

Genius 711

Chapter 711 - Thieves Never Die_1

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However, Xu Ling was by no means an ordinary character. He quickly recovered from that tense state and his face once again wore a brilliant smile as he amiably said to Qin Fang.

"Young Master Qin is joking. Mr. Nakamura and I are just ordinary friends. He has his own affairs, and whether he shows up or not is not something I need to worry about..."

The relationship between Nakamura Shun and him was actually just one of mutual benefit, and Xu Ling did not truly consider him a confidant or good friend. His unique identity had already determined that he was cautious regarding these matters.

As for Nakamura Shun being sent to assassinate Qin Fang, there was no evidence. No one could do anything to him, and considering Nakamura Shun's character, the likelihood of betraying him was really quite small.

"So that's how it is..."

Qin Fang's expression remained unchanged, as if he didn't care at all about that. On the contrary, he seemed to relax a lot, muttering very softly, "It's best if Young Master Xu has nothing to do with Nakamura Shun. This Japanese man is a spy, having a special mission in Dragon Country... If you were truly close with him, I think the National Security would be knocking on your door quite soon..."

Clearly, Qin Fang was deliberately giving Xu Ling a bit of inside information. Although he spoke with a calm tone, the implications of his words were far from calm.

Even though Xu Ling had adjusted his mind-set, ready to ignore all of Qin Fang's offensives, that particular sentence caused his face to change drastically and almost instantly, he was thrown into disarray.

Whether intentional or not, Qin Fang's comment struck Xu Ling's heart like a heavy hammer, causing an involuntary twitch.

When it involved issues of spies and national security, these were highly sensitive areas. Even for a privileged young master like Xu Ling, getting involved in such matters could be tremendously troublesome. One false step could lead to scandal, and it might just become ammunition for an attack.

The head of National Security was Uncle Tang, and Qin Fang was now considered half a member of the Tang Family, so it wasn't odd for him to know such information—especially since Nakamura Shun was very likely captured by Qin Fang.

If Nakamura Shun was indeed a spy, and since his entry into Dragon Country, he seemed to have been particularly close to Xu Ling, it was difficult not to be suspicious. Whether Xu Ling was a member of the Xu Family or not, such matters would not be tolerated... His own position was not common, and the department he worked for was quite special... This made it easy for people to grab onto any small handle... Even if that handle might be entirely fabricated!

"Is that so? I really hadn't thought of that..."

But Xu Ling was no ordinary man. Although his mind was in turmoil, he wasn't going to be easily defeated by a few words from Qin Fang, and he still firmly maintained on the surface.

This was indeed the truth!

In his interactions with Nakamura Shun, there had indeed been no discussion or contact with any state secrets. Even if there were an investigation, Xu Ling might face some trouble, but ultimately, he would be clear of any charges.

What Xu Ling worried about was Qin Fang's interference, which could complicate the process. If it were prolonged, it might affect his career...

In a career path, connections, ability, and age were all distinct advantages. It might not be possible to rise up several ranks within a year, but to be promoted along the red lines was still no problem.

However, if his advancement were hindered by some undeserved incident, by the time he cleared his name, he might already be set back several years... That could prove to be fatal.

Xu Ling was outstanding among the third generation of the Xu Family, but he was only one of them, and there were other equally outstanding members. If he were hindered during this process, who knows what kind of tragedy might ensue?

With these concerns in mind, Xu Ling's attitude towards Qin Fang was no longer as indifferent as before. Now he also understood why, after being dealt with by Qin Fang, Chen Shijie became so timid and didn't even dare to attend Elder Tang's birthday banquet, preferring to feign illness in the hospital...

"This man is not simple!"

Only now did Xu Ling truly recognize Qin Fang as a formidable opponent. Even though Qin Fang didn't come from a prominent background, ever since his forceful entry into Capital City, he had been a headache for many.

The conversation between Qin Fang and Xu Ling was nothing more than a quiet exchange between the two men. The banquet hall was filled with many people, and the simple clinking of glasses alone was enough to create a loud noise, so generally, people whispered to each other.

While they were speaking, many people were actually watching the two of them. A bunch of men from the Tang Family's third generation were all paying attention to Qin Fang, while a number of Xu Ling's younger followers and friends were also not few in number, all staring at Xu Ling.

Both groups were afraid their side might suffer a loss. Even if the two had an argument and started fighting, they were ready to intervene at a moment's notice...

Of course, that scenario was unlikely. Tonight was the old master's birthday, and everyone had come to celebrate. Even if there were grave conflicts, it was not the place to cause trouble. That would be like slapping the Tang Family's face in public, and even a feud to the death with the Tang Family could be a possibility.

Yet Qin Fang's expression remained calm throughout, while Xu Ling, who should have had the absolute advantage, kept changing colors...

"Boss, that guy surnamed Qin has used some kind of trick. Young Master Ling seems unable to withstand it..."

Those sitting at the same table with Xu Ling were essentially his entourage, of course, all of them privileged young masters from Capital City, albeit on a slightly lower tier. Still, in their families, there were many generals with stars on their shoulders, and a number of them had grown up in the same compound as Xu Ling...

Xu Ling's expression kept changing, which did not escape the notice of those around him. Such behavior was rare for him to show, but when it did appear, it meant only one thing—Xu Ling was at a disadvantage.

Qin Fang was an outsider, while all these others were local serpents of Capital City. As the saying goes, even the mighty dragon doesn't oppress the local serpent. Normally, those outsiders who came to make their way in Capital City would keep a low profile, a very low profile. Yet Qin Fang not only snatched away the woman desired by these local serpents, but he was also able to suppress Xu Ling to the point where Xu Ling couldn't raise his head. It was difficult not to draw attention from them under these circumstances.

"No way, we've got to lend a hand... We can't let this kid get any more arrogant!"

Miao San was a straightforward man, and that was just his personality and approach to things. He wasn't really that stupid. He had a solid relationship with Xu Ling and felt that he could no longer just stand by and watch.

"Whoa~~~"

Just then, from the crowd celebrating Elder Tang's birthday, an extremely surprised murmur suddenly erupted, drawing many people's attention to that spot.

Even Qin Fang, Xu Ling, and Tang Cheng were no exception...

"Such a delicate Maitreya..."

"This carving is really... exquisite!"

"Priceless! This truly is priceless..."

It turned out that the focus of many people had been captured by a green Maitreya Buddha jade statue inside a brocade box held by a dapper young man in front of Elder Tang.

This Maitreya statue was crystal clear, gleaming with light that emitted dazzling brilliance under the illumination, looking lifelike with absolutely top-notch craftsmanship. It was immediately apparent that this was the work of a master...

Not to mention the material of the statue, it was carved from a single piece of ice type jadeite. With such a large size and exquisite craftsmanship, the value of this Maitreya statue was definitely over ten million...

"Elder Tang, I wish you a smile as enduring as this Maitreya's, for an increased and extended life..."

The young man respectfully held the jade Maitreya in his hands, then suddenly knelt down, banging his head against the ground several times in front of Elder Tang, surprising many onlookers.

Qin Fang was naturally no exception. It seemed that aside from Chen Shijie, all the Tang Family Members had arrived. They hadn't offered such a grand gesture, yet this young man suddenly pulled this move, which was indeed abrupt.

"Song Jie... I didn't expect him to actually come back!"

It was Tang Cheng, sitting next to Qin Fang, who suddenly made the comment, seemingly quite pleased...

"Yes, this kid is giving such a heavy gift after being gone for so many years. It seems he has truly made something of himself..." Tang Dynasty's boss, Tang Zhi, also nodded and praised, clearly approving of this person.

The other brothers echoed the sentiment, obviously possessing good relationships with the young man, or rather, very familiar ones. At least, his return seemed to elicit genuine joy from them.

"Brother Cheng, who is he...?"

Qin Fang, who was puzzled, couldn't help but ask.

"Song Jie, one of our childhood friends, is the son of Uncle Song, who was once grandpa's bodyguard. Uncle Song died protecting grandfather, and Song Jie grew up with us. He went abroad to study a few years ago, he is quite independent, and hasn't kept in touch with us much these past years. I didn't expect him to come back this time..."

Tang Cheng said with a smile, briefly explaining Song Jie's identity.

"Indeed, it's been years since we last saw Song Jie, and now he's caused such a stir with his sudden appearance..."

Tang Zhi and the others laughed in agreement.

Most of the Tang Family Members held positions in the bureaucracy or military and didn't place much emphasis on wealth. But Song Jie's presenting such a valuable ice type jadeite Maitreya statue at Elder Tang's birthday was a bit too conspicuous...

"Young Master Ling, Young Master Cheng, as far as I know, back when Song Jie was with the Tang Family, he was very attentive to the Tang family's younger sister. I wonder, now that he's back in the country and knows that the little sister of the Tang Family already has someone in her heart, whether he might be a little upset..."

Some people always struggle to see the success of others, especially someone like Qin Fang. While the Tang Family Brothers were happy about the return of their childhood friend, there were immediately those who couldn't resist making such an unpleasant remark.

Chapter 712 - Compare Part 1

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The one who stepped in to stir up trouble was, naturally, Xu Ling's personal attendant, Miao San. He had seen Xu Ling struggling against Qin Fang, seemingly at a disadvantage, and was worrying about how to help Xu Ling out of the dilemma. Who would have thought that a pillow would be delivered right as he was longing for a nap? He gladly accepted it with glee.

However, the timing and target of his words were different, and so was the meaning they conveyed. At least, saying this at such a moment was utterly condemnable!

"Miao San, what do you mean by that?"

As expected, as soon as Miao San spoke, the faces of Tang Zhi, Tang Cheng, among others, changed drastically, especially Qin Fang, who furrowed his brow tightly.

Miao San's words were obviously directed at Qin Fang, but Qin Fang himself felt it was quite unjust. How had someone who appeared out of the blue suddenly become his rival in love?

This was, of course, a testament to Tang Feifei's charm. Before Song Jie went abroad, Tang Feifei was just a girl of fifteen or sixteen, at the age of blooming youth, gradually transitioning from immaturity to maturity. By then, Tang Feifei had already become quite lovely, and it wasn't strange that Song Jie, probably eighteen or nineteen at the time, would be infatuated with her...

Whether Song Jie had feelings for Tang Feifei was not easy to say, but there was indeed such an indication. However, before anything could happen, Song Jie had already gone overseas to study.

As Tang Cheng had mentioned earlier, there had been no news of Song Jie for years, and his return this time was unexpected... and these years happened to be the years Qin Fang and Tang Feifei spent together, gradually getting to know each other, deepening to their current love...

Whether Song Jie had come back for Tang Feifei or not, Qin Fang didn't really care. Everyone has the desire to admire beauty, and he couldn't stop everyone from appreciating a beautiful woman, could he?

But what upset him was Miao San's intention, which was obviously inciting trouble and provoking discord... Indeed, it was to bail out Xu Ling, but the tactic was rather despicable.

"Young Master Xu, I really don't appreciate your fundamental style..."

Tang Cheng was about to blow up on Miao San's side, but Qin Fang didn't intervene. Instead, he looked at Xu Ling with a smile that was not quite a smile, laughing calmly, yet everyone could see the disdain and mockery in Qin Fang's eyes.

It was supposed to be Xu Ling and Qin Fang vying for Tang Feifei, or rather, Xu Ling trying to snatch Tang Feifei away from Qin Fang's side, which was considered normal competition...

But with just one sentence from Miao San, it seemed as though he had declared Xu Ling already defeated, and they were setting up a new adversary for Qin Fang... suggesting vaguely that Xu Ling was now below Song Jie and Qin Fang.

Being belittled by his own attendant was like slapping his own face, and Qin Fang found it hard not to laugh!

Naturally, Xu Ling's face was not looking good either; Miao San might have had good intentions, but his actions had demeaned him, something Xu Ling could not tolerate.

From the beginning, Xu Ling and his group had never considered Qin Fang a real opponent and just saw him as a nouveau riche from the countryside who had soared to great heights by clinging to the Tang Family...

But as events unfolded one after another, Qin Fang had always maintained a more proactive position, while they seemed to be very passive—in fact, Xu Ling had been made to lose face by Qin Fang.

Miao San's intervention not only failed to help Xu Ling but actually added to the chaos...

"Miao San..."

Being mocked by Qin Fang, Xu Ling's face could hardly hang on, and he immediately spoke up, wanting to stop Miao San from continuing to make remarks that were even more outrageous, more embarrassing, and would cause him to lose face.

"Young Master Ling, you shouldn't bother with me today. I, Miao San, have always been straightforward, calling a spade a spade... Young Master Zhi, Young Master Cheng, it's not that I don't give you face, but I have great respect for Old Master Tang, just like for my own grandfather... However, with such respect, I feel that the appearance of some people might tarnish Elder Tang's reputation!"

Miao San waved his hand, stopping Xu Ling mid-sentence, and immediately went on. "To be honest, I used to look down on that lad Song Jie, thought he was a wimp, and didn't shy away from bullying him, but today... I, Miao San, take my hat off to him. At least the birthday gift he presented, I, Miao San, could definitely not match... but some people are different!"

In the end, this sly Miao San finally made it to the heart of the matter. He wanted to make an issue out of the birthday gifts... At this statement, many people's expressions immediately became rather odd.

Xu Ling let out a sigh of relief. Although Miao San's initial words had made him somewhat uncomfortable, now that the conversation had turned to the main topic, Xu Ling felt that this fellow indeed had some skills...

"You want to compare birthday gifts with me?"

Qin Fang's expression was somewhat bizarre. He had given his birthday present to Old Master Tang well before the grand birthday celebration, and after Old Master Tang had taken it, even his private and health-care doctors exclaimed in wonder as his heart problems had all been completely cured.

Tang Cheng had a similar expression. He knew a bit about the Heart Nourishing Pill. When Elder Tang took the Heart Nourishing Pill, he had been watching by his side. Yesterday, when the results were confirmed, he was there too. At that time, Elder Tang had even specifically said, "This medicine from Xiao Qin really cured my illness. I, this old man, must thank him in person..."

Old Master's words had undoubtedly confirmed the powerful effect of Qin Fang's birthday gift. As Elder Tang's grandson, Tang Cheng knew all too well about his grandfather's health problems over the past decades. The Tang family members had always been looking for various remedies and famous doctors to cure him, but to no avail.

Now, a single elixir from Qin Fang had eliminated decades of chronic illness, and Elder Tang's body was noticeably stronger than before. It was estimated that he could live another ten years without any issues!

In light of this, the significance of this Heart Nourishing Pill, this birthday gift, was tremendous. It didn't matter that Song Jie brought a jade Maitreya worth millions. Even a present worth ten times more would be meaningless.

The old master was the pillar of the Tang family. The Tang family had flourished to this day because of Old Master Tang's presence.

As the older generation of revolutionaries passed away, these surviving old masters became even more influential. Many families ended up as second or third rate simply because their older generation had passed, leaving the younger ones without a pillar to rely on, making it difficult for them to stand firm. After a few years or a decade, falling into disarray became inevitable...

As long as Old Master Tang stayed healthy and lived a few more years or even a decade longer, by then the Second Generation of the Tang Family would have already assumed quite high positions. With that, the Tang family's foothold would be completely secured, and they wouldn't fall into decline so quickly.

Old Master's health hadn't been good over the years; it was due to these chronic ailments that he suffered. Now that the hidden illnesses were gone, with careful recuperation, his life expectancy would undoubtedly be extended significantly, and the Tang family would naturally benefit immensely from this.

In this sense, Qin Fang's birthday gift was essentially priceless!

All other gifts paled in comparison to the Heart Nourishing Pill... Although the jade Maitreya was worth a fortune, did the Tang family lack money?

Therefore, it wasn't surprising to see such a reaction from Tang Cheng, who was in the know, when Miao San had the misfortune of crossing the gunpoint.

It was only Tang Zhi and other Tang family members who were not very clear about the situation, all looking at Miao San strangely. It was evident they had not anticipated his motive for doing so.

"Exactly, since you think you're so impressive, then we'd really like to see the birthday gift you gave to the old master..." Miao San was direct and made his intentions clear without any courtesy.

They were numerous and powerful on their side, being young masters and privileged sons from Capital City, with their elders holding positions in the government, most of them ranking quite high. Naturally, they had their own ways of making money.

With money, they could certainly buy very good birthday gifts... As the local lords of Capital City, they looked down on outsiders like Qin Fang.

Qin Fang laughed, gently shook his head, but didn't say much more.

His gift had already been given to Elder Tang, which by now had become the essence of various herbs completely integrated into Elder Tang's body, and it was impossible to take it out again.

He no longer had any Heart Nourishing Pills with him either, and Qin Fang certainly wouldn't waste one just to flaunt his wealth or out of spite.

"What's the matter? Can't take it out? Haha..."

Miao San saw that Qin Fang merely shook his head without any further action and immediately felt that Qin Fang had been struck a painful blow and had chickened out, letting out a very arrogant sneer which drew glances from many people nearby. However, upon realizing the person laughing was Miao San, a notorious figure in the Capital City, they lost interest in the commotion.

"It's not that I can't take it out..."

Qin Fang smiled, maintaining a calm demeanor. He wasn't angry or upset about being a laughingstock, in fact, quite leisurely and seemingly indifferent.

"Hmph, I actually thought you surnamed Qin had some substance, but now it seems... you're nothing special after all!"

Seeing that Qin Fang seemed to be ever more submissive, Miao San was quite proud, full of the smugness of a petty man succeeding. He was obviously very satisfied with his immediate and unquestionable defeat of Qin Fang...

"Don't be smug just yet. My birthday gift is not something you are qualified to evaluate... Some things will naturally become clear over time!" Qin Fang waved his hand, finding the persistent and grating laughter of Miao San, the buffoon, incredibly annoying. Qin Fang had no regard for such a person. Although it seemed like Young Master Xu Ling had been reined in by Qin Fang and was now much more subdued, Qin Fang knew that Miao San's actions were completely driven by...

"Young Master Ling, it's our turn. Let's go... We'll show someone how impressive we, the lords of Capital City, are. A freeloader like him should just go back to the countryside and farm!"

It was almost their group's turn to offer birthday greetings to Elder Tang. Miao San was about to point his finger at Qin Fang and berate him, his attitude was unbearably haughty and brazen!

Chapter 713 - A Thousand Treasures Aren't Worth One Zi Dan_1

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"Alright, let's go..."

At this moment, a brilliant smile finally appeared on Xu Ling's face.

He had been continuously suppressed by Qin Fang since their encounter and was at an absolute disadvantage; this time, however, he had finally found an opportunity to come out on top and was naturally spirited and elated.

His birthday gift was meticulously chosen. The affair with Tang Feifei had put him in a rather passive position. If he didn't step up his game now, once Qin Fang and Tang Feifei's marriage was official, he would be completely out of the picture.

In reality, for children of political families like the Tangs and the Xus, marriage had never been about freedom; it was always about the union of interests, whether these interests combined and grew larger, or formed alliances to face a crisis together...

In any case, an autonomous marital choice like Tang Feifei's was exceedingly rare within such families... but as long as Old Master Tang truly gave his blessing in just one sentence, this could still be altered.

Xu Ling believed that he was superior to Qin Fang in every aspect, and with his identity, background, and capabilities which far surpassed his peers, it was no surprise that he remained at the top of the list of Tang Feifei's suitors.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that Qin Fang was utterly unworthy of the flawless Tang Feifei; only he was the best choice for her.

Although he was momentarily unable to do anything about Tang Feifei, he felt that Qin Fang, that "pretty boy," had already charmed her. Relying solely on his own efforts would still be quite difficult to change her mind.

The most fundamental and convenient change would start with Old Master Tang. As long as the old man said a word, any of Qin Fang's sweet nothings would become useless; in the end, it would be Xu Ling who triumphed, winning the beauty's heart...

To change Old Master Tang's mind, one had to cater to his interests. As long as the old man was pleased, things might become much easier to handle.

Usually, even if he wanted to give gifts, there was no proper occasion to do so, but this time it was Old Master Tang's milestone birthday—a truly excellent opportunity. Thus, Xu Ling came fully prepared...

"Elder Tang, I wish you longevity, blessing, and health!"

Xu Ling was the leader of their group. Each person carried their own birthday gift and headed towards Old Master Tang. Although they were from the younger generation, they were, in fact, representatives of their Family elders.

This practice was very normal. After all, not all of the country's dignitaries could leave their posts at will. If they were preoccupied with official duties, it was common for their children and nephews to attend in their stead.

"Elder Tang, I know you have a profound love for calligraphy. Fortunately, I have in my collection a piece of calligraphy from the Song Dynasty master Mi Fu, the 'Cold Light Manuscript'... Please accept it with joy!"

Xu Ling's gift was truly extraordinary; his birthday gift was not just any calligraphy scroll, but an authentic work by the famous Song Dynasty calligrapher Mi Fu, a piece of immense value.

Elder Tang was of literary origins and although he put down his pen to take up arms, he retained a fervent passion for calligraphy, especially in his later years, using it to temper his spirit...

That is also why when Tang Cheng and Ning Weiqiang prepared their gifts, they prioritized various calligraphic works and scrolls; as for other antiques, porcelain, and jade, Elder Tang wasn't too concerned about them.

Song Jie, who came before, had brought an exquisite jade Buddha worth a fortune. However, neither Qin Fang nor Xu Ling took him seriously.

Perhaps Song Jie did have intentions to pursue Tang Feifei, but the mere fact that his gifts were wide of the mark showed he was on a completely different level; Elder Tang didn't have much interest in gold, silver, and jade items, which always gave off a rather mercenary impression...

"Good, good, good..."

Indeed, upon seeing such an authentic Mi Fu calligraphy scroll, Elder Tang's face broke into a splendid smile. The gift clearly struck a chord with him, very much to his taste.

Those who appreciate calligraphy are like that; although they know the item is of great value, they can't help but admire it once it's in their hands.

Elder Tang truly cherished the calligraphy and wouldn't put it down once he held it... Xu Ling's face also beamed, as he immediately threw a triumphant look towards Qin Fang.

"Qin Fang, it's our turn now..."

Qin Fang and his party were at the neighboring table to Xu Ling's, and as they were also members of the Tang Family, their turn to present their gifts had almost come. They, too, needed to start moving towards Elder Tang...

Tang Cheng signaled, and the people from their table immediately carried their carefully selected gifts towards Elder Tang...

Of course, Qin Fang was among them. His own birthday gift had already been delivered, but he also had a gift from his mother for Old Master Tang.

"Grandfather, this is my gift to you..."

"Grandfather, this is my gift to you..."

"Grandpa, this is my gift to you..."

Being Tang Family members, Tang Cheng and the others had all meticulously chosen their gifts, including a couple of calligraphy scrolls as well as some notable paintings... They had all tried to align closely with the old man's preferences, eschewing the more superfluous gifts like gold, silver, and jade items.

"Young Master Qin, you're the only one left. Let's see what birthday gift you have for Elder Tang..."

Miao San, Xu Ling, and their group had not left. Instead, they awaited eagerly to see Qin Fang's drama unfold, for they had noticed the somewhat rustic wooden box—grudgingly termed a Brocade Box—in Qin Fang's hands.

Chapter 714 - A Thousand Treasures Aren't Worth One Zi Dan_2

Qin Fang merely smiled faintly and did not take the words of Miao San to heart. Instead, he respectfully presented the brocade box with both hands, "Elder Tang, I wish you longevity as enduring as the mountains and rivers... On behalf of my mother, I offer this birthday gift!"

"Good, good child..."

Elder Tang's face was adorned with a brilliant smile. He was still holding a true piece by Mi Fu and had not yet put it away, yet he showed an extremely appreciative expression toward Qin Fang.

At that moment, Qin Fang gently opened the brocade box, displaying its contents.

"Haha... It's actually... actually a bullet!"

As soon as Miao San saw what was inside the brocade box, his eyes nearly popped out of their sockets. However, he soon burst into laughter, emitting such a low scoff.

After all, since Elder Tang was present, Miao San could be as powerful and impressive to Qin Fang as he pleased, but he wouldn't dare to overstep his bounds in front of Old Master Tang.

If he did, not only would those from the Tang Family not spare this youngster, but once he returned to the Miao Family, Patriarch Miao wouldn't spare him either.

The older generation might have disputes and differences, which are political oppositions, but in life, they were comrades who had gone through life and death together, who had fought side by side for the territory they now possessed. Coupled with their advanced ages, the least amount of respect was mandatory...

Miao San's disrespect toward Elder Tang was not just losing face for himself but also for Patriarch Miao, enough to beat him to death.

The whispers from Miao San, although mocking Qin Fang, were audible only to those around him, including Qin Fang himself. His senses were extremely sharp, and such a small distance was not enough to hinder him.

Qin Fang wasn't particularly concerned about this and carefully handled the brocade box in his hands. Since this was the birthday gift his mother had sent for Old Master Tang's grand celebration, no matter how unreliable or outrageous it was, Qin Fang would still carry out the task with due diligence.

Miao San's scoffing could not dampen Old Master Tang's mood...

He knew that Qin Fang's gift for this birthday was a Heart Nourishing Pill, which he had already received and ingested, but he had not expected Qin Fang to have a second gift...

Yet when he looked at the rusty bullet lying quietly inside the brocade box with eyes misty with a rare fog, he became exceptionally agitated. His cloudy eyes immediately shot out dazzling beams, and his body trembled slightly. His hands instinctively reached out, wanting to touch the rusty bullet inside the box.

Old Master Tang's hands were shaking, and his expression was filled with incredible excitement. Seeing this bullet seemed to him like seeing a relative, an expression so poignant that Qin Fang thought it difficult to describe with words.

"Could this bullet be hiding some secret?" Qin Fang immediately wondered, as it was clear that his mother, Qin Qing, had not casually entrusted him with this gift for Elder Tang—it seemed she had always known the bullet held a very special significance!

"Elder Tang..."

Seeing Elder Tang's reaction, and filled with curiosity, Qin Fang couldn't help but call out tentatively.

Only then did Elder Tang recover from his trance-like state, having already taken the bullet in hand without minding its rusty condition. He caressed the bullet gently with his withered palm, and his eyes, surprisingly, became misty, showing an extraordinary reaction.

"Xiao Qin, this bullet... who gave it to you?"

Elder Tang, thus called by Qin Fang, raised his head, looking at Qin Fang standing before him, and asked in a very uneasy tone.

At that moment, Elder Tang no longer seemed like the awe-inspiring figure of renown but just an old man with wildly fluctuating thoughts. It was lucky that his heart condition had been cured by the Heart Nourishing Pill, for such excitement could easily have provoked a serious medical episode...

"It was given to me by my mother... Before this, I had never seen it!"

Qin Fang spoke frankly. This trip home made him feel as though his mother, with whom he had lived for nearly twenty years, had suddenly become a stranger, hiding many things from him, including these unexpected items and... his own identity!

Now it seemed that Elder Tang did recognize the bullet, and Qin Fang pondered that he could use this very bullet to learn about his own origins.

"Did your mother give it to you?"

Elder Tang was momentarily taken aback, clearly very surprised by such an answer, his eyes filled with considerable confusion.

Smack~~

But then, Elder Tang slapped his thigh forcefully, his face registering an epiphany as he exclaimed, "Right! Your surname is also Qin, how did I not think of it... How could I have not thought of it..."

Suddenly, Elder Tang became very excited, his breathing turning much more rapid, which frightened Qin Fang so much that he quickly flipped his wrist, and a silver needle appeared between his fingers, then with the speed of lightning, he inserted it into Elder Tang's body.

"Impudent!"

"Stop!"

"How dare you..."

However, Qin Fang's sudden move against Elder Tang immediately incensed the Imperial Guards who followed by his side. They bellowed in fury and charged towards Qin Fang...

Qin Fang's expression remained unchanged. These Imperial Guards were personally assigned to protect Elder Tang, and they would attack anyone who posed a threat to him. Such a move was undoubtedly a very dangerous signal.

The strength of these Imperial Guards was formidable, two being Level 5 Peak Experts and one even a Level 6 Grandmaster. They were far beyond what Qin Fang could currently compare with.

Together, the three of them unleashed a staggering momentum, so potent that even those nearby could feel the immense pressure. The likes of Xu Ling, Miao San, and other weaker Young Masters changed color instantaneously, clearly unaccustomed to the violent palm energy of these Inner Sect Experts.

While they were merely oppressed by the momentum, Qin Fang was squarely in the eye of the whirlpool, with almost all the formidable pressure bearing down on him alone, causing his clothes to flap wildly and his skin to ripple like water waves under the force of the Inner Breath...

"Haha, this is just perfect, I hope they slap him to death..."

Witnessing this scene, Miao San, Xu Ling, and the others were full of anticipation. By now, how could they not know about the terrifying strength of these Imperial Guards? It seemed a single slap could squash them to death.

And now that Qin Fang was the target, of course, they couldn't wait for the Imperial Guards to strike harder and directly eliminate Qin Fang, which would save them a lot of trouble.

"Stop!"

But just as the Imperial Guards' fists and palm energy were about to hit Qin Fang, Elder Tang suddenly bellowed, immediately dissolving their fluid attack like clouds and flowing water.

The previously frightening aura had vanished, and the sharp palm winds had disappeared without a trace, as if they had never existed.

The pressure on everyone around had also dissipated, and everyone's faces returned to normal!

"I'm fine, stand down..."

Elder Tang immediately ordered, before continuing to look at Qin Fang standing in front of him.

Family knows their own affairs best. Elder Tang's chronic heart condition had been cured, but with his advanced age came other ailments, such as a condition resembling asthma that could be triggered by excitement, which, if not treated in time, could be quite troublesome.

Qin Fang's needle was intended to alleviate such symptoms. It's just that he moved without saying anything, which led the Imperial Guards to believe Qin Fang intended to harm Elder Tang, prompting their fierce response.

Yet, Qin Fang's reaction clearly impressed everyone. Outsiders like Xu Ling, Miao San, who felt weak at the knees from just the momentum, saw Qin Fang face the robust palm energy and Inner Breath without so much as a change in his expression, showcasing a courage and spirit far superior to theirs...

Chapter 715 - The Mystery of One's Background_1

...

After Old Master Tang gave the command, the three Imperial Guards returned to his side; their auras reverted to the calm state of before, but the sharpness in their eyes hadn't completely vanished.

Now, nobody dared to underestimate these three plain-looking Imperial Guards anymore, and that included Xu Ling and the other scions from elite families.

"Everything alright?"

At this moment, Elder Tang's expression had considerably improved, and his gaze towards Qin Fang had become exceedingly affectionate—as if the more he looked at him, the more he liked him, and he even asked with great concern.

"I'm fine..."

Qin Fang gently nodded in response.

While such a forceful suppression of presence was indeed powerful, it mainly had a stronger effect on ordinary people, the majority of whom were Level 1. But the three Imperial Guards were at least Level 5 Experts, a difference of four full levels—solely this level suppression was extremely formidable. It wasn't strange that Xu Ling and the others were frightened.

In comparison, Qin Fang and Tang Cheng fared much better. The difference in levels wasn't too large, so the effect of level suppression was much less significant. Moreover, Qin Fang's Inner Breath was

particularly potent; although he was Level 4, the strength of his Inner Breath was on par with a Level 5 Inner Sect Expert... In this way, Qin Fang was even more at ease than Tang Cheng.

"It's their duty, don't take it personally..."

Elder Tang had already been very pleased with Qin Fang, and now even more so. The effect of the bullet he held amplified his regard for Qin Fang, and his tone became unusually gentle.

Qin Fang merely smiled lightly and didn't take it to heart.

Those three guards were Elder Tang's personal protectors and had taken action purely to ensure his safety. Qin Fang harbored no ill will against them; such loyalty to one's master was a sign of true character.

Seeing that Qin Fang wasn't perturbed, Elder Tang nodded and then turned his attention to Tang Cheng, giving him a brief instruction.

"Xiao Cheng, make a trip yourself, and invite Grandpa Chu over... tell him I have something important to discuss with him!"

Tang Cheng was slightly taken aback, clearly not expecting the old master to make such arrangements, and immediately asked with a puzzled tone, "Grandpa, Grandpa Chu hasn't been in good health, I'm afraid that..."

"Don't ask too many questions. Give this to him, and he will naturally come..."

Elder Patriarch Tang handed the bullet Qin Fang had brought over to Tang Cheng with great solemnity and reluctance, as if the bullet were an incredibly important treasure.

"Yes, Grandpa, I'll go right away..."

Tang Cheng also knew that the bullet probably related to something important between the two old masters; otherwise, it wouldn't have elicited such a strong reaction.

Elder Tang had a deep passion for calligraphy, and the Mi Fu's "Cold Light Manuscript" that Xu Ling had just presented made the old master exceedingly happy and he was nearly inseparable from it.

However, as soon as the bullet appeared, the old master seemed to become a completely different person. Now, the "Cold Light Manuscript" was like trash, tossed aside without a second glance as if he didn't even have the energy to care for it anymore.

Xu Ling had been extremely excited, feeling that his chances of success had greatly increased. Especially when Qin Fang presented a rusty bullet as a birthday gift, he was mockingly jeering under his breath; but in reality, Xu Ling was secretly delighted...

Yet, by this outcome, he was now deeply hurt—and it was a serious wound.

"Xiao Qin, come with me... Yong Dong, I'll leave things here to you!"

Particularly unimaginable to Xu Ling and the others was the fact that Elder Patriarch Tang actually stood up and softly took Qin Fang by the hand, as both headed towards the resting room inside the banquet hall.

As they passed by the table where Tang Feifei and the others were seated, the old master made a point to wave at Tang Feifei, beckoning his most beloved granddaughter to join them.

Qin Fang was still thoroughly confused; he did know that the bullet his mother had asked him to bring held some special significance, and his mother Qin Qing knew even more so that the bullet was related to Elder Tang...

But the question was... How could a mere woman like his mother Qin Qing have such a special connection with a great figure like Elder Tang?

It was an unsolved mystery!

Clearly, Qin Qing had hidden many things from Qin Fang, especially regarding his origin...

The group entered the resting room. Those three Imperial Guards naturally stayed close for protection. Additionally, healthcare doctors and service staff were in attendance, busy with fetching water and brewing tea.

"Qin Fang, what exactly is going on..."

Tang Feifei was also feeling dizzy. The birthday gift Qin Fang gave was a Heart Nourishing Pill, which she personally handed over to Old Master Tang, and she even watched Old Master Tang take it, curing the long-standing illness he had suffered from. But she didn't know that Qin Fang had prepared another birthday gift... and caused such a big commotion.

"I don't know either..."

Qin Fang also had a bitter smile on his face. If he had known it would turn out like this, he wouldn't have given it at this time. Now the birthday banquet was going sour.

"You two stop whispering. I know what you're guessing. Wait till Old Chu arrives, he'll tell you..."

Sitting on the side, Old Master Tang, who had just taken a sip of tea to calm his emotions, immediately said with a smile, his gaze towards Qin Fang and Tang Feifei growing even softer.

With that statement from Old Master Tang, both Tang Feifei and Qin Fang quieted down, their hearts filled with anticipation.

Just as Old Master Tang said, although Elder Chu was advanced in age and not in the best of health, when Tang Cheng took that bullet to him, he almost didn't wait for Tang Cheng to speak before he insisted on coming over. The people of the Chu Family tried to persuade him, but couldn't stop him at all...

This commotion was indeed a nuisance, causing the people of the Chu Family to blame Tang Cheng for causing trouble. Tang Cheng, on the other hand, complained about Qin Fang giving him trouble... His wife was from the Chu Family, and he might not even get to sleep in his own bed tonight!

Elder Chu was over ninety years old. He wasn't a leader but a scholar who educated people. Over the decades, countless students had emerged from under his tutelage, truly an example of widespread influence.

It was because of this that, although Elder Chu was not a national leader, he was still a very formidable figure. Many leaders would consider themselves his disciples, and many of them had emerged from under his wing. Old Master Chu also enjoyed the treatment of a National Scholar.

The Chu Family might not be considered a prominent clan in Capital City, but generally, people would not provoke the Chu Family members willingly, after all, such a network of connections was something many dared not ignore.

These were the pieces of information Qin Fang had received from Tang Feifei, but it only made him even more puzzled. This bullet was somehow related to these two completely unrelated Old Masters, and things seemed to be getting more mysterious.

However, confused as he was, Qin Fang knew that once Elder Chu arrived, everything would become clear.

"Where is the person? Where is he?"

They didn't have to wait too long before a vigorous voice of an old man came from outside, sounding quite hurried and anxious. The door to the rest room was almost kicked open from the outside.

Qin Fang's gaze immediately focused on the door, and he saw Tang Cheng supporting an elderly man with white hair who seemed quite frail. Elder Chu's trembling hand was holding the bullet that Qin Fang had sent out.

This man was obviously the Elder Chu they were waiting for. Although Tang Cheng had said that Elder Chu's health didn't seem very good, he appeared to be relatively healthy... But his emphatic entrance made him seem more like a general than a scholar.

"Is it you?"

While Qin Fang was taking note of Elder Chu, Elder Chu looked around the rest area and immediately focused his gaze on Qin Fang.

The room didn't have many people, just Elder Tang, three Imperial Guards, Qin Fang, and Tang Feifei—six people in total. Elder Chu would certainly recognize Elder Tang and the three Imperial Guards... As for Tang Feifei, even though he didn't really remember her, Tang Cheng had mentioned Qin Fang before coming, so he naturally ruled her out.

"Elder Chu..."

Qin Fang bowed slightly and called out respectfully. He held great respect for such a world-renowned scholar, and naturally, his tone was very polite, not to mention this Old Master seemed to know about the bullet and appeared to be aware of Qin Fang's origins...

"So alike, strikingly alike..."

As Qin Fang spoke, Elder Chu examined him very closely and then said with great excitement, "Old Tang, don't you think he looks like him..."

"Indeed, he is very similar..."

Elder Tang also nodded solemnly and said, "When I first saw him, I only felt that he looked familiar. Only after seeing this bullet was I certain... Alas, I should have realized it sooner!"

As Elder Tang spoke, he seemed quite regretful, but the more he said so, the more Qin Fang felt that the mystery of his origins was about to be unraveled.

"Elder Tang, Elder Chu..."

In the face of such a situation, Qin Fang's move, even if somewhat presumptuous, was eager not to miss this opportunity and he quickly spoke out.

"Xiao Qin, don't be anxious... sit down first. Anything you need to know, we two old guys won't hide from you..." Elder Tang waved his hand, interrupting what Qin Fang was about to say, and softly advised him.

Elder Chu sat down as well, passing the bullet to Elder Tang, but his eyes were still fixed on Qin Fang, his smile growing brighter and brighter.

His gaze made Qin Fang think it resembled the way Old Master Tang had looked at his much-loved "Cold Light Manuscript" a moment ago...

Tang Feifei, who sat down next to Qin Fang, was similarly befuddled. Qin Fang at least had an inkling about something, but she couldn't understand how her beloved could be connected to her grandfather and Elder Chu of the Chu Family... Without a doubt, all the answers to the mysteries lay with this single bullet.

Chapter 716 - So that's how it is..._1

...

"In fact, when Feifei first mentioned Xiao Qin to me, I had already sent someone to investigate. Xiao Qin's mother's last name was Qin, and I had assumed that Xiao Qin was following his mother's surname..."

Elder Tang spoke solemnly. As the helmsman of the Tang Family and with such a unique identity, it was impossible for the Tang Family not to conduct an investigation into Qin Fang's background.

Qin Fang understood this well; the Tang Family couldn't possibly accept someone whose background was unknown or who might have ulterior motives into their midst.

Many members of the Tang Family were evidently aware of this investigation's results, even someone like Chen Shijie, who wasn't held in high regard among Tang Family Members, knew. There was no need to mention the others.

Qin Fang bore the Qin surname, and his mother, Qin Qing, also bore the Qin surname. Combined with their life as a mother and son alone for over a decade, it was naturally assumed that Qin Fang had taken his mother's surname, a fairly common occurrence in Dragon Country.

Yet, with the appearance of this bullet, Elder Tang realized they might have been mistaken from the very beginning, while also inadvertently linking Qin Fang to this bullet.

"Qin Siyuan... Xiao Qin, have you ever heard this name before?"

While reflecting, Elder Tang suddenly mentioned this name.

Qin Fang was slightly stunned, his eyes filled with bewilderment, before he gently shook his head, not recognizing the name from his memories.

"As expected, your mother hid many things from you... What about Qin Tiannan?"

Elder Tang seemed unsurprised by this reaction and immediately brought up another name.

Qin Fang remained perplexed, almost reflexively shaking his head again, but then he abruptly stopped; he realized that this name seemed vaguely familiar, a mere trace within his memories.

"It seems... It seems I have heard it before..."

His specific memories were already blurred, perhaps he had heard it once or twice when he was very young, so long ago that even with Qin Fang's memory, he couldn't recollect it completely. Maybe he heard the name when he just began to form lasting memories.

"If I am not mistaken, Qin Tiannan should be your father, and Qin Siyuan, your grandfather... also an old friend and lifesaver of us two old men!"

Elder Tang spoke with emotion, unable to resist touching the bullet in his hand that was clearly closely linked to Qin Siyuan.

"My father, my grandfather..."

This was the first time Qin Fang ever learned of his lineage; his mother, Qin Qing, had never mentioned any of it, always keeping it hidden. Whatever her reason might have been, it seemed she wanted Elder Tang to reveal the secret to Qin Fang through this bullet.

Elder Tang continued to narrate the story, "Actually, this involves that great calamity. During that catastrophe, Old Chu and I faced persecution. It was already the end of the disaster at that time, just the last desperate act of certain individuals. Old Qin sacrificed his life to save us but was shot and killed... Old Qin took a bullet for us, and this bullet is..."

Qin Fang was taken aback. He had never imagined that this bullet was entwined with such affairs. The two bullets were originally meant to assassinate Elder Tang and Elder Chu, but his grandfather had intercepted one and saved the two elders. Although Qin Fang didn't know how the bullet had been preserved, he now understood why Elder Tang and Elder Chu were so moved upon seeing this bullet...

"We were saved, and the calamity soon ended. We both regained our ordinary lives and found this bullet, which we then gave to your father. We also made a promise that should the descendants of the Qin Family ever come to us with this bullet, the Tang and Chu Families would provide their full support..."

"Although decades have passed and Old Qin has long since been exonerated, your father... that is to say, Qin Tiannan, has never been able to let go of the incident. Over twenty years ago, he disappeared suddenly, and despite my extensive search, there was no trace to be found..."

Qin Fang listened quietly to these events as if they were about a grandfather and father he had never known; it was hard for him to fully immerse himself in this newly unveiled history.

"Xiao Qin, now that you have come to us holding this bullet, no matter what you request, the Tang and Chu Families will provide their full support..."

Elder Tang declared firmly, and Old Chu by his side nodded in agreement. Such figures from an older generation would never forget a debt of gratitude as significant as this owed to the Qin Family. Otherwise, they could have easily acted as if nothing ever happened upon seeing this bullet...

But Qin Fang simply shook his head, "Elder Tang, Elder Chu, I have no requests..."

In fact, Qin Fang couldn't believe his origin could be so simple in just a moment; Elder Tang had mentioned earlier that his father, Qin Tiannan, had disappeared for more than twenty years. Yet, Qin Fang was not yet twenty years old; he had relied on his mother, Qin Qing, for more than a decade... He never saw his father, and not even his mother Qin Qing ever mentioned him. Now he was expected to just accept Qin Tiannan as his father; that was truly...very difficult!

Qin Fang wanted to ask his mother, Qin Qing, whether this was the reality that had been hidden for over a decade...but Qin Fang knew that his mom would never tell him the answer, otherwise, she wouldn't have used such a method.

"Xiao Qin, I understand the concerns in your heart, Qin Siyuan is your grandfather, Qin Tiannan is your father, there's no doubt about it. You look almost exactly like Siyuan did when he was young, and you also resemble Tiannan by seventy to eighty percent! There's definitely no need to doubt your heritage..."

Elder Tang's affection for Qin Fang was indeed genuine. He looked at Qin Fang with the same fondness he had for his precious granddaughter, Tang Feifei.

"That's right, Xiao Qin, if you have any difficulties, you can come to me at any time. Even if you can't find a wife, I, the old man, will introduce my granddaughter or great-granddaughter to you... one is not enough, I can introduce two!"

Elder Chu was even more straightforward. The old man was really generous, offering his granddaughter and great-granddaughter outright...

"Uh..."

Qin Fang was immediately taken aback. He had just met the two elders and wasn't yet familiar with their temperaments. Elder Chu's words had stunned him thoroughly.

"Oh, how could I forget this! Old Chu, you've got the wrong idea this time. In the future, Xiao Qin will marry my granddaughter Feifei. We are one family..."

Only then did Elder Tang remember that Qin Fang and Tang Feifei were a pair of young lovers. He had initially been pleased with Qin Fang simply because his precious granddaughter Feifei liked him. Now, realizing that this prospective grandson-in-law was actually the grandson of an old friend, he was overjoyed...

Now, seeing Elder Chu plainly vying with him, he naturally launched a strong counterattack immediately.

"That's none of your business, I'm happy to give them away for free..."

Elder Chu was apparently quite stubborn and immediately got more enthusiastic. Instead of backing down, he became even more animated, "Xiao Qin, let me tell you, my family's girls are all as beautiful as flowers, each one gentle, virtuous, and cultured, making them the best candidates for marriage..."

Hearing this, Qin Fang was sweating bullets, thinking to himself, "Is this nonagenarian really the famous scholar known for his illustrious students? Why does he sound like the go-between Wang Po who pimps for Ximen Qing..."

"What's there to be afraid of, having three wives and four concubines is quite normal! Back in my day, I also... *cough cough*, I came from the old society, not like some obstinate old men..."

But Elder Chu, seeing Qin Fang's expression, did not back down and instead grew even more eager, as if he wouldn't rest until he had pulled Qin Fang into the Chu Family as a son-in-law.

Old Master Tang's face was quite strange, not so much because Elder Chu called him "an obstinate old man," but because the Tang Family members had already investigated Qin Fang and knew that there was more than one woman by Qin Fang's side, a fact even Tang Feifei was aware of but not keen to manage, leaving the women to get along remarkably well with each other.

This time Qin Fang returned to the capital to celebrate the elder's birthday, and the elder had intended to warn Qin Fang, since the Tang Family's son-in-law couldn't play around too much, after all, Tang Feifei was the one he would truly marry, so other women couldn't overshadow her.

But with this unexpected turn of events, the elder now found himself at a loss for words...

If Qin Fang knew what Old Master Tang was thinking, he would probably have given his mom Qin Qing a thumbs-up, as it seemed her actions had inadvertently helped to defuse such a crisis.

Tang Feifei was also smiling wryly to herself. The Tang and Chu Families were very close, and her sister-in-law was from the Chu Family. Normally, the sisters from both families got along incredibly well, too.

Her return to the capital was not only to celebrate her grandfather's birthday but also to let the Chu sisters have a look at her ideal man...

Before they even had the chance to meet, those sisters from the Chu Family were already being used by Elder Chu to compete for her man... She knew Elder Chu's temperament well, as her grandfather would describe him as "an old hooligan"...

Seeing Qin Fang's somewhat dazed expression, she couldn't help but twist his thigh viciously, causing Qin Fang to wince in pain.

"Wife, I haven't done anything wrong..."

Qin Fang winced in pain, and upon seeing Tang Feifei's little display, he immediately knew she was feeling a touch of jealousy. He caught her little hand and whispered to Tang Feifei.

"Who is your wife..."

With Qin Fang addressing her in such a manner, Tang Feifei's cheeks flushed with a touch of coquettish anger, though she didn't really take it to heart. Otherwise, Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan would have been enough to make her jealous...

Chapter 717 - Fulfilling My Wishes_1

...

"Old Chu, did you see that... those two sweethearts are really in love, so stop stirring up trouble!"

Qin Fang and Tang Feifei's little gestures naturally didn't escape the notice of the two old masters, and Elder Tang immediately teased Elder Chu with a chuckle.

"Don't you get smug, let's just wait and see... Humph!"

Elder Chu seemed to feel that he had been too aggressive earlier, frightening Qin Fang, which now gave Elder Tang a chance to retaliate.

Although he was an old scholar, he was not at all stodgy; in fact, he was exceedingly open-minded, which had a great deal to do with the era he once lived in.

He was indeed a famous contemporary scholar, but in reality, he was born into a landlord family and had once enjoyed the good days of having three wives and four concubines. Although he had become much quieter with age, he had lived that life after all, and naturally wouldn't be too averse to these things.

In comparison, Elder Tang naturally couldn't compete. After all, he had once been a leader, with the country's laws right there, so he couldn't very well start by breaking them himself, even if Elder Chu called him an "old-fashioned old man." He could only smile helplessly and had no good retort.

"Xiao Qin, today is Elder Tang's big birthday, so I won't make it difficult for him... but when you have some free time, you must come to my house. There are still some things left there by your grandfather that I need to pass on to you!"

Elder Chu knew that his plan couldn't succeed just yet, and considering today was Elder Tang's big birthday, both were advanced in years and had been close friends for decades. A little joking was nothing, but he wouldn't forget the important matters.

"The youngster will definitely visit!"

Qin Fang immediately stood up and respectfully uttered a response.

Although he was momentarily unable to accept it, the facts stated by Elder Tang and Elder Chu confirmed that he indeed was Qin Siyuan's grandson and Qin Tiannan's son. Even if he had never met these two, he was still a Qin Family member, and there were some things he ought to retrieve...

Not for anything else, but merely to reclaim the relics of his elders, was a duty he should fulfill as a descendant.

"Good, good, good... Old man, I'm waiting for you at home!"

Elder Chu repeated the word 'good' three times, his gaze upon Qin Fang now filled with increasing fondness. He couldn't stay out too long due to his age, and since it was Elder Tang's big birthday, he couldn't delay matters further and, after notifying Elder Tang, left for home accompanied by Tang Cheng.

But just before he left, Qin Fang faintly heard Elder Chu muttering, "I should call all those girls back, can't let Elder Tang get there first..."

As a result, Qin Fang instantly had a whole forehead filled with black lines!

Elder Chu arrived quickly and left just as swiftly, as if not even having the time to stay for a drink.

However, his arrival was marked by great urgency, clearly due to the news of the descendants of a deceased old friend, which caused him to be so anxious and nervous. After all, Qin Fang's father, Qin Tiannan, had disappeared without a trace over twenty years ago.

But his departure seemed much more relaxed, almost as if he had forgotten about his bodily ailments; this was because he had released decades of concern from his heart. At least news of his old friend's descendant had surfaced, and it seemed that Qin Fang was living rather well. Naturally, Elder Chu could relax a lot more.

Elder Chu's body had also been briefly scanned by Qin Fang just now. Although Qin Fang possessed the miraculous Acupuncture Secret Technique, The Nine Revival Needles, it was of little help to an old man like Elder Chu, whose body was already decrepit and organs were degenerating...

"What are you thinking about?"

While Qin Fang was lost in thought, he felt a gentle push on his body and heard Tang Feifei's inquisitive voice close to his ear.

"Nothing..."

Qin Fang smiled and softly, tenderly replied.

"Hmph, you must be thinking about Elder Chu's Sister... Let me tell you the truth, if you really went after Elder Chu's Sister, it would definitely be a tragedy!"

Tang Feifei said with a face full of smiles, her eyes sparkling with mischief. Whether her words were true or false was something only she knew.

"What are you talking about! I don't even know them... How many women in the world could be more enchanting than my wife? I like my Feifei the Little Wet Nurse the most..."

Qin Fang had become quite the slick talker himself, knowing exactly what to say at what time. He softly pinched Tang Feifei's cheek, and then whispered into her ear.

"Tsk..."

Tang Feifei had not expected Qin Fang to suddenly say something like that and immediately spat out a rebuke.

The nickname Feifei the Little Wet Nurse was just given by Qin Fang to Tang Feifei, mainly because he had just conquered Tang Feifei's 'second base', taking control of her quite impressive twin peaks. Given Tang Feifei's figure, the title really seemed rather fitting, and Qin Fang had cheekily made the comment, causing Tang Feifei to coyly protest, though she was also quite proud of it...

But Feifei, Muxue, and Wen Yan were indeed the most suitable for such a nickname.

However, Qin Fang hadn't expected to use it to tease her now, let alone in front of the old masters, and Tang Feifei naturally felt it was too much to handle. Unable to express her feelings out loud, she could only retort with a light spit.

Chapter 718 - Fulfilling My Wishes_2

"Alright, it's about time, let's go out..."

The old man was very pleased with the affectionate teasing between the young couple, and now that the worry he had harbored for decades finally had a place to rest, his heart was filled with joy. He immediately led the two youngsters out, after all, the birthday banquet outside was still ongoing...

As Old Master Tang spoke, Qin Fang and Tang Feifei naturally did not dare to disobey, so Tang Feifei and Qin Fang, one on each side, personally assisted Old Master Tang out of the resting room and towards the banquet hall; even though Elder Tang's health was still pretty good and he could walk unaided, this was an act of demeanor, a true gesture of the Tang Family Members accepting Qin Fang.

If before, Old Master Tang's acceptance of Qin Fang was mainly due to Tang Feifei's affection for him, now he truly regarded Qin Fang as his own grandson.

When such a scene unfolded, many people were quite astonished, like Xu Ling, Miao San, and those who eyed Qin Fang with envy and hostility. Not to mention the Second and Third Generations of Tang Family...

In comparison, the guests who came to give their birthday wishes mostly didn't know the full story and were relatively more accepting; it was enough for them to remember that Qin Fang was part of the Tang family.

"Xiao Qin, you and Feifei sit here..."

Having helped Elder Tang to his main seat, Elder Tang surprisingly invited the two of them to sit there as well. It should be noted that aside from the three members of the Second Generation of Tang Family, the rest at this table were extremely influential figures...

"Grandfather Tang, I think I'll go sit with Brother Cheng and the others..."

Qin Fang gave a wry smile. Sitting with such a group of high-ranking officials, he felt uncomfortable just thinking about it. He found it easier to communicate with the younger crowd.

"Heh, that's fine too..."

Elder Tang thought for a moment, noticing the surprised looks from everyone at the table, and didn't insist any further.

Qin Fang immediately made a respectful gesture to all those present and then slipped back to their respective tables with Tang Feifei. Clearly, Tang Feifei didn't like sitting at that table either.

"Dad, what's this about..."

With Qin Fang and Tang Feifei gone, the three Tang brothers looked at each other in confusion until Elder Tang finally spoke up to ask.

"Heh, even if you didn't ask, I was going to tell you today. Actually, Xiao Qin is your Uncle Qin's grandson... I only found out about it just now!"

With everything clear, it was obvious that Qin Fang's identity had to be made known to all Tang Family Members, otherwise, it might lead to problems in the future, so Elder Tang directly informed the three Tang brothers.

"Uncle Qin?"

The three brothers were momentarily startled, trying to recall which relative had the surname Qin... But it seemed that among the elder's close friends, none bore the name Qin, except...

"Dad, are you saying..."

Suddenly, Qin Fang's father-in-law-to-be, Secretary Tang, thought of someone and became very excited, while the other two brothers also quickly came to the same realization.

"That's right, Xiao Qin is Tiannan's son..."

Although no one said the name, Elder Tang knew his three sons had guessed who it was and nodded in affirmation.

When Qin Tiannan left, he was about the same age as Qin Fang is now, a few years younger than the youngest of the Tang Family Brothers, Tang Yongming, but the Tang Family Brothers knew him well.

After more than twenty years without news, Old Master Tang had always been concerned, and the Tang Family Brothers had not given up searching either, especially Elder Tang, who had used his National Security connections to conduct a secret investigation. Yet, Qin Tiannan had vanished without a trace...

For this reason, they had assumed that Qin Tiannan might have met with an accident and died, to spare their father the worry and the grief; throughout these twenty years, they rarely mentioned his name.

But what they never expected was this mysterious twist of fate, that Tang Feifei would fall in love with the son of Qin Tiannan...

"Yes, perhaps it's fate!"

Old Master Tang too felt a surge of emotions; the meeting between Qin Fang and Tang Feifei was completely coincidental, and their falling in love with each other was an even greater coincidence within a coincidence.

Just when the Tang Family Members had no objections, they allowed Qin Fang to come to Beijing and celebrate a birthday, revealing the secret and fulfilling Old Master Tang's longstanding wish.

The Tang Family Members all knew the life-saving debt they owed to Qin Siyuan, and the mysterious disappearance of Qin Tiannan had been a thorn in Old Master Tang's side for over twenty years...

Although there was still no news of Qin Tiannan, at least there was news of his son and wife, which eased Old Master Tang's heart somewhat...

The three brothers knew this, and they all felt profoundly moved...

However, there was a bit of frustration, mainly involving Secretary Tang, Qin Fang's father-in-law-to-be. Qin Fang's flirtatious nature was something he didn't like to see. Even though his daughter didn't have much to say about it, as a prospective father-in-law, he naturally wasn't happy about it. As a result of everything that had transpired, Qin Fang's status had changed, and with Old Master Tang protecting him from behind, even he, Old Thai, couldn't put on airs anymore.

"If that brat dares to bully Feifei, let's see how I deal with him..."

In the end, Secretary Tang could only mutter quietly to himself. However, seeing his daughter Tang Feifei seemingly very happy, he didn't say much else.

The commotion at the table went unnoticed by Qin Fang, who had already returned to his original table.

"Say, Qin Fang, what was that all about just now? What did that bullet you presented mean, and why did Elder Tang seem like a changed man all of a sudden..."

"Yeah, even the 'Cold Light Manuscript' by Mi Fu, a genuine masterpiece, didn't matter to him anymore, that doesn't seem like Elder Tang's character at all!"

"Come on, spill it... what's the deal?"

Qin Fang was very familiar with these third-generation brothers of the Tang Family, and they didn't treat him as an outsider. They couldn't help but be curious about the big scene earlier.

Even Elder Chu of the Chu Family had come over in person, and many had seen his anxious demeanor earlier. Now Elder Tang's face was all smiles, having seen him even toast three times, which meant he was very happy.

They were all curious, but no one dared to corner Qin Fang for answers. Tang Cheng seemed to know the truth, but he hadn't returned from seeing off Elder Chu. Now that Qin Fang had come over, they naturally seized the moment to inquire from him.

"Really, don't ask me; I'm still dizzy from it all..."

Qin Fang said with a wry smile on his face.

The truth was, he had given a bullet as a birthday gift and suddenly gained a father and grandfather, uncovering his own origins. Moreover, he received the support of two families, but everything had happened so quickly he really hadn't fully digested it all yet.

"Tsk, you little rascal. You're not being straight with us, we're all brothers here, why are you holding back?"

Tang Zhi slapped Qin Fang on the shoulder with a laugh, chiding him. The other brothers also looked eager, as if they were ready to let Qin Fang have it if he wouldn't tell the truth.

"Alright, I'll talk, I'll talk, okay?"

With no way out from their pestering, Qin Fang reluctantly started to explain, "Well, some of you guys, when you were little, my dad might have flicked your willies... do you believe that?"

"Uh..."

Qin Fang's statement was obviously a joke, but the near truth of it was undeniable.

His father was Qin Tiannan, and back in the days at the Tang residence, people like Tang Zhi had already been born. They might not remember Qin Tiannan, but it indirectly confirmed that Qin Fang and the Tang Family had been old family friends.

"What are you talking about, man? How is that possible..."

Someone immediately started teasing and jeering, obviously thinking that Qin Fang was making fun of them, given the mischievous smile on his face while speaking.

"Your dad is Uncle Qin, Qin Tiannan?"

However, it was Tang Zhi, the eldest of the third generation of the Tang Family, who suddenly asked this question, and his face was rather bizarre at the moment, as if someone had hit a sore spot.

Chapter 719 - Midnight Car Accident_1

...

If Tang Zhi hadn't spoken up, it would have at least kept things smooth for the Tang Family Brothers, even if they couldn't remember anything—Qin Fang wouldn't have found anything amiss. After all, it had been over twenty years since his father went missing. Back then, many of the Tang Family Brothers had just been born and were quite young, so it was perfectly normal not to have any memories of that time.

But unfortunately, Tang Zhi's words blurted out almost instinctively. Instantly, everyone, Qin Fang included, stared at Tang Zhi, the Boss, with odd expressions on their faces.

Then...

"Hahaha..."

No one knew who started it, but the others soon joined in, each of them suddenly bursting into raucous laughter. Even Qin Fang couldn't escape it, and some of the more exaggerated ones were clutching their stomachs while laughing.

Indeed, it was a huge joke, and even Qin Fang didn't expect that the casual jest he had made coincidentally struck the nail on the head.

As the eldest of the third generation of Tang Family Brothers, Tang Zhi was now in his early thirties. By the time Qin Tiannan left the Tang Family, he must have been several years old and capable of remembering events, so it was normal for him to remember those things...

However... flicking the little 'chicken'... Qin Fang found himself speechless regarding this small vice of his never-before-met father from his younger days.

Of course, the real embarrassment belonged to the Young Master Tang, Tang Zhi, who'd had his past embarrassing moments exposed to all his brothers. He'd likely be teased about it in the future, having thoroughly lost face by now.

"Qin Fang, I hate you..."

Shame and fury written all over him, Tang Zhi could only send Qin Fang a resentful glare in the end.

It wasn't genuine resentment, just a brotherly jest. Tang Zhi's magnanimity wouldn't be ruffled by such trifles.

"Hahahaha..."

Yet Tang Zhi's slightly plaintive look and tone were indeed a bit too funny, providing even more amusement for the brothers, who were all clutching their bellies, barely able to catch their breath from laughter.

Qin Fang was a bit hoist by his own petard, laughing himself to the point of staggering. Everyone was more or less the same, save for Young Master Tang, who was cool as a cucumber, clearly pleased with himself for having turned the tables in his favor.

This racket brought everyone at the table much closer, though they would occasionally remember Tang Zhi's joke and burst into uncontrollable laughter, their bellies not quite recovering for quite a while.

Even when Tang Cheng returned, he still found his brothers in a mess, not looking like they got drunk but as if someone had told a hilarious joke, making them laugh themselves silly. Out of curiosity, he asked, "What happened? What joke was so funny that you're all laughing like this?"

"It's nothing, they just ate something bad..."

At Tang Cheng's inquiry, Tang Zhi immediately attempted to quash the topic right off the bat with that comment.

"Look, I'm telling you, just now..."

But the other brothers obviously weren't eager to drop it, quickly pulling Tang Cheng aside and whispering the details to him, leading to Tang Cheng's eyes shifting from confusion to surprise, and then...

"Hahaha..."

Without any surprise, Tang Cheng joined in the uncontrollable laughter, finding the joke too amusing. They really hadn't known about such an embarrassing story concerning Elder Tang.

In contrast, Qin Fang proved to be quite considerate. Since he had inadvertently started the joke, it wouldn't be right for him to laugh too excessively, so he just accompanied Tang Zhi in drinking, ignoring the others' uproarious laughter.

The commotion was just a minor episode. Qin Fang was Qin Tiannan's son, and with the Qin Family and Tang Family having a deeply rooted connection and Qin Fang now romantically involved with Tang Feifei, they were almost like one big family.

If there were any in the Tang Family Brothers who had previously been inclined towards someone like the Young Master Xu Ling, by now they undoubtedly had a good impression of Qin Fang. Qin Fang was easy to get along with and hit it off with them quite quickly. Over the course of the banquet, several brothers expressed that they would treat Qin Fang well if he were to visit their turf...

Qin Fang, in turn, made sure to exchange contact details with everyone and affirmed that sentiment. The birthday feast was coming to an end, and though there were some bigwigs arriving to offer their

congratulations, those weren't matters for the younger generation to interfere in. They could only watch from the sidelines.

Elder Tang was the star of the birthday banquet, with everyone there to celebrate his longevity. With the Tang Family Brothers looking after the guests, there was no need for Qin Fang to stay behind, so he took his leave after greeting Old Master Tang.

Originally, Elder Tang had hoped Qin Fang would return with him to Qingzhu Mountain. Now that their relationship had grown much closer, he wanted to chat with Qin Fang more.

Yet Qin Fang declined, as Old Master Tang, advanced in years and having drunk a bit too much in his excitement today, needed to rest properly. Qin Fang had promised to visit once the birthday celebrations were over, though he still hadn't fully come to terms with his newfound identity; everything had happened too fast for him.

Tang Feifei stayed behind to accompany Old Master Tang. Even though her relationship with Qin Fang had been established, it wasn't yet possible for them to live together. Although the Tang Family Members wouldn't say much, Tang Feifei was still a bit too shy for that.

Chapter 720 - Midnight Car Accident_2

"I really didn't expect you to be Uncle Qin's son... This must be fate! Be good to Feifei from now on, and don't hurt her, or I won't let you off..."

At the parking lot, Tang Cheng had come out together with Qin Fang, and the two leaned against the car to smoke. Tang Cheng then spoke very sternly.

"Don't worry, Brother Cheng! My feelings for Feifei are sincere; I absolutely won't hurt her..."

Qin Fang's feelings for Tang Feifei were genuinely sincere, without a trace of falsehood. Likewise, he was very grateful to Tang Cheng for his care during this time and didn't hesitate in the slightest before responding.

Tang Cheng simply nodded his head lightly, not saying much more, only giving a brief instruction before leaving, "Have fun in the Capital City, spend more time with Feifei, and visit the two old gentlemen when you have the chance..."

Naturally, Qin Fang could only drive back to Chang'an Club alone. He had come with Tang Feifei, but when it was time to leave, he was by himself.

Miao Yue had left ahead of time, as the show in Hong Kong had to go on. Qiao Zhenfei merely helped her adjust her schedule, and she still needed to go there. Plus, with Tang Feifei going to Chang'an Club, it wasn't appropriate for her to appear there either.

So naturally, Qin Fang's return this time meant he was truly alone...

"I wonder how Sister Ning is doing. There were too many people earlier, and it wasn't convenient to talk to her!"

In the Capital City, Qin Fang's acquaintances were just the Tang family people, Qiao Zhenfei, Lu Jun, and the others hadn't come because their families had already sent representatives. It seemed the only others were the Ning siblings.

But Ning Yumo and Ning Weiqiang had come with Secretary Ning. There were too many people, and it wasn't suitable for Qin Fang to run about everywhere, which was why he hadn't managed to speak to Ning Yumo, not even knowing when they had left...

Qin Fang and Ning Yumo had already broken through that barrier, and although they hadn't officially established a relationship, it was clear that both had feelings for each other, but there was still some hesitation...

Qin Fang took out his phone, wondering if he should call Yu Mo to check in on her or something, but after flipping to her number, he just couldn't bring himself to press the call button.

Right at that moment, as he was driving, someone suddenly darted out from the pedestrian path ahead, not even five meters away from him.

Screech~~~Crash!

The figure's movement was too sudden. Had it been any ordinary driver, they might not have been able to react in time, but Qin Fang's response was almost instinctive, slamming the brakes immediately.

The tires let out a harsh screeching noise, and despite the short distance, they came to a complete stop. Yet, Qin Fang's view was devoid of the figure, as if they had already gone under the car.

"Fuck, are they suicidal..."

Qin Fang was shocked by the pedestrian who had suddenly rushed out from the sidewalk. Had he not braked in time, they might now be flying five or six meters through the air after being hit at seventy miles per hour!

Cursing aside, Qin Fang wasn't heartless enough to ignore the person and just drive away... Without a second thought, he immediately got out of the car to check on them.

With his riding skills now approaching advanced, he was more than seventy percent sure that he hadn't hit anyone. But the problem was, the person had run out into the road and fallen down without getting up. He had to check to be at peace.

Qin Fang hurried out of the car and ran to the front to see. Indeed, someone was lying there, less than a meter away from his car tire, which was quite a close call.

The figure was dressed in a black trench coat, with a skirt and leggings underneath, perfectly showcasing her long, beautiful legs. Her head was covered with long, silky black hair...

Clearly, this was a woman, seemingly a young lady... and by the looks of it, she was drunk to the point of near-death.

This woman seemed extremely intoxicated, lying there on the road. It was lucky that Qin Fang had noticed early. If it had been someone else with poorer vision, they might have just rolled over her, which would have been fatal.

"Hey, beauty, wake up..."

Although completely unfamiliar with her, Qin Fang couldn't just leave someone on the road like this. If something serious happened, it would weigh on his conscience. He approached and gently shook the woman's shoulder, trying to wake her.

The term "miss" had become thoroughly inappropriate nowadays. Calling someone that might earn a torrent of abuse, but "beauty" was a suitable term for anyone, old or young, without issues.

Unfortunately... this "beauty" was probably too far gone. Qin Fang's efforts of patting her on the shoulder didn't stir her; she lay motionless as though she had fallen into a deep slumber, unresponsive to his actions.

"What a situation this is..."

Qin Fang gave a bitter smile, surprised by how heavily intoxicated the "beauty" was, as she just slept there in the middle of the road, inviting mortal danger.

"Well, I should get her off the road first..."

Since he couldn't wake her, Qin Fang couldn't let her lie on the road and sleep. The ground was cold, and the traffic posed a serious danger. So Qin Fang grabbed the "beauty's" arm, hoisted it onto his shoulder, applied a little effort in his arms, and helped the woman directly off the ground...