

Doctor 301

Chapter 301: Jiang Xiaoyu

In Shen Huanian's eyes, both Xia Chenyu and Tang Wenrou were women of great individuality, and they would definitely not accept the fact that Fang Bai was playing the field, stepping on two, or even three boats at once. After receiving the photos he sent, they would certainly dump Fang Bai mercilessly.

By that time, if the Shen Family stepped in to broker the match, Xia Chenyu could still possibly end up with Hua Yi from the Hua Family. As long as the Shen Family formed an alliance through marriage with the Hua Family, with the help of Hua Family's resources and power, the Shen Family's business was bound to reach new heights.

Besides, Xia Chenyu was no longer what she used to be—Beauty Company had made a stunning comeback and was on the rise. If he could persuade Xia Chenyu to return to the Shen Family, it would be like bringing a money-printing machine back to the family.

As for Tang Wenrou, if Fang Bai hadn't meddled, he just had to keep up the romance offensive, and he didn't believe she wouldn't submit to him. As long as he could win over this belle of the police force, the Tang Family would also become a significant backing for the Shen Family.

With the Hua Family and Tang Family as supports, along with the rapidly growing Beauty Company, it would be impossible for the Shen Family not to soar to great heights. And he, having made significant contributions to the rise and prosperity of the Shen Family, could anticipate that the position of the next Family Head would undoubtedly be his for the taking.

Thinking so, Shen Huanian felt a thrill of excitement that made his entire body tremble slightly, and he was a bit giddy.

He moved closer to Fang Bai and Ye Wumei, took several photos from different angles with his phone, and then hid in a corner of the hall. With a trace of a sinister smile on his lips, he found the phone numbers of Xia Chenyu and Tang Wenrou and sent the photos to them.

The act of Shen Huanian secretly taking photos with his phone went unnoticed by the several hundred guests in the hall, except for Fang Bai, who was observant and alert.

Seeing Shen Huanian sneaking around, Fang Bai frowned and was about to approach him and use the "Soul Capture Technique" on him to find out what he was planning with the photos he took of himself and Ye Wumei, but then he saw a boldly dressed young woman charge over in a fury.

"Wumei, you dead girl, why are you so late? You had me worried to death! It won't do, the charity auction is about to start, and you need to bring out something good to auction off, or else you'll have to punish yourself with three drinks!"

The young woman rushed over to Ye Wumei, hugged her tight, puckered up, and planted a big kiss on her cheek before then shouting out loud.

The young woman was probably around twenty-four or twenty-five years old. Although her figure and appearance were slightly inferior to Ye Wumei, with almond-shaped eyes and cherry lips, and fair skin, she was also a rare beauty.

"Oh my, Wumei, why have you brought a pretty boy here? Come clean, who is this pretty boy? Is he your secret lover? Tsk tsk, I couldn't tell, but the pretty boy actually has some muscles... No, wait a minute, Wumei, haven't you always been chaste, saying you wouldn't have a boyfriend before you're thirty?"

The young woman's almond eyes were wide open as she scrutinized Fang Bai unabashedly, occasionally stretching her hand out to pinch and poke Fang Bai, which left him not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

"Jiang Xiaoyu, keep your paws to yourself, go die off to the side! Fang Bai is a good friend of mine, don't scare him off!"

Ye Wumei stepped forward and pushed the young woman, who was called Jiang Xiaoyu, away, shielding Fang Bai in front of her, and said annoyed.

"So his name is Fang Bai. He really must be your secret lover since you're so protective over a few touches! But rest assured, I, Jiang Xiaoyu, am not interested in men. I won't steal your love! However, Wumei, your taste is not that great, huh? This guy isn't some rich man, is he? In looks, he can't compare to Shen Huanian or Xie Yifeng... How did you two get to know each other?"

Jiang Xiaoyu glanced back and forth between Ye Wumei and Fang Bai, the gossip burning fiercely in her eyes.

"Let me tell you, Fang Bai is definitely not short of money! Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng look good? They pale in comparison to Fang Bai! As for how we hooked... how we met, it's none of your business!"

Ye Wumei immediately retorted.

"Love is blind! To you, your secret lover is of course handsome! I think Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng are a bit better looking... But those two are too effeminate, they're a couple of mama's boys!"

"Now that, I agree with!"

"Wumei, have you and Fang Bai done that thing? You know..."

"Dead Fish, are you asking for a beating?"

"How good is his kung fu? Can he last long enough for you?"

"You... say that again and see if I don't tear your mouth apart!"

"How many times do you two do it in a day? How long does one round usually last?"

"Pah! You lecherous rogue, you can't expect pearls to fall from a dog's mouth!"

"I'm just concerned about you!"

"Pffft, you're not even interested in men, so why ask these questions? Speaking of which, where's your Annie? Shouldn't she be by your side at this time?"

"Don't mention her, we broke up last month..."

"Oh, sorry..."

...

From the conversation between Ye Wumei and Jiang Xiaoyu, Fang Bai learned that Jiang Xiaoyu, Ye Wumei's so-called bestie, was the organizer of the charity auction event.

Jiang Xiaoyu was from the Jiang Family of Yanjing, a wealthy and powerful household whose influence was on par with Wang Dong's Wang Family, and not to be underestimated.

Jiang Xiaoyu had a generous nature, a wide social circle, and was popular among the children of government officials and the rich in Huaxia. Her passion for philanthropy earned her widespread praise.

This time, Jiang Xiaoyu sent out invitations to gather friends from her circle for the charity auction, intending to donate all proceeds to impoverished children in the mountains, garnering support and involvement from many friends who promised to bring out their treasured belongings for the auction.

From the expression and dialogue when Ye Wumei and Jiang Xiaoyu met, Fang Bai knew their relationship was solid, a true friendship where they could really trust each other.

But what worried Fang Bai was that Jiang Xiaoyu, such a stunning beauty, was actually a lesbian. If Ye Wumei spent too much time with her, could she be "converted" and become one of them?

"Hey, Pretty Boy... fine, I'll call you Fang Bai so Wumei won't glare at me! There's a rule at our charity auction, anyone who comes must bring an item to auction, and then donate all the auction proceeds... Have you prepared your item?"

Jiang Xiaoyu extended her delicate fingers, tracing them lightly across Fang Bai's chest, her voice dripping with allure.

With a hot figure and stunning beauty, Jiang Xiaoyu still had a fatal attraction to men. But the thought that she was a woman who only liked other women and had no interest in men made Fang Bai feel a bit creeped out as she flirted with him.

"Go on, stop touching me!"

With a smack, Ye Wumei brushed away Jiang Xiaoyu's "salty pig hand," saying with annoyance, "How could we not show face for a charity event organized by Miss Jiang? Don't worry, we've already prepared our item for the auction."

Chapter 302: Mind your own business!

"The item Fang Bai is auctioning off, it wasn't prepared by you, was it, Wumei? I have no respect for a pretty boy living off a woman!"

Jiang Xiaoyu had initially been very enthusiastic about Fang Bai, but when she said this, her expression grew noticeably colder, clearly misunderstanding that Fang Bai was the type of man to be financially supported by a woman.

It wasn't surprising that Jiang Xiaoyu had the misunderstanding. Fang Bai dressed plainly and was just an intern practicing traditional Chinese medicine. His background was not as prominent as Shen Huanian's or Xie Yifeng's. It was hard to believe that a man like him could support Ye Wumei which led to the suspicion that he might be living off her.

Jiang Xiaoyu was not the type of woman who despised the poor and adored the rich; to her, everyone was equal, regardless of their wealth or status. To her, the fact that Fang Bai was a traditional Chinese medicine intern without a prominent background didn't matter; she believed that people could change their fate through hard work.

But if Fang Bai lacked ambition and contented himself with living off of Ye Wumei, that was something Jiang Xiaoyu couldn't respect.

Ye Wumei was one of Jiang Xiaoyu's closest friends, and Jiang Xiaoyu genuinely hoped that she would find true love. In her opinion, a man who lived off a woman lacked ambition and would never bring Wumei happiness.

"Miss Jiang, do I look like someone who lives off a woman?"

Seeing Jiang Xiaoyu's unfriendly gaze, Fang Bai felt both amused and annoyed as he pointed to his nose and asked.

"I hope not, or I'll definitely break you two up! I don't want Wumei to one day regret it!"

Jiang Xiaoyu was a straightforward woman who never hid her true thoughts.

Ye Wumei chuckled and pushed Jiang Xiaoyu gently, "Enough, Miss Jiang, you go and tend to your guests! I know what I'm doing with my affairs, you don't need to worry!"

"You... you're like biting the hand that feeds you, not recognizing a good heart! If you come crying to me with regret someday, don't expect me to listen!"

Seeing more guests arriving who needed the host's welcome, Jiang Xiaoyu glanced at Ye Wumei irritably and muttered as she finally walked away.

.....

Meanwhile, in the offices of Beauty Company's headquarters in Zhongzhou City, Xia Chenyu was busy dealing with company matters, and in the Yanjing Police Station, discussing a case with colleagues, Tang Wenrou also received several photos sent by Shen Huanian.

In those photos, Fang Bai was wearing a simple black casual outfit, smiling, standing in a luxuriously decorated hall.

Ye Wumei had her hands on his arm, leaning on him like a little bird, her face radiating happiness and sweetness.

Around them stood many elegantly dressed men and women engaging in polite conversation, indicating that the hall was filled with wealthy and prominent figures.

Xia Chenyu had just been dining and shopping with Fang Bai and Ye Wumei recently and knew a bit about their schedule. Seeing these photos, she realized Fang Bai was accompanying Ye Wumei to a charity auction in Yanjing.

Xia Chenyu, sharp as ever, understood Shen Huanian's purpose in sending these photos after giving it some thought.

"Using these photos to sabotage my relationship with Fang Bai is such a despicable tactic! Shen Huanian, oh Shen Huanian, instead of harming us, your actions have only made me disrespect you even more," she mused.

Xia Chenyu casually deleted the photos and tossed her phone aside, paying them no further attention.

In the Yanjing Police Station, Tang Wenrou, who had received the photos at almost the same time as Xia Chenyu, was not as composed.

After looking at the intimate photos of Fang Bai and Ye Wumei standing side by side, her expression darkened, and making the excuse that she wasn't feeling well, she sent away her colleagues and then sat alone in her office in a daze.

Tang Wenrou was unaware of what had happened between Fang Bai and Ye Wumei, but seeing those photos, she could tell that their relationship was not ordinary, certainly not just friends.

However, where did Shen Huanian get these photos from? And what did he mean by sending them to me?

Tang Wenrou, who had graduated from the police academy and worked at the police station for a few years, was very cautious and thoughtful. She furrowed her brows, pondered for a moment, and then understood what Shen Huanian's intention was.

She stood up, poured some tea, and slowly drank it to calm her somewhat sad mood. Then she took out her cell phone and called Shen Huanian.

"Shen Huanian, what's the deal with those photos?"

There was a hint of disgust in Tang Wenrou's voice. If it weren't for the matter involving Fang Bai, she wouldn't have bothered calling Shen Huanian at all.

Shen Huanian had expected the call from Tang Wenrou, and he chuckled: "Wen Rou, long time no see. How are you doing? Is work going well?"

"Cut the crap, talk about the matter at hand!"

Tang Wenrou's voice carried a chill. Speaking even one more word to someone like Shen Huanian felt like a waste of time to her.

"Bitch, don't be smug! Sooner or later, I will have you beneath me, singing 'Conquest' for me," Shen Huanian thought bitterly to himself, but out loud he said: "I'm attending a charity auction here in Yanjing, and I happened to see this scene, so I took the photos and sent them to you. I felt it was necessary to let you see the true face of Fang Bai, to prevent you from being further deceived by him..."

"Shen Huanian, don't you get tired of this nonsense? I'm warning you, stay out of my business in the future! Goodbye!"

Having said this, Tang Wenrou immediately hung up the phone.

"Slut!"

Shen Huanian had wanted to use this opportunity to chat more with Tang Wenrou and possibly get closer to her. He didn't expect her to hang up after leaving a warning, which infuriated him so much he nearly threw his phone.

"Young Master Shen, long time no see! Oh, you don't look too well. What happened?"

Just then, Xie Yifeng came over with his date, Luo Xiaoli, and greeted him.

Although the Xie Family wasn't as prominent as the Lu Family, it was still a wealthy and powerful clan in Yanjing, and also an important business partner of the Shen Family in the automotive industry. Since Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng were on good terms, Shen Huanian didn't react coldly to Xie Yifeng's friendly approach.

"It's nothing... Young Master Xie, this is..."

Shen Huanian adjusted his mood quickly, forcing a smile on his face as he turned his gaze to Luo Xiaoli.

"Xiao Li, this is Shen Huanian from the Anxi Shen Family. Just call him Young Master Shen. Young Master Shen, this is Luo Xiaoli, my girlfriend," Xie Yifeng introduced them to each other.

The Anxi Shen Family, a clan that rivalled the Xie Family's wealth and status, and as Shen Huanian, clad in white, had an even more refined demeanor than Xie Yifeng. Upon hearing Xie Yifeng's introduction, Luo Xiaoli's eyes brightened, and she couldn't help but sneak a coquettish glance at Shen Huanian.

Luo Xiaoli was naturally born with seductive, peach-blossom eyes that made her look especially enticing when she looked at someone, with watery sparkle in her gaze. Her flirtatious look made Shen Huanian's body heat up, and he contemplated whether he should put a gleaming green hat on Xie Yifeng if he got the chance in the future.

Chapter 303: Instigating

"Does Young Master Shen know that guy?"

Seeing Shen Huanian's gaze intermittently drifting towards Fang Bai, who was standing next to Ye Wumei, and his expression constantly changing, Xie Yifeng had a thought and asked in a low voice.

"Yes, I know him! That kid has no background to speak of, yet he's arrogantly overbearing! I've had unpleasant run-ins with him before!"

Fang Bai had messed around with Shen Huanian's half-sister from another mother, and his relationship with Tang Wenrou, whom Shen Huanian fancied, was ambiguously close. Now, he was even seen getting cozy with the "National Sweetheart" Ye Wumei, much to Shen Huanian's jealousy and hatred. Talking about Fang Bai made him grind his teeth in anger.

"He's just an intern at the Chinese medicine department of Yanjing Hospital, daring to be arrogant in front of Young Master Shen? He truly doesn't know whether he's alive or dead!"

Xie Yifeng said with a look of disdain.

In his opinion, Fang Bai was, after all, just a friend of Ye Wumei. If Shen Huanian made up his mind to give Fang Bai trouble, it was not certain that Ye Wumei would offend Shen Huanian just for Fang Bai's sake.

"Yanjing Hospital? An intern?"

Shen Huanian frowned. He had previously investigated Fang Bai and knew that although Fang Bai's family came from an ordinary background in traditional Chinese medicine, he was actually an expert in Ancient Martial arts. Moreover, he had a good relationship with Su Yifei of the Zhongzhou Su Family, and even Hua Chun, the owner of Rejuvenation Hall and Hua Yi's grandfather, thought highly of him.

Because he wasn't sure what other support Fang Bai might have, Shen Huanian had temporarily shelved plans to teach him a lesson. Consequently, he had not continued the investigation into Fang Bai, so he was unaware of his internship at Yanjing Hospital.

"Just an intern, and from the Chinese medicine department at that, should be without much backing, right? But that kid is truly audacious. Just now in the parking lot, when I saw Miss Ye, I intended to say a few good words for that kid in front of a deputy dean of Yanjing Hospital, out of respect for Miss Ye's face. Yet he actually refused my kindness!"

Xie Yifeng turned his head and looked from a distance at Fang Bai, who stood shoulder to shoulder with Ye Wumei, looking incomparably intimate, and felt similar envy, jealousy, and hatred as Shen Huanian did towards Fang Bai.

"It's strange to say, that kid looks utterly ordinary and doesn't seem to have anything special about him. Why does Miss Ye treat him so well? Look at him standing next to Miss Ye, he's like a toad—no matter how you look at it, it's awkward! If you ask me, only someone as handsome and dashing, young and affluent as Young Master Shen is a fitting match for Miss Ye!"

Xie Yifeng looked disdainfully at Fang Bai and flattered Shen Huanian with his words, yet in his heart, he wished it was he who was standing next to Ye Wumei.

"Mr. Xie is joking. Miss Ye is not my type! I actually think Mr. Xie and Miss Ye make a good match!"

Shen Huanian smiled and said insincerely.

Ye Wumei was a stunning woman with captivating charm. For Shen Huanian, who enjoyed chasing after beautiful women, he naturally desired to experience her beauty, but it was well-known that he was pursuing Tang Wenrou from the Tang Family. Pursuing Ye Wumei at the same time could backfire if the Tang Family heard about it.

So, although Shen Huanian lusted for Ye Wumei's appearance and body, he did not plan on actually pursuing her.

While both men were flattering each other, they kept glancing over at Ye Wumei, completely ignoring Luo Xiaoli who stood beside them as if she were invisible.

Although Luo Xiaoli felt dissatisfied inside, she dared not show it. She knew very well that she was just a plaything for Xie Yifeng, with no real feelings involved, and she could be cast aside at any moment when he grew tired of her.

Xie Yifeng didn't dare to set his sights on Ye Wumei, but after a few words from Shen Huanian, he felt increasingly good about himself. He thought, if even Fang Bai, a nobody, could win Ye Wumei's favor, wouldn't it be easier for him, who was a hundred times better than Fang Bai, to capture her heart?

Seeing Xie Yifeng's high spirits and brightening eyes, Shen Huanian silently sneered to himself.

His main reason for inciting Xie Yifeng to pursue Ye Wumei was to use him to probe Fang Bai's strength.

Because Fang Bai was close to Ye Wumei, Xie Yifeng's pursuit of her would undoubtedly displease Fang Bai. If a conflict arose between the two, the outcome would reveal Fang Bai's capability.

If the conflict confirmed that Fang Bai did not have any significant backing, then Shen Huanian would not hesitate to teach Fang Bai a harsh lesson and keep him away from Xia Chenyu and Tang Wenrou.

If Xie Yifeng suffered a significant loss at Fang Bai's hands, Shen Huanian would stay put and continue observing.

While Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng were engaged in conversation with Ye Wumei, Fang Bai temporarily excused himself from her to receive a call from Tang Wenrou in a quiet corner with fewer people.

"Officer Tang, is there another fugitive to be captured?"

After connecting with Tang Wenrou, Fang Bai asked with a smile.

The two had initially met while capturing two wanted criminals, and Fang Bai even received a reward of two hundred thousand for this. He later joked with Tang Wenrou that she must inform him if there were any bounties on criminals.

"Can't I call you for something other than catching fugitives?"

Tang Wenrou let out a playful scold, and as soon as the words were spoken, her cheeks turned red and heated up. She then relaxed, realizing Fang Bai couldn't see her anyway.

"Of course! What is it, Officer Tang? I'm all ears!"

Listening to Tang Wenrou's cool, clear voice and thinking of her pure and refined face along with her uniquely valiant temperament, Fang Bai felt a slight stir in his heart.

"Are you with Ye Wumei right now?"

Tang Wenrou's face turned serious as she asked in a low voice.

Fang Bai was taken aback and looked around, wondering, "Yes, how did you know? I didn't see you at the event!"

A wisp of Divine Sense had already emerged in his Sea of Consciousness, and with Divine Sense Diffusion, he would have sensed Tang Wenrou if she were at the Triumph Grand Hotel.

Tang Wenrou said, "I'm in the office at the police station! Just now, Shen Huanian sent me a few photos of you and Ye Wumei together..."

She didn't finish her sentence, but Fang Bai already understood what Shen Huanian was up to with his secret photography. He looked towards Shen Huanian in the distance with a mocking expression in his eyes.

"I heard you and Ye Wumei are attending a charity auction?"

Although Tang Wenrou repeatedly told herself not to care about these issues, she couldn't help but ask.

"Yes, Star Ye wanted me to accompany her to this charity auction, and since I was free, I came along," Fang Bai replied cheerfully.

"Oh."

Tang Wenrou's expression dimmed, and her mood suddenly turned somber.

"Fang Bai, you said you would teach me Ancient Martial arts after examining my bones last time... When will you be free? I suddenly feel like learning!"

Tang Wenrou suddenly inquired.

When she brought it up, Fang Bai remembered that he had agreed to teach her Ancient Martial arts after confirming her as possessing the Innate Earth Spirit Root during a bone reading session. With all the busyness, he had forgotten about this, and probably Tang Wenrou, having been busy with work, hadn't been in touch with him about it either.

Chapter 304: The King of Living Off a Woman

"Officer Tang, you can set a time at your convenience, and no matter how busy I am, I'll come to teach you!"

Fang Bai said with a smile.

"Okay, you said it. When I'm free, I'll call you!"

With Fang Bai's words, Tang Wenrou knew he still cared about her. Her mood immediately improved, and her lips curved slightly, evoking a charming smile.

"A friend has just arrived... Officer Tang, we'll chat more when you're free!"

Suddenly sensing a familiar presence, Fang Bai looked up and indeed saw someone he recognized approaching. After bidding "goodbye" to Tang Wenrou, he hung up the phone and revealed a faint smile, turning toward the woman walking towards him.

Under the lights, Dongfang Rushi appeared to step right out of a painting, her movements light and ethereal, stunningly beautiful.

Her attire was simple, her face free of makeup—though reserved, her presence was overwhelming.

Tonight, Dongfang Rushi was undoubtedly one of the most dazzling female guests among the hundreds in the hall.

The first prodigious woman in the history of the Dongfang Family, the next helmswoman of the Dongfang Family, recognized as "The First Beauty of Yanjing," the pampered young woman of the Huaxia Business Community...

With multiple auras about her, Dongfang Rushi was the center of attention wherever she went, drawing countless admiring gazes.

This year, Dongfang Rushi turned twenty and was said to be still without a boyfriend. Countless heirs of prominent clans had wracked their brains, trying desperately to win her affection.

But unfortunately, Dongfang Rushi had high standards, and to this day, no man had captured her favor.

Some men called Dongfang Rushi haughty, others said she was arrogantly aloof, but many more held the mentality that "the unattainable is the most desirable," persistently launching frenzied romantic pursuits at her.

As Dongfang Rushi gracefully made her way towards Fang Bai in the corner of the hall, many people's gazes followed her, eventually falling on Fang Bai.

To have Dongfang Rushi move herself to greet him... just who was this young man?

In that moment, the crowd wore expressions of surprise, speculating about Fang Bai's identity in hushed tones.

At the same time, Lu Jianfeng, Hua Yi, Wang Dong, and others who were conversing with friends also noticed Fang Bai.

Lu Jianfeng had always had a good relationship with Fang Bai. Hua Yi, since reconciling with Fang Bai, had become an acquaintance. Seeing Dongfang Rushi, who never favored any man, approaching Fang Bai seemingly to greet him, they began to ponder over their relationship.

Jiang Xiaoyu, the initiator of this charity auction, hadn't expected Fang Bai to be not only the "Little Lover" of "National Sweetheart" Ye Wumei but also to be acquainted with Dongfang Rushi, the pampered princess of the Dongfang Family. She couldn't help but show a spark of interest and also believed that Fang Bai was no mere gigolo.

Because Jiang Xiaoyu understood Dongfang Rushi well. If Fang Bai was the kind to live off a woman, Dongfang Rushi, given her character, would definitely not have acknowledged him.

As for Xie Yifeng and Shen Huanian, one had just had an unpleasant encounter with Fang Bai, and the other was Fang Bai's "rival in love." And both happened to have a certain longing for Dongfang Ruhua. Seeing Dongfang Ruhua walking towards Fang Bai, they couldn't help but look somewhat displeased.

As for Wang Dong, his gaze towards Fang Bai was already filled with killing Qi.

A few days ago, Wang Dong had received news from his family, informing him that he was to meet Ye Wumei tomorrow at noon, accompanied by elders from both sides. If he and Ye Wumei took a liking to each other after spending some time together, Ye Wumei might marry into the Wang Family and become his woman.

When Ye Wumei had entered the hall earlier, arm in arm with Fang Bai, Wang Dong saw it and immediately felt as if someone had stolen something that belonged to him. His eyes were ablaze with fiery rage and disbelief.

However, since Wang Dong had suffered a considerable loss at Fang Bai's hands during Dongfang Ruhua's birthday banquet, and since Ye Wumei had no actual ties to him at the moment, he had no choice but to forcefully suppress his anger and pretend as if nothing was amiss.

"Doctor Fang, I'm very pleased to see you again."

Under the watchful eyes of everyone, Dongfang Rushi walked up to Fang Bai, her lips curving into a faint smile. She greeted him, her demeanor carrying a hint of respect.

Seeing the smile that graced Dongfang Rushi's lips, those who knew her well were wide-eyed with disbelief.

Dongfang Rushi had once been summoned by the Prime Minister. It was said that during her audience with the Prime Minister, she maintained a respectful attitude without showing a hint of smile.

Yet, there she was, taking the initiative to greet and smile for that delicate-looking, excessively young man. Could his status be even greater than that of the current Prime Minister?

Most of the guests in the hall were unfamiliar with Fang Bai, and upon seeing this scene, they began to whisper amongst themselves, inquiring about Fang Bai's identity and background. Some, who were quick-witted, even prepared to approach and make acquaintances with Fang Bai.

However, it didn't take long for the message about the man's identity and background to reach nearly all the guests present.

To the majority's surprise, the man named Fang Bai had no remarkable background to speak of. He was just an intern at Yanjing Medical College, specifically in the Traditional Chinese Medicine department, practicing acupuncture and massage.

While most guests were skeptical about the truth of this information, those who had been ready to network with Fang Bai decided to put their plans on hold and observe the situation a bit longer.

The news had spread from Xie Yifeng's lips, his purpose clearly to let the guests understand that Fang Bai was actually without significant background. He wanted them to infer that Fang Bai was merely a pretty boy living off of others, attempting to diminish Fang Bai's standing and provoke disdain and ridicule from other guests.

However, Xie Yifeng had clearly miscalculated. Although some guests looked at Fang Bai with contempt, many more felt a deep admiration for him.

What did it matter if he was living off others? He could get close to Ye Wumei, and it seemed he might even be involved with Dongfang Rushi. Being able to live off others to the extent that Fang Bai did was truly worthy of the title "King of Kept Men."

"Rushi, I'm also very happy to see you!"

As Dongfang Rushi approached him with light steps, Fang Bai smiled and asked, "Why, didn't Ruhua come with you?"

In Fang Bai's memory, Dongfang Rushi's and Dongfang Ruhua's personalities were complete opposites—one was calm and undisturbed, while the other loved excitement and was lively. Normally, in such bustling occasions, Dongfang Ruhua wouldn't be absent.

"Ruhua has recently been cooped up in her room, aside from her studies. She claims to be cultivating the Cultivation Technique that you, Doctor Fang, imparted to her. She says that if she practices that technique, she could become a powerful Martial Artist like Doctor Fang..."

Dongfang Rushi, who seemed quite stingy with her smiles, had only shown that hint of a smile when she first saw Fang Bai, and then she returned to her usual expression, speaking in a nonchalant tone.

"Doctor Fang, you are a Master from beyond this world; imparting the Cultivation Method to Ruhua is an opportunity of great fortune for her. But that girl is so absorbed in her learning that she doesn't even keep to regular meal times; the family is a bit worried... Doctor Fang, there won't be any problems, right?"

Chapter 305: Welcome

Fang Bai learned that Dongfang Ruhua possessed the extremely rare Innate Thunder Spirit Root, he then imparted to her the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra". Initially worried that her young age might lead her to be playful and lazy, he was surprised to see her cultivate the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra" to an obsessive extent, filling his heart with considerable gratification.

"It's fine! No problem at all!"

Fang Bai said with a smile, shaking his hand dismissively, "The Cultivation Technique I taught Ruhua is quite special. Once she enters her Cultivation State, it's no issue for her to go without food or water for a whole day and night! Just wait, it won't be long before the Dongfang Family will have an extraordinary Ancient Martial master among them!"

Dongfang Rushi heaved a silent sigh of relief upon hearing this and nodded, "That's good to hear. It's too bad Ruhua doesn't know Doctor Fang would be attending this charity auction. Otherwise, she would have come with me no matter what."

"If I have the time, I will visit the Dongfang Family to see how Ruhua's Cultivation is progressing."

Although Fang Bai and Dongfang Ruhua did not have a formal master-disciple relationship, he had conferred knowledge upon her, and it was only natural for him to visit her under such a pretext.

Dongfang Rushi said respectfully, "The Dongfang Family warmly welcomes Doctor Fang at any time!"

While the two were conversing, Ye Wumei, who was chatting with a friend, secretly glanced over at them, a hint of surprise in her beautiful eyes — evidently, she too didn't expect Fang Bai to be acquainted with Dongfang Rushi.

Just as Ye Wumei held unparalleled influence in the Huaxia music scene with countless fans, Dongfang Rushi was universally known and revered in the Huaxia Business Community, an idol to many young entrepreneurs.

As a woman, Ye Wumei admitted that she was not inferior to Dongfang Rushi in appearance or figure, and their family backgrounds were comparable. Though her wealth couldn't match that of Dongfang Rushi's, it was more than she could spend in a lifetime.

What Ye Wumei felt she lacked compared to Dongfang Rushi was the latter's innate ability to strategize, her composure in the face of collapse, a demeanor that remained unflinching even before a crumbling Mount Tai. This temperament set her apart from many other distinguished daughters in Huaxia, making her appear transcendental and unique.

In Ye Wumei's eyes, Fang Bai was a master of Ancient Martial arts, his medical skills were miraculous, and he was young, handsome, and wealthy — qualities that proved exceptionally lethal to women.

Thus, even knowing Fang Bai had more than one woman by his side didn't surprise Ye Wumei in the slightest. But as of today, she was only aware of two women who maintained a close relationship with Fang Bai: Xia Chenyu, the president of Beauty Company, and Baili Mingyue, who lived in the quadrangle dwelling Fang Bai rented in Yanjing.

Ye Wumei knew Baili Mingyue even before she met Xia Chenyu.

Baili Mingyue was a devoted fan of Ye Wumei, and when Fang Bai took her to Ye Wumei's concert and later chased after Ye Wumei for an autograph, it led to the "Wrathful Beauties" kidnapping incident targeting Ye Wumei. That was also when Fang Bai ventured out to sea to rescue Ye Wumei.

It could be said that Baili Mingyue played a part in the initial meeting between Ye Wumei and Fang Bai.

Later, when Ye Wumei went to Yanjing to find Fang Bai and ask for his help with her Martial Dao queries, she stayed for several days in the room next to his, becoming good friends with Baili Mingyue during that time.

It was then that Ye Wumei noticed the almost indulgent affection Fang Bai had for Baili Mingyue, which couldn't help but make her slightly jealous.

Both Xia Chenyu and Baili Mingyue were exceptional among women.

If a comparison had to be made, Xia Chenyu was naturally alluring and full of charm, every gesture and smile could bring the allure of a woman to the ultimate extreme; although the seventeen-year-old Baili Mingyue was still somewhat youthful, it was precisely this youthfulness that gave her the capital to stand on equal footing with Xia Chenyu.

Moreover, who would dare to say that in a few years, a slightly older Baili Mingyue wouldn't grow into a stunning beauty with a nation-toppling presence?

Ye Wumei didn't know whether Fang Bai had other women by his side, but just Xia Chenyu and Baili Mingyue alone were enough to make the usually confident her feel uncertain of victory.

As for Dongfang Rushi, Ye Wumei had some trouble figuring out her relationship with Fang Bai.

To say that Dongfang Rushi was Fang Bai's woman, there was no lovers' eye contact nor the intimate interactions between lovers when they spoke; instead, there was a kind of heartfelt respect and reverence when she talked to Fang Bai.

If one were to say there was nothing special between Dongfang Rushi and Fang Bai, her attitude toward him was clearly much better than toward other guests, which did not fit her usual style.

Following Dongfang Rushi, Fang Bai had a brief conversation with Lu Jianfeng and Hua Yi, who had come over proactively, before he returned to Ye Wumei's side.

"I didn't expect you knew so many people, and each one of them is a big shot! I was a little worried before coming here that you might not adapt well!"

When Fang Bai returned to her side, Ye Wumei immediately latched onto his arm, her gaze flitting towards Dongfang Rushi as she whispered into Fang Bai's ear, "Dongfang Rushi is recognized as The First Beauty of Yanjing and never shows a pleasant face to men. How did you manage to hook up with her?"

Fang Bai rolled his eyes and said with a mix of laughter and helplessness, "What do you mean 'hook up with her'? I've saved the lives of her grandfather and her sister. Isn't it natural for her to be a bit nice to me?"

He turned his head, and saw Ye Wumei's fresh and rosy lips close at hand, his heart skipped a beat and he felt slightly feverish.

Ye Wumei's eyes lit up with excitement, "Wow! So you're the great benefactor of the Dongfang Family, no wonder Dongfang Rushi is so respectful to you! It's a pity you didn't save Dongfang Rushi herself. Otherwise, if she offered herself in marriage, you wouldn't need to work hard for the rest of your life!"

After pausing for a moment, she added, "Oh right, I heard that Dongfang Rushi's younger sister is also beloved for her beauty. How old is she this year? Fifteen? Sixteen? If she offered herself in marriage, you could consider it, right? She's a bit young, but she could be brought up and trained..."

Fang Bai listened with a headache and hurriedly waved his hand to cut off what she was about to say, saying irritably, "I say Star Ye, aren't you a public figure in the spotlight? Do you not care about your image anymore? Where's your integrity? If these words got out, the virtuous and ladylike image you've built up over the years would completely collapse!"

Ye Wumei giggled and said dismissively, "There are no paparazzi here, nor my fans, so I'm not scared!"

"But some people are scarier than paparazzi! You should still be mindful of your image in public!"

Fang Bai's gaze swept over Shen Huanian, Xie Yifeng, and Wang Dong in the distance, eventually resting on Shen Huanian for a few seconds, with a trace of chill in his eyes.

In Fang Bai's opinion, the trio, especially Shen Huanian, were not exactly good characters; Shen Huanian even dared to secretly take pictures of him and Ye Wumei together and sent them to Tang Wenrou, and if it weren't for Tang Wenrou's call to inform him, he wouldn't have known.

Chapter 306: The Auction Item

Since Shen Huanian could send the photos to Tang Wenrou, this proved he was a person without any bottom line, a complete scumbag. Who could guarantee he wouldn't send the photos to the mass media?

It was predictable that, given Ye Wumei's influence in Huaxia's entertainment industry, the moment a photo of her intimately linked arms with him appeared in public media, it would definitely cause a sensation.

By then, not only would Ye Wumei's image of innocent beauty be greatly discounted, but he, the fellow who had an intimate relationship with the "National Sweetheart," might become the target of public scorn.

Fang Bai's eyes emitted a cold glint as he looked towards Shen Huanian, and secretly released a breath of air, pressing it towards Shen Huanian, ready to give him a warning.

When Shen Huanian met Fang Bai's gaze, he felt a piercing pain in his eyes, and his body seemed to be enveloped by an invisible huge mountain. His legs went soft, and he nearly collapsed onto the ground.

Although Shen Huanian didn't understand what was happening, he guessed it must have something to do with Fang Bai and was scared into a cold sweat, not daring to cast another glance in Fang Bai's direction.

At eight o'clock in the evening, the several hundred guests who were invited had all arrived, and the charity auction officially began.

Ye Wumei and Fang Bai found the table number marked on the invitation and sat down there.

The other several hundred guests also found their respective places and took their seats.

Jiang Xiaoyu, the organizer of this charity auction, stepped onto the stage at the front of the hall and delivered an impromptu speech related to the auction event. Her eyes became slightly red and her voice choked up when speaking emotionally.

Jiang Xiaoyu was devoted to charity work. Five years ago, she initiated the establishment of the "Fish Loving Heart Charity Foundation" and personally served as its president. She had since organized multiple visits to some of Huaxia's remote mountain areas to visit impoverished children and engaged in various donation activities.

The touching stories Jiang Xiaoyu shared in her speech were all things she had witnessed and experienced firsthand. For this charity auction, she planned to raise funds to donate to several poverty-stricken mountain areas she had visited, building schools and associated facilities like libraries, and additionally planned to send clothes, shoes, backpacks, pencil cases, toys, and more to the children there.

Watching Jiang Xiaoyu's genuine emotions on the stage, Fang Bai's impression of her improved even further, and he decided he too would contribute his modest efforts.

The process of the charity auction was straightforward: Guests on the stage each brought out a cherished item, introduced it, then handed it over to the auctioneer on the stage to conduct the auction. The attendees then bid on the items, and the highest bidder would acquire the item. The proceeds from the auction would then be entirely donated to the "Fish Loving Heart Charity Foundation."

Although the spirit of the past charity auctions emphasized participation and not the value of the auctioned items, which of the invited guests wasn't a person of status and renown? How could they bear to offer something too shabby or cheap for the auction?

The enthusiasm of the bidders and the prices they were willing to offer also depended on whom the bidder was; some people, to flatter and curry favor with certain individuals, would deliberately bid high for their items.

For instance last year, one of Jiang Xiaoyu's personal jade pendants, originally worth just tens of thousands, was bought by a friend from the business community who wanted to establish a connection with Jiang Xiaoyu and the power of the Jiang Family, eventually at a price of over ten million.

The charity auction officially started, and like in previous years, Jiang Xiaoyu was the first to make an offering.

The item Jiang Xiaoyu brought out was a pair of bracelets she had worn for many years, with a starting bid of one hundred thousand yuan.

Jiang Xiaoyu had many friends and extensive connections. Although the bracelets she brought out were not particularly rare, under the auctioneer's provocative hosting, a small climax of bidding erupted in the hall.

Fang Bai, who knew Dongfang Rushi, Lu Jianfeng, Hua Yi, Shen Huanian, Xie Yifeng, and Wang Dong, watched as they each made bids and drove the price of the bracelet over one million.

As Jiang Xiaoyu's close friend, Ye Wumei, of course, wouldn't show weakness, and directly raised the bid to two million.

However, the scene was filled with distinguished figures eager to network with the influential Jiang Family. In the end, a business tycoon from Donghai acquired Jiang Xiaoyu's bracelet for the price of ten million.

Ye Wumei didn't get her best friend's item, but she wasn't angry. After all, the purpose of this auction event was charity, not competition. She felt satisfied contributing her part.

After Jiang Xiaoyu, other guests took the stage offering items, with the final bids varying in amount. Yet, no one managed to outshine and surpass the ten-million price tag of Jiang Xiaoyu's bracelet.

It wasn't until Hua Yi from Rejuvenation Hall took the stage that this situation finally changed.

Hua Yi presented a century-old wild ginseng, whose market value was around three million. But with the prestigious reputation of Rejuvenation Hall, it was worth much more.

Everyone present knew that Rejuvenation Hall belonged to the Hua Family, a lineage of famous doctors since ancient times, including one of the four current great National Doctors, Hua Tianhe, who came from Rejuvenation Hall.

Though traditional Chinese medicine today was in decline, Rejuvenation Hall's owners, the Hua Family, excellently carried on their ancestors' medical essence and became a legend in the world of contemporary Chinese medicine.

Over the years, Rejuvenation Hall had cured a countless number of patients, even ailments that western medicine found incurable. Through the treatment and adjustment by the old doctors at Rejuvenation Hall, significant healing effects were obtained.

No one in the world could guarantee a lifetime free of illness, so fostering a good relationship with Rejuvenation Hall was like adding a layer of protection to one's life.

Hua Yi, grandson of the Hua Family Patriarch Hua Chun, possessed a high medical talent and was greatly valued by Hua Chun, who was grooming him to be the future successor of the family.

Thus, befriending Hua Yi was akin to befriending Rejuvenation Hall and the Hua Family behind it.

Therefore, the century-old wild ginseng Hua Yi brought was warmly received by the guests, quickly escalating from a starting bid of one million to tens of millions in no time.

Previously, Fang Bai had discovered a Mysterious Pit near Yanjing, acquiring the Five Elements Origin Qi Cauldron, a Spatial Ring, Cultivation Techniques, Essence Stones, among other things, including more than a hundred Spiritual Medicines aged over a hundred years, a truly bountiful harvest.

Later, Fang Bai rescued Dongfang Ruhua from the Lingnan Poison Venerable. They were caught in a rainstorm and mudslide, incidentally discovering a valley like a hidden paradise, which turned out to be a cultivation cave left by a practitioner of the spiritual arts.

In that valley, Fang Bai felt the rich Heaven and Earth Origin Energy and got his hands on some precious Elixirs and Cultivation Techniques. He saw lands covered in Spiritual Medicine, many of which were centuries old.

To Fang Bai, that hidden paradise-like valley was like a massive treasure trove, ensuring he wouldn't have to worry about Cultivation Resources for a while.

Chapter 307: Hope

However, Fang Bai didn't immediately harvest the spiritual medicine in the valley. Instead, he let it grow, planning to wait until his strength increased and he had the ability to refine elixirs. He would then establish an alchemy room in that valley to focus on concocting elixirs.

Though directly consuming spiritual medicine could enhance one's cultivation level, it wouldn't bring out the maximum efficacy of the medicine; it would be a waste. By refining the spiritual medicine into elixirs, one could fully harness its medicinal effects.

Fang Bai didn't pick the spiritual medicine from the valley, but he always carried with him the hundreds of spiritual medicines he found in the Mysterious Pit inside his spatial ring. Just casually taking out one of them would far surpass the value of the hundred-year wild ginseng that Hua Yi had offered.

Therefore, while the numerous guests in the hall were eagerly bidding for Hua Yi's hundred-year wild ginseng, Fang Bai remained unmoved, leisurely sitting there, eating and drinking by himself, occasionally chatting with Ye Wumei beside him.

After fierce bidding, Shen Huanian, who had good relations with Hua Yi, won the hundred-year wild ginseng with a bid of 15 million yuan.

The Belle Group, a subsidiary of the Shen Family, specializes in the production and sale of various beauty products that are bestsellers in Huaxia. Many of their products use formulas provided by Rejuvenation Hall.

Shen Huanian was willing to spend a huge sum, not because he valued the hundred-year wild ginseng, but his main goal was to further strengthen his friendship with Hua Yi, thereby deepening the close cooperation between the Shen and Hua Families.

Shen Huanian's generous donation of 15 million yuan to charity received a round of warm applause from the guests, allowing him his moment of glory,

And since the item Hua Yi had put up fetched a high price of over ten million, surpassing even the host Jiang Xiaoyu, it made Hua Yi feel quite honored. He nodded towards Shen Huanian and returned to his seat, full of spirits.

Although more than 300 guests came to the event, more than half of them came as couples or even with their entire families. These family-style groups only needed to offer one item for auction, so in reality, there were only a few dozen guests actually participating in the bidding.

Those like Xie Yifeng and Luo Xiaoli, who were just lovers or partners, each needed to provide an item for the auction.

Due to time constraints, the auction proceeded quickly. Unless bidders had strong backgrounds and extensive networks like Jiang Xiaoyu and Hua Yi, which could take a bit more time during bidding, other items could be sold in just a few minutes after being presented on stage.

After Hua Yi, the guests who took the stage to offer their items, whether in terms of background or personal renown, were far less prominent than Jiang Xiaoyu and Hua Yi. The items they offered were mostly of lower value like jewelry, antique gemstones, and autographs of famous people. As a result, there was no commotion in the hall, and the prices reached were not particularly surprising.

Of course, all the guests present were elite figures from various fields. Who among them didn't have a few friends in the audience? Thus, they didn't have to worry about the embarrassment of their items going unsold. In the event that no one showed interest in an item, Jiang Xiaoyu, the host, would personally buy it.

It soon came to Dongfang Rushi's table's turn to offer their items.

"Look, Dongfang Rushi has gone up to the podium!"

"I remember last time she auctioned a calligraphy written by her grandfather Dongfang Leiming himself, which was bought by a wealthy businessman who has dealings with the Dongfang Family for one million. I wonder what she has brought this time!"

"No matter what it is, as long as the price isn't too high, I'll bid for it!"

"Brother Li, I know you're fond of Dongfang Rushi, but she's indifferent to you like water flowing past fallen flowers. Why waste your money?"

"I'm donating to charity out of goodwill, not to please Dongfang Rushi!"

"Keep pretending! Continue pretending! Everyone knows Stingy Li is famous for being cheap. If it wasn't for pleasing Dongfang Rushi, would you be willing to spend a fortune?"

Amid the gossip and attention of the crowd, Dongfang Rushi gracefully walked up to the podium, presenting an oil painting for all to see.

The oil painting was very ordinary; one could tell it was the work of a beginner. It depicted a poor girl from the mountainous region, carrying her book name and walking towards a newly-built, beautiful school in the distance, while facing the morning sun. Joy sparkled in the girl's large eyes, and her expression was filled with anticipation and hope for a better future.

Dongfang Rushi scanned the guests below the stage and said indifferently, "This oil painting is called 'Hope' and is the work of my sister, Dongfang Ruhua. The starting bid is ten thousand yuan."

Being economical with her words, Dongfang Rushi briefly spoke two sentences before handing over the painting to the auctioneer on the stage and returning to her seat.

"...Items have a price, but kindness is priceless! This painting may seem ordinary, but it carries a profound meaning, reflecting the author's care for the children in the mountain areas... If any guests here are fond of this painting, please place your bids!"

The auctioneer passionately stirred emotions before turning his gaze towards the many guests below the stage.

Frankly speaking, the oil painting that Dongfang Rushi brought out couldn't be more ordinary, and if it were sold on the street, it would be questionable whether anyone would buy it.

However, the artist Dongfang Ruhua is the most beloved granddaughter of Dongfang Leiming, and in addition, it was personally presented by Dongfang Rushi, so it could be anticipated that many guests would support the auction on the spot, and it was very possible for the painting to sell for eighty or a hundred thousand in the end.

"One hundred thousand!"

As expected, just after the auctioneer's words fell, someone directly called out a bid of one hundred thousand.

The guests followed the voice to see that Jiang Xiaoyu was the one who bid and could not help but smile knowingly.

As the host of this charity auction, whenever there were items that were difficult to auction off or unlikely to fetch a high price, Jiang Xiaoyu would cast the first stone to attract jade, leading with the initial bid. The best outcome would be other guests joining the auction, but if no one else bid, the item would belong to her.

In Jiang Xiaoyu's opinion, even if the painting was worthless, buying it would still be no loss. Firstly, it would count as contributing her share of kindness, and secondly, it could endear her to Dongfang Rushi, the business prodigy lady, achieving two goals at once.

"One hundred and fifty thousand!"

"Two hundred thousand!"

"Three hundred thousand!"

"Five hundred thousand!"

...

Jiang Xiaoyu's tactic clearly worked, as following her, continuous bids came in, including those from Lu Jianfeng of the Lu Family, Hua Yi of the Hua Family, Wang Dong of the Wang Family, Xie Yifeng of the Xie Family, and Shen Huanian of the Shen Family.

Even Ye Wumei couldn't hold back and joined in, directly raising the bid to one million.

An oil painting by a novice, with its childish strokes, under the enhancement of the Dongfang Family's aura, managed to soar from the base price of ten thousand to the staggering sum of one million.

However, after reaching one million, the bidders dwindled significantly.

Although there were many guests present who wanted to curry favor with Dongfang Rushi and cling to the Dongfang Family's coattails, their money didn't come from strong winds; if it were a collectible artwork by a famous person, they might have continued to bid, but 'Hope' had no such collectible value, and it was doubtful anyone would want it even as a gift.

Thus, the price of one million was already the limit for the guests in attendance, and anything more would make them feel a sting.

Chapter 308: Giving You Enough Respect

"Two million!"

Just as Fang Bai was about to speak, a loud male voice suddenly rang out in the restaurant.

All the guests looked up and saw that the speaker was a middle-aged man with kind eyes and a potbelly.

Seated at the same table as Dongfang Rushi, the man smiled broadly and courteously clasped his hands towards everyone as he saw their gazes turning toward him.

"His name is Qin Shan, a member of the Jinling Qin Family, a famous jade tycoon in Huaxia, and the founder of 'Qin's Jade,' indeed a wealthy figure!"

Ye Wumei saw Fang Bai looking at Qin Shan, a thoughtful expression on his face, and introduced him in a low voice.

"Qin's Jade" is a famous chain of jade stores in Huaxia with locations throughout the country, something that Fang Bai was indeed aware of.

What Fang Bai hadn't expected was that this Qin Shan was actually a member of the Jinling Qin Family and also a martial artist of no weak strength.

Fang Bai's interest in the Jinling Qin Family was due to his former teacher at Zhongzhou Medical College, Qin Yaorao, who was also from the Jinling Qin Family.

Fang Bai was a man who clearly distinguished between gratitude and grudges and believed in reciprocating kindness. During his time at the medical college, Qin Yaorao had taken great care of him, and he had always been grateful. With love for the house extending to even the crows perched on its roof, he had developed a fondness for the Jinling Qin Family, where Qin Yaorao hailed from.

The Jinling Qin Family was renowned in Huaxia for its educational heritage, having produced many prominent and influential figures. Even the current Prime Minister was a student educated by the Qin Family.

Therefore, although the Jinling Qin Family did not have the power of the Lu Family or the wealth of the Dongfang Family, no one dared to provoke them.

"Do you know Qin Yaorao from the Jinling Qin Family?"

Fang Bai quietly asked Ye Wumei. Since both Yaorao and Wumei were ladies from prominent clans, it was likely that they knew each other.

"You don't know Yaorao, do you?"

Ye Wumei asked with wide eyes.

From Ye Wumei's retort, Fang Bai gathered that she not only knew Qin Yaorao but also seemed to be quite familiar with her.

"Qin Yaorao is a teacher at Zhongzhou Medical College, and I am her student. Do you think I know her?"

Fang Bai replied with a smile.

The last time Fang Bai saw Qin Yaorao was at Dongfang Ruhua's birthday party, and he hadn't contacted her since then and wondered how she was doing now.

"I never expected that you and Yaorao would be in a teacher-student relationship!"

Ye Wumei's eyes shone as she laughed and said, "Our Ye Family and the Qin Family have been friends for generations. I've known Yaorao since we were little, and we still meet up every now and then. Since you are her student, next time we meet, I'll invite you too!"

"Alright!"

"...Two million once... Two million twice... Two million thr—"

As they spoke, the auctioneer on the main stage was ready to hammer down. As soon as the gavel fell, the painting would belong to Qin Shan.

"Ten million!"

Fang Bai raised his hand and casually called out a price.

The oil painting was created by Dongfang Ruhua, and given Fang Bai's relationship with Dongfang Ruhua, he would feel remiss if he didn't show his support by bidding. Likewise, bidding too low would also make Fang Bai feel uncomfortable.

So after pondering for a moment, Fang Bai offered the price of ten million.

This price seemed just right to Fang Bai, but others thought he was an idiot.

"It's understandable that a young man wants to stand out, but not like this!"

"Ten million for a painting that's hard to sell? The guy's head must be kicked by a donkey or caught in a door!"

"He knows Dongfang Rushi, probably trying to curry favor with her!"

"He's close with Ye Wumei, why is he sucking up to Dongfang Rushi? Does he really want to mooch off two women at the same time?"

"Judging by his outfit, he doesn't look rich at all! That ten million in charity money must have come from Ye Wumei!"

"Mooching off women to this extent, I'm really envious!"

...

For a moment, the guests in the hall turned their eyes toward Fang Bai, thinking all sorts of thoughts.

Dongfang Rushi knew her sister had a good relationship with Fang Bai and thought he might join the bidding, but she never expected him to start with such a high price. She looked at Fang Bai in surprise.

Ye Wumei also did not expect Fang Bai to suddenly bid; she looked at him with a half-smile after a moment of shock and whispered, "You really are involved with that little beauty! Hmph, come clean, is your 'taming plan' already underway in secret?"

Fang Bai rolled his eyes, a look of "I can't be bothered with you" on his face, and said, "Don't imagine things; I'm just taking this opportunity to show a bit of love, that's all!"

"Then when it's my turn on stage, you have to bid on my item too, and the price can't be less than this! We have a friendship forged through life and death; you can't favor one over the other!"

Ye Wumei said righteously.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Don't worry, as long as it's within my financial capabilities, I'll definitely get it and give you face!"

"You said it!"

Upon hearing this, Ye Wumei's smile blossomed like a flower.

Next, Lu Jianfeng, Shen Huanian, Xie Yifeng, Wang Dong, Qin Shan, and others took turns on stage to auction their items.

Lu Jianfeng, Shen Huanian, and the others, coming from prominent clans and being handsome and elegant, had their items mostly snatched up by female guests who admired them for high prices.

Qin Shan, a renowned jade magnate, offered a pair of jade bracelets worth several hundred thousand, which were finally bought by Ye Wumei for two million.

Fang Bai had initially planned to bid out of respect for Qin Yaorao, but seeing that Ye Wumei was intent on getting the bracelets, he remained silent and fulfilled her wish.

When it was Ye Wumei's turn on stage, she presented the trophy of her first Huaxia Golden Song Award, which she had won after her debut.

The trophy itself wasn't valuable, but it was symbolically significant, witnessing Ye Wumei's journey from a newcomer to a superstar in the music industry.

Apart from the trophy itself, Ye Wumei's stunning beauty, combined with the influence of the Ye Family from Lingnan, had the rich young gentlemen in the room vying fiercely, as if injected with adrenaline.

Among them, Wang Dong was the most enthusiastic, continuously raising the price, pulling the trophy to new heights. He did so partly to show off and partly to ingratiate himself with Ye Wumei, while also demonstrating his power to Fang Bai.

Every time he made a bid, Wang Dong would glance over at Fang Bai as if waiting for him to compete, and take the opportunity to squash Fang Bai's arrogance.

Just now, Fang Bai had attracted the attention of many guests in the venue by successfully bidding ten million for Dongfang Ruhua's painting, quite the show-stealer, which made Wang Dong feel very displeased, always thinking of putting Fang Bai down a peg.

However, Wang Dong also knew Fang Bai was wealthy; otherwise, he wouldn't have given Dongfang Ruhua a Luminous Pearl worth ten million as a gift at her birthday party before.

Chapter 309: What's there to Fear?

Fang Bai was indeed wealthy, but Wang Dong didn't think he was in his league. After all, the Wang Family of Yanjing had profound wealth that ordinary rich families couldn't match, and Wang Dong himself was currently managing some of the family industries with a personal fortune amounting to hundreds of millions.

Before attending this charity auction, Wang Dong had made ample preparations, ready to mobilize tens of millions of funds at any time. He believed as long as he was determined, no one could outbid him for the trophy brought out by Ye Wumei.

Facing Wang Dong's provocative gaze, Fang Bai couldn't be bothered to engage, but when Wang Dong called out an offer of eight million and no one else joined the bidding, Fang Bai then casually said, "Ten million!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the venue immediately stirred. The guests glanced between Wang Dong and Fang Bai, realizing that both men were bristling with anger over a beautiful lady, secretly straining to please Ye Wumei.

What Wang Dong was waiting for was this moment. He thought Fang Bai's bid was just a bluff, and that Fang Bai would likely give up and lose the battle without much resistance once he raised the price a few more times.

What infuriated Wang Dong even more was that Ye Wumei, who might become his wife in the future, was now propping her cheeks with her hands, her eyes fixated on Fang Bai as if nobody else at the scene could pique her interest besides him.

"This damn woman! If the Wang and Ye Families unite in marriage, and you come to my Wang Family, just wait and see how I'll disgrace you!"

Seeing Ye Wumei's infatuated expression, Wang Dong felt like he was being cuckolded, flames of jealousy burning inside him. He cursed silently and then raised a hand, calling out loudly, "Fifteen million!"

He instantly raised the bid by five million, tying the record for donations that evening, eliciting gasps of astonishment from the guests.

Feeling smug, Wang Dong tilted his chin upwards, looking at Fang Bai, waiting to see him deflate.

Fifteen million was already a very high price. Fang Bai had just paid ten million for a painting by Dongfang Ruhua, and Wang Dong didn't believe Fang Bai had the financial strength or audacity to compete with him for Ye Wumei's trophy.

"Sixteen million!"

Fang Bai's response clearly disappointed Wang Dong. Without any hesitation, he raised his hand, upping the bid by another million. His voice wasn't loud, but every guest in the room heard it loud and clear.

"Twenty million!"

Wang Dong's mouth curled into a cold smirk, thinking to himself, "You're still far from being able to compete with me. I'm going to crush you with money this time and let you know what a real rich person looks like!"

"Twenty-one million!"

Fang Bai continued to bid, increasing by one million, still with an unfazed expression on his face.

"Twenty-five million!"

"Twenty-six million!"

"Thirty million!"

"Thirty-one million!"

...

For a while, the hall turned into a stage for Wang Dong and Fang Bai's performance, as the two continuously drove the price up, and the guests sensed an increasingly tense atmosphere in the air.

Although Wang Dong was wealthy, he wasn't the Family Head of the Wang Family, and there were limits to the funds he could mobilize. He also didn't dare to invest all these funds into a "jealous rivalry" with Fang Bai, or he would surely be drowned by the spitting of his family members.

So, when the bid reached thirty million, Wang Dong began to feel the pinch, and his mood grew anxious.

He had raised the bid to thirty million, thinking it would scare off Fang Bai, but he never anticipated that Fang Bai would stand unyielding, posing as if he was ready to battle it out to the end, no matter how much higher the bid went.

With all eyes on him, Wang Dong found himself in a difficult position. If he gave up now, he would surely be ridiculed and lose face; but if he continued to bid, who knew how much it would take to win Ye Wumei's trophy.

"Thirty-five million!"

Wang Dong gritted his teeth and raised his bid once more. His eyes rounded with fury as he glared at Fang Bai, his gaze laden with an unmistakable threat.

Guests on the scene who knew Wang Dong's temper understood that he was enraged to the extreme. Many looked at Fang Bai with eyes filled with sympathy.

What good was having money? What was the point of winning Ye Wumei's trophy and claiming face? In Yanjing, backed by the Wang Family, Wang Dong was like a local despot. Angering him meant you could be dead without even knowing how it happened!

Shen Huanian, Xie Yifeng, and others who had past grievances with Fang Bai watched from the sidelines with a schadenfreude grin, hoping to see Fang Bai get taken down a notch.

Meanwhile, Lu Jianfeng, Hua Yi, Dongfang Rushi, and the host of this charity auction, Jiang Xiaoyu, were all secretly worried for Fang Bai.

Although the Wang Family that stood behind Wang Dong wasn't regarded as a top-level powerhouse in Huaxia, its power was definitely not to be underestimated. Even they would be wary of provoking Wang Dong if he really lost his mind.

Even if Fang Bai was strong, he was still only one person. How could he possibly stand against the massive Wang Family?

Even Ye Wumei, who had recently witnessed Fang Bai's terrifying strength, didn't want Fang Bai to fall out with Wang Dong and whispered to him to give up.

"Forty million!"

Fang Bai smiled at Ye Wumei, then calmly faced Wang Dong's glare as he spoke.

In his previous life, Fang Bai was the Immortal Emperor, unrivaled across the Immortal Realm. Although now fallen into the mortal world with greatly diminished strength, the pride in his heart remained. He lived by his own principles. How could he care about Wang Dong's attitude?

Wang Dong had just been gnashing his teeth and glaring with rage, the warning in his expression clear. Fang Bai noticed it, of course, and merely sneered internally, fearless.

If, after the charity auction ended, Wang Dong behaved himself, then it would be all good. But if he dared to provoke Fang Bai, he wouldn't mind teaching him a lesson.

Fang Bai didn't believe the Wang Family would mobilize their entire clan's efforts to deal with him over Wang Dong.

Of course, even if the Wang Family decided to back Wang Dong, Fang Bai wasn't worried.

With his formidable strength, Fang Bai had few equals in the mortal world, and even ordinary firearms hardly posed a threat to him.

Moreover, the Lu Family from Yanjing, the Dongfang Family, the Ye Family from Lingnan, the Tang Family from Anxi—powers whose status was no less than that of the Wang Family—all owed Fang Bai a great favor. Fang Bai believed that if he ever clashed with the Wang Family, these prominent clans wouldn't stand idly by.

With his strength and powerful allies, what had Fang Bai to fear?

Wang Dong's face flushed red with anger as he watched Fang Bai's indifferent demeanor, nearly twisted his nose with irritation.

From the beginning, Wang Dong had set his sights on Ye Wumei's trophy, resolved to win it. If he ended up losing it to Fang Bai, it would be like a public slap in the face, an unbearable humiliation for him.

But thirty-five million was already the limit of Wang Dong's accessible funds. He couldn't come up with any more money on short notice.

"Young Master Wang, if you need money, I have twenty or thirty million on hand that I can lend you!"

"I can also come up with ten to twenty million!"

Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng walked up to Wang Dong's side in a synchronous move, whispering to him.

Chapter 310: Fierce Competition

"Fine! Lend me whatever money you have first!"

Wang Dong was already so infuriated by Fang Bai that he was willing to borrow any amount of money as long as he could suppress Fang Bai's momentum.

He had over thirty million himself, and with Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng's contributions, they had seventy to eighty million in total. He didn't believe that they couldn't completely crush Fang Bai.

People vie for a breath of dignity; even a Buddha competes for an incense stick of time!

Fang Bai, oh Fang Bai, I've crossed paths with you today. Let's see what you've got to fight me with!

"Fang Bai, those three guys are ganging up together to deal with you! Do you want me to lend you some money as well?"

Now a Yellow Level intermediate Martial Artist and cultivating a special Cultivation Technique taught by Fang Bai, Ye Wumei's senses were many times more acute than those of an ordinary person. She heard the conversation between Shen Huanian, Xie Yifeng, and Wang Dong loud and clear, instantly perking up. She leaned in close to Fang Bai's ear and whispered with a low chuckle.

Fang Bai laughed, waved his hand, and said, "The money I have should be enough! Heh heh, that guy wants to save face; I'm going to make sure he loses all of it!"

Ye Wumei knew that Fang Bai was wealthy and really didn't care about money. Moreover, he had great enthusiasm for charity causes. Even if he gave away all the money he had, he wouldn't frown, but Wang Dong did not have such generosity and courage.

So Ye Wumei began to mourn for Wang Dong in silence, knowing that Wang Dong wanted to use this opportunity to oppress Fang Bai but not only would he fail to do so, he would also hit a wall and bleed.

It was uncertain whether Wang Dong would become so embarrassed that he would secretly have someone teach Fang Bai a lesson out of spite.

If that happened, Wang Dong's end would be even more miserable, and he might even drag the entire Wang Family down with him.

If the Wang Family were to take action against Fang Bai, it would make a big deal out of the situation. Ye Wumei couldn't predict whether the Ye Family would stand up for Fang Bai, but she was certain that she would definitely stand firmly on Fang Bai's side.

"Forty-five million!"

With the support of Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng, Wang Dong felt emboldened and directly raised the bid by five million, then provocatively looked towards Fang Bai.

"Fifty million!"

Fang Bai met Wang Dong's gaze, looking at him as if he were an idiot.

"Sixty million!"

Wang Dong, infuriated by Fang Bai's contemptuous and mocking gaze, swung his fist as he made his bid, as though trying to encourage himself.

Boom——

The atmosphere on-site erupted with unprecedented enthusiasm; none of the guests could have expected that Ye Wumei's small trophy would escalate in the auction to a sky-high price of sixty million, and it seemed it wouldn't stop there.

The guests were also aware that the auction had now shifted, becoming a contest of pride and face between Fang Bai and Wang Dong.

As the organizer of the charity auction, Jiang Xiaoyu should be happy with the higher bids for the items, but at this moment, her face was filled with worry.

Jiang Xiaoyu knew that whatever the result of this auction, Fang Bai had thoroughly offended Wang Dong.

Jiang Xiaoyu was one of Ye Wumei's best friends, and Fang Bai was Ye Wumei's Little Lover. If a conflict arose over this, Jiang Xiaoyu as the host would be put in a difficult position.

Jiang Xiaoyu deeply wished that the aggression between the two would stop here, and thinking for Fang Bai's sake, she hoped even more that Fang Bai would withdraw voluntarily from the bidding to ease the tension between them.

Not just Jiang Xiaoyu, but also Lu Jianfeng, Hua Yi, and Dongfang Rushi, who were on better terms with Fang Bai, shared the same sentiment, hoping to downplay the big issue and dissolve the smaller ones.

However, Fang Bai did not do as Jiang Xiaoyu and the others hoped. He took a sip of red wine from the glass in front of him, then coolly stated, "Seventy million!"

He not only raised the bid again, but also departed from his previous gentle style of increasing by one million at a time, pushing the price from sixty million straight to seventy million.

The scene once again became tumultuous, and the looks in the guests' eyes toward Fang Bai no longer contained only pity and sympathy but also admiration.

In Yanjing, there weren't many who dared to provoke the Wang Family, yet Fang Bai had just done so. If he didn't have a powerful backer capable of contending with the Wang Family, then he must surely be insane.

Lu Jianfeng and the others, seeing that Fang Bai was determined to contend with Wang Dong, all felt helpless.

"Damn!"

Wang Dong couldn't help but curse out loud as he abruptly stood up from his seat, his face reddening even more, and fine beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. His eyes, as he looked at Fang Bai, seemed almost ready to shoot out flames.

This bastard, it seemed he was dead set on humiliating me in public!

With his own money plus what Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng promised to lend him, Wang Dong had about eighty million at most. Going beyond this number, he would truly be helpless.

Even if he could suppress Fang Bai and successfully win Ye Wumei's trophy, Wang Dong still found it hard to be pleased, after all, he had to repay the several tens of millions he borrowed from Shen Huanian and Xie Yifeng, which wouldn't be settled in a day or two.

The cost of this breath he was fighting for was really too great!

Wang Dong was already feeling some regret in his heart, but at this point, he had to make one last effort!

"Eighty million!"

After stating this price, Wang Dong seemed to have drained all his strength, sagging back into his seat.

The last thing Wang Dong wanted to hear at this time was Fang Bai's voice.

However, his hope quickly turned to despair. No sooner had his voice faded than Fang Bai's clear voice followed closely after.

"Ninety million!"

Fang Bai said calmly.

He had seen the expression on Wang Dong's face and knew that the other party had already reached their limit in bidding, unable to compete with him any longer.

Wang Dong closed his eyes in pain, his heart now completely filled with frustration and rage, and his mind began to entertain all kinds of wild ideas of how to teach Fang Bai a harsh lesson and vent the anger of the day.

After Fang Bai bid ninety million, Wang Dong sat motionless without raising his bid further, and Ye Wumei's trophy ultimately went to Fang Bai.

As the auctioneer's gavel fell, someone in the audience initiated applause, and in an instant, the applause thundered like a storm.

But this applause meant different things in the ears of different people.

Some guests felt that the applause was a way to express respect toward Fang Bai, after all, up to this point, he was the one who had contributed the most funds.

Some guests felt that Fang Bai's fearlessness in facing Wang Dong and the power of the Wang Family warranted courage commendable enough for applause.

To Wang Dong, however, this applause was a deep mockery toward himself.

Wang Dong's complexion fluctuated, now pale, now green, the veins on his tightly clenched fists bulging, indicative of the extent of his fury at the moment.

The charity auction continued unaffected by the clash between Fang Bai and Wang Dong.

Fang Bai and Ye Wumei sat next to each other, so after Ye Wumei, it was Fang Bai's turn to take the stage.

Ye Wumei still didn't know what item Fang Bai was going to auction. Blinking her large eyes, she stared at Fang Bai's back, secretly deciding that no matter what Fang Bai brought out, she would spare no expense to obtain it.