

Doctor 201

Chapter 201: Who Do You Want to Pursue?

Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh wryly, "Teacher Qin, thanks for your kindness. Like I said, I'm just being a temporary bodyguard. Once this banquet is over, that's it."

"That's good..."

Qin Yaorao breathed a sigh of relief, a smile appearing on her beautiful face as she said, "You continue your internship at Yanjing Hospital. After it's finished and you've gotten your diploma from Zhongzhou Medical College, you can take the medical licensing exam. Working at a hospital or even opening your own clinic would be better than being a bodyguard."

"Doctor Fang! Qin Yaorao! Ha, I'm so happy to see both of you! Do you two know each other?"

As Fang Bai and Qin Yaorao were talking, an exuberant voice suddenly rang out. A young man in his early twenties appeared beside them.

The young man was dressed in a black suit with a tall and straight figure, sword-like eyebrows and bright eyes. He was quite handsome, and his face wore an uncontrollable expression of joy.

"Lu Jianfeng, can't you keep your voice down a bit?"

Qin Yaorao seemed to be very familiar with the young man, giving him an eye roll as she said somewhat irritably, "You startled me with your sudden outburst!"

The young man said with a grin, "Seeing you two made me so happy that I got a little carried away!"

The young man was none other than Lu Jianfeng from Yanjing's Lu Family.

Fang Bai had saved Lu Jianfeng's life after a car accident at the request of Tang Wenrou, and thus had formed a good bond with the Lu Family.

Fang Bai greatly admired Lu Jianfeng's forthright and uninhibited nature, and Lu Jianfeng held Fang Bai in high esteem for his miraculous medical skills and formidable strength.

The three of them chatted for a while, and Qin Yaorao learned that Fang Bai had saved Lu Jianfeng's life and that's how they knew each other.

It was also then that Fang Bai discovered his teacher, surprisingly, was from a notable family herself, hailing from the Qin Family of Jiangnan's Jinling.

The Jinling Qin Family was a well-known scholarly family in Huaxia, with many members being authorities in the education sector. They had students all over the country, and many influential figures in Huaxia had been their pupils.

The Yanjing Lu Family and the Jinling Qin Family had a longstanding relationship. The elders and younger members of the two families frequently held gatherings, which is why Qin Yaorao and Lu Jianfeng were very familiar with each other.

"Our families' elders once intended to match-make us, but unfortunately, there was no spark between us, and we both think being friends is the best."

Lu Jianfeng said, chuckling with a "hehe".

Qin Yaorao, seeing Lu Jianfeng blurt out such personal matters in front of Fang Bai, couldn't help but blush and scoffed, "Lu Jianfeng, can you not discuss private matters in public? I'll really get angry if you keep this up!"

Lu Jianfeng waved his hand and replied with a smile, "Alright, alright, we won't talk about this... Doctor Fang, what's your relationship with the Dongfang Family? From what I know, the birthday banquet for Dongfang Ruhua is where the Dongfang Family invited only close friends and relatives!"

Fang Bai pointed to Su Linglong, who was talking with a group of young women in the distance, and said, "The Dongfang Family didn't invite me; I was brought here by an old classmate and colleague to act as a temporary bodyguard."

"Su Linglong?"

After spotting the youthfully dressed and charmingly flirtatious Su Linglong, Lu Jianfeng blinked his eyes and asked, "You guys are classmates and colleagues?"

"Just like Fang Bai, Su Linglong was once my student."

Qin Yaorao said with a smile, "It was Su Linglong who helped Fang Bai secure his internship at Yanjing Hospital. Currently, they are both interns there. Moreover, Su Linglong previously had a brain tumor, which Fang Bai cured, saving her life."

"Ah!"

Hearing Qin Yaorao's words and looking over at Su Linglong in the distance, Lu Jianfeng let out a somewhat disappointed sigh and said to Fang Bai, "That means you and Su Linglong are quite close, huh?"

"Not bad!"

"Lu Jianfeng, you're not trying to pursue Su Linglong, are you?"

Qin Yaorao asked with a laugh.

Lu Jianfeng scratched his head and said, "To tell you the truth, I've indeed thought about it..."

Qin Yaorao giggled and said, "As far as I know, Su Linglong liked Fang Bai back when she was at Zhongzhou Medical College. Now that they're both interning at the same hospital, they can see each other almost every day. Do you think you stand a chance?"

Fang Bai saw Qin Yaorao laughing so hard that she was shaking like a leaf and found it hard to reconcile with her stern and serious image from when she taught at the medical college. He was quite taken aback.

"When she was at the medical college, Teacher Qin always had a very reserved and serious demeanor, probably to maintain the teacher's authority. Maybe her true nature is to be this cheerful and talkative."

That's what Fang Bai thought to himself.

Lu Jianfeng gave a bitter smile and said, "If my rival was someone else, I might give it a fight, but competing with Doctor Fang for a woman... I really have no confidence. Forget it, I'll set my sights on someone else..."

"Who do you have in mind now?"

Qin Yaorao's gaze swept quickly over the hundreds of guests in the banquet hall, laughing as she said, "It's not Tang Wenrou, is it?"

Lu Jianfeng replied earnestly, "Tang Wenrou is a good woman, but the person she likes is my brother. Other than my brother, it seems she has room for no other man in her heart... at least for now."

Qin Yaorao said, "But your brother is no longer with us! Actually, I think you two would be quite suitable..."

"That's not right... not right..."

Lu Jianfeng's head shook like a bobblehead as he said in a low voice, "Just keep such thoughts between us. Please never mention it in front of Tang Wenrou, or she might get angry. It would also make me feel awkward."

"By the way, Lu Jianfeng, have you noticed that Fang Bai looks a lot like your brother? The first time I saw him in my class, I thought it was your brother who had come to study at our medical college!"

Qin Yaorao steered the conversation back to Fang Bai.

Lu Jianfeng laughed and said, "It's not just you; everyone in the Lu Family thought Doctor Fang looked like my brother when they met him!"

Qin Yaorao said, "Then you might as well take Fang Bai as a brother."

Lu Jianfeng rolled his eyes and said, "I should be the older brother if anything; I'm a few months older than Doctor Fang! Right, Doctor Fang?"

Fang Bai nodded with a smile.

"But it seems there's no hope for me and Doctor Fang to become brothers..."

As Lu Jianfeng said this, his expression showed a resigned smile. He continued, "The last time Doctor Fang visited our Lu Family, I got the impression that he really hit it off with my grandfather. The two of them chatting together looked like old friends regardless of age difference... If I were to become brothers with Doctor Fang, where would that leave my grandfather?"

Both Fang Bai and Qin Yaorao couldn't help but laugh at his words.

Just then, Dongfang Rushi, dressed in an all-black suit, with her hair stylishly coiffed at the back of her head, and her mother Lin Ruoxue, appeared in the banquet hall together.

Despite being women, this mother and daughter were well-known talented figures in the Huaxia Business Community and were the most influential people in the Dongfang Family, second only to Dongfang Leiming.

Chapter 202: If you don't get out of the way, I'll beat you up!

Lin Ruoxue, accompanied by her eldest daughter Dongfang Rushi, arrived to represent Dongfang Leiming and the Dongfang Family, greeting and chatting with various guests.

As for Dongfang Leiming, the host, and Dongfang Ruhua, the focal point of this birthday celebration, they would appear at the main stage in the north side of the grand hall when the birthday party officially began.

The mother-daughter duo wove their way among hundreds of guests, with Dongfang Rushi always maintaining a serene demeanor. No matter who she spoke with, her words were concise and precious, treating each one like gold.

Lin Ruoxue, on the other hand, beamed with smiles, exuding charm from every angle, and managed to exchange a few pleasant words with every guest.

"After a year without seeing Dongfang Rushi, she has become even more beautiful and possesses an even greater air of elegance. The First Beauty of Yanjing truly lives up to her name!"

Upon seeing Dongfang Rushi, Qin Yaorao's gaze lingered on her for a long time. She secretly compared herself to Rushi and found that she fell short in terms of presence.

Fang Bai was also watching Dongfang Rushi, his eyes filled with admiration and wonder.

He found that this woman, known as "The First Beauty of Yanjing" and the "Business Prodigy Lady of Huaxia," was dazzling and eye-catching without any makeup on, effortlessly exuding a commanding aura just by standing there.

Fang Bai didn't even need to "read the bones" to assert that Dongfang Rushi possessed an Innate Spiritual Root, a rare talent for cultivation.

"Lu Jianfeng, you stand no chance with Su Linglong, and you dare not pursue Tang Wenrou, so is Dongfang Rushi your target?" Qin Yaorao asked softly, noticing that Lu Jianfeng couldn't take his eyes off Dongfang Rushi.

Lu Jianfeng nodded, "Yes, what do you think?"

Qin Yaorao replied, "In terms of family background, you and Dongfang Rushi are well matched, very suitable. However, can you tolerate her indifferent personality toward everyone?"

Lu Jianfeng chuckled, "Her aloofness may just be a facade. I've met many women who seem cool as water on the surface but are actually passionate inside... Anyway, my new target is Dongfang Rushi!"

Qin Yaorao gestured with her mouth towards Dongfang Rushi and said, "To win over Dongfang Rushi, you'll face many strong competitors. It won't be easy!"

At that moment, around Dongfang Rushi, more than a dozen young men had gathered. These were all from prominent clans, each eagerly trying to lavish attention on her.

Scanning the suitors flocking around Dongfang Rushi, Lu Jianfeng declared with high spirits, "I don't give a damn about those pampered young masters! Just watch, by this time next year, Dongfang Rushi will become my girlfriend and your sister-in-law!"

Qin Yaorao laughed and said, "Don't brag too soon! As far as I know, ever since Dongfang Rushi's coming-of-age ceremony two years ago, many men have launched their romantic campaigns, but not a single one has caught her eye. Do you think you're better than her other admirers?"

Lu Jianfeng patted his chest confidently, "Nobody has caught her eye because she hasn't met the right person yet! Maybe I, Lu Jianfeng, am her destined one!"

Qin Yaorao replied, "Fine then, oh destined one, go save your princess! Look at her, surrounded by a crowd of men, unable to escape!"

"You two keep chatting, I'm off to pursue my true love!"

Saying this, Lu Jianfeng strode towards Dongfang Rushi.

Dongfang Rushi was encircled by a layer of wealthy young men, all eagerly trying to strike up a conversation with her, and Lu Jianfeng, unable to breach the human wall to reach her, began pacing around in frustration, scratching his head and turning in circles.

Watching Lu Jianfeng from a distance, Qin Yaorao and Fang Bai couldn't help but chuckle.

Suddenly, two female guests approached and struck up a conversation with Qin Yaorao.

With nothing better to do, Fang Bai was about to sit at a dining table in the hall when he noticed Tang Wenrou once again being pestered by Shen Huanian at a distance.

Tang Wenrou was chatting with a friend she was on good terms with when Shen Huanian brazenly inserted himself between them, eagerly striking up a conversation with Tang Wenrou. Noticing this, Tang Wenrou's friend tactfully excused himself.

Tang Wenrou furrowed her brows tightly, and a chilliness spread across her pretty face. She argued with Shen Huanian in a hushed tone for a few sentences, looking both angry and helpless.

No matter the time or place, Tang Wenrou was always in her police uniform, which clashed with the atmosphere of the birthday party and made her stick out in the crowd.

Fang Bai stepped up to the two, his face expressionless as he spoke to Shen Huanian, "Shen, you're pestering my girlfriend again! I'm giving you three seconds to scram, or I'll beat you. One... two..."

"You..."

Shen Huanian hadn't expected to encounter Fang Bai in such a setting; his pupils shrank and his face paled slightly.

He knew that Fang Bai was a martial artist who practiced ancient martial arts and that his combat power was formidable. Though his bodyguards were also in the banquet hall, they were no match for Fang Bai. If a conflict arose, he would definitely be the one to suffer the consequences.

So when Fang Bai counted to two, Shen Huanian glared at him resentfully and turned to leave.

"I am a person of status and cultivation; I won't stoop to arguing with a rash warrior!"

This was how Shen Huanian consoled himself as he left.

"Now it's quiet."

Watching Shen Huanian walk away, Fang Bai turned to face Tang Wenrou, smiling as he spoke, "Officer Tang, I've chased off an annoying fly for you. How will you thank me?"

"How do you want me to thank you?"

Tang Wenrou, her gaze intense, asked Fang Bai in return.

Fang Bai said, "Just toast me with a few drinks when the banquet starts!"

"Fine!"

Tang Wenrou nodded, glanced over at Su Linglong, and asked lightly, "Did you and Su Linglong come together?"

Fang Bai answered, "She asked me to come with her, so here I am, acting as her bodyguard on the way."

Tang Wenrou uttered an "Oh" and for some reason, suddenly felt her mood sour. She stopped talking and stared blankly at the stage ahead, lost in thought.

A moment later, Hua Yi of the Hua Family from Zhongzhou approached Fang Bai to make conversation.

Hua Yi and Fang Bai had clashed before, leading to a punishment from his clan elders. Later, the Hua Family Patriarch Hua Chun proactively sought to make amends with Fang Bai, resolving the conflict between them. This taught Hua Yi that Fang Bai was not someone to provoke.

Not only did Fang Bai possess extraordinary strength, but he also had miraculous medical skills, which even Hua Chun deeply admired. Hua Yi knew he was far inferior to Fang Bai in both martial arts and medical skills, so he didn't dare to assume a haughty or arrogant attitude in Fang Bai's presence, instead adopting a humble expression.

Hua Chun had specifically instructed the younger generation of the Hua Family, including Hua Yi, to always treat Fang Bai with the utmost respect whenever they encountered him, to avoid offending him at all costs.

In Hua Chun's words, Fang Bai's future as a medical practitioner might even surpass the Four Great National Doctors. Befriending him would only benefit the future of the Hua Family.

Chapter 203: Wang Dong's Provocation

Fang Bai, despite his lack of fondness for pampered scions like Hua Yi, adhered to the adage that one does not slap the hand extended in friendship. When Hua Yi took the initiative to strike up a conversation, Fang Bai could not bring himself to respond coldly and thus smiled and feigned interest, offering a few courteous replies.

Around 7:30 p.m., all guests had arrived, and some of the elders of the Dongfang Family also appeared in the grand auditorium.

Among them were Dongfang Leiming's brother Dongfang Leizhen, his brother Dongfang Leiyu, his sister Dongfang Mei, and his sister Dongfang Li.

These individuals belonged to the oldest generation in the Dongfang Family. Although they did not have decision-making power in major family affairs, and their words carried less weight than those of the junior Dongfang Rushi or even the "outsider" Lin Ruoxue, no one in the family dared to overlook their presence.

In addition, Dongfang Leiming's three sons Dongfang Shan, Dongfang Dian, Dongfang Yun, and his daughter Dongfang Qing, also entered the auditorium, accompanied by their wives or husbands.

Dongfang Leiming was a hero in his time, but his three sons and daughter were rather mediocre, with none possessing the ability to control the vast business empire of the Dongfang Family.

What consoled Dongfang Leiming was that his youngest son Dongfang Yun's eldest daughter, Dongfang Rushi, had shown remarkable business talent since childhood. At the age of eighteen, she had secured the title of "The Number One Business Prodigy of the Huaxia Business Community" with her near-demonic business acumen and extraordinary insight.

Dongfang Rushi had a genius-like business mind, and her mother Lin Ruoxue was also an exceptional talent in the business world. Coupled with Dongfang Leiming's behind-the-scenes strategies, the old, middle, and young generations cooperated seamlessly, creating the Dongfang Family's current glory.

However, Dongfang Leiming was well aware that just like other prominent clans, his descendants were in conflict over power and interest beneath the surface, not harmonious at all. If he were not still alive to serve as a deterrent, the family might already be in utter disarray, riddled with strife.

Dongfang Leiming didn't even dare to imagine that once he passed away, Dongfang Rushi, the family's appointed new helmsman, might not be able to suppress the other family members. If Dongfang Rushi failed to control the situation, the once illustrious Dongfang Family could very likely crumble and collapse.

It was because of this concern that in recent years, Dongfang Leiming had started to lay the groundwork in secret, to create a foundation for his granddaughter Dongfang Rushi to be able to lead the Dongfang Family in the future.

Fang Bai observed keenly that many elder and younger members of the Dongfang Family cast looks of dissatisfaction and resentment when they looked at Lin Ruoxue and her daughter Dongfang Rushi.

And there was little interaction between Lin Ruoxue, Dongfang Rushi, and those members of the family.

Clearly, there were hidden conflicts among the family members, which hadn't erupted in front of outsiders.

The younger generation of the Dongfang Family, such as Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, after completing their duties of welcoming the various guests, also came into the auditorium and started conversing with some of the young scions among the guests.

Fang Bai noticed that during the conversations, those people occasionally glanced in his direction with hostility in their eyes, aware that Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen must be stirring trouble.

Fang Bai smiled faintly, indifferent to the nature of the event; he was prepared to retaliate without hesitation if Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen dared to do anything outrageous against him.

Nevertheless, Fang Bai also understood that Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen didn't have the courage to provoke him at such an event, for their grandfather Dongfang Leiming would certainly not let them off.

After all, Fang Bai was Dongfang Leiming's life-saving benefactor.

However, Fang Bai underestimated the audacity of the cousins Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, who, though not daring to provoke Fang Bai himself, were egging on other young members of the family to come and challenge him.

Moments later, a burly man around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old with a broad back and a powerful build approached Fang Bai with confident strides, his gaze toward Fang Bai filled with contempt and disdain.

This muscular man was just now eagerly chatting up Su Linglong, seemingly one of her many suitors.

"My name is Wang Dong, from the Yanjing Wang Family. You're called Fang Bai, right?"

The burly man named Wang Dong stood in front of Fang Bai, his gaze fixed on him, and asked arrogantly.

Wang Dong, standing close to one meter ninety, had a physique strong as a bull. Beneath his thin white T-shirt, one could clearly see the bulging muscles, giving him an aura of power as he stood there like a towering iron fortress, exerting an invisible pressure on those around him.

Fang Bai knew this guy was looking for trouble, glanced at him sidelong, and ignored him.

Wang Dong's eyes turned cold, and then he grinned and said, "I heard you've practiced kung fu, and that you're pretty good at it? Coincidentally, I'm a martial artist myself. If you have time, how about we spar a bit?"

Fang Bai couldn't be bothered with him and sat down at a dining table nearby, letting his gaze wander around the hall, now looking at Su Linglong, then at Tang Wenrou, now turning to Qin Yaorao, and then resting on Dongfang Rushi...

Fang Bai felt that looking at those beauties was much more pleasing than facing Wang Dong, the man.

Wang Dong clenched his fists, his knuckles cracking with a "pop pop" sound. Suddenly, he took two steps forward, his right hand fingers splayed wide, and swiftly reached out to grab Fang Bai's shoulder.

"We're having a chat, and I'm standing while you're sitting down. Isn't that a bit impolite?"

Wang Dong spoke loudly, a cruel smile already playing at the corners of his mouth.

In Huaxia, many prominent clans have the custom of hiring Ancient Martial experts to teach their younger generation the ways of Ancient Martial cultivation. Wang Dong had been following an Ancient Martial expert since he was young, and now he was a mid-level Yellow Level Martial Artist, somewhat famous among the young masters of Yanjing.

The power in Wang Dong's fingers was immense, enough to easily crush a brick to dust. If those fingers were to land on a person, they could probably crush their bones.

Of course, Wang Dong wouldn't crush Fang Bai's bones at such an event; he just wanted to make Fang Bai look like a fool.

Earlier, Wang Dong overheard the Dongfang brothers, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, saying that Su Linglong came along with Fang Bai, and their behavior seemed quite intimate. Thus, Wang Dong saw Fang Bai as a rival in love.

Wang Dong's provocation was driven by jealousy and a desire to show off his strength in front of the guests present.

He wanted to show Su Linglong that a muscular man like him provided a greater sense of security than a pretty boy like Fang Bai.

Wang Dong's challenging behavior attracted the attention of many in the great hall. Except for a very few, most people thought that the refined young man sitting at the table was about to be unfortunate.

Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi, mother and daughter, also noticed what was happening here. They exchanged glances, their brows furrowing deeply.

Anger even showed on Lin Ruoxue's face.

Initially, neither mother nor daughter knew Fang Bai had come. It wasn't until they talked with Su Linglong that they learned Su Linglong's "bodyguard" was, in fact, Fang Bai.

Chapter 204: Asking for Trouble

Fang Bai cured Dongfang Leiming's heart disease, and the only ones in the Dongfang Family who genuinely felt gratitude were Dongfang Leiming himself, along with his nephew Dongfang Yun, niece Lin Ruoxue, and their two daughters, Dongfang Rushi and Dongfang Ruhua.

As for the other members of the Dongfang Family, some wished Dongfang Leiming had died earlier so that they could fully confront Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi, the two women who wielded great power within the Dongfang Family.

Thus, when Fang Bai saved Dongfang Leiming's life, some members of the Dongfang Family not only lacked gratitude but also resented Fang Bai for ruining their plans.

Lin Ruoxue, hailing from one of the great medical sects of Huaxia, the "Doctor Pavilion Sect," was very interested in Fang Bai's miraculous medical skills, especially after learning that Su Linglong's brain tumor was also cured by Fang Bai. Her admiration for Fang Bai grew.

Lin Ruoxue believed that Fang Bai's seemingly miraculous ability to completely heal Dongfang Leiming's heart disease and successfully remove Su Linglong's malignant brain tumor was something even the renowned "Four Great National Doctors" of Huaxia might find difficult to achieve.

Lin Ruoxue was a disciple of the "Doctor Pavilion Sect." Even though she had married into the Dongfang Family, she still maintained a multitude of connections with the "Doctor Pavilion Sect."

In Lin Ruoxue's opinion, if she could bring Fang Bai into the "Doctor Pavilion Sect," then the sect could have the potential to become the foremost among the great medical sects of Huaxia.

Even if Fang Bai was unwilling to join the "Doctor Pavilion Sect," hiring him as an Elder or something similar to foster closer relations between them would also be good.

Therefore, Lin Ruoxue was very pleased to know that Fang Bai had come to attend her younger daughter's birthday banquet, but Wang Dong's behavior ruined her mood, making her very angry.

When Lin Ruoxue saw Wang Dong reaching for Fang Bai's shoulder and wanted to shout a warning, it was already too late.

Fortunately, Lin Ruoxue knew Fang Bai was also an Ancient Martial Cultivator, and a very powerful one at that. It would not be easy for Wang Dong to harm him.

If Wang Dong really did injure Fang Bai, Lin Ruoxue wouldn't care that he was a member of the Wang Family; she would not hesitate to turn against him.

After all, it was Wang Dong who was in the wrong, and since Fang Bai had saved Dongfang Leiming's life, Dongfang Leiming would certainly support Lin Ruoxue on this matter.

As for the Wang Family backing Wang Dong, they were unlikely to provoke a dispute with the Dongfang Family over one young member.

Both Su Linglong and Tang Wenrou were aware of Fang Bai's capabilities, and seeing Wang Dong make a move on Fang Bai, they couldn't help but reveal a hint of schadenfreude in their smiles.

They knew that although Fang Bai appeared to be a refined and genteel person, with a laughter that seemed harmless to humans and animals, anyone who provoked him never ended well.

While others thought Fang Bai would be at a disadvantage, they were certain that the unlucky one would be Wang Dong.

For Qin Yaorao, her understanding of Fang Bai was still based on his time teaching at the medical college.

In Qin Yaorao's memory, Fang Bai was introverted, timid, and fearful. He had only started exhibiting some pleasing changes later on. However, she also knew that Wang Dong was very formidable in a fight, and she was startled to see him reaching for Fang Bai.

Even though Fang Bai had already left the medical college for his internship, in Qin Yaorao's heart, he was still her student. Seeing Fang Bai about to be at a disadvantage, the protective Qin Yaorao cried out, "Stop!" and hurried forward.

But she was wearing high heels and was quite far from Wang Dong, so she couldn't intervene in time. Although her voice reached Wang Dong's ears, he completely ignored her.

Hiss—

Seeing Wang Dong reach out to him, Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh.

A mere Yellow Level intermediate was no different from an ant in his eyes; Fang Bai only needed one finger to squash him.

Fang Bai, of course, wouldn't kill Wang Dong. He just extended his right index finger, met Wang Dong's oncoming palm, and lightly jabbed the center of Wang Dong's palm with the tip of his finger.

A thread of True Yuan shot from Fang Bai's fingertips into Wang Dong's palm, then started to course through the meridians of Wang Dong's arm in reverse.

Ah—

The reversed flow of True Yuan was incredibly painful. Wang Dong felt as if his entire arm was being pricked by thousands of needles, and beads of sweat the size of soybeans instantly rolled out as he couldn't help but let out a pig-slaughtering-like scream.

His screams were heard by everyone in the hall, who all turned to look this way.

The smiles on Su Linglong and Tang Wenrou's faces grew even broader,

Lin Ruoxue blinked in surprise, but soon a relieved smile appeared on her face.

Dongfang Rushi's normally calm and deep eyes flashed with astonishment before returning to serenity.

Qin Yaorao, who had been worried that Fang Bai would be at a disadvantage, suddenly stopped in her tracks, standing there dumbfounded, not expecting Wang Dong to be the one suffering.

"Wang Dong, what the hell do you think you're doing? Has Fang Bai provoked or offended you? I warn you, Fang Bai is my good brother; if you touch him, it's like you're touching me! Don't think you can act all high and mighty just because you've got some skills. The Lu Family has no shortage of masters either!"

Lu Jianfeng strode over, stood in front of Wang Dong, and gave him a hard shove while angrily saying with a displeased face.

Lu Jianfeng owed his life to Fang Bai's rescue. He not only felt grateful to Fang Bai but also admired him. Furthermore, the Wang Family's influence in Huaxia was nowhere near that of the Lu Family, so Lu Jianfeng was not afraid of Wang Dong at all.

The thread of True Yuan that Fang Bai had transferred into Wang Dong's body was wreaking havoc as it ran amok in reverse through his meridians. At first, Wang Dong only felt pain in his arm, but soon his whole body was affected. His body contorted like a shrimp, stretching and curling in agony as sweat poured down like rain.

"Doctor Fang, I have come to ask a favor of you. I hope you can spare him."

Knowing that Wang Dong's only way out of this pain was through Fang Bai, Ms. Lin sighed and said, "Ruhua's birthday party is about to start, and that girl is pure-hearted and timid. I'm worried that if she comes out and sees this scene, she will get frightened..."

"For Ms. Lin's sake, of course, I will oblige!"

Fang Bai didn't want to make a big scene at the birthday party of Dongfang Ruhua, that pretty little girl, so he smiled and gently patted Wang Dong's body.

With that pat, the rampaging thread of True Yuan in Wang Dong's body immediately vanished.

"Ha..."

Seeing the once strong and towering Wang Dong collapse on the ground as if his bones had been removed, gasping for breath, Lu Jianfeng couldn't help but laugh, saying, "You're asking for trouble by messing with Doctor Fang!"

Wang Dong might be rash, but at this moment, he knew he had met his match.

Firstly, he hadn't expected Fang Bai to have such a good relationship with Lu Jianfeng, and secondly, he hadn't foreseen Fang Bai's strength to be so formidable.

Originally, Wang Dong had intended to boost his image in the eyes of the single ladies present by humiliating Fang Bai and displaying his own domineering strength. However, the one who ended up embarrassed was himself.

Seeing the mocking laughter and schadenfreude in the eyes of many around him, Wang Dong was so frustrated that he felt like vomiting blood.

He also felt some regret. If he had known Fang Bai would be so tough to handle, he wouldn't have let the Dongfang brothers, Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, goad him into provoking Fang Bai.

Chapter 205: Birthday Gift

Wang Dong wiped the sweat from his face and looked up at Fang Bai, his eyes filled with both fear and resentment, thinking to himself that this was Yanjing, his territory, and the shame he suffered today would be reclaimed from Fang Bai sooner or later.

"Young Master Wang, the Wang Family sent you to represent them at Ruhua's birthday party, surely not for you to cause trouble, right?"

Lin Ruoxue watched Wang Dong with an expressionless face and said coldly, "Doctor Fang is easy to talk to and won't hold it against you, so I have nothing else to say. Let's put this matter behind us, and I hope not to see anything like this happen again!"

Her voice was not loud, but there was an air of authority in it. Wang Dong, despite his resentment, did not dare to speak up in defense or retort.

Although Lin Ruoxue was only Dongfang Yun's wife, her status was higher than that of most direct descendants of the Dongfang Family, and she also held the identity of a Disciple of Doctor Pavilion Sect. Wang Dong knew that if he provoked this woman, the consequences would be serious.

The altercation between Wang Dong and Fang Bai was just a minor episode. Following a brief moment of silence, and thanks to the mediation by Lin Ruoxue and other members of the Dongfang Family, the atmosphere in the grand hall quickly became lively again.

At eight o'clock, the birthday party for Dongfang Ruhua officially began, and hundreds of guests took their seats at tables with their names on them.

Fang Bai originally intended to sit with the bodyguards from the prominent clans but was invited by Lin Ruoxue to sit at the main dining table in the front row, and his seat was right next to Su Linglong's.

This special treatment, which even surpassed that of some prominent clan members, drew everyone's attention to Fang Bai, as they secretly speculated about the young man's identity.

Tonight's host for the birthday party was Dongfang Leiming's younger daughter and Dongfang Ruhua's aunt, Dongfang Qing, acting as a temporary host.

Dongfang Qing first delivered the obligatory speech on behalf of the Dongfang Family, and finally, her gaze turned towards the red curtain on the stage behind her, and she cheerfully said, "Now, let us welcome our little birthday star to come out and meet everyone!"

Accompanied by the applause of the guests and the cheerful birthday congratulation song, the lights in the grand hall converged on the stage.

The vast red curtain slowly opened, revealing a pure and lovely girl in a pink princess dress, affectionately supporting an old man dressed in a red Tang suit, as they walked to the center of the stage.

The pure and lovely girl was naturally tonight's birthday party star, Dongfang Ruhua.

The old man in the red Tang suit was Dongfang Ruhua's grandfather, the Family Head of the Dongfang Family, Dongfang Leiming.

Seeing this grandfather and granddaughter pair emerge, hundreds of guests in the grand hall stood up, their applause growing even more enthusiastic.

Dongfang Ruhua stood sweetly by her grandfather Dongfang Leiming's side, her face radiant with joy, and the happy glow on her delicate and tender cheeks was evident.

The soft lights around her seemed to create a halo, and coupled with her unique natural purity, she looked just like a little fairy who had stepped out of a painting.

The guests couldn't help but sigh inwardly; the current Dongfang Ruhua was still young, like a bud yet to bloom, and a little immature when compared to those enchanting women of stunning beauty.

But once she reached maturity with her long hair reaching her waist, her beauty would be unparalleled, in no way inferior to her sister, Dongfang Rushi, who was simple and unadorned yet exuded a timeless elegance.

Some representatives from wealthy prominent clans secretly envied, wondering why such a pair of incomparable beauties could not emerge from their own families.

There were also those from different families pondering which of their members might be a suitable match for the Dongfang sisters, contemplating that a future marital alliance could be a win-win scenario for both families.

Dongfang Leiming's gaze slowly swept over the guests seated below the stage, and when he caught sight of Fang Bai, his eyes suddenly brightened, his smile growing even wider.

"My friends..."

With a semblance of raising his hands, Dongfang Leiming pressed them slightly downward, waiting for the applause to subside before continuing with a cheerful voice, "My friends, thank you for gracing my humble home and celebrating my granddaughter Ruhua's birthday. On behalf of all the members of the Dongfang Family, I welcome your presence..."

Dongfang Leiming's speech was very brief, concluding after just a few words, and following a round of warm applause, the evening's birthday girl, Dongfang Ruhua, also expressed her thanks to the guests in her sweet, crisp voice.

Dongfang Ruhua seemed somewhat shy, her cheeks flushed as she spoke, making her look exceptionally adorable and irresistibly inviting a sense of protectiveness and tender affection.

Since it was a birthday banquet, the presentation of birthday gifts was an indispensable part of the event.

Most of the guests had handed over their gifts to the person designated by the Dongfang Family to receive them before entering the grand hall, while a small number of guests planned to present their gifts to Dongfang Ruhua in person at the event.

The true purpose of the guests attending the birthday banquet was not so much to celebrate Dongfang Ruhua's birthday as it was to curry favor with Dongfang Leiming and foster closer ties with the Dongfang Family.

Moreover, the guests were well aware that Dongfang Leiming adored his granddaughter Ruhua, and if one's gift pleased her, it would make Dongfang Leiming happy, thus achieving the giver's purpose.

Additionally, those guests intending to present their birthday gifts in person also had another purpose: to showcase their family's strength to the other guests.

Prominent Clans of wealth and power love to fish for compliments—whoever's gift is unique and valuable will gain more face.

"Little sister Ruhua, this pair of jadeite bracelets, I acquired at an auction house on Hong Kong Island, and now I offer them to you, hoping you will like them!"

The first to speak was Wang Dong from the Wang Family of Yanjing.

Wang Dong had just suffered a significant setback at the hands of Fang Bai, resulting in a considerable embarrassment, and he also left a poor impression on Lin Ruoxue, so he was eager to show himself in a better light, wishing to repair his image.

Wang Dong held a small wooden box in his hands and rose to approach Dongfang Ruhua at the stage, extending the box toward her.

Dongfang Ruhua was somewhat uncertain, not knowing whether to accept it or not, and looked helplessly towards her grandfather, Dongfang Leiming, who was already seated in a Taishi Chair on the stage.

"Since it's a birthday gift for you, you should accept it!"

Dongfang Leiming nodded to Dongfang Ruhua, and seeing her timidly reach out to take the small box, he smiled and added, "Open the box and have a look, let everyone have a chance to be impressed as well!"

Normally, displaying someone else's gifts openly like this would be quite inappropriate, but Dongfang Leiming had already thoroughly pondered the psychology of these guests who brought gifts to the event—they merely wanted to save face and draw attention under the watchful eyes of the crowd.

So, if he didn't let Dongfang Ruhua show the gifts, they would feel dissatisfied.

Chapter 206: Frostflower Grass

Dongfang Ruhua was simple-minded and free from worldly schemes; how could she have thought about all the complexity behind it? When Grandpa asked her to open it, she opened it.

The small wooden box contained a pair of jade bracelets, crystal clear and lush, that were impeccable in both appearance and quality.

Such a pair of jade bracelets was rare in the world and held great value, so when Dongfang Ruhua held them in her hands for everyone to see, some of the connoisseurs in the field of jade couldn't help but voice their admiration.

Some female guests took one look at the pair of jade bracelets, and their eyes lit up with desire, wishing they could snatch them for themselves.

"Wang family's youngster, you must have spent a pretty penny on this pair of jade bracelets?"

Dongfang Leiming glanced at Wang Dong and asked with a smile.

Wang Dong hurriedly said, "Actually, it didn't cost that much, just over a million... I think the amount of money doesn't matter, what's important is the sentiment!"

"Hmm, you're thoughtful."

Dongfang Leiming nodded and said to Wang Dong with a smile, "Please convey my regards to your grandfather when you go back!"

"Definitely!"

An excited Wang Dong bowed slightly to Dongfang Leiming and then, under the gaze of hundreds of guests, walked down from the stage with his head held high.

When Wang Dong made his move, he presented a pair of precious jade bracelets worth over a million, which was certainly sensational, causing some guests to secretly sigh and feel that their own gifts were somewhat lacking.

Following Wang Dong, numerous guests went up to the stage to present their own gifts.

Before long, the large trolley next to Dongfang Ruhua was filled with a variety of gifts—and each one was valuable, including gold and silver jewelry, jade and pearls, costly cosmetics, various designer clothes, bags, and so on.

Dongfang Ruhua grew weary from receiving so many gifts, but her face didn't show much excitement.

Because almost everything the guests brought as birthday gifts was something her family already had, or could easily purchase, so she really couldn't muster the interest to give them a second glance.

Seeing that most of the guests had presented their gifts, and she was still empty-handed, Su Linglong couldn't help feeling anxious, her eyes frequently glancing at Fang Bai who was sitting beside her.

Fang Bai smiled, and with a gentle stroke over the Spatial Ring on his left finger, a plant about a foot long that resembled frost coalesced emerged in his hand.

"You remember what I told you before we came here, right?"

Fang Bai handed the Frostflower Grass to Su Linglong and asked using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission method.

"Mhm."

Su Linglong nodded her head, feeling a cool sensation spreading from the Frostflower Grass to her entire body, giving her an indescribable comfort that surprised her.

"Then go up and present this birthday gift. It may seem ordinary, but once you reveal its effects, I believe there are few women in this world who wouldn't appreciate it."

Although she felt somewhat nervous inside, Su Linglong stood up and headed towards the stage, trusting in Fang Bai's confidence.

Su Linglong was the belle of Zhongzhou Medical College, and whether it was her figure, appearance, or demeanor, she was the epitome of beauty. Her appearance on the stage immediately drew everyone's attention.

Many people compared Su Linglong with other exceptional beauties present, such as Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, Tang Wenrou, and Qin Yaorao, and found her no less stunning.

Especially the girl-next-door charm that Su Linglong exuded was something the other beauties lacked.

Among the scions of the wealthy elite and the young masters from the prominent clans present, there were quite a few who pursued Su Linglong. Watching Su Linglong make her way to the podium, their gazes immediately followed her.

"Sister Linglong... what's that grass you're holding? It looks so strange!"

Dongfang Ruhua had known Su Linglong for several years and had a good relationship with her. Seeing that Su Linglong was holding a grass-like object and walking towards her, Ruhua blinked her eyes with curiosity and asked.

Having received so many gifts that she was becoming numb to them, Dongfang Ruhua was more interested in the frost-like grass Su Linglong held in her hand than the other presents.

Dongfang Leiming, catching a glimpse of the grass-like object in Su Linglong's hand, also showed a surprised expression, unsure if it was the birthday gift Su Linglong intended to give his little granddaughter.

"Ruhua, this is your birthday present! Happy birthday!"

Su Linglong stood in front of Dongfang Ruhua and handed over the "Frostflower Grass."

In the guest seating area, someone couldn't help but laugh, thinking to themselves that the Su Family of Zhongzhou, despite being wealthy and influential, had given a mere clump of grass as a birthday gift—was this an insult to the Dongfang Family?

Even some members of the Dongfang Family turned unsightly.

However, there were some guests of stable temperament who pondered thoughtfully, guessing that Su Linglong must have a reason for her actions.

After all, the Dongfang Family wielded immense influence within Huaxia, and offending them would do the Su Family no favors. Su Linglong appeared to be an intelligent woman, and it seemed unlikely that she would be so foolish as to truly offer a worthless weed to Dongfang Ruhua.

Moreover, the plant in her hand seemed to be out of the ordinary.

"Thank you, Sister Linglong!"

Dongfang Ruhua, unlike others, didn't have so many thoughts. She was good friends with Su Linglong, and even if Linglong had come empty-handed, she would still be very happy.

Accepting the "Frostflower Grass" from Su Linglong, Ruhua exclaimed with surprise and curiosity written all over her pretty face.

"This grass is so strange! Holding it makes my whole body feel cool, and it brings an indescribable sense of comfort... In such hot weather, holding it makes me feel like I don't even need a fan or air conditioning! Sister Linglong, what kind of grass is this?"

Dongfang Ruhua examined the "Frostflower Grass" in her hands, seemingly unable to part with it.

"This is called 'Frostflower Grass,' a kind of spiritual medicine that has grown in the deep mountains for over a hundred years. If you boil it into a medicinal liquid and drink it, your skin will become whiter and more tender... No cosmetic product in this world can compare to its effects..."

Su Linglong relayed to Dongfang Ruhua exactly what Fang Bai had previously told her.

"Wow, is it really that miraculous?"

Loving beauty is a woman's nature, and although Dongfang Ruhua was still young, she had already reached the age where she cared about her appearance. Hearing that the "spiritual medicine" in her hand could make her skin whiter and more tender, her big, bright eyes immediately sparkled with light.

"It's true!"

The claims about the "Frostflower Grass" enhancing skin whitening were made by Fang Bai. Trusting him, Su Linglong nodded affirmatively.

Many guests present also heard what Su Linglong said, with most expressing skepticism. Some thought that Su Linglong, representing the Su Family, was unlikely to deceive Dongfang Ruhua.

Lin Ruoxue, who came from the Doctor Pavilion Sect, had an understanding of medicinal herbs far beyond ordinary people. She knew that any herb that surpassed a hundred years in age was often referred to as "spiritual medicine."

Chapter 207: Big Brother, Is that You?

In the mortal world, there exist "Spiritual Medicines" over a hundred years old, but they are extremely rare, often found in the deep, seldom-visited mountains and forests, making them very difficult to obtain.

The "Doctor Pavilion Sect" where Lin Ruoxue belonged also had a small reserve of Spiritual Medicines that were over a century old. However, Lin Ruoxue had never heard of nor seen a Spiritual Medicine like "Frostflower Grass" before in her life.

Suddenly, Lin Ruoxue thought of the words "Hidden Sect."

"Hidden Sects" are those ancient martial sects that are isolated from the world and have a heritage spanning over a thousand years. They are also the mystical, holy places all martial artists yearn for.

Lin Ruoxue heard from a senior in the "Doctor Pavilion Sect" that these Hidden Sects cultivated many Spiritual Medicines, most of which couldn't be found in the ordinary world. So, could this "Frostflower Grass" that Su Linglong had given, which even she had never seen before, have come from a "Hidden Sect"?

Could it be that the Su Family had some secret connection with the "Hidden Sect"?

Of course, even if the Su Family did have connections with a "Hidden Sect," it would be one of their deepest secrets. Su Linglong would certainly not reveal it to outsiders, and Lin Ruoxue wouldn't be foolish enough to ask about it.

Lin Ruoxue pondered for a moment, then quickly stepped up to the stage, standing beside her daughter Dongfang Ruhua, her gaze falling on the "Frostflower Grass" in her hands. She sighed, "Linglong, what you've given is too precious! When your birthday comes, we won't know what to give you in return!"

In Lin Ruoxue's opinion, "Spiritual Medicines" were invaluable and could not be assessed with money. And when Su Linglong mentioned that "Frostflower Grass" had a unique effect on beautifying and whitening the skin, it was even more so an invaluable treasure for a woman.

To tell the truth, when Fang Bai first took out the "Frostflower Grass" for Su Linglong to give to Dongfang Ruhua as a birthday gift, Su Linglong had felt a bit reluctant to part with it. But after learning that Fang Bai had more, she willingly gave it away.

"Aunt Lin, whatever you give me, I will like it! I believe, the quality or the price of a birthday gift isn't what's important; it's the thought that counts. As long as the sentiment is there, even if it's just a small trinket or a bouquet of flowers, I will be happy!"

Su Linglong said smilingly.

"Well said!"

Lin Ruoxue took Su Linglong's hand and patted it, saying, "Linglong, you really are a sensible and good child! Whichever family's man marries you in the future will be very fortunate!"

Those words made Su Linglong's cheeks flush slightly red, and her eyes, clear as water, quickly glanced at Fang Bai sitting below the stage.

"Linglong sister, we haven't seen each other for such a long time. Why don't you stay over tonight instead of going back? You can stay in my room, and we can chat all the way until midnight. How does that sound?"

Dongfang Ruhua carefully placed the "Frostflower Grass" on a wheeled cart and turned to Su Linglong with the suggestion.

"That... might not be possible, I came with a friend, and it would be very impolite to let him go back alone,"

Su Linglong said, sounding a bit troubled.

"Where's your friend?"

As Dongfang Ruhua had come out later and the lights below the stage were dim, she had not noticed Fang Bai.

"Over there!"

Su Linglong pointed towards where Fang Bai was sitting.

Following the direction of her finger, Dongfang Ruhua saw Fang Bai sitting in front of a dining table below the stage. Her eyes immediately lit up with surprise and joy, exclaiming, "Big brother, is that you?"

Though Dongfang Ruhua had only met Fang Bai once, he had left a very deep impression on her young heart.

Back then, Dongfang Ruhua still shuddered when recalling the attack that happened in the heavy rain outside of Yanjing.

In that attack, her family's bodyguards suffered heavy casualties, and her grandfather's heart attack came on suddenly. Witnessing the entire event, Dongfang Ruhua trembled uncontrollably, her fright was extreme, feeling as if the whole world was about to collapse around her.

In the depths of despair, Fang Bai appeared out of nowhere, single-handedly took down all the bad guys, and cured her grandfather...

From that moment on, Fang Bai's image in Dongfang Ruhua's mind had grown immeasurably. Combined with his handsome and attractive appearance, Dongfang Ruhua felt that none of the idols she had admired before could compare with Fang Bai.

Time and again in her dreams, Dongfang Ruhua dreamt of Fang Bai appearing before her, calling her "little beauty" with a grin, then she would joyfully throw herself into his embrace, feeling his broad chest, so warm, so solid, his scent so intoxicating...

The fifteen-year-old beauty had reached an age of dreaming, and several times in her dreams, Dongfang Ruhua experienced some embarrassing things.

Each time she woke from these dreams, feeling the strange changes to certain parts of her body, Dongfang Ruhua would blushing bury her head under the covers, unwilling to get out of bed for a long while.

This time, for her birthday party, Dongfang Ruhua had fantasized about Fang Bai appearing like the hero from a martial arts novel, suddenly showing up with a gift she adored to celebrate her birthday, but she also felt it was a bit unrealistic.

What she never expected was that Fang Bai really did appear just as she had imagined.

In an instant, joy filled her heart to the point of nearly crying. If it weren't for all the people around, she really would have liked to throw herself into Fang Bai's arms, just like in her dreams.

Dongfang Rushi noticed her sister's unusual expression and glanced at Fang Bai thoughtfully, her brow slightly furrowing.

No one knows a daughter like her mother.

Seeing her younger daughter's face filled with excitement and anticipation, Lin Ruoxue, who had been through similar experiences, understood clearly and smiled without a word, her gaze falling on Fang Bai with interest.

The moment Dongfang Ruhua called out "big brother," Fang Bai felt too embarrassed to remain seated and stood up, waving to Dongfang Ruhua with a smile.

"Big brother, did you come to attend my birthday party too?"

Dongfang Ruhua took several steps forward, walked to the edge of the stage, and looked at Fang Bai happily, her large eyes sparkling with excitement.

The invitations for this birthday party were sent out by Lin Ruoxue, but Fang Bai was not among those invited. Lin Ruoxue simply hadn't expected that Fang Bai would come over as Su Linglong's "bodyguard."

Embarrassed by her daughter's mention of this, Lin Ruoxue hurriedly said, "Ruhua, the thing is, I've been so busy these days that I forgot to send Fang Bai an invitation. Fortunately, he's quite familiar with Linglong and came along with her."

"Oh."

Dongfang Ruhua nodded and then looked apologetically at Fang Bai, "Big brother, I'm sorry! My mother has indeed been very busy, and it was unintentional that she forgot to send you an invitation. You mustn't be angry, okay?"

Fang Bai was well aware of the situation and didn't point it out, smiling said, "Does big brother look like he's angry?"

"Not at all!"

Dongfang Ruhua said with a smile that was as beautiful as a flower.

Chapter 208: The Best Birthday Gift

"Doctor Fang, since you've come to Cousin Ruhua's birthday party, you must have prepared a birthday gift. I wonder what it could be? I'm really looking forward to it!"

Just then, Dongfang Xing, Ruhua's elder cousin, suddenly spoke up in a strange tone.

He knew Fang Bai had come as Su Linglong's "bodyguard" and had arrived empty-handed. If Fang Bai couldn't produce a gift for Dongfang Ruhua, it would inevitably lead to ridicule from the guests present.

Earlier, he had egged on Wang Dong from the Wang Family to provoke Fang Bai, but it was unsuccessful. If he could embarrass Fang Bai now, he would feel a small thrill of satisfaction.

"Big brother, brilliant! Truly brilliant!"

Dongfang Chen knew that his elder cousin was deliberately being malicious, seeking to embarrass Fang Bai in front of all the guests, and he couldn't help but give a quiet thumbs-up in approval.

"Big brother, I'm already very happy that you came. I don't want any gifts!"

Although Dongfang Ruhua was somewhat naïve, she wasn't foolish. Seeing Fang Bai come empty-handed, she hurriedly shook her head and gestured with her hands, feeling a little disappointed inside.

Su Linglong, noticing Fang Bai's astonished expression, became anxious. She quickly stepped down from the main stage, intending to subtly hand a pair of jade bracelets she was wearing on her wrist to Fang Bai so he could re-present them to Dongfang Ruhua.

The jade bracelets on her wrist were also crafted from superior jade, worth hundreds of thousands. Giving them to Dongfang Ruhua would not be disgraceful.

Fang Bai saw Su Linglong's gesture and understood her intentions. He smiled, waved his hand, and then walked up to the main stage to stand in front of Dongfang Ruhua.

"I came in a rush this time and didn't bring anything nice. This pearl was something I found in the mountains before. It's of no use to me, so I'll give it to you as a gift..."

Fang Bai's right hand reached for the Spatial Ring on his left hand, while he said to Dongfang Leiming, "Old Master Dongfang, could you please have someone turn off all the lights in the grand hall?"

Dongfang Leiming, excited to see his life-saving benefactor Fang Bai in such a setting, did not ask why and immediately signaled a family member to turn off the lights.

The other guests, seeing Fang Bai's secretive manner, wondered what trick he was about to perform and stared at him with wide eyes.

Click—

A soft sound was heard as a member of the Dongfang Family pulled the main switch of the grand hall.

In an instant, all the lights in the grand hall went out, plunging the venue into darkness, and some of the more timid women couldn't help but let out a gasp.

Dongfang Ruhua held her breath and widened her eyes, trying to make out Fang Bai standing before her. She was worried that once the lights came back on, Fang Bai would have disappeared.

Suddenly, a soft glow appeared in the darkness. The light, initially the size of an egg, gradually spread out, eventually illuminating half of the hall.

Some of the guests noticed that the source of the light was an egg-sized, oval pearl cradled in the palm of Fang Bai's hand.

Upon closer inspection, the pearl was crystal clear, resembling a piece of white crystal. Guests bathed in its light felt as if they were submerged in cool water, experiencing a comfortable sensation throughout their bodies.

"A Luminous Pearl! It's a Luminous Pearl!"

Among the guests, those who were knowledgeable couldn't help but exclaim aloud upon sighting the pearl.

"A Luminous Pearl? For real?"

"I've seen a Luminous Pearl before, but I've never seen one that emits light like this! As for whether it's real or fake... I'm not sure..."

"I think it must be real! A fake Luminous Pearl wouldn't emit such a soft glow, and the way it lights up is different too..."

"Strange, my pain seems to have lessened a lot after being illuminated by that Luminous Pearl... Could it be an illusion?"

"It shouldn't be, I have that feeling too..."

...

The guests on site began to speak, appraising the Luminous Pearl in Fang Bai's hands.

"Big brother... is this really a Luminous Pearl?"

Dongfang Ruhua also heard the discussions among the guests below, and looking at the glowing bead in Fang Bai's hand, she couldn't help but ask.

"Yes, this is a naturally formed Luminous Pearl! When you rest at night, you don't need to turn on the light, just place this Luminous Pearl in your room. It will be very beneficial to your body."

Fang Bai said, passing the Luminous Pearl in his hand to Dongfang Ruhua.

This Luminous Pearl was one of the eighty-one he had discovered in a cave at the bottom of that Mysterious Pit.

Just now, Dongfang Xing had intentionally tried to make Fang Bai look foolish in public, and without his Spatial Ring, Fang Bai really wouldn't have been able to present any birthday gift to Dongfang Ruhua, which would have been quite embarrassing.

When Dongfang Xing mentioned the birthday gift, Fang Bai thought it over and remembered the Luminous Pearls in his Spatial Ring.

Jewelry and jade, almost all women like them; Fang Bai's eighty-one Luminous Pearls, were all naturally formed treasures of the highest quality, and each contained a trace of Heaven and Earth Origin Energy. Any one of them could fetch a price of tens of millions at auction.

By giving such a Luminous Pearl, Fang Bai was presenting a generous gift indeed.

Dongfang Ruhua received the Luminous Pearl from Fang Bai's hands with a face full of joy, and curiously played with it, the soft light emitted by the Luminous Pearl illuminated her beautiful face, adding a touch of radiance to her delicate features.

"Huh?"

As Dongfang Ruhua toyed with the Luminous Pearl, Fang Bai was surprised to sense the weak Heaven and Earth Origin Energy contained within the pearl being rapidly absorbed by her body.

Fang Bai felt a surge of excitement in his heart, as Dongfang Ruhua's body could absorb Heaven and Earth Origin Energy on its own, confirming that she possessed an Innate Spiritual Root, and it wasn't just an ordinary one.

Fang Bai surmised that Dongfang Ruhua must have one of the most powerful Innate Spiritual Roots—the Thunder Spirit Root; but to determine it was indeed a Thunder Spirit Root, he needed to use the method of "Bone Touching."

However, in such a setting, of course, Fang Bai had no way to perform "Bone Touching" on Dongfang Ruhua; that matter would have to wait for another time.

"Big brother, what's the matter?"

Seeing Fang Bai staring at her in a daze, Dongfang Ruhua stopped playing with the Luminous Pearl in her hands and asked with her eyes blinking, her cheeks slightly red.

"It's nothing..."

Fang Bai had been staring at Dongfang Ruhua intently, delighted at the hunt, and upon hearing her question, he came back to his senses and said with a smile, "So, little beauty, do you like the Luminous Pearl?"

"I love it! I love it so much! It's the best birthday gift I've ever received!"

"As long as you like it. I wish you happiness every day like today, and may you always be as beautiful as you are now!"

"Thank you, big brother!"

Dongfang Leiming had already stood up from his Taishi Chair when Fang Bai came on stage to give the birthday gift, and after Fang Bai finished speaking with his little granddaughter, he walked up with a smile, feeling a burst of emotion as he said, "Doctor Fang, it's a pleasure to see you again after our last parting!"

Chapter 209: A Simple Effort

"Elder, how are you! How is your health?"

Fang Bai gave Dongfang Leiming a once-over and asked with a smile.

In fact, without waiting for Dongfang Leiming's reply, Fang Bai had already noticed. Dongfang Leiming had a glowing complexion and was in high spirits, his health couldn't have been better.

"Good! Very good! I don't have a single problem with my health now; I'm even better than many young people! This is all thanks to you, Doctor Fang!"

When Fang Bai had intervened to treat Dongfang Leiming, he had not only completely cured Dongfang Leiming's heart disease but also significantly enhanced his physical functions. His overall condition had reverted to that of his state at fifty, and all the minor issues his body had were gone.

In Dongfang Leiming's eyes, Fang Bai was nothing short of a divine figure on earth.

"Hehe, it was just a small effort, hardly worth mentioning!"

Fang Bai waved his hand and said modestly.

"A small effort for you saved my life! If I can live a few more years, the fortune of our Dongfang Family can extend for a few more years..."

When Dongfang Leiming spoke these words, his gaze became sharp as an eagle's, sweeping over some members of the family.

Some guilty members of the Dongfang Family bowed their heads, not daring to meet Dongfang Leiming's sharp gaze.

Fang Bai seemed to perceive something and said with a smile, "Don't worry, with your current condition, Elder, living another thirty years won't be a problem!"

At these words, light shone in Dongfang Leiming's eyes, and he asked, "Are you joking, Doctor Fang, or are you serious?"

Fang Bai answered, "Should you suffer any illness in the next thirty years, Elder, feel free to come to me; I will take responsibility for curing you!"

"Doctor Fang is a Divine Doctor whose medical skills are unmatched. With your words, I can rest completely assured!"

A weight seemed to lift from Dongfang Leiming's heart, and in his great relief, he couldn't help but laugh out loud.

If it were true that he had another thirty years to live, as Fang Bai said, he would be able to carefully lay out plans so that Dongfang Rushi could smoothly take over control after his death without worrying about internal strife within the Dongfang Family.

Dongfang Yun's family and other clan members who had a good relationship with them all showed faces brimming with joy upon hearing Fang Bai's words.

However, Dongfang Yun's older brother, Dongfang Shan, and his second brother, Dongfang Dian, as well as his uncles, Dongfang Leizhen and Dongfang Leiyu, were filled with disappointment, but, out of respect for Dongfang Leiming's presence, they didn't dare to show their feelings openly.

They had been hoping for Dongfang Leiming to pass away soon so that they could meddle in family affairs and even wrest control of the family's business from the hands of Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Rushi.

But if Dongfang Leiming lived another thirty years, their hopes of taking charge of the family's power would be dashed, and some of them might not live long enough to see Dongfang Leiming's death. They might be buried in the soil themselves.

Consequently, some looked at Fang Bai with resentment in their eyes, thinking that if it were not for him, Dongfang Leiming might have already died in the attack outside Yanjing City last time.

When the lights in the grand hall came back on, Fang Bai returned to his seat, and Dongfang Ruhua, holding the Luminous Pearl in her hand, followed Fang Bai with her gaze, filled with infatuation and admiration.

After Fang Bai, some guests also delivered birthday gifts, but with Fang Bai's Luminous Pearl preceding them, these guests no longer made a spectacle of themselves and quickly left the stage after presenting their gifts.

Dongfang Ruhua clearly had lost interest in the gifts that followed, mechanically receiving each one, then nodding to express her thanks.

"Doctor Fang, is that Luminous Pearl you got really from the deep mountains? Do you still have any more?"

Fang Bai had just returned to his seat when Lu Jianfeng came over with a big smile, pulled up a chair next to him, and asked in a low voice.

Hearing Lu Jianfeng's question, Su Linglong also pricked up her ears.

When Su Linglong saw the Luminous Pearl Fang Bai gave to Dongfang Ruhua, her eyes lit up, her heart pounded with excitement, thinking the pearl was truly beautiful. She wished Fang Bai would give her one as well, how wonderful that would be.

However, Su Linglong also knew that the Luminous Pearl was extremely precious, a treasure that was sought after but not easily found. To have one was already quite rare, let alone a second one.

"What do you want the Luminous Pearl for?"

Instead of answering Lu Jianfeng directly, Fang Bai smiled and looked at him as he asked in return.

Lu Jianfeng scratched his head and, with a chuckling laugh, said, "Heh heh, if you have more, I'd like to buy one to keep. When I have a girlfriend in the future, I'll give it to her as a pledge of love. I think there's not a woman in the world who could refuse it."

Fang Bai smiled and asked, "How much are you willing to pay for a Luminous Pearl?"

"So you do have more?"

At these words, Lu Jianfeng got almost jumpy with excitement, rubbed his hands, and said in a low voice, "I just asked some insiders, and that Luminous Pearl you gave to Dongfang Ruhua, if it were auctioned, it could be worth at least ten million! How about twenty million from me?"

When Su Linglong heard Fang Bai actually had more Luminous Pearls, her heart started pounding, and she also silently regretted not asking Fang Bai earlier if he had more. Now that Lu Jianfeng had already spoken up, she felt it was too awkward to speak.

Her look of disappointment didn't escape Fang Bai's eyes. He winked at her and whispered with a low chuckle, "Don't be anxious, I have a few more pearls just like it. I'll give you one after the birthday banquet is over."

Su Linglong was overjoyed. Had there been no one around, she might have already thrown herself at Fang Bai and given him a kiss.

Lu Jianfeng heard Fang Bai's words, his eyes bulging with excitement, and asked, "Doctor Fang, just how many of these Luminous Pearls do you have? Why not let me handle them for you, I could sell them? I guarantee each one for no less than twenty million!"

Fang Bai, now a multimillionaire, wasn't short of money and wasn't interested in selling the Luminous Pearls. He shook his head and said, "Not for sale. If you want one, I'll also give you one later... Remember, the fact that I have Luminous Pearls on me, don't mention it to others. I don't want to attract trouble."

"No way! Absolutely not! If the word gets out from me, I don't need you to come and trouble me, I'll slap my own mouth to shreds!"

Lu Jianfeng declared while patting his chest.

Even though Lu Jianfeng wasn't short on money, spending twenty million for one of Fang Bai's Luminous Pearls would still hurt, so naturally, he was thrilled when he heard Fang Bai was going to give him one for free.

The auditorium was filled with noise, and their conversation was kept so quiet that even the guests sitting at the same table could hardly hear what they were saying, not to mention worrying about others overhearing.

However, as the two discussed the Luminous Pearls, a woman in her thirties sitting not far away at another table twitched her ears. Then she glanced in the direction of Fang Bai and the others and a sharp gleam passed through her eyes.

Chapter 210: The Little Girl Likes You

The woman wore ear-length short hair, with delicate features, dressed in black leather jacket and pants, which accentuated her slender and charming figure. In her valiant and unrestrained appearance, there was an unusual sense of sexy charm.

At the scene, aside from Lin Ruoxue, Dongfang Rushi, Dongfang Ruhua, Su Linglong, Tang Wenrou, and Qin Yaorao, these exceptional women, the middle-aged woman in black stood out in terms of both figure and looks.

During the birthday banquet, led by Dongfang Leiming, the core members of the Dongfang Family came to Fang Bai specifically to toast him one by one, expressing their gratitude for his lifesaving aid to Dongfang Leiming previously.

With Dongfang Leiming standing by, the members of the Dongfang Family, whether sincerely or pretentiously, respectfully offered a toast to Fang Bai, including Dongfang Xing and Dongfang Chen, who had had conflicts with Fang Bai in the past.

Dongfang Rushi didn't drink, so she toasted Fang Bai with tea instead.

And Dongfang Ruhua, despite being only fifteen years old, possessed a simple, naive demeanor mixed with a bit of bold and easygoing air. She actually toasted Fang Bai with strong liquor, three times in a row.

For the first toast, Dongfang Ruhua thanked Fang Bai for saving her grandfather.

For the second toast, Dongfang Ruhua thanked Fang Bai for attending her birthday party.

For the third toast, Dongfang Ruhua thanked Fang Bai for giving her such a gift as the Luminous Pearl.

Fang Bai didn't refuse and drank to the last drop, drinking freely and heartily.

After a round of toasts from the members of the Dongfang Family, three bottles of liquor were nearly finished. Everyone saw that Fang Bai had drunk more than a jin and a half of liquor without showing any signs of intoxication, which they found quite astonishing.

Little did they know, Fang Bai practiced a special cultivation technique; his body was different from ordinary people. Not to mention a jin and a half of liquor, even ten or a hundred times more wouldn't make him the slightest bit drunk.

Around ten o'clock in the evening, the birthday banquet ended, and the guests started to leave one after another. Dongfang Leiming signaled the younger members of the family to replace him in seeing off the guests.

However, when Fang Bai, Su Linglong, and Lu Jianfeng were leaving together, Dongfang Leiming personally escorted them to the villa's main gate, held onto Fang Bai's hand, and urged him to visit their home often.

Dongfang Ruhua seemed reluctant to see Fang Bai leave, standing outside the gate until Fang Bai and Su Linglong had walked quite a distance. She still stood there, clutching the Luminous Pearl Fang Bai had given her in her left hand, while her right arm was raised high, waving vigorously at Fang Bai.

At a crossroads far from the Dongfang residence, Fang Bai gave a Luminous Pearl to Lu Jianfeng. Lu Jianfeng, overjoyed upon receiving the Luminous Pearl, happily got into the bodyguard's business car and left.

Of course, Fang Bai also gave a Luminous Pearl to Su Linglong, who delightedly accepted it and carefully placed it in her purse.

After parting with Lu Jianfeng, Fang Bai and Su Linglong walked slowly side by side along the embankment of a small river in Yanjing City,

Willows beside them, a crescent moon above, and occasional pleasant night breezes whisking past, this atmosphere was intoxicating.

"Fang Bai, have you noticed that the young miss Ruhua from the Dongfang family has taken a liking to you?"

Su Linglong brushed a strand of hair, tousled by the wind, behind her ear, turned her head towards Fang Bai, and asked with a smile.

Fang Bai was taken aback for a moment, then laughed and said, "If you gave her a Mingzhu, she'd like you too."

Su Linglong said, "I can tell it's not the Luminous Pearl she likes, but you."

"Oh? How do you know that?"

"It's quite obvious! She almost said the words 'I like you' right there! Only a fool wouldn't see it."

Fang Bai sighed, "I'm just realizing now that I'm actually a fool!"

Su Linglong gave him a look and said indignantly, "I don't believe you couldn't see it... you must be pretending not to know, right?"

After a pause, she added, "It's no wonder, really. You've saved her and her grandfather's lives; she must see you as a superhero. Plus, the Luminous Pearl you gave her tonight, if she weren't moved by that, it would be strange. If it were me, I'd fall for you too..."

Fang Bai grinned and said, "I have also saved your life and given you a Luminous Pearl, so by your logic, do you like me?"

Su Linglong immediately blushed deeply. She was indeed very fond of Fang Bai, but as a girl, she naturally felt too embarrassed to say such things directly.

Su Linglong knew that Fang Bai must be able to see that she liked him. His question was probably just a way of teasing her.

"Fang Bai, you... you're so annoying!"

Seeing Fang Bai's mischievous smile, Su Linglong, flushed with shyness, stamped her foot and bit her lip. She clenched her little fist and gently thumped it against his arm.

Her coquettish behavior made something stir in Fang Bai's heart, reviving memories of the warm, sweet moments he spent frolicking with his close female friends back in the Immortal Realm.

However, after he had "fallen" in the Immortal Realm, ambushed by the eight Immortal Emperors, those once intimate friends of his were sure to face a grim fate.

Even if one day he could return to the Immortal Realm, how many of those close female friends from the past could still remain?

At this thought, a killing Qi enveloped Fang Bai. His fists clenched tightly, and his eyes shot out a startling, blade-like glint.

"Fang Bai, what... what's wrong with you?"

Seeing Fang Bai's god-of-war-like expression and feeling the fierce killing Qi emanating from him, Su Linglong paled with fear, her complexion turning ashen as she took several steps back.

"Linglong, I'm sorry..."

Fang Bai came back to his senses and, seeing Su Linglong's terrified face, apologetically said, "I suddenly thought of some things and couldn't control my emotions..."

Su Linglong breathed a sigh of relief, her complexion returning to normal. She patted her chest and said, "You were so scary just now, like you were about to kill someone. I almost cried... You must have been thinking of something truly terrible, right?"

"Yes," Fang Bai sighed, his thoughts returning to those close female friends in the Immortal Realm who might have already perished by now, and his mood turned exceptionally somber.

Seeing his darkened mood, Su Linglong mustered the courage to reach out her hand to interlock her fingers with his, holding on tightly as if to offer him comfort and encouragement.

Fang Bai turned and smiled at Su Linglong without a word.

The two walked ahead side by side, hand in hand in silence, along the willow-lined bank.

Listening to the rustling sounds of the willows and the flowing river by his side, Fang Bai's mood gradually calmed down.

When they arrived at the gate of Su Linglong's villa, the two instinctively stopped in unison.

"Do you want to come in and sit for a while?"

Su Linglong asked.

"No, I'm renting someone else's place, and it wouldn't be good to go back too late."

"Oh."

Su Linglong nodded, suddenly turned sideways, stood on tiptoe, tilted her head back, and quickly pressed her lips to Fang Bai's.

Fang Bai did not expect Su Linglong to be so bold and assertive. Caught slightly off-guard, their lips parted as soon as Su Linglong's touched his, and then she dashed to the villa's door like a startled fawn, ringing the doorbell.