

Genius 331

Chapter 331 Title_1

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"Wow, so delicious..."

As soon as the dish entered her mouth, it was still Ding Chuchu who cried out first. Then she looked at Secretary Tang, embarrassed, and whispered, "It's much more delicious than what the auntie makes at home..."

"Haha..."

Everybody laughed.

Ding Chuchu grew up in the United States. Although her grandmother had specially hired a few skilled chefs from China to cook for her, she was still abroad, and perhaps the flavors were alright when she was young, but gradually, even the dishes at Chinese restaurants became Americanized.

She hadn't been back in the country long, and Vice Governor Ding, being a high-ranking provincial official, certainly didn't have time to cook for her, so a nanny was arranged to take care of her. The nanny's cooking wasn't bad, but in comparison, there was a much bigger gap.

With Ding Chuchu's outburst, the atmosphere in the private room improved a lot, the young people's restraint diminished considerably, and they also began to seriously taste Qin Fang's dish.

"Hmm, not bad..."

The responses from almost everyone were similar, no one said the dish wasn't tasty, but aside from Ding Chuchu, it was only Tang Feifei who explicitly said it was really delicious. The others simply said "not bad," as Secretary Tang had yet to give his opinion.

"Regarding this dish, in my personal opinion, the best part is the convergence of the seven flavors. All of you try it..." and after everyone had tasted it, Secretary Tang slowly spoke.

Qin Fang, upon hearing this, didn't say anything but his heart and his expression betrayed the turmoil of his emotions, silently affirming Secretary Tang was definitely a remarkable gourmet who could see the essence of the dish at a glance.

Every chef tastes his own cooking first, and Qin Fang was no exception.

In fact, when he brought the dish over, he had already tasted it ahead of time to ensure it met his expectations before serving it.

He tasted each of the seven flavors individually, and he also tasted the flavors that emerged from their combinations. The real difficulty and the purest deliciousness of the dish lay where the seven flavors converged—that was indeed a classic!

Qin Fang didn't know how to describe the taste of that particular spot, or how to evaluate the cooking level there, but he had simply compared it with the dish made by Old Eli, the owner of the best French restaurant in Ninghai, and it was nearly identical...

Of course, Qin Fang was comparing it to Old Eli's Supreme set meal, and not ordinary fare. At least other than Old Eli, the Western dishes made by the other French chefs at that restaurant really weren't much to speak of.

On hearing his comments, everyone was slightly surprised. Just from tasting the individual flavors, they were quite good and definitely had the right taste, but most of them had tasted many delicacies and were not too amazed; at most, they were just impressed by Qin Fang's culinary skills.

They all had such thoughts, and not to mention Secretary Tang. However, Secretary Tang's high appraisal of the convergence of the seven flavors puzzled them.

Consequently, everyone picked up their chopsticks and started tasting the dish from that particular spot.

The taste was instantly different as the dish entered their mouths. When the fragrance of the dish and the juices lightly caressed their taste buds, it made them feel a slight thrill in their spirit.

Although the food had been swallowed, they couldn't help but savor it again, and that's when they discovered those flavors were actually very special. A simple reflection revealed sour, sweet, bitter, spicy, salty, numbing, astringent...

Counting carefully, it was indeed exactly seven different tastes.

"Xiao Qin's dish, Seven Orifices Exquisite, is very good, especially the part where the seven flavors converge, which is truly exceptional! Initially, one may just feel it is very delicious and mellow upon tasting, but after really settling in the stomach, you can't help but reminisce, and that's when you discover such complex flavors hidden within that mellow taste."

"Sour, sweet, bitter, spicy, salty, numbing, astringent... Exactly seven different tastes, all blended together. Without looking back and reflecting, you can't sense its marvel! Isn't life much the same? Life's seven flavors are all contained within... Maybe some live life plainly, but when they look back and reminisce, they'll find all seven flavors are contained within."

"Xiao Qin's dish, called Seven Orifices Exquisite, not only corresponds to seven different tastes but also to seven different lives. It is only when these seven flavors truly converge that one can live a truly splendid life..."

Secretary Tang seemed quite moved today, at least Xiao Qin's dish made him deeply thoughtful. He rarely spoke thus to the younger generation, but today he said such words in front of everyone.

The girls present might not have grasped much, but the men were all showing a thoughtful expression. Tang Cheng, Ning Weiqiang, Li Rui, and Qin Fang, the creator of the dish, all felt Secretary Tang's words contained profound truths. Perhaps some of it they already understood, perhaps some they had yet to comprehend...

"Hehe, I've become more talkative with age! Come on, let's eat, but make sure to save some of that dish for me..."

Seeing the younger generation showing a trace of solemnity, Secretary Tang was quite satisfied. Regardless of whether these young people were friends or foes, in his view, they were all a group of young people, and it was proper to guide them appropriately.

Secretary Tang was quite open-minded and did not look at the people from Tang Cheng anymore. Instead, he said cheerfully that everyone should start eating and even joked that he would foot the bill for this dish, which immediately caused a burst of giggling among the girls present.

With laughter, the atmosphere became even more harmonious. Although it was not as casual as dining with friends, it was still far better than at the beginning.

Secretary Tang, being the eldest present, naturally received toasts from Qin Fang and the others. He returned the courtesy kindly. Of course, Qin Fang and his group drank their glasses to the last drop, while Secretary Tang sipped sparingly.

But after this round of toasts, Secretary Tang had eaten only a few bites and hadn't finished much of his Seven Orifices Exquisite before he got up to take his leave.

Qin Fang and the others certainly did not dare to stop him. Considering Secretary Tang's special status, it was impossible for him to accompany them for too long, so everyone got up to see him off.

"Uncle Tang, I have an impertinent request..."

Qin Fang was actually somewhat conflicted inside, but after hesitating for a moment, he decided to speak up.

Secretary Tang was briefly taken aback but did not speak. He simply looked at Qin Fang as if waiting for him to continue.

"I would like to ask you to write a calligraphy piece for the shop..."

Qin Fang said nervously. He knew from Tang Feifei that Secretary Tang was skilled in calligraphy and had even joked that if he had not pursued a career in government, he might have become a calligrapher.

"Dad, is that okay?"

Tang Feifei was also surprised when she heard this, but her eyes lit up immediately, and she began shaking Secretary Tang's arm and coquettishly pleading—a skill she was quite proficient in.

"Ah, it seems the saying about girls being outgoing isn't false at all. You'd even throw your dad under the bus to help Xiao Qin... Alright, if Dad agrees, will that satisfy you?"

Secretary Tang affectionately patted Tang Feifei's head; he adored his daughter the most, and Tang Feifei rarely asked him for anything. How could he refuse such a rare request from her?

Still, he then turned to Qin Fang with a stern face, "You little slicker..."

Qin Fang gave an awkward smile but did not argue. His request was sincere, and although he knew Tang Feifei would most likely help him, she had been completely unaware of it beforehand—they were not conspiring.

The Four Treasures of the Study were quickly prepared. When Qin Fang had the idea, he had already arranged for Xiao Qing to get everything ready. It wasn't a difficult task, and even if Secretary Tang had declined, the most they would have lost was a bit of money.

Now that Secretary Tang had agreed, it was naturally the best outcome.

The necessary items were soon prepared, and everyone moved to the side hall, which was quieter. They became silent, daring not to make any noise beyond breathing, as they did not want to disturb Secretary Tang.

Secretary Tang stood in front of the desk, took up the brush, and began to gather his emotions, also contemplating what characters to write.

After standing for several minutes, his gaze sharpened, he moved closer to the desk, dipped the brush in ink, and began to write on the pristine rice paper.

"Seven Orifices Exquisite!"

The content was quite simple, just four characters, but these characters immediately gave an astonishing impression—truly lively as dragons and graceful as phoenixes, with a fully rounded style that was both bold and restrained, compelling everyone to admire them.

While the audience could write, they did not understand calligraphy deeply. However, even they were amazed and stunned by the calligraphy, which was certainly on par with professional calligraphers.

There were no fools among those present; they all understood the meaning behind these characters, referring to both an object and a person.

The object was clearly the deeply impressionable signature dish from Fang Feixue, Seven Orifices Exquisite; for the person, it expressed the hope that Qin Fang would be as balanced and insightful as both the dish and its name.

"I will give this piece of calligraphy to you, hoping you won't disappoint me!"

Secretary Tang was very pleased with his work. Even as he walked away, he could not help but look back, patted Qin Fang lightly on the shoulder to encourage him, and then strode off.

Tang Cheng nodded to Qin Fang and followed Secretary Tang's footsteps. Tang Feifei, though reluctant to leave, gave a wry smile and quickly caught up. The Tang family members left one after another, and Qin Fang saw them out to the door, where the waiting car was already in place...

Chapter 332: Major Success_1

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Secretary Tang left, Tang Cheng and Tang Feifei followed suit, and even Li Rui bid farewell to Qin Fang. Qin Fang guessed that Li Rui's visit was mostly due to Tang Cheng's influence.

However, it was a relief. After these people departed, Qin Fang felt much more at ease.

"So many people?"

Earlier, when he had stepped out to see off Secretary Tang and his family, Qin Fang hadn't paid much attention, as the entire lobby was very quiet, and he didn't feel it was crowded.

But now taking another look, wow, the large hall was already packed with people, and even the upstairs hall was full. There were some private rooms empty, not because there was no one to sit there, but people preferred to squeeze in with others. Yet, even so, Qin Fang roughly estimated, the number of guests was no less than three hundred... almost reaching Fang Feixue's maximum capacity.

"Boss, why don't you invite Bureau Chief Ye and his party to one of the private rooms..."

Xiao Qing also had a wry smile on her face. She had invited a few familiar customers, but these people had invited their own friends. Qin Fang on the other hand, was even brasher. Seeing Secretary Tang personally visiting, these bureau chiefs notified many colleagues and friends to come over. Not just officials from Ninghai City, but also quite a few from the provincial level had come.

It wasn't surprising. Secretary Tang was about to become Governor Tang, and those officials would soon become his subordinates. Naturally, they wanted to curry favor in advance...

Moreover, the rumors that "Governor Tang" was Qin Fang's father-in-law were getting more mysterious by the minute.

"Alright, I'll try..."

Qin Fang let out a wry smile, "Brother Qiang, I need your help with this..."

Luckily, Ning Weiqiang and Ning Yumo hadn't left. Their relationship with Qin Fang was different from the Tang Family, so there weren't too many reservations. Qin Fang didn't know these officials who had come on their own initiative, but with Ning Weiqiang standing in front, it was much easier for him to handle things.

"Haha, you kid... now you owe me a favor! Tsk tsk, later on, make me another portion of that dish to take back for the old man to try..."

Ning Weiqiang was not reluctant. Having received Secretary Tang's recognition, Qin Fang was now officially on the same level as them. Moreover, their relationship was already good, so it was only natural for him to agree, but he took the opportunity to make a small request.

"Absolutely no problem! In fact, what we served just now was only the first pot. There are still some smaller portions left for the outside... but now it seems pointless. Let's serve one to Bureau Chief Ye's table, and later I'll make another pot to take back for Uncle Ning!"

Qin Fang nodded. This was actually part of his previous plan, and making another portion wouldn't delay him much - the first time is always the hardest, the second comes easier!

In fact, after this first trial, Wen Yi was also learning throughout the whole process. Now, she could manage to cook it by herself, at most needing to experiment a couple more times.

Ning Weiqiang actually didn't do much. Most of these officials were gathered together, sitting in a prominent location, where Secretary Tang could easily see them.

Now, Ning Weiqiang simply picked a few people to discuss with, and soon these officials stood up one after another and went to the private rooms under Xiao Qing's guidance.

They were all government officials. When Secretary Tang was present, they naturally had to be more low-key, but now that Secretary Tang had left, it was good enough that they stayed. Asking them to continue sitting in the lobby was indeed inappropriate, let alone the fact that there were two groups of gangsters in the lobby. Moving to the private rooms was exactly what they wished for.

After a few rounds of this, basically all the officials entered the private rooms, freeing up several tables. The waitstaff immediately cleared the tables quickly, setting up new ones, inviting the squeezed-in guests elsewhere, which temporarily resolved the awkward situation.

"Qin Fang, this is Minister Li from the Provincial Party Committee's Publicity Department and also the head of the provincial TV station. If you want to advertise your restaurant next time, you can look for Minister Li. I believe he would never refuse, and he might even waive the advertising fee for you..."

Ning Weiqiang introduced the prominent figure with a grin, occasionally teasing him with a comment or two.

"Minister Li, hello, I'd like to propose a toast to you... I'll drink first as a mark of respect!"

Qin Fang was a bit surprised upon hearing this. The Minister of the Publicity Department of the Provincial Party Committee was a member of the Standing Committee. He hadn't expected even him to come personally.

However, while Ning Weiqiang was talking, he secretly gestured to Qin Fang, who then understood the implication—turns out this was a deputy role. But even as a deputy, being able to manage a provincial TV station meant this Minister Li was indeed the most powerful among deputies.

Qin Fang naturally did not dare to neglect and immediately raised his glass to offer a toast.

"Xiao Qin, not bad..."

Vice Minister Li didn't look down on Qin Fang for being young; when Qin Fang drank, he also tilted his head back and followed suit, drinking the entire cup and giving him a lot of face.

"This one is Director Xu from the provincial Public Security Department..."

Ning Weiqiang introduced another person, and naturally, Qin Fang drank another cup.

"This one is Director Tao..."

"This one is Director Fang..."

"This one is..."

Like this, Ning Weiqiang would introduce someone, and Qin Fang would immediately toast with a cup. Going around like this, ten people in a private room equaled ten cups, and after several rooms, Qin Fang had consumed quite a bit of alcohol.

To tell the truth, Ning Weiqiang knew a lot of people. Practically all the presentable officials at the event, he knew—that is to say, those department-level and above. He neither had the time nor the desire to know those below that rank.

But now these people also became known to Qin Fang. Although they were not familiar with each other, at least it counted as an acquaintance. After one round, Qin Fang collected a pile of business cards, and each person expressed that if Qin Fang needed anything, he should call and they would help if possible.

Qin Fang wasn't a naive newcomer to society; he knew these were just polite words, and their reliability would depend on the closeness of his relationship with Secretary Tang.

If one day Secretary Tang indicated that he had no relation to Qin Fang, chances are these people would immediately turn their backs on him. Compared to that, the speed of officials turning their backs could be much faster than flipping a book.

After toasting to all these officials, Qin Fang naturally also had to pay attention to the others outside, and so, leading Xiao Qing, he went from table to table to toast each group.

For familiar friends, like those of the Qin, Tang, and Xiao families, more drinks were in order. Especially when it came to Tiger's table, at least ten cups were consumed before they were willing to let him go.

For those he wasn't familiar with, Qin Fang just made do with a simple toast, one cup and done—having a second cup was already a lot of face.

For privileged young masters like Ye Xiang and Xiao Liang, Qin Fang accompanied them for a few drinks and made that first-time connection. Although these young masters could only be considered third-tier in Ninghai, with a few like Ye Xiang being second-tier, they still held some power. For some small matters, there was no need to trouble very high-level figures; turning to them was more than suitable.

After making a round and toasting at every table, Qin Fang had drunk quite a lot. If not for his Props Box having sufficient capacity, he might have fallen over by now, but even so, he had genuinely consumed no less than three jin (1.5 liters) of liquor.

In the end, Qin Fang was pulled back by Ning Weiqiang to Minister Li's private room, where only department-level officials were sitting—only they were worthy of the personal company of Ning Weiqiang and Qin Fang.

"Xiao Qin, I hear your restaurant is going to participate in the food festival competition held by Ninghai?" Minister Li asked with a smile, evidently having gotten the news from Ning Weiqiang.

"Yes, Minister Li!" Qin Fang affirmed, although he didn't understand why Minister Li was asking.

"It's a good thing I heard about this and warned Minister Li in advance; otherwise, you probably wouldn't even be able to enter the competition..." Ning Weiqiang chuckled, almost as if he was explaining the nature of the competition. "Although it's under the guise of the Ninghai Food Festival, the actual competition is co-organized with the provincial government. The teams participating are well-known catering enterprises from all over Jiangnan Province, and they need invitation letters issued by the Propaganda Department of the Provincial Party Committee... Of course, if you're not aiming for any ranking, then just ignore my meddling..."

"Co-organized with the provincial government?" Qin Fang was surprised; Feifei had been handling the food carnival matters, and Qin Fang didn't inquire further, not knowing about these details and appearing very astonished.

But he wasn't foolish. Ning Weiqiang had already said it, and Minister Li had taken the initiative to ask, so he clearly understood, "Minister Li, I'll have to drink a few more cups with you today. You'll have to open this backdoor for me..."

"Ha ha... I'm very serious about this, and I won't be opening any back doors for anyone. Everything is done according to the rules, according to one's strength! However... the strength of Fang Feixue is indeed formidable, how could it lack the qualifications to compete?"

Minister Li spoke with a jovial laugh, but at the same time, he essentially agreed, which relieved Qin Fang quite a bit.

But the drinking didn't continue in the end—after two rounds of toasting, everyone had drunk a lot, especially Qin Fang, who had imbibed considerably more. A cup for them meant nine for him. As these officials all had high positions, and knowing Qin Fang was Secretary Tang's prospective son-in-law, they naturally didn't dare to make him drink too much. Later on, they stopped letting Qin Fang continue.

Regardless, Qin Fang had developed a relationship with these officials, which facilitated his business dealings and also secured his ticket for the upcoming Ninghai Food Carnival competition. Otherwise, it would be incredibly disappointing to lose the chance to compete due to insufficient preparation.

Chapter 333: Autumn Outing_1

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"How much?"

"Three million, five hundred fifty-four thousand, seven hundred..."

"How could it be so much?"

"..."

The grand opening of Fang Feixue was actually not very grandiose, at least not as high-profile as others with any ribbon-cutting ceremonies and such, mainly because Qin Fang knew in advance that a number of officials would attend, and he didn't want to invite criticism. Besides, he knew very few people in the business community, and thought it would just be a small event.

But after the meal had ended and all the guests had left, Qin Fang started to calculate the cost of the meal, only to find a result he couldn't believe.

After deducting the cost of the meal, it turned out that there was still a whopping three million and fifty thousand RMB in gift money left... Not only the manager, Xiao Qing, couldn't believe it, but Qin Fang, the owner, also thought it was unbelievable.

But the fact was just so. After deducting several hundred thousand RMB for the meal, there was still three million, five hundred fifty-four thousand left. This meant that today, just from the gift money alone, he had collected four million.

However, after thinking about it, Qin Fang felt he could understand it.

There were indeed many guests present, excluding those in private rooms, there were at least two hundred people outside.

Excluding Qin Fang's classmates, that group of police officers, and people like Tiger and Li Hui who came as full representatives, the rest were either privileged young masters or business leaders, at the very least, a small business owner level.

These people might have started with just giving a red envelope casually, a few hundred to a thousand RMB, and a few thousand at most for those who were willing to give face.

But as more and more powerful people with strong influence arrived, especially with the arrival of Secretary Tang which pushed the atmosphere to its peak, the later guests were each more generous than the last, handing out red envelopes calculated in tens of thousands.

Then there were privileged young masters like Ye Xiang and Xiao Liang, whose red envelopes were also quite substantial, and both Tiger and Li Hui sealed a big red envelope of six hundred sixty-six thousand RMB each...

So, when calculating it up, four million RMB in red envelopes really wasn't anything special.

Compared to what Qin Fang had already spent lavishly, this meal directly made him a fortune.

Qin Fang was naturally very happy. Although this money was like a debt of gratitude, clearly it was not owed to the people who gave the money, but to Secretary Tang.

"Everyone has been very busy today, the wages and bonuses for this month will all be doubled!"

Sharing joy with everyone is better than enjoying it alone. With a generous stroke, Qin Fang declared all the money would go into Fang Feixue's account and announced on the spot that salaries would be doubled, immediately drawing a burst of joy from everyone.

"However... in a few days, there will be a very important day – the Culinary Carnival. This year's Culinary Carnival is a joint event by the city and the province. Especially the final competition will not only be against our city's peers but also those from over a dozen other cities in Jiangnan Province... Although our Fang Feixue has just opened, it is a must to secure a place in such an important event to establish our reputation and status in Ninghai and Jiangnan Province!"

"I won't say much more... During the Culinary Carnival, as long as everyone works together to achieve good results for Fang Feixue, I promise you here that there will be generous rewards! Especially the chefs in the kitchen, the final outcome of the competition still depends on your performance. Anyone who can win an individual championship will receive a personal bonus of fifty thousand RMB from me, thirty thousand for the runner-up, and ten thousand for the third place. The one with the best overall score will receive an additional reward of one hundred thousand RMB!"

Wow~~

Applause!!!

When the dozens of Fang Feixue employees present heard this news, they were at first stunned, then immediately burst into a vigorous round of applause, smiles filling their faces.

Especially the chefs in the kitchen, who were all grinning ear to ear. Most of them had their own special skills and, although under a lot of pressure, even just winning an individual award meant a substantial income. As for the best overall performance, they did not dare to dream about it, that belonged to Wen Yi, the boss's apprentice, and they all respected that.

Perhaps it was the motivation of such a generous reward from Qin Fang, but from the bottom to the top, every single person was quite excited, eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Culinary Carnival, and all were eagerly preparing.

They never had the chance to compete in the previous culinary festivals, but they would always go to watch, taste, and learn, and they were well aware of what categories were set for the competitions.

So, each master chef discussed their respective tasks and coordination. Even individual competitions couldn't be completed alone; cooperation made it easier to achieve good results. The difference between temporary partnerships and tacit collaboration was considerable.

Even Qin Fang's two apprentices were working extra hard today. They were both extremely busy. When it came time to serve the main course, many people chose ramen, instantly finding it delicious. The demand unexpectedly increased, and with more than three hundred people, at least two hundred had the ramen they made. Divided between them, that was a hundred bowls each—it was exhausting, with hardly a moment's rest...

Qin Fang's face was full of smiles, too. The busier his two apprentices were, the faster their Skill Proficiency increased, which in turn meant that his own Skill Proficiency rose as well. Combined, his proficiency went up directly by 1%.

Fang Fei Xue had its official grand opening. The lunchtime rush wasn't just a fleeting phenomenon. After a brief rest, the restaurant continued operations from around four in the afternoon, and the occupancy rate gradually increased, especially since some of the customers who came for lunch brought guests with them in the evening.

The signature dish of Fang Fei Xue, Seven Orifices Exquisite, truly became the signature. Qin Fang set the price for this dish at a high of 58,888 RMB, with only eight servings available each day, which one even needed to reserve in advance.

This was Ning Weiqiang's suggestion. He felt that such a delicious dish needed to be priced exceptionally high to do its flavor justice.

During the lunch, apart from the two pots that Qin Fang made himself, the rest were personally prepared by Wen Yi. After two failures, she had mastered the process, allowing many customers to enjoy a memorable meal.

Unexpectedly, the flavor of the dish was so exquisite and unique that the discerning noontime clientele immediately recognized its excellence and began inquiring about it. They were especially intrigued upon learning that Secretary Tang had even inscribed a few words for this dish, which solidified its lofty reputation.

Of course, the highest price was for those crafted with meticulous care, akin to Old Eli's Supreme Set.

There were other, more affordable versions, such as the Four Flavors, Five Flavors, Six Flavors, priced significantly lower, with the cheapest one available for just 288 RMB.

This pricing strategy highlighted the prestige of the Seven Orifices Exquisite dish.

Secretary Tang's inscription was turned into a golden sign by Qin Fang, which was hung inside Fang Fei Xue's dining hall. It wasn't labeled with Secretary Tang's name, but the story was known to many, and no one was a fool.

Gradually, the business of Fang Fei Xue settled into a good rhythm. With Ye Heng and Qin Fang's good relationship, although no direct order was issued, it was clear through actions that the restaurant had become the official dining spot for the city police department. Police officers frequented the restaurant daily for business and pleasure, contributing to Fang Fei Xue's considerable revenue.

Of course, with the police presence, local ruffians, hooligans, and small-time delinquents dared not cause trouble here. There were even rumors that the owner was someone who had connections in both the underworld and with respectable society, especially since the powerful had presented gifts and the city's police chief made a personal appearance on opening day...

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Now that Fang Fei Xue was on track, Qin Fang gradually began to let go. Xiao Qing, the dignified elder sister, proved to be very capable, and Tang Feifei occasionally learned from her but seldom got involved in management.

With a week left before the Food Festival, Qin Fang finally had some downtime and returned to school for his classes. Skipping too many was becoming problematic.

"A field trip?"

Qin Fang was quite puzzled when he heard this news.

Their class adviser, Fan Ning, had taken an extended leave of absence for health reasons, and the school had sent a young counselor to supervise them. It was unclear whose idea it was, but the Economics Department organized this field trip.

By the time Qin Fang found out about it, the schedule and location had already been set.

"Yes, it's for three days, to Liuyun Mountain..."

Compared to Qin Fang's surprise and indifference, Tang Feifei seemed thrilled. Born in the Capital City, she moved to Ninghai when she was very young and had lived there ever since, only occasionally visiting the Capital City. She had rarely traveled elsewhere. Accustomed to skyscrapers, she found the mountainous regions like Liuyun Mountain appealing.

"Liuyun Mountain?"

Hearing this name caused Qin Fang's brows to furrow.

Liuyun Mountain wasn't far from Ninghai, but it wasn't in Jiangnan Province. It was west from Ninghai, in the Western Part of Jiangnan Province, in An Feng Province, surrounded by mountain ranges, definitely wild and rugged terrain. Although there weren't many people in the mountains, which had been developed into a tourist area, there was still quite a bit of Primitive Forest left, with plenty of wildlife.

Of course, it also had majestic mountains, peculiar rocks, waterfalls, spring waters, and even whitewater rafting activities. There were campfire parties and field camping as well... In short, many adventure enthusiasts enjoyed this kind of destination.

But the more it offered, the more it intrigued Tang Feifei who even planned to forgo the hotel experience in favor of outdoor camping...

Chapter 334: All three are my girlfriends_1

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"What's wrong? Don't you want to go?"

Seeing Qin Fang's face looking off, Tang Feifei couldn't help but ask with concern.

"It's not that, it's just that Liuyun Mountain is a place with complicated terrain and some primitive forests, so it's hard to ensure safety..." Qin Fang honestly expressed his concerns, mainly aimed at Tang Feifei's plan to camp in the wild.

"Isn't there you? Won't you protect me?"

However, Tang Feifei, after hearing this, didn't care at all and instead looked at Qin Fang with a smile, saying.

"Eh... Of course, with a strong man like me protecting you, even if lions and tigers come, I'll definitely knock them down with one punch!"

Qin Fang was firstly stunned, then overjoyed, glanced at Tang Feifei with a very suggestive look, and then immediately showed off his muscles that had started to take shape.

"That... how about we sleep in one tent at night, so that it's easier for me to protect you..."

He immediately revealed a sly smile and whispered these words into Tang Feifei's ear.

"You... pervert!"

Tang Feifei's face turned red at once, and she lightly punched Qin Fang's sturdy chest with her small fist while scolding him.

But Qin Fang was secretly delighted. At least Tang Feifei didn't say no, which meant... there was a chance!

With just that one sentence, Qin Fang no longer opposed the autumn outing; instead, he looked forward to it very much. Although it coincided with the first three days of the opening of the food festival, he brushed that aside. After all, with Wen Yi holding down the fort at the preliminaries, there wouldn't be any accidents...

If they couldn't even get through the preliminaries, then Fang Feixue might as well give up the competition altogether.

Qin Fang was the boss, and he would definitely help out in the competition, but good steel must be put to good use. If he himself needed to step in even for the preliminaries, then Fang Feixue was too weak. This was not what Qin Fang wanted to see, as he couldn't afford to spend too much time on this.

Qin Fang had asked Xiao Muxue, and to his surprise, the event turned out to be organized jointly by the School of Economics and the School of Foreign Languages, but because there were so many people, there were several places to choose from.

For example, Liuyun Mountain was one, there were also several ancient towns in Canglang City in Jiangnan Province, the western part of Yun'an Province's grand canyon, and Metropolis Jiangzhou in the east of Long Country, and so on; overall there were several different style and characteristic regional options.

However, by the time Qin Fang learned of this, Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue, the two beauties, had already decided to go to Liuyun Mountain, so he no longer had a choice.

"Are you sure you want to camp in the wild?"

Qin Fang still asked repeatedly, somewhat disheartened by the fact that Tang Feifei didn't plan to share a tent with him, but with Xiao Muxue, which meant he would have to sleep alone...

"Of course, haven't we already prepared all the tents and tools needed for camping?"

Tang Feifei's laugh was like that of a little fox who had succeeded in her cunning plan, seemly very excited and proud of having toyed with Qin Fang a little.

But she herself hadn't realized that Qin Fang's mind was already pondering how to conquer her first, and then trying out a threesome...

Of course, it was just a thought, for if he really did that, Tang Feifei would probably take a gun to him in no time.

This time, as it was co-organized by two faculties, the school only sent several counselors to accompany them, while the rest was managed by the student unions of the two faculties, with mainly freshmen from both faculties participating, and naturally the student union officials from both faculties had to attend as well.

For this event, the school specifically allocated more than a dozen buses for use by these two faculties, and just for going to Liuyun Mountain, there were as many as four buses, amounting to a total of 150 people.

As for Qin Fang and the others, they naturally wouldn't travel with everyone else on the buses. The journey to Liuyun Mountain was over three hundred kilometers, requiring at least four to five hours by bus, and they were supposed to leave as early as five in the morning.

Now that it was already autumn, at around five in the morning the sky was still dark and dreary, which certainly isn't preferred by the ladies, so Qin Fang and the others decided to drive there themselves.

Xiao Nan was also going to Liuyun Mountain. It was said that within the few days since he had arrived, he managed to hook up with a beautiful roommate of Xiao Muxue's, whom he had met when they all dined together on the day of Fang Feixue's opening.

Hence, driven by Qin Fang in his brand new Audi Q7 with Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue, Xiao Nan drove his BMW Z4 along with a beauty from the School of Foreign Languages named Wu Dandan. Knowing Xiao Nan, Qin Fang guessed this guy probably planned to take this trip as an opportunity to win over the beauty.

As for Xiao Nan's wet nurse, Xia Yun, the relationship between them had always been stable. However, Xia Yun never cared about Xiao Nan's affairs and their relationship was almost purely physical.

The school buses had departed first, while Qin Fang and the others left a bit later, almost after Qin Fang and Fang Dacheng had gone out for a bit of boxing practice and sparred briefly before coming back to wake up Xiao Nan and the beauties, and then they leisurely set off in their car.

With Qin Fang's Intermediate Riding Skill, driving was absolutely no problem, and the performance of the Audi Q7 was unquestionable. Once on the highway, he sped up to 180 mph, weaving through the traffic quickly, and disappeared from Xiao Nan's dumbfounded gaze...

Chapter 335: All three are my girlfriends_2

Xiao Nan was quite aware of his limits; his skills were not bad, but after realizing that Qin Fang's driving skills were top-notch, he had specifically challenged him for a race, which ended in a devastating defeat.

So, seeing Qin Fang's car speed off until it was out of sight didn't bother him at all. After all, his goal was picking up girls, not touring, and he ended up taking the beauty Wu Dandan on a different route to Mount Huang instead...

Despite departing over an hour later than the school bus due to their high-speed driving, they still managed to arrive at the Liuyun Mountain Scenic Area almost at the same time as the bus.

Of course, it was Qin Fang and his group who arrived first, followed by the school bus...

"Wen senior..."

What surprised Qin Fang was that upon parking and heading to the entrance of the scenic area to meet up, he unexpectedly ran into someone he knew.

"Qin junior, I didn't expect to see you again..."

The acquaintance was none other than the beauty Wen Yan, with whom Qin Fang had had a "close encounter" of sorts, leading to a fight with one of her admirers, which, of course, ended with a solid victory for Qin Fang.

Wen Yan was quite surprised to see Qin Fang again and had a very deep impression of this junior. Unfortunately, they hadn't had the chance to meet again after that time.

Ninghai University was vast, with over thirty thousand students. Bumping into someone amidst the sea of people could sometimes be quite difficult, especially since Qin Fang often skipped classes.

She was the vice president of the Martial Arts Association, and Qin Fang was a member. Aside from registering, Qin never attended again and participated in none of their activities. Fang Dacheng had gone one or two times, then decided it was boring, without a worthy opponent, and just stopped going altogether.

This wasn't surprising, as he was a Level 3 Expert, and it was said that even the president couldn't last more than ten moves against him. This had made Qin even less interested, as now Fang Dacheng was more often defeated than victorious when they sparred.

"Wen senior, if I remember correctly, you're a sophomore, right?"

Seeing Wen Yan, Qin Fang was also somewhat puzzled, as he remembered her being a sophomore, whereas this outing was for freshmen.

"I'm from the student council of another school. As it happens, I haven't been to Liuyun Mountain either. Hearing that the scenery here is quite nice, I decided to come along and have some fun... Why, am I not welcome?"

Wen Yan, with her outgoing personality, immediately said cheerfully, while also brandishing the camera in her hand. It seemed to be a high-end DSLR camera, somewhat giving her the air of a professional photographer, though it was uncertain how she compared to Teacher Chen...

"How could that be? It's not like I own this scenic area..."

Qin Fang chuckled and joked, "Let me introduce you to my girlfriend Tang Feifei, Xiao Muxue..."

Qin Fang's introduction carried a humorous undertone, giving the impression that Tang Feifei was his girlfriend, yet also suggesting that both women were his girlfriends.

Tang Feifei didn't seem to notice anything amiss, but the slightly more sensitive Xiao Muxue couldn't help but respond with a radiant smile. Meanwhile, Wen Yan just nodded lightly and briefly introduced herself.

Women always tend to get along well, especially when all three were notably attractive. They quickly became engrossed in conversation, laughing and discussing their travel plans for the next three days, completely sidelining Qin Fang and ignoring him.

This scenario was reminiscent of the time when Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue had met Wen Yi.

"Brother, which one of those beauties is your girlfriend?"

Immediately, someone approached with great enthusiasm. Seeing the three beautiful women engaged in warm conversation, he couldn't help but make small talk with Qin Fang while also fishing for information.

"All three are mine!"

Qin Fang glanced at the guy trying to cozy up to him. The guy wasn't from their school and, with his slick hair and a gold chain around his neck, looked like no good. Qin obviously wasn't in the mood for niceties and responded bluntly.

"Huh? Brother, that's a bit unsporting of you..."

However, the guy was too focused on coveting the three beauties and was taken aback by Qin Fang's response, his expression changing as he gave Qin a disdainful once-over, speaking with an air of pretentiousness.

"Quit your bullshit and get out of my face,"

Qin Fang couldn't stand these wannabe tough guys. With just a gentle push, the seemingly sturdy young man stumbled back several steps before his balance gave out, and he plunked down on his butt, grimacing in pain.

He was about to spew some curses when Qin Fang turned and shot him a menacing look, scaring him into swallowing the words he had on the tip of his tongue.

"Who was that guy?"

Qin Fang quickly caught up with the three beauties, and Tang Feifei couldn't help but ask, curious.

"Just some punk who had his eye on the three ladies. I've taken care of him already..."

Qin Fang eagerly boasted, seeking approval, but alas, his reward was two beauties rolling their eyes at him and one beauty giggling.

"Not a total failure..."

Qin Fang comforted himself.

The three beauties didn't really pay much attention to the incident. They were part of a large group that came together, totaling one hundred fifty people. Even the boldest ruffian wouldn't dare to make a move on so many people, not to mention that the scenic area did have police on site.

Throughout their journey with the large group from school, Qin Fang and the others bought tickets to the Liuyun Mountain Scenic Area and entered. The mountain stretched far and wide, offering an abundance of sights to behold, especially the romantically named spots like Mandarin Duck Pond and Lovers' Valley, which were favorites among couples. At least the three beauties were eager to see them.

They would be staying inside the scenic area at an inn that claimed to be Three-Star quality. Although the conditions inside seemed quite far from the Three-Star standard.

But there was no helping it; conditions in this part of Liuyun Mountain were just this poor, and this was already the best inn available, so they had to make do with it.

Since it was the off-season for tourism, a 150-person group like theirs was considered large. The rooms were planned to host three people each, though there were also double rooms. Qin Fang had opted for a double, planning to share it with Xiao Nan. Since they were dorm mates, it made sense to room together.

However, Xiao Nan later informed Qin Fang that he was off to Mount Huang with a beauty and wouldn't join. This meant Qin Fang ended up in a double room all by himself.

Regrettably, Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue had originally planned to room together, but after getting to know Wen Yan, the three ended up mixing together and switched to a triple room instead. Qin Fang had no choice but to abandon his plans for a sneaky romantic encounter.

...

What Qin Fang didn't expect was that not far from them, in a small building, a gang was sitting around smoking, watching a raunchy Japanese action film and chatting away.

A couple of women were servicing a man, their looks barely passable even for a roadside hair salon in Ninghai.

"Banana Bro, are you serious?"

One of the lackeys, pleasuring himself to the action film, asked with greedy delight in his eyes.

Smack~~

The young man known as Banana Bro slapped his lackey on the head, annoyed, "Goddamn it, do I look like I need to bullshit you?"

"There are at least thirty or forty women, all college girls, all beauties... Especially those three, I'd give a few years of my life just for a good time with them!"

As Banana Bro spoke, he fantasized in his head, his member twitching involuntarily. He pulled down his pants, gave it a couple of strokes, then shoved the limp "banana" into the mouth of a woman beside him.

"Heh heh, guys, Liuyun Mountain's our turf. We can drag anyone off to some secluded spot, and not even Ghost Shadow would be able to find them... Let those three beauties taste my big banana!"

If Qin Fang were to see this, he would definitely recognize Banana Bro as the same young man he had dealt with at the entrance to the scenic area.

Chapter 336: Want to Hit on Girls? Go Back and Practice Some More_1

...

Liuyun Mountain stood silently, as one gazed up from its base, a gloomy stretch of Qing Mountain met the eyes, yet even in deep autumn, it was lush and verdant, with none of the desolation one might imagine.

The weather seemed quite pleasant, too; clouds leisurely drifted on the breeze, forming a distinct trail of moving clouds. When they passed the main peak, Liuyun Peak, they split into two streams, perhaps explaining the origin of the mountain's name.

"It's so beautiful..."

The three beauties looked out over Liuyun Mountain, bathed in sunlight and clouds, admiring the green expanse, and couldn't help but exclaim.

"The scenery of Liuyun Mountain is indeed magnificent, with its rugged rocks and towering peaks. There are many springs and waterfalls, which are exceptionally beautiful, not to mention Lovers' Valley and Mandarin Duck Pond. If you visit after the rain, you might even see a 'Buddha's Light'..."

Wen Yan, their senior, proved her worth in coming along. As one of the organizers, though it was her first time here, she had already done ample research on Liuyun Mountain and began to share with Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue.

"Lovers' Valley, Mandarin Duck Pond... Just hearing the names tells you the scenery must be beautiful! Qin Fang, let's get going..."

Women are always such emotional creatures, impressed by names alone without considering that if these scenic spots didn't have appealing names, who would visit them?

Of course, Qin Fang had no say in the matter, and apart from obediently following them, there was no other path for him.

Qin Fang was just a porter, laden with all sorts of items the ladies might need—food, water, tents, clothes, and so on—a massive backpack on his back, while also carrying two slightly smaller bags.

Only Qin Fang could withstand such a load. If it had been any other boy, just the backpack alone might have been enough to flatten him.

"Wen Yan, where are you guys going?"

Just as Qin Fang was preparing to head to these two places with the three beauties, someone came up to inquire. The tone seemed unfriendly, especially when they noticed that this group included only one man, Qin Fang.

"Song Lin, we're going to have fun. We don't need to report to you, do we?"

Wen Yan replied, her expression not looking very pleased.

"That's not what I mean... The thing is, Liuyun Mountain has complex terrain and is home to wild animals, especially in the deeper areas. Plus, being the off-season, there aren't many people around, so it's best for small groups to have more members, especially a few girls like you..."

This Song Lin, like Wen Yan, was also a sophomore and one of the organizers, and of course, a suitor of Wen Yan. His words were reasonable enough.

"We already have four people, and Qin Fang can protect us..."

Tang Feifei didn't have a good impression of this Song Lin. They were originally having fun chatting and laughing, and with Qin Fang, their porter, it was enough. Having someone else forced into their group was the last thing she wanted...

"That's definitely not okay, even if I agreed, the counselor would surely object..."

Song Lin appeared quite magnanimous, though, he used the counselor as a shield for his stance.

"Why not... let him come with us?"

Wen Yan frowned upon hearing this. Naturally, they were accompanied by a counselor for this outing, and usually, it was a big group activity. For smaller groups, indeed, they needed to file a report with the counselor. Having more people would provide better support, making it easier to find someone if they got lost.

"Fine..."

Tang Feifei clearly wasn't happy, glancing at Qin Fang and then back at Wen Yan before reluctantly nodding.

"Qin Fang, hand those two smaller bags to this senior... Song senior, that's okay with you, right?"

Tang Feifei was also sharp-witted, aware of the inconvenience of having Song Lin follow along. Seeing the two bags in Qin Fang's hand, she immediately said with a sly smile.

"No problem, no problem..."

Seeing such a pretty girl smile sweetly at him set Song Lin's heart aflutter, and he hurriedly nodded in agreement.

Qin Fang and the three ladies exchanged knowing smiles with mischief twinkling in their eyes.

"Bro, thanks..."

Qin Fang thanked him while tossing both bags into Song Lin's embrace.

But the bags, which seemed light in Qin Fang's hands, caught Song Lin off guard. He had not expected them to be so heavy. Each bag must have weighed over twenty pounds, and together they were close to fifty. Although Song Lin exercised regularly and was a "sports champ" among the beauties of the outer school, the unexpected burden of fifty pounds nearly floored him.

Seeing Song Lin struggle the moment he arrived, the three beauties and Qin Fang could barely contain their laughter. They pretended to notice nothing and immediately started walking ahead.

Song Lin had no choice but to sling one backpack over his shoulders and clutched the other in his arms, quickly catching up to the others.

The mountain paths of Liuyun Mountain were rugged, and the trails were equipped with protective measures. Following the gentle stream trickling down the mountain, the group of five gradually made their way upwards.

The main peak of Liuyun Mountain towered over 1700 meters high, with mountain ranges stretching endlessly, averaging over six or seven hundred meters in height. There was a cable car to ascend directly to the top, but taking that would have meant missing much of the fun, so naturally, Qin Fang and his friends chose to hike on foot.

"Wen Yan, are you tired?"

"Wen Yan, do you want some water?"

"Tang junior, that's a beautiful spot over there. Want to take some photos?"

"Xiao junior, you three pose, and I'll take a picture..."

And true enough, Song Lin wasn't bad looking—a certain kind of dapper young man, judging by his outfit, clearly from a wealthy background, well-fed and well-dressed. He was also quite articulate and knew how to charm the ladies, diligently showering attentions on the three beauties throughout the journey.

As for Qin Fang, he was unfortunately ignored.

Who could blame him, as Qin Fang just carried his pack in silence, resembling a sullen bottle gourd. The three beauties were busy with their own affairs, exchanging plenty of conversation among themselves, but they seldom spoke with Qin Fang, providing Song Lin with the perfect opportunity to lavish them with his attentions.

Although he didn't overtly slander Qin Fang, he often made snide remarks about this "sullen bottle gourd" to inadvertently belittle Qin Fang and contrast himself as tall, handsome, and wealthy...

Too bad for him, he never realized that the more he behaved like this, the worse his image became in the hearts of the three beauties, and the more they disliked him.

If it weren't for the occasional eye contact between Qin Fang and Tang Feifei or Xiao Muxue, which conveyed mutual understanding, probably they would have retaliated against Song Lin already.

Instead, the girls opted for a subtler method, like speeding up their pace. This was a mountain trail, after all, not smooth by any means, with regular ascending and descending parts.

The three unburdened girls carried almost nothing, only Tang Feifei with a camera, and Wen Yan with a tiny backpack containing some girls' personal items.

Along the way were peculiar rocks, trees, mountain springs, and rivulets, and occasionally rocks etched with bright red characters, which excited the three beauties into taking photos, hopping and skipping along, moving at a remarkable pace.

Qin Fang, on the other hand, followed at a leisurely pace, but this caused Song Lin a good deal of suffering. In the late autumn season, the weather was quite cool, and in the mountain air, it was even chilly, yet Song Lin was soaked in sweat. The lightweight jacket he wore was long removed, and the thin shirt underneath was soaked through, clinging to his body. Every so often, he had to stop and catch his breath.

"Brother, how about we switch?"

Having barely caught up to Qin Fang, Song Lin was truly exhausted. Yet Qin Fang seemed very relaxed and didn't even break a sweat, which made his backpack seem lightweight.

"Are you sure?"

Qin Fang smiled, questioning cautiously, and at that moment the three beauties also took notice, all looking their way.

"Of course, I'm sure..."

Despite feeling somewhat hot-faced under the scrutiny of the three beauties, Song Lin was genuinely spent and gritted his teeth in affirmation.

"Alright then!"

Without further ado, Qin Fang effortlessly hooked the backpack from his back to his hand. Meanwhile, Song Lin had already put down the two smaller backpacks, and Qin Fang immediately tossed his own over.

Plop~~

Even though Song Lin had braced himself fully, when the huge backpack, weighing over a hundred pounds, fell upon him, the already exhausted Song Lin just couldn't hold on and collapsed onto the ground, bottom first. The massive backpack pinned him down so hard that he couldn't muster the strength to move even slightly.

"Giggle, giggle, giggle..."

The ladies witnessed it all and burst into tinkling laughter. Tang Feifei, ever the prankster, even snapped a photo, capturing Song Lin's embarrassing moment.

Song Lin's face immediately went sour as he struggled to get up, but it was as if he had no strength remaining, even just to flail about.

Fortunately, at that moment, a strong hand lifted the oppressive backpack from his body, greatly relieving Song Lin, almost prompting him to hug the helper's legs in gratitude.

"Buddy, if you want to impress the girls, you've got to assess your own strength. Get some more practice when you get back..."

Before Song Lin's thanks could escape his lips, Qin Fang had already expressed his disdain, then took all three backpacks upon himself.

"Ladies, let's move on..."

With a wave of his hand, Qin Fang completely ignored the annoying Song Lin, even managing to casually sling an arm around Tang Feifei's shoulders, walking intimately towards the front, picking up an even faster pace than before.

"You..."

Song Lin's face turned completely green. He wanted to curse a few words, but he was still out of breath. By the time he had recovered, Qin Fang and the others had already vanished without a trace, leaving him all alone in the vast mountain.

Chapter 337: Thrilling Rafting_1

...

Qin Fang and his group didn't care about what would happen to Song Lin; they were here to have fun, not to be annoyed. They continued towards their destination.

"Wow, it's so beautiful..."

"It's truly breathtaking..."

"Even the air has become exceptionally fresh..."

As Qin Fang and his companions arrived at a waterfall, they couldn't help but marvel at the sight of the water cascading and folding over itself four times in a winding fashion.

Encircled by lush, green mountains, a silver ribbon of water flowed gently down the slopes of Qing Mountain, forming a long stream that gradually drifted into the distance.

The waterfall was truly majestic, like the Milky Way pouring down from the heavens, its numerous folds adding a touch of gentleness to its grandeur.

"The Four-fold Waterfall, this must be the Four-fold Waterfall..."

Wen Yan was the quickest to realize, pulling a tourist map from her bag. The map clearly marked various key attractions, including the Four-fold Waterfall.

"Not far ahead lies the Mandarin Duck Pond and Lovers' Valley..."

Actually, the main destinations for the three beauties were these two places. Starting from the hotel and heading in this direction effectively bypassed the normal tourist route, taking them directly into the depths of Liuyun Mountain.

Qin Fang took the map from Wen Yan's hands, observing the markings; his expression was a bit uneasy. "Feifei, Muxue, let's pick up the pace. After visiting Lovers' Valley, we'll head to Four Dragon Pool before it gets dark..."

They had set out from the hotel after lunch and had already been hiking in the mountains for two hours. Gauging the distance to Lovers' Valley, they needed at least another hour to reach it via the mountain trails. Then, heading back would allow them to make it to the campsite near Four Dragon Pool.

Camping in Lovers' Valley was indeed an option, but it was very close to the deeper parts of Liuyun Mountain, and Qin Fang was a bit worried about the presence of wild animals.

"Yes, let's go..."

The three beauties didn't say much. After taking several photos near the Four-fold Waterfall, they left contentedly and continued towards their destination.

...

"Banana Bro, I've asked around: those three beauties followed two guys and took the western path..."

While Qin Fang and his group continued sightseeing, Xiao Jiao, who had been taught a lesson by Qin Fang, had already learned the whereabouts of Qin Fang and his friends. As the local toughs, they knew the mountain paths and shortcuts of Liuyun Mountain even better.

"They must be heading toward Mandarin Duck Pond. Let's take a shortcut..."

The thought of the three beauties' graceful figures and pretty faces made Xiao Jiao's young blood surge with excitement. He quickly called his followers and hurried through the trails towards Mandarin Duck Pond.

...

"Brother Lin Zi, this Qin guy is so arrogant?"

"Let's give him a beating!"

On the other side, after being slapped with a "big mouth" by Qin Fang, Song Lin's disdain turned into enmity. He called several friends with whom he had good relations—fellow student union officers, who were also his drinking and feasting buddies.

Hearing Song Lin's exaggerated retelling of his grievances with Qin Fang, everyone was filled with righteous indignation and didn't bother to discern the truth.

"Damn it, I'll make sure he's done for... Wen Yan, you're mine... Hmph!"

While Song Lin was echoing his friends' words, he fantasized about using this opportunity to get closer to Wen Yan. The group then immediately set off lightly and hurriedly to chase after them.

...

Unbeknownst to Qin Fang and his party, while they were enjoying their outing, there were two groups intent on dealing with them, especially harboring ill intentions towards the girls.

However, plans don't always keep up with changes. As Qin Fang and his group moved forward, passing by a confluence of two rivers, they saw a group of people riding orange kayaks sliding down the rapids from upstream. They drifted around the water for a while before resurfacing and continued floating downstream.

"Ah, is this river rafting? It looks so fun..."

The girls were always very interested in novelties, especially entertainment activities that they couldn't enjoy in the city, which they paid special attention to.

As soon as the raft appeared, they were deeply captivated and regretfully watched the small vessel disappear from their sight, drifting down into the pool below.

"This kind of weather would make it pretty cold to play this..."

Qin Fang, on the other hand, wasn't very interested in this. As someone with Intermediate Swimming Skill, he could easily swim back and forth in the Yangtze River a couple of times; this kind of rafting would be even more effortless.

But girls tend to have weaker constitutions, and the weather was already quite cold. If they were to get drenched in the water like that, they could easily fall ill, so naturally, he was quite concerned.

"Ah..."

Before he could finish speaking, however, another thrilling scream reached his ears, and then another raft came drifting down from upstream, plunging into the small pool.

However, this raft wasn't as lucky as the previous ones; perhaps due to a lack of control, it flipped over, spilling seven or eight people into the water. This immediately elicited a burst of excited laughter. Soon, they climbed back onto the raft and continued drifting downstream...

"It really looks exhilarating, Wen Yan, Muxue, shall we give it a try?"

Tang Feifei was the least resistant to fun and thrilling activities. Just watching once had piqued her interest, and after seeing it a second time, she could no longer hold back.

The three girls exchanged glances, and finally, all turned toward Qin Fang with eyes full of longing, seemingly waiting for him to make the ultimate decision.

"Alright then..."

Truthfully, Qin Fang really wanted to say no, but he just couldn't resist such pleading expressions from women, so he eventually agreed. He wasn't worried about safety; it was just the fear that the three girls would catch a cold. However, he had a change of clothes in his backpack, so it shouldn't be a big issue. At most, they would just have to return to the hotel earlier.

At least from the map, the rafting route went directly down the mountain, which could save them a lot of time.

The four of them quickly found the starting point of the rafting, located near the top of the mountain. Here, there were rubber rafts already prepared. Perhaps because the people ahead had already left, when Qin Fang and his companions arrived, there weren't many others around.

After storing their bulky backpacks at the management station, paying the fee, and collecting their life jackets, the four of them boarded a rubber raft. The staff member responsible for controlling the raft carefully explained some important matters to pay attention to Qin Fang and his group. After ensuring there were no issues, the rubber raft set off down the turbulent stream.

Rafting is a challenge of physical strength and courage; the entire process is carried out amidst rapid currents, and it's quite exhilarating. It also demands a certain level of skill, otherwise falling into the water is all too easy.

Once the raft launched, the person in charge of controlling it for Qin Fang and his group was a dark-faced, handsome guy who was slightly older than them.

"Ah..."

The girls' screams were incessant and shrill, leaving Qin Fang with nothing but a wry smile on his face. Compared to him, the dark-faced, handsome guy appeared much more composed, his eyes always watching the signs nearby, even though he had traversed this waterway countless times before.

"We're entering the bend area, hold tight..."

Almost simultaneously as the dark-faced guy uttered these words, the raft violently jerked at the tail, making Qin Fang involuntarily feel his body getting flung in the direction of the force. If not for his strong and powerful arms, he might have been thrown off the raft.

If Qin Fang was feeling this strain, it was even worse for the three girls; they clutched the railing of the raft tightly, continuing their unending screams.

But such winding bends were relentless, first to the left, then to the right; everyone felt as though they were not on a rapid stream but amid a sea in a storm, with their small boat always on the verge of capsizing.

"Hold on tight; you must hold on tight... Ah!"

The dark-faced guy emphasized again, but all of a sudden, it was time for another bending jerk, and the three girls' limited arm strength wasn't enough. This time, Tang Feifei bumped into Xiao Muxue, Xiao Muxue bumped into Wen Yan, and Wen Yan found herself colliding with the dark-faced guy.

Splash...

Caught off guard, the dark-faced guy certainly never expected to get toppled into the water by three girls. Meanwhile, the rubber raft glided through the rapids, leaving him no chance to catch up.

"Qin Fang... he, he fell into the water, what do we do? What do we do?"

Tang Feifei and the others were terrified; with the captain overboard, it took no time for him to disappear completely, and their raft continued to drift rapidly downstream, with the currents growing fiercer and fiercer...

"Don't worry, don't worry... I've got this!"

In such a moment, Qin Fang naturally had to take charge. He immediately moved to the front of the rubber raft, seized the railing, and began to steer the raft himself.

"Brother here has Intermediate Riding Skill; this rubber raft is a piece of cake..."

In fact, during that short time he spent observing, Qin Fang had already picked up quite a few pointers on how to control the raft. To his surprise, he discovered that his Riding Skill wasn't just applicable to cars and bicycles, but to boats as well.

Once he took control, Qin Fang immediately felt a familiar sensation. With a slight exertion of his wrist, the rubber raft, which had been lurching perilously in the rapids, gradually steadied. Though the jolting remained severe, Tang Feifei and the rest dropped their jaws in amazement, and they stopped screaming...

They truly hadn't expected Qin Fang to know how to handle a rubber raft, and even more so, to be stronger than the dark-faced guy who maneuvered rubber rafts daily...

Chapter 338: Enchanted by the Caves_1

...

However strong one's boat control skills may be, they're just as likely to fail in the face of nature.

Before Qin Fang could take pride in his efforts, the river ahead suddenly turned extremely turbulent, forming a precipitous drop-off. The entire boat plunged directly toward the pool below at an angle of about seventy degrees.

"Ah..."

In the face of such a scene, Qin Fang remained remarkably calm, but the three girls couldn't help but let out piercing screams. That drop of only three or four meters delivered an intense thrill.

The boat flipped over...

All four of them were thrown into the water.

The nearly four-meter drop, compounded by the acceleration of the water, sent all four people plunging into the pool below, vanishing from sight.

Shortly after, Qin Fang was the first to surface. With his excellent swimming ability and wearing a life jacket, the rather deep pool posed no threat to him.

Qin Fang grabbed the rubber boat that was nearly swept away by the current, and soon after, Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue also emerged.

Qin Fang immediately reached out, pulled Tang Feifei over, and effortlessly lifted her onto the rubber boat. Then he wrapped his arms around Xiao Muxue and helped her aboard before going to look for the third girl, Wen Yan.

"Where's Senior Wen?"

However, looking at the constantly churning surface of the water, there was no sign of Wen Yan... Tang Feifei immediately asked with growing anxiety.

Almost as soon as she finished speaking, they saw a patch of orange rise to the surface – the color of a life jacket. Qin Fang hurried over and grabbed it, but it was empty!

"Not good..."

Seeing the life jacket emerge without Wen Yan, Qin Fang's complexion whitened, and he let out an alarmed shout.

"Qin Fang, what do we do? Senior Wen she..."

Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue, having seen the life jacket and slightly calming down, now realized Wen Yan was still missing. They became tense all at once.

"Feifei, Muxue, stay on the boat, I'll go down and have a look..."

While speaking, Qin Fang flipped over and dived deep into the pool.

The pool was not small and it was anything but shallow. Qin Fang dived at least five or six meters without hitting the bottom. The deeper he went, the greater the buoyancy of his life jacket became. Qin Fang simply took it off.

"Muxue, what do we do, what do we do?"

"I don't know..."

On the surface, Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue were extremely tense and worried sitting in the boat. They had never seen anything like this, where four people suddenly became three. They were at a complete loss for what to do.

"The life jacket... Qin Fang's life jacket..."

Just then, Tang and Xiao saw another life jacket surface. Wen Yan's had already drifted away with the current, so this one must be Qin Fang's. Yet Qin Fang's figure was nowhere to be seen, and they couldn't help but burst into desperate tears amid their shock.

In such a moment, both girls hugged each other, feeling helpless and heartbroken, and silently prayed for Qin Fang.

Splash...

Just as the two were crying their hearts out, the water suddenly erupted with splashes and Qin Fang's head emerged again.

"Fangfang..."

"Qin Fang..."

The two women almost simultaneously cried out in relief, their pretty faces streaked with tears.

"Why are you crying? I'm fine... I found an undercurrent beneath the pool. I think Wen Yan got swept away by it. I'm going to rescue her now... Feifei, Muxue, you two go downstream right away, then inform the management to send help!"

"But..."

Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue both wanted to argue or plead with him, but Qin Fang didn't give them any chance. "No buts! Rescue is the priority, go find help quickly, I'm off..."

After saying this, Qin Fang dived back into the water and completely disappeared from the view of Tang and Xiao.

At this moment, Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue were both stunned, their eyes filled with worry and reluctance, but as Qin Fang had said, Wen Yan's fate was uncertain. They had come together, and it was particularly Tang Feifei who had suggested rafting. The thought of giving up was not an option for her.

"Let's go!"

Biting her lip, Tang Feifei immediately made a decision. Surrounded by mountains, with no village ahead and no store behind, they needed to find help as quickly as possible, or not only Wen Yan's fate but Qin Fang's safety would be in jeopardy.

Adjusting the direction of the rubber boat, the two girls continued to drift swiftly downstream. The passion from earlier was gone, leaving only anxiety and fear...

For the first time, two girls who had always seemed harmonious on the surface but competitive underneath truly united in spirit, their hands clasped together in silent prayer. Though they said nothing, their thoughts were as clear as a mirror.

Tang and Xiao went to seek help, while Qin Fang had already dived into the undercurrent and was swept away by a whirlpool with a powerful pulling force, disappearing into a cave deep within the pool.

Chapter 339 -: Enchanted by the Caves_2

"Is this... the Underground Dark River?"

About two or three minutes later, Qin Fang felt that he could hardly hold his breath anymore, just as a force pushed him out, allowing him to surface and enter a somewhat dim cave.

The water was still flowing, the rock walls above head were damp and the stones were extremely smooth, yet they seemed to contain some special substance that emitted a faint luminescence, which provided Qin Fang with a bit of light.

"Wen Yan!"

The current wasn't very strong, but the water here was colder than the pool's outside. Qin Fang followed the flow forward, with his Scouting Skill in constant operation, and after chasing for more than three hundred meters, he finally spotted Wen Yan's figure.

But now, Wen Yan had completely passed out. Her swimming ability was no match for Qin Fang's, and having been in the water for so long, she had ingested too much water, her stomach bloated. If she weren't treated soon, even if he found her body, there would be no hope for resuscitation...

Qin Fang held the unconscious Wen Yan tightly in his embrace, placing one hand on her Life Gate Acupoint and slowly infused his weak Inner Breath into her body.

Cough cough~~

Wen Yan, who had been unresponsive, suddenly coughed, and a large amount of water spurted out from her mouth. She spit it out for quite a while before the coughing finally subsided.

Meanwhile, Qin Fang's face was extremely pale. He immediately withdrew the Silver Needle from the top of Wen Yan's head and stored it in the Props Box; even after the coughing fit, Wen Yan remained unconscious.

The Underground Dark River was incredibly long and the current not very fierce, but Qin Fang felt extremely anxious. He had managed to expel most of the water that Wen Yan had swallowed using the Nine Revival Needles technique, but there was still so much water flooding her stomach and lungs...

And with the stimulation of the ice-cold underground water, Wen Yan's body temperature was also dropping. If he couldn't find a place to rest soon, there was no way Wen Yan would survive!

Qin Fang's spirit was flagging, but his physical strength was still formidable. He had plenty of Baozi to sustain him and no issue with his physical power, so he swam swiftly through the Dark River.

"There's a cave over there..."

Qin Fang didn't know how far he had swum. In such dim lighting, his vision gradually adapted and he actually noticed a black shadow unlike the surroundings. Such a shape was characteristic of caves, but many he saw were too small—fit for a hiding cat but insufficient for two people. However, this particular cave seemed quite large.

Qin Fang swam quickly to it, disregarding any potential danger inside as he carried Wen Yan out of the cold water and into the cave.

This cave wasn't just an ordinary grotto. Once inside, Qin Fang discovered it was quite deep. Walking forward, he faintly heard the sounds of water and wind, and saw a hint of light.

Without lingering in this pitch-black grotto, which was even darker than the Underground Dark River, Qin Fang didn't stop to think and rushed toward the significantly brighter area ahead.

In what was barely a distance of over ten meters, Qin Fang emerged from the cave into a multicolored world, or rather, an enormous, intricate limestone cave.

The cavern was naturally formed, likely existing for tens of millions of years. Stalactites hung upside down, with occasional droplets falling from their tips, landing on the hard stone and producing a clear 'ding dong' sound. In the serene cave, the drop-by-drop sequence merged from a distance, uniting into something akin to the purest and most natural form of music.

But at that moment, Qin Fang had no thought to listen to or appreciate such music. Wen Yan's body temperature was falling steadily, and she was just half a step away from death.

He found a relatively dry stone platform and gently laid Wen Yan down on it. After a moment's hesitation, Qin Fang reached out to undo the clothes on Wen Yan's body. They had been in the water for too long, and damp clothes clinging to the skin could worsen a stable situation very quickly.

In no time at all, Wen Yan's translucent, jade-like body was fully exposed before Qin Fang. But there was no time for him to entertain any other thoughts. His wrist flicked, and suddenly nine Silver Needles appeared in his hand.

"Here goes everything..."

Qin Fang took a deep breath to settle the somewhat agitated Inner Breath within him, then his hands rapidly thrust forward, the nine Silver Needles swiftly piercing into several acupoints on Wen Yan's Lung Meridian of Hand Taiyin. He also sealed the Qi Men, Zhang Men, and Ru Gen acupoints to prevent any accidents.

Inner Breath flowed slowly through the Silver Needles into Wen Yan's body, with one of Qin Fang's hands moving as fast as a phantom, trembling the other six needles continually.

This was a highly advanced Vibrating Acupoint method from the Nine Revival Needles, which required both Inner Breath and great hand dexterity to perform.

Fortunately, Qin Fang had the One-Handed Weapon Mastery Skill which meant his hands were sufficiently dexterous for the procedure, so he risked using it.

Chapter 340: Enchanted by the Caves_3

"Pfft~~~"

About a minute had passed when Wen Yan, who lay motionless on the ground, suddenly spewed out a mouthful of water. A jet of water burst forth, striking the stone wall about a meter away.

Cough cough cough~~~

Another spell of coughing followed, expelling all the water that had filled her body.

"Qin... Qin Fang, is... is it you?"

Wen Yan barely managed to open her eyes at this moment, but she was extremely weak, only able to vaguely sense someone's presence before her, and couldn't even clearly see who it was. She asked instinctively, perhaps driven by her subconscious.

"It's me, I'm here, everything's okay, everything's okay!"

Qin Fang immediately reached out his hand, taking hold of Wen Yan's still icy palm, offering her a bit of warmth.

"I'm... I'm cold!"

Wen Yan's body shivered slightly, and at this moment, her consciousness had only just started to return. She might not even be aware that she was completely naked, but she could definitely feel the cold.

Qin Fang felt a tinge of regret, wishing he had prepared some clothes in the Props Box beforehand, which would have come in handy now. But lamenting now was useless; although Wen Yan had regained consciousness, her condition remained rather grim.

If Qin Fang didn't warm her, the chilled Wen Yan might not last the night. Even with his knowledge of "The Nine Revival Needles," his Inner Breath had nearly been depleted, and it wasn't possible for him to save her life.

Faced with such a situation, Qin Fang no longer hesitated. He removed his wet clothes, embraced the equally naked Wen Yan, and settled into a relatively sheltered corner. They clung tightly to each other, their limited body heat providing mutual warmth, sustaining the breath of life.

Although Qin Fang couldn't see the outside light, the gradually falling temperature told him night was approaching. Perhaps it was the warmth from Qin Fang's body that gradually brought Wen Yan's consciousness back to clarity.

In the face of such an awkward predicament, Wen Yan was extremely taken aback and embarrassed... Recalling the events that had transpired and surveying her surroundings, she seemed a bit frightened. After hesitating, she slowly snuggled back into Qin Fang's warm embrace, her fair and exquisite face flushing deeply.

"Hungry? Have one to warm up..."

Qin Fang was exceptionally tender, and without any seen motion, a scent of baozi reached Wen Yan's nose. Surprised, she looked following the aroma and saw that a steamy soup dumpling had suddenly appeared in Qin Fang's hand.

"This..."

"Don't think too much, eat something first!"

"Mm!"

Wen Yan nodded gently, not reaching out her hand to take it, but rather, Qin Fang brought the baozi to her lips, letting her bite down directly, somewhat like feeding her.

In such a moment, Wen Yan couldn't help feeling overwhelmed with emotion.

From childhood to adulthood, apart from her father, no other man had ever treated her so kindly. Almost at the very moment Qin Fang fed her the baozi, she knew that her heart had completely sunk.

Women are creatures of emotion, easily moved to tears and surrender by a gentle gesture.

And that was exactly how Wen Yan felt now.

In a dark, sunless cave, where the surrounding stone walls were colorful yet the sound of dripping water in the silence was so clear, it brought a sense of desperate helplessness.

A man had saved her life in such a near-desperate moment and offered her a steaming-hot baozi. She believed that any woman would have been lost in that moment.

"Why aren't you eating?"

Wen Yan had only taken a bite, sipped a little of the juice, and then stopped eating, puzzling Qin Fang for a moment.

"You eat too..."

Wen Yan's blush deepened as she whispered softly.

"Don't be afraid, it's okay. I have plenty more here..."

Now that he had revealed his secret, Qin Fang no longer hid it. He waved his hand behind him, and when he reached out again, his hand held five or six steaming soup dumplings.

Wen Yan's eyes widened in astonishment. One baozi was already a shock, but to see six appear in the blink of an eye was beyond her comprehension.

"You forgot? I'm a magician..."

Qin Fang immediately smiled, continuing to feed her the dumplings, talking casually as he did so.

"Magician..."

Wen Yan was taken aback. She knew about it; Qin Fang's alcohol expulsion magic had already become an unsolved mystery among Ning University students, and naturally, many people said that Qin was a very good magician.

"Can you conjure up clothes?"

Wen Yan asked in a faint voice. Although the two of them were hugging to keep warm, they were only ordinary friends...

"Er... no!"

Qin Fang was momentarily taken aback, giving an awkward smile as he slightly withdrew from the embrace.