

Doctor 431

Chapter 431: Class Reunion

"My son is a fine hero because his father is a hero! Our kid is amazing, but isn't he still the one I fathered?"

Unabashed by his wife's jibe, Fang Gang chuckled and retorted gleefully.

Fang Gang had no idea that his current son was no longer the same as before; otherwise, he would still be paralyzed in bed, and the Fang Family would still be living in poverty.

After receiving a call from their son, Fang Gang and Yang Mei delegated their work to the medical staff at the clinic and stood at the entrance, gazing into the distance and patiently waiting for their son to return.

A few minutes later, a black sedan pulled up smoothly in front of "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic," and Fang Bai and Ghost Hand got out one after the other.

Seeing her son return, Yang Mei's face broke into a wide smile, but she paused for a moment when she noticed Ghost Hand, standing respectfully behind her son, and asked, "Fang Bai, is this your friend?"

Fang Gang was also sizing up Ghost Hand, noting that the young man was a few years older than his son, with thick eyebrows and big eyes, a handsome appearance, and an aura of integrity, he secretly praised him in his mind.

Ghost Hand, knowing that the middle-aged couple before him were his master's parents, bent his knees, ready to kneel.

With a wave of his hand, Fang Bai sent an invisible surge of True Yuan in front of Ghost Hand, stopping him from kneeling and said with a smile, "We don't have so many rituals at home, spare us the formalities! These are my dad and mom, you can call them uncle and auntie from now on!"

"Hello, uncle! Hello, auntie!"

Although Fang Bai didn't let him kneel, Ghost Hand didn't dare to be disrespectful and bowed deeply to Fang Gang and Yang Mei.

Seeing their parents looking at each other in confusion, Fang Bai explained, "Dad, mom, his name is Ghost Hand, and he's a disciple I took on in Yanjing. I brought him here this time to help out at the Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic."

Ghost Hand was initially pursued by the three big sects, and after becoming Fang Bai's disciple, he had no choice but to stay in the courtyard, diligently practicing the cultivation techniques and martial skills taught by Fang Bai.

Now, Ghost Hand's strength had significantly improved, no longer fearing any Profound Level Experts, and continuing to stay in the courtyard was meaningless.

Fang Bai thought of his Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic, which recently expanded and was in need of staff, so he decided that Ghost Hand would help out there.

As a disciple from Myriad Medicine Valley with high medical expertise, having Ghost Hand stationed at the clinic would not only put his skills to good use but also deter any ill-intentioned people from causing trouble.

Ever since business at "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" boomed, the owners of nearby drugstores and clinics grew envious and occasionally engaged in underhanded activities, spreading malicious slander against "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic." Although the Su Family and Mayor Lu Xingping helped smooth things over, it still left Fang Gang and his wife feeling somewhat overwhelmed.

Though both Fang Gang and Yang Mei had learned some martial arts and could handle ordinary people with ease, and Fang Yun was a Yellow Level Martial Artist, the family was too kind-hearted. Sometimes, even when they knew who was causing trouble behind the scenes, they refrained from retaliating, which only emboldened those malicious individuals.

Ghost Hand was different; born into Myriad Medicine Valley, he was accustomed to the life-and-death struggles of the Ancient Martial World. He was steadfast and decisive. If someone dared to make trouble, he wouldn't waste words, but would respond with his fists immediately.

With Ghost Hand holding the fort, he was sure to deter those who would sneak around in the dark.

"Ghost Hand, is it? Great! We're short-staffed at the clinic, so your help will be much appreciated!"

Since Ghost Hand was his son's disciple, Fang Gang didn't treat him as an outsider. He stepped forward, patted his shoulder, and said with a smile.

Fang Bai added, "Dad, Ghost Hand comes from Ancient Medicine Sect and is skilled in medicine. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask him."

After chatting outside for a while, the four of them entered the clinic together.

When Fang Bai saw the banners and certificates hanging on the walls, he couldn't help but laugh, teasing, "A few months away, and dad has become a celebrity in Zhongzhou! Hmm... Vice President of the Zhongzhou City Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine... wow, that title's impressive! I'm in awe!"

"You cheeky brat, getting all cocky, huh? Daring to tease your old dad now, are you? Be careful or I'll spank you!"

Fang Gang knew that his little bit of skill was all thanks to his son. Hearing the playful tease, his face flushed, he glared, and said grumpily.

With their son home, Fang Gang and his wife had no interest in running the business, so they closed up shop early. After Fang Yun returned from school, the family of four, along with Ghost Hand, went to a nearby hotel for dinner.

After returning from the hotel, Yang Mei arranged a place for Ghost Hand to stay, telling him to settle down here from now on.

Before noon the next day, Fang Bai called up his medical school classmate Xiao Minglang to ask for the hotel where the class reunion was to be held, and then he walked over.

Xiao Minglang was one of the organizers of this class reunion, and although his relationship with Fang Bai wasn't as solid as Zhou Dabai's with Fang Bai, it was still quite good.

When he arrived at the "Dongjiang Hotel," he could see from a distance Xiao Minglang and a girl standing shoulder to shoulder at the hotel entrance looking around, obviously waiting for someone.

The girl had delicate features and a slim figure, occasionally speaking in a low voice to Xiao Minglang with an intimate demeanor, clearly his girlfriend.

"Minglang!"

Fang Bai approached the two and called out with a smile.

Xiao Minglang turned around, saw Fang Bai standing there grinning at him, stepped forward, and gave him a bear hug, laughing heartily, "Old classmate, it's been a long time!"

"Yeah! It's been more than half a year in the blink of an eye! Minglang, where are you doing your internship?"

"At Huangpu City Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital. Found by the old man at home."

"Mm, that's a decent hospital."

"How about you?"

"I'm at Yanjing Hospital."

"Yanjing Hospital? Holy crap! Su Linglong is also interning there! How did you get in?"

"Su Linglong helped me."

"I always knew you and the great beauty Su had a thing... Ah, it's a pity Su Linglong couldn't make it today; otherwise, I'd ask her how on earth you managed to charm her! How far have you two gotten now, any close physical contact?"

"Dirty!"

"Hahaha, with such a beauty by your side, I don't believe you can hold back!"

When old classmates meet up, they can't help but tease each other with a few chuckles. As they reached the end of their conversation, Xiao Minglang's girlfriend behind him couldn't help but blush at their [*****].

"Your girlfriend?"

Fang Bai gave the girl a glance and winked at Xiao Minglang.

"Mm."

Xiao Minglang nodded and turned to introduce her, "Zhao Miaomiao, my girlfriend. Miaomiao, this is my old classmate Fang Bai."

After Fang Bai and Zhao Miaomiao shook hands, Xiao Minglang added, "Miaomiao, don't be fooled by this guy's honest appearance, he's actually quite the ladies' man. The number one beauty of our medical school was secretly charmed away by him!"

"Miaomiao is so pretty, and you managed to charm her, you're quite the expert yourself!"

Fang Bai immediately shot back.

Seeing the two bantering, Zhao Miaomiao couldn't help but laugh behind her hand.

Chapter 432: The Bitterness of Old Classmates

The class reunion was arranged to take place in the hotel's third-floor lobby. Xiao Minglang chatted with Fang Bai for a while and told Fang Bai to go ahead and wait in the third-floor lobby, while he and his girlfriend, Zhao Miaomiao, would wait at the hotel entrance for the other classmates.

There were a total of six dining tables in the third-floor lobby, each able to seat fifteen people. Even if every one of Fang Bai's classmates came, there would be enough seats for all.

When Fang Bai arrived at the third-floor lobby, there were already twenty or thirty classmates who had arrived before him. They were either standing or sitting, chatting in groups of two or three.

Back in medical school, the only people Fang Bai hung out with, besides his childhood friend Zhou Dabai from the neighboring class, were a few others like Xiao Minglang. Most of his classmates hadn't even talked to Fang Bai much.

Therefore, when Fang Bai walked into the lobby, some classmates would smile and nod at him, while others would just contemptuously glance at him and then turn away to chat with other classmates.

Fang Bai didn't take it to heart. These class reunions were really just about old classmates meeting up for a chat and a meal together, before everyone dispersed again, not knowing when they might meet next. There was no need to get caught up in petty issues.

"Fang Bai, over here!"

A skinny, tall man with glasses, who was sitting at a table in the northwest corner of the hall, stood up and waved enthusiastically at Fang Bai.

"Pole!"

When Fang Bai saw the skinny, tall guy, a smile formed at the corner of his mouth, and he walked over.

"Pole" wasn't the man's name but a nickname he acquired due to his thin and weak frame.

The real name of "Pole" was Hong Dabao. He used to sit in front of Fang Bai during medical school, and his academic performance was as terrible as Fang Bai's—they were like two peas in a pod.

Being in similar circumstances and having similar personalities made Hong Dabao and Fang Bai sympathize with each other and become friends. Aside from Zhou Dabai, Hong Dabao was the person in the entire medical school with whom Fang Bai got along the best.

Also, due to Fang Bai, Hong Dabao and Zhou Dabai had become friends as well.

Hong Dabao's father had passed away two years ago, leaving him to live with his mother. Their financial situation was very modest, barely better than Fang Bai's before his rebirth.

And judging by his current attire compared to the stylish clothes of the other classmates, he looked quite shabby, indicating that his family's financial state hadn't improved much.

Fang Bai walked over to the dining table where Hong Dabao was seated. The two classmates who once sympathized with each other looked at one another, sizing each other up.

"Fang Bai, you seem to be doing well recently! You won't look down on me like the other classmates, will you?"

Hong Dabao asked half-jokingly and half-seriously.

He could tell that, although the clothes on Fang Bai were not worth tens of thousands of dollars, they were certainly much more expensive than his own. It seemed that Fang Bai had encountered different fortunes recently.

"Dabao, am I that kind of person? No matter how I'm doing, we are good classmates, good friends! Come on, let's sit down and talk!"

Fang Bai invited Hong Dabao to sit down together. Seeing that there were only the two of them at the table, he couldn't help but laugh and said, "It seems that, just like when we were in medical school, our classmates still keep their distance from us!"

"Back then, they distanced themselves from us because of our poor grades; now... heh, maybe it's because they see we're not doing well and don't want to rub off on their bad luck!"

Hong Dabao laughed self-deprecatingly and then added, "It's just as well that it's only the two of us—it prevents some classmates from showing off during the meal and getting on our nerves!"

Fang Bai said, "Whoever wants to show off, let them. We just need to be true to ourselves!"

Hong Dabao sighed, poured water into both his and Fang Bai's cups, and then looked out the window, lost in thought.

"Dabao, you seem to be in a bad mood. Did something happen?"

Fang Bai glanced at Hong Dabao and, seeing the gloominess between his brows, casually asked.

"I..."

Hong Dabao hesitated for a moment, forced a smile, and shook his head, "Nothing much..."

Fang Bai said earnestly, "Forget about personal issues, but if it's something else, feel free to talk about it. Two heads are better than one, we can think of a solution together!"

"I got into some business recently, thinking that I could make a fortune, but I ended up getting scammed, and lost all my money! So unlucky! Ah..."

Hong Dabao let out a long sigh, his face full of sorrow.

After a pause, he continued, "You know my family isn't well off. The money I used for the business was saved up slowly by my mom. After losing it in the business, even though my mom didn't blame me, I can tell she's very upset... very upset..."

At this point, Hong Dabao's eyes reddened a bit. He habitually took out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket and gestured for Fang Bai to take one.

Fang Bai waved his hand, "I don't smoke. How much did you invest in your business?"

"One hundred thousand!"

Hong Dabao lit a cigarette, took a few heavy drags, and with smoke swirling around him, his voice low and choked up, "My mom scrimped and saved for twenty years, and all she managed to save... I lost it overnight... Fang Bai, do you think I'm a loser?"

"You're not!"

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "I understand that you wanted to make some money to improve your family's situation and provide a better life for you and your mom."

Hong Dabao rubbed his slightly sore nose and said with a bitter smile, "Old classmate, you really understand me!"

"What business did you get into?"

Fang Bai casually asked.

"Damn it, I was duped this time!"

Upon hearing Fang Bai bring up the issue, Hong Dabao's anger flared up as he said bitterly, "Last Monday, a friend of mine who I have a good relationship with came to me, saying he knew the sales

manager at 'Beauty Company' and could get a batch of 'Beauty Company's' products at the lowest price. He suggested I put in some money for us to buy low and sell high together..."

"I thought that 'Beauty Company's' beauty products were selling hot and that flipping them would surely make a profit. My head was hot at the moment, and I took out one hundred thousand yuan and gave it to that friend... My friend was cheated just like I was, and what we bought turned out to be counterfeit. Later, the goods were seized by the authorities, and we were fined..."

"'Beauty Company's' products have counterfeits now?"

Fang Bai asked, frowning.

Hong Dabao nodded and said, "Not just some, but a lot! You can't even tell the real from the fake just by looking at the packaging!"

Upon hearing this, Fang Bai couldn't help but give a wry smile, knowing that due to the high demand for 'Beauty Company's' products, all sorts of fake and inferior products had inevitably appeared, disrupting the market and causing significant losses to 'Beauty Company'.

In fact, 'Beauty Company' had utilized various means to defend its rights, but as soon as one batch of knock-offs was taken down, another would emerge. It was a constant battle that was incredibly frustrating.

As the two were talking, more and more classmates arrived, but Fang Bai and Hong Dabao's table remained occupied only by the two of them.

Chapter 433: This Classmate of Yours is Quite Arrogant!

"Dabao, how about this, I and 'Beauty Company's' CEO Xia..."

Just as Fang Bai was about to tell Hong Dabao that he knew Xia Chenyu, he noticed Hong Dabao's gaze suddenly shifted toward the entrance of the hall, his expression indescribably strange.

Following Hong Dabao's gaze, Fang Bai turned his head, only to see a woman in red entering arm in arm with a man in a suit and leather shoes, who appeared to be in his early thirties.

The man was unrecognizable to the crowd, but the woman in red was well-known to everyone; she was Sun Ying, the ex-girlfriend of the original owner of Fang Bai's body.

Half a year ago, after breaking up with the original owner of this body, Sun Ying had thrown herself into the arms of Liu Yichen, the scion of the medical college. Afterwards, Fang Bai, angered by Xia Chenyu, dealt with one of the Liu family father and son duo, killing one and turning the other into a fool, and Sun Ying also vanished without a trace.

Unexpectedly, Sun Ying had found a new love now, a man about a decade or so older than him.

Sun Ying was still dressed in brand-name attire, with fair, radiant skin, looking as if she had attached herself to another wealthy man and was living a comfortable life.

Following Sun Ying and the man, several hotel waiters carried gift boxes in their hands. Upon closer inspection, the gift boxes were part of a beauty kit recently released by "Beauty Company," each valued at 1,888 yuan.

Although the price of over a thousand yuan didn't seem expensive, the beauty kits were incredibly popular, often sold out in the market, with no guarantee of availability even with money.

Upon seeing the beauty kits, the eyes of the female classmates in the room lit up immediately, and some, quick-witted, took the initiative to greet Sun Ying enthusiastically.

"Dear classmates, let me introduce you, this is my boyfriend Zhan Xing, the current Deputy Sales Manager of 'Beauty Company' in Zhongzhou District..."

With a smile on her face, Sun Ying introduced her new boyfriend and then pointed to the beauty kit gift boxes held by the waitstaff behind her, saying, "Hearing that I was attending a class reunion, Zhan Xing brought some small gifts to accompany me here... I must declare though, these gifts are for women, so they'll only be given to the female classmates!"

"A small token, please accept it with a smile," Zhan Xing said with a smile, then the waitstaff distributed the beauty kits among the cheers of over twenty female classmates.

Each female classmate who received a beauty kit was extremely excited, repeatedly expressing their gratitude to Sun Ying.

At this moment, Sun Ying became the center of attention, her face radiating with joy.

"Pssh, she's just latched onto some rich guy. What's there to be proud of!"

As Fang Bai's friend, Hong Dabao, of course, knew when Sun Ying broke up with Fang Bai to go into Liu Yichen's arms. He had even felt indignant for Fang Bai. Now, seeing Sun Ying's smug demeanor, he snapped irritably.

"Never mind her, let's continue our conversation!"

If the Fang Bai before the body snatching had some old feelings for Sun Ying, then the current Fang Bai now considered Sun Ying a stranger and had no interest in her whatsoever. Whatever Sun Ying did was none of his concern.

Sun Ying's gaze wandered and then landed on Fang Bai, who was sitting at a corner table. There was a brief flash of embarrassment on her face, but it quickly returned to normal.

She whispered something into her new boyfriend Zhan Xing's ear, and then, smiling, walked over arm in arm with him.

"Fang Bai, Hong Dabao, long time no see!"

Upon reaching the table, Sun Ying took the initiative to greet them.

Before Fang Bai could speak, Hong Dabao had abruptly stood up, stared coldly at Sun Ying, and said disdainfully, "Sun Ying, I know you're doing well now, but do you really need to come over just to show off your superiority?"

Sun Ying frowned and said unhappily, "Hong Dabao, what do you mean? I'm just greeting old classmates, what superiority am I showing off?"

Hong Dabao chuckled coldly and said, "No meaning in particular. I just can't stand women who hop from one man to another, that's all."

Sun Ying knew Hong Dabao was ridiculing her for abandoning Fang Bai and falling in love with someone else, which made her feel a mix of shame and anger. Pointing at the tip of Dabao's nose, she said, "Hong Dabao, what does this have to do with you? Hmph, you're not doing so well yourself, but you sure have a lot to say!"

Hong Dabao slapped his chest forcefully and said loudly, "Regardless of how well I'm doing, I would never abandon my friends! But what about you? When he was in his most difficult times, in desperate need of help, you didn't offer a single word of comfort. Instead, you heartlessly broke up with him and couldn't wait to throw yourself into the arms of a rich second generation... I despise women as heartless and ungrateful as you!"

"You..."

Sun Ying's face turned crimson with rage, her lungs nearly bursting with anger. Yet, she was speechless since what Hong Dabao said was true.

"Xiaoying, your classmate is quite arrogant!"

Seeing his girlfriend being wronged, Zhan Xing's face turned dark, shedding his previously smiling demeanor. The look he directed at Hong Dabao was filled with malice.

As the deputy manager of the sales department at Beauty Company in Zhongzhou City, Zhan Xing had some clout behind him. Seeing Hong Dabao dressed in clothes that looked like they came from a street stall, clearly a poor kid, he thought, how hard could it possibly be for me to deal with you?

"Why start arguing the moment we meet?"

As Sun Ying and Hong Dabao continued their quarrel, Xiao Minglang, the organizer of this class reunion, walked in with his girlfriend Zhao Miaomiao and tried to mediate the situation: "We're all old classmates, let's talk this out calmly, please don't hurt our friendships!"

"Make him apologize to Xiaoying! Otherwise, it won't just be our classmate relationship that gets damaged!"

Zhan Xing hugged Sun Ying and comforted her in a low voice, demanding with an authoritative tone.

"I haven't said anything wrong, why should I apologize? What, are you thinking of getting physical now?"

Although Hong Dabao was poor, his pride was intact. Seeing Zhan Xing ready for a confrontation, he replied without any sign of weakness.

"I am a cultured man, I wouldn't lay a hand on you, but some of my friends... they are much less refined!"

Zhan Xing said this, the corner of his mouth forming a sinister smile as he picked up his phone and called a friend, asking him to bring over a few people right away.

"Let it go, Zhan Xing, after all, we are all classmates. Let's not make a big fuss out of it!"

Sun Ying spoke up from the side.

Zhan Xing gently touched her cheek and said indulgently, "Baby, you've been wronged, and it bothers me to see that! Just wait, someone will be here soon to vent your anger for you!"

By this time, nearly all of Fang Bai's classmates had arrived. Many of them were displeased with Zhan Xing for wanting to have Hong Dabao beaten up, including the female classmates who had accepted Sun Ying's beauty sets; they all felt Zhan Xing was out of line.

Was it really necessary to escalate to fights and brawls over a small argument among classmates?

Xiao Minglang, a person full of a sense of justice, stood in front of Zhan Xing and said sternly, "Mr. Zhan, I think you are making a mountain out of a molehill! Back when we were studying at the medical college, it was common for us classmates to have our little tiffs and arguments. We can't just resort to fighting over a small issue, can we?"

"The past is the past, the present is the present!"

Zhan Xing replied obstinately, "If he refuses to apologize, I need to teach him a lesson, let him know that there are some people he, a poor kid like him, cannot afford to offend..."

Whoosh—

Before Zhan Xing could finish speaking, a stream of water inexplicably flew from somewhere and sprayed right onto his face.

Chapter 434: Master Fang, Spare My Life!

"Who? Who did this!"

Zhan Xing wiped his face in an embarrassed and flustered way while shouting angrily.

Sun Ying clumsily took out a roll of tissues from her bag to wipe the water off Zhan Xing's face, then looked at Fang Bai with an ugly expression and said discontentedly, "Fang Bai, how could you do this?"

The classmates at the scene, upon hearing Sun Ying's words, turned their heads to look at Fang Bai, and seeing that he was holding an empty cup facing Zhan Xing's direction, they realized that it was him who had splashed water on Zhan Xing's face.

During their time at the medical college, everyone knew that Fang Bai and Hong Dabao had a good relationship. Fang Bai had always seemed timid and weak, but no one expected him to stand up for Hong Dabao at this time.

Fang Bai didn't look at Sun Ying or the others, but slowly poured himself another glass of water and leisurely took a sip, saying indifferently, "Sun Ying, for the sake of being classmates, I'll give you some face and let your boyfriend leave."

His voice wasn't loud, but it carried an uncontested authority.

Sun Ying stared at this greatly changed Fang Bai, whom she had once abandoned, and couldn't identify the taste in her heart.

"By what right? You two paupers are the ones who should leave!"

Sun Ying's voice suddenly grew louder as she pointed at Fang Bai and Hong Dabao, shrilly saying, "Studying at the medical college was mediocre, and your lives were miserable in society... I really wonder how you two had the courage to attend this class reunion! Look, no one wants to sit with you, what does that tell you? It means they look down on you!"

Upon hearing Sun Ying's words, the expressions of the classmates in the hall varied—some agreed strongly, while others disagreed.

Sun Ying was only partly right. Among the classmates present, indeed some were disdainful of poverty and fond of wealth, unwilling to associate with 'paupers' like Fang Bai and Hong Dabao.

But there were also those classmates who hadn't come over to sit because they hadn't been close with Fang Bai or Hong Dabao during their time at the hospital, not because they looked down on the two.

"Sun Ying, not everyone is like you, despising the poor and loving the rich! Whether Fang Bai and Hong Dabao are doing well or not, they are still my classmates!"

Xiao Minglang said loudly, pulling his girlfriend Zhao Miaomiao to sit beside Fang Bai.

Following Xiao Minglang, several other classmates gradually joined Fang Bai and Hong Dabao at their table.

Some classmates who didn't snag a seat stood behind Fang Bai and Hong Dabao to show their support.

A few who had just received beauty sets from Sun Ying quietly placed their gift boxes on the table beside Sun Ying and also stood behind Fang Bai and Hong Dabao.

There was also a group of classmates who stood on Sun Ying's side and didn't move, but some of them wore unnatural expressions, clearly aware it was wrong and feeling guilty.

Hong Dabao, during his time at the medical college, had not been very popular due to his grades and family background, and he hadn't expected that at this time, so many classmates would take his and Fang Bai's side. He couldn't help but have tears in his eyes from the emotion.

"See, Sun Ying, there are still people who are willing to cherish the friendship of classmates. These people are truly the friends worth having! Of course, you are wealthy now, and you won't lack friends, but I bet that one day when you have nothing, there won't be many friends who will comfort you, encourage you, or offer you whatever help they can. Believe it or not, just wait and see."

Fang Bai looked calmly at Sun Ying as he spoke indifferently.

Sun Ying brought her boyfriend Zhan Xing to the class reunion and distributed beauty sets from the Beauty Company to show off her wealth. When she saw that the classmates were flocking to her, full of envy, her vanity was immensely satisfied.

After the quarrel with Hong Dabao and Fang Bai, Sun Ying expected all the classmates would side with her, but to her surprise, about half chose to support Fang Bai and Hong Dabao, which made her face look somewhat ugly.

Zhan Xing was drenched in tea by Fang Bai and seethed with rage, clenching his fists as his gaze constantly darted towards the entrance of the hall, as if he was waiting for someone.

When he saw four tall and burly men appear in his field of vision, Zhan Xing's face lit up with elation, and he raised his arm to wave vigorously, calling out loudly, "Brother Wei, over here!"

The four tall and burly men were dressed in matching black Zhongshan suits, with a red leaf emblem embroidered over their hearts. They walked with a dragon's stride and a tiger's vigor, exuding a powerful presence.

"Manager Zhan, who has provoked you?"

The four men walked up to Zhan Xing. One of them slapped Zhan Xing on the shoulder and asked in a brash manner, casting a glance all around.

This man's face was covered in scars, giving him a fierce look. The students he glanced over all felt their hearts "thump," involuntarily shrinking their heads.

"It's these two guys!"

Zhan Xing pointed at Fang Bai and Hong Dabao, his anger evident as he said, "These two, one cursed at my girlfriend, and the other threw water in my face... Brother Wei, you know I'm a mild-mannered person, not good at fighting, so I asked you guys to come over and do me a small favor, to get some revenge for me!"

The man known as "Brother Wei" nodded and looked at Fang Bai and Hong Dabao.

When his gaze fell on Fang Bai's face, he seemed to find it somewhat familiar. After a closer look, he finally recognized him, and his eyes widened in shock as cold sweat broke out all over him.

"Master... Master Fang... spare my life!"

Brother Wei called out tremblingly, his legs giving out as he knelt down with a "thud."

As soon as he uttered "Master Fang," the three men who had accompanied him also changed their expressions drastically and knelt down together, incessantly kowtowing to Fang Bai.

"Brother... Brother Wei, what's going... going on..."

Zhan Xing, seeing the powerful and imposing Brother Wei suddenly kneeling in front of Fang Bai and continuously kowtowing, was startled, a sense of ominous foreboding rising in his heart.

"Are you men of Ruan Hongpeng?"

Fang Bai's gaze swept over the four kneeling men before him as he asked coldly.

In fact, as soon as Brother Wei and his men had called him "Master Fang" and began kowtowing, Fang Bai had already begun to guess their identities.

Especially after seeing the red leaf emblem embroidered on the Zhongshan suits they were wearing, his suspicions were further confirmed.

The last time Fang Bai had returned to Zhongzhou, he had eliminated Cheng Dihaou, the underworld overlord of Zhongzhou, and then installed Ruan Hongpeng in his place, handing over Cheng Dihaou's properties including the "Dihao Entertainment Club" and other assets for Ruan Hongpeng and his girlfriend Ye Xiaoyan to manage.

After Ruan Hongpeng took over the "Dihao Entertainment Club," he renamed it the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club," and following Fang Bai's advice, had strictly disciplined and uniformly managed his subordinates.

Now, Ruan Hongpeng's men had entered into various industries taken over from Cheng Dihaou to participate in their operation and management, transforming overnight into businesspeople of various sizes in Zhongzhou City.

Chapter 435: You're Sleazy from Head to Toe!

Ruan Hongpeng had such deep respect for Fang Bai that it penetrated his very bones. Fang Bai had ordered him to restrain his subordinates from committing any more egregious crimes, and he took that to heart. Should any of his men disobey, he would personally step in and chop off one of their hands as a severe penalty.

Furthermore, Ruan Hongpeng had distributed Fang Bai's photo to every one of his underlings, instructing them to firmly remember "Master Fang's" face, stating that anyone foolish enough to cross Master Fang would personally have his hand chopped off as reparation.

Therefore, when Brother Wei and the other three men saw Fang Bai, they were all scared out of their wits, fearful that this person, who even Master Hong respected, would cripple them in a fit of rage.

"Yes... yes... we are underlings of Master Hong..."

Upon hearing Fang Bai's query, Brother Wei rapidly replied.

"Is this man your friend?"

Fang Bai pointed at Zhan Xing.

"No... he's not a friend... In one of the stores we run, we sell their company's products. He's responsible for supplying us, and over time, we got to know each other..."

Brother Wei glanced at Zhan Xing, his teeth itching with hatred. He felt the urge to kill him, thinking that he had narrowly avoided causing a massive disaster, and blamed this fool for it.

"I see... get up then!"

Fang Bai's expression eased somewhat, signaling for Brother Wei and the others to stand up before continuing the conversation.

In Fang Bai's eyes, small fries like Brother Wei who were under Ruan Hongpeng's command had their fate, future, and even their life or death at the mercy of his word. If they had attacked him and Hong Dabao without asking any questions, he certainly wouldn't have let them off easily.

Since they hadn't done anything particularly egregious, Fang Bai wasn't so petty as to hold a grudge over such a trivial matter.

With trembling fear, Brother Wei and the three others cautiously stood up and stood quietly to one side, looking as meek as four primary school children who had done something wrong.

"There's nothing more to deal with here, you all can leave... Oh, and take this Manager Zhan with you. I don't want to see him again."

Fang Bai noticed that the complexions of the students around were pale, presumably intimidated by the fierce appearance of Brother Wei and his men. He waved his hand, indicating that they should leave immediately; otherwise, the class reunion would likely not be able to continue.

Upon hearing Fang Bai's permission to leave, Brother Wei breathed a sigh of relief as if relieved of a great burden. He gave Fang Bai a deep bow before immediately instructing his two underlings to seize the struggling and shouting Zhan Xing and quickly leave.

Sun Ying looked at the forcibly taken away Zhan Xing and then at Fang Bai, a hint of fear appearing in her eyes. She now realized that the poor youngster she had once abandoned had become a person of great importance.

She hesitated for a moment, wanting to say something to Fang Bai, but in the end, she couldn't bring herself to speak. Stomping her foot, she hurriedly ran after them, even leaving behind the beauty kits she had brought.

"Fang Bai, what on earth have you been doing these past six months?"

After Sun Ying and the others had left, the hall fell silent for a moment before Hong Dabao's somewhat hoarse voice rang out. He looked at Fang Bai carefully again, as if he had suddenly become a stranger.

Xiao Minglang and the others were also looking at Fang Bai with similar expressions.

The fact that Brother Wei and his men, who were normally polite to even Zhan Xing, had been terrified upon seeing Fang Bai, addressing him as "Master Fang" and kneeling and kowtowing nonstop, was a massive shock to Hong Dabao and the others.

"These past six months, I've been interning at Yanjing Hospital!"

Fang Bai saw the complex and hard-to-read expressions on the faces of Hong Dabao, Xiao Minglang, and the others, knowing that what had just happened had frightened them. He chuckled and said, "Regardless, I'm still the same person as before, your classmate, friend, and brother! Unless, of course, you no longer consider me your classmate, friend, or brother!"

Hong Dabao's heart warmed, and he slapped Fang Bai's shoulder hard, exclaiming, "I knew I wasn't wrong about you! You're different from Sun Ying; even if you've become successful, you wouldn't put on airs in front of old classmates!"

Xiao Minglang nodded along vigorously, adding, "I understand Fang Bai's character. Even if he becomes a really important person in the future, he won't forget us old classmates!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and said, "Honestly, although I'm not yet a big shot, I have achieved some success! If any of you are facing problems that you can't solve, feel free to come to me. As long as I can help, I will do my best to do so!"

A classmate who loved to joke around winked and said, "Fang Bai, I heard you swept off our medical school's number one beauty, Su Linglong. Can you do me a favor? If Su Linglong has any cousins or something, hook me up with one, will you?"

"Wang Fei, I really can't help you there! What's the matter, aren't you and Li Xiaojuan dating? Haven't you sealed the deal yet?"

Fang Bai said with a laugh.

The girl named Li Xiaojuan blushed and spat, "Pah, just spout nonsense, Fang Bai! With that sleazy look Wang Fei has, I would never go for him!"

"Cut it out. I, Wang Fei, am handsome and dashing, charming and suave, adored by all, flowers bloom at my sight. Who knows how many girls wish they could chase after me but can't... where am I sleazy?"

"You're sleazy from head to toe!"

A few of Wang Fei's male classmates jeered.

With the classmates' teasing and laughter, the atmosphere in the hall quickly lightened up, and as for Sun Ying, who had just left, she was already forgotten.

"I'm kind of hungry... Is everyone here yet? If we're all here, let's start with the drinks and dishes!"

Xiao Minglang counted the number of people and saw that, aside from Sun Ying and a few other classmates who couldn't make it due to other commitments, everyone else had arrived, so he asked the waiter to start serving the drinks and food.

Amid the eating and drinking, dozens of classmates reminisced about the past few years of study at the medical school, with feelings of emotion, sighs, laughter, and some with sadness.

"What should we do with the beauty kit gift box that Sun Ying left here?"

In the middle of the meal, a classmate suddenly asked.

"Does anyone know Sun Ying's address? We could send it to her later!"

"Better to give her a call and let her come and get it!"

"Right, leave the stuff at the hotel's front desk, call Sun Ying and have her pick it up!"

"Sigh, truth be told, if Sun Ying is willing to sell, I'd like to buy a set to use!"

"Yeah! That beauty kit is hard to buy on the market now!"

A few beauty-loving female classmates turned their heads to look longingly at the beauty kits Sun Ying had left behind.

"Ladies, let's not touch Sun Ying's belongings. I'm on good terms with a senior executive at Beauty Company. If you all want any beauty products, I can have them sent over... for free!"

Fang Bai was now a major shareholder of Beauty Company, after all. Sending some beauty products to his classmates was something Xia Chenyu would definitely not object to.

"Fang Bai, are you serious? You're not pulling our leg, are you?"

"If you really know someone from Beauty Company, I want a set of 'Scar-Removing Spirit'... no need for free, just a discount will do!"

"I want 'Snow Skin Beautifying Cream'!"

"I want 'Acne Battle'!"

"I want the beauty kit! The kind that Sun Ying brought just now!"

Chapter 436: Call me Chenyu, I like to hear it!

Fang Bai listened to a group of female classmates chattering excitedly and smiled, nodding his head, "Sure, I'll have my friend bring some extra later. You can pick them out yourselves!"

Getting up, he walked to a corner, took out his phone, and dialed Xia Chenyu's number.

"Aiyo, my Boss Fang, you still remember to call me? I thought you found new love in Yanjing, being embraced left and right, living the high life, and tossed me, your old flame, high into the clouds!"

The moment the call connected, Xia Chenyu's voice, dripping with the tone of a woman wronged in the seclusion of her chambers, came through.

Although Fang Bai knew Xia Chenyu was teasing, he couldn't help but feel a bit guilty; he had indeed been so busy with various matters in Yanjing lately that he had scarcely contacted her.

He really was a hands-off manager in the truest sense.

"Sister Xia..."

"Don't call me Sister Xia, it makes me sound so old... Call me Chenyu, I like hearing it!"

"Chenyu..."

"Mhm, say it a few more times!"

"Chenyu, I'm in Zhongzhou!"

"What? You're back? When did you get back? Why didn't you call ahead of time? I could have prepared a welcome-back party for you!"

Xia Chenyu's voice, which had been filled with languid melancholy as if she had just woken from a dream, was now filled with surprise and excitement, her volume noticeably higher.

"I got home yesterday. I'm currently at 'Dongjiang Hotel' attending a medical school classmate's gathering."

"You're calling me now; you must need something, right? Sigh... After all, you wouldn't call me if it wasn't for something... Go on, Boss Fang, what do you need my help with?"

Xia Chenyu's voice once again took on a tone of resentment.

"Well, some of my classmates quite like the beauty products from your company. I'm thinking of giving each of them a few items..."

"Is it the 'Dongjiang Hotel' on Huanghe Road?"

"Yes."

"Wait there, the goods will be delivered soon."

After ending the call with Xia Chenyu, Fang Bai returned to his seat and saw his female classmates looking at him with anticipation. He smiled and said, "Alright, the beauty products you want will be delivered soon. My friend said they are a gift; she'll get angry if anyone even mentions paying for them!"

"Wow, really giving them to us for free?"

"Hehe, then we won't be polite!"

"Fang Bai, I'll toast you with a drink in place of alcohol!"

"I'll toast you too!"

"And me!"

Fang Bai's female classmates, except for a few who came from wealthier families, mostly came from ordinary backgrounds. They were, of course, delighted at the prospect of getting beauty products worth a thousand or two for free.

"Fang Bai, you're not just giving gifts to the female classmates, right? What about us guys?"

Xiao Minglang eagerly looked at Fang Bai and asked with a dry laugh.

In this world, no woman could resist beauty products, especially those produced by Beauty Company. They were simply irresistible and drove women wild.

When Fang Bai announced he would distribute free Beauty Company beauty products to the female classmates, Xiao Minglang noticed his girlfriend Zhao Miaomiao looking envious. He knew she wouldn't say it, but she really wanted them, so he plucked up the courage to ask.

At this class reunion, aside from Xiao Minglang, there were several other male classmates who had brought their girlfriends along. If Fang Bai's gifts only went to the female classmates, ignoring these men who came with their girlfriends, it would be somewhat embarrassing.

If Fang Bai treated everyone equally, giving a gift to each male classmate as well, then they could pass them on to their girlfriends, and everyone would be happy.

Fang Bai, being who he was, knew exactly what Xiao Minglang was thinking. He smiled and said, "Don't worry, everyone here gets a share!"

No sooner had he finished speaking than a cheer erupted throughout the hall.

After the incident with Brother Wei earlier, everyone knew that Fang Bai was a capable man, and no one doubted his words.

Twenty minutes later, the doors to the hall were gently pushed open, and the dozens of classmates turned their heads to look. The female classmates all showed a bashful expression, while the male classmates' eyes gleamed.

After the door opened, ten beautiful young women in their twenties, vibrant and pretty, walked in.

These beauties were all dressed in uniform OL suits, each one slender, with long hair cascading over their shoulders, fine waists, long legs, fair skin, and large eyes. They walked in with light steps, and their delicate and lovely faces carried smiles that felt like a breath of spring.

However, these ten OL-dressed beauties weren't the main attraction. The gaze of everyone in the room swept over them and ultimately fixed on the woman who walked in behind them.

The woman appeared to be twenty-three or twenty-four and far outshone the ten OL beauties before her in figure, looks, and aura. The same OL outfit on her showcased a woman's soft curves and graceful figure perfectly.

As the woman walked in leisurely with a faint smile, her unassuming demeanor still conveyed a myriad of emotions and an overflowing charm. Everyone who met her gaze held their breath.

With every move she made and smile she flashed, she personified the very essence of a woman's "beauty" and "charm." In Fang Bai's eyes, no one but Xia Chenyu could achieve such an effect.

Fang Bai had thought that Xia Chenyu would send someone to deliver the beauty products, but to his surprise, she came in person, prompting an inward sigh.

Moving his lips slightly, he used the "Thread Condensation Sound Transmission" to tell Xia Chenyu to keep her identity as the president of Beauty Company a secret and to pretend that she was just a friend of his.

Fang Bai knew that once his classmates found out about his ambiguous relationship with the president of Beauty Company, the pure friendship from their school days could never be recovered.

Following Xia Chenyu were two women, her personal secretary Zhao Xiaomeng and her trusted associate, Wu Xiuyun, the sales manager of Beauty Company.

Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun were both veterans who had started the business with Xia Chenyu. Fang Bai knew them well and smiled and nodded to them.

While others might not know of the ambiguous relationship between Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu, Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun were somewhat aware. They also knew that without Fang Bai, there would be no Beauty Company as it was now.

So although President Xia seemed to be the one in charge, she was actually very obedient to Fang Bai.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that if Fang Bai wanted to be the company's president, President Xia would step aside without hesitation, willingly becoming a subordinate under his command.

Thus, when Fang Bai greeted them first, both Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun felt flattered and pleasantly surprised.

Chapter 437: Would you like to come over to my place tonight?

"Sister Xia."

Fang Bai hurried forward to greet her, walked up to Xia Chenyu with a smile, and said, "Why did you come in person? With the company so busy, couldn't you have just sent someone over with the stuff?"

"When Boss Fang... Fang Bai summons me, how dare I not come myself?"

Xia Chenyu had intended to call him "Boss Fang" out of habit but, noticing Fang Bai's glaring eye, she immediately corrected herself while winking at him, her face adorned with a seductive smile that could enchant everyone and turn their souls upside down.

"My classmates are getting a little impatient. Have your people distribute the stuff!"

Fang Bai jokingly spoke as he saw ten pretty women in OL (office lady) attire each carrying several exquisite gift boxes in front of Chenyu, knowing they were beauty products from Beauty Company.

Xia Chenyu nodded, glanced over the crowd with her sharp eyes, and said crisply, "Fang Bai and I are good friends, and everyone here is a classmate of his, which means you'll all be my friends as well. I've brought a little gift for each of you, and I hope you like them."

Having said that, Xia Chenyu nodded to the ten attractive OL-attired women who began to twist their slender, supple waists and move their light, graceful steps, flitting between the tables like butterflies as they distributed the exquisite gift boxes to each of the classmates, making sure everyone got one.

"Wow!"

A female classmate seated at the same table as Xiao Minglang exclaimed in surprise after examining the gift box closely.

"Zhou Xiaoru, what are you shouting about? You scared me!"

Xiao Minglang said, laughing.

"This... this... this beauty set..."

The classmate named Zhou Xiaoru, pointing at the gift box in her hands, was too excited to speak properly.

"What about this beauty set?"

Xiao Minglang, seeing Zhou Xiaoru's face flushed with excitement, couldn't help but pick up the gift box he had just put down to take another look.

Unlike the gift box that Sun Ying had brought earlier, the current gift box looked even more high-end and classy in its packaging.

"The beauty set Sun Ying brought earlier is worth one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight yuan and is targeted at the white-collar market, but this one is for the high-end market... I asked about the

price before; this set is worth eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight yuan! I've wanted to buy it for a long time, but it was too expensive, and I couldn't bring myself to spend that much!"

Zhou Xiaoru held on to the gift box tightly, as if clutching a beloved treasure, fearing someone might snatch it away.

"Wow, that's so expensive; it must be even more effective, right? I am so happy!"

"I feel so lucky!"

"To give out so many high-end beauty products in one go... Fang Bai's position in Beauty Company must be very high!"

"Fang Bai is incredible to have such a friend!"

"The most important thing is that this friend of his is also very beautiful!"

"If we want to buy products from Beauty Company in the future and we go through Fang Bai's friend, would we get a discount?"

...

The classmates who received the exquisite gift boxes were excited and delighted, whispering and discussing among themselves.

Now an intermediate Martial Artist of Yellow Level, Xia Chenyu had exceptional hearing and caught her classmates' conversations. She smiled subtly and then turned her head to whisper something to Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun standing behind her.

Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun each took out a stack of special gold cards from Beauty Company and distributed them to the dozens of classmates present.

"Dear classmates, please keep the gold card safe. From now on, when you purchase beauty products from Beauty Company, just show this card, and all the products will be offered at a fifty percent discount!"

Xia Chenyu's voice, melodious as if the songs of heaven, rang in the ears of dozens of classmates present.

The gold cards gifted by Zhao Xiaomeng and Wu Xiuyun were only available to some of the outstanding employees at Beauty Company. When Xia Chenyu offered them to Fang Bai's classmates, it was a great face-giving gesture for Fang Bai.

The fifty percent discount was good news for most of the female classmates, whose wallets weren't exactly bulging, allowing them to save a considerable amount of money, so everyone happily pocketed the gold cards.

"Little brother Fang, if there's nothing else, I'll be heading back now! I won't disturb your class reunion any longer!"

Xia Chenyu shook hands with Fang Bai and, as she withdrew her palm, her fingertips playfully scratched the center of Fang Bai's palm.

Fang Bai, seeing the suggestive look in her eyes, felt his heart skip a beat, worried that other classmates might notice something odd. He coughed and said seriously, "Sister Xia, thank you. I'll take you out to dinner when I get the chance!"

"Sure! Then I'll be waiting for your call!"

Xia Chenyu chuckled gleefully, tiptoed, and leaned in to whisper into Fang Bai's ear with a seductive voice only they could hear, "My Boss Fang, how about coming to my place tonight?"

Before Fang Bai could respond, she continued, "See those ten office lady-styled beauties? They are all close confidants trained by me! And they all still possess their Pure Yin Bodies! If you're willing, they can all share your bed with you tonight... You're capable and strong, one against ten shouldn't be a problem, right? What do you say, want to give it some serious thought?"

After saying those words, she softly blew into Fang Bai's ear, then stood straight, smiling and waiting to see Fang Bai's reaction.

She was very close to Fang Bai, nearly body to body, her breath as sweet as orchid and musk while her delicate fragrance lingered at Fang Bai's nose.

If it had been any other man, they would have undoubtedly nodded at Xia Chenyu's proposition without hesitation, choosing a delightful death in the arms of beauty over living a mundane life.

But although Fang Bai had once been the Passionate Immortal Emperor, he never indulged recklessly, never touching women without emotional ties, and those ten office lady-styled beauties, despite their alluring looks, paled in comparison to Xia Chenyu and thus didn't catch his eye.

"Go back to your business!"

Fang Bai glared at Xia Chenyu again, with an air of disinterest.

"Then I'm off! Goodbye!"

Xia Chenyu giggled flirtatiously, waved to Fang Bai and his classmates, and floated away with Zhao Xiaomeng, Wu Xiuyun, and the ten elegantly dressed beauties, leaving a lingering fragrance in the room.

"Why leave so soon? Why not stay for a bite... Ouch..."

Xiao Minglang muttered to himself, watching the departing beauties with a reluctant stare, only to be unexpectedly pinched by his girlfriend Zhao Miaomiao at his side, causing him to cry out in pain.

Not just Xiao Minglang, but Hong Dabao and a group of male classmates all wore the same expression of longing, only turning away when Xia Chenyu and the others vanished from sight, their faces filled with regret.

"Fang Bai, ask your friend for me later if any of those girls are single, and if so, introduce me!"

A male classmate shamelessly said to Fang Bai.

"Wake up, Cao Tianhua, you've got neither money nor looks, why would those women give you the time of day?"

"How shallow! Do all women only like handsome rich guys? Maybe some women like a man of talent!"

"Pfft! Do you even have such a talent?"

"Hey, you looking down on me? Just wait, watch me compose a poem right here on the spot to show you what real talent is... Brace yourself, don't get overwhelmed by my genius—those women are as beautiful as pictures, slim-waisted, long-legged, with large eyes. They don't fall for handsome men or money, only for Zhongzhou's Cao Tianhua!"

"Hahaha..."

Watching Cao Tianhua shaking his head and demonstrating his "talent," dozens of classmates laughed uproariously, some even spraying the tea they were drinking.

Chapter 438: News about Zhou Dabai

The class reunion lasted jubilantly until after two in the morning, with dozens of classmates lingering at the hotel entrance, bidding each other fond farewells, promising to gather again when time allowed, and then departing in small groups.

Fang Bai stopped Hong Dabao and walked slowly with him along the sidewalk beside the street.

"Dabao, I'll have a word with that friend from just now. How about you open a franchise store in the city specializing in 'Beauty Company's' products?"

"Where would the money come from! For a decent location in the city, the annual rent for a shop is at least a hundred thousand, plus the cost of stock and all that, you're looking at two or three hundred thousand at least! I can't even borrow that kind of money, let alone find someone who would dare to lend it to me!"

Hong Dabao's family was already poor, and their last business venture had swallowed up their entire savings of a hundred thousand, making life difficult for him and his mother. Even if relatives and friends had the money, they wouldn't dare lend it to him.

However, Fang Bai's words still tempted Hong Dabao. He thought that if he could really open a franchise store, with Fang Bai's friend helping, he would have a stable supply of products and could get them at a discounted price. Surely, he'd make a sure profit.

But such a good opportunity was nothing more than a fantasy at the moment, without capital he couldn't even make the first step.

"I'll lend you the money. Also, I know a friend who owns a store in a busy part of the city, he might be able to give you a discount on the rent."

Fang Bai knew that although Hong Dabao was poor, he had pride. If Fang Bai offered him the money directly, he would definitely reject it. So Fang Bai could only offer a loan, and he wasn't concerned about whether it would be paid back or not.

"Really? That... that's great! Fang Bai, old classmate, my good brother, I'll never forget this favor!"

Hong Dabao's eyes reddened, and he was so moved he nearly cried.

For him, Fang Bai's money was a lifeline, it offered him a chance to turn his fortunes around and filled him with renewed hope for the future.

Fang Bai and Hong Dabao chatted as they walked together towards the city center.

In the middle of their conversation, Hong Dabao inquired about Fang Bai's friend's occupation. Fang Bai replied that Hong Dabao would find out once they reached the place, his mysterious demeanor fueling Hong Dabao's curiosity.

"By the way, Dabao, have you seen Zhou Dabai recently?"

Ever since Fang Bai went to Yanjing for his medical internship, he had lost contact with Zhou Dabai. On his last trip back to Zhongzhou, he had specifically visited Zhou Dabai's home only to find it empty, and the neighbors didn't know where his family had gone.

The sudden disappearance of Zhou Dabai's family worried Fang Bai, who suspected that something must have happened to them, forcing them to move away.

"Ah!"

Hong Dabao suddenly smacked his forehead and said, "If you hadn't mentioned Zhou Dabai, I would have completely forgotten something! Some time ago, he got in touch with me using a public phone..."

"Where is he now? What did he tell you?"

Fang Bai asked eagerly.

"He said his dad took out a high-interest loan for a business, which then failed, and they faced debt collectors at their doorstep. They had no choice but to temporarily move to a relative's place in Jinling... He didn't specify the address, and I couldn't get it out of him!"

He paused for a moment, then added, "He also specifically asked me to tell you that the reason he didn't inform you about moving away was because he feared you would stand up for their family and get into conflicts with others, which could bring trouble to your family members... He also said, 'In a lifetime, there are only two brothers, no matter when, he and you are the best of brothers!'"

Fang Bai sighed helplessly and said, "This guy! It's just a matter of the family owing money, right? If he had told me, I would have loaned it to him, so there was no need for the whole family to move away sneakily, right?"

Hong Dabao responded with a wry smile, "I heard they owe several hundred thousand... quite a lot!"

"Several hundred thousand... haha..."

Fang Bai shook his head helplessly, thinking to himself that it wasn't just several hundred thousand, even if it was ten times or a hundred times more, he could have paid it off for them. Now that they had moved away, it would not be easy to find them again.

"They've moved to Jinling... That's right, Teacher Qin's home is in Jinling, isn't it? I've heard that her family has quite a significant influence!"

A thought suddenly struck Fang Bai, and he decided to first take care of Hong Dabao's issue, then contact Qin Yaorao to ask for her help in using her family's influence to find Zhou Dabai's family, which would be much easier than searching on his own.

Not long ago in Yanjing, a conflict occurred between Qin Yujie, a junior member of the Qin Family, and Baili Mingyue. At that time, Qin Yu, the well-known national jewelry tycoon and Qin Yujie's second uncle, burst into the Baili Family's home with his nephew to accuse and trouble Baili Mingyue.

Fang Bai was somewhat angry about that incident. He had originally planned to teach Qin Yujie a lesson, and didn't even plan to let Qin Shan off. However, in the end, he let it go, out of respect for Qin Yaorao.

It could be said that in that incident, Qin Yaorao owed him a favor. Now, asking her to help find someone in Jinling, she should not refuse.

While they talked, the two men arrived at the front of the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club." Seeing Fang Bai turning to walk inside, Hong Dabao was startled and quickly pulled at him, saying, "Fang Bai, you're going the wrong way!"

"No, I'm not!"

Fang Bai looked up, then said, "My friend works here. Come on, let's go in!"

Hong Dabao had heard that the owner of the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club" was a big figure in the underworld of Zhongzhou, influential in both the legitimate and illegitimate spheres, with a formidable background. He hadn't expected Fang Bai to actually know someone here, which made him look at Fang Bai with newfound respect.

The two entered the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club" and sat down on a sofa in the lobby's resting area. A receptionist glanced at them, her expression changing when her gaze landed on Fang Bai's face. She immediately dialed a number and whispered a few words.

After sitting down, Fang Bai looked around the ground floor lobby of the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club," then took out his phone, intending to call Ruan Hongpeng. However, he noticed Ruan Hongpeng and Ye Xiaoyan rushing out of the elevator and heading quickly towards him.

Ever since Cheng Dihaou, the former head honcho of Zhongzhou's underworld, was taken out by Fang Bai with a snap of his fingers, Ruan Hongpeng's awe for Fang Bai had seeped deep into his bones.

Even though Ruan Hongpeng had taken over Cheng Dihaou's position and all his businesses, Ruan did not dare to get carried away with pride. Instead, he became more disciplined than before, constantly reminding himself not to do anything evil.

Ruan Hongpeng was acutely aware that his status as the top boss of the Zhongzhou underworld was nothing in Fang Bai's eyes. If Fang Bai wished, he could bring Ruan back to his former status in a matter of minutes.

In Ruan's eyes, Fang Bai was akin to a godlike figure; without Fang Bai, there would be no him.

So when the receptionist called and said someone looking very much like Fang Bai had entered the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club," Ruan immediately dropped all his work, called his girlfriend Ye Xiaoyan, and rushed to the ground floor lobby as quickly as possible.

Chapter 439: The Utmost Benevolence

"Master Fang, what brings you here today?"

"Greetings, Master Fang!"

Upon seeing Fang Bai sitting in the sofa area of the first-floor lobby, Ruan Hongpeng and Ye Xiaoyan hurriedly walked over to him, their faces breaking into obsequious smiles as they spoke.

"Hongpeng, a man should stand tall and speak with a straight back! Rest assured, as long as you don't do anything against conscience again, I won't lay a finger on you! And don't call me 'Master Fang' anymore, I'm not that old, just call me Mr. Fang!"

Fang Bai said sternly after seeing Ruan Hongpeng and Ye Xiaoyan nodding and bowing, a posture of utter subservience.

"Yes, Mr. Fang!"

Ruan Hongpeng straightened up, standing erect, and gazing at the approving look in Fang Bai's eyes, he felt extremely thrilled. He knew that Fang Bai's words were not said lightly; Fang Bai truly regarded him as a dignified person instead of a groveling dog.

"Mr. Fang, Mr. Fang, do you have any instructions for us?"

Ye Xiaoyan asked cautiously, thinking that a man like Fang Bai must be incredibly busy, and without some particularly important matter, he surely wouldn't come here.

"Mr. Fang, if you have any commands, I, Hongpeng, would brave fire and boiling water without hesitation!"

Ruan Hongpeng said somberly with respect.

"Hmm, there is a small matter I need your help with."

Fang Bai pointed to Hong Dabao sitting beside him, and said, "This is my classmate Hong Dabao. He's looking to find a store in the city to start a small business. I remember your portfolio includes quite a few storefronts in the urban area, right? Do you have any that are unoccupied?"

No sooner had he finished speaking than Ruan Hongpeng started thumping his chest, saying, "Yes! There are two on the corner of Ping'an Road and Fortune Road! If Mr. Hong finds them suitable, I'll have them cleaned up for your use tomorrow! What do you think?"

Ruan Hongpeng, a man of acute discernment, knew that Fang Bai bringing Hong Dabao with him signaled a significant relationship between them. Thus, he dared not neglect Hong Dabao, earnestly seeking his opinion with utmost respect.

Ever since following Fang Bai into the Red Leaf Entertainment Club, Hong Dabao felt his mind wasn't functioning properly, especially after Ruan Hongpeng and Ye Xiaoyan appeared. Seeing the high respect they had for Fang Bai, he was dumbfounded, petrified in place.

Hong Dabao had heard that the new leader of Zhongzhou's underground world was Ruan Hongpeng, known as "Master Hong," and he had even seen Ruan Hongpeng and Ye Xiaoyan from a distance once before.

However, at that time, Hong Dabao thought that someone like him, living at the bottom of society, would never cross paths with a powerful figure like Ruan Hongpeng, who had the clout to summon wind and rain.

But what Hong Dabao never expected was that not only did he now have a connection with Ruan Hongpeng, but also the latter was treating him with courtesy. It made him feel as if he were dreaming.

"Dabao, what do you think?"

Fang Bai patted the dazed Hong Dabao, asking with a smile.

"Ah?"

Hong Dabao snapped back to reality, staring at "Master Hong," who stood in front of him with a servile smile, and stuttered, "The stores you just mentioned are... where exactly?"

"The corner of Ping'an Road and Fortune Road."

Ruan Hongpeng repeated with a smile, then added, "That's a prime location with a heavy flow of people. I personally think it's ideal. What do you think, Mr. Hong? If you don't find it suitable, I can find you another location..."

Hong Dabao's mind buzzed with excitement, nearly exclaiming out loud, "That's exactly where I want!"

Ruan Hongpeng mentioned two storefronts located at the busiest commercial street intersection in Zhongzhou City. The rent for each of those storefronts was at least two hundred thousand, and even with money, one might not be able to lease them. Ruan Hongpeng offering two of them just like that was a hard-to-come-by opportunity, even if one were searching with a lantern.

"While it's suitable, the rent there is too expensive, I can't afford it... Is there something a bit more remote, where the rent is relatively cheaper?"

After calming himself slightly, Hong Dabao scratched his head and asked.

Doing business in the bustling central district was great, but the initial investment required was simply too large; Hong Dabao didn't have that kind of confidence, let alone the financial capability.

Although Fang Bai had agreed to lend money to Hong Dabao, in Hong Dabao's view, even if Fang Bai had been doing well lately, he probably didn't have that much money. If Fang Bai could lend him a hundred or two hundred thousand, that would already be quite impressive.

"About the rent..."

Ruan Hongpeng glanced at Fang Bai and said with a smile, "Mr. Hong is Mr. Fang's friend, which makes him my friend, Ruan Hongpeng, as well. Among friends, loyalty comes first. How about this, I will only

charge Mr. Hong a rent of one hundred thousand a year for those two storefronts. What does Mr. Hong think about this offer?"

"I think this is good, let's settle on this!"

Fang Bai stood up and said to Hong Dabao, "Dabao, I have some other matters to attend to. You stay behind and discuss the details about the storefronts with Hongpeng."

He also said to Ruan Hongpeng, "Give Dabao a helping hand with the opening of his store. Also, could you lend Dabao three to five hundred thousand yuan first? I will pay you back later! This is the amount I promised to lend to Dabao."

As he spoke, Fang Bai didn't wait for Hong Dabao, Ruan Hongpeng, or Ye Xiaoyan to see him off, and left the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club" with large strides on his own.

In fact, Fang Bai had ready cash in the millions in his Spatial Ring, but it wasn't convenient to take it out in front of everyone, so he had Ruan Hongpeng give it to Hong Dabao first.

With Xia Chenyu and Ruan Hongpeng providing covert assistance for Hong Dabao's affair, there surely wouldn't be any problems. The impoverished life of his mother and himself ought to improve rapidly in the near future.

Fang Bai had gone to these lengths to assist Hong Dabao, which could be considered fulfilling his moral duty.

Fang Bai hurriedly left the "Red Leaf Entertainment Club" because he wanted to get in touch with Qin Yaorao as quickly as possible, then ask her for help in finding Zhou Dabai, who was far away in Jinling.

Fang Bai's stay in Zhongzhou this time wouldn't last long; after the New Year, he had agreed to accompany Ghost Hand to the three major Sects to seek justice, so to find Zhou Dabai, he only had the spare time before the New Year, these ten or so days.

He walked to a nearby park and sat down on a bench before dialing Qin Yaorao's number. After chatting for a few sentences, he learned that Qin Yaorao had also left Yanjing and returned to her home in Jinling.

Upon hearing that Fang Bai needed help searching for someone, Qin Yaorao agreed without any hesitation. After getting the detailed information about Zhou Dabai's family, they arranged that she would contact Fang Bai immediately once there was news.

"Teacher Qin? Is there something going on at your end? Do you need my help with anything?"

In the course of the conversation, Fang Bai sensed from Qin Yaorao's voice that she seemed to be in a bad mood, and casually asked.

"It's just some family matters; you can't help with it..."

Qin Yaorao sighed, and in that sigh seemed to be filled with deep helplessness.

Fang Bai fell silent. He could help with other matters, but it wasn't appropriate for him, an outsider, to intervene in someone else's family affairs.

After speaking briefly, they bid each other goodbye and ended the conversation.

Chapter 440: Jinling

Three days later, Hong Dabao's beauty and cosmetics specialty store opened, and Fang Bai, accompanied by a group of classmates, went to congratulate him. Xia Chenyu and Ruan Hongpeng also took turns visiting, but after presenting a generous gift, they found an excuse to leave.

The congratulators were mostly Hong Dabao's classmates, and Xia Chenyu and Ruan Hongpeng understood that their presence, as "important figures" in the eyes of Hong Dabao and others, would make everyone else feel constrained, which is why they tactfully took their leave.

In the following two days, Fang Bai dined with Xia Chenyu a few times and advised her on some issues related to cultivation, then he drove alone to Jinling.

He was in a hurry to reach Jinling because there was news from the Qin Family about Zhou Dabai and his family.

Although Jinling had millions of inhabitants, making it very difficult to find someone, the Qin Family was the foremost family in Jinling; they not only had substantial wealth but also vast connections. By mobilizing the entire family's resources, they took just two days to find the whereabouts of Zhou Dabai's family.

Instead of disturbing the normal lives of Zhou Dabai's family, the Qin Family passed on the detailed address of their residence to Fang Bai through Qin Yaorao and then discreetly withdrew from the matter.

When Fang Bai arrived in Jinling, it was around eight in the morning. He did not inform Qin Yaorao of his arrival, but drove directly to the area in the northwestern corner of Jinling, where the city met the countryside, based on the address she had provided.

The buildings in this area were mostly old single-storey tile-roofed houses and some two or three-story buildings, but they all looked very ancient.

The streets were not only narrow but also uneven due to years of neglect, making it difficult for cars to enter, so Fang Bai simply parked his car in a nearby parking lot and then got out to walk deeper into the area.

Walking along a dirty street full of puddles and mud for two or three miles, he came to a small yard composed of three single-storey houses on the north side of the road. Fang Bai checked the door number on the gate of the courtyard, confirmed it was the right place, and slowly pushed open the black-painted double doors to step inside lightly.

Far from the hustle and bustle of the busy urban area, the yard was very quiet. Under a date tree that had lost all its leaves, a middle-aged man in a worn-out jacket was squatting down, brushing his teeth and rinsing his mouth.

When the man heard the door, he looked up, and upon seeing Fang Bai's smiling face, his expression froze in disbelief.

"Uncle Zhou!"

Fang Bai walked up to the man and gently called out.

"Fang Bai!"

The middle-aged man came back to his senses and exclaimed, "You... how did you... how did you get here? Did Dabai give you the address?"

The middle-aged man was Zhou Dabai's father, Zhou Houde.

In Fang Bai's memory, Zhou Houde and his son Zhou Dabai were almost like two peas in a pod: both tall and chubby, always smiling when greeting people as if they were the image of Maitreya Buddha.

Zhou Houde used to care a lot about cleanliness; although his clothes were not branded, they were always ironed neatly. Every day, when he went out, he would make sure his beard was shaven clean.

Yet the Zhou Houde before him now seemed like a different person; he had lost weight, his skin was much darker, and there was a deep gloominess in his demeanor, clearly indicating that he had not been having an easy time.

The jacket he was wearing looked as though it hadn't been washed in a long time, dirty and old, as if it came from a pile of trash.

"Dabao didn't tell me, I found this place by myself."

Fang Bai observed Zhou Houde and sighed, "Uncle Zhou, how did things come to this for you?"

"Ah..."

Zhou Houde also sighed, smiling bitterly as he said, "Took out high-interest loans to run a business, but even our entire savings were not enough to cover the debts. Had no choice but to run away... Anyway, let's not talk about the past! Fang Bai, come in and have a seat! I'll call Dabao right now and ask him to come back and chat with you!"

"Dabao is not at home?"

"He's helping out at a nearby clinic to earn some pocket money for himself."

"And auntie?"

"Your Aunt Wu is working at a small hotel not far from here, washing dishes and cleaning. She can make a thousand or two thousand yuan a month. If you had come just ten more minutes later, you might not have found anyone at home, I am also about to go out and look for work!"

"Is Auntie's health okay?"

Fang Bai asked again.

In the past, Dabao's mother, Wu Yufen, had been in poor health and stayed at home to recuperate. Later, Fang Bai had prescribed some medicine for her, which finally cured her. However, Wu Yufen's constitution is really too weak. Even if she's recovered, she can't do heavy or tiring work, otherwise there's a risk of relapse.

The last time Fang Bai returned to Zhongzhou, he had wanted to treat Wu Yufen again, hoping to restore her health to the same level as a normal person, but unexpectedly, their family had moved to Jinling to evade their debts.

Fang Bai had once advised Wu Yucha to take good care of her health, but now she was working odd jobs at a hotel to earn money, which showed just how desperate their family's situation had become.

"Uncle Zhou, call Dabao and Aunt Wu back! Also, tell them to quit their current jobs. No need to keep working!"

Fang Bai said earnestly.

Fang Bai and Zhou Dabai were close buddies, and their families had always had a good relationship. Fang Bai didn't have the ability to help Zhou Dabai's family in the past, but now he could do it easily.

Fang Bai planned to take Zhou Dabai's family back with him to Zhongzhou, pay off their debts for them, and then arrange a house for them near his family's traditional Chinese medicine clinic so they could continue to be neighbors. Whenever possible, the parents from both families could sit together as before and chat.

"That won't do!"

Zhou Houde shook his head and said, "The jobs that Dabao and your Aunt Wu found were not easy to come by. If they quit now, our family will have to cope without a source of income! Just wait, I'll call Dabao and ask him to take half a day off so that you two good brothers can have a proper talk! At noon, I'll have your Aunt Wu buy some groceries, and we'll have a meal together!"

"I'll make the call! What's Dabao's current mobile number?"

Zhou Houde gave Fang Bai his son's mobile number, and seeing that Fang Bai was using an iPhone, he casually asked, "Fang Bai, your family's traditional Chinese medicine clinic has been doing well recently, right?"

When Zhou Houde and his family left to evade their debts, "Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic" had just begun to pick up. Seeing Fang Bai dressed nicely and using an expensive phone, he assumed that their family business was doing better than before.

While Zhou Houde was happy to see the old neighbors' lives improving, thinking about his own family's current predicament made him feel a bit sour.

"Not bad,"

Fang Bai answered vaguely, then dialed Zhou Dabai's phone, said only, "Dabao, it's Fang Bai. I'm at your place talking with Uncle Zhou," and then hung up.

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