?"

"Impossible! The Medical Sage has been missing for years. How could one of his exclusive formulas possibly surface now?!"

"Mr. Lin, I'm suddenly very interested in a collaboration. Could you show me my company's alternative formula?"

Seeing Mr. Wang Sr. completely lose his composure, the assembled pharmaceutical magnates exchanged shocked looks, nearly biting their tongues. Regaining their senses, they all turned toward Lin Fan, their attitudes making a complete 180-degree turn.

The surrounding members of the Wang family looked as if their eyes were about to pop out. We were just so hostile to him, and now we need his help? Their faces burned with shame, and they lowered their heads in silence.

"You can take a look, but you'll only get one chance to cooperate," Lin Fan said.

Yuan Youwei and Mrs. Xue's mouths fell open in shock and remained that way for a long while. When they finally came to, they felt both astonished and overjoyed, a thrilling sense of vindication washing over them. Under their intense scrutiny, Lin Fan frowned slightly, pondered for a moment, and then nodded reluctantly.

WHOOSH!

Instantly, the pharmaceutical magnates, casting their public images aside, began scrambling for the papers in Lin Fan's hands. Mr. Wang Sr. was the first to move, snatching the formula for the Divine Dragon Detox Powder!

"Hahaha! It's real! It's the real Divine Dragon Detox Powder!"

Everyone stared at the pages, their expressions growing more astounded the more they read. They were all true experts in their field, so their judgment was impeccable. A quick

assessment told them that if these formulas went into production, they would truly threaten the market position of their own flagship products.

Mr. Wang Sr. clutched the paper, his entire body trembling. He suddenly burst into roaring laughter, his wrinkled face breaking into a wide, joyous grin. He seemed to have aged backward by a decade.

"So, you've all seen my good faith," Lin Fan said coolly, scanning the crowd. "Help me secure the four-billion-yuan order. After that, the formulas are yours, free of charge. All I want is ten percent of the profits each of you makes from this medicine."

The area instantly fell silent. The pharmaceutical magnates looked at one another without a word. Ten percent wasn't an exorbitant amount, but it still made them feel the pinch.

Mr. Wang Sr., however, nodded vigorously, grinning from ear to ear. "No problem, Nephew Lin! Rest assured, as long as the formulas are genuine, I, Wang Tianchuan, guarantee you'll get the contract!"

"This... this is a major issue. Could we possibly take the formulas back with us to study?"

"Mr. Lin, Miss Yuan, please rest assured! As long as the formulas are effective, we will sign the contracts immediately!" a few of the magnates added, their eyes darting as they forced smiles onto their faces.

"Fine. Just give me your answer within four days."

Yuan Youwei's and Mrs. Xue's expressions changed, and they were just about to speak when Lin Fan cut them off. He nodded to the crowd and took his leave.

"Lin Fan, are you insane? You just gave away the formulas so easily! Aren't you afraid those old foxes will go back on their word?"

Once they left the Wang family estate and got into the black Bentley, Mrs. Xue couldn't hold back her irritation any longer. She twisted around in the driver's seat and rolled her eyes dramatically at Lin Fan.

"This is indeed quite risky... Lin Fan, you shouldn't have agreed to let them take the formulas. Those men would do anything for profit," Yuan Youwei said, a hint of worry in her beautiful eyes as she shook her head.

"Yes! I admit I underestimated you. I never expected you to have so many incredible things up your sleeve. But if they secretly copy the formulas and then back out of the deal, what will you do?" Seeing Lin Fan remain indifferent and silent, Mrs. Xue grew more agitated, her voice rising. "You act so fearless, like you've got nothing to lose, but you're dragging my Miss down with you!"

"I told you," Lin Fan said, ignoring Mrs. Xue and looking directly at Yuan Youwei, "I will make them come to you, begging to cooperate."

"Hm, I believe you. You must have your reasons for doing this." Yuan Youwei paused for a moment, a sweet warmth spreading through her heart. She smiled, her eyes curving into happy crescents, completely oblivious to Mrs. Xue's exasperated facepalm.

"Drive. Take us to your Yuandao Home Furnishings' carpentry workshop. I need to make a batch of medicine boxes," Lin Fan instructed Mrs. Xue.

"Seriously? Are you out of your mind? Giving away the formulas wasn't enough, now you plan to throw in custom wooden boxes for free?" Mrs. Xue was on the verge of a breakdown, glaring at him in frustration. But under Yuan Youwei's expectant gaze, she had no choice but to start the car and slam her foot on the accelerator.

"They don't have what it takes to get something from me for free," Lin Fan murmured, then said no more, closing his eyes to rest.

The formulas were out there now. If those men thought they had scored the deal of a lifetime and decided to renege on their promise, he had ways to make all nine major pharmaceutical companies of Haicheng pay a hefty price.

Chapter 60, have someone kill him

"Hahaha, today really is a good day!"

"Who's to say it isn't? We actually stumbled upon an incredible stroke of luck!"

They watched as Lin Fan and his two companions walked toward the outer courtyard, their departure finally announced by the roar of a car driving away.

Outside the main hall of the inner courtyard, the pharmaceutical tycoons exchanged glances, unable to resist bursting into smug laughter.

Who would be foolish enough to genuinely cooperate with Lin Fan? Not to mention giving up four billion yuan in orders from the Medicine Procurement Conference. Just forgoing a tenth of the profits from our main drugs every year would amount to an astronomical sum in the long run!

The initial plan had been to string Lin Fan along with empty words and then find a way to swindle the formulas from him in private. Who would have thought that the brute, for all his strength, was just a simple-minded fool?

"Hmph, a verbal promise isn't worth shit!"

"Now that we have the formulas in hand, doesn’t anyone want to knock Lin Fan’s arrogance down a peg or two?"

"It must have been Mr. Wang Sr.’s shocking kneel! A greenhorn like Lin Fan just couldn’t handle that!"

At the praise, the smug crowd all turned to look at Mr. Wang Sr.

"I only knelt out of gratitude for the Divine Dragon Detox Powder in his hands," Mr. Wang Sr. said, his old face flushing slightly. "It was a gesture of thanks to Medical Sage Lin Aochang."

Then, with a look of pride, he flicked the prescription in his hand.

"Lin Fan is still too young. This time, we old-timers have taught him a lesson."

"With our status, why would we teach a junior for free? Consider these prescriptions his tuition fee!"

"Hahaha, Mr. Wang Sr. is right! The most important thing now is to rush production based on the formulas, verify that they work, and be the first to file the patents!"

The crowd’s eyes glinted with ridicule as they all voiced their cheerful agreement. Someone even raised his voice, shouting his concerns that Lin Fan might beat them to the registration.

"Old Meng is right," Mr. Wang Sr. said, his heart burning with eagerness. "Let’s all head to the Wang family’s pharmaceutical lab. I’m in a good mood today and willing to personally oversee the process for everyone."

Without another word, he hurried toward the back courtyard of the old mansion. Seeing this, the others joyfully clutched the prescriptions in their hands and followed.

"Patriarch, what should we do with Su Mengqing and her people?" a steward asked in a low voice, hurrying to catch up.

"Send Su Gang to the authorities. If he needs to go to jail, he’ll go to jail. Release the other three and kick them out!" Mr. Wang Sr. waved his hand impatiently, never breaking his stride. At this moment, the Divine Dragon Detox Powder was the only thing on his mind. Why would he care if Su Mengqing and her family lived or died?

「After a while.」

In the pharmaceutical lab in the back courtyard of the old mansion, one burst of excited laughter followed another.

"It’s a success! The Song family’s Ferocious Strengthening Pill is a success!"

"Hahaha, the Fang family’s Heavenly Glow Moisturizer is a success, too! The whitening effect is practically instantaneous!"

"The Meng family’s Moonlight Lung Soothing Cream also worked! Lin Fan is truly a living Bodhisattva! Hahaha!"

"Heh heh, I’d say he’s more like a cash dispenser sent by the God of Wealth!"

Under the personal supervision of Mr. Wang Sr., a dozen of the Wang family’s pharmacists skillfully produced samples of each family’s proprietary medicines. After trying them out on one another, the various tycoons were so overjoyed that their faces were crooked with delight. The effects weren’t just satisfactory—they far exceeded expectations. It was the kind of success that could make you wake up laughing from a dream.

"My Wang family’s Divine Dragon Detox Powder is the true king of medicines! It’s truly worthy of being the Medical Sage’s unique, miraculous remedy!" two senior pharmacists exclaimed, their faces flush with ecstasy as they wiped blood from the corners of their mouths with their sleeves.

They had just been repeatedly taking poison to test the medicine. Although the process had been unpleasant, the effects of the Divine Dragon Detox Powder were nothing short of miraculous. It had suppressed the poison and alleviated their symptoms in the blink of an eye.

"The Medicine Procurement Conference in four days is when our nine families will finally regain our glory," Mr. Wang Sr. declared, his face glowing as he accepted the Divine Dragon Detox Powder sample as if it were a priceless treasure. "By then, with these new medicines, what’s to stop us from routing those northerners?"

At his words, the room fell silent. The men looked at one another, a mix of resentment and embarrassment in their eyes. For the last twenty years, the pharmaceutical representatives from the North had almost always dominated the companies from the Southwest provinces. Haicheng, despite being known as the Medicine Capital, had been beaten so badly it was powerless to fight back. It was a complete disgrace to the locals.

"Mr. Wang Sr., I believe we can definitely do it this time!"

"But what if Lin Fan gets furious and gives the formulas to Yuandao Pharmaceuticals to produce?"

"And that kid is so arrogant! He might just publicize the whole affair and let those northerners laugh at us!"

Some clenched their fists, while others looked worried. A few frowned deeply and shook their heads.

"Lin Fan is a menace. He cannot be allowed to live." Mr. Wang Sr.'s eyes darkened, and his old face twisted into a ferocious scowl.

He thought of that wastrel who had burned the Bixia Pill formula. He remembered being tricked by Lin Fan into believing he had actually swallowed a poison needle. He recalled the abject humiliation of kneeling at Lin Fan's feet, begging desperately.

BANG!

His old face burned with shame. Mr. Wang Sr. slammed his hand on the table, startling everyone into looking at him.

"In my opinion, Lin Fan should be just about out of formulas... so let's send him to meet his mother for a family reunion!" he declared with a cold, sinister sneer. "And don't forget, we aren't the only ones who want Lin Fan dead!"

Hearing this, the men in the room exchanged glances, their eyes suddenly lighting up.

That's right! Lin Fan, that damned cur, had single-handedly destroyed the Black Tiger Hall's main base! What's more, he had personally killed Chen Heihu's only son! In all of Haicheng, who hated Lin Fan more than that underworld emperor? Who wanted him dead more?

"As long as Lin Fan is silenced forever, the Song family is willing to put up ten million to support Lord Hu!"

"My Fang family is willing to do the same!"

"And the Meng family!"

The tycoons chimed in one after another, a murderous glint in their eyes. Lin Fan's skills were impressive, and keeping him around was a disaster waiting to happen.

It would be better to use Chen Heihu to get rid of that dog for good. His death is the only clean solution.

"Good. Since everyone is willing to put up the money, we can be sure Chen Heihu won't hesitate to spend whatever it takes to hire a more formidable high-level Martial Artist to deal with Lin Fan," Mr. Wang Sr. said, satisfied with their reaction as he nodded in approval. "Let's go! We head to the Medical Association building immediately and register the patents for all our medicines!"

The moment he finished speaking, the tycoons roared in agreement. Clutching their formulas and medicine samples, they excitedly left the Wang family estate and drove off.

「At this moment.」

Inside a private hospital room, a new bed had been added by the window.

Su Mengqing and Yang Tingting lay on their respective beds, looking across at Zhang Meili on the other side of the room. All three wore expressions of grief and anger, and no one said a word.

Fortunately, Su Gang's injuries were so severe that he remained unconscious and immobile. He was granted medical parole by the relevant authorities, sparing him from being locked up. And so, in this spacious ward, the four of them lay neatly in their beds, creating a scene of eerie harmony.

"It's all your father's fault! Su Guang, that damned gambler! If it weren't for him all those years ago, how could our Su Family have ever gotten mixed up with that jinx Lin Fan!" Zhang Meili cursed, breaking the silence. She pulled the blanket over her head and began to sob.

"Mom, what good does blaming him do? Our Su Family... we're completely ruined because of Lin Fan..." Su Mengqing replied, her face ashen as she shed tears with a bitter smile.

Nearby, Yang Tingting shrank back, not daring to utter a sound, though her eyes shifted covertly.

The Su Family is basically done for. There's no benefit in sticking by Su Mengqing anymore. It's time to start thinking about my next move...

The buzzing of a phone interrupted her thoughts. She turned her head and saw Su Mengqing's phone vibrating vigorously on the nightstand. When her gaze settled on the caller ID, however, Yang Tingting's eyes widened as if she'd seen a ghost.

"Director Su, it's... it's your dad, Su Guang, on the phone!"