

Genius 1311

Chapter 1311: Birthday Gift!

Qin Fang left, with a wave of his sleeve, he took away not a single cloud...

Although Queen Ruan Yingxiu really hoped that Qin Fang could stay, Qin Fang knew it was impossible, so he quietly left early the next morning.

Ruan Yingxiu didn't go to see him off, she was afraid she wouldn't be able to hold back her tears in public, and Qin Fang was worried about her health too, as the events of that one night had already been a bit too much for her to handle!

She seemed to know that Qin Fang was about to leave, even though it was the first time, she seemed to have used all her strength, giving Qin Fang the utmost enjoyment.

Qin Fang didn't linger, it had been quite some time since he left, and he should be returning. If delayed any longer, he wouldn't be able to celebrate the New Year with his mother Qin Qing and his wife Tang Feifei.

Starting from Luo City, all the way north, with Qin Fang's speed, it took less than a day to easily reach the border of Dragon Country. Someone had been waiting for him there for a long time. A military vehicle took Qin Fang directly to the nearest airport; after several churns, he finally returned to the Qu Family on Hong Kong Island before the New Year.

"You've tanned..."

This was the first thing Tang Feifei and Qin Qing said when they saw Qin Fang. The mother-in-law and daughter-in-law were surprisingly in agreement, which made Qin Fang a bit flattered.

Anlang's location is actually on the same latitude as Hong Kong Island, but because there are many high mountains and dense forests, the rainforest climate is much more severe. The sunlight seems much stronger compared to Hong Kong, this coastal city.

Plus, Qin Fang's busy days did make him slightly darker than before, but he appeared much more spirited.

Perhaps because the relatively primitive natural environment of Anlang still benefits someone like him who practices martial arts.

By comparison, the more urbanized Hong Kong Island is only slightly better with the air in the mountains; the other places are quite bad...

"Thank you, Qin Fang..."

Compared to his mother who cared about her son's skin, Tang Feifei had more gratitude and excitement, lightly wrapping her arms around Qin Fang's waist, she spoke with deep affection.

Tang Cheng had safely returned, and she had already learned through some channels how dangerous the situation was. If Qin Fang hadn't arrived in time, her brother Tang Cheng might never have been seen again...

"Feifei, can we not do this? We don't need to be so formal, do we..."

Seeing Tang Feifei getting emotional, Qin Fang quickly tried to comfort her. This was a good thing, crying is not quite fitting.

The situation with Tang Cheng was something Qin Fang was already aware of while in Anlang. Once Ruan Yingxiu had control over Luo City, Qin Fang had already gotten in touch with Tang Cheng and had some detailed discussions.

It can be said that Ruan Yingxiu's position as queen will be very stable for quite some time. Apart from the power supporting her, Qin Fang will do his best to support her.

Even Tang Cheng implicitly represented the Dragon Country Military in showing support for Ruan Yingxiu... The specific reasons are perhaps unknown to others, but Qin Fang, as an insider, knows all too well.

Though Ruan Yingxiu is Anlang People, she is of Chinese descent, and because of her relationship with Qin Fang, plus the background of key military officers, the previously hostile Anlang Northern Region military has completely changed its stance now.

Besides, his brother-in-law Tang Cheng has already begun cultivating Inner Strength. The medicinal properties of the Golden Dragon Saliva not only lifted the threat of Sorcery from him but also helped him gather True Qi within his body.

Though for now, it is just a tiny stream, starting from this, along with Tang Cheng's own prowess, it shouldn't take long for him to develop True Qi comparable to his own strength, thus becoming a very formidable expert...

Looking at it this way, Tang Cheng's crisis this time can be seen as a very good opportunity, and he has made a complete turnaround now.

"Don't cry, don't cry, I'm not crying..."

With Qin Fang teasing her, Tang Feifei's tears, which had been on the verge of falling, disappeared instantly, replaced by an exceptionally bright smile.

"But, shouldn't you explain to me, what is this?"

Though Tang Feifei was smiling, she soon noticed some unusual things on Qin Fang's body, like the dark red "strawberry" hanging below Qin Fang's neck.

"This... haha, accident! Accident! Purely an accident!"

Qin Fang hadn't noticed it earlier. With Tang Feifei's reminder, he was taken aback, and after a closer look, he was a bit dumbfounded.

Facing Tang Feifei's slightly strange expression and somewhat sinister smile, Qin Fang could only respond with a wry smile.

Qin Fang certainly knew how this "strawberry" came about, it was surely secretly planted by Ruan Yingxiu. It seems women like to do this sort of thing... At least Tang Feifei has planted "strawberries" on Qin Fang more than once before.

"Hmph... Remember to wipe your mouth next time you sneak some food! If I catch you again... you'll see!"

Seeing Qin Fang's extremely awkward expression, Tang Feifei huffed, but the meaning conveyed through her eyes was quite clear—she wasn't really upset.

Tang Feifei already learned from her brother Tang Cheng about Ruan Yingxiu's identity and background, coupled with the upheaval over in Luo City. She could vaguely guess some things.

If this had happened when they just made their relationship public, she would definitely have been furious, but now she wasn't too angry. With so many fleas, you stop itching; with so many debts, you don't worry—similarly, with so many women, she couldn't keep being jealous, so she simply stopped bothering with it all.

"This is the demeanor of the main wife!"

Qin Fang secretly gave Tang Feifei a thumbs-up, feeling very impressed inside, although he couldn't say it out loud.

"Qin Fang, it's good you're back. This time, it's your grandmother's last big birthday celebration. I'll leave the matter of the birthday gift to you..."

Unlike Tang Feifei's gratitude, excitement, and relief, Qin Fang's mother Qin Qing seemed quite calm, as if she didn't want to disturb the couple's joy of reuniting. She merely said this simple sentence and then continued accompanying Old Madam Qu.

"Don't worry, I'll take care of it..."

The task given by his mother, Qin Fang naturally patted his chest and promised.

Even though Qin Fang had worked his magic, performing a heaven-defying act that pulled Old Madam Qu back from the Gates of Hell, such a method of exploiting potential wouldn't really extend her life for a long time.

According to Qin Fang's estimation, the old lady might have between half a year to a year before her remaining life potential is completely depleted, making it ever more difficult to return her.

Of course, compared to the last time she was dying with regrets, unable to fulfill her last wish in life, this time, the old lady would pass away very peacefully.

Or perhaps, she might leave very suddenly...

When the time is right, perhaps when the old lady is happy, amidst a joyful smile, she will quietly depart from this world.

The old lady will leave without any pain, very calmly and peacefully!

This, Qin Fang has clearly communicated to the Qu Family people, so almost every moment now, someone stays by the old lady's side, accompanying her.

When she passes away, someone would discover it immediately, ensuring she doesn't leave alone...

This destined passing is still hard for the Qu Family people to accept, but they are helpless. The Qu Family people have consulted doctors to examine the old lady's health. The results are quite odd; it's hard to say she's ill, even though each of her organs is still functioning, all values are almost at the lowest threshold...

This situation, in any other patient, would basically mean they're hanging on by a thread, lying in a hospital bed, living off an oxygen tube.

But the issue is that while Old Madam Qu can't move freely like a normal person, her complexion looks decent, and occasional movement is manageable.

The stranger this scene gets, the more it showcases the power of Qin Fang's life-extending magic needle, allowing the Qu Family people to accept it somewhat more.

The old lady's days are numbered, and her daughter Qin Qing has already returned. The Qu Family decided that during this period, they would host the old lady's last big birthday celebration, a final demonstration of filial duty from her children.

As her daughter, Qin Qing certainly wouldn't miss it; moreover, she would be one of the main participants in this celebration, so the birthday gift is indispensable.

Originally, Qin Qing was fretting over what kind of birthday gift to give. Even though the old lady repeatedly expressed that her return was already the best gift, Qin Qing still felt she must prepare one.

Luckily, Qin Fang returned in time, so this task naturally fell into his hands.

"Have you already thought about what to give?"

Seeing Qin Fang's seemingly confident demeanor, Tang Feifei couldn't help but ask curiously.

When her grandfather, Old Master Tang, celebrated his birthday, Qin Fang offered a Heart Nourishing Pill, eliminating all chronic ailments, essentially extending the old master's life by at least three to five years.

But Old Madam Qu's situation is entirely different from that of Old Master Tang, so naturally, the same gift wouldn't be appropriate.

Old Master Tang's life potential was more vigorous, as his poor health was due to numerous injuries during wartime years, not having received better treatment for the hidden dangers.

But Old Madam Qu is nearing the end of her lifespan. Even Qin Fang's profound medical arts, his heaven-defying needle, won't help anymore, even with superb spiritual medicine like Golden Dragon Saliva, it wouldn't have a single effect.

Therefore, Tang Feifei had this question, and she also wanted to know what secrets Qin Fang might still have that she didn't know about...

Chapter 1312: Auction!

"Still haven't decided yet..."

But unexpectedly to Tang Feifei, Qin Fang spread his hands, looking utterly helpless, which was a stark contrast to the confidence he showed when talking to his mom, Qin Qing.

"Uh..."

Tang Feifei was also taken aback, looking at Qin Fang like that, really not knowing what to say. So, earlier he was just bluffing!

"I was about to discuss it with you. Mainly, the old lady's situation is a bit unusual, and I really can't make a decision right away..."

Fortunately, Qin Fang quickly added a sentence, voicing the difficulty in his heart.

Even Tang Feifei could see the issue clearly, so how could Qin Fang not understand? Perhaps even his mom, Qin Qing, was conflicted too. However, he didn't want Qin Qing to be too troubled, so he agreed readily.

"I think... maybe you could talk it over with your cousins or attend some auctions. You might be able to get some good stuff there!"

Tang Feifei thought for a moment. She didn't have any better ideas, so she could only make such a suggestion.

"Seems like that's the only option..."

Qin Fang thought about it. It seemed there was no other way, after all, this was Hong Kong Island, not Ninghai. It wasn't his own turf. It would still be reliable to find a few cousins from the Qu family.

Of course, he could forget about Qu Yuanliang. Qin Fang didn't want to see him, and he didn't want to see Qin Fang, so it was best for them not to meet. It meant nobody would be upset.

Qu Laosi, Qu Yuanrui, was the busiest among the Qu family's third generation, so it was basically impossible to see him. In the end, Qin Fang had no choice but to find the boss, Qu Yuancheng.

"You finally came back..."

Seeing Qin Fang return, Qu Yuancheng was very happy and immediately greeted him with a cheerful smile. Now, their relationship couldn't be any better.

"I was even thinking, if you didn't come back soon, I'd go catch you from the Mainland..."

Of course, that was just a joke from him.

Not to mention Qin Fang was simply not in the Mainland a few days ago but was in the chaotic Anlang Territory, so there was no way he could find him. Besides, he himself was a well-known lawyer in Hong Kong Island, with a lot of work, making it impossible to constantly accompany Qin Fang around.

But now that it was nearing the end of the year, he specifically handed over a few cases to his subordinates, planning to spend some focused leisure time with Qin Fang. As a result, Qin Fang suddenly took off for several days, leaving him lonely and quite upset.

"I was just out for a few days, did it have to be so dramatic?"

Qin Fang replied jokingly, feeling that Qu Yuancheng was exaggerating a bit, even though he too was just joking...

"Dramatic? I think it's more than that... it's all your fault! You insisted on telling Brother Kong Er that you would introduce him to a master, and look what happened, you ran off, and then the emasculated guy kept bothering me. My head was about to explode..."

But unexpectedly, Qin Fang's words seemingly aggravated Qu Yuancheng, who immediately started pouring out his grievances to Qin Fang.

"Uh... I actually forgot about this!"

Qin Fang was taken aback, then admitted a bit embarrassedly.

He really had forgotten about it, mainly because at the time, the situation with Tang Cheng was extremely urgent, and he dared not delay even for a minute.

It wasn't until he managed to rescue Tang Cheng and the others and wiped out the Hand of the Devil Mercenary Corps that he could temporarily relax.

At this point, he originally should have returned home with Tang Cheng, but out of curiosity about sorcery, he couldn't resist staying in Anlang. Then Ruan Yingxiu's usurpation happened...

One thing after another kept coming up, keeping Qin Fang busy all the time, naturally causing him to overlook such minor issues.

Helping Brother Kong Er find a decent master was something Qin Fang had promised early on. Originally, he planned to go undercover himself. Later, he thought it might not even be necessary to hang out with Brother Kong Er, so he considered introducing Song Qingshan over.

Qin Fang already had an identity in the Underground World, and gaining another identity in the Black Fist Alliance was actually not very meaningful, except that it sometimes allowed one to complete tasks undercover.

Song Qingshan's strength had reached the master level late stage, which essentially made him invincible in the Black Fist Alliance's lower-level boxing competitions.

But that wasn't enough. If he could reach a relatively core level, it would be beneficial for Qin Fang, hence his plan.

Furthermore, Qin Fang had discussed this matter with Song Qingshan at that time, and Song Qingshan had no objections. Actually, he himself wished for such an opportunity, but he just never had the chance before. The Inland area is considered a relatively weak part of the underground world, plus he has always been engrossed in martial arts, leaving little time to deal with such matters.

But now, he has broken through to grandmaster level and has reached the late stage, his strength has definitely advanced by leaps and bounds. Yet, at the same time, the path to becoming a grandmaster is only just beginning.

Song Qingshan originally planned to come over right away, but before Qin Fang could arrange things, Qin Fang went to Anlang to execute a mission, which delayed matters, even making Qin Fang forget about it.

"Ah, let's not talk about that. If Brother Kong Er asks again, just tell him to come directly to me..."

Qin Fang waved his hand, indicating that he already had arrangements for this matter. When the time comes, he would directly connect with Kong Er, naturally not needing to worry about anything.

"Is there any decent auction happening in Hong Kong Island recently? The old lady's birthday is coming up soon, and I want to prepare a gift... but I have not a single clue right now!"

Setting aside this matter, Qin Fang stated his primary reason for seeking out Qu Yuancheng.

"Auction? Of course, there are..."

Qu Yuancheng responded almost without hesitation.

"Hong Kong Island's auctions are globally renowned, comparable to those in Paris, London, and New York... There's one auction happening tonight. Are you interested?"

This isn't Qu Yuancheng boasting like the saying of an old woman selling her own wares, but an indisputable fact. Hong Kong Island has many wealthy people and is one of the world's three major financial centers. Moreover, many of these wealthy individuals are very philanthropic, much better than those heartless businessmen in the Mainland.

As a result, auction houses on Hong Kong Island regularly invite these wealthy individuals to participate in charity auctions or organize several high-profile, large-scale auctions.

In such auctions, most of the items are antiques and paintings, along with jewelry and accessories, and sometimes even rarer and more unusual creations.

Especially some antiques and paintings, they are the main auction items, among which there are innumerable antiques that have flowed out from Dragon Country.

Dragon Country has a history of thousands of years, but the catastrophe a hundred years ago led to a vast amount of cultural essence being plundered by Western countries.

Now they appear in this manner, making one regret the loss while also feeling quite helpless.

Hong Kong Island has now returned, albeit under the one country, two systems policy. People on Hong Kong Island still don't have a strong sense of belonging to the Mainland, but no one denies the fact that they are Dragon Country people.

Regarding these treasures left by their ancestors, naturally, there's a hope that they can return to the hands of the descendants of the Dragon... Hence, these antiques often sell for sky-high prices.

Although the value of these treasures indeed deserves such a price tag, the problem is that the method of returning them is not a particularly comfortable thought.

It's like your own thing being robbed and stolen by bandits and thieves, then being sold back to you openly for money... It's evidently frustrating for anyone.

"Let's go and have a look then..."

But this was a fact destined a hundred years ago that Qin Fang couldn't change. He couldn't travel back a hundred years to eliminate those Eight-Nation Alliance troops.

Despite the frustration, Qin Fang thought it over and decided to go and have a look. Perhaps he might come across something he fancies.

He could be considered a master at finding overlooked treasures; he had only participated in one auction and one black market, yet found two remarkable treasures each time.

The 'Orchid Pavilion Preface' goes without mention, it has already become the Forbidden City's palace treasure, a national artifact. It had barely warmed in his hands before he handed it over.

But it was that instance of finding a treasure that made Qin Fang's relationship with Tang Cheng appear much closer, and Tang Cheng's appreciation for him instantly grew, effectively solving the first hurdle in his relationship with Tang Feifei.

That piece of calligraphy brought Qin Fang considerable gains, as not only was it an invaluable artifact, but Qin Fang also obtained the formula for the Heart Nourishing Pill from it...

Now, under Chu Yunxuan's management, this medicine has been developed, entered the clinical stage, and isn't far from hitting the market.

With its introduction, heart disease will no longer be an incurable ailment for humanity. The Heart Nourishing Pill is expected to bring tremendous benefits to countless cardiovascular patients, and also yield substantial profits for Qin Fang.

Obtaining overlooked treasures twice has brought Qin Fang a lot of advantages, so he is somewhat looking forward to attending this third auction.

Of course, the possibility of finding overlooked treasures at such international-level auctions isn't very high; he mainly hopes to find a suitable birthday gift or something he has an interest in!

"Then it's settled, I initially didn't feel like going, but since you want to go, I'll go together with you..."

Seeing Qin Fang express himself, Qu Yuancheng nodded in agreement. He didn't need to worry about things like auction invitations; a phone call would suffice, and the auction house would proactively deliver them to him.

After all, people like him, from a prestigious family and well-off, are exactly the kind of potential customers that auction houses aim to draw in and bond with, and they wouldn't treat them lightly.

Chapter 1313: Enemies Meet on a Narrow Road!

The procedures for attending the auction were all handled by Qu Yuancheng. Qin Fang basically didn't need to do anything; he just needed to attend on time.

The auction was scheduled for that evening, marking the last auction before the New Year. Many wealthy people were invited, promising a large-scale event.

Once everything was ready, Qin Fang changed his clothes and, accompanied by Qu Yuancheng, headed to the auction venue.

Tang Feifei naturally went along as Qin Fang's date. At such auctions, male attendees usually bring a female companion.

Qin Fang brought Tang Feifei, while Qu Yuancheng was accompanied by his wife Chen Qi...

Compared to the elegant and noble lady Chen Qi, Tang Feifei was youthful and stunning, her beauty almost stopping everyone in their tracks. Even those attending the auction, who were leaders in various fields, couldn't help but pause.

"Younger Brother Qin, I've finally caught up with you..."

When Qin Fang and the others arrived at the venue, and the dazzling Tang Feifei almost caused a commotion, Kong Er arrived with a female companion from the side and greeted them heartily.

"Brother Kong Er, what you said isn't right. I've never avoided you..."

Qin Fang chuckled, knowing why Kong Er said that. He must have been already impatient, as this was one of his few hobbies, making it hard for him not to be eager!

"As for your matter, I'll handle it in the next couple of days..."

But Qin Fang didn't bother to keep Kong Er in suspense and straightforwardly addressed it, so he wouldn't have to keep thinking about it.

After leaving Qu Yuancheng, Qin Fang immediately got in touch with Song Qingshan and discussed the matter. Song Qingshan had no objections since he had no family and his sect knew he was fine. Spending the New Year anywhere was the same; advancing in martial arts was more appealing to him.

"You're still so reliable, unlike Big Qu..."

Upon hearing this, Kong Er burst into laughter, put his arm around Qin Fang's shoulder like brothers, but didn't miss the chance to tease Qu Yuancheng.

"Kong Er, you are so ungrateful. If I hadn't told you Qin Fang was back, you wouldn't even know where to find him..."

Qu Yuancheng wouldn't take such a jab lightly, so he quickly rebuffed, indicating that the reason Kong Er came was mostly because Qu Yuancheng informed him of Qin Fang's presence.

Kong Er wasn't particularly interested in such auctions, mainly not wanting foreigners to earn the Dragon Country People's money. For charity auctions, he never held back.

"Feifei, let me introduce you, this is Brother Kong Er..."

This was just a joke; the atmosphere became more relaxed. Qin Fang took Tang Feifei's hand and introduced Kong Er to her.

"Hello, Brother Kong Er..."

Tang Feifei called out obediently.

Being able to speak so casually with Qu Yuancheng and having the surname Kong, plus being ranked Second, Tang Feifei immediately guessed who Kong Er was.

In fact, Kong Er and Tang Feifei had met before, but that was many years ago.

"Hey, I was in such a rush today that I forgot to bring a gift... I'm sorry, Sister-in-law! How about this, if you like something, just bid on it; consider it a gift from Brother!"

Kong Er hesitated for a moment, looking at Tang Feifei beside Qin Fang, then awkwardly spoke.

Generally speaking, when these young masters attended parties, they often brought female companions, but there weren't many opportunities to bring their actual wives, especially to auctions like this.

For instance, his own female companion was someone Qin Fang found familiar, seemingly a famous actress from Hong Kong Island, supposedly with quite a status.

However, standing in front of Kong Er now, she seemed timid like a little kitten, apart from wearing a smile, she barely had the courage to speak.

Kong Er knew Qin Fang wasn't married, but he wasn't aware of Qin Fang bringing his girlfriend to Hong Kong Island for the New Year, and being surprised to bump into her now.

He was quite dependable and loyal, especially to his friends, never being stingy.

Since Qin Fang had helped him with such a significant matter, it wouldn't be right not to express gratitude. He saw Tang Feifei, so he planned to gift her something as a token of appreciation.

"Brother, let's skip that..."

Upon hearing Kong Er's words, Qin Fang laughed bitterly and responded.

"How can we skip it? This is a gift for Sister-in-law, it has nothing to do with you, don't interfere..."

Unexpectedly, Kong Er interrupted him directly, not giving Qin Fang the chance, and set it aside.

"Brother, you'd better repay the candies you owe me for years before talking..."

Seeing Kong Er joking around with her man Qin Fang, Tang Feifei playfully chimed in.

This line made everyone present pause for a moment, especially Kong Er, whose mouth dropped open and couldn't close.

Chapter 1314: Enemies Meet on a Narrow Road!_2

"You are..."

Kong Er's reaction was quick. The way Tang Feifei spoke clearly indicated they had met before, but he had seen so many people that he couldn't recall who Tang Feifei was.

"Her grandfather is Old Master Tang..."

Qin Fang casually explained a bit, initially thinking Kong Er already knew, but apparently, Qu Yuancheng forgot to mention this.

"I see... You're Feifei! I didn't expect that little girl back then to have grown so much now..."

With Qin Fang's reminder, Kong Er immediately recognized Tang Feifei's identity and briefly recalled some events from back then. Though the memories were still somewhat blurry, he vaguely remembered them.

The Elder Master of the Kong Family was once known as a red capitalist, having been received by great figures back in the day. Old Master Tang was also considered highly esteemed, so it wasn't surprising that the two families had crossed paths.

Now, the older generations are gradually passing away, but every few years, prominent families would visit the capital to meet some of the old masters. For instance, over a decade ago, the boss of the Kong Family took Kong Er, who was only in his teens then, to meet Old Master Tang, and that's when Kong Er and Tang Feifei met...

However, after so many years, Kong Er's appearance had changed a lot, and Tang Feifei had transformed from a little girl to a graceful young lady. No wonder Kong Er couldn't recognize her.

"Miss, if you want sweets, you can come to me... Our Japanese sweets are famous worldwide! Whatever you want to eat, however much you want to eat, it's all no problem!"

But at this moment, a sudden voice sounded beside Qin Fang and the others, and the content of the words made everyone feel a bit strange.

"Yamamoto..."

Having to turn around to look, everyone already knew who was speaking. It was Yamamoto, who had previously been taught a lesson by Qin Fang at the Black Fist Arena.

Seeing Yamamoto, Qin Fang and the others were somewhat surprised but not overly concerned, as such auction events typically invite many wealth and power figures from Hong Kong Island.

This young master from Japan's Yamaguchi Group, though far from Japan Headquarters, was nonetheless the head of the Yamaguchi Group Hong Kong Branch. Not to mention the wealth of the Yamamoto Family, merely the funds he handled daily as the branch head were astronomical.

It was just the way he appeared was speechless...

Clearly, he heard the words Tang Feifei said earlier, which led him to say what he did, unaware that Tang Feifei merely used them as a way to remind Kong Er.

In reality, no one cared about a few pieces of candy...

But this fool Yamamoto naively thought he could use a few candy pieces to score a date... He really thought he was a creepy uncle, and Tang Feifei was an innocent little girl?

Indeed, these little devils from Japan are quite perverted...

"It's getting late, let's go inside!"

Facing this obviously brains-kicked-by-a-donkey Yamamoto, Qin Fang couldn't be bothered dealing with him, merely saying calmly and holding Tang Feifei's hand as they headed into the venue.

Tang Feifei, on the other hand, glanced at Yamamoto with utter disdain, her contemptuous, sarcastic look couldn't be clearer...

From Qin Fang and others' conversation, she understood that this seemingly decent young man was one of those little devils from Japan, which already didn't give her much favorable impression. Moreover, seeing that this guy had a decent appearance but his mind was clearly problematic, made it even more impossible to get close!

Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er naturally couldn't be bothered with Yamamoto. Both exchanged a knowing smile, then similarly ignored Yamamoto's existence, each leading their female companions into the venue.

"Baka!"

Seeing this scene, Yamamoto's face turned completely blue and purple. As such a favored individual, people had always admired him wherever he went, and women could be easily drawn to bed with just a curl of his finger. When had he suffered such humiliation? When had a woman ever looked down on him like that?

In Japan, women's status is really low, like even Song Dao Cainaizi... now renamed Qin Zi, she is the daughter of the president of the Shiling Group, though a bastard, yet treated like a female slave, sold for sex, such things are unimaginable.

But it also shows how low women's status is in Japanese men's minds...

Yamamoto is a Japanese man, and moreover, he comes from the Yamamoto Family, a family that pushes male chauvinism to its peak, where women are merely tools for them, nothing more.

Yet he was despised by a woman... How could he not be angry, rageful?

"Has Mr. Miyamoto arrived yet?"

Though angry, the main party had entered the venue. He didn't have a target to vent to, besides, he wasn't that simple, so he calmed down quickly, and asked the follower beside him.

"Tonight's flight, he could arrive at the branch latest by tomorrow..."

The follower immediately answered respectfully.

"Good! Very good... Then let them live one more night!"

Yamamoto's face immediately showed an exceptionally proud and cruel smile, almost speaking through clenched teeth. As for who "them" referred to, wasn't clear.

But one could guess, the "them" he referred to likely included Qin Fang, as well as whether Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er were part of it was uncertain.

But this is Hong Kong Island, not Japan. If Yamamoto dared act against Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er here, he likely wouldn't last on Hong Kong Island before being assassinated, even the Yamamoto Family couldn't save him.

These two families lack nothing but money...

They don't need to act personally, they just need to throw out a large amount of money, and someone will naturally assassinate Yamamoto, for instance, the Assassin's Alliance would have assassins take the deal.

But targeting Qin Fang was certain, as the grudge with him was too deep to ignore.

At the Black Fist Arena, Qin Fang ended up defeating his man Sato, then even destroyed a Karate Kyokushin-ryu's grandmaster-level expert Kyokushin Genichi with one move, causing him embarrassment, nearly shaming him to death.

Then he sent gunmen to deal with Qin Fang, thinking he could take him down, but the result was even worse... Qin Fang walked away untouched while none of his sending gunmen returned.

Moreover, following days saw members of the Yamaguchi Group Hong Kong Branch continually attacked by unidentified individuals, suffering heavy casualties, nearly he himself got eliminated.

Having narrowly escaped back to Japan to wait for a few days until things calmed down a bit, only then did he return from Japan, specifically requesting a real expert!

Recalling his recent bad luck always linked to Qin Fang made him more determined to deal with Qin Fang.

Unexpectedly, upon attending the auction today, he coincidentally ran into Qin Fang. Seeing the beautiful female companion with Qin Fang caused resentment to surge, his initial thought to steal Tang Feifei...

But he ended up idiotic, the beauty wasn't obtained, instead, the beauty harshly despised him, making his face nearly disgraceful...

This new and old animosity combined, Yamamoto resolved to tear Qin Fang into pieces to feel slightly better.

"And his woman... I'll snatch her away too... I'll mercilessly ravage her in front of him... Hahahaha..."

The more he thought along these lines, the more Yamamoto felt his victory was imminent, the pride on his face became even more pronounced, couldn't contain himself and laughed aloud suddenly...

Chapter 1315: Raising the Price!!

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This auction is organized by Christie's Auction House, and it's quite a grand event, inviting almost all the wealthy individuals from the Ten Great Families of Hong Kong Island.

Though most attendees are young, the funds they can mobilize are considerable, and there's even a possibility of using astronomical sums for an exceptional auction item.

The Qu Family is one of the Top Ten Wealthy Families of Hong Kong, and the seats where Qu Yuancheng and Qin Fang sit are relatively closer to the front. Kong Er doesn't avoid them either and sits together with Qin Fang and the others.

They are chatting and laughing together, obviously not too bothered by the events that just occurred.

Yamamoto is indeed somewhat domineering, but this is Hong Kong Island, not Japan. The Qu Family and the Kong Family are top dogs here, and even Elder Long from Xin'an has to show them some respect.

There's no helping it; the Yamaguchi Group may have manpower, but one of the Top Ten Wealthy Families of Hong Kong certainly has money... It's hard to say who is stronger!

Qin Fang and his group just sat down, and Yamamoto followed them into the venue, sitting not far from Qin Fang and the others, just a few seats away, watching from afar.

Yamamoto's status may not be very high, but the Yamaguchi Group's influence in Asia is considerable. Auction houses deal with both legitimate and shady businesses and are quite courteous to organizations like the Yamaguchi Group, so Yamamoto can sit closer to the front.

Qin Fang and the others aren't too concerned; these are the arrangements made by the auction house, and there's no need for them to oppose anything. They sit calmly, chatting while looking through the booklet detailing various auction items.

This auction is quite large, not because there are many items or it's of long duration, but because nearly every item being auctioned is an invaluable gem.

Qin Fang glanced briefly at these items; the starting bid for the lowest one he saw was already fifty thousand Hong Kong dollars. The final sale price is bound to be astronomical.

Although the booklet doesn't show the final few treasures, it does provide a starting bid, with the lowest being three million Hong Kong dollars, and the most expensive one reaching a staggering ten million Hong Kong dollars...

"Qin Fang, anything caught your eye?"

Qu Yuancheng had already reviewed the items before the auction, but didn't focus much on anything, aside from the last three unknown items, which didn't catch his eye.

This time, Qin Fang wanted to come, so the focus is naturally on him. Seeing Qin Fang flip through the booklet, Qu Yuancheng asked casually.

"Hard to say... Let's wait until the real items are on display!"

But Qin Fang shook his head. This booklet details each auction item quite clearly.

However, those images are just photographs. Some antique experts can discern the authenticity of these gems, but Qin Fang neither has such skills nor came to find undiscovered items, so he must see the actual pieces to decide.

"True... Let's wait and see!"

Qu Yuancheng nodded and didn't speak further, sitting quietly and waiting for the auction to officially start...

Meanwhile, Kong Er sat beside, whispering with a female star companion, seemingly particularly interested in a certain auction item.

He looked like he planned to bid on an item to gift this female star, truly willing to spend money... As for Kong Er's display, Qin Fang had nothing to say, it's no surprise!

"Feifei, seen anything you fancy? I'll bid it for you... We're not short on money!"

Seeing Tang Feifei seriously appreciating some items in the booklet, Qin Fang thumped his chest, assuring, as if money wasn't a concern.

This auction features a variety of items, primarily focusing on Dragon Country's antiques, paintings, porcelain, etc., but also includes some foreign antiques, oil paintings, manuscripts, and even jewelry...

Tang Feifei isn't very interested in those antiques but cares very much about the jewelry, being a woman, after all. There's no woman who doesn't like fine jewelry, and Tang Feifei is no exception.

While speaking, Qin Fang kept observing Tang Feifei's reactions, noticing if her gaze lingered longer on certain items or if she revisits past pages after finishing...

Thus, after simple observation for a while, Qin Fang had some idea, understanding which item Tang Feifei was attracted to...

As guests gradually arrived and the scheduled time for the auction approached, the auction began immediately.

This time, the auction house placed great importance, specifically inviting a very famous Auctioneer to ensure a very successful conclusion to the event.

"Now I announce the official start of the auction..."

"Please welcome the first auction item, coming from..."

As the Auctioneer's rhythmic voice continued, items were slowly pushed out from the back, all enclosed in very secure bulletproof glass cases.

This mainly prevents damage and reduces unnecessary touching...

Of course, for items like bells, porcelain, etc., there will be an all-around glass case for viewing from various angles.

All of these auction items have been jointly authenticated by numerous masters from the auction house, so they are basically genuine, and the possibility of counterfeits is quite low.

This is mainly because these buyers have an unusual status, and the auction house does not want to tarnish its reputation. If there are items about which the auction house is uncertain, they will not bring them out for auction... at least not at this auction.

The auction items have undergone extremely stringent authentication, making the rate of counterfeits very low, and the chances of a misjudgment also very low. Thus, the likelihood of scoring a bargain is negligible.

This casts a somewhat unfavorable shadow over Qin Fang's objectives this time.

However, Qin Fang would not be too concerned about this; if there is truly a treasure worth bidding for, he wouldn't mind spending a sum of money at the auction.

Although this money might end up benefitting the foreigners who once snatched treasures from Dragon Country, he would eventually recoup this money from them, possibly even with additional interest...

"One million!"

The few previous auction items were merely small pieces, which might be considered good by some enthusiasts, but Qin Fang and his companions were not very interested.

However, when this particular auction item was presented, Qin Fang unexpectedly placed a bid...

"One million two hundred thousand!"

But before he could secure this price, someone immediately raised the bid.

And this voice sounded quite familiar, prompting Qin Fang to instinctively glance in that direction, only to find Yamamoto looking at him with a smug expression.

Obviously, this adversary was none other than Yamamoto, with whom he had previously had conflicts...

"One million five hundred thousand!"

Qin Fang remained unconcerned, calmly raising the bid significantly.

This auction item was a very fine Ruyao Brush Washer, considered a high-quality porcelain piece, with a starting price of half a million Hong Kong dollars. The market price should be between one to one and a half million Hong Kong dollars.

If the auction price goes any higher, it would basically be a loss making endeavor...

However, at such an auction, earning this attention is mostly regarded with disdain, ridicule, and mockery from other guests.

Who would want to be that fool? People might not say anything out loud, but there are sure to be plenty of thoughts in their minds.

Qin Fang was not genuinely interested in this Ruyao Brush Washer; he knew Qiao Zhenfei liked such treasures, and because it was a relatively rare fine piece, he considered buying it as a gift for Qiao Zhenfei.

"Two million..."

Qiao Zhenfei had greatly assisted Qin Fang, almost as much as his brother-in-law, Tang Cheng, so Qin Fang was extremely grateful to him and had long wanted to give him something. However, he hadn't encountered anything suitable.

For Qin Fang, with his current wealth, the money wasn't a concern, and he immediately raised the bid, significantly increasing the price.

"Two million five hundred thousand!"

As expected, Yamamoto had a deep hatred for Qin Fang. Almost as soon as Qin Fang placed a bid, Yamamoto immediately raised the bid again.

Wow~~

However, when this price was announced, laughter erupted in the venue, as the figure was quite sensitive.

"This Yamamoto Kenjiro really is as shameless as his name..."

Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er naturally noticed Yamamoto's interference, and Kong Er rudely mocked Yamamoto.

Yamamoto's full name was Yamamoto Kenjiro, commonly called Yamamoto Ken. On Hong Kong Island, he was directly called Yamamoto, and Kong Er, who was displeased with him, decided to mock him.

"No problem... Three million!"

Qin Fang, unconcerned, shook his head and immediately placed another bid.

"Four million!"

The "two and a half" Yamamoto hadn't figured out why people were laughing, and then saw Qin Fang placing another bid, so he couldn't be bothered to think much about the matter and hurriedly raised the price.

It's unknown whether this guy was simply reckless with money or if he truly hated Qin Fang to the bone, but he clearly didn't care about the actual value of the Ruyao Brush Washer; he would unhesitatingly announce a higher price whenever he saw Qin Fang raise the bid...

This antagonistic situation immediately drew the attention of many, focusing their gaze on Qin Fang and Yamamoto, as if wanting to see what final outcome these two young men would come to!

Chapter 1316: Heart of the Ocean!

...

As for the auction house, naturally, the more customers like this, the better. This way, each auction item can sell for a sky-high price.

The higher the auction price, not only will the original owner of the auction item be delighted, but the auction house's commission will also increase, as will the auctioneer's cut.

And achieving a sky-high price is also great publicity for the auction house itself. Just look at this auction inviting so many wealthy people; honestly, isn't it all about increasing the auction house's reputation?

"This gentleman offers four million, four million. Is there a higher bid, is there a higher bid...?"

The auctioneer is also constantly busy, tirelessly using his distinctive voice to enticingly narrate, creating a sense of urgency while making the auction item seem truly valuable.

His words are directed at every guest present, but in reality, his eyes are glued to Qin Fang's side...

Now everyone can see that the real competitors are Qin Fang and Yamamoto; other guests had already given up when the price exceeded the item's actual value.

"Four...Forget it, to prevent this gentleman from bursting out a five million bid, let me become a fool myself; I'll give up on this item!"

Feeling the focus of everyone's attention, Qin Fang was just about to call out a new price, even the word "four" had been spoken, but then he changed his tone and immediately backed out of this auction.

But the reason...

Wow~~

Instantly, it caused a burst of laughter among the surrounding guests.

Previously, Yamamoto once burst out a price of two hundred and fifty million, which had already created a "250" situation. If Qin Fang had burst out with a price over four million, Yamamoto would certainly have called out a price of five million.

Five hundred, that's two "250s."

Qin Fang didn't give Yamamoto the opportunity, so he directly chose to give up, but with his words, he immediately put a "250" hat on Yamamoto.

"Baka..."

Yamamoto has not been on Hong Kong Island for very long, but also not very short. He speaks Chinese fluently, and basic communication isn't a problem, but he lacks understanding of some obscure phrases.

So, when he was first ridiculed, he didn't immediately react. Now, as Qin Fang directly labels him, how could he be in the dark?

Almost on the spot, Yamamoto flew into a rage, if not for being held back by those around him, he would have charged at Qin Fang to fight...

Of course, being held back didn't anger his subordinates, instead, he secretly felt grateful, recalling that Qin Fang can instantly defeat even Karate master-level experts. Charging at him would definitely be like a baozi hitting a dog... no return!

Moreover, this is an auction with so many big names from Hong Kong Island watching. If he were to act out here, it wouldn't just be losing face once, it could be completely losing face...

Even so, the name "250" still sticks with Yamamoto.

It's said that from this day on, many people behind Yamamoto directly call him "Yamamoto 250."

This was just a small interlude; Qin Fang wasn't much bothered by it. Although the Ruyao brush washer is rare, it's not something he absolutely had to win.

Let Yamamoto, the fool, spend four million on it, becoming a big sucker, and Qin Fang was quite content with that...

As for offending Yamamoto even more fiercely, Qin Fang didn't care one bit; seeing the purple-red aura on Yamamoto, Qin Fang already knew the guy wished to kill him.

Anyway, the two were already somewhat like deep-rooted enemies, so a little more or less enmity didn't matter much. Heck, might as well deeply offend Yamamoto, making sure the guy thoroughly lost face is the real deal.

The auction continued, unaffected by the conflict between Qin Fang and Yamamoto, with the next item immediately presented.

The next few items weren't of much concern to Qin Fang, though Qu Yuancheng managed to win a painting by a famous European artist.

His wife, Chen Qi, hails from a wealthy family but, like him, is not involved in business, instead being an art worker, specifically a painting teacher.

Given that Chen Qi studied Western painting and knows quite a bit about oil painting, it made perfect sense for Qu Yuancheng to win such a painting for her.

This time, Yamamoto didn't come out to cause trouble. His relationship with Qu Yuancheng wasn't great, but not hostile either; after all, Qu Yuancheng has the mighty Qu family behind him, not something Yamamoto would easily dare offend.

"Feifei, I think this necklace suits you perfectly, I'll win it for you..."

After several more items, until this particular one was presented, Qin Fang immediately expressed sincerely to Tang Feifei beside him.

This was a diamond necklace, with the blue sapphire pendant exuding a faint glow, complementing the brilliance of hundreds of small diamonds, making it extremely luxurious.

This necklace, for any woman, is considered a supreme weapon, and Tang Feifei was no exception.

Qin Fang just noticed that Tang Feifei's eyes lingered the longest on this necklace, even going back several times to admire it again.

At the same time, Qin Fang also felt that although there were quite a few beautiful women at the scene, Tang Feifei was the one most suited for this necklace... without question!

"Ah... really?"

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Tang Feifei was initially stunned, then burst into joy. This necklace was undoubtedly the item she most favored in the auction, catching her eye almost instantly.

However, seeing the starting price of the necklace, even she couldn't help but be a little taken aback.

Three million Hong Kong dollars!

Such a starting price was almost equivalent to the starting price of one of the last three finale items, showing the auction house's high hopes for this necklace.

Which wasn't surprising, as the information overview indicates that every diamond on this necklace was 4C grade, with the largest as an extremely rare variant blue diamond, Heart of the Ocean, unmatched by hardly any worldwide.

Though it was much smaller than the legendary Heart of the Ocean, it was definitely exceedingly rare...

Moreover, as it was crafted by a world-renowned jewelry designer and considered their most proud creation, its value soared even higher.

The auction house's estimate for this necklace was forty million Hong Kong dollars...

Calculating this way, a mere three million Hong Kong dollars starting price was actually not much at all.

"But, it's so expensive..."

It was precisely because of understanding these facts that Tang Feifei appeared exceptionally hesitant.

There were quite a few women present, occupying nearly half of the count. While most were accompanying men, there were also some wealthy individuals planning to buy it for their female companions.

Therefore, the forty million estimate was merely a conservative assessment by the auction house; the actual auction price was bound to far exceed it...

If someone decided to bid fiercely, going beyond one hundred million wasn't impossible!

"We, are not short of money!"

Tang Feifei knew Qin Fang had the means to purchase such a Heart of the Ocean, but she was still concerned whether spending such money was worthwhile.

However, Qin Fang appeared nonchalant, embracing Tang Feifei's slender waist and whispering a sentence in her ear, seeming both pretentious and full of bravado.

"Qin Fang, don't fight me for this one..."

Before Qin Fang could settle Tang Feifei, Kong Er, sitting nearby, suddenly spoke, immediately making Qin Fang and Tang Feifei freeze.

"Second brother, you're being so unkind..."

Watching Kong Er look so earnest, seemingly not joking, Qin Fang had no choice but to smile bitterly, as he'd already made his decision, yet Kong Er's sudden interjection was really quite unkind.

"Forget it, Qin Fang, how about letting Second brother have it?"

But Tang Feifei tugged at Qin Fang's clothes, whispering comfortingly beside him.

Thinking over and over, she still felt spending tens of millions, even over a hundred million, for a necklace wasn't worth it, given she didn't lack one herself.

Knowing Qin Fang's mom, Qin Qing, had given her a jade necklace of true Imperial Green jade, its value likely not lesser than the necklace before them.

It was precisely for this reason that, after some thought, Tang Feifei decided to give up the necklace; Qin Fang's sentiment was already felt deeply by her, whether they won the necklace didn't matter much.

"But..."

Qin Fang tried to persuade her further, but before he could speak, Tang Feifei covered his mouth, saying, "Listen to me, we're not getting it!"

"Alright... then we won't get it!"

Seeing Tang Feifei's very serious expression, Qin Fang could only resign himself, nodding before glancing at the Heart of the Ocean, then at Tang Feifei beside him. Naturally, he also looked at Kong Er and the smiling actress next to him, ultimately shaking his head helplessly, deciding not to compete any longer.

"Acknowledged, acknowledged..."

When Qin Fang conceded, Kong Er immediately beamed a smile, even clasping hands in gesture, making Qin Fang quite speechless.

However, Qin Fang failed to notice that amidst the slight ease in Kong Er's gaze, there was also a hint of mischief.

Moreover, when he glanced sideways at the proud-looking actress next to him, filled with anticipation for the beautiful, dazzling Heart of the Ocean, the sarcasm in his eyes was extremely apparent...

Chapter 1317: Got the Heart of the Ocean Without Spending a Penny!

...

Just as Qin Fang and Tang Feifei were talking, discussing to give up the Heart of the Ocean to fulfill Kong Er, the auction for this extraordinarily beautiful and dazzling Heart of the Ocean had begun.

"Five million!"

"Eight million!"

"Ten million..."

The passion women have for jewelry is beyond men's imagination, especially at auctions where it's exhibited to the fullest.

Especially the Heart of the Ocean, an exquisite diamond necklace that is almost unrivaled globally, it possesses a deadly allure to women.

No matter how strong a woman is, when she sees this necklace, her immunity instantly drops to zero, even into negative numbers...

As the auction began, with only a few simple bids, the starting price of three million was nowhere to be found, easily surpassing the ten million mark.

But this was still far from the main course, at most it could be considered an appetizer, as most of the big tycoons hadn't moved yet.

Over at Qin Fang's side, Kong Er, who had the chance to compete, didn't even squint his eyes, as if bidding this early was beneath him.

"Twenty million..."

"Twenty-five million..."

"Thirty million..."

"Thirty-eight million..."

"Forty million..."

After a few minutes of fierce competition, the auction price reached the auction house's estimated price, and several less wealthy competitors began to drop out.

Although forty million wasn't necessarily their limit, they understood that this treasure was beyond their reach since the big buyers hadn't even made a move.

"Fifty million!"

Sure enough, as fewer people were bidding, the big buyers lost their restraint, immediately raising the price by ten million!

A bold move!

Definitely a bold move!

This is the real action of a tycoon; compared to the previous million-level increments, it truly stands out and puts the rest to shame.

Of course, this kind of action is also meant to sweep away those competitors who are still waiting and watching.

The auction house estimated forty million, generally expecting the auction price to rise by twenty to fifty percent, meaning the necklace could fetch fifty to sixty million.

If the competition gets fierce, the price could rise significantly, possibly breaking a hundred million...

At least once in a previous auction, a treasure valued at just over thirty million was sold for 120 million, a staggering three hundred percent increase over the estimated price, causing the auction house to profit hugely!

Of course, it's mutual willingness here, it can't be blamed solely on the auction house; if the competitors weren't so fierce, such situations wouldn't occur.

Perhaps it is for this reason that very rare, precious, and controversial treasures are generally scheduled for such major auctions to fetch sky-high prices...

The fifty million price once again cleared out all competitors, with the initial bidders withdrawing from the stage, leaving the competition to the big buyers.

"Sixty million!"

Kong Er made his move!

It seemed he was not quite satisfied with the fifty million price, immediately adding another ten million on top of it, confidently asserting his determination to win.

"Dear uncles and aunties, siblings, I have my eye on this necklace, and I hope you can be generous and let me have it..."

Not only that, Kong Er stood up politely, clasping his hands and bowing to everyone around him, though his subsequent words were quite imposing.

"Of course, if you also have interest, you are free to compete, but I assure you Kong Er will not back down..."

However, he didn't make it too direct, otherwise it could easily be misunderstood as a threat to those present, which wouldn't be good.

Kong Er

"Since Kong Nephew has spoken, I won't compete with you..."

A gentleman about fifty years old heard Kong Er's words and readily expressed his withdrawal from the auction.

This man seemed to be of uncle's generation to Kong Er. Though older, he was accompanied by a heavily made-up young woman, said to be his newlywed wife, probably bidding on this necklace to please her...

The woman next to the old man was unhappy hearing of his withdrawal, wanting to pout, but the old man glared back at her. Evil

"Well, Kong Er! Fine, I won't compete either..."

With someone stepping forward, naturally others followed suit, ridiculing Kong Er a bit while also withdrawing.

This time it was someone of the same generation as Kong Er, likely from one of the Top Ten Wealthy Families of Hong Kong Island.

"Hmph, what's the point of using such tactics... If you have the ability, compete fairly!"

Of course, not everyone would give face to Kong Er; even within the Top Ten Wealthy Families, relationships aren't always harmonious, with occasional friction between them.

Chapter 1318: Got the Heart of the Ocean Without Spending a Penny! _2

Not to mention that within the younger generation, there are many relationships that are strained, such as several pairs who now completely ignore each other as if dead.

"Seventy million!"

Someone showed no courtesy and immediately called out an even higher price.

"Fair competition! Good, very good... I hope you can keep up! Eighty million!"

Upon hearing someone continue to bid, Kong Er was not surprised at all. It was as expected, just like how Qin Fang's bid would be raised by Yamamoto; Kong Er was the same.

But since Kong Er had already spoken out, there was naturally no reason to take it back. His words carried a clear challenge, and he immediately called out an even higher price.

Increasing by ten million each time, this is much more aggressive than Qin Fang was with Yamamoto before, especially since the opposing parties seemed to both come from the Top Ten Wealthy Families of Hong Kong, people with money to burn, and their spending was not at all subtle.

The price of eighty million doubled the auction house's estimate, and the auctioneer was already smiling so much that their whole face was trembling, especially realizing that there was still room for the price to rise, making him even more excited.

"Ninety million!"

Kong Er increased the price, and the other party was also cornered by Kong Er, biting the bullet to immediately call out an even higher price, getting closer and closer to one hundred million.

Such a price far exceeded the value of the necklace itself, even Qin Fang, who originally intended to bid on the necklace, couldn't help but shake his head at this price.

It's not that he couldn't afford it, as Tang Feifei said, it really wasn't worth it...

"One hundred million!"

But Kong Er was even more resolute than he had estimated, not even allowing the ninety million price to settle before it was immediately surpassed.

Such a price was indeed very domineering, much higher than the estimate, probably exceeding many people's expected prices.

Even the opposite party hesitated for a moment upon hearing this price, clearly contemplating whether to continue.

"One hundred and ten million!"

But in the end, the other party again announced a higher bid.

It seemed that to not lose momentum, the increment remained at ten million.

However...

"One hundred and twenty million!"

Kong Er remained steadfast as ever, clearly determined to defeat the opponent and win the necklace, with his bidding being unequivocal.

"You..."

Hearing Kong Er's new price and his decisive demeanor that needed no consideration, the other party could only let out a helpless sigh.

"One hundred and twenty million going once, one hundred and twenty million going twice, one hundred and thirty million going three times, bang~~ sold!"

As the auctioneer's hammer fell, this auction finally came to a close, with Kong Er ultimately purchasing the Heart of the Ocean for one hundred and twenty million, a price triple the auction house's estimate.

Kong Er seemed impatient, immediately leaving his seat to handle the formalities, eager to have the necklace in his hands.

Before long, Kong Er returned with the necklace.

The female celebrity's eyes instantly sparkled, having already stood up in anticipation, unable to contain her eagerness.

Meanwhile, she was pondering in her heart whether to agree to Kong Er's unusual "requests" tonight...

But it turned out... she was overthinking it!

"Feifei, this is for you!"

Kong Er didn't even glance at her, simply passing by her side and walking straight to Qin Fang and Tang Feifei, opening the box to reveal the dazzling Heart of the Ocean, and casually saying this to Tang Feifei.

"Uh..."

"Ah..."

"Eh..."

Qin Fang, Tang Feifei, and Qu Yuancheng were all stunned, looking at Kong Er in disbelief, not knowing what he was up to.

"Little brother, don't get jealous! I meant nothing by it... I've mentioned outside just now, I forgot to bring a meeting gift for my sister-in-law, and happened to see this necklace, which suits her very well, so I bought it for her... Consider it an early wedding gift from your second brother!"

Seeing everyone's dumbfounded expressions, Kong Er realized he might have taken the secrecy too far, and immediately expressed his embarrassment.

Tang Feifei was Qin Fang's girlfriend, yet he came to give her such a precious piece of jewelry, which was quite inappropriate, so it was no wonder they had those expressions.

"Second brother, you really are..."

Qin Fang also wore a wry smile, looking at the awkward Kong Er in front of him, then at the brilliant Heart of the Ocean, and finally at Tang Feifei who was equally shocked, not knowing what to say about Kong Er.

Spending 120 million Hong Kong dollars on this necklace, and then giving it as a meeting gift, Kong Er's move was truly astonishing.

"No need for so many words, I've already bought this necklace; am I supposed to give it to someone else instead of my sister-in-law?"

Kong Er wasn't bothered to argue further with Qin Fang, bluntly expressing himself.

"Besides, you've helped me so much, especially with the problem you solved for me today; that help couldn't have been achieved with just this small amount of money... If we were to tally things up, I'd actually owe you!"

Of course, Kong Er did have his reasons for his actions.

This reason wasn't something convenient to discuss openly, but Kong Er, Qin Fang, and even Qu Yuancheng were all well aware of it, knowing it pertained to the matter of the boxer in the Black Fist Alliance.

As Kong Er implied, Qin Fang had helped him to enlist Song Qingshan as a boxer, which not only boosted Kong Er's reputation but also earned him a fair amount of money.

With Song Qingshan's skills, he was expected to sweep through the beginner-level boxing matches of the Black Fist Alliance, achieving a hundred victories. Even if Kong Er earned just one to two million per match, the income from a hundred matches would exceed a billion.

Moreover, a wealthy young master like Kong Er, who would casually bet hundreds of thousands or millions on matches, would certainly stake a few tens of millions when his own boxer took the stage.

So after a hundred matches, the gains would not be a small amount... Calculating this way, Kong Er indeed ended up benefiting significantly from Qin Fang's help.

Therefore, gifting a mere 120 million worth of jewelry was no big deal.

"Feifei, take it..."

Seeing Qin Fang staying silent, Kong Er promptly pushed the necklace towards Tang Feifei.

"Qin Fang..."

Tang Feifei didn't accept it immediately, looking at Qin Fang, evidently wanting him to decide.

"Feifei, take it! We can't disregard second brother's gesture..."

Seeing Kong Er's determined expression, Qin Fang could only helplessly nod and persuade Tang Feifei to accept this immensely significant gift.

"Oh..."

With Qin Fang's word, although still slightly hesitant, Tang Feifei nodded and accepted the necklace.

Truthfully, she indeed really liked the necklace, and now that it finally belonged to her, there was no reason not to be delighted.

Not to mention, acquiring the necklace, she and Qin Fang hadn't spent a single penny...

"Second brother, needless to say, if you encounter any trouble in the future, as long as you come to me, I, Qin Fang, will absolutely not refuse!"

With Kong Er's gesture, it would be too ungrateful of Qin Fang to say nothing, so he earnestly expressed.

"We're brothers; there's no need for such formalities, right?"

Kong Er, however, seemed unconcerned, not taking Qin Fang's words too seriously, just smiling slightly.

"Indeed, we're brothers!"

Naturally, Qin Fang noticed this, but didn't directly say anything.

Nonetheless, he had already made up his mind: if Kong Er ever encountered difficulties, he would definitely lend a hand, no matter how great the challenge.

With that, the matter came to an end, and Qin Fang quickly put aside those unnecessary thoughts, focusing on the subsequent auction items, one of which he found particularly enticing and would soon be up for bids...

Chapter 1319 Ancient Stone Tablet!

...

The Heart of the Ocean episode quickly passed, and several people saw Qin Fang's cautious demeanor, realizing that he might have his eye on a certain auction item.

Several people returned their attention to see which auction item had caught Qin Fang's interest.

It was known that there were quite a few fine pieces among the previous auction items, including some treasures that could be considered significant artifacts.

In auctions, it's not always the case that items placed later are better than those earlier, but given that Qin Fang hadn't been interested in any of the earlier items, his current expression certainly drew attention.

However, the artifact that drew anticipation from everyone did not appear immediately. Qin Fang barely glanced at the next few auction items and showed no signs of making a bid.

Until...

A piece that looked extremely ancient, resembling a stone tablet mural, was carefully carried up, causing a slight change in Qin Fang's expression.

"It's this one..."

The people around him noticed this change too, all becoming very curious about this stone tablet that seemed to lack distinctive features.

"This is an artifact from Ancient Babylon, rumored to be a very important magical instrument from the Babylonian Dynasty, possessing supreme magical power..."

"As everyone knows, among the eight wonders of the world, Babylon's Hanging Gardens is one of them, but unfortunately, it has completely disappeared, and the artifact before you is said to come from the vanished Hanging Gardens..."

The auctioneer introduced briefly the origin of this stone tablet, but the description was a bit too exaggerated, making almost everyone present shake their heads slightly in disbelief.

What "supreme magical power" and "from the Hanging Gardens" — these are nothing but gimmicks thrown out by the auction, whether truly as the auctioneer claimed is known only by heaven...

"Bullshit..."

Even Qin Fang, hearing the auctioneer's words, rudely murmured under his breath.

Others might just not believe the auctioneer's claims, but Qin Fang could directly determine that what the auctioneer said was utter nonsense.

"Is it fake?"

Tang Feifei naturally heard Qin Fang's words and couldn't help but ask.

"The item is real, but it's not as the auctioneer described..."

Qin Fang shook his head and simply responded to Tang Feifei's query.

"How are you so sure it's not?"

Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er beside him also looked quite puzzled and couldn't help but ask.

At least the stone tablet appeared very old, and along with some carvings on it, it seemed to truly exhibit an authentic Ancient Babylonian style, just as introduced later at the auction.

"The carvings on this stone tablet at most date back a thousand plus years, whereas Ancient Babylon had long perished by then and the Hanging Gardens had already disappeared... Do you think it can still be real?"

Qin Fang smiled slightly, offering a simple explanation.

Whenever it comes to antiques, there's always a chance of forgery, especially with such difficult-to-identify, easily mistaken items, selling just one can lead to a huge profit.

Ancient Babylon was one of the four great ancient kingdoms, originating in the river valley and controlling what is now the Middle East for a considerable period. Unfortunately, it perished early, resulting in very few heirloom artifacts, many destroyed by wars over the years, or kept hidden by some collectors who dare not easily display them... In short, truly heirloom Babylonian items are exceptionally rare.

With rarity comes value, making such heirloom items extremely valuable, which is why it's featured in this auction and the starting price is not low, reaching two million Hong Kong dollars...

Of course, this is under the assumption that the auction item is genuine, then after this auction, the price is likely to elevate to a higher level.

According to Qin Fang's own estimate, the final transaction price should be about four million Hong Kong dollars.

Of course, if a collector fond of Babylonian antiques is encountered, the price could even rise a bit more...

But the problem is, Qin Fang could see at a glance that this stone tablet's carvings date back at most a thousand plus years, making any connection to Ancient Babylon highly dubious.

The Babylonian Dynasty had already perished before the Common Era, and many buildings were destroyed in the flames of war, long gone.

Although there were rumors that the Hanging Gardens submerged along with the mysterious Atlantis into the sea, those oil tycoons in the Middle East who have money to burn were very willing to spend. They nearly dispatched people to explore the seabed around the Persian Gulf. Quite a few shipwrecks were found, but Atlantis and the Hanging Gardens were nowhere to be seen, making it plausible that such divine manifestations had disappeared in the river of history.

The Hanging Gardens have vanished, yet this stone slab relief with a history of merely over a thousand years has been passed down. The patterns on it indeed bear a strong resemblance to the relief styles on some items from Ancient Babylon, no wonder people concluded as such.

"Are you planning to bid on it?"

Seeing Qin Fang appear somewhat impatient, Qu Yuancheng curiously asked, though he didn't give it much thought, casually mentioning it.

"Of course! This thing is still quite good..."

Qin Fang smiled, affirming this with conviction, seemingly with a strong urge to acquire it.

"Since this isn't from Ancient Babylon, are you still planning to bid on it?"

Kong Er was puzzled too. The pieces didn't match, and Qin Fang still wanted to spend this money in vain; it's quite unworthy. Even though they might not care about spending a few million, the problem is being the fool, fearing ridicule...

The loss of money is minor, but the loss of face is significant!

Although Qin Fang is not part of the Hong Kong Island circle, his close relationship with the Qu Family and with Kong Er makes this matter sensitive.

If this gets out, someone would surely gossip, making Qin Fang lose face, and along with him, their friends and brothers too.

"You guys don't worry about it, I am definitely going to bid for it..."

Thus far, besides the three finale items that remain unknown, this stone slab relief was most to Qin Fang's liking, and he had resolved to acquire it, indifferent to spending a fortune...

Qin Fang was determined to get this stone slab relief, and with sufficient financial means, he naturally wouldn't give up.

Moreover, the reason Qin Fang insists on bidding for the stone slab relief remains his own secret, known only to himself, not others...

If Qin Fang guessed correctly, there would be probably no more than three people in the world who could perceive the true subtleties of this stone slab relief.

And perhaps only Qin Fang truly understood the significance represented by this stone slab relief...

The reason for Qin Fang's determination lies precisely because he understands, knowing the profound mystery behind this stone slab relief.

Even though Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er were curious, they stopped asking after Qin Fang's words. They couldn't be bothered to inquire further since getting it means nothing much to them, at most considered decorative relief.

Such things have almost no meaning in modern society, even if many ancestral customs still remain. But the content on this stone slab relief, even when crafted thousands of years ago, probably very few truly understood its significance.

The two stopped inquiring, and Qin Fang silently breathed a sigh of relief.

If they continued asking, Qin Fang wouldn't have known what to say, even a plausible reason was hard to conceive.

Luckily, Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er knew the rules, knowing what to ask and what not to. If Qin Fang wanted to tell them, he would, but if the matter needed secrecy, they wouldn't force it from Qin Fang.

"Secretly tell me, what's different about this stone slab?"

With Qin Fang's mysterious demeanor, Tang Feifei's curiosity was piqued, separating from the others, whispering closely to Qin Fang's ear.

"Once I secure it, I'll tell you when we get back..."

Qin Fang chuckled wryly, realizing it wasn't the place to speak. He decided to keep it secret for now, waiting to explain slowly to Tang Feifei later.

The secret within this stone slab relief was astonishingly shocking.

Revealing it publicly, never mind if Qu Yuancheng and Kong Er understood it, how Qin Fang realized the anomaly would already be tough to explain.

"Okay then... You promised me, remember that!"

Fearing Qin Fang might forget or avoid it, Tang Feifei emphasized, her playful look implying great interest in the secret of the stone slab.

"Don't worry, I can't hide it from you..."

Qin Fang seemed quite helpless, as Tang Feifei's words were mere expressions of curiosity, not implying Qin Fang often evades her.

Chapter 1320: The Secret Hidden in the Stone Slab!

...

"Let's not talk about it now, the auction has started..."

Just as Qin Fang and Tang Feifei were whispering, the auction for the ancient stone relief began directly.

"Starting price is one million, each increase must not be less than one hundred thousand... Bang!!"

As the auctioneer's hammer fell, the auction for this stone relief immediately began.

"One million one hundred thousand!"

Almost immediately, someone bid, increasing the starting price by only one hundred thousand Hong Kong dollars.

But when this person bid, Qin Fang's expression changed slightly.

Not for any other reason, but because the bidder was none other than Yamamoto from the Yamamoto Group, who had previously caused trouble for him.

"Why is he interested in this?"

Qin Fang didn't rush to bid but was pondering the reason why Yamamoto suddenly became interested in this stone relief.

"Could it be that he also sees the true secret of this stone relief?"

This thought inevitably popped into Qin Fang's mind, and he glanced over at Yamamoto, noticing that when he was bidding, he was also talking to an elderly man beside him who appeared to be in his fifties.

Previously, Qin Fang hadn't paid much attention to who was accompanying Yamamoto, but now it seemed that this elder was probably invited by Yamamoto to act as an appraiser.

"Could this appraiser see something?"

Having confirmed this, the uneasiness in Qin Fang's heart was not completely alleviated, and he couldn't help but consider various possibilities...

"Qin Fang, do you want it or not? Should I help?"

Seeing Qin Fang frowning and hesitating, Kong Er couldn't sit still. Qin Fang had already stated that he must win the bid, but now he remained still and seemed not very focused, prompting Kong Er to ask with some concern.

For Kong Er, who just spent 120 million purchasing a Heart of the Ocean to give away, a few million didn't really count for much.

"I definitely want it, no rush!"

But Qin Fang appeared very calm and didn't anxiously make a move. Instead, he quietly waited to watch the ensuing battle among other bidders.

"One million two hundred thousand!"

Indeed, almost as soon as Qin Fang said this, someone immediately placed a bid.

"One million three hundred thousand..."

It wasn't just one bidder; soon a third person joined in, and although the bid increments weren't large, with three people at a stalemate, it was hard to predict the final auction price.

"One million five hundred thousand!"

Seeing others competing with him, Yamamoto's expression changed. After glancing at the two wealthy bidders, he couldn't recall them well, seemingly indicating they held no significant status on Hong Kong Island.

"One million six hundred thousand..."

Yamamoto's bid didn't seem to deter anyone; immediately, someone followed up with a bid slightly higher than Yamamoto's by only ten thousand.

"Damn it... a bunch of bastards!"

Seeing competitors to his bid, even the usually composed Yamamoto burst out in anger, his words becoming somewhat arrogant and unreasonable.

"One million eight hundred thousand..."

Despite being annoyed and berating others, the auction had to continue, so he promptly raised his bid again.

"One million nine hundred thousand!"

"Two million!"

What frustrated Yamamoto even more was that his earlier aggressive words seemed to have displeased certain people, changing the way they looked at him.

The two previous bidders instantly raised their bids in succession, firmly locking in on Yamamoto, refusing to give him a chance, making him pay a small price for his earlier arrogance!

Yamamoto was really frustrated. Although he didn't really care about the money, having played the fool once before, if others drove up the price again, he might find himself playing the fool once more, making it unlikely he'd ever shake off the nickname "250".

The big tycoons were just sitting there enjoying the show, unwilling to join in, while the two small wealthy individuals going against Qin Fang were local minor tycoons on Hong Kong Island.

This wasn't surprising.

These small tycoons have limited assets themselves. Usually, even though spending a million or eight hundred thousand dollars wouldn't cripple them, it would still make them feel quite distressed.

So they don't participate in those extremely valuable auction items because they know they can't compete with those big tycoons, and naturally, they are unwilling to be cannon fodder.

Unable to move or snatch the valuable items, it doesn't mean they can't bid on these smaller things, like this stone slab relief, which although not cheap, has a starting price of one million Hong Kong dollars. But with very few interested buyers, it's estimated that the final auction price will be around three to four million at most.

This price is something they can painfully manage, so they've decided to join in the competition.

Originally, they didn't expect Yamamoto to suddenly jump out and compete with them. Yamamoto's foul mouth almost immediately offended people, and he angered these two small tycoons, promptly leading to their united strike...

Of course, the truly wealthy tycoons wouldn't care about such a small item. Kong Er, to give Tang Feifei a meeting gift, casually spent billions, not to mention the tycoons of the same level in the Ten Great Families.

These people appeared especially calm, with an attitude of indifference, which, though somewhat arrogant, also reflected the immense prestige of the Top Ten Wealthy Families of Hong Kong.

The auction continued, and Yamamoto and those two tycoons got tangled up, seeming unwilling to concede to each other, making the scene suddenly tense.

"Three million!"

But at this moment, Qin Fang, who had been waiting without making a move, finally intervened...

And immediately struck with a high bid, as if intending to sweep away the competition, adding one million directly on top of the previous price.

"Hiss..."

The three million price is not very high nor very low, but its deterrence is considerable, mainly because Qin Fang, who made this his first bid, had to make some people take notice.

Everyone present was familiar with Kong Er's identity. Even Kong Er spent such a large sum to purchase the Heart of the Ocean for Tang Feifei, and Tang Feifei is Qin Fang's female companion, with a very close relationship between the two. Therefore, Qin Fang's identity became quite intriguing.

No one doubted whether Qin Fang could afford this price. With Kong Er and Qu Yuancheng by his side, is there anything Qin Fang can't afford?

Affording it is one thing; some people are merely apprehensive of Qin Fang's identity and don't want to become enemies with him, so the two tycoons who were head-to-head with Yamamoto almost immediately expressed their decisions.

"Forget it, I give up..."

"I give up too..."

So originally, a three-person competition, with Qin Fang's entry, became a four-person competition, which now reverted to two-person competition.

It's now just Qin Fang and Yamamoto...

This is almost akin to the previous scenario with the Ruyao Brush Washer.

Except now the situation has shifted from Yamamoto causing trouble for Qin Fang to Qin Fang now causing trouble for Yamamoto... At least in Yamamoto's view, this was absolutely intentional by Qin Fang!

This made his hatred towards Qin Fang deepen further, with his gaze at Qin Fang filled with burning fury, as if he wouldn't be satisfied without consuming Qin Fang.

Qin Fang was very gracious, immediately raising his fist towards the two in a show of thanks, and the two tycoons responded politely.

At least in this round, Qin Fang seemed more accepted by others, while Yamamoto faltered significantly. Who made this lad always act as if "I'm the number one in the world" in front of everyone?

Needless to say, Qin Fang didn't bother to pay heed to Yamamoto's reactions; his true focus remained on the stone slab relief.

This stone slab, though unrelated to Ancient Babylon's Hanging Gardens, does have a connection with Ancient Babylon.

The connection is very obscure and deeply hidden; almost no one can decipher its mystery now...

Because this stone slab relief, rather than being a relief, should be considered a "Martial Arts Manuscript."

Indeed, this stone slab originated from the two river valleys of the Middle East, though not directly inherited from Ancient Babylon, but it holds some connection to it, because a tremendous secret is embedded within this relief.

Precisely speaking, the pattern engraved on this stone slab relief, rather than being a pattern, is a piece of text...

This kind of text has almost completely disappeared, and no one comprehends it, even if international language masters are brought in, it's of no use.

And the reason Qin Fang understands it is, frankly, thanks to his Master-Level Detective Skills.

It is relying on these skills that Qin Fang truly understands the symbolic meaning of the stone slab relief, especially its documented content, which astonished Qin Fang so much he almost exclaimed.

"Alchemy!"

This was the true reason for Qin Fang's amazement and interest.

And the content engraved on this stone slab relief is astonishingly mysterious alchemy.

In ancient human history, alchemy has always existed, whether in the Dragon Country, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, all these places had it, and many celebrities and great figures have studied and researched it.

Though abroad it's termed as alchemy, in the Dragon Country it's mainly known as Taoist alchemy... mixing lead and mercury, harmonizing inner core, etc., all for longevity and even seeking immortality!

Ancient emperors all desired immortality, to eternally rule the world, so they highly favored these Taoists practicing alchemy.

Even though the expectation of immortal results from alchemy had been long debunked as unscientific, it certainly wasn't entirely worthless. It could be said that the development of human chemical history was greatly influenced by the role of alchemy.