

Golden 113

Chapter 113 Arrival in Jinling

"You scoundrel, you really eat wherever you go! How did you even find such a remote place?"

In a small restaurant in Liuhe District, Nanjing, Zhuang Rui put a piece of pig's head meat in his mouth and looked at Liu Chuan with a teasing expression.

"I'm a man of the world, I eat wherever I go. If you weren't with me, you wouldn't be able to enjoy this food, brother-in-law, right?" Liu Chuan said smugly, but when he turned his head and saw his little black lion, his face immediately fell.

Zhuang Rui named his snow mastiff White Lion, but Liu Chuan simply named him Black Lion. However, this little guy couldn't eat meat yet. Whenever he was with White Lion, he would always watch it pitifully as it ate meat. His pitiful appearance always made Liu Chuan feel heartbroken.

Besides Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan, Zhuang Rui's brother-in-law Zhao Guodong and one of his apprentices were also present. Zhao Guodong had resigned from his job a few days ago, along with two apprentices who had been with him for four or five years. They were both skilled in car repair and, upon hearing from their master that he was going to open a repair shop and could even get some shares, they also resigned.

Originally, Zhao Guodong was unremarkable at work, and no one paid much attention to him. His resignation went smoothly, but as soon as he resigned, several vehicles in the team broke down. No one but Zhao Guodong could fix them, which worried the leaders greatly. They personally went to invite Zhao Guodong back to the unit, but Zhao Guodong was determined to work independently this time and refused on the spot. The leaders could only leave disappointed. If you don't burn incense in ordinary times, you only pray to Buddha when you need it, of course it won't work.

Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan's mastiff kennel officially started construction, but they didn't need to supervise the site. They only left Zhou Rui behind; Liu Chuan gave him a cell phone so they could contact each other easily. As for the pet shop, he didn't need to worry about it anymore. And it turns out, Da Xiong and Monkey really knew how to make a living from it, attracting quite a few elderly people from the park. Some retirees are lonely and keep cats, dogs, fish, and insects to pass the time. These customers are quite wealthy, and as a result, the pet shop's revenue has skyrocketed in the past few days.

Seeing that everything at home was arranged, the car dealership in Nanjing called to tell Liu Chuan that the Hummer had arrived. Zhuang Rui had three more days of leave left, so the group drove to Nanjing. Of course, Zhuang's mother was inevitably a little sad when she left, but the fact that her daughter had moved in with them comforted her a lot.

From Pengcheng to Nanjing, it's only a little over 400 kilometers along the highway. The group set off at seven in the morning, and now, just past eleven, they've already arrived in Nanjing. Zhuang Rui had been wondering why Liu Chuan and Lei Lei had arranged to meet in the afternoon, but now that they're sitting in this small restaurant, he finally understands: this guy was just craving something delicious.

Nanjing needs little introduction. Located in the hilly area of Ningzhen in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, it has been the capital of six dynasties since ancient times. It is also one of my country's four famous ancient capitals and historical and cultural cities. It is surrounded by rivers and mountains, with Zhongshan Mountain resembling a dragon and Shitou Mountain resembling a tiger crouching. The scenery is beautiful.

The Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum, the tomb of Zhu Yuanzhang, the founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, and Empress Ma, along with numerous other scenic spots and historical sites such as Chaotian Palace, Qixia Mountain, Yuhuatai, Xuanwu Lake, Yanziji, the Twelve Caves of Yanshan, and the Qinhuai River, make this ancient city a popular destination for tourists year-round. As early as the 1930s, the famous writer Zhu Ziqing, after visiting Nanjing, wrote the following comment in his essay "Nanjing": "Visiting Nanjing is like browsing an antique shop; everywhere you look, there are traces of the erosion of time. You can ponder, you can reminisce, you can leisurely imagine..."

Of course, Liu Chuan didn't care about whether Nanjing was famous or not; the food on the table was the main reason he changed his route to Liuhe.

The braised pig's head meat from Liuhe District in Nanjing is famous far and wide. It's reddish-brown, fragrant, rich, and perfectly balanced between salty and sweet, fatty yet not greasy. Zhuang Rui doesn't usually like oily food, but he was eating with gusto, devouring almost a small bowl of braised pig's head meat. The four of them finished it all.

In addition, there is Nanjing salted duck. The owner cut it up, plated it, and brought it to the table. The duck skin looked white and the meat was tender. Zhuang Rui picked up a piece and ate it. He immediately felt that it was fragrant, fresh and delicious, the meat was tender, and it also had a very special aroma.

After hearing the owner's introduction in Jianghuai Mandarin, the group realized that the salted duck they were talking about now was not the most authentic. The salted duck made around the Mid-Autumn Festival each year had the best color and flavor because the ducks were made during the osmanthus blooming season. Therefore, the salted duck was also known as Osmanthus Duck.

"You rascal, when I see Lei Lei later, I'll definitely praise you in front of her. You lied to her and said you only arrived in Nanjing this afternoon so you could treat us to a good meal." Zhuang Rui teased Liu Chuan as he picked up a duck leg and tossed it to the little white lion crawling at his feet.

"Dude, we're not afraid anymore, hehe, Wood, we've already got you. How about you? Want me to help you out and end your virginity sooner?" Liu Chuan replied with a lewd grin, completely unconcerned.

"Get lost! Who's the one who's been behaving like a cat in front of Lei Lei?"

Zhuang Rui hadn't expected Liu Chuan and Lei Lei to progress so quickly. But thinking back to how the two of them were inseparable in Tibet, and even more so in Lhasa, he wondered if they might have actually done it. Thinking of this, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but feel a little resentful. It wasn't pleasant to be constantly talked about as a virgin.

"Alright, you two stop arguing and get down to business. Da Chuan, if you give this Toyota to a repair shop, what will you drive when Zhou Rui drives his Hummer to Tibet?"

Zhuang Rui's brother-in-law, Zhao Guodong, interrupted their bickering. He also knew some plumbing and electrical work, and the mastiff kennel would be handled by him. Therefore, he was quite familiar with the situation at the kennel. Liu Chuan had already agreed to let the repair shop use the Toyota with the fake license plate, which would make it convenient for him to travel between the two places.

It's simple. So many of us squeezed into one car. I just want to buy another one to drive back. I've been using that car for several years and it's time to replace it. Hey, Wood, why are you glaring at me? I didn't say I'd use the dog kennel's money to buy it. Can't I just pay for it myself?"

After hearing what Liu Chuan said, Zhuang Rui felt that he should probably buy a car too. Otherwise, it would be inconvenient to take the little white lion around all the time. Even if his boss could help him get a city dog license, he couldn't possibly take the white lion to work on the subway.

"You rascal, if I were to buy a car, what kind would be the best? If I don't take this little guy with me to work, he'd probably cause a huge ruckus at home."

Zhuang Rui asked Liu Chuan a question, and as he spoke, his desire to buy a car grew stronger. Although he had a car to drive during this time, it wasn't his own. Once the idea of buying a car took hold, he couldn't suppress it anymore.

"You're buying a car too? Yeah, I usually drive back to Pengcheng on the highway, it only takes eight or nine hours, much faster than taking the train. But, you're such a terrible driver, you should just buy an Alto. You can crash it and not even bother repairing it, just throw it away, that's easier." Liu Chuan chuckled, not forgetting to tease Zhuang Rui.

"Get out of here and give me some advice, or I'll drive this Hummer to Zhonghai. I own a stake in this car," Zhuang Rui threatened.

"Xiao Rui, why don't you just buy a minivan? Those kinds of cars have a lot of space. Fold the middle row of seats down to the back, and even when this little guy is fully grown, that car can fit him."

Zhao Guodong gave Zhuang Rui an idea. Zhuang Rui thought about it and nodded. He had seen that golden mastiff king before. It looked like a calf. A regular sedan really couldn't fit it. Even a Hummer, if it wasn't a six-wheeled Hummer, could probably only carry two at most.

Thinking of this, Zhuang Rui slapped his forehead. It has to be said that neither of them had much experience, and they had actually forgotten about the transportation issue at the last minute.

"Hey, stop eating, we forgot something." Zhuang Rui snatched the chopsticks from Liu Chuan's hand and said, "You rascal, I think you should buy a minivan too. We've been underestimating things. This time when we go to Tibet to pick up Brother Renqing Cuomu, I'm afraid you'll have to come along too. Otherwise, a Hummer can only bring back one or two adult Tibetan mastiffs, which is of no use to our mastiff kennel."

Liu Chuan nodded without speaking. Clearly, Zhao Guodong's words had made him think of this problem as well. Now that the weather was gradually getting warmer, driving a minivan and a Hummer together

wouldn't be a problem if the vehicles broke down on the way. If the two vehicles could bring back four Tibetan mastiffs—one male and three females—then the mastiff farm could temporarily keep going.

Tibetan Mastiffs are different from ordinary dogs. While a typical dog can produce four litters a year, the saying "cats three, dogs four" does not apply to Tibetan Mastiffs. Tibetan Mastiffs only have their estrus cycle in December each year and will only produce one litter per year. However, a Tibetan Mastiff litter usually produces at least five or six puppies, and if there are more, it can produce up to ten or more. So as long as they can get through the year, the kennel can have an income.

Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan are targeting high-end customers, and their clients are people of considerable status and position. Therefore, they price each Tibetan Mastiff puppy at over 500,000. If the coat is pure and the physique is good, the selling price will certainly not be lower than the price Liu Chuan sold to Song Jun.

Many Tibetan Mastiff kennels nowadays advertise purebred Tibetan Mastiffs for 10,000 or 30,000 to 50,000 yuan each. However, those in the industry know that those so-called purebred Tibetan Mastiffs are actually mixed breeds. Neither of their breeding partners is purebred; they are merely offspring of Tibetan Mastiffs with some diluted Tibetan Mastiff blood. A truly purebred Tibetan Mastiff cannot be bought for 30,000 to 50,000 yuan, let alone 30,000 to 50,000 yuan.

However, these Tibetan Mastiff kennels can only fool ordinary Tibetan Mastiff enthusiasts. Some circles in China are well aware of these things. Otherwise, Song Jun would not have offered 500,000 yuan to have Liu Chuan travel thousands of miles to Tibet to find a Tibetan Mastiff puppy.

Therefore, once Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan's Tibetan Mastiff kennel is established, they won't have to worry about sales. With Song Jun's circle alone, selling a hundred or two won't be a problem. Song Jun once joked that when their circle gets together, the whole place will turn into a Tibetan Mastiff exhibition.