

Doctor 191

Chapter 191: Tang Wenrou Gets Jealous

Around noon, Ye Xing treated Fang Bai, Tang Wenrou, and others to a meal at a high-end hotel in Qingdao, before rushing back to Yuezhou with his wife and daughter.

This kidnapping incident was clearly a brazen challenge to the Ye Family, and they had to respond strongly.

As the family head of the Ye Family, Ye Xing would definitely become busier in the future.

Before leaving, Ye Xing signed a check for thirty million yuan and handed it to Fang Bai, saying it was the reward money paid to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai originally thought since he had become friends with Ye Wumei, he could forgo the reward money, but then he thought that if he didn't take it, Ye Xing would not be pleased; by accepting it, Ye Xing would actually be happier.

For a big family like the Ye Family, the last thing they wanted was to be indebted to someone. If Fang Bai did not take their money, they would worry that he might make some difficult demands in the future.

But with the money paid, neither party owed anything to the other, everyone was happy, and all was light. This was the best outcome.

So Fang Bai unceremoniously accepted the check, even joking that if Ye Wumei wanted to learn martial arts from him in the future, this money could be considered an advance payment for the "tuition."

After Ye Xing and the others left, Fang Bai took the Lightning Marten, got into the police car driven by Tang Wenrou and the others, and headed back in the direction of Yanjing.

Not long after Fang Bai and Tang Wenrou left, two fair-faced women in white appeared near the hotel where they were staying.

"The Witch has started to make a move against the Ye Family, only it seems like she's taken quite a beating!"

"Serves her right! Who told her to pick on our Miss Angel at every turn! Ever since Ms. Linghu had her mishap, the Witch has become increasingly arrogant. It's good for her to suffer a little!"

"Alas, our Miss Angel is just too kind! If this goes on, I'm worried that the control of 'Wrathful Beauties' will all fall into the Witch's hands!"

"Don't worry, Ms. Linghu isn't dead yet, the Witch wouldn't dare to go too far! Besides, most of the elders of 'Wrathful Beauties' are still on Miss Angel's side!"

"I heard a rumor that Ms. Linghu was harmed by the Witch, who wants to seize power..."

"Shh... That kind of talk is fine between the two of us, but we must never mention it in front of a third person. The Witch is ruthless; if she hears it, you'll die a terrible death!"

"Let's go. We have to inform Miss Angel as quickly as possible about the Witch making a move against the Ye Family."

"Hmm."

The two women in white spoke softly to each other for a while, then looked around cautiously before disappearing near the hotel.

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Around ten-thirty at noon, several police cars slowly entered the Yanjing Police Station courtyard.

After the cars stopped, a coldly-dignified, pretty female inspector and a young man dressed in a black T-shirt, looking sunnily handsome, got out of the lead police car.

The pretty inspector was Tang Wenrou, and the handsome man was Fang Bai.

After returning to Yanjing with Tang Wenrou, Fang Bai did not go to the siheyuan nor Yanjing Hospital, but to the Yanjing Police Station instead.

After rescuing Ye Wumei from the kidnappers, besides the thirty million yuan reward from the Ye Family, Fang Bai was also entitled to a million yuan from the Yanjing Police Station.

Even though a million was not much compared to thirty million, a mosquito's leg is meat nonetheless, and he saw no reason to refuse it.

However, in order to collect the million yuan from the Yanjing police, Fang Bai had to personally handle some related procedures at the station, so he came over in Tang Wenrou's car.

With a friend like Tang Wenrou there, Fang Bai smoothly completed the procedures, and the million yuan reward was soon transferred into the account he provided.

Checking the time and seeing it was nearly eleven-thirty, Fang Bai smiled and said, "Officer Tang, lunchtime is almost here. May I treat you to lunch?"

"Sure!"

Tang Wenrou actually didn't refuse and nodded, saying, "You've made a fortune of thirty-one million, you should treat me to a meal!"

Fang Bai sighed, "These days, money is hard to earn! I nearly lost my life for this bit of money at sea, and even now, thinking about it gives me lingering fears!"

Tang Wenrou's lips curved slightly as she said, "Then if something like this happens again, would you do it?"

"Yes!"

Fang Bai spoke with determination, "As long as there is money to be made, why not go for it? Moreover, for martial artists, under normal circumstances, cultivation results in very slow strength improvement. Only in life-and-death situations can one's potential be stimulated, allowing for a rapid breakthrough in strength."

"Did you achieve a breakthrough this time?"

Tang Wenrou casually asked.

"Although there wasn't a major breakthrough, I've made quite a lot of progress."

Fang Bai confidently said, "If before I could take on two or three Profound Level high-rank martial artists, now handling four or five is not a problem at all!"

This was the first time Tang Wenrou heard Fang Bai reveal his true strength, and she couldn't help but be greatly surprised as she said, "Your realm... could it be that you've reached the perfection of the Profound Rank?"

"Mm."

Fang Bai didn't deny it, smiling and nodding.

Knowing Tang Wenrou well, he was aware that even if she knew his true strength, she would never speak recklessly about it.

"My master mentioned that in the Ancient Martial World, there is talk of 'Semi-Hidden Sects' and 'Hidden Sects.' It is said that in the Hidden Sects, there are even Earth Level and Heaven Level martial artists, but those martial artists are usually as elusive as a divine dragon - showing their head without revealing their tail - and ordinary people have no chance to come into contact with them. In the Semi-Hidden Sects, the strongest martial artists are only at the Profound Level. With your current strength, you would be top-notch even in a Semi-Hidden Sect!"

Looking at Fang Bai, Tang Wenrou's gaze carried a mix of admiration and a sense of loss.

The admiration was because Fang Bai, around her age, had strength that was unattainable for her.

The sense of loss came from the widening gap between her own strength and Fang Bai's, which she feared might gradually distance their relationship.

Remembering the time in Qingdao when Fang Bai was about to teach Ye Wumei martial arts, an idea struck Tang Wenrou, and she blurted out, "Fang Bai, can you teach me martial arts?"

As soon as she said it, Tang Wenrou felt a bit regretful, thinking she was being too forward - that wasn't her usual style.

Fang Bai hadn't expected Tang Wenrou to make such a request; he was initially taken aback, then he said, "Sure! But..."

"But what?"

Seeing Fang Bai hesitate, Tang Wenrou suddenly felt a bit jealous for some reason, bit her lip, and said, "You're willing to teach Ye Wumei, but you don't want to teach me?"

"How could that be..."

Fang Bai, hearing the sour tone in Tang Wenrou's voice, hadn't expected her to be jealous and laughingly said, "It's just that martial arts, well... it's not something everyone can learn..."

Tang Wenrou felt Fang Bai was just brushing her off, raised her eyebrows, and said, "Then why can Ye Wumei learn?"

Fang Bai said, "She has an Innate Spiritual Root."

"Innate Spiritual Root?"

Tang Wenrou looked bewildered.

"Yes, Innate Spiritual Root!"

Fang Bai nodded and said, "The martial arts I cultivate are very special; without an Innate Spiritual Root, one simply cannot cultivate it."

"Then... how can you tell if someone has an Innate Spiritual Root?"

Tang Wenrou asked, half-doubtful, half-hopeful.

"Give me your right hand."

Fang Bai extended one hand towards Tang Wenrou.

"What for?"

Tang Wenrou frowned.

Chapter 192: Innate Earth Spirit Root

"The simplest way to confirm an Innate Spiritual Root is to feel the bones!"

Fang Bai said sternly, "Let me feel your bones and I can determine whether you have an Innate Spiritual Root."

"If so, can I then learn Martial Arts from you?"

"Yes."

"So, you touched Ye Wumei's body to find out that she has an Innate Spiritual Root?"

"Of course."

Tang Wenrou stopped speaking and gazed intently at Fang Bai, trying to discern the truthfulness of his words from his face.

Tang Wenrou still remembered that when she learned Ancient Martial from Nunnery Master Jingxian in her early years, the master never mentioned anything about "feeling bones." So why did it come down to this when it came to Fang Bai?

Although Tang Wenrou had never experienced this "bone feeling" herself, she had a rough understanding of what it meant just from the literal interpretation of the words.

The thought of Fang Bai's hands roaming over her body made Tang Wenrou feel a warmth spreading through her.

If Tang Wenrou hadn't had numerous dealings with Fang Bai and hadn't understood his character very well, she surely would have thought Fang Bai was using "bone feeling" as an excuse to take advantage of others.

"Don't get any weird ideas!"

Seeing the guarded and wary expression on Tang Wenrou's face, Fang Bai knew she had misunderstood, and with a wry smile said, "When I 'feel bones,' there's no need to touch the whole body, just one hand will suffice. Left for men, right for women; for women, it's the right hand."

Seeing Tang Wenrou's hesitation, Fang Bai shrugged his shoulders and said, "Whether to feel the bones or not is your decision... Sigh, after talking for so long, I'm thirsty."

He saw a teacup on the office desk beside him, grabbed it and tilted his head back to drink.

"You..."

Tang Wenrou watched the teacup in Fang Bai's hand and opened her mouth to speak.

"What is it?"

Having drained the water from the teacup in one breath, Fang Bai casually placed the cup back on the desk and, noting Tang Wenrou's blushing face, asked curiously.

"That's my cup!"

Tang Wenrou pointed to the teacup Fang Bai had used to drink water and stamped her foot as she spoke.

"No wonder there was a faint fragrance from the tea..."

Fang Bai murmured to himself, then slapped his forehead and said, "Ah, my apologies! I was really thirsty just now... Officer Tang, don't be angry, I'll buy another one for you later!"

Recalling the saying that sharing a cup was akin to an indirect kiss, Fang Bai couldn't help but glance at Tang Wenrou's fresh and rosy lips, then let out a "heh" of a laugh.

Tang Wenrou, apparently catching the insincerity in his laughter, glowered at him with a mixture of shyness and annoyance and huffed, "What are you laughing at?"

"Do you still want to learn Martial Arts? If after feeling your bones we confirm you have an Innate Spiritual Root, and you're willing to follow me in training, I can assure you that within one year, your strength will surpass that of your master, Nunnery Master Jingxian."

Fang Bai knew he couldn't continue on this topic or he might truly irritate Tang Wenrou, so he swiftly changed the subject.

In fact, without the need for bone feeling, Fang Bai, based on his own experience from reincarnating, could almost conclude that a stunning beauty like Tang Wenrou, so rare in this world, had a very high likelihood of having an Innate Spiritual Root.

Therefore, to get Tang Wenrou onto the path of Martial Dao and not waste such a fine cultivatable talent, Fang Bai began to dangle bait.

Sure enough, Tang Wenrou was tempted.

Her master, Nunnery Master Jingxian's current realm was Yellow Level Perfection. Surpassing her master would mean that she would become a Profound Level Martial Artist, wouldn't it?

After a moment of hesitation, Tang Wenrou walked to the office door, gently closed it, and then returned to Fang Bai's side, extending her right hand in front of him.

Fang Bai knew she had been persuaded by him and smiled, reached out with both hands, grasped her slender and delicate jade-like hands, and began to carefully feel them.

The process of feeling her bones was slow, and to ultimately confirm his judgement, Fang Bai extended his examination from her palms to her elbows.

Tang Wenrou, already sensitive by nature, blushed and sweated at the tip of her nose, her body going soft, barely able to stand steady as Fang Bai touched and pinched her.

"Are you... done yet?"

Tang Wenrou steadied herself using the office desk and couldn't help but ask, her tone carrying a hint of coquettish irritation.

"Mmm. Done," Fang Bai replied.

Seeing Tang Wenrou's altered expression, Fang Bai gave it a thought and understood the reason, smiling as he said, "Officer Tang, congratulations! Just like I imagined, you indeed have an Innate Spiritual Root suitable for cultivation. Star Ye has a Wind Spirit Root, and you have an Earth Spirit Root."

"Earth Spirit Root?"

Tang Wenrou blinked, curiously asking, "What does Earth Spirit Root mean?"

"Earth Spirit Root means you can cultivate Earth Element Techniques," Fang Bai explained patiently. "Earth Element Techniques focus on defense. When you cultivate to a high level, the armor you form with Earth Element Qi will be impervious even to missiles..."

"Impervious to missiles? Fang Bai, are you joking?"

Tang Wenrou appeared to hear something out of a fable, a look of disbelief written all over her face.

In Tang Wenrou's view, even the world's strongest Martial Artist could only dodge ordinary bullets; defending against missiles was completely impossible, unless one belonged to the legendary class of immortals and deities.

"Believe it or not, up to you!" Fang Bai knew that this matter far exceeded Tang Wenrou's imagination, and it was premature to discuss it with her now, so he refrained from elaborating further.

"If I learn martial arts from you, can I do so without taking you as my master? You know, I have already taken Nunnery Master Jingxian as my master..."

Identified by Fang Bai as having a "Spiritual Root," Tang Wenrou felt both joy and excitement, yet also a bit apprehensive, not knowing if Fang Bai would accept her condition.

Being able to learn martial arts from Fang Bai could mean not falling too far behind him in strength, and more importantly, it meant more opportunities to see him.

"Of course, you can," Bai Fang said with a smile. "Even if you didn't mention it, I had no intention of taking you as my disciple. I'll just teach you Martial Arts, and our relationship will remain as friends."

"Can I tell my master about this when I go back?"

"Whatever you want. If Nunnery Master Jingxian wants to learn something from me, I can teach her too. But when I healed her last time, I already knew she didn't have an Innate Spiritual Root, so I can only teach her some basic Martial Arts. Still, it will be much more powerful than what she knows."

"I'll convey your words to my master. Whether to learn or not, I'll let my master decide."

"Heh, after talking so much, it's almost twelve o'clock... Let's go, time to eat!"

The two left the police station and went to the nearby Tianbao Hotel. They sat down in the "Bamboo Rhyme Hall" on the second floor. Fang Bai grabbed the menu that the waiter handed over and rapidly ordered a dozen dishes.

Although Tang Wenrou had eaten with Fang Bai twice before and knew about his astonishing appetite, she still felt that ordering a dozen dishes for two people was a bit much.

"Not too much! Not too much at all!"

Hearing Tang Wenrou complain about having too many dishes, Fang Bai laughed and said, "My appetite grows with my strength. Don't worry, a dozen dishes won't be wasted—not even a bit!"

Chapter 193: The So-Called Best Quality

During the meal, Tang Wenrou went to the restroom. Coming out, she encountered a bald man in his early forties just outside the restroom.

As they brushed past each other, the bald man turned around, staring straight at Tang Wenrou's retreating figure with a lecherous expression, drooling until she entered the Bamboo Rhyme Hall, then he finally retracted his gaze.

After relieving himself, the bald man quickly returned to the Fortune Hall. As soon as he entered, he said to a young man seated in the place of honor with a big grin, "Young Master Shen, I just saw an outstanding woman outside! She was wearing the very kind of uniform you like..."

The man addressed as "Young Master Shen" wore gold wire-rimmed glasses and had neatly combed, shiny hair. He appeared quite handsome, but he was rather drunk, his face flushed red with intoxication.

Hearing the bald man's words, Young Master Shen's lips twitched in disdain, "Bald Lee, do you even know what an outstanding woman is?"

"Please enlighten me, Young Master Shen!"

The bald man said respectfully.

"Bald Lee" was a sore spot for the bald man; if anyone else called him "Bald Lee," he would turn hostile on the spot, but in front of Young Master Shen, he didn't dare let out a peep and even had to keep up a smiling face.

Young Master Shen swayed his head and said, "An outstanding woman isn't just about the face or the figure, it's also about the aura... You get it? It's about substance! A woman with just a face and figure is nothing but an empty vase! Only when she has a unique substance, can she be called outstanding!"

"Young Master Shen, the woman I saw outside just now, she has the face, the figure, the aura – truly outstanding! You can see for yourself if you like, she's dining in the Bamboo Rhyme Hall! Especially in that police uniform... tsk tsk, it's really something special..."

Bald Lee said with a "tsk tsk," almost drooling as he did.

"Dressed in a police uniform... heh heh, to match that little slut from the Tang Family, now that would be outstanding!"

Young Master Shen muttered to himself, then suddenly stood up, pushing the chair next to him aside, and staggered towards the door, saying, "Let's go, let's go see that outstanding woman Bald Lee's talking about!"

Clatter clatter—

There was a racket of chairs and tables being moved; the four or five men from the Fortune Hall all stood up, flanking Young Master Shen along with the four bodyguards he had brought, heading towards the Bamboo Rhyme Hall.

"Here come a few flies. Looks like we won't be able to enjoy our meal in peace..."

Fang Bai heard the commotion from the Fortune Hall from afar and knew they were coming this way. He frowned and said to Tang Wenrou.

"Flies?"

Tang Wenrou looked around and said, "Are you seeing things? How could there be... in such a high-class restaurant?"

Before she could finish her sentence, "Bang!" the room's door was forcefully pushed open, and a group of inebriated men led by Shen Huanian poured in.

"Bald Lee, where's that woman you were talking about?"

Shen Huanian, swaying and wobbling, appeared at the Bamboo Rhyme Hall, shouting loudly before he had even clearly made out the two people inside.

"Young Master Shen, look, that's the one..."

The bald man stood beside Shen Huanian, raising his hand to point towards a stunned Tang Wenrou.

Tang Wenrou had recently had a bit of white liquor with Fang Bai, her cheeks slightly rosy, her eyes misty, adding a touch of allure to her spiritedness.

The other men hadn't drunk as much as Shen Huanian; their heads were clearer. Upon seeing Tang Wenrou, they were struck with amazement, flames of desire lighting up in their eyes as if a pack of wolves had spotted a lamb ready for slaughter.

"Oh... indeed, a police uniform... not bad... Huh? This woman looks somewhat familiar."

Young Master Shen's drunken eyes followed the direction of the bald man's finger and landed on Tang Wenrou. In his dazed state, he felt like he had seen this woman somewhere before.

Tang Wenrou and Fang Bai exchanged glances, surprised to encounter Shen Huanian here.

The Shen Huanian before them reeked of alcohol and swayed unsteadily, hardly able to stand; where was any trace of his usual refined elegance and graceful demeanor?

He wore expensive gold-rimmed glasses, which usually gave him a scholarly appearance, but the look in his eyes when he saw Tang Wenrou was lascivious, involuntarily bringing to mind the phrase "a refined beast."

Shen Huanian's head was numb from the alcohol; even though he found Tang Wenrou familiar, he couldn't focus enough to ponder who she might be.

Shen Huanian had a peculiar fondness for beautiful women in uniform.

At this moment, he was so drunk he couldn't distinguish one person from another; he only knew that the woman in uniform before him stirred a restless desire within him.

So after a glance at Tang Wenrou, Shen Huanian let out a "howl" like a wolf and lunged at her.

"This guy is going to be unlucky..."

Seeing the murderous glint in Tang Wenrou's eyes, Fang Bai sighed and started mourning for Shen Huanian.

Slap—

Bang—

Ah—

A series of noises later, Shen Huanian's body curled up like a shrimp at the corner of the wall, his mouth producing a piercing and dreadful howl of agony.

"Better to offend a villain than a woman... this saying is indeed true!"

Watching Shen Huanian, hands covering his groin, rolling back and forth on the ground, with an expression of excruciating pain and heartrending cries, Fang Bai felt a chill creep up his own legs.

The kick that Tang Wenrou had just delivered, in her fury, spared no effort at all. Fang Bai suspected that Shen Huanian might become permanently unable to father children.

The four bodyguards responsible for protecting Shen Huanian saw red; they didn't care who Tang Wenrou was. All four drew their guns, preparing to shoot.

Swish—

Swish—

Swish—

The moment their handguns were drawn, before they could even aim at Tang Wenrou, they saw a blur as a barrage of plates and dishes smashed into their faces. Not only were they left bloodied, drenched in soup and water, but their guns were also lost to sight.

Shen Huanian howled for a while before gradually falling silent, eventually fainting from the pain.

The bald man and his bunch of cronies who had come with Shen Huanian tried to run when they saw what happened, only to find their legs were too weak to carry them.

Only then did they realize that this woman in a police uniform, who looked premium on the surface, was actually a rose covered in thorns; touch her, and you'd be bleeding all over.

"Send him to the hospital. If anyone asks, just say the person who hurt him was Tang Wenrou from the Yanjing Police Station."

After leaving these words for the bald man and his friends, Tang Wenrou and Fang Bai left the hotel together.

Chapter 194: Baili Zhan Gets Deflated

After such an incident, both Tang Wenrou and Fang Bai felt very disheartened, and they no longer had an appetite for food.

"Was my kick a bit too harsh?"

After leaving the hotel, Tang Wenrou's expression was very solemn. Having walked more than a dozen steps away, she turned her head to ask Fang Bai.

"Not harsh."

Fang Bai said, "If it were me, I would have been even harsher."

Tang Wenrou's expression relaxed slightly, she sighed softly, and said, "With this incident happening, the good relationship that the Tang Family and the Shen Family had built over many years is probably going to be ruined in an instant. I don't know how my parents will treat me..."

"You did nothing wrong, the one at fault is Shen Huanian. Your parents will surely stand by your side."

Fang Bai comforted her.

Tang Wenrou nodded and said, "I'm a bit troubled right now, I should head back first. I need to discuss this matter with my family, to let them prepare for what's coming..."

Fang Bai said, "If there's anything you need my help with, just tell me."

"Mm."

Watching Tang Wenrou's graceful figure disappear around the corner of the street, Fang Bai too turned around and strode towards the courtyard house.

When he was several hundred meters away from the courtyard house in the small village, a streak of white light shot towards him and landed steadily on Fang Bai's shoulder.

"Little Mink, what has got you so excited?"

Fang Bai raised his hand to stroke the silky fur of the Lightning Mink, asking with a smile.

The Lightning Mink hopped on Fang Bai's shoulder, chirping "squeak squeak" for a while.

"Ghost Hand got into a fight? And he lost miserably? You intervened at the end?"

Fang Bai was slightly surprised, his brows furrowing.

Ghost Hand's current strength was already High Rank Yellow Level; anyone who could defeat him so badly had to be at least a Profound Level Martial Artist.

Who could the person be?

Why did they clash with Ghost Hand?

Although Fang Bai could communicate with the Lightning Mink through the Beast Taming Scripture, there were still some barriers, and there were some things the Lightning Mink couldn't explain clearly.

"Let's go and take a look!"

Fang Bai's figure flickered as he employed his movement technique, darting toward the direction of the courtyard house.

The afternoon sun was harsh, and the roads of the village were empty of pedestrians. Worried about startling the ordinary folk, Fang Bai, at full speed, appeared in front of the gate of the rented courtyard house in a moment.

Pushing open the door to enter, he saw a person lying on the ground of the courtyard, seemingly deprived of the ability to move, with a large cloth bag placed beside him.

Ghost Hand stood by the person's side, staring at him with a fierce gaze.

"Uncle Baili?"

After recognizing the face of the person lying on the ground, Fang Bai hurriedly went up to him and asked, "When did you come back? Why did you have a conflict with Ghost Hand?"

"Master, you know this person?"

Hearing Fang Bai call the person on the ground "Uncle," Ghost Hand instantly realized that it was a case of 'a family not recognizing its own', and he immediately crouched down to unseal the man's locked acupoints.

The person lying on the ground was none other than Baili Zhan.

Once his acupoints were unsealed, Baili Zhan leapt to his feet, glanced at Ghost Hand, then at the Lightning Mink on Fang Bai's shoulder, exhibiting a face full of surprise and bewilderment.

"I just got home."

Baili Zhan patted the dust off his clothes and pointed at Ghost Hand, "Is this kid your disciple?"

Then he pointed at the Lightning Mink, his expression carrying a hint of wariness, "What's the story with this mink? It's so powerful..."

"Let me introduce you."

Fang Bai saw that Baili Zhan wasn't hurt, heaved a sigh of relief, and smilingly said to Ghost Hand, "Ghost Hand, this is our landlord, and also Mingyue's father."

Ghost Hand had been living in the courtyard for some time and had become good friends with Baili Mingyue. Hearing that Baili Zhan was Baili Mingyue's father, he hurriedly bowed and apologized, "Uncle Baili, I was not aware of your status, and I have offended you earlier, please don't take it to heart! If you're angry, you might as well give me a beating!"

Since Fang Bai addressed Baili Zhan as "Uncle," as his disciple, Ghost Hand had no choice but to call Baili Zhan Uncle as well.

"Uncle Baili, this is my disciple Ghost Hand, whom I took under my wing not long ago."

Baili Zhan sized up Ghost Hand and nodded, "So young, and already a High Rank Yellow Level Martial Artist...not bad, young man..."

"This little mink is a Lightning Mink that has awakened its intelligence. I ran into it in the mountains while I was cultivating a while ago, and I brought it back with me."

Fang Bai continued to introduce the Lightning Mink.

The Lightning Mink gave a bow to Baili Zhan with its two front paws and let out a few "squeaks."

Fang Bai laughed heartily, "Little Mink is apologizing to you for what happened earlier!"

"I was also at fault for not asking clearly before taking action...the one who should apologize is me!"

Baili Zhan's gaze fell on the Lightning Mink and he sighed, "Fang Bai, you've taken such an outstanding disciple and even a more impressive Lightning Mink as a pet, you really are lucky!"

Baili Zhan, Ghost Hand, and the Lightning Mink, having not fought, did not really know each other until now. They stood in the courtyard chatting for a while when Baili Mingyue came back from the outside carrying a few bags filled with meat and vegetables.

"Dad, you're back? Fang Bai, you're back too?"

Seeing Baili Zhan and Fang Bai standing in the yard, Baili Mingyue was both shocked and overjoyed.

As Baili Mingyue approached, Baili Zhan touched her head and cheerfully asked, "Mingyue, have you been good while I was away?"

"Of course, I've been good! If you don't believe me, just ask Fang Bai and Ghost Hand."

Baili Mingyue giggled, then looked at Fang Bai and Ghost Hand with pleading eyes.

Fang Bai and Ghost Hand glanced at each other, then nodded with a smile, yet they thought to themselves, "Good? What good? This lass, lying without even blushing!"

During this period, Baili Mingyue would get into trouble every now and then in her extra classes, mostly standing up for girls being bullied, often getting into conflicts with the boys as a result.

And the outcomes of those conflicts, of course, were always Baili Mingyue's victory and the boys' bruised faces.

In order to appease the anger of the parents of the boys who got beaten up by Baili Mingyue, Fang Bai had no choice but to make several trips to the extra classes in the capacity of Baili Mingyue's "big brother," apologizing to others and even compensating them with medicine fees.

Of course, Fang Bai and Ghost Hand would never reveal these incidents in front of Baili Zhan, otherwise Baili Mingyue would likely not escape some punishment.

"Uncle Baili, your trip outside must have been quite fruitful, huh?"

Fang Bai looked down at the large cloth bag beside Baili Zhan and twitched his nose, smelling the scent of many precious medicinal herbs.

Hearing Fang Bai bring it up, Baili Zhan's eyebrows danced with excitement as he said, "Indeed. I thought sneaking back into the Hidden Sect this time would be very risky, but I didn't expect everything to go smoothly. I found the Man-Eating Flower, and I also gathered some of the medicinal herbs you wanted."

He squatted down, opened the cloth bag, and took out the herbs one by one, laying them on the ground in the courtyard like treasures.

The rich aroma of the herbs began to spread from each of them, filling the entire space of the courtyard.

Chapter 195: I Want to Learn Martial Arts with Fang Bai

"Uncle Baili, thanks for your trouble!"

Fang Bai's gaze fell on some of the medicinal herbs and he nodded with a smile, "The Blood Jade Vine, Frostflower Grass, Purple Bamboo Peach you brought back, all more than a hundred years old, are much better than I had expected."

"There are still quite a few good things in the Hidden Sect. It's a pity I have only two hands, or I would have brought out more medicinal herbs..."

Baili Zhan sighed with a look of regret.

"Master, what do you need these medicinal herbs for?"

Ghost Hand interjected, "As far as I know, they just have some benefits like enriching the qi, regulating the blood, and skincare. They are of no use to us martial artists in cultivation, right?"

Fang Bai laughed, "I am using them for skincare."

Ghost Hand was taken aback and scratched his head, "Skincare is something women like to do, it has nothing to do with us men... right?"

Fang Bai lifted his black T-shirt, revealing a large swath of scars on his back for Ghost Hand to see.

"I was injured in an explosion before, and now that the wound has healed, it left a body full of scars. Don't you think I should beautify my skin and get rid of these scars?"

After putting his clothes back down, Fang Bai said to Ghost Hand.

The explosion at Fresh Fish Manor in Zhongzhou had seriously injured Fang Bai while he was protecting Tang Wenrou. Although two months had passed, the scars on Fang Bai's body remained, looking crisscrossed and somewhat ferocious.

If it were a timid girl, she would be too terrified to look again at the scars on Fang Bai's back, but Baili Mingyue not only looked but also reached out to touch them, frowning and asking, "Fang Bai, with so many scars, do you really have a way to remove them?"

Fang Bai pointed to the medicinal herbs on the ground, "Of course I can. I had Uncle Baili bring these herbs back so I could concoct an ointment to clear the scars from my body."

Baili Mingyue's eyes widened in surprise, "Are these herbs really that miraculous?"

"This is Blood Jade Vine. It can remove scars. As long as it's paired with some other herbs to make the ointment and apply it on the body, you can clear the scars..."

Fang Bai picked up a red vine the thickness of a finger from the ground and introduced it.

"Look at this..."

Fang Bai picked up some white grass-like herbs and said, "This is Frostflower Grass. After making it into an ointment and applying it to the skin, it can whiten the skin and also provide sun protection and wrinkle removal."

After putting down the Frostflower Grass, Fang Bai picked up a piece of purple leaf, "This is Purple Bamboo Leaf, it's the best for getting rid of acne on the face."

Baili Mingyue's eyes lit up the more she listened.

The herbs Fang Bai spoke of, some could clear scars, some could remove acne, and some could whiten the skin and protect against the sun and wrinkles, undoubtedly had an irresistible allure for women.

"Fang Bai, when you've made the ointment, can you let me try it? Look..."

Baili Mingyue pointed to her cheek and said, "I just got a small pimple on my cheek yesterday, it's so annoying!"

Baili Zhan lightly tapped his daughter's head and said irritably, "Can you not interrupt when adults are talking? Go play over there!"

Baili Mingyue pouted her lips, about to retort, but then she suddenly remembered something and hugged her father's arm, cooing sweetly.

"Dad, I can do without the ointment, but there's something you must agree to! If you don't, I'll make a fuss every day!"

"You're all grown up and still acting coquettishly. Aren't you embarrassed? What is it that you want to talk about?"

Baili Zhan glared at his daughter.

"I want to learn martial arts from Fang Bai!"

Baili Mingyue stood tall and said, "Fang Bai said I have an Innate Spiritual Root and that I'm good material for cultivating martial arts. He is willing to teach me, but he said I need to get your consent first... Dad, I know you'll agree, right?"

"Innate Spiritual Root?"

Baili Zhan, although a disciple of the Hidden Sect and quite knowledgeable, had no idea what an "Innate Spiritual Root" was and looked at Fang Bai with a puzzled face.

"Innate Spiritual Root" is a term from the Cultivation World; without it, though one can also practice martial arts, they are doomed to have no significant prospects.

But possessing an Innate Spiritual Root, one will stride forward on the path of Martial Dao, having a future full of unlimited light.

Naturally, Fang Bai wouldn't reveal that the concept of "Innate Spiritual Root" came from the Cultivation World. He smiled and said, "An Innate Spiritual Root refers to a rather special physique, and the martial arts I practice are also quite special, so to learn from me, one needs the Innate Spiritual Root."

After glancing at Baili Mingyue, Baili Zhan thought seriously for a moment and said, "Good, since you put it that way, I'll entrust Mingyue to your teaching. Mingyue, quickly kneel down and pay respects to your master!"

Baili Mingyue, who had witnessed Fang Bai's prowess and both admired and revered him, was eager to learn martial arts from him. Upon hearing this, she uttered, "Oh," and moved in front of Fang Bai, bending her knees as if to kneel.

Fang Bai lifted his hands in a supportive gesture, and an invisible force of True Yuan materialized in front of Baili Mingyue. No matter how hard she tried, she could not kneel down.

Baili Zhan felt the strong aura released by Fang Bai, which even put pressure on himself, and he couldn't help exclaiming in surprise, "Fang Bai, have you advanced? Have you reached Profound Level Perfection?"

Fang Bai nodded, which served as an acknowledgement.

"When I left, our cultivation levels were about the same. It's incredible to think that in less than a month since I've been gone, you've advanced... This is truly unimaginable!"

Baili Zhan looked at Fang Bai in astonishment, feeling a mix of wonder and envy.

No wonder Baili Zhan was surprised. For martial artists, advancing even a minor realm after reaching a certain level of mastery normally takes at least one to two years, if not three to five. But Fang Bai's rate of progression clearly exceeded this norm.

Baili Zhan speculated that either Fang Bai practiced a special cultivation technique, or he had some fortuitous encounter during the time he was away. Otherwise, such a remarkable improvement would not have been possible.

Even within the Hidden Sect, martial artists at Fang Bai's age who had reached Profound Level Perfection were a rare sight, considered awe-inspiring talents.

Baili Zhan was now a High Rank Martial Artist of the Profound Level. To advance to perfection, he would likely have no hope of achieving it within the next three to five years given his current state – that's why he envied Fang Bai.

A moment ago, Baili Zhan had some hesitation about letting his daughter follow Fang Bai to learn martial arts, but now he was fully supportive.

Baili Zhan knew his own limitations. If he were to personally teach Baili Mingyue, the chances of her surpassing him as a father were almost non-existent. But if Fang Bai taught her, there might be hope.

However, he was puzzled by Fang Bai's gesture of not allowing Baili Mingyue to perform the kowtow ritual to acknowledge a master. He thought to himself, paying respects to one's master is a righteous tradition. Without the formal acknowledgement of the disciple-master relationship, would Fang Bai still earnestly teach his daughter?

Chapter 196: A Glimmer of Hope

"I took Ghost Hand as a disciple because his master's sect was destroyed, and he had nowhere to go, and he will always follow me," Fang Bai said, glancing at Baili Mingyue with a smile, "As for Mingyue..."

Fang Bai looked at Baili Mingyue and said with a smile, "Mingyue's future is full of uncertainties, and I don't want to bind her with the master-disciple relationship. Therefore, I only want to teach her and not take her as a disciple... I think it's better to be friends with Mingyue. Mingyue, what do you think?"

Baili Mingyue nodded in agreement and said, "Yes, I also think being friends is better than being master and disciple. We're not much different in age, and if I have to call you 'Master,' 'Master' every time I see you, it would feel a bit awkward."

Baili Zhan wanted to say something, but Fang Bai waved his hand and said, "Don't worry, I won't keep anything hidden and will teach her to the best of my ability!"

At that moment, a faint voice from Jiang Yuzhi came from the room on the north side of the east, seemingly calling Baili Zhan's name.

Jiang Yuzhi had been in a deep sleep, and even the sounds of fighting between Ghost Hand and Baili Zhan hadn't awakened her, but now she woke up, maybe having heard her husband's voice in the courtyard, so she called out.

Baili Zhan moved like lightning and darted into Jiang Yuzhi's room.

Baili Mingyue followed him in soon after.

A moment later, Baili Zhan wheeled Jiang Yuzhi out in a wheelchair.

"Fang Bai, Yuzhi's complexion looks much better, and she seems more spirited than before. Yuzhi said you've been giving her acupuncture nearly every day these past days to suppress the poison. Thank you so much," Baili Zhan said to Fang Bai with a grateful face.

During the time Baili Zhan was away from home, what he worried about the most was his wife, and now seeing her looking healthy and spirited naturally made him happy too.

Fang Bai walked up to Jiang Yuzhi's wheelchair, carefully examined her complexion, furrowed his brow slightly, then took her wrist to check her pulse.

"What's wrong? Is there something not right?"

Seeing Fang Bai's expression growing more solemn, Baili Zhan also became anxious and asked urgently.

"Aunt Jiang is experiencing a revival before death. The poison that has been suppressed in her body for many years is about to erupt fully," Fang Bai withdrew his hand, sighed, and said somberly.

"Ah?"

Baili Zhan was shocked, standing there stupefied.

Baili Zhan, coming from the Hidden Sect's Ghost Doctor Valley with exceptional medical skills, knew that once the poison in his wife's body erupted fully, she could die within a mere ten minutes, beyond help even from gods.

Jiang Yuzhi had already set aside fears of life and death. Hearing this, she just smiled faintly and patted her husband's hand that was resting on her shoulder.

"Then... what can we do?"

Baili Zhan, usually calm and composed, was suddenly thrown into panic, and could only look to Fang Bai for help.

"There's no time to lose... Uncle Baili, push Aunt Jiang inside and let her lie down on the bed. I will give her acupuncture immediately to temporarily delay the outbreak of the poison," Fang Bai said.

"Mingyue, you and Little Mink stand guard at the main gate, don't let anyone come in and disturb us."

"Ghost Hand, boil this Man-Eating Flower into a bowl of medicinal water, and bring it to the room later."

After Fang Bai gave his instructions, Baili Zhan immediately pushed his wife into the room, Mingyue stood outside the door holding Little Mink, and Ghost Hand dug up a "Man-Eating Flower" and went into the kitchen.

Fang Bai looked up to the sky and took a deep breath, then with a serious face, he walked into Jiang Yuzhi's room.

With her husband's help, Jiang Yuzhi was already lying in bed properly. Seeing Fang Bai entering, a slight smile appeared on her face.

"Lately, I've been worried that the disciples of 'Ghost Doctor Valley' and 'Yunnv Sect' will come looking for us, to hunt down my husband and Mingyue... Fang Bai, I know you're a highly capable person. If I die, could you look after them for me?"

Jiang Yuzhi's tone was pleading as she continued, "I know it's a lot to ask, but... I really don't want anything to happen to my husband and Mingyue... I beg you, in my next life, I'll be a beast of burden to repay you..."

Fang Bai gave a wry smile, "Aunt Jiang, you're speaking a bit prematurely. Although I can't guarantee a complete cure, I still have a sixty to seventy percent confidence."

Baili Zhan knew Fang Bai's character well; when he spoke of having sixty to seventy percent confidence, it was probably an understatement, which meant that there was closer to a seventy to eighty percent chance that Fang Bai could heal his wife.

Baili Zhan breathed a sigh of relief, gratitude in his voice, "Fang Bai, I won't say anything more than necessary. I leave everything in your hands."

Fang Bai nodded, pulled up a chair beside the bed, and took out the Five Elements Acupuncture Set from his Spatial Ring. After opening the acupuncture set, he sequentially took out gold, green, blue, red, and yellow colored silver needles, and with a flash of lightning, inserted them into Jiang Yuzhi's crown, the palms of her hands, and the soles of her feet.

In the past, Fang Bai had only used the water and wood needles from the Five Elements Acupuncture Set to save people, and using all five elements needles of gold, wood, water, fire, and earth at the same time was a first for him.

Because Jiang Yuzhi had been poisoned for far too long and too deeply, her body's Yin Yang Five Elements were already out of balance; she needed the Five Elements Needles to conduct True Yuan for adjustment and then to heal her damaged body.

Fang Bai alternated his hands on the tails of the Five Elements Needles, continuously channeling True Yuan through the needles into Jiang Yuzhi's body.

As the True Yuan was transferred into the Five Elements Needles, they emitted five different dazzling colors of light - the sharpness of metal, the vitality of wood, the gentleness of water, the explosive nature of fire, the solidity of earth... the characteristics of the five elements were revealed without concealment at this moment.

The simultaneous use of the Five Elements Needles consumed an enormous amount of True Yuan. Every so often, Fang Bai had to take out Essence Stones or Elixirs from the Spatial Ring to replenish his energy, to keep up with the speed of consumption.

Half an hour later, Ghost Hand brought a bowl of medicine, which had a bizarre blood-red color and emitted a sweet fragrance— the smell of the Man-Eating Flower.

"Fang Bai, is this... really meant to be drunk?"

Taking the medicinal soup from Ghost Hand, Baili Zhan hesitated.

Years ago, it was the Man-Eating Flower's poison that had led Jiang Yuzhi to experience worse than death these past decades. Now, giving her medicinal soup boiled from the Man-Eating Flower, wouldn't it compound the poison and accelerate her death? Or, as Fang Bai said, would it fight poison with poison and completely cure Jiang Yuzhi?

"Give it to her to drink!"

Seeing Baili Zhan hesitating, Fang Bai urged him aloud.

"Zhan, let me drink it! I believe in Fang Bai!"

With these words, Jiang Yuzhi closed her eyes and slightly opened her mouth.

Baili Zhan gritted his teeth, sat beside the bed, delicately propped up Jiang Yuzhi's head with one hand, and with the other, held the medicine bowl and slowly poured the medicinal liquid into her mouth.

The toxicity of the Man-Eating Flower was extremely violent. Within just a few minutes of drinking the bowl of medicinal soup, Jiang Yuzhi's body began to shake violently, and her skin exhibited a horrific dark bluish color.

Baili Zhan watched his wife with widened eyes, saw her clench her teeth tightly and her eyes bulge, with large beads of sweat rolling down, and he knew she was enduring immense pain. His tiger-like eyes were filled with tears.

Chapter 197: Fight Poison with Poison

At this moment, the most tense was still Fang Bai.

He knew that this moment was the most critical time to expel the poison from Jiang Yuzhi, so he focused his mind without daring to be the slightest bit distracted.

His fingers continuously manipulated the Five Elements Acupuncture Set, while also accelerating the stimulation of his True Yuan, continuously transferring it into Jiang Yuzhi's body.

Three minutes later, wisps of white smoke began to emerge from the top of Fang Bai's head, indicating that he was exerting his full strength, pushing his True Yuan to an extreme state.

The bowl of Man-Eating Flower medicine had fully activated the toxins that had been lying dormant in Jiang Yuzhi's body for over a decade, but as soon as the toxins erupted, a significant part of them was dissolved by the continuously surging True Yuan of five different attributes.

The part of the toxins that wasn't dissolved was slowly forced out from the organs, bones, and blood by the strong True Yuan that Fang Bai transferred, and then following a specific route, flowed towards Jiang Yuzhi's limbs.

Five minutes later, Baili Zhan noticed that dark, blackened blood was slowly seeping out along the Five Elements Acupuncture Set, then dripping onto the ground.

Drops of black blood fell onto the white floor, emitting a "sizzling" sound and giving off strands of white smoke.

Seeing this, Baili Zhan gasped in horror.

Baili Zhan knew that such a drop of toxic blood could easily kill a strong ox, and in just a moment, the toxic blood forced out of Jiang Yuzhi's body already amounted to dozens of drops, showing how severe the Man-Eating Flower poison was.

As the toxic blood continued to be forced out of the organs, bones, and blood, the pain Jiang Yuzhi endured was also gradually diminishing, and the terrifying dark cyan color on her face noticeably eased a lot.

Baili Zhan knew that Fang Bai's method of "fighting poison with poison" had taken effect, and he silently breathed a sigh of relief.

This treatment process lasted a full hour, and during this time, a large portion of the Essence Stones and medicinal pills inside Fang Bai's Space Ring were consumed.

During the treatment, Jiang Yuzhi also fell into a deep sleep.

"It's done!"

Suddenly, Fang Bai said in a low voice, and then like lightning, he removed the Five Elements Needles from the top of Jiang Yuzhi's head and her limbs, placed them in the needle box, and put them back into the Spatial Ring.

"The poison inside Aunt Jiang's body has been almost completely removed. Next, Uncle Baili, you wash Aunt Jiang's body for her, then use the Snow Lotus, wild ginseng, poria, and Lingzhi you brought back to simmer a bowl of medicinal soup. When Aunt Jiang wakes up, let her drink it..."

Fang Bai said this and staggered on his feet, his body swaying a few times.

"What's wrong with you?"

Seeing Fang Bai's face turn pale, Baili Zhan asked with concern.

Fang Bai said with a wry smile, "I'm completely worn out, my body's about to collapse, I must return to my room to recuperate immediately."

"I'll help you back to your room..."

"No need, you stay here to take care of Aunt Jiang. Should she have any abnormal condition, remember to wake me up in time."

As Fang Bai spoke, he called Ghost Hand, who was guarding the doorway, into the room. With his help, Fang Bai went back to his own room, took several Gathering Yuan Pills, lay on the bed, closed his eyes, and entered a state of recuperative meditation.

Not until the next morning did Fang Bai emerge from his cultivation state, and after self-assessment, he found not only had his spirit and energy returned to their peak, but his Cultivation Level had also slightly improved.

Walking into the courtyard, he saw Baili Mingyue and Ghost Hand arguing over something.

Little Mink, held in Baili Mingyue's arms in a drowsy, lazy manner, only perked up upon seeing Fang Bai come out of the house. It darted out of Baili Mingyue's embrace and leaped onto Fang Bai's shoulder, squeaking a few times and affectionately rubbing against Fang Bai's face.

"Thank you for your concern, I'm fine now," Fang Bai said with a smile, petting the little head of the Lightning Mink, surprised by the little creature's care for him.

"Master, seeing that you're all right, I'm really so happy!"

Seeing Fang Bai looking vibrant and alive, Ghost Hand approached with a smile and said, "You've been inside for twenty hours, since yesterday noon. Mingyue was worried something had happened to you and was about to check on you in your room, but I stopped her..."

Baili Mingyue glared at Ghost Hand and huffed, saying to Fang Bai, "You were inside sleeping for so long, what if something had happened? I wanted to go in and check on you, but this guy Ghost Hand just wouldn't let me, it made me so angry!"

"Ghost Hand was right not to let you in."

Fang Bai said with a smile, "I wasn't sleeping in there, I was meditating. If you had come in, you would've disturbed me... But look, am I not all right? Yesterday, after expelling the poison from your mother, both my physical strength and True Yuan were severely depleted. I've just recovered."

Baili Mingyue had just argued with Ghost Hand over Fang Bai's matter and now, realizing she was in the wrong, still seemed somewhat unconvinced, muttering, "I... I had good intentions too!"

Fang Bai said with a smile, "I know you were well-intentioned, and I'm not blaming you at all! By the way, how is your mother doing now?"

"Much better!"

On hearing Fang Bai mention her mother, Baili Mingyue's face lit up with joy and excitement, "Fang Bai, you're really amazing! My dad admires you so much, he says you're the world's number one Divine Doctor!"

Just then, Baili Zhan strode out of the house, coming up to Fang Bai and bowing deeply, his gratitude shining through, "Fang Bai, we owe you so much for expelling the poison from Yuzhi yesterday. Without you, my wife and I would be forever separated by life and death. Thank you... thank you so much!"

"Uncle Baili, you're too polite."

After listening for a moment and knowing that Jiang Yuzhi wasn't asleep inside, Fang Bai pointed to the rising sun and suggested, "Now the sunlight is just perfect. You should take Aunt Jiang out to bask in the sun, it will be beneficial for her recovery."

Baili Zhan, now regarding Fang Bai with nearly divine reverence, immediately went back into the house to place Jiang Yuzhi in a wheelchair and pushed her outside.

Fang Bai inquired about Jiang Yuzhi's current condition and examined her pulse. Smiling, he said, "Aunt Jiang, the 'Man-Eating Flower' poison has been completely removed from your body. What you need now is to rest and recuperate. In about ten days to half a month, you should be back to normal."

Jiang Yuzhi, who had been on the brink of death and pulled back by Fang Bai's miraculous medical skills, was naturally overflowing with gratitude. Grasping Fang Bai's hand, she spent a long time expressing her heartfelt thanks.

Afterward, Fang Bai tossed the Blood Jade Vine, Frostflower Grass, and Purple Bamboo Leaf, which Baili Zhan had risked his life to gather from the Hidden Sect, into his Spatial Ring.

The Blood Jade Vine, mixed with some herbs to create an ointment, could be used to remove the scars on Fang Bai's back.

As for the Purple Bamboo Leaf, which could eliminate acne, blackheads, and pimples, and the Frostflower Grass with its whitening properties, Fang Bai planned to keep them for now. Later, when he saw Xia Chenyu again, he would give them to her, along with the Blood Jade Vine, for her to cultivate on a large scale.

Chapter 198: Su Linglong's Request

Fang Bai had previously provided Xia Chenyu with three secret formulas that also had great beautifying, skin care, and nourishing effects, but if Blood Jade Vine, Frostflower Grass, and Purple Bamboo Leaf were added to those formulas, the effects would be even better.

Fang Bai was very confident in himself. Once the Beauty Company relied on the three secret formulas he provided to develop and market beauty products with significant skin care effects, it wouldn't take long before the name of the Beauty Company would resonate throughout Huaxia and become one of the nation's most well-known beauty companies.

A few people sat in the courtyard for a while and began to have breakfast together.

The breakfast was made by Ghost Hand, who, since he had become Fang Bai's disciple and moved into the courtyard house, had taken over the role of "chef" from Baili Mingyue.

Unexpectedly, the food made by Ghost Hand was quite delicious, so much so that even Fang Bai, who was so picky, was full of praise.

After the meal, everyone started to get busy with their own things.

Baili Mingyue continued to attend her tutoring classes, Baili Zhan still went to work at the slaughterhouse, while Fang Bai went to Yanjing Hospital, and Ghost Hand and Lightning Mink stayed at the courtyard house to guard the place and look after Jiang Yuzhi in the meantime.

"Doctor Fang, you're finally here! If you hadn't come, I would have gone mad! During the two days you weren't here, so many patients have been asking for you, even the dean urged me to contact you as soon as possible... Look, I've lost a lot of hair due to the stress these past few days."

Seeing Fang Bai, who had been missing for two whole days and nights, Liu Zhenguo, the director of the acupuncture and massage room, felt like he had seen a family member, his eyes watered, and his nose tingled as he nearly broke down and hugged Fang Bai, crying on the spot.

Fang Bai had not been to Yanjing Hospital for two days in order to save Ye Wumei, which almost turned the acupuncture and massage room upside down with patients who liked to seek his acupuncture and massage services, as well as those who came seeking his medical treatment, to the point where normal work couldn't be carried out.

Liu Zhenguo had no choice but to desperately call Fang Bai, but what he didn't know was that Fang Bai and Ye Wumei had been drifting at sea these past few days, and Fang Bai's phone had been thrown into the Spatial Ring, so how could he be free to answer?

If it were any other intern from the department who didn't show up at Yanjing Hospital for two days, Liu Zhenguo would definitely have given them a severe reprimand upon seeing them. However, Fang Bai

was now a prominent figure at Yanjing Hospital; even the dean would greet him with a smile. What more could he, a mere department head, expect?

Fang Bai said cheerfully, "Director Liu, I'm really sorry. I had some urgent family matters these past two days, and my phone also had some issues, so I couldn't get in touch with you in time."

Liu Zhenguo replied with a wry smile, "Next time you have an issue, remember to communicate with me in advance, so I'm not caught off guard..."

Before Liu Zhenguo had finished speaking, some patients spotted Fang Bai, and they started to gather around him.

"Fang Bai."

Wu Tian squeezed through the crowd and said with a pleased expression, "You're finally here."

Because of his good relationship with Fang Bai, Wu Tian had effectively become the leader among the interns in the acupuncture and massage room. Also, with Bai's guidance, his acupuncture and massage techniques had greatly improved, earning praise from the patients.

"What is it, Wu Tian, you needed to see me?"

"It's not me who needs to see you, it's Su Linglong."

Wu Tian said, "Su Linglong has been looking for you several times over the past two days. If you have time, get in touch with her!"

Fang Bai nodded, walked to the neighboring office, and took out his cellphone to call Su Linglong.

"Fang Bai, is that you?"

On the other end of the phone, the sweet and lively voice of Su Linglong came through.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "Class Leader Su, it's me. Wu Tian told me you were looking for me. Is there something you need?"

Su Linglong said, "Yes, my brother mentioned a few days ago that he would be coming to Yanjing soon and hoped to meet with you. He tried calling you, but you never picked up, so he asked me to find you... Where have you been these days?"

"I went out to take care of some business... What does your brother want with me?"

"I'm not very clear about it myself, but it seems to be related to a beauty company called 'Beauty Company'..."

"Oh, I see..."

Fang Bai nodded, smiling, "So it's business-related. All right, I'll call your brother back in a bit."

When Fang Bai originally gave three beauty recipes to Xia Chenyu, he had told her that if the development of the beauty products was successful, she should go to the Su Family and discuss a cooperation with Su Yifei, offering the Su Family some shares and using their existing channels for sales.

With the backing of the Su Family, a renowned clan in Huaxia, any difficulties that arose in the future could be coordinated and resolved through their intervention, which would be much better than Xia Chenyu facing challenges alone. This would also be more favorable for the future development of Beauty Company.

Fang Bai guessed that the three secret formulas he provided to Xia Chenyu had been successfully developed and that Xia Chenyu had already discussed with Su Yifei. Su Yifei's intent to meet him in Yanjing was definitely for this matter.

The beauty market in Huaxia was a huge pie with astonishing profit margins. Hundreds of beauty companies, both domestic and international, were eager to get a slice. Fang Bai, Xia Chenyu, and Su Yifei were friends with good relationships, and helping them make some profit was just a small favor.

After some casual chatting, Su Linglong suddenly asked, "Fang Bai, are you busy tonight?"

"Nope, why?"

"I..."

Hearing Su Linglong's hesitation, Fang Bai smiled and said, "Linglong, we're old classmates and good friends. Just speak up! Even if it's something like asking for help with murder and arson, I'll still help you!"

Su Linglong laughed, "It's not that serious! Here's the thing, a friend of mine... a girl, is celebrating her birthday tonight and has invited me. I was wondering... if you're not busy, could you accompany me?"

After pausing, she added, "Originally, I wanted to ask Su Fu, the butler, to go with me, but given his age, I felt it was inappropriate... My brother said you were in Yanjing and suggested I ask you. He also said that with you around, I'll be safer than with any bodyguard."

Fang Bai laughed, "Your brother sure thinks highly of me! Alright, I'll go with you tonight."

"Fang Bai, thank you!"

Su Linglong's voice clearly brightened as she said, "Then after work tonight, shall I come find you at your department?"

"Sure, I'll wait for you!"

Both being busy, they didn't have time to meet up and just hastily agreed to see each other that evening on the phone before hanging up.

At noon, Fang Bai returned to the quadrangle house and took the "Blood Jade Vine" out of the Spatial Ring. He combined it with several other rare medicinal herbs and simmered them into an ointment, planning to have Ghost Hand apply it to his back after accompanying Su Linglong to her friend's birthday dinner that evening.

Chapter 199: Dongfang Ruhua's Birthday Banquet

Fang Bai used Blood Jade Vine to prepare an ointment, called "Scar-Removing and Muscle-Nourishing Ointment," which had a marvellous effect on removing scars and nourishing the skin.

Fang Bai was fully confident that as long as he applied the "Scar-Removing and Muscle-Nourishing Ointment" to the scars on his back about ten times, those crisscrossed scars would be completely removed, returning his skin to its state before the injury.

After he finished preparing the ointment and still had some free time, Fang Bai taught the "Azure Sea Wave Art" to Baili Mingyue under the grapevine in the courtyard, allowing her to study and ponder over it in her spare time.

People with an Innate Spiritual Root were brilliantly intelligent and highly perceptive. Fang Bai believed that as long as Baili Mingyue didn't slack off, and with his occasional guidance, she would quickly make significant progress and step onto the path of the Martial Dao.

Around six o'clock in the evening, after the doctors and interns in the acupuncture and massage room had left, Fang Bai sat in his office, waiting for Su Linglong to come over.

Several minutes later, with a fragrant breeze, Su Linglong appeared in front of Fang Bai, having shed her nurse's uniform for a white T-shirt and a matching white pleated skirt.

Su Linglong had obviously made an effort with her appearance. Her face was lightly made up, her eyebrows were delicately brushed, her lips were freshly moist, and her fair, slender legs, which were especially eye-catching underneath her skirt, had a graceful line.

The current Su Linglong, youthfully radiant and alluring, with a hint of playful charm, was irresistibly beautiful.

Fang Bai looked Su Linglong up and down, his eyes filled with admiration and praise as he smiled and said, "Is your friend pretty?"

"Very pretty! Why do you ask?"

Su Linglong didn't understand the meaning behind Fang Bai's question.

"That's good then. Otherwise, with you showing up looking so pretty, it would totally be stealing the limelight from her. That could make her quite uncomfortable! If I were your friend, I wouldn't invite you just to avoid all the attention at the birthday party being drawn to you!"

Delighted by his compliments, Su Linglong laughed and said, "That won't happen! Although my friend is young, she's a lovable little beauty who will definitely be a great beauty when she grows up!"

After a few jokes and noticing it was getting late, they locked the office and walked out side by side.

"What time does your friend's birthday party start?"

After leaving the hospital gate, Fang Bai casually asked.

"Eight o'clock."

"It's only a little past six now, so we're early."

"I need to go buy her a gift first! Fang Bai, what do you think I should give a fifteen-year-old beauty?"

"Is her family poor or wealthy?"

"They're very rich."

"If they're rich, then giving her jewelry, beautiful clothes, perfume, and cosmetics might be a bit cliché..."

"Exactly, I feel the same. I've been thinking for several days and I still don't know what would be a good gift for her."

As they passed a small shop selling flowers and potted plants, Fang Bai had an idea and said, "Women all love beauty. I have a herb gathered from deep in the mountains that, when brewed into a tea, can make the skin even more fair and white. How about you give her that?"

"What herb is so magical?"

Su Linglong looked at Fang Bai, her eyes shining with excitement. She knew Fang Bai was a Divine Doctor, so if he said it could whiten the skin, then it certainly could.

"Its name is 'Frostflower Grass'... It's not convenient to take it out here. After we get to your friend's place, I'll hand it over to you!"

"Alright!"

Su Linglong said excitedly, "Giving medicinal herbs as a birthday gift... ha, such a unique item, my friend will definitely like it!"

After a pause, she added, "But Fang Bai, that herb of yours must be very precious, right? I feel a bit guilty giving it away as a gift... How about I pay you back later? Consider it as me buying it..."

Fang Bai interrupted Su Linglong and said seriously, "We are classmates and friends. Can such a relationship be measured in money?"

"No..."

Su Linglong blinked and said with a smile, "I was wrong this time, it won't happen again. How about this, I'll treat you to a meal someday as a thank you, is that okay?"

Fang Bai replied with a smile, "That's certainly no problem!"

Since they had plenty of time, the two didn't take a cab to Su Linglong's friend's house but walked there side by side instead.

It was not until they arrived at the front gate of Su Linglong's friend's house that Fang Bai realized he actually knew the friend as well.

"You and Dongfang Ruhua, one in Zhongzhou and one in Yanjing, how did you become friends?"

Fang Bai looked at the manor-style villa's gate not far ahead, turned his head to ask Su Linglong, and at the same time, an image emerged in his mind of a beautiful young girl around fourteen years old, tying her hair in twin ponytails, fond of wearing pink dresses, and dressed like a noble princess.

Fang Bai hadn't expected Su Linglong's friend to be Dongfang Leiming's young granddaughter, Dongfang Ruhua.

When Fang Bai first arrived in Yanjing, he had once saved Dongfang Leiming's life, and in the process cured Dongfang Leiming's heart disease, and that was when he met Dongfang Ruhua.

Later, during a conflict that erupted between Dongfang Leiming's grandsons, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, and Baili Mingyue, Fang Bai got involved and subsequently got to know Dongfang Ruhua's sister, Dongfang Rushi, as well as their mother, Lin Ruoxue.

Although Fang Bai had only met Dongfang Leiming, the head of the Dongfang Family, and Lin Ruoxue, Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua mother and daughters, once, he had a good impression of them all.

If there had been no unpleasant encounter with Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, joining Su Linglong for Dongfang Ruhua's birthday banquet at the Dongfang house could have been a pleasant affair, Fang Bai thought.

As could be expected, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, being Dongfang Ruhua's elder and second cousins, would likely be present at tonight's birthday banquet, and if the two parties met, it was uncertain what might happen.

In that conflict between Baili Mingyue and Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, Baili Mingyue had injured the cousins in a rather sensitive area. Fang Bai wondered if Lin Ruoxue, hailing from the Doctor Pavilion Sect, managed to cure their problem after taking them home.

If they were cured, all was well, but if not, someone from the Dongfang Family would surely hold a grudge against him, and his visit would unlikely be met with any good grace.

Fang Bai sighed inwardly. If he hadn't noticed the excited expression on Su Linglong's face, clearly caring a great deal about tonight's birthday party, he would have turned around and left immediately.

"Fang Bai, what's wrong?"

Noticing the unusual expression on Fang Bai's face, Su Linglong asked.

Fang Bai said, "I'm fine... I was just wondering, if someone asks about me, how will you introduce me?"

"I've already thought about that!"

Su Linglong giggled and said, "I'll just say... you are my personal bodyguard. That way, you can stay by my side all the time."

Chapter 200: Yaorao Appears Again

In the brief moment as they conversed, they witnessed a stream of luxury cars arriving from all directions and halting in the plaza outside the villa, from which guests emerged one by one, dressed to the nines and exuding an extraordinary air that clearly marked them as the wealthy and influential.

These dignitaries reached the gate of the Dongfang Family's villa and, under the guidance of some direct descendants of the younger generation of the Dongfang Family, entered a lavish grand hall on the west side of the villa capable of accommodating thousands of guests.

Fang Bai knew that when the daughters of grand houses reached eighteen, they would hold an extremely grand ceremony for their coming-of-age, yet Dongfang Ruhua was merely celebrating her fifteenth birthday and the scale was surprisingly extravagant.

From this information, Fang Bai drew two conclusions: one, that Old Master Dongfang was very fond of his young granddaughter Dongfang Ruhua, and two, that the Dongfang Family wielded considerable influence and had extensive connections in Huaxia, or else there wouldn't be so many movers and shakers coming to support the event.

"Fang Bai, let's go in too!"

Seeing that there weren't as many guests as before, Su Linglong looked at her watch and said to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai nodded and walked shoulder to shoulder with Su Linglong toward the villa's gate.

As they approached the gate, Fang Bai looked up and couldn't help but smile bitterly.

He didn't want to run into Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, but as fate would have it, the two were standing at the villa's entrance, ready to greet the arriving guests.

Almost at the same time, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen also spotted Su Linglong and Fang Bai.

Their gaze lingered first on the charming and alluring Su Linglong, who was dazzlingly beautiful, before finally noticing Fang Bai, whom they immediately recognized.

They were taken aback at first, then hatred flashed in their eyes, but they quickly concealed it.

As tonight was Dongfang Ruhua's birthday celebration, Dongfang Leiming as the Family Head had already ordered that Dongfang Xing, Dongfang Chen, and other members of the younger generation tasked with receiving guests, must greet everyone with a smile and not offend anyone; otherwise, they would face family discipline.

Even though Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen harbored intense animosity toward Fang Bai, they had to greet him with smiles plastered on their faces.

"Linglong, welcome... Why, did you walk here? Didn't your family drive you?"

Dongfang Xing was not only acquainted with Su Linglong but was also quite familiar with her, promptly asking with solicitude upon meeting her.

From Dongfang Xing's expression, Fang Bai caught a hint of fond admiration, evidently, Dongfang Xing fancied Su Linglong.

Su Linglong replied with a smile, "Brother Xing, long time no see. Yes, I didn't ask my family to drive me; I walked here... Let me introduce you, this is my bodyguard Fang Bai, who accompanied me. Fang Bai, this is Dongfang Ruhua's older cousin, Dongfang Xing."

Fang Bai grinned at Dongfang Xing, his gaze sweeping past his groin.

To Dongfang Xing, that smile seemed rather ominous, and it suddenly felt chilly around his groin as if a cold breeze was blowing through, prompting his legs to involuntarily tighten a bit.

After being injured by Baili Mingyue with a kick to the groin, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, although treated by practitioners from the Doctor Pavilion Sect brought in by Lin Ruoxue, hadn't completely recovered and were left with the after-effect of their "little brother" periodically malfunctioning.

Even though Baili Mingyue was the one who inflicted the injury, they also resented Fang Bai for getting involved in the matter. If not for Dongfang Leiming's intervention, they would have long sought revenge against both Baili Mingyue and Fang Bai.

"Isn't this guy a doctor? How did he become Su Linglong's bodyguard?"

Dongfang Xing listened to Su Linglong's introduction and wondered to himself.

As more guests arrived one after another, Dongfang Xing could not afford to ponder any longer. He glanced at Fang Bai with a disdainful look from the corner of his eye and said to Su Linglong, "Linglong, Ruhua must be very happy to know you're here. Come, let me take you both to the grand hall."

Su Linglong, being highly perceptive, also noticed Dongfang Xing's lukewarm attitude towards Fang Bai and found it somewhat strange, but she did not ask any further.

Leading the two to a large dining table in the grand hall on the west side of the villa, which had Su Linglong's name written on it, Dongfang Xing excused himself and hurried off to greet other guests.

Among the guests who had arrived were some important figures accompanied by bodyguards; therefore, dining areas for bodyguards were specifically set up on the southeast and southwest sides of the grand hall, where all bodyguards would gather for dining once the birthday banquet officially started.

With some time still left before the official start of the birthday banquet, the hundreds of guests who had already arrived were gathered in small groups, engaging in conversation.

Fang Bai's gaze wandered among the guests and he identified several acquaintances, including Lu Jianfeng from the Yanjing Lu Family, Tang Wenrou from the Anxi Tang Family, the young master of the Shen Family from Anxi, Shen Huanian, and Hua Yi from the Zhongzhou Hua Family.

What surprised Fang Bai the most was Qin Yaorao, a teacher who had once taught him at Zhongzhou Medical College, also present among the guests.

Qin Yaorao wasn't wearing glasses today. Her hair, normally pinned up, was now styled into large, soft waves that cascaded down to her waist, giving her a younger and more elegant appearance. She was wearing a purple evening gown that highlighted both her grace and intellectual charm.

Seeing Su Linglong engaged in a conversation with a middle-aged woman that seemed unlikely to end soon, Fang Bai walked over to Qin Yaorao and greeted her with a smile, "Teacher Qin, hello there!"

"Fang Bai, is that you?"

Qin Yaorao had not expected to encounter Fang Bai here and asked in astonishment, "What are you doing here?"

The reason Qin Yaorao was so surprised was because she had visited Fang Bai's home for family visits on more than one occasion, knowing that he came from an ordinary family with no powerful or influential relatives. Yet here he was, appearing at Dongfang Ruhua's birthday banquet, which she found unbelievable.

"Me? I'm temporarily working as a bodyguard; I'm here with my employer," Fang Bai explained.

"Bodyguard?"

Qin Yaorao was taken aback and then frowned, asking, "Weren't you interning at Yanjing Hospital? Why are you now working as a bodyguard?"

In Qin Yaorao's memory, Fang Bai was physically frail and timid. Although he now looked much sturdier, the idea of him working as a bodyguard never crossed her mind.

"I do go to the hospital, but the bodyguard job is just a part-time gig!" Fang Bai responded.

Seeing that Fang Bai was not joking, Qin Yaorao sighed, "Working as a bodyguard can be tough and dangerous. Are you short on money or something? If you need funds, I can lend you some ..."

Qin Yaorao thought that Fang Bai's choice to work as a bodyguard at a young age was likely due to financial reasons. Although bodyguards could earn a good income, the job was fraught with hazards. She felt a duty to offer help, out of consideration for their past teacher-student relationship.

Furthermore, Qin Yaorao knew that Fang Bai had once cured Su Linglong's brain tumor with his miraculous medical skills. If Fang Bai abandoned medicine for money, it would be akin to destroying his future, and Qin Yaorao did not want to see a budding star in the medical field fall from grace.