

Doctor 51

Chapter 51: I'm Kind of Tempted

Of course, Shen Huanian had even more on his mind—if Xia Chenyu could form a marital alliance with Hua Yi, it would be equivalent to the Shen Family uniting with “Rejuvenation Hall”.

For the Shen Family, already extending its reach into the beauty industry, this was a tremendous advantage.

Hua Yi wore a smile on his face, with a hint of condescension in his laughter.

Shen Huanian's flattery left him feeling somewhat elated.

At this moment, he felt himself as a deity, waiting for Xia Chenyu, a mere mortal, to come and worship him.

When Shen Huanian had mentioned introducing a sister to him, he had been somewhat disdainful, thinking that having seen all the beauties in the world, it would be hard for any woman to catch his eye again.

However, when he appeared in the “Plum Blossom Hall” and saw Xia Chenyu, oozing charm and oozing allure in every way, he was immediately struck with awe.

Xia Chenyu's indifference did not anger him; instead, it set his heart ablaze.

He felt that conquering such a woman would truly display a man's virility and bring a sense of accomplishment.

In Hua Yi's eyes, a woman like Xia Chenyu typically acted cold and haughty, rejecting others from afar, because she had not met her "destined one".

And he had the talents, the looks, and behind him "Rejuvenation Hall", which held great influence and networking within both Huaxia's medical and beauty industries...

With a man as outstanding as himself, how many women in the world could refuse?

Even more so for Xia Chenyu, who ran a beauty company and was eager to see her business grow and prosper?

Xia Chenyu sized up Hua Yi for a moment and suddenly let out a "pfft" of a laugh, saying to Fang Bai by her side, "The renowned 'Rejuvenation Hall', coveted by countless beauty companies—if I could cozy up to Mr.

Hua, my company would prosper almost effortlessly.

And if I could become Mr.

Hua's woman, the benefits would no doubt be even greater...

What should I do, Fang Bai?

I'm somewhat tempted!"

Fang Bai touched his nose and said with a wry smile, "To be honest, if I were a woman, even I would be tempted by a man like Mr.

Hua who has talent, looks, wealth, and power."

Xia Chenyu hesitated and said, "But...

if I were to abandon you and throw myself into his arms, would people point at my back and say this woman is vain, fickle, and even promiscuous?"

"Chenyu, no one would say that about you!"

Shen Huanian looked at Fang Bai with disdain and said, "Sticking with such a poor lad is meaningless, abandoning him is the wisest choice!

If you were with Brother Hua, everyone would think you're a beautiful match, perfectly suited in every way!"

After a moment's thought, Xia Chenyu said to Hua Yi, "Mr.

Hua, can we just be friends, or perhaps business partners?"

This was a tactful rejection.

Hua Yi was a clever man and certainly heard it in her words.

His expression turned cold, "How so, does Miss Chenyu think I'm inferior to your boyfriend?"

Xia Chenyu glanced at Fang Bai, then nodded and said earnestly, "Indeed."

"In what way am I not as good as him?"

Hua Yi was getting angry, as he was a proud and self-conceited man.

Xia Chenyu's words were an insult to him, and he failed to see any special quality in Fang Bai.

“He’s like the spring breeze, bringing warmth and gentleness, not overpowering arrogance; he doesn’t see himself as a savior, speaking to me from on high, looking down at the masses; he interacts with me as an equal, open and sincere, with nothing off-limits; with him, I feel secure in my heart... Is that enough?”

Hua Yi’s face turned unsightly.

He disliked arguing with women, so he turned his gaze to Shen Huanian.

“Chenyu, you’ve forgotten a very important point...”

Shen Huanian adjusted his glasses and said in a deep voice, “You’ve forgotten how powerful and influential ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ is in the Huaxia beauty industry.

If Brother Hua is willing, those beauty products that your ‘Beauty Company’ produces will soon be squeezed out of the market, followed by your company facing the crisis of bankruptcy...”

“Shen Huanian, are you threatening me?”

Xia Chenyu’s narrow and seductive eyes slightly narrowed as she said coldly, “You should know my personality.

Any threats or coercion only have the opposite effect on me!”

Shen Huanian sneered, “‘Beauty Company’ was left to you by Aunt Xia.

I don’t believe you don’t care about its survival.”

“I do care!

I care a lot!”

Ice seemed to form on Xia Chenyu’s pretty face as she said in a bone-chillingly cold voice, “So don’t push me.

Once you drive me crazy, there’s nothing I wouldn’t do!”

Shen Huanian laughed in anger, “It seems these years of smooth sailing have made you forget yourself.

You should know that without the Shen Family supporting you, you won’t be able to make any waves!”

“Shen Dongyang helps me because he’s committed too many sins and feels guilty, looking to lighten his own burdens.”

“You ungrateful madwoman, biting the hand that feeds you!”

Shen Huanian’s face twisted into a snarl as he strode towards Xia Chenyu and said harshly, “I am your brother.

With dad not here, I will represent him in teaching you a lesson!”

With that, he raised his arm and swung it toward Xia Chenyu’s cheek.

The slap was forceful; if his palm landed on Xia Chenyu’s face, her pretty face, more alluring than flowers, would certainly swell significantly.

Xia Chenyu stood still, not even blinking, just looking coldly at Shen Huanian.

The Shen family had indeed given her some support over the years, but it did nothing to change her disdain and hatred for the Shen family.

She stood unflinchingly, ready to let Shen Huanian’s slap land on her, to return everything to the Shen family.

From then on, she would have no connection with the Shen Family and would never accept even the slightest help from them.

Shen Huanian's palm did not reach Xia Chenyu's face.

Midway, a hand suddenly reached out and firmly grasped his wrist.

The owner of that hand was Fang Bai.

He grabbed Shen Huanian's wrist and slowly stood up, looking at Shen Huanian with contempt and disdain, "I detest men who readily hit women the most, because it's an indication of incompetence."

"This is our family matter, get lost!"

Shen Huanian's eyes flared behind his glasses as he said through gritted teeth.

He already hated Fang Bai thoroughly.

The last time at the Zhongzhou City Police Station, if it hadn't been for this guy, Tang Wenrou would have had no reason to reject the flowers he offered, and he might even have been able to ask Tang Wenrou out for a meal.

And now, this fellow was hooking up with his sister, disrupting the grand marriage plans between the Shen and Hua families.

"But Chenyu says she has nothing to do with your Shen family!

Plus, she's my woman.

Why can't I step in if you want to hit her?"

Fang Bai spoke righteously.

He slightly tightened the five fingers holding onto Shen Huanian's wrist, and Shen Huanian cried out in pain, immediately breaking into a cold sweat.

Chapter 52: The Arrogant Young Man

The four bodyguards standing at the entrance of the "Plum Blossom Hall" were all brought by Shen Huanian.

Hearing Shen Huanian's screams, two of them immediately rushed in.

"Beat him!

Beat him to death!”

Shen Huanian hollered at the two bodyguards.

The two bodyguards exchanged a glance and immediately charged toward Fang Bai.

Although Xia Chenyu knew Fang Bai could fight, she was aware that the bodyguards brought by Shen Huanian were experts, far from ordinary bodyguards, and she worried Fang Bai would be at a disadvantage.

Stepping in, she blocked the bodyguards’ path.

The two bodyguards were only thinking of rescuing Shen Huanian from Fang Bai’s grip and knew nothing of cherishing beauty.

Seeing Xia Chenyu block the way, one of them harshly shoved her with his hand.

Xia Chenyu was a delicate and alluring woman; if the rough and physically strong man shoved her, she could likely be slammed into the wall nearby, inevitably leading to injury and falling to the ground.

Fang Bai’s other free hand flickered lightning-fast a couple of times.

Two wine glasses on the dining table whistled through the air, smashing into the chest of the two bodyguards, sending them flying backward and crashing to the ground.

At the same time, Fang Bai also let go of Shen Huanian.

Shen Huanian stumbled back a few steps, rubbing his burning wrist, and looked at Fang Bai with a hint more wariness in his eyes.

“Ha, I didn’t expect you to be a Martial Artist as well.

No wonder you’re so arrogant!

Come on, let’s spar a bit!”

Hua Yi stared wide-eyed at Fang Bai, excited like a fighting rooster, eager to have a go.

In the eyes of the common people of Huaxia, the owner of “Rejuvenation Hall,” the Hua Family, was an ancient medical family renowned for their medical skills.

However, in the eyes of Martial Artists in the Martial Arts community of Huaxia, the Hua Family was a revered Ancient Martial family.

It was said that the direct descendants of the “Rejuvenation Hall” Hua Family, regardless of gender, all practiced Ancient Martial Arts, among them some were masters.

Hua Yi was hailed as the most outstanding genius of the young generation of the Hua Family, and his excellence was not just manifested in his medical skills, but also in his profound knowledge of Martial Arts.

The Shen Family from Anxi was a business partner to “Rejuvenation Hall,” with close interactions.

As Shen Huanian and Hua Yi had known each other for many years and had a good relationship, Shen Huanian had personally witnessed Hua Yi’s strength.

His palms could split steles, his fists could smash stones, far surpassing the limits of ordinary people.

Now that Hua Yi had pointed out that Fang Bai was also a “Martial Artist,” it meant that the two shared the same identity—Ancient Martial Cultivators.

Although Shen Huanian was not versed in Martial Arts, born into a powerful and influential family, he was well-informed and knew that Ancient Martial Cultivators were a very special existence in Huaxia.

They followed their own set of rules within the Ancient Martial World, often living in seclusion or semi-seclusion, unobtrusively and modestly, seldom intervening in worldly affairs.

As long as no one touched their interests, they would rarely take the initiative to cause trouble.

But if anyone mistook their low profile for kindness, they would be gravely mistaken.

No matter who, regardless of how great their power or how high their status, if they angered an Ancient Martial Cultivator, these cultivators would cast aside worldly rules and mercilessly strike back.

When they did strike, it was with the fury of thunder.

It was said that most Ancient Martial Cultivators belonged to their own Sects and offending one often meant offending an entire Sect.

So, upon learning Fang Bai was also an Ancient Martial Cultivator, Shen Huanian couldn't help but feel apprehensive, a cold sweat breaking on his back.

He had never imagined that this seemingly average guy was actually playing possum, concealing his true capabilities.

If Fang Bai belonged to one of the Ancient Martial Sects, making an enemy of such a person would mean a lot of trouble for the Shen Family.

Shen Huanian decided to promptly zip his lips and let Hua Yi deal with Fang Bai.

"Rejuvenation Hall's" owner, the Hua Family, were also an Ancient Martial prominent clan, and Hua Yi was a disciple that the Hua Family focused on cultivating.

As long as I firmly hold onto Hua Yi's coattails, relying on the "Rejuvenation Hall" as my backing, I wouldn't have to worry about Fang Bai.

Unlike Hua Yi and Shen Huanian, who were born and raised in the affluent and influential families, Xia Chenyu grew up following her mother and was unable to come into contact with the mysterious world of Ancient Martial Cultivators.

In Xia Chenyu's understanding, the "Martial Artists" Hua Yi referred to were probably just people who had learned some martial arts.

Although she hadn't seen clearly how Fang Bai sent those two bodyguards of Shen Huanian flying, Xia Chenyu was still extremely excited and clenched her small fists tightly, waving them with force.

"Fight with you?"

Fang Bai glanced at Hua Yi and saw his fighting spirit soaring and eagerness to try.

The corners of his mouth twitched slightly as he shook his head and said, "Not interested!"

Ever since he had sparred with two Shaolin Monks, Fang Bai had lost interest in Martial Artists of that level.

Fang Bai felt that sparring with Martial Artists of much lower strength was a waste of his time and offered no benefits whatsoever.

Fang Bai from his past life, who was obsessed with Martial Dao, constantly sought to challenge Martial Artists who were on par with or even stronger than himself.

Even after a battle that left him covered in wounds, he would be incredibly excited.

Because only in intense battles where life and death hung by a thread could Fang Bai's fiercest fighting spirit and will to fight be aroused, allowing him to grasp the Great Dao Principles and penetrate the Martial Dao Arcane to enhance his own Cultivation Level.

Hua Yi's strength might dominate among ordinary people, but in Fang Bai's view, it was truly not worth mentioning.

"Arrogant lad!"

The disdain and scorn evident in Fang Bai's expression made Hua Yi feel deeply insulted.

He strode up to the dining table, slapped his left palm forcefully onto the surface, and a surge of hidden energy entered the table's interior.

A peeled quail egg rose from the plate and then, under the punch of Hua Yi's right fist that followed closely behind, the egg was propelled across the large round dining table toward Fang Bai's face at high speed.

The quail egg flew through the air with a whistling sound, clearly moving at an extremely high velocity.

Fang Bai slightly narrowed his eyes as the acuity of his senses instantly climbed to their limit.

Everything around him seemed to slow down.

The quail egg, flying at high speed, seemed to suddenly encounter a thick liquid, its velocity substantially slowed, allowing Fang Bai to easily capture its trajectory.

Pop——

Two feet away from hitting him, Fang Bai suddenly made his move.

He employed the technique of using the opponent's force against them, his palm striking the incoming quail egg.

The egg, as if pulled by an invisible force, immediately changed direction, spinning rapidly and colliding with the north side wall at an even faster speed.

The peeled quail egg, which felt soft and would burst upon a slight squeeze, had become terrifying with the power bestowed by Hua Yi and Fang Bai's strike.

Pfft— —

The egg smashed into the wall, and the sheer force of impact left a fist-sized dent, almost penetrating the wall.

If that quail egg had hit a person, it would have left a gaping bloody hole; they would likely have been killed.

Xia Chenyu and Shen Huanian, both ordinary people, were stunned and speechless at the scene.

Even Hua Yi, a Martial Artist himself, wore a face filled with disbelief.

Chapter 53: Don't You Treat Me as a Brother?

Hua Yi gaped at the indentation on the wall before struggling to turn his head to look at Fang Bai, speechless for quite some time.

If he still couldn't see that Fang Bai was far stronger than himself at this point, then he could only be deemed a fool.

If asked to smash a similarly sized iron ball against that robust wall, he might be able to make an impression like that.

However, to achieve the same effect with a fragile and brittle quail egg was utterly beyond him.

Not to mention himself, there were not many experts in the Hua Family behind him who could accomplish this feat.

No wonder there was contempt and disdain in Fang Bai's eyes when he looked at him; he indeed had the capital for it.

Once brimming with fighting spirit, Hua Yi now hung his head in dejection, wanting to say something to lighten the atmosphere, but found his throat dry and couldn't utter a word.

"Brother Hua, make a call and ask for help!"

Seeing the situation going awry, Shen Huanian hurriedly whispered a reminder.

In his view, since Rejuvenation Hall's headquarters were in Zhongzhou, a single call from Hua Yi should suffice to summon numerous Hua Family experts to their aid.

Although Fang Bai was formidable, two fists couldn't compete with four hands, which is why Shen Huanian regarded Fang Bai as the destined loser in this conflict.

Hua Yi too wished to call for backup to severely teach Fang Bai a lesson and regain some face for himself, but after a moment's hesitation, he abandoned the idea.

As an ancient family of both traditional medicine and martial arts, the Hua Family had numerous descendants.

To discipline the members of the clan and to keep the family from disaster, the ancestors of the Hua Family had established a set of strict ancestral laws.

According to the Hua Family laws, when a member of the Hua Family moves through the secular world, except in cases where family interests or personal safety are violated, they must not rashly reveal their identities or misuse their martial force, or they would be punished according to family law.

If any member of the Hua Family violated these laws, minor offenders would be confined for three to five months; more serious offenders could be banned from leaving the house for years; the most severe punishment for some was being barred from reentering the secular world for life.

Over a millennium of lineage, there hasn't been just one Hua Family member who was confined for life for a grave violation of the family law.

The conflict today was initiated by Hua Yi; if the elders in the family got wind of this, they would certainly strike against Fang Bai to safeguard the Hua Family's honor, but Hua Yi himself would also be punished according to the family law.

Seeking to restore face could lead to punishment under the family law, yet walking away as is would tarnish the reputation of Rejuvenation Hall and embarrass the Hua Family...

Hua Yi was hesitating when suddenly a figure flashed outside, and a silhouette hastened into the Plum Blossom Hall.

"Brother Su!"

Both Shen Huanian and Hua Yi brightened and showed delight on their faces as they recognized the person entering the Plum Blossom Hall, and greeted him in unison.

The newcomer was a man in his late twenties, dressed in a casual black suit.

Although his appearance was not as handsome as Shen Huanian and Hua Yi, with thick eyebrows and big eyes and a lofty appearance, he was straight-postured with his stature exuding an extra bit of masculine vigor than the other two.

The man emitted an oppressive aura similar to that of Hua Yi, clearly showing he was a Martial Artist as well.

While Hua Yi's strength was already considered masterful, reaching the early stage of Yellow Level in the Ancient Martial World, the man's prowess was slightly inferior.

But neither Shen Huanian nor Hua Yi dared to look down upon the man.

The reason was that the Four Seasons Spring hotel was one of the many businesses owned by that man's family, and he was very likely to become the future Su Family Patriarch.

What made him truly formidable was not just that he was an Ancient Martial Cultivator himself but that his master was a senior expert from one of the Hidden Sects.

It was precisely because they had the support of a Hidden Sect that the Su Family managed to survive through crises over the years, achieving their current success.

Even Rejuvenation Hall, an ancient martial and medical family with a thousand-year heritage, wouldn't dare to offend the Su Family lightly.

The man's name was Su Yifei, the most valued grandson of the Su Family Patriarch, Su Hongyuan, in Zhongzhou.

The Su Family owned many businesses spanning multiple fields throughout Huaxia.

In recent years, Su Yifei had begun to emerge as a notable figure in business, receiving the high expectations of the Old Master Su, Su Hongyuan, who purposely entrusted the catering business led by the "Four Seasons Spring" hotel to Su Yifei to manage.

Although "Four Seasons Spring" hotels had opened in major cities across Huaxia, Zhongzhou remained its stronghold.

Therefore, Su Yifei had chosen the top floor of the "Four Seasons Spring" hotel as his office location.

Standing on this floor, one could enjoy a bird's-eye view of the entire city's scenery.

The Shen Family from Anxi and “Rejuvenation Hall” in Zhongzhou were business partners with the Su Family.

Upon learning that Shen Huanian and Hua Yi were dining in his hotel, Su Yifei made a special trip to the restaurant to exchange pleasantries with them and joined them for a few drinks.

What Su Yifei did not expect was that shortly after returning to his office, news arrived that Shen Huanian and Hua Yi had gotten into a conflict with other customers.

Although he had not had many dealings with Shen Huanian and Hua Yi, Su Yifei still understood their temperaments well.

Both coming from prominent clans, one arrogant and the other self-righteous, calling them prodigal sons wouldn’t be an exaggeration.

Su Yifei would bet his head that if Shen Huanian and Hua Yi got into a conflict with other customers, it had to have been those two who started it.

Worried that the situation could escalate and affect the hotel’s reputation, Su Yifei immediately dropped all his work and hurried to the scene upon hearing the news.

Upon entering the “Plum Blossom Hall,” the first thing Su Yifei saw was Shen Huanian and Hua Yi.

They stood near the entrance, blocking Su Yifei’s view, so he didn’t see Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu sitting across the table.

“Now, you two young masters, why aren’t you drinking in your own room?”

What brings you here?

Tell me, what happened?”

Su Yifei asked with a wry smile.

He planned to ascertain the situation, persuade the two prodigal sons to leave, apologize to the other guests in the room, and try to downplay the incident.

With the Su Family's influence in Zhongzhou, Su Yifei was confident there was nothing he couldn't handle.

"Brother Shen planned to introduce his sister to me, but that guy interfered out of the blue.

He's a martial artist, very arrogant.

I couldn't stand it..."

As Hua Yi spoke, he pointed at Fang Bai, who was standing aside in the "Plum Blossom Hall," and glanced greedily at Xia Chenyu.

Su Yifei interjected, "And that led to a conflict?"

He followed the direction of Hua Yi's pointing, and then his gaze froze there.

Fang Bai gave a slight smile and nodded at Su Yifei as a greeting.

"Coming to my place to eat and not even giving me a heads-up?

Don't you see me as a brother?"

Su Yifei, leaving behind a stunned Hua Yi and Shen Huanian, laughed heartily as he walked up to Fang Bai and gave him a bear hug.

Ever since Fang Bai had cured Su Linglong's brain tumor and pulled her back from the brink of death, Su Yifei had treated him like his own brother.

Fang Bai also liked Su Yifei's open and refreshing personality, and after a few interactions, they began to refer to each other as brothers.

"I didn't know this was your place, plus this meal was courtesy of a friend."

Fang Bai said with a smile, "How about giving me a discount when we settle the bill after the meal?"

"Talking about money is too vulgar among brothers!"

Consider this meal on me!

And this is..."

Su Yifei's gaze shifted to Xia Chenyu, who was by Fang Bai's side, and he was immediately struck by a sense of astonishment.

Chapter 54: He is the Benefactor of My Su Family

Su Yifei was also a young master of a wealthy family, naturally surrounded by beautiful women.

But to speak honestly, he had seen women as attractive as Xia Chenyu, yet it was the first time he had seen someone who could exude such boundless charm by merely standing still without a single movement.

Watching Xia Chenyu cling to Fang Bai, assuming a damsel-in-distress demeanor, Su Yifei silently speculated about their relationship.

Su Yifei knew that his sister Su Linglong was quite fond of Fang Bai.

Fang Bai was handsome and possessed magical medical skills; he was also an ancient martial cultivator, which made him a rare talent.

Such a man was undoubtedly very popular among girls.

The Su Family was a very open-minded prominent clan, without any concern for status or sect, so regarding his sister's affection for Fang Bai, Su Yifei adopted a let-things-take-their-course attitude.

Whether they ended up together or not, he would not intervene.

However, seeing the enchantingly beautiful Xia Chenyu right before him, Su Yifei felt that his sister would face a long and challenging journey if she wanted to win over Fang Bai successfully.

Su Yifei had known for a while that Fang Bai was an ancient martial cultivator; they had even sparred privately over this matter.

Fang Bai mentioned that his martial arts were taught by a divine dragon-like master who was elusive and mysterious, and Su Yifei did not doubt this for a second.

As an ancient martial cultivator himself, Su Yifei was aware that Huaxia was a place where crouching tigers and hidden dragons abounded, home to many reclusive ancient martial arts masters.

Some aging masters without affiliations would roam around looking for disciples to pass on their martial arts to, in order to prevent their techniques from being lost.

Fang Bai must have encountered such a master and acquired a considerable skill set.

Su Yifei had sparred with Fang Bai and had been easily defeated by him.

At that time, Su Yifei had concluded that Fang Bai's skills had reached a higher level, at least that of a Yellow Level beginner martial artist.

Although Fang Bai was just a loose cultivator without a sect's support, Su Yifei felt a tinge of regret; otherwise, the Su Family could have had another source of support.

"Xia Chenyu, President of Beauty Company,"

Fang Bai introduced Xia Chenyu to Su Yifei, then pointed at Su Yifei and said, "Su Yifei, the grandson of the founder of Su Family Group, Old Master Su Hongyuan."

Su Yifei extended his hand and shook hands with Xia Chenyu, smiling and saying, "So, you are President Xia, I've heard much about you."

Beauty Company was just a small enterprise, and this was the first time Su Yifei heard the name Xia Chenyu, so his "I've heard much about you" was, of course, just a courtesy.

"Eldest Young Master Su is a rising star in the business world, famed and distinguished.

I am truly the one who has long admired you!"

Xia Chenyu smiled and exchanged pleasantries with Su Yifei.

However, she was inwardly astonished, wondering how Fang Bai with his ordinary family background could know such a person as Su Yifei.

Having won the deep trust of Old Master Su and being groomed as the successor, some astute business figures had already been making overtures to Su Yifei, currying favor in preparation for the future.

As a member of Zhongzhou's business community, Xia Chenyu undoubtedly sought to make Su Yifei's acquaintance.

In Xia Chenyu's opinion, with Beauty Company ready to launch two new beauty products soon, partnering with the Su Family and leveraging their nationwide sales channels would undoubtedly be extremely advantageous.

Alas, it was challenging for a small enterprise like Beauty Company to catch the attention of the Su Family.

And Xia Chenyu had never had the opportunity to connect with Su Yifei.

Xia Chenyu was a woman of keen intelligence and realized that Fang Bai had more than a trivial relationship with Su Yifei.

Thus, her face was full of smiles as they conversed.

She knew that the present moment might be an excellent opportunity for Beauty Company to grow and prosper.

Of course, if Fang Bai were willing to put in a good word for her, that opportunity would be even greater.

“Brother Fei, please take care of Sister Xia’s company in the future.”

After the two exchanged pleasantries, Fang Bai said with a smile.

“Lovely little one, you really understand your sister’s thoughts too well!

I love you to death!”

Upon hearing Fang Bai’s words, Xia Chenyu was overjoyed, really wanting to hug Fang Bai and plant a hard kiss on his face.

“President Xia, I will have someone contact you later, and let’s find time to sit down and talk in detail, to see what kind of business we can cooperate on.”

Su Yifei's simple sentence made Xia Chenyu's eyebrows dance with delight, and her heart burst with joy.

She knew Fang Bai had secured her a great opportunity; now it was up to her to grasp it.

Shen Huanian and Hua Yi watched Su Yifei, Fang Bai, and Xia Chenyu laughing and talking jovially, leaving them out in the cold, their expressions turning sour.

They had never expected that Fang Bai would know Su Yifei, and it seemed that their relationship was quite good.

Hua Yi had intended to use Su Yifei to help him regain face, but now it seemed impossible.

But to leave like this was something he was reluctant to do.

"Brother Su, is he your friend?"

Hua Yi's gaze landed on Fang Bai as he asked in a grave tone.

He had wanted to challenge Fang Bai earlier, but ended up defeated before the fight, developing a measure of wariness towards Fang Bai.

If Su Yifei had a good relationship with Fang Bai, Hua Yi was prepared to just walk away.

Better to seek revenge at the right time, even if it takes ten years.

Hua Yi thought as long as Fang Bai was in Zhongzhou, he would have plenty of opportunities to get his revenge.

"Fang Bai saved my sister's life, he is a benefactor to the Su Family."

Su Yifei turned and looked at Shen Huanian and Hua Yi, his expression grave and serious.

“I may not have many virtues, but I highly value gratitude and loyalty.

Since Fang Bai is a benefactor of the Su family, anyone who crosses him is crossing the Su Family, and I, Su Yifei, will be the first to object!”

Su Yifei’s words were heavy, akin to slapping Shen Huanian and Hua Yi in the face, which made their expressions even uglier.

However, they also knew that Su Yifei only had one sister, Su Linglong, whom he had cared for deeply and doted on since her childhood.

Fang Bai saving Su Linglong’s life was no different than saving Su Yifei’s own life, so it was no wonder that Su Yifei spoke up for Fang Bai.

Being an Ancient Martial Cultivator who had saved Su Linglong’s life, Shen Huanian couldn’t do anything to Fang Bai and had to continue scheming against Xia Chenyu.

“Chenyu, Dad wants you to date Brother Hua, he’s doing it for your own good...”

Shen Huanian’s tone began to harden as he seriously said, “If you refuse, Dad is probably going to be very angry.

You haven’t spent much time with Dad and don’t understand his temper; he rarely gets angry, but when he does, the consequences can be very serious...”

Shen Huanian’s trip to Zhongzhou was under the directive of his father, Shen Dongyang, to build a connection between Hua Yi and Xia Chenyu, hoping to create a marriage alliance between the Shen and Hua families.

Although Xia Chenyu had already clearly indicated her refusal, Shen Huanian was not giving up and continued to persuade her.

“Listen to your brother’s advice, try dating Brother Hua.

Maybe after dating for a while, you will find out that Brother Hua is actually quite suitable for you.

Otherwise...

sigh, I’m really worried about how much longer your ‘Beauty Company’ can stay open...”

Shen Huanian’s words were laden with more threats than persuasion.

Chapter 55: Medical Skills Exchange

For the Shen Family, an unmarried Xia Chenyu was a valuable chess piece that they could use to form marriage alliances with other powerful prominent clans, securing benefits for the Shen Family.

Once Xia Chenyu was involved with a man, however, that chess piece would essentially become useless.

Therefore, as a member of the Shen Family, Shen Huanian absolutely did not wish to see Xia Chenyu and Fang Bai come together.

Nevertheless, Shen Huanian understood Xia Chenyu’s character and knew that his threats were likely to have the opposite effect, provoking Xia Chenyu’s defiance.

But at this point, it was all he could do, hoping to exert some pressure on Xia Chenyu.

Xia Chenyu once again clung to Fang Bai’s arm, coquettishly saying, “Dear, is he threatening me?

What should we do?”

Fang Bai responded with a cold smile, his gaze burning into Shen Huanian, "Easy, I'll help you beat him up!"

Shen Huanian was startled and hastily said, "Don't be reckless!"

He truly feared Fang Bai might take action against him.

The four bodyguards he had brought were considered top-notch experts among ordinary people, but they were far inferior compared to a real Ancient Martial Cultivator.

"Chenyu, you will regret not listening to your father one day!"

Mr.

Fang, you'd better stay away from my sister...

Merely a medical college student, even if you have the status of a Martial Artist, you're still not worthy of my sister...

Don't come near me!

Master Hua, Yifei, I have something else to attend to, I'll take my leave now!"

Seeing Fang Bai's fists crackling, ready to spring into action, Shen Huanian's forehead broke into a sweat.

Following the principle that "a wise man does not eat the loss before his eyes," Shen Huanian left a few polite words and then immediately fled with his four bodyguards.

"Medical college student..."

You study medicine as well?”

The remark from Shen Huanian before leaving had once again ignited Hua Yi’s excitement, his fighting spirit rising again as he stared at Fang Bai and asked.

“Fang Bai is a student at Zhongzhou Medical College, and his family is also a Chinese medicine lineage.”

Su Yifei, seeing the expression on Hua Yi’s face and guessing what he was thinking, did not wait for Fang Bai to speak, and said with a smile, “Does Master Hua want to exchange medical knowledge with him?”

Although the disciples of the Hua Family practice both medicine and martial arts, it was their expertise in Chinese medicine that truly brought fame to the Hua Family.

Chinese medicine is the foundation upon which the Hua Family was built.

Hua Family disciples might forgo learning Ancient Martial Arts, but medical skills are mandatory for all.

In modern-day Huaxia, the highest leadership is known as “Prime Minister.”

The doctors who provide medical services to the Prime Minister are called “National Doctors.”

There are four National Doctors in Huaxia, each of whom is a towering figure in the Huaxia medical community, highly respected and revered, and their medical skills represent the pinnacle of the Huaxia medical industry.

Among the four National Doctors, there are two Western medicine practitioners and two Chinese medicine practitioners.

One of these Chinese medicine practitioners, Hua Tianhe, hails from the Hua Family of Zhongzhou.

Hua Tianhe, who had immersed himself in the art of medicine for decades, boasted exquisite medical skills, particularly in acupuncture, which had reached a pinnacle of mastery, almost divine in execution, earning him the reputation as “the foremost authority in acupuncture.”

Hua Tianhe not only had numerous followers in Huaxia but also enjoyed high renown overseas, with many foreign patients seeking him out each year for treatment.

Over the decades, the number of patients healed by Hua Tianhe was countless, and he thus earned the title of “Divine Doctor.”

It could be said that the reputation and status of the Hua Family in Zhongzhou today could not have been achieved without Hua Tianhe’s contributions.

Hua Tianhe was an elder of the Hua Family, with an exalted status.

Many of the Hua Family’s younger generation had received his guidance.

As the most outstanding member of the young generation of the Hua Family, Hua Yi naturally also received guidance from Hua Tianhe and benefitted greatly.

Hua Yi’s father, Hua Chun, was known as the “Paragon of Hua Tuo,” and Hua Yi was also referred to as “Minor Hua Tuo.”

Some even predicted that, in several decades, Hua Yi might become another National Doctor Grandmaster following in Hua Tianhe’s footsteps.

However, being still young, Hua Yi, faced with adulation and praise, couldn’t help feeling somewhat carried away, believing that in all of Huaxia, except for a few senior elders of his family, his medical skills were second to none.

When it came to martial arts, Hua Yi admitted he was no match for Fang Bai, but upon hearing that Fang Bai was a student of Zhongzhou Medical College, he wanted to regain some face on the medical front.

“When martial artists meet, they wish to determine who is superior; when doctors of traditional Chinese medicine meet, they too itch for a chance to compete and hone their skills.”

Looking at Fang Bai, who appeared indifferent, Hua Yi said with a smile, “Zhongzhou Medical College is a famous medical institution in Huaxia, which has produced many notable doctors.

Brother Fang comes from a prestigious school and is born into a family renowned for traditional Chinese medicine, so your medical skills must be quite good.

I too have studied medicine since childhood and have some understanding of it.

Why don’t we have a friendly competition?”

“A friendly competition in medical skills?”

Fang Bai glanced at Hua Yi, shook his head, and said, “Not interested.”

His expression remained one of disdain, identical to when Hua Yi had challenged him to a martial contest earlier.

Hua Yi laughed instead of getting angry, “Fang Bai, I think it’s not that you’re not interested, but that you’re afraid, right?

You’re scared of losing to me!

Heh, I admit I’m not your equal in martial arts, but in medicine, I can leave you in the dust!”

Hua Yi’s taunting seemed to have an effect.

Fang Bai thought for a moment, then with a smile, said, “I’m willing to compete with you, but I have a condition.”

“What condition?”

Hua Yi, sensing something sly in Fang Bai’s smile, became inwardly vigilant.

“I’m someone who won’t lift a finger without benefit.

Without the drive of profit, I can’t muster the energy for anything.

If you want to compete with me, fine, but put something enticing on the table first!

Otherwise, what’s the point if I win and get nothing out of it?

That’d be so boring!”

Hua Yi was taken aback, then said, “One hundred thousand!

If your medical skills prove to be better than mine, I’ll give you one hundred thousand yuan!”

“One hundred thousand?”

Fang Bai looked at Hua Yi with contempt and scoffed, “You’re a scion of a prominent clan, not a beggar from the Beggar Sect asking for alms in the streets.

Using one hundred thousand yuan as a wager, aren’t you afraid of losing your dignity?

With that kind of spirit, I fear your advancement in martial and medical arts will be limited from here on.”

Hua Yi's face turned red, and, grinding his teeth, he declared, "Three hundred thousand!"

"Forget it, just leave!

Competing with you over medical skills for mere three hundred thousand yuan?

I'd rather enjoy drinking a few more cups of wine!"

Fang Bai sat down with a plop, picked up a cup of wine before him to savor slowly, and gestured for Xia Chenyu and Su Yifei to sit down as well.

Hua Yi's handsome face turned red and then pale.

He was eager to regain the pride he'd lost in medicine and impress Xia Chenyu, the beautiful woman before him.

He was even willing to put up three hundred thousand yuan as a stake, but Fang Bai simply refused to bite.

Although Hua Yi was the foremost among the younger generation of the Hua Family, he did not yet have the right to be involved in the core affairs of the family, which meant he did not have much money at his disposal.

He could come up with thirty to fifty thousand yuan on his own, but any more than that, and he would have to ask his parents for money.

"Five hundred thousand!"

Hua Yi said through clenched teeth, "This amount should pique your interest, right?"

To salvage his pride, and to show off his superior medical skills to Su Yifei and Xia Chenyu, Hua Yi was going all-in.

Chapter 56: One Million

Hua Yi was absolutely certain that he would win and make Fang Bai admit defeat both in his heart and verbally.

How high could the medical skills of a student from a medical college be?

How could he compare with someone like himself, who had started learning his family's medical arts since the age of six?

"One million!"

Fang Bai tilted his head back to down a cup of liquor, wiped his mouth, and said, "Put up one million as the prize, and I'll compete with you in medical skills..."

Of course, if you're afraid of losing, then forget it...

"

Ever since discovering essence energy within the jade from Xia Chenyu's jade pendant, Fang Bai had been preparing to work hard to make money, the more the better.

With money, he could buy more jade, and with jade, he could absorb its essence energy to cultivate.

Although Fang Bai possessed strength far beyond ordinary people, he had no intention of obtaining wealth through illegal means.

Firstly, because he found this world beautiful and didn't want to break its rules, causing panic and chaos among the people.

Secondly, there were martial artists in this world; with his current strength, he was not yet capable of disregarding everything.

So, Fang Bai planned to make money through legal means, honestly and earnestly.

He believed that, with his own abilities, gathering a large amount of wealth in a short period would not be difficult.

Although he had received two hundred thousand from Mao Qiangwu and Zhongzhou City Police Station, Fang Bai had given most of it to his mother Yang Mei to improve the family's living conditions, leaving him with not much money on hand.

Hua Yi's proposal to compete in medical skills presented Fang Bai with an opportunity to make money.

In his eyes, Hua Yi, born into a prominent clan, was like a fat sheep waiting to be slaughtered.

"One million it is!"

Hua Yi hesitated for a moment but then nodded in agreement.

Hua Yi was confident in his victory, thinking even if he put up ten million as the prize, what would it matter?

That money would be like an illusory flower in the water to Fang Bai; he would never get it.

"Empty promises mean nothing, how can I trust you?"

Fang Bai picked up a thin pancake, rolled some cumin lamb inside, ate a few bites with leisure, and then continued, "You need to prove you have one million first."

"I came out in a rush and didn't bring my wallet or bank cards..."

”

Of course, Hua Yi was too embarrassed to admit that he couldn't produce one million; he had already thought of a strategy.

“My word is my bond.

If my medical skills are not as good as yours, I'll concede one million to you.

If you don't trust me, I'll ask Brother Su to be a guarantor.

You should trust his integrity, right?”

“No, my integrity isn't that great.

I don't want to get involved in your affairs.”

Su Yifei shook his head like a rattle drum, hastily distancing himself.

Hua Yi was both angry and anxious, internally cursing Su Yifei for being a bastard.

“How about this, write an IOU and leave it with Yifei to hold.

If you can prove your medical skills are superior to mine, take back the IOU and tear it up.

If not, the IOU is mine.

Once you've paid one million, I'll return the IOU to you.

If you default on the debt, I'll see you in court!"

Fang Bai sighed and added, "Honestly, if it weren't for the one million, I really wouldn't be interested in competing in medical skills with you..."

It's not too late to back out now!"

"Bring me paper and pen!"

Hua Yi snorted and reached out his hand to Fang Bai.

"I have some here."

Xia Chenyu turned around and took out paper and pen from her bag.

After receiving them, Hua Yi wrote down an IOU according to what Fang Bai said and handed it to Su Yifei for safekeeping.

"How do you plan to have the competition?"

Watching Su Yifei put away the IOU, Fang Bai set down the utensils in his hands, wiped the grease from the corner of his mouth, and asked with a smile.

Hua Yi said, "Since both of us are from Chinese medical families, let's diagnose people's illnesses using the 'Four Diagnostics'.

Whoever's diagnosis is quick and accurate wins!"

Fang Bai nodded and replied, "No problem.

But where do we find the patients?”

“We don’t need to go out of our way to find patients.”

After pondering for a moment, Hua Yi said, “To prevent cheating, let Brother Su pick a few random people from his hotel.

Everyone eats grains, so more or less, big or small, they all have some issues.

What we need to do is diagnose their conditions to determine who is superior.”

As he spoke, he gave Fang Bai a confident glance, thinking that this kid might just own a small Chinese medicine shop and claim to be from a Chinese medical family.

He wondered if he had ever treated anyone.

Chinese medicine values practical experience; the more patients one treats, the more experience they accumulate.

Especially with the ‘Four Diagnostics’, one needs to experience it personally to grasp the essence; otherwise, it’s impossible to accurately diagnose illnesses.

Hua Yi, born into a renowned Chinese medical family, had a solid foundation in medical theory and plenty of hands-on experience.

He had mastered the essence of the ‘Four Diagnostics’.

In the ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ established by the Hua Family, Hua Yi already had his own clinic where he could treat some patients.

After Fang Bai agreed, Su Yifei quickly called over four waitstaff, two men and two women.

Once the four waitstaff entered the 'Plum Blossom Hall', they looked at each other, all feeling puzzled and wondering what the boss needed them for on such short notice.

"You're in for a treat."

Pointing at Fang Bai and Hua Yi, Su Yifei said, "These two are famous Chinese doctors in our country.

Don't be fooled by their young age—their medical skills are very impressive.

They are now offering free consultations to check your health and see if there are any issues."

"Boss, I just had a full check-up at the hospital yesterday and there's nothing wrong with me.

I don't need a check-up, do I?"

One male waiter said.

"You don't know jack!"

Su Yifei slapped the waiter's head with his hand and said irritably, "Some problems can't necessarily be detected by Western medicine!

And even if they are detected, they can't always be cured!

What's the harm in having two Chinese medicine experts diagnose you?"

Ever since Fang Bai cured his sister Su Linglong's brain tumor using acupuncture and Chinese medicine, Su Yifei held no more prejudice against Chinese medicine.

The male waiter looked aggrieved, and although he was skeptical, he didn't dare to say another word.

"We can start now."

Sitting down across the table from Fang Bai, Hua Yi proposed, "There are four people; we'll each diagnose two.

For fairness, Brother Su can choose who we'll diagnose.

How about that?"

Fang Bai nodded indifferently.

As expected of someone from a Chinese medical family, Hua Yi set aside his arrogance once he sat down, his expression serious, sitting upright, and his eyes scanning intensely over the four waitstaff.

Chinese doctors diagnose illnesses using the 'Four Diagnostics'.

Hua Yi was taking an early look—a preliminary 'observation'—to have a basis for his diagnosis so that he might take the lead when the actual diagnosis began.

Although Hua Yi was convinced his medical skills were superior to Fang Bai's, he didn't underestimate his opponent.

He worried that a careless mistake could lead to losing a million yuan, which was a minor issue, but damaging the reputation of 'Rejuvenation Hall' would be a serious problem.

Chapter 57: Ridiculously Fast

It should be noted that the predecessors of the Hua Family regarded the reputation of "Rejuvenation Hall" as incredibly important, even more so than their own lives.

If Hua Yi were to lose to Fang Bai in the medical competition, it would not just be a loss of his personal dignity, but also the dignity of “Rejuvenation Hall” and the entire Hua Family.

It could be foreseen that, should Hua Yi lose, his days in the Hua Family would definitely be difficult.

Su Yifei divided the four attendants, two men and two women, into two groups and had them stand in front of Fang Bai and Hua Yi, respectively.

Then he waited to see how these scions of traditional Chinese medicine families would diagnose the illnesses.

In Su Yifei’s view, Hua Yi was the genius of “Rejuvenation Hall,” a millennium-old traditional Chinese medicine family, and his medical skills were the authentic tradition of the Hua Family.

Whereas, Fang Bai, using acupuncture in combination with traditional Chinese medicine to cure Su Linglong’s brain tumor, was regarded as a medical marvel.

Therefore, Su Yifei really couldn’t decide who was the more superior in medical skills between these two.

Of course, Su Yifei’s heart naturally leaned a bit more towards Fang Bai.

After all, he had personally witnessed Fang Bai treating his sister, whereas he had only heard of Hua Yi’s name.

After asking the male attendant in front of him to sit down, Hua Yi began to take his pulse, observe his complexion, smell his breath, and inquire if he had felt any recent abnormalities in his body—the entire diagnostic process strictly followed the procedures of traditional Chinese medicine.

Compared to Hua Yi’s meticulous and by-the-book approach, Fang Bai’s method was much simpler and didn’t follow any particular routine.

“You have kidney deficiency.”

Fang Bai merely glanced at the attendant’s complexion and casually took his pulse, then said in a low voice, “In the future, smoke and drink less, avoid staying up late, exercise more...

and you should find a girlfriend.

Relying on your hands is not a solution, and doing it too frequently isn’t good...

okay, next one.”

Although Fang Bai’s words were veiled, the few people present were not children and naturally understood what “relying on hands” meant,

Under the unusual gazes of his three colleagues, the male attendant blushed with shame, bowed his head, moved to the side, and thought of crying, feeling wronged, “Brother, you didn’t have to say it even if you figured it out!

How can I face anyone at the hotel if this gets out?”

After the male attendant stepped aside, another female attendant took her seat in front of Fang Bai.

The female attendant seemed somewhat nervous, her fingers constantly fidgeting with the hem of her clothes, and from time to time, she glanced at the male attendant sitting in front of Hua Yi, as if she was worried about something.

Fang Bai observed her complexion, took her pulse, then looked at her with a half-smile and said, “You’re a bit anemic, and you have gallstones...

Although these aren’t serious illnesses, you still need to pay attention.

Also, you're more than a month pregnant, aren't you?"

Upon hearing Fang Bai's last words, the female attendant's face immediately showed a shade of paleness.

And the male attendant sitting in front of Hua Yi visibly twitched his facial muscles.

"Jin Feng!"

The male attendant suddenly stood up and strode over to the attendant named Jin Feng, staring at her intently and said indignantly, "You're really pregnant?"

How could you possibly be pregnant?"

"Ahua, I..."

Jin Feng didn't dare to face the male attendant called Ahua and didn't know how to respond, suddenly covering her face and beginning to sob.

Ahua was Jin Feng's boyfriend, and the two had been dating for nearly three years.

During the three years of their relationship, both had agreed that they were still young and should focus on careers, with marriage and children being matters to attend to later.

Therefore, during their intimate moments, they had always taken strict precautions to prevent the seed of life from sprouting.

But Ahua had never expected that his girlfriend, with whom he had shared moonlit pledges of love over three years, would suddenly become pregnant without any warning.

Jin Feng did not deny or defend herself against Fang Bai's diagnosis, but only cried with her head bowed, which was sufficient to explain everything.

Ahua could be certain that the child in Jin Feng's belly was not his own.

Jin Feng's pregnancy could only mean one thing, that she had betrayed him and slept with another man.

No wonder Jin Feng had been complaining of a poor appetite recently and occasionally experienced dry heaving.

Even their favorite activity together had been repeatedly refused by her under the pretext of feeling unwell.

Ridiculously, the naive him had thought she was genuinely feeling unwell and had showered her with care and concern.

If it hadn't been for Fang Bai's words just now, he might still be in the dark.

"Who is it?"

Ahua, shaking all over with rage, reached out with both hands to grab Jin Feng's shoulders and shook her violently as he roared, "Who is that man?"

"It's Zhao..."

Manager Zhao..."

Jin Feng's tremulous voice spoke through tears, "Manager Zhao said..."

as long as I accompany him...

accompany him a few times, he could promote me and give me a raise, I...”

Before she could finish, Ahua had already roared, his fists clenched as he charged out.

Everyone in the room knew that Ahua must have gone to settle scores with Manager Zhao.

The “Manager Zhao” Jin Feng referred to was none other than Zhao Yulong, the manager of the Four Seasons Spring Hotel.

Although Su Yifei usually worked in the office on the top floor of the Four Seasons Spring Hotel, he seldom interfered with the hotel affairs, so here, Zhao Yulong was virtually the boss.

“That Zhao Yulong, he’s capable all right, but way too lecherous.

The character for lust has a knife above it, and he’ll inevitably meet his end over a woman’s belly!”

Su Yifei sighed helplessly and said, “It’s hard for an honest official to settle domestic disputes.

Fang Bai, Master Hua, you two just sit, I’ll go take a look...

I hope they don’t make a big scene out of it, otherwise, it will affect the business of the hotel.”

Aren’t you going to give me that IOU before you leave?

Fang Bai pointed to the IOU pinched in Su Yifei’s hand, checked the time, and said, “It took me thirty-eight seconds to diagnose the conditions of two people, and it seems both are accurate.

As for this Master Hua, you didn’t diagnose even one, right?

So in this medical skill exchange, it looks like I have the upper hand.”

Hua Yi was not convinced.

In the diagnosis of Chinese medicine, the Four Diagnostics were indispensable.

Yet, Hua Yi found out that when Fang Bai was treating those two service staff members, he didn't follow the usual practices at all, seemingly just casually glancing at the person's complexion and taking their pulse before calling it a day.

And judging from the reaction of those two service staff members, one male and one female, Fang Bai's diagnosis must be correct.

Thirty-eight seconds to accurately diagnose two people's conditions seemed too fast to be credible.

Even for that renowned member of the Hua Family in Yanjing, known as the first person in acupuncture, it would be difficult to accurately diagnose two individuals in such a short amount of time, right?

“Could it be that Su Yifei was helping Fang Bai cheat?”

This thought had just arisen when Hua Yi dismissed it himself.

With Su Yifei's status and position, he wouldn't team up with someone for a mere one million yuan to deceive him.

Moreover, those four service staff members had been casually called in by Su Yifei from the outside; they had not communicated with Fang Bai at all, not even eye contact.

Chapter 58: Pouring Out One's Heart

“Master Hua, do you have any objections?”

Su Yifei looked towards Hua Yi.

As long as Hua Yi conceded, he would hand over the IOU to Fang Bai.

Hua Yi was very unwilling to accept defeat and equally reluctant to give in.

Therefore, he called the male waiter with kidney deficiency and the pregnant female waiter over to personally diagnose them, so as to determine whether Fang Bai's previous diagnoses were accurate.

His diagnostic process was much slower than Fang Bai's, and seeing that he couldn't leave for the time being, Su Yifei had no choice but to make a phone call to his assistant, instructing him to deal with the matter between Ahua and Manager Zhao.

"I lost."

It was only when the few people in the Plum Blossom Hall became impatient that Hua Yi slowly stood up, his face full of dejection and disappointment.

Hua Yi had diagnosed very meticulously, wanting to find some loopholes to counterattack Fang Bai, but in the end, he had to admit that Fang Bai's diagnosis was correct.

The male waiter indeed only had kidney deficiency; the female waiter did have some anemia and was pregnant as well.

These issues, Hua Yi was confident he could diagnose with more time, but he certainly would not have been able to do so in a mere thirty-eight seconds.

So, he lost, not just a million yuan, but also the prestige of being the first among the younger generation of the Hua Family.

Su Yifei revealed a smile, handed the IOU to Fang Bai, and seeing Hua Yi's unpleasant face, patted his shoulder and said, "Master Hua, you gotta accept the loss when you make a bet!"

Hua Yi really wanted to show a smile, to display his nonchalance and indifference, but his smile looked even uglier than crying.

“Come to Rejuvenation Hall with the IOU tomorrow, and I’ll give you the money.”

Hua Yi didn’t want to stay here a moment longer.

He left a sentence for Fang Bai, greeted Su Yifei, and then strode away.

As for Xia Chenyu, who had stirred his heart, he no longer had the inclination to give her another glance.

What he was most concerned about now was how he would explain this matter to the elders in his family after returning to Rejuvenation Hall.

After Hua Yi left, Su Yifei dismissed a few waiters and then pulled up a stool, sitting down with Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu, pouring himself a drink and joining them in conversation.

“Brother, Shen Huanian is from the Shen Family of Jiangnan Water Town, and Hua Yi is from Rejuvenation Hall; you’ve offended the scions of two prominent clans in one go!

From what I know, neither of these guys is particularly open-minded.

Be careful with them going forward.

If you encounter trouble you can’t handle, remember to tell me, I’ll do my best to help.”

Su Yifei clinked glasses with Fang Bai, then continued, “Are you really planning to take the IOU and ask for the money tomorrow?”

Fang Bai said, “Why not?

A million isn't a small amount!"

Su Yifei said, "How about I accompany you to Rejuvenation Hall tomorrow?"

I do know a few people from the Hua Family."

Fang Bai smiled and said, "No need, I can go by myself.

It's all there in black and white on this IOU, clear and precise; I don't believe Hua Yi would renege!"

Su Yifei gave a wry smile and said, "He might not renege, but I suspect it won't be so smooth for you to take a million yuan out of Rejuvenation Hall."

"I'm not in a hurry.

I'll just ask for it slowly.

What's mine will eventually not escape!"

Su Yifei was a busy man, and after a few drinks, he was called away by a phone call.

Before leaving, Su Yifei had the waiter tidy up "Plum Blossom Hall" and serve another round of drinks and dishes, insisting that Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu eat and drink well, and return home in high spirits.

Looking at the table full of dishes and drinks, Fang Bai and Xia Chenyu exchanged a bitter smile.

The cost of the drinks and dishes on the table was nearly ten thousand, and it would be too wasteful not to eat, so they could only continue to drink and eat, trying to minimize the loss.

“Fang Bai, I just used you as a shield...

I’m sorry...

I’ll punish myself with three drinks...”

Xia Chenyu, with her head down, drank a few glasses, and once again, a flush of red rose to her cheeks, and her gaze became hazy and bewildered.

Fang Bai smiled and said, “It’s nothing; after all, this isn’t the first time something like this has happened to me.

I’m used to it.

But Shen Huanian might hate me to death now because I ruined his good plans twice.”

“Su Yifei is right; you should be more careful in the future.

I don’t know much about Hua Yi, but I have had a few dealings with Shen Huanian, and he’s just like his disloyal and heartless father, sanctimonious on the surface but full of duplicity and wickedness within.”

Upon saying this, Xia Chenyu let out a sigh and once again expressed self-reproach, “I really shouldn’t have used you as a shield just now, I’m so regretful thinking about it now...

If Shen Huanian holds a grudge against you because of tonight’s incident and comes looking for trouble, I won’t be able to rest easy...”

Fang Bai dismissed it with a wave of his hand, “Maybe you’re worrying too much.

He’s from a wealthy and powerful family, and I’m just a child from a poor family.

We're not people from the same world, and maybe by tomorrow, he will have completely forgotten about me."

Xia Chenyu sighed, "I hope so!"

After his body-enhancing practice, Fang Bai's appetite had greatly increased, so he ate a lot of the dishes; whereas Xia Chenyu seemed to want to drown her sorrows, so she drank more.

Soon, one was full, and the other was drunk.

Some people, when drunk, will not utter a word and just fall into a deep sleep.

While others, when drunk, want to find someone to pour out their hearts to.

Xia Chenyu belonged to the latter.

"...

My mother's name is Xia Yuxi, born into a scholarly family in Jiangnan Water Town.

She was a beautiful, elegant, and gracefully demure woman..."

Xia Chenyu, supporting her pink cheeks with her hands, gazed dreamily as if immersed in blissful memories.

Fang Bai watched her with a gentle smile on his face, playing the role of a faithful listener.

"Beautiful women are always pursued by men, and my mother was no different.

Yet among those who pursued her, not one could stir her heart.

That was until she turned twenty-four, and finally, a man entered her world..."

"The man had a calm personality, a tall figure, an attractive appearance, and possessed a very magnetic charm that deeply captivated my mother.

They fell in love at first sight and quickly fell deeply in love."

"Later on, my mother learned that the man was the scion of a wealthy and prestigious Huaxia family.

She was troubled, always fearing he would suddenly leave her and disappear from her world.

The man swore to heaven that he would never abandon her and would marry no one but her."

"Later, my mother discovered she was pregnant and happily shared the news with the man.

She thought he would be overjoyed, but all she received in return was his silence..."

"Not long after, my mother finally found out that a marriage had already been arranged for him by his family, with a woman from another prominent clan, a perfect match in terms of family status..."

"Such arranged marriages between prominent clans are common in Huaxia.

Though the man still had feelings for my mother, he was powerless to change anything and could only accept his family's arrangement."

Hearing this, Fang Bai sighed inwardly.

Although society has always been advocating various forms of equality, the prejudices based on family background have existed since ancient times and have never disappeared.

Especially among the wealthy families and prominent clans, they take the match of social standing very seriously in their children's marriage, often treating it as a way to gain benefits, and seldom truly considering the happiness of their children.

Chapter 59: You drank too much!

A hint of mockery appeared on Xia Chenyu's face as she continued, "Perhaps out of guilt, that man secretly gave my mother some money and rented an apartment for her to live in, occasionally visiting her.

Later, my mother gave birth to me..."

"If life had just gone on like that, my mother wouldn't have had too many complaints.

But who would have thought that on the day of my full-month celebration, some members from that man's family suddenly showed up, including his wife."

"They said a lot of ugly things to my mother.

The most detestable was that man, who not only expelled us mother and daughter from that apartment in front of his family but also swore to cut off all ties with us henceforth."

"My mother's heart was completely shattered by that man, and she decided to leave that sad and despairing city with me that very day.

Eventually, we settled in Zhongzhou City, where my mother used some funds she had saved up to start the 'Beauty Company,' raising me as I grew up..."

"Since I could understand things, I rarely saw a smile on my mother's face; she mostly looked worried and gloomy.

When I was twenty, her body, worn down by her emotional strain, finally gave out, and she passed away not long after.”

Two lines of tears slowly streamed down Xia Chenyu’s cheeks as she went on, “On the night before my mother passed, tears filled her eyes, and she kept softly calling for that man’s name.

I knew she still loved him, how she wished he would come to see her, to meet her one last time.”

“At that time, I thought to myself that if that man had come to see my mother, maybe I could have forgiven him for all those years of abandoning us, but he never showed up until my mother was buried.”

Xia Chenyu clenched her fists tightly, her eyes full of hatred, “From then on, I completely hated that man and everyone from his family...

Even though he later secretly helped us, my hatred for him did not lessen by the slightest.”

“Now that man has become the Family Head of his clan, powerful and influential.

One day, he suddenly found me and wanted to acknowledge me as his daughter...

Hah, he expects me to marry into ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ to benefit his family’s interests.

What a clever scheme he played!”

Having said this, Xia Chenyu wiped away her tears, picked up the wine glass in front of her, and gulped it down, then chuckled to Fang Bai, “You must have guessed already, right?

Yes, that heartless man is Shen Huanian’s father, Shen Dongyang.

And Shen Huanian and I, we are half-siblings sharing the same father.”

Fang Bai sighed and said, “Shen Dongyang wronged you and your mother, no wonder you hate him!

To be honest, a man without affection or responsibility, I have no respect for him either!”

Xia Chenyu spoke, “Do you know, Fang Bai, when my mother founded the ‘Beauty Company,’ her goal was to make it a top enterprise in Huaxia’s beauty industry, even surpassing the Shen Family’s ‘Belle Group,’ to show Shen Dongyang how wrong he was for abandoning my mother, for his lack of vision.”

“After my mother’s death, I wanted to fulfill this wish for her.

I also wanted to show Shen Dongyang that without the pity of the Shen Family, I, Xia Chenyu, could still live prosperously...”

Before Fang Bai could speak, she laughed mockingly at herself and continued, “The ‘Belle Group’ is the leader of the beauty industry in Huaxia.

It’s too hard to topple them!

Moreover, the Shen Family and ‘Rejuvenation Hall’ have years of business cooperation.

Many secret formulas for beauty products launched by the ‘Belle Group’ are supplied by ‘Rejuvenation Hall’.

With the support of ‘Rejuvenation Hall,’ the status of the ‘Belle Group’ in Huaxia’s beauty industry is hard to shake...”

As she said this, she sighed helplessly, poured herself another glass of wine, and unsteadily picked it up to drink.

Her cheeks grew redder, her drunkenness more intense, and her gaze more blurred, as if she might collapse onto the table in a drunken stupor at any moment.

Fang Bai whispered, "Sister Xia, you've drunk too much!"

Xia Chenyu didn't pay attention to him, and continued to say, "But I just can't accept it!

I feel a surge of anger inside me and I just want to compete with 'Belle Group'."

"For the development of the company, as the CEO, I have to put myself out there, make connections, build relationships, and attend one banquet after another...

Perhaps because I was born with a pretty face, there are always people with ulterior motives who want to get me drunk at the dining table and take advantage of me.

If I hadn't been so vigilant, I would have been devoured, skin and bones..."

Fang Bai said, "Sister Xia, you're a CEO after all; you should have some bodyguards with you.

Even just having an assistant or secretary would be something!

For a woman...

especially a beautiful woman to attend a banquet alone, it's too dangerous.

Like last night, if I hadn't happened to come by, you would have been in real danger."

"Last night I was hosting a banquet at Tiangong Grand Hotel for Liu Yuanlong, Zhongzhou's real estate tycoon.

The Liu Family owns several large shopping malls in Zhongzhou, and I wanted to distribute a portion of our company's upcoming beauty products there."

"Liu Yuanlong agreed very readily at the time, but unexpectedly, while I wasn't paying attention, he drugged my drink...

If I hadn't felt that something was off and quickly run out of the hotel, and then encountered you outside the hotel, I probably would have already been violated by that beast..."

"Liu Yuanlong..."

Fang Bai felt the name sounded familiar; after thinking carefully, he remembered who it was.

Liu Yuanlong was Liu Yichen's father, a renowned real estate tycoon in Zhongzhou City with a fortune worth hundreds of millions.

Although he couldn't compare to the Prominent Clans like the Su Family of Zhongzhou, he was still a big name among Zhongzhou's elite.

And that guy, Liu Yichen, had not only stolen the body's original owner's girlfriend at Zhongzhou Medical College but also provoked me both openly and covertly on two occasions, ending up with a big loss at my hands.

The two of us had undoubtedly become enemies.

The son bullied boys and dominated girls at the medical college, and the father drugged people in hotels; one was a spoiled brat, and the other a lecherous old man.

This father and son were indeed of the same ilk!

"I did think about hiring bodyguards, but hiring bodyguards costs a lot of money!

And almost all the money I have is invested in the research and development of the company's new beauty products..."

Xia Chenyu clasped her hands together and prayed to the heavens: "May the gods bless us, I hope our beauty products that will be launched soon can be an instant hit and achieve great success.

Otherwise...

'Beauty Company' might fall into a dire situation, and my grand ambitions will dissipate in the wind...

Hah, by then, I wonder how the Shen Family people will mock me again..."

"Where there's a will, there's a way.

Sister Xia, I believe you will definitely succeed!"

"Alright!

For that remark, I have to drink with you!"

With a "giggle," Xia Chenyu picked up her glass, clinked it with Fang Bai's, and then they both drained their glasses in one go.

Chapter 60: Smiling Like a Blooming Flower

"Actually, our Fang Family can be considered a traditional Chinese medicine prominent clan," Fang Bai said after setting down his glass with a smile.

"If Sister Xia ever needs it, you can come to me for cooperation.

I can provide you with beauty secrets that won't be any worse than those from Rejuvenation Hall."

Xia Chenyu thought Fang Bai was just joking with her and didn't take it to heart, casually replying, "Sure!

If sister fails this time, I will definitely come to you, then use your beauty secrets to make a comeback!"

After a pause, she added, "When you go to Rejuvenation Hall to ask for money tomorrow, remember to call me.

I'll come and give you support..."

Xia Chenyu's tongue was a bit heavy from drinking, and her speech was already quite slurred.

As the two left the Four Seasons Spring Hotel, Xia Chenyu staggered, almost unable to walk straight, and Fang Bai had no choice but to support her all the way.

When they reached Xia Chenyu's sports car, Fang Bai suddenly remembered something.

Chenyu had driven the car when they arrived, but now that she was so drunk, she definitely couldn't drive away, and since he couldn't drive, what should they do next?

After pondering for a while, Fang Bai had to vigorously shake the drowsy Xia Chenyu by the shoulders to ask for her address.

Once Xia Chenyu mumbled out her address, Fang Bai immediately hailed a taxi, stuffed her into the car, and sat next to her.

Xia Chenyu was so drunk that she lost consciousness, her body as limp as a boneless snake, collapsing in Fang Bai's arms.

He had to wrap his arms around her to prevent her from slipping down.

Whether it was too much alcohol or something else, Xia Chenyu's body was so hot it was like a ball of fire, making Fang Bai's mouth parched and his heart race.

All along the way, the taxi driver occasionally glanced at Fang Bai and the drunken Xia Chenyu in the backseat through the rearview mirror, wearing a lewd expression on his face.

"This is my friend; she's had a bit too much to drink, and I'm taking her home to rest," Fang Bai quickly said, noticing the taxi driver stealing glances at them, realizing that the guy must've gotten the wrong idea.

What taking her home to rest!

It was clear as day that he had gotten her drunk to take her to a hotel room.

The driver had seen this kind of thing plenty of times; why bother hiding it?

Thinking thus, the taxi driver revealed a knowing smirk that said, "We're both men here, I get it," while internally he lamented how such a beautiful woman ended up with the likes of him, a classic case of a fine cabbage being dug up by a pig!

Seeing the taxi driver's increasingly lascivious smirk, Fang Bai felt frustrated and knew that trying to explain would only make things worse, so he chose to stay silent.

"This woman is a stunner, and now she's drunk too.

Being with her, anyone with poor self-control might indeed have difficulty suppressing some unsavory thoughts!"

Facing the beauty in his arms, Fang Bai had to admit he was also tempted, but believing himself to be the noble Immortal Venerable, if he wanted a woman, he would do so openly and honorably, not by taking advantage of someone's vulnerability.

Xia Chenyu lived in a beautifully landscaped residential area, which was a somewhat famous wealthy district in Zhongzhou City, filled entirely with two-story row villas.

A villa here cost about ten million yuan, a bit of a luxury for the average citizen, but with a company under her belt and a single sports car worth millions, Fang Bai wasn't surprised that Chenyu lived here.

Since the residential area didn't allow taxis to enter, Fang Bai had to pay the fare, and under the scrutinizing gaze of the security guards and some residents, he carried Xia Chenyu horizontally into the community.

It took some effort to find the villa where Xia Chenyu lived.

He fished out a set of keys from her red handbag and after much effort, finally managed to open the gate.

Inside was a small courtyard with many potted flowers and plants.

A chubby white cat was napping in the midday sun.

Seeing someone enter, it merely turned its head for a glance, then stretched lazily and continued its big sleep.

Entering the living room, the room had a European-style villa layout and was spotless.

All things were neatly arranged, with a faint, pleasant scent lingering in the air.

It was evident that Xia Chenyu loved cleanliness.

The bedroom was on the second floor, and upon opening the door, one could smell a woman's unique fragrance.

A heart-shaped red bed was situated in the center of the room.

Next to the south-facing window stood a dressing table, with a photograph of a woman on it.

The woman in the photo bore some resemblance to Xia Chenyu, but was obviously older, with a look of melancholy between her brows as if she harbored unsolvable worries.

Fang Bai knew this woman must be Xia Chenyu's mother.

After entering the bedroom and dropping Xia Chenyu onto the soft bed, Fang Bai finally let out a sigh of relief as if he had shed a heavy burden.

Xia Chenyu lay on the bed in an unseemly position, some parts of her half-hidden and half-exposed, provoking a nosebleed-inducing sight.

Fang Bai smiled wryly, squatted down and took off her high heels, then straightened her body and casually pulled the blanket over her.

"Sister Xia, your car is parked at the hotel.

When you wake up, go get it yourself.

I wish your Beauty Company success.

If you encounter any difficulties, you can come to me, and I will help you find a solution."

Fang Bai found some paper and a pen, left these few words behind, took a deep look at Xia Chenyu, gently closed the door, and strode away.

As the sound of the front door closing reached her ears, the corners of Xia Chenyu's mouth, who had been feigning deep sleep on the bed, twitched slightly, and then her eyes slowly opened.

She hopped off the bed, stood barefoot in front of the window, and drew the curtains that Fang Bai had closed, leaving a small gap.

Her gaze fell on the departing figure of Fang Bai.

Watching Fang Bai's retreating back, Xia Chenyu's lips suddenly curled into a smile, which gradually broadened until it bloomed brightly.

The sunlight shone on her face, her cheeks still flushed, with a lingering hint of inebriation in her eyes.

Xia Chenyu indeed had drunk a good amount, but not enough to be unconscious.

From the beginning to the end, she maintained some clarity of mind.

The dead-drunk act was all a pretense.

She was very keen on befriending Fang Bai, but her early experiences made it difficult for her to fully trust someone, so she played a little smart to test Fang Bai's character.

If Fang Bai had taken advantage of her drunken state to possess her, she would have kicked him out without hesitation, later given him some money as a token of gratitude for saving her, and then they would have parted ways indefinitely, never to cross paths again.

Suffice to say, it was an outcome Xia Chenyu did not want to see.

Fortunately, that did not happen, and the results of the test left her overwhelmingly happy.

Xia Chenyu stood by the window, her smile blooming like flowers.

After stepping out of Xia Chenyu's villa, Fang Bai also revealed a hint of a smile on his lips.

He knew that Xia Chenyu was not drunk.

Whether one is intoxicated or not changes their breathing frequency, heart rate, blood flow and so on, and with Fang Bai's sharp senses, these were changes he could not be deceived by.