

Doctor 41

Chapter 41: Rescue

“Someone in the car is calling for help!”

“Quick, save them!”

“We can’t just stand by and watch them die!”

“Any men who can swim, who will join me going down?”

“Count me in!”

“Me too!”

...

In today’s society, although human nature isn’t what it used to be and morality has declined, there will always be hot-blooded men ready to act bravely for justice.

One such burly middle-aged man called out and immediately got responses from three other men.

Four men quickly stripped off their coats and jumped into the river,

Even though it was early summer, the water at night was still chilly.

After the four men plunged in, they couldn’t help but shiver uncontrollably.

They encouraged each other and then, swinging their arms, they swam vigorously toward the sinking Ferrari sports car.

They reached the car and someone tried to pull open the doors to save the people, but the water pressure was too high, and he didn't succeed.

Others tried to smash the car windows, but the windows were tough and thick, and without tools, they, too, failed.

Suddenly, most of the car's body had submerged, and the four men swam around the car helplessly.

The pedestrians on the riverbank had already called the emergency number, but by the time the police arrived, it was feared the people inside the car would have already met their fate.

When Fang Bai passed by, only a part of the Ferrari's rear was visible above the water.

"What are so many people watching?"

Fang Bai didn't usually like crowds, but driven by curiosity, he couldn't help but squeeze through the crowd to take a look.

After listening to the people around him and glancing at the somewhat familiar Ferrari and its license plate, Fang Bai couldn't help but smile wryly and muttered to himself, "Drunk driving really does lead to accidents!"

Fang Bai already knew that the Ferrari that had fallen into the river belonged to the woman in the red dress he had seen earlier.

Although the "Mystery Soul Herb" that had affected the woman in the red dress had been neutralized by him, its effects could not vanish so swiftly.

Plus, given the amount of alcohol she had consumed, she was bound to be somewhat out of it.

Driving on such a busy road with that dazed state of mind, the probability of an accident was certainly high.

“Young man, can you swim?”

A white-haired old lady suddenly tapped Fang Bai’s arm and asked anxiously.

“Yes!”

Fang Bai nodded in response.

Not only could he swim, but he also swam far better than almost anyone else in the world.

If he were to compete in swimming, he could probably shatter world records and win championships with ease.

“Then you can go down and save them too!”

Even though the people in the car and the old lady were strangers, she was both nervous and worried as she said to Fang Bai, “Human life is paramount; the more people who go down, the more hope there is!

We can’t just watch someone die, right?”

“You’re right, elder.

I’m going down now.”

Fang Bai nodded again, then he took off his coat and jumped into the river.

Encountering the woman in the red dress for the second time in such a short span, according to the Immortal Realm, this was fate.

Since they were fated, Fang Bai felt no reason not to save her.

Even if the old lady hadn't spoken up, he would have taken action regardless.

Fang Bai dove into the river and swam to the red Ferrari sedan that was almost completely submerged, then plunged headfirst into the water.

"What's he doing diving into the water?"

A man who had tried to save someone looked at the spot where Fang Bai had dived in, frowning.

"Maybe he's trying to pry open the car door to rescue the person inside?"

Another man said uncertainly.

"You've got to be kidding!"

The man who spoke before said with a face full of disbelief, "I've already used all my strength and couldn't pry the car door open.

Now that the car is submerged, the water pressure is even greater.

How could he possibly manage it?"

"Young people always try to show off!"

Yet another man commented, with a dismissive tone in his voice.

“We’ve done our best; let the emergency services handle it!”

The last man sighed, his face a mix of regret and pity, knowing that by the time the emergency services arrived, the person in the car would probably have perished.

Just then, with the sound of water splashing, Fang Bai emerged from the water, along with a woman.

The woman’s red dress clung to her body, her black hair spreading out in the water like ink, her eyes tightly shut, her exquisitely beautiful face as pale as paper.

By the time Fang Bai rescued the woman from the submerged sports car, she had already lost consciousness.

“Good job, lad!”

Seeing Fang Bai rescue the person, a round of applause and cheers erupted from the riverbank.

Fang Bai supported the body of the woman in the red dress, swam to the riverbank with her, then carried her onto the shore and laid her down on the ground.

Within moments, a few dozen bystanders had gathered around.

“Oh no, this woman’s passed out from drowning; it’s serious!”

A bald man stepped to the front of the crowd, his gaze sweeping over the lovely face of the woman in the red dress, and volunteered, “I’m a doctor, I’ll do cardiac resuscitation and artificial respiration on her, see if we can revive her!”

Despite her unconscious and disheveled state, the woman in the red dress was still startlingly beautiful, captivating everyone’s attention.

The bald man was not a doctor at all; he was simply attracted by the woman's beauty and wanted to take advantage of the situation.

He pretentiously crouched down and was about to lay his hands on the woman in the red dress.

"Get lost!"

Fang Bai's eyes turned slightly cold as he let out a light reprimand toward the bald man.

The sound reached the bald man's ears like a sudden clap of thunder, startling him so much that he plopped down on the ground, his ears buzzing nonstop, unable to recover for quite some time.

Fang Bai averted his gaze, turned the woman's head to one side, and lightly pressed on her abdomen a few times.

The woman's body jerked and she spewed out several mouthfuls of river water, followed by a bout of violent coughing.

As she coughed, a piece of bright green jade pendant slid out from her chest and shone with a translucent glow under the streetlights.

Seeing the bright green jade pendant, Fang Bai immediately dismissed the thought of leaving.

He helped the woman in the red dress sit up, and after she stopped coughing, he asked, "Do you feel any better?"

The woman, barely regaining her composure, gave Fang Bai a blank look and murmured, "Am I... dead?"

Fang Bai nodded, "If I hadn't rescued you, you might very well be dead."

The woman's eyes lit up, a flicker of life returning, "So you're saying...

I'm not dead?"

Fang Bai replied, "That's right, you're still alive.

If you don't believe me, you can pinch yourself to see if it hurts."

True to his word, the woman pinched herself, and though she winced from the pain, a slight smile appeared on her lips as she spoke to herself, "I'm really not dead...

I can't die, there are so many things I haven't finished doing..."

Chapter 42: Xia Chenyu

The night wind blew, and the woman in the soaked red dress trembled gently.

When she smiled, there was a sickly beauty on her pale pretty face that made all the men present unable to help but feel pity for her.

They wished they could hug this vixen-like woman tightly in their arms and warm her with their body heat.

"Thank you...

thank you for saving me again!"

The woman in the red dress recognized that Fang Bai was the one who had intervened to help her at the Tiangong Grand Hotel, with her charming and narrow eyes fixed on him, she said gratefully.

"You really should thank me!"

Fang Bai met the woman in the red dress's gaze and said unapologetically, "If it weren't for me, even if you didn't die, you would be living a fate worse than death."

The woman in the red dress did not deny Fang Bai's words at all.

If it hadn't been for Fang Bai, she would have been dragged into the Tiangong Hotel earlier, suffered humiliation, lost her innocence, and lived a fate worse than death.

If it hadn't been for Fang Bai, she might have already sunk to the bottom of the river with that Ferrari and died just now.

Fang Bai had saved her from disgrace and saved her life; she was full of gratitude for him in her heart.

"Yes, girl, if it weren't for this young man diving into the river to rescue you, you would have really been in danger."

The old woman who had urged Fang Bai to save the woman earlier raised her thumb and said to Fang Bai, "Young man, well done!"

Other passersby also praised Fang Bai for his righteous deed.

"You are my lifesaver.

I will give you a sum of money to repay your kindness for saving my life."

The woman in the red dress said seriously.

Fang Bai shook his head, "I don't want your money."

"I have a company.

If you're willing, you can come work for my company; I'll give you a high position,"

the woman in the red dress considered, then said.

Fang Bai still shook his head, "I don't want your authority either."

The woman in the red dress was taken aback, wondering what he wanted if he didn't want money or power.

She saw Fang Bai's gaze occasionally glancing at her chest and suddenly seemed to understand something.

She felt somewhat angry—was he expecting her to offer herself to him?

The woman in the red dress had strong confidence in her looks and figure, knowing that few men could see her and remain unmoved.

Previously at the Tiangong Grand Hotel, the renowned Liu Yuanlong of Zhongzhou City's real estate had even stooped to drugging her to get her body.

And this young man in front of her, who appeared to be only around twenty years old, was at an age filled with impulsive blood.

It wasn't impossible for him to take advantage of the situation and make an indecent proposition to her.

The woman in the red dress was somewhat angry, glaring at Fang Bai with widened eyes.

However, in Fang Bai's eyes, as bright as the stars, she saw only clarity and tranquility, without a hint of obscenity or sacrilege.

“You misunderstood me.”

Fang Bai’s gaze withdrew from the woman’s chest, and seeing her displeased face, he said with a wry smile, “I didn’t mean anything else.

I just thought the Jade Pendant you’re wearing around your neck is quite unique, so I took a few extra glances.”

“This Jade Pendant was left to me by my mother, and it holds special meaning for me.

So...”

The woman in the red dress originally thought Fang Bai wanted her jade pendant and said with some difficulty, “So, I’m very sorry, but I cannot give you this jade pendant.”

“You’ve misunderstood me again...” Fang Bai continued with a wry smile, “I don’t want your jade pendant either, I just want to take a closer look...

You wouldn’t refuse that request, would you?”

Hesitating for a moment, the woman in the red dress then took off the jade pendant from her fair, slender neck and handed it to Fang Bai—there were so many people around, she wasn’t worried about Fang Bai not returning her jade pendant.

Fang Bai took the jade pendant, gently touching it, feeling the faint essence energy within, his heart filled with immense excitement.

In the Cultivation World or the Immortal Realm, stones containing essence energy are called Essence Stones.

The material of the woman's jade pendant was somewhat similar to an Essence Stone, and although the essence energy contained was very weak, if he could find more like it to use for cultivation, it would greatly benefit his power enhancement.

Fang Bai knew that the woman's jade pendant was carved from a certain type of jade, and the original owner of this body's memory indicated that there were many varieties of similar jade stones in this world.

If those jades also contained essence energy, it would undoubtedly be a considerable source of cultivation resources for Fang Bai.

"Thank you for the jade pendant.

Goodbye!"

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Fang Bai returned the jade pendant to the woman in the red dress, went to the riverside to put on his coat, and departed with large strides.

Seeing him leave after uttering a bizarre statement, the woman in the red dress was startled and then called out loudly, "Hey, what's your name?"

Being someone who believed in gratitude and repayment, she wanted to know Fang Bai's name so she could find an opportunity to repay him after he saved her life.

Fang Bai didn't look back, merely raising his right arm to wave, then continued to walk away until he vanished from sight.

"What a strange man...

but do you think that by walking away like this, I won't be able to find you?

I, Xia Chenyu, do not like owing people favors, you've saved me twice, I will repay these two debts sooner or later."

Watching Fang Bai disappear into the distance, the red dress woman named Xia Chenyu stood up, supporting her weak body, then waved to a bespectacled man nearby, saying with a smile, "Excuse me, sir, may I borrow your phone for a moment?"

The bespectacled man was holding a cell phone, and had recorded the whole process of Xia Chenyu falling into water and Fang Bai's rescue with the intention of posting it online to attract attention.

Seeing the entrancing Xia Chenyu suddenly speaking to him, the bespectacled man's face turned red with excitement, and he immediately handed over the phone.

"Thank you."

Xia Chenyu smiled faintly, took the phone, dialed a familiar number, but instead of returning the phone to the bespectacled man, she said sweetly, "Sir, may I take a look at the video you just shot?"

At this point, she appeared much better in spirits than when she was first pulled out by Fang Bai, with her wet dress clinging to her body, revealing all her curves.

Her smile was charming, exuding allure, leaving the bespectacled man nearly nosebleeding, completely spellbound; how could he refuse?

Xia Chenyu smiled again and activated the camera function on the phone, found the video shot by the man, and watched it attentively.

Ten minutes later, police and ambulances arrived at the scene one after the other.

At the same time, two young women dressed in dark blue OL suits also drove up.

The two women in OL attire were about the same age as Xia Chenyu and, although their appearances and demeanors couldn't compare to Xia Chenyu, with one having shoulder-length hair and a sweet, gentle beauty, and the other with her hair in an elegant updo, exuding grace and intellect, they were both rare beauties.

Xia Chenyu was the chairman of a beauty company in Zhongzhou City, and the two OL-dressed beauties were her subordinates.

The one with shoulder-length hair was named Zhao Xiaomeng, Xia Chenyu's personal assistant.

The one with her hair in an updo was named Wu Xiuyun, the manager of the sales department of Xia Chenyu's company.

"Chairman Xia, what happened to you?"

After receiving Xia Chenyu's phone call, Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun rushed to the scene, and seeing Xia Chenyu disheveled and drenched, both were shocked.

Chapter 43: Who Sold Me Out?

"I ran into some messy stuff tonight, I'll tell you more about it later.

Xiao Meng, Xiuyun, I just sent a video to your phones.

Make sure to keep it safe, don't delete it for any reason, I want to see it tomorrow at the company."

After carefully instructing Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun, Xia Chenyu handed the phone back to the man with glasses.

After the two women nodded, Zhao Xiaomeng said urgently, "President Xia, your health is the priority, I'll accompany you to the hospital right away."

Xia Chenyu had been unconscious after falling into the water and, although she was awakened by Fang Bai, she still felt somewhat unwell and worried about potential complications.

Therefore, she and Zhao Xiaomeng took an ambulance to the hospital to get a medical examination, while Wu Xiuyun stayed behind to handle the aftermath.

...

The next afternoon, as soon as Fang Bai walked into the classroom of Grade 16 Class 2, he noticed that his classmates were looking at him with strange eyes, as if they had suddenly become strangers to him.

Fang Bai halted in his steps and touched his face, wondering what they were looking at.

Did I suddenly grow flowers on my face?

"Fang Bai, come over here and take a look."

Su Linglong stood up and beckoned to Fang Bai with a smile.

When Fang Bai approached, she took out her phone and said, "All over the major online forums and tieba in Zhongzhou, there are posts searching for you, have you seen them?"

"What search notices?"

Fang Bai was completely bewildered.

"You'll know once you look."

Su Linglong brought her phone in front of Fang Bai.

Fang Bai craned his neck looking at the phone screen, his eyes widening in astonishment as he clung to the image displayed on it.

In the photo was a young man in his twenties, with fair skin and a sunny, handsome look that was very endearing.

The young man wore only a pair of briefs, with a slim build and even muscles, which could be described as perfect.

“This guy looks familiar.”

Fang Bai pointed at the handsome, perfectly-built young man in the photo.

Su Linglong chuckled and said, “You dummy, that’s you!”

“Me?”

Fang Bai was shocked, took the phone from Su Linglong for a closer look, and then said, “Indeed, it’s me.

I didn’t realize I was so handsome and had such an awesome body.”

Su Linglong suppressed a smile, “Your photo has been spread all over the major online forums and tieba in Zhongzhou, and now nearly every citizen in Zhongzhou City knows about your deed of bravely saving the drowning person.”

Fang Bai sighed, his expression a mix of sadness and indignation, “Others get paid for doing photo shoots, but my youthful and beautiful body is seen for free by millions of people in Zhongzhou City...

what a loss!”

Su Linglong said with a laugh, “The focus isn’t your photo, but rather the words below it.”

Indeed, below the photo there were a few lines of text, roughly stating that a Ms.

Xia had fallen into the water the day before and was saved by the young man in the photo.

The rescuer had quietly left afterwards, and in order to find her hero, Ms.

Xia had specially issued this notice promising a reward of thirty thousand cash to whoever could provide information on the rescuer, along with Ms.

Xia's phone number at the end.

Undoubtedly, the most attractive part of the statement was the thirty thousand in cash.

After seeing this notice, some classmates and friends of Fang Bai immediately called Ms.

Xia's phone number, hoping to claim the cash reward, only to find out someone had already beaten them to it.

"Don't know which guy was quick enough to provide your details to that Ms.

Xia first!"

A classmate with a face full of acne lamented.

"I had planned to get that ten thousand yuan to buy a smartphone and a laptop, but that's not happening now,"

a pretty girl with a few small freckles on her nose said in disappointment.

“Who exactly sold me out?”

Fang Bai scanned his classmates with a frantic gaze as he asked.

He suspected the clue provided to the Ms.

Xia could very likely be from someone in the class.

After saving someone last night, he had hoped to leave quietly and remain anonymous.

Unexpectedly, this morning, the woman he saved had issued a search notice and even posted his nude photo on online media.

Then some bastard must have given his information to her.

Now, it would be difficult not to become famous.

In the future, walking around Zhongzhou Medical College’s campus, probably many teachers and students would recognize him and then whisper and gossip about him, right?

“Some classmate, even if you sold me out, you should at least share that ten thousand yuan with me, right?”

Even inviting me for a meal would be decent!

Otherwise, it’s just too lacking in integrity!”

Fang Bai said indignantly.

After school at noon, Fang Bai rode his bicycle out of the medical college's gate and saw Zhou Dabai waiting for him outside.

"Fang Bai, don't go home for lunch, I'll treat you!

You can pick the place and order whatever dishes and drinks you want!"

Zhou Dabai said with a grin when they met.

"It was you!

It must have been you!"

Fang Bai noticed Zhou Dabai couldn't look him in the eye and seemed guilty, which immediately made him understand everything.

"It must have been you, you little rat, who sold me out!"

Fang Bai glared at Zhou Dabai and said through gritted teeth, "You saw that search notice and contacted Ms.

Xia right away, sold my information to her, and then got a reward of thirty thousand yuan from her.

Am I right?"

Zhou Dabai chuckled nervously, "How did you know?"

Fang Bai said annoyed, "If it wasn't you who did it, would you be acting so guilty?

And would you be so generous as to invite me to eat?"

“Truth be told, even if I had stayed silent, could our classmates have held back?”

Zhou Dabai brazenly laughed and said, “Hehe, what I did was making sure the water flows into our own fields.

There’s money to be made by us!

Come on, let’s eat first, then we can split the rest of the money afterwards!”

“You...”

Just as Fang Bai was about to laugh and scold him, his phone suddenly rang, showing an unfamiliar number.

“Is this Fang Bai?”

Fang Bai pressed the answer button, and a young woman’s voice came from the other end of the phone, seductive and a bit lazy.

Fang Bai immediately recognized the owner of the voice.

It was the woman in the red dress he had saved last night, who had also issued the search notice, Ms.

Xia.

She was indeed persistent.

To express her gratitude, she had gone through such a grand gesture to find him.

However, it turned out her method was simple and effective.

In such a short time, his phone number had fallen into her hands, and he believed she must also know his name and address.

Remembering this, Fang Bai could not help but glare at Zhou Dabai again; this guy had sold him out for a mere ten thousand yuan, the very definition of “betraying friends for glory.”

Fang Bai had saved someone out of goodwill, not expecting any reward.

Otherwise, he believed he could have gotten a hefty reward from the lady in the red dress last night.

Being able to drive a Ferrari, the lady in the red dress must be quite wealthy.

Chapter 44: Aren't we good brothers?

“I am Fang Bai.

May I ask who you are?”

Fang Bai feigned ignorance with clear understanding.

“My name is Xia Chenyu, the woman you pulled back from Ghost Gate last night.

That was me.”

“Oh...

Miss Xia, do you need something from me?”

“Of course, I have something.

I want to repay you for saving my life.”

“It was a small effort, not worth mentioning...”

“My mother used to tell me that one must be grateful and repay kindness.

Your small effort saved my life, so I must repay this debt no matter what!”

“Really, it’s not necessary...”

“You don’t want money, nor a job, so how about I treat you to a meal?

That should be acceptable, right?”

“That...

Let’s talk about it later; I’m currently having a meal with a friend...”

Fang Bai blurted out a lie on the spur of the moment.

“Fang Bai, you’re lying!”

A series of “giggle” laughter came from the other end of the phone, leaving Fang Bai as puzzled as a Monk at his wit’s end.

“Do you see the red Maserati sports car less than twenty meters in front of you?

I am standing right beside it, watching you!” said the alluring voice, laughing.

Fang Bai was startled, lifted his head, and looked forward, indeed spotting a red Maserati sports car parked not far along the road.

The car, worth over a million, was a luxurious sports car that combined elegance with a wild, unrestrained character, attracting many passersby’s attention.

However, even more alluring was the woman standing beside the sports car.

There are many types of women in the world, each bringing a different feeling to men.

Some women appear shy and gentle, evoking a man’s desire to cherish and protect them; some are sharp and unpleasant, causing men to feel repulsion; some are as cold as icebergs, making men keep their distance; some are warm as fire, compelling men to draw near.

And the woman standing by the sports car was such that every man who laid eyes on her for the first time would be captivated by her.

In the prime of her life, with a scorching figure and possessing a myriad of charms, she was as seductive as a fox.

The woman stood there, motionless, yet her entire being exuded an extremely tempting allure.

When the wind blew, it tousled the woman’s long hair, revealing a swan-like slender pale neck and a pair of sexy and delicate collarbones.

She was a stunning urban beauty to the extreme.

A ravishing creature who could outshine the vast majority of women in the world.

Dressed in a red dress and radiating charm, Xia Chenyu appeared and instantly became the most dazzling spectacle on the entire street, attracting the gazes of countless pedestrians who couldn't bear to look away.

Although Fang Bai, in his previous life, had beheld countless beautiful women and had many immortal companions, when he saw Xia Chenyu smiling at him, he still experienced a moment of being spellbound.

Last night, when Xia Chenyu was rescued from the river by Fang Bai, she looked pale and disheveled.

Although she was beautiful, it was a pathetic kind of beauty.

But now, upon seeing Xia Chenyu, Fang Bai immediately thought of the fox spirit in Huaxia's history who brought disaster to King Zhou of Shang's kingdom.

Xia Chenyu was stunning to the extreme, especially those eyes brimming with gentle ripples.

A single glance at someone could upset their soul and make it hard for them to control themselves.

Fang Bai, having seized the Immortal Emperor's body and reborn with memories of two lives, had a firm resolve that was hard for anyone to match.

Even his heartbeat couldn't help but quicken after seeing Xia Chenyu.

Who then could resist her?

To get another look at her, not just one passerby ran into a utility pole, not just one car rear-ended another, but a young man carrying his Little Lover on a motorcycle plunged headfirst into the flowerbed by the road, prompting his Little Lover to get up and curse while jumping from foot to foot.

Fang Bai sighed inwardly, now understanding why someone at the Tiangong Grand Hotel last night would resort to such despicable means as drugging her, wanting to take advantage of Xia Chenyu's body.

This woman made it far too easy for people to commit crimes.

Seeing Fang Bai, Xia Chenyu waved cheerfully at him, then said into her phone microphone, "I just want to treat you to a meal, to express my gratitude.

It's not like I'm going to eat you, why are you avoiding me?"

"I just think it's not necessary..."

"I think it's very necessary!"

Xia Chenyu said firmly, "I don't like owing people favors, especially for something as big as saving a life!

Fang Bai, stop making excuses to refuse, or I won't let it go!"

"Alright.

Give me an address, and I'll be there in a while."

Fang Bai smiled wryly.

How could he refuse an invitation to dine from such a devastatingly beautiful woman without being struck by lightning from the heavens?

"Find a place to park your bike, then take my car," Xia Chenyu commanded in an indisputable tone.

Fang Bai hung up the phone, patted Zhou Dabai's shoulder, and said, "You go ahead.

I've got something to deal with and won't be going home."

Zhou Dabai, like all the other men around, was staring at Xia Chenyu.

Only when Fang Bai spoke to him did he reluctantly tear his gaze away, swallowing the drool about to escape his mouth, and said, "What's up?

You're really not coming to eat with me?"

"Someone else has invited me for a meal."

"Damn, you won't go if I ask, but someone else does and you do?

Whose face is worth more than mine?"

"Her," Fang Bai pointed at Xia Chenyu, "the woman I saved last night.

Now she wants to repay the favor and insists on treating me to a meal."

"For real?"

Zhou Dabai's eyes nearly bulged out, and upon receiving Fang Bai's affirmative answer, he grabbed Fang Bai's arm, animatedly saying, "Fang Bai, we're good brothers, right?"

"Right."

"Then can you do me a favor?"

“Say it.”

“Take me with you to the meal!”

“She wants me to take her car, and it seems like her car only has two seats...”

“Where is she planning to treat you?

Tell me the address, I can go by bike.”

“She didn’t say.”

“Go and ask!”

“Do you think that’s appropriate?”

Zhou Dabai thought for a moment, then sighed, “It’s not appropriate...

but, you’re going to dine with a beauty and leaving me here, isn’t that prioritizing lust over friendship?

Isn’t that really unbrotherly?”

Ignoring him, Fang Bai pointed at his bicycle, “Find a place to keep my bike safe.

I won’t fuss over you selling me out.

Keep the ten thousand yuan for yourself.”

“Fang Bai, if that woman offers herself in return, you must hold strong!

Don’t forget, we vowed to lose our virginity together!”

Fang Bai retorted irritably, “You still got your virginity?

Don’t think I don’t know about the hot streak you’ve got going with Feng Ya from your class!

If your virginity’s still intact, I’ll eat my phone!”

Chapter 45: Thank you for being willing to be my friend!

Feng Ya was Zhou Dabai’s classmate, with a delicate appearance and a petite figure, standing a whole head shorter, and then some, next to Zhou Dabai.

Fang Bai really couldn’t understand how a man and a woman with such a big height difference could see eye to eye.

However, Feng Ya was a kind-hearted girl with a good reputation in the medical school, so her relationship with Zhou Dabai wasn’t such a bad thing.

“Feng Ya and I have a purely platonic relationship,” Zhou Dabai argued.

“No one believes you!”

After Fang Bai said this, he walked towards Xia Chenyu with great strides, under Zhou Dabai’s resentful gaze.

As Xia Chenyu saw Fang Bai approaching, her smile slowly spread from the corners of her mouth to her entire pretty face, blossoming like a flower, radiant and dazzling.

“Fang Bai, hello, my name is Xia Chenyu.

Xia as in summer, Chenyu as in the beauty that sinks fish.”

Xia Chenyu took a few steps forward and extended her right hand in greeting.

Fang Bai smiled and shook hands with Xia Chenyu, his gaze fixed on her face, and he exclaimed, “Xia Chenyu...

what a nice name, and you certainly live up to it!”

The small hand he held was warm and tender, soft and boneless, as if it were a piece of exquisite jade, irresistible to let go.

“You’re different from other men,” Xia Chenyu said after Fang Bai released her hand, looking at him with interest.

“How so?”

“Most men who meet me either look nervous and flushed; or they leer with greed, drooling; or they pretend to be gentlemen on the surface when they are actually full of larceny and debauchery...”

Looking into Fang Bai’s eyes, Xia Chenyu continued, “But when you saw me, you weren’t flustered or greedy, and you didn’t put on a false front.

You simply appreciate and admire beauty for what it is.”

Fang Bai said with a smile, “It’s said that you can know a person’s face but not their heart.

Maybe I'm just good at hiding it?"

"The eyes are the window to the soul.

No matter how well a person hides, their eyes can reveal everything.

Your eyes are very clear, like those of a newborn baby; and when you look at people, your gaze is honest, indicating you're upright and magnanimous," she said, looking into Fang Bai's eyes seriously.

"If you were a bad person, I'd gouge out my own eyes!"

Fang Bai said with a wry smile, "A woman as beautiful as you, if she gouged out her eyes because of me, even the heavens wouldn't forgive me!

It seems I can only be a good man."

"If it wasn't for you, last night my body would have been violated by a beast; if it wasn't for you, I might have drowned...

These are great favors, so even if you really were a bad person, I would still accept you."

"Any man with a sense of justice should have done the same."

"But it was you who saved me twice, so I must thank you properly."

Xia Chenyu opened the car door and said to Fang Bai, "Get in, let's go to 'Four Seasons Spring' for a bite to eat first."

"Four Seasons Spring?

Isn't that a bit excessive?"

After fastening his seatbelt in the sports car, Fang Bai remembered that "Four Seasons Spring" was one of the most luxurious hotels in Zhongzhou City, where the cheapest meal cost eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight yuan.

Therefore, the customers who dined at "Four Seasons Spring" were either rich or noble, and many people thought that having a meal there was a very prestigious affair.

"If I don't spend a bit, wouldn't I be neglecting my savior?" Xia Chenyu said with a playful smile and then started the sports car; with the engine's powerful roar, the vehicle shot out like an arrow released from the bow.

Xia Chenyu drove wildly, and the red sports car under her control was like a beast let out from its cage, roaring and racing ahead.

The first time someone sits in Xia Chenyu's sports car, probably nine out of ten will turn pale with fright.

But Fang Bai wasn't scared at all; instead, his eyes went wide as he watched the rolling traffic they left behind on both sides, his face full of excitement.

"Have you been in a sports car before?"

Xia Chenyu glanced at Fang Bai and asked curiously.

"No," Fang Bai shook his head, "it's my first time."

"Then why aren't you afraid?"

"Why should I be afraid?"

"I drive very fast.

What if there's an accident?"

"If you dare to drive this fast, it proves you're very confident in your driving skills; otherwise, it's just a pure death wish.

I believe that any normal person wouldn't joke about their life so easily."

"Actually, sometimes I feel like it might be better to be dead than alive..."

Xia Chenyu's tone suddenly became somber.

She gripped the steering wheel tightly, her eyes fixed forward, and a deep, undissipating sadness and hatred flickered in the depths of her eyes.

Fang Bai said with a smile, "You're young, you shouldn't think like that."

Xia Chenyu gave a light sigh, "If a person carries too much burden, they will live a very tiring life.

Death, on the other hand, can be a relief, an end to all troubles..."

As she spoke, her tone became incredibly resolute: "But I promised my mom that I would live well...

At least until I've shed the burdens I carry, I will do everything in my power to keep on living!"

Fang Bai fell silent; he felt that Xia Chenyu had many untold stories hidden in her heart.

Of course, that was Xia Chenyu's privacy.

If she wished to share, he didn't mind being a listener; if she didn't want to, he wouldn't ask.

"Are you thinking in your mind, 'This woman speaks so erratically, she must be a bit neurotic'?"

Xia Chenyu raised her hand to wipe away a tear that had appeared at the corner of her eye, and suddenly she laughed with a "giggle," reverting to her former enchanting and charming demeanor.

"No."

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "Actually, what I'm thinking right now is: This woman appears to be very happy and carefree on the surface, but her heart must be filled with sadness and pain.

She's a woman with a story."

Xia Chenyu was taken aback, then she pulled the car over to the side of the road, turned her head, and gazed unblinkingly at Fang Bai for a long while before saying, "Are you human or a ghost?"

Without waiting for Fang Bai to speak, she continued, "You are human...

a very clever human.

Otherwise, you couldn't have seen through my disguise and mask to reach into my heart!"

"You said before that eyes are the windows to the soul."

Fang Bai looked into Xia Chenyu's captivating beautiful eyes and said with a smile, "You've hid it well, but your eyes have betrayed your heart."

Xia Chenyu silently observed Fang Bai for a while, then said, "Do you know, Fang Bai, ever since I began to understand the world, my intuition has always been very sharp.

From the first moment I saw you last night, I felt you were a good person...

someone trustworthy and sincere.

To tell you the truth, I might seem successful on the outside, but I don't have a single true friend to confide in.

So..."

With a sincere expression, Xia Chenyu said, "Fang Bai, can we be friends?"

Fang Bai seriously said, "Aren't we friends already?"

"Thank you!"

Xia Chenyu's eyes shimmered with tears as she spoke gratefully, "Thank you for willing to be my friend!"

Chapter 46: Beauty Company

"Four Seasons Spring" is located on the northwest corner of an intersection in Zhongzhou City's bustling district, with a prime geographical position.

Every day, during lunch and dinner time, the hotel's nearby parking lots are filled with luxury cars—those coming and going are without exception, social elites with status and identity.

Xia Chenyu parked her sports car and walked alongside Fang Bai toward the "Four Seasons Spring" hotel.

A door attendant with a delicate appearance smiled broadly, courteously opening the hotel's grand entrance for them, rewarded with a hundred yuan tip casually flicked by Xia Chenyu.

Upon entering the hotel lobby, a vibrant young waitress immediately came forward.

After Xia Chenyu announced the room she reserved, the waitress led them to the “Plum Blossom Hall.”

Entering the “Plum Blossom Hall,” the first thing they saw was a Chinese painting inscribed with “The fragrance of plum blossoms comes from bitterness and cold.”

In the painting, snowflakes danced, and red plum blossoms bloomed defiantly.

With few strokes, yet the spirit and unbending character of the plum blossoms, fearless of the harsh cold, were vividly depicted—clearly the work of some renowned Chinese painting master.

“I like plum blossoms, especially their spirit, so whenever I invite someone to eat, I choose this ‘Plum Blossom Hall.’”

After sitting down, Xia Chenyu gazed at the painting “The fragrance of plum blossoms comes from bitterness and cold,” and seemed to ponder something, sparkles flashing in her beautiful eyes.

A waiter in a green uniform poured a cup of tea for Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu, then closed the private room door and waited outside for instructions.

Fang Bai picked up the tea and sipped slowly, his gaze wandering as he surveyed the hotel private room.

The private room was small, but well laid out and elegantly decorated.

The furniture and utensils all had an antique charm and obviously were quite valuable—it was no wonder the high costs here deterred the salaried class.

“You’ve heard of the ‘Su Family Group’ in Zhongzhou, haven’t you?” asked Xia Chenyu suddenly.

Fang Bai nodded; living in Zhongzhou City, how could he not know of the famous “Su Family Group”?

Even if others didn’t know about the “Su Family Group,” Fang Bai definitely did.

That’s because his classmate, Su Linglong, was the cherished granddaughter of Su Hongyuan, Old Master Su, the founder of the “Su Family Group.”

“‘Four Seasons Spring’ is a subsidiary of the ‘Su Family Group.’ Currently, the ‘Four Seasons Spring’ hotel chain has spread throughout Huaxia’s major cities.

Just this venture alone generates a substantial profit for the Su Family every year...

You can hardly imagine, but Old Master Su Hongyuan started from scratch and in just over two decades, has built the ‘Su Family Group’ into a behemoth in the Huaxia business community...” Xia Chenyu spoke with excitement, her words clearly revealing her admiration and esteem for Su Hongyuan, the creator of the “Su Family Group.”

“Old Master Su is the role model I learn from and the goal I strive towards!” Xia Chenyu ambitiously concluded, “I hope that one day I can take the company my mother handed to me and expand it to become a giant in the business world!”

Dining at “Four Seasons Spring,” one doesn’t only enjoy the prestige—they also have truly exceptional food, with each dish achieving a perfect blend of color, aroma, and taste.

After the dishes and drinks were served, Fang Bai couldn’t help but praise each dish he tasted.

With fine food came fine liquor, naturally.

Instead of red wine, the two drank strong white liquor.

According to Xia Chenyu, red wine lacked the spirit to perk her up, whereas white liquor was pungent and bold, fitting her personality and was her favorite.

Whether by nature or acquired through cultivation, Xia Chenyu had a high tolerance for alcohol.

Half a jin in, not only was she not the slightest bit tipsy, but she also seemed more energized.

The two blushes on her alabaster cheeks looked like ripe, juicy peaches, irresistibly tempting one to rush over and take a big bite.

Xia Chenyu had half a jin of white liquor, and Fang Bai drank not much less than her.

For Fang Bai, drinking alcohol could stimulate the circulation of Qi and blood within the body, which was beneficial to Cultivation, the more he drank, the better.

So when Xia Chenyu repeatedly raised her glass to toast him and thank him for saving her life, he would immediately tilt his head back and drink without hesitation, as if it wasn't alcohol but plain water he was drinking.

The waiter at Plum Blossom Hall was sent away by Xia Chenyu, and the two of them sat side by side.

Chenyu kept filling Fang Bai's glass and offering him dishes.

Fang Bai readily accepted them, and the two were like longtime close friends, not at all feeling the lack of company even though they were the only ones there.

As they ate, they talked, but most of the time, it was Chenyu speaking and Fang Bai listening.

Chenyu told him that her company was Beauty Company.

The company was founded by Chenyu's mother, and after her mother passed away, Chenyu took over its management.

Beauty Company's business focused on weight loss, health preservation, beauty care, and body shaping, and it also acted as an agent for some well-known cosmetics and skincare products.

What Chenyu inherited from her mother was not only her beautiful looks and refined temperament but also her excellent business acumen.

Originally just a small company breaking even, under her leadership, it quickly made a name for itself, achieving tens of millions in profit per year, and the number of employees grew from the initial two hundred to over five hundred at present.

Though Chenyu was a woman, she had ambitions no less grand than a man's, with a wholehearted desire to grow her company and make it into a globally renowned beauty brand, not just in Huaxia.

"There are hundreds of notable beauty companies in Huaxia.

For Beauty Company to become a leader among them is a long and arduous task, but I am confident that I can achieve it!"

Chenyu's spirits were high as she spoke, her beautiful face that made it difficult for others to look directly at her was lit up with a confident smile, and as her big watery eyes shifted, they were full of allure.

Fang Bai thought to himself no wonder there is a saying "a feast for the eyes"—sitting with such a beautiful and charming woman, even without eating a bite, merely gazing at her more would be enough to leave one satisfied.

"President Xia, here's to you.

May you achieve your dreams soon!"

Fang Bai said, raising his glass.

After clinking glasses with Fang Bai, Chenyu responded, "Calling me President Xia is too formal, I am just a bit older than you, you should just call me Sister."

"Sister Xia."

Fang Bai called out with a smile.

"For that 'Sister Xia,' let us brother and sister drink another one!"

"Alright."

"Having gained a brother like you, I'm very happy, we must drink another one."

"Cheers!"

After three consecutive drinks, the alcohol consumption was a bit too quick.

Fang Bai was fine, but Chenyu's cheeks became a touch redder.

"Last night, it seemed like you really liked the Jade Pendant I was wearing.

I can't give you mine, so I specially bought you a new one...

identical to mine."

Chenyu set her glass down and fished out a small red square box from the bag behind her.

Inside the box lay a heart-shaped Jade Pendant tied with a red silk string, its green jade gleaming with a moist luster under the light, obviously worth a great deal.

Chapter 47: Wine does not intoxicate by itself; people intoxicate themselves.

As Fang Bai opened the small box, he felt a faint surge of Essence Energy from the jade pendant and his gaze rested upon it, stirring a slight excitement within him.

“Thank you, Sister Xia.

This jade pendant must be very expensive, right?”

Fang Bai picked up the jade pendant, gently fiddling with it in his hand, feeling the familiar Essence Energy swirling around in his palm.

If it weren’t for Xia Chenyu being right beside him, Fang Bai would have already sat down cross-legged, circulating his Cultivation Technique, impatient to absorb the Essence Energy from the pendant.

“Not too expensive, just several hundred thousand yuan.”

Although Xia Chenyu could not compete with those billionaire tycoons on the Huaxia rich list, as a company CEO with a net worth of several hundred million, a few hundred thousand yuan really was not much to her.

“This jade pendant is also my way of thanking you, you must accept it!”

Xia Chenyu seemed to genuinely treat Fang Bai as a friend, and said earnestly, “While I’m not extremely wealthy, I do have a bit of money.

If you ever need money, just ask...

and don’t be polite with your sister!”

“Hehe...

okay.”

Fang Bai had a good grasp of Xia Chenyu’s personality and knew that she would be unhappy if he refused her gift of the jade pendant.

So after a brief hesitation, Fang Bai accepted the pendant.

Seeing Fang Bai put away the pendant, Xia Chenyu was delighted and couldn’t help but drink a few more glasses.

A moment later, Xia Chenyu stood up to leave the Plum Blossom Hall and head to the restroom.

“Chenyu, what are you doing here?”

As Xia Chenyu was bending down adjusting her skirt after walking out of the restroom, an unexpectedly magnetic male voice rang in her ears.

The man speaking was around twenty-five or twenty-six years old, dressed in a white suit, wearing a pair of gold-rimmed glasses, with his hair neatly combed, handsome features, and a graceful demeanor.

He exuded a refined elegance that matched the image of Prince Charming that many women dreamed of.

Xia Chenyu’s lips initially carried a hint of a smile, but the smile faded and her face turned frosty when she looked up and saw the man in the white suit, and her gaze grew cold.

“Chenyu, dad misses you.

I came to Zhongzhou for two reasons: one is to negotiate a deal on behalf of the family, and the other is with dad's wishes to come and see you."

The man in the white suit looked joyous as he stared at his half-sister with warmth, saying, "Chenyu, no matter what, the blood of the Shen Family flows within you, and the fact that you are a member of the Shen Family cannot be changed.

After Aunt Xia passed away, dad couldn't bear to see you alone and adrift, and he hopes you will acknowledge your ancestry and return to the Shen family..."

"Shen Huanian, you and Shen Dongyang are equally hypocritical, and I find it disgusting!"

Xia Chenyu's lips curled into a sneer and she replied coldly, "Besides, my surname is Xia, not Shen.

I have nothing to do with your Shen Family!"

"Chenyu, how can you speak like that about dad?"

A shadow flickered in Shen Huanian's eyes, followed by a soft sigh, "I know, because of Aunt Xia, you have a deep misunderstanding about dad.

Actually, when dad had you and your mother leave the Shen Family, he had no other choice..."

"Enough, put away your fake expression, I'm not interested in your explanations!

Once again, I have nothing to do with your Shen Family, and I hope you won't disturb my life again!

A good dog doesn't block the path, please step aside!"

Xia Chenyu spoke coldly and walked expressionlessly past Shen Huanian.

Shen Huanian watched the graceful figure of Xia Chenyu enter the Plum Blossom Hall, his expression darkened for a moment before he laughed mockingly and entered the Fortune Hall across the hall.

“Sister Xia, did you come across something upsetting?”

Xia Chenyu returned to the “Plum Blossom Hall,” and Fang Bai glanced at her complexion, asking softly.

Fang Bai’s Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique had reached the second layer, the “Accumulating Essence Realm,” and he could hear every rustle of wind and grass within three hundred meters.

He had heard every word of the conversation between Xia Chenyu and Shen Huanian outside, clear as crystal, but it was inconvenient to let Xia Chenyu know.

Fang Bai possessed an astonishing memory, capable of firmly remembering anyone he had seen just once.

When he heard Shen Huanian’s voice, he immediately recognized the man as the one he had encountered at the Zhongzhou City Police Station – the one who was in a white suit, holding flowers in pursuit of Officer Tang Wenrou.

Tang Wenrou had then pulled Fang Bai in front of her as a shield, claiming he was her boyfriend, which resulted in an enraged Shen Huanian storming off.

From the conversation between Xia Chenyu and Shen Huanian, Fang Bai picked up some clues; it seemed that they were half-siblings sharing the same father, and Xia Chenyu appeared to harbor intense hatred for the Shen Family...

The grudges and affections involved were beyond Fang Bai’s comprehension.

“I ran into an annoying person outside, heard some unpleasant things...

Fang Bai, I'm feeling very troubled, will you drink with me?"

Xia Chenyu sat down sullenly, picked up her glass, and looked at Fang Bai.

"Sure.

However much you drink, I'll join you."

"Thank you."

Neither of them spoke further, and they started clinking glasses and drinking, one round after another.

Fang Bai could feel the pain and hatred in Xia Chenyu's heart and knew she wanted to numb herself with alcohol, so he didn't try to stop her; she drank a glass, and he matched her.

No matter how much Fang Bai drank, as long as he circulated his True Yuan quietly within, he could dissolve the alcohol and would never get drunk.

But Xia Chenyu was, after all, an ordinary person.

Despite being able to hold her liquor, the flush on her cheeks and the haze in her eyes began to show signs of inebriation after she had downed a large amount of white wine.

The alcohol doesn't intoxicate; the people intoxicate themselves.

Looking at the seductive Xia Chenyu, Fang Bai felt he too was becoming slightly tipsy.

Just then, the door to the "Plum Blossom Hall" was pushed open, and two men walked in side by side.

Both men were equally young and handsome, equally graceful and elegant.

Their clothing and the aura they exuded betrayed an elite status and position.

The difference lay in their attire: the man on the left was dressed in a white suit, donning gold-rimmed glasses and appeared gentle and refined.

The man on the right, however, was clad in a black Chinese-style gown, his eyes sharp as an eagle, his stride bold and unrestrained, exuding a wild and unfettered demeanor.

Following the two handsome young men were four bodyguards in black suits and sunglasses.

The four bodyguards didn't enter the "Plum Blossom Hall" but stood guard outside the door, their vigilant eyes sweeping the surroundings.

All four bodyguards were over one meter eighty in height, robust and burly, with the Taiyang Acupoint at the sides of their temples slightly bulging – a sign recognized by insiders as that of skilled fighters.

Standing motionless, they were like four unsheathed swords exuding a sharp and imposing air that created an invisible pressure, making it hard for others not to feel a sense of dread.

Fang Bai knew that only masters who had taken lives and seen blood could emit such a presence.

And to be able to employ such bodyguards was ample proof that the two young and handsome men who had entered were of significant status and position.

Chapter 48: He's Not Worthy of You!

Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu watched as two handsome young men pushed the door and entered the "Plum Blossom Hall," their gazes then falling onto the man on the left dressed in a white suit, their faces showing different expressions.

A faint smile lingered on Fang Bai's lips, while Xia Chenyu had a frosty expression, her beautiful eyes brimming with anger.

The man in the white suit was none other than Shen Huanian.

Fang Bai had met Shen Huanian through Tang Wenrou, while Xia Chenyu had known Shen Huanian for over a decade.

Both of them did not have a good relationship with Shen Huanian, especially Xia Chenyu, who regarded him as if he were an enemy at sight.

"Shen Huanian, what are you doing here?"

Xia Chenyu thought Shen Huanian was there to pester her again, trying to persuade her to "return to her ancestral roots", she said coldly, "I am having a meal with a friend.

Please leave!"

As she spoke to Shen Huanian, his gaze, however, was on Fang Bai.

"It's you!"

When Shen Huanian saw Fang Bai, the smile at the corner of his mouth disappeared.

"It's me."

Fang Bai grinned, revealing eight snow-white teeth.

Xia Chenyu cast a surprised glance at Fang Bai, not expecting that he actually knew Shen Huanian.

“How come you are with my sister?”

Seeing Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu sitting next to each other, practically touching, their demeanors quite intimate, Xia Chenyu’s cheeks flushed with red, clearly showing signs of drunkenness, Shen Huanian’s eyes suddenly shot out a fierce light, and he asked through gritted teeth.

“Shen Huanian, who do you think you are?”

My affairs are not your concern!”

Before Fang Bai could speak, Xia Chenyu had already stood up and said coldly.

Shen Huanian asked in a deep voice, “Chenyu, what is your relationship with this guy?”

Xia Chenyu’s pretty face showed a seductive smile, her hands affectionately clinging to one of Fang Bai’s arms, tilting her head slightly and resting it on Fang Bai’s shoulder, she said, full of happiness, “Can’t you see what our relationship is?”

Do you think I would be so idle as to dine here with a man who has nothing to do with me?”

Shen Huanian knew Xia Chenyu’s personality very well, if Fang Bai did not share an intimate relationship with her, she would never have dinner alone with him.

It was precisely because of this that Shen Huanian felt very angry,

In Shen Huanian’s eyes, although Xia Chenyu had always taken her mother’s surname, she shared the same father as himself, and the blood of the Shen Family coursed through her veins, thus she should be considered a member of the Shen Family.

The Shen Family was a deeply rooted and vast clan, with its reach extending nearly everywhere in Huaxia.

No one would deny that members of the Shen Family were born superior, and wherever the descendants of the Shen Family went, they carried capital enough to be proud of.

And women of the Shen Family, especially those as outstanding as Xia Chenyu who were still of marriageable age, were not meant to decide on their own love and marriage, but should instead be arranged by the current Family Head, their own father Shen Dongyang.

The mission of a woman of the Shen Family was to seek the greatest benefits for the Shen Family, to contribute to the development and growth of the Shen Family, to add strength to its power.

As a woman of the Shen Family, only men with a noble status like hers, the sons of influential clans, should have the right to associate with Xia Chenyu.

How could Fang Bai, a poor boy, be worthy of the noble-born and beautiful Xia Chenyu?

To say he's a toad lusting after a swan's flesh would be a compliment!

Last time at the Zhongzhou City Police Station, Shen Huanian sent flowers to Tang Wenrou, launching a romantic offensive, but Tang Wenrou declared Fang Bai was her boyfriend.

The furious Shen Huanian had someone investigate Fang Bai in secret and found out that Fang Bai was just an ordinary student at Zhongzhou Medical College, from a common poor family.

At that moment, Shen Huanian realized he had been played by Tang Wenrou.

Perhaps Fang Bai was nothing more than a shield she used to fend off his pursuit.

Despite this, Shen Huanian still harbored an inexplicable hatred toward Fang Bai—Tang Wenrou was the woman he liked, and he felt deep animosity towards any man who appeared at her side.

Few could believe that Shen Huanian, who always seemed to bear a gentle and cultured smile, was actually a man with a cold heart and a narrow mind—a hypocrite.

If the chance arose, Shen Huanian wouldn't mind teaching Fang Bai a lesson.

Now, seeing Xia Chenyu and Fang Bai's bodies pressed closely together in intimate gestures, a fiery rage surged within Shen Huanian.

Women of the Shen Family were incomparably noble, each one a so-called Heavenly Daughter.

If Xia Chenyu were to return to the Shen Family, her looks and temperament would undoubtedly make her an important asset to their house.

To a poor boy like Fang Bai, exuding an air of earthiness, even touching Xia Chenyu was a desecration.

Thus, even though it was Xia Chenyu who initiated the intimacy, Shen Huanian wished Fang Bai would drop dead on the spot.

"This woman, she's torturing me!"

Seeing the cold light behind Shen Huanian's glasses, Fang Bai could only offer a bitter smile.

With Tang Wenrou in front and Xia Chenyu behind, these two women were using him as a shield, both against Shen Huanian.

This was hardly a good situation.

Just one look at Shen Huanian's eyes made it clear that the man must utterly despise him.

If looks could kill, Fang Bai believed Shen Huanian would have slaughtered him many times over.

Fang Bai wasn't afraid of trouble, yet he didn't want needless turmoil.

However, the trouble brought on by Xia Chenyu was something he couldn't avoid—after all, he had promised to be friends with her, and they had even referred to each other as siblings, toasting to it with drinks just moments ago.

With these ties, Fang Bai felt that he couldn't extricate himself from the situation at hand.

So, when Xia Chenyu hooked her arm in his and tenderly rested her head on his shoulder, he also played along with a wicked smile, wrapping his arm around Xia Chenyu's soft and slender waist, adopting a domineering pose as if to say, "This woman belongs to me."

Xia Chenyu's body was soft and warm against Fang Bai.

Though separated by several layers of clothing, he could still feel the soft silkiness of her skin.

The scent of alcohol mixed with her feminine fragrance wafted into Fang Bai's nose, stirring his emotions.

"Chenyu, he's not worthy of you!"

Shen Huanian took a deep breath, striving to calm down, and pointed at Fang Bai, saying, "He is just a poor student studying medicine at Zhongzhou Medical College, a mere toad in a mud pond!"

And you, you are a daughter of the Shen Family, destined to soar above the clouds like a phoenix!"

"I've already said, I have nothing to do with the Shen Family, nor am I some phoenix.

I'm just a woman with no parents, alone in this world, trying to make my own way," Xia Chenyu lifted her graceful swan-like neck, her hand gently caressing Fang Bai's cheek, her face tipsy, "He's not a toad.

In terms of appearance and demeanor, he's no worse than you.

All you have over him is the status of the Shen Family's young master.

Without that, you're far beneath him!"

Chapter 49: Dear Fang Bai looked at Shen Huanian and then touched his own face before lowering his head to ask Xia Chenyu, "Do I really look better than him?"

Xia Chenyu giggled and said, "Of course, silly, otherwise why would I fancy you?"

Xia Chenyu wasn't just flattering Fang Bai.

Fang Bai had inherited all the best traits from his parents: he was tall and straight, with fair skin and delicate features, and with his successful cultivation of the Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique, he naturally possessed an extraordinary and unique charm.

And it was this charm that Shen Huanian lacked.

"You've heard of Tang Wenrou from the Tang Family of Anxi City, right?"

Shen Huanian suddenly laughed with a hint of scheming in his smile, pointing at Fang Bai and saying, "Not long ago, I went to see Tang Wenrou, guess what I saw?

I saw this kid standing right beside Tang Wenrou, and at that time, she was as close to him as you are now...

Can you really accept such a two-timer?"

Anxi City, located in the central-western part of Huaxia, is home to two major families: the Shen Family and the Tang Family, both wielding immense influence across Huaxia.

Xia Chenyu had not met Tang Wenrou of the Tang Family, but she had heard of her and knew that although Wenrou, like herself, was also a woman, she was a rising star in the Huaxia police force, incomparable to men in her achievements despite her young age.

Not long before, the TV news had featured a story about Tang Wenrou, saying she had led her team in cracking a serial murder case, eliminating a major threat to the public and receiving commendation from her superiors.

“Darling, do you really have something going on with that policewoman?”

Xia Chenyu asked, looking up at Fang Bai with a teasing smile still on her face.

Her breath on Fang Bai’s face was mixed with the scent of orchids and alcohol, not at all unpleasant.

That sweet, melting “darling” she uttered made the man in the black Tang suit standing next to Shen Huanian feel as if all his bones had lightened by several ounces, his eyes radiating an unusual light.

If you are a healthy, vigorous man with normal desires, and a beauty with an angelic face, a devilish figure, full of allure, and a variety of charms was clinging tightly to your body, whispering “darling” in your ear, how would you feel in the face of such seduction?

Most men would probably have their blood racing, their heartbeats quickening, seeing it as a supreme blessing.

But Fang Bai saw it as torture.

If Xia Chenyu were his woman, he could easily take her away from there to a comfortable and quiet place and have a vigorous “battle” with her, as a response to her provocation.

The problem was, Xia Chenyu wasn’t his woman; they had only met the night before, less than a day ago, and though they had already started calling each other siblings, they didn’t know much about one another.

Fang Bai also understood that Xia Chenyu, like Tang Wenrou before her, was using him as a shield.

She was pretending to be very intimate with him, deliberately putting on a show for Shen Huanian to see.

As for why she was putting on this show for Shen Huanian, Fang Bai's instincts told him it must have something to do with the man in the black Tang suit standing next to Shen Huanian.

Otherwise, if Shen Huanian wanted to chat with Xia Chenyu, he could have simply come over by himself; why bother bringing along that man in the Tang suit?

Looking at the three people in the room, Fang Bai suddenly found the situation very interesting.

He was eager to see what would happen next.

"There has just been a misunderstanding between Officer Tang and me,"

Fang Bai sighed and said, "At that time, Mr.

Shen Huanian wanted to pursue Officer Tang, but she wasn't interested in Mr.

Shen at all.

Out of courtesy, she felt uncomfortable rejecting his advances directly, so she used me as a shield, hoping Mr.

Shen would take the hint and back off...

My relationship with Officer Tang is pure and simple, just a regular civilian-police interaction.

Mr.

Shen, please don't wrong me."

"Shen Huanian, did you hear that?

Fang Bai says there's nothing between him and Tang Wenrou,"

Xia Chenyu leaned on Fang Bai like a clingy little bird and said to Shen Huanian, "You're trying to drive a wedge between us, but it won't work!"

Shen Huanian laughed bitterly out of anger, "Do you trust him that much?"

"If I don't trust him, should I trust you?"

Xia Chenyu retorted with a tone filled with scorn.

Shen Huanian, restraining the rage in his heart, said, "Chenyu, you have too many misunderstandings about dad and me.

Even though dad is in Anxi, he's always worried about you.

I have come to Zhongzhou more than once to visit you...

Chenyu, both dad and I sincerely hope you would return to the Shen Family, so we could live together as one family."

Xia Chenyu lifted her head from Fang Bai's shoulder, sat up straight, and said sternly, "The only possibility for me to return to the Shen Family is one condition."

“Speak!”

Shen Huanian’s eyes lit up as he said, “Dad is now the Family Head of the Shen Family.

He has absolute authority within our household.

Whatever conditions you have, he will surely agree to them!”

“Bring my mother back to life!”

Xia Chenyu spoke every word clearly.

“ ... ”

Shen Huanian was taken aback and then said with a sorrowful face, “Chenyu, the dead cannot be brought back to life...

Do you know, after Aunt Xia’s death, dad has always been burdened with guilt, blaming himself and apologizing to you and your mother...

Dad said if you are willing to come back to the Shen Family, he would do everything in his power to make it up to you.”

“Really?

Then why don’t you go ask Shen Dongyang if he is willing to compensate with his own life?”

“ ... ”

“He won’t be willing, right?

Haha, from the day he drove my mother and me out of the Shen Family's door, I knew that he was a hypocrite – insincere and heartless!

Shen Huanian, go back and tell Shen Dongyang that I will never forgive him in my lifetime!"

When Xia Chenyu spoke these words, she appeared very calm on the surface, but Fang Bai noticed that her body was trembling slightly and tears were glistening in her eyes.

Fang Bai didn't know what to say at this moment, so he said nothing; he just reached out and gently patted Xia Chenyu's shoulder to offer comfort.

"Chenyu, how can you talk about dad like that?"

Shen Huanian said with a darkened face, "Do you have any idea how much dad has silently contributed to you and your mother all these years?

Do you know that after Aunt Xia passed away, dad has always been helping you from the shadows?

Without just your own abilities, do you think the Beauty Company could have grown to its current scale?

Dad has given up so much for you; can't you spare even a word of gratitude in return?"

"How touching!

Those who don't know the truth would think Shen Dongyang has been incredibly kind and generous to me!

Ha, the people of the Shen Family always look for gain before getting up early; Shen Dongyang being so good to me probably has an ulterior motive, doesn't it?"

Xia Chenyu sneered as she glanced at the man in traditional Chinese attire standing beside Shen Huanian, her smile full of mockery.

Seeing Xia Chenyu looking at him, the man in traditional Chinese attire let out a “haha” laugh and said to Shen Huanian, “Brother Shen, this must be the sister Chenyu you wanted to introduce to me, right?”

Chapter 50: Prominent Clans of Chinese Medicine

“My sister has been wandering alone for many years, lacking discipline, and with a stubborn temperament, which must have been amusing to elder brother Hua.”

Shen Huanian, taunted by Xia Chenyu, was full of suppressed anger.

Upon hearing the man in the Tang attire inquire, he had to restrain his ire and managed to squeeze out a strained smile.

“If I had such a beautiful and ethereal sister, I would be too busy cherishing and caring for her, how could I bear to reprimand her?”

No offense, brother Shen, but your brotherly duties are seriously lacking!”

The man in the Tang attire, with a hearty laugh, walked up to Xia Chenyu and reached out to her proactively: “Hello, sister Chenyu, my name is Hua Yi.

I am a good friend of your brother.”

As Hua Yi spoke, his eyes were fixed intently on Xia Chenyu, sharp as if they could see through one’s heart, emanating an imposing aura.

This aura imposed great pressure on Xia Chenyu, making even her breathing momentarily stifled.

Fang Bai cast a thoughtful glance at Hua Yi.

As soon as Hua Yi entered the "Plum Blossom Hall," he knew this man was not only a martial artist but also an exceedingly arrogant one.

However, Hua Yi's strength was only comparable to the two Shaolin Monks who had challenged him some days before, so Fang Bai did not take him seriously.

"Shen Huanian, what's the meaning of bringing this person here?"

Ignoring Hua Yi, Xia Chenyu sat motionless, her gaze coldly fixed on Shen Huanian as she asked expressionlessly.

Hua Yi's outstretched hand froze mid-air, a cold and sharp light flitting across his eyes before he laughed out loud: "Good, a woman with personality, I like that!"

Shen Huanian also laughed, saying, "Chenyu, if I remember correctly, you should be twenty-four this year, right?"

Xia Chenyu looked at him coldly, silent.

Seemingly anticipating Xia Chenyu's indifference, Shen Huanian continued: "Twenty-four is not young for a woman, and it's an age when one can consider marriage."

Xia Chenyu's eyebrows lifted slightly but still, she remained silent.

Shen Huanian spoke with feigned concern: "Chenyu, father may be thousands of miles away, but he is always worried about your affairs.

He says that even if you can't resolve your grievances for the time being and are unwilling to return to the Shen Family, wandering alone is ultimately no solution.

He sincerely hopes that you can find a good man and have a proper place to call home."

“He, Shen Dongyang, needn’t bother himself.”

Xia Chenyu gestured towards Fang Bai, her face softening as she said, “I’ve already found a good man.”

“I’ve said before, he’s not worthy of you!” Shen Huanian looked at Fang Bai with disdain, “You are a woman of the Shen Family, your man must be evenly matched with our Shen Family!”

“So this is the real purpose of Shen Dongyang sending you to find me, isn’t it?”

Suddenly, Xia Chenyu burst into a “giggle,” her laughter tremulous, and pointing at Shen Huanian, she said, “Hehe, to acknowledge my ancestry and return to the Shen Family, then, under the Shen Family’s arrangements, marry the son of some Prominent Clan to form a family alliance and secure benefits for the Shen Family.

The Shen Family is playing a game of chess, and I’m just a pawn...

tsk tsk, what a shrewd calculation by the Shen Family!”

Shen Huanian’s face darkened as he said, “Securing benefits for the clan is the duty of every Shen Family offspring!

Being part of the Shen Family, you should fulfill your responsibilities and obligations!”

“Please, my last name is Xia, not Shen.

I have nothing to do with the Shen family, so why should I seek benefits for the Shen Family?

Stop flattering yourself!”

“Chenyu, wait until I finish speaking, then it’s not too late for you to express your opinion.”

Without waiting for Xia Chenyu to speak, Shen Huanian pointed at Hua Yi and said with a smile, “You must have heard of ‘Rejuvenation Hall,’ right?”

This Mr.

Hua Yi here is the grandson of Hua Chun, the elder of Rejuvenation Hall.”

“Rejuvenation Hall?”

Xia Chenyu paused for a moment and then began to really look at Hua Yi.

Hua Yi puffed out his chest, a smile on his face that he thought could charm thousands of women.

Some say that in today’s world, where Western medicine dominates and traditional Chinese medicine is gradually declining, it is institutions like ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ and a few other traditional Chinese medical families that uphold the last dignity of Chinese medicine.

Some even say that it is precisely because of the existence of these traditional Chinese medical families and their tireless efforts in promotion and advocacy that Chinese medicine still holds a seat in the world of medicine.

Otherwise, traditional Chinese medicine in Huaxia might be even more decrepit than it is now.

The doctors who emerged from these prominent Chinese medical families are also among the best in the field of Chinese medicine, shining in their respective positions and struggling for the rejuvenation and rise of Chinese medicine.

In the hearts of traditional Chinese medicine scholars in Huaxia, these major medical families are like holy temples, and many doctors take pride in working at the medical halls established by these prominent clans.

The heads of these major Chinese medical families, steeped in medicinal skills for decades, are individuals of exquisite medical skill and highly esteemed virtues, considered the leading authorities in the Huaxia traditional Chinese medicine community.

Their reputations have even spread overseas, and many patients travel thousands of miles, flying over continents, to seek their medical expertise.

Most importantly, these major Chinese medical families don't just hold an unshakable position in the field of traditional Chinese medicine, but also in the beauty industry.

Take 'Rejuvenation Hall,' for example, an age-old traditional Chinese medical family that has passed down countless mysterious traditional Chinese beauty remedies.

They have earned substantial profits through collaboration with some well-known domestic beauty companies using these remedies.

There is a saying within the Huaxia beauty industry: a single beauty remedy from 'Rejuvenation Hall' can revive a beauty company on the verge of bankruptcy or rapidly elevate an obscure beauty company.

For this reason, 'Rejuvenation Hall' has become an entity that all major beauty companies in the country try to curry favor with.

Maintaining a good relationship with 'Rejuvenation Hall' is a top priority in the external affairs of these beauty companies.

No wonder Hua Yi maintains such a supercilious posture before Xia Chenyu—as the grandson of the current Family Head of 'Rejuvenation Hall,' Hua Chun, he indeed possesses the status and confidence to do so.

After all, 'Beauty Company' is just a very small beauty company, and as the CEO of this company, Xia Chenyu, who wants to grow and expand her company, should indeed seek his favor.

"Brother Hua is the grandchild most valued by Elder Hua.

His medical skills have directly descended from Elder Hua, and he is considered the foremost among the young generation in the Huaxia traditional Chinese medicine community...”

Shen Huanian spared no effort in praising Hua Yi, and seeing a hint of surprise on Xia Chenyu’s face, he couldn’t help but sneer inwardly.

“Brother Hua is young and promising, a true gentleman.

In the future, the heavy responsibility of being the Family Head of ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ will surely fall upon him...

Chenyu, don’t you want to make your ‘Beauty Company’ a well-known enterprise in the beauty industry?

Now there’s a perfect opportunity, it just depends on whether you know how to seize it...

You and Brother Hua should interact more in the future...”

Although Shen Huanian didn’t state it outright, his meaning was very clear—Hua Yi was a catch worth pursuing, and if Xia Chenyu could snag him, leveraging the power of ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ behind him, Beauty Company could grow and prosper.