

## Golden 551

### Chapter 551 Helping Out (Part Two)

"Brother Zhuang, what kind of business do you run in Beijing?"

After exchanging a glance with Da Xiong, the monkey cautiously asked, "Actually, we're quite satisfied with our current life. These two are quick-witted and usually bring in a lot of customers for the pet shop, so we're living a pretty comfortable life."

Da Xiong's family introduced him to a girl, and they've been dating for over half a year. The girl is quite satisfied with Da Xiong, and they're planning to get married after the New Year when the weather gets warmer. Da Xiong isn't really willing to leave Pengcheng.

However, they all knew that Zhuang Rui was a big boss. Although they didn't know exactly what kind of business Zhuang Rui was in, they had personally witnessed Zhou Rui come to Pengcheng penniless and follow Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan. In just one year, he had everything, including a car and a house, and even brought his family over. It was really enviable to have people watching from the sidelines.

"I've taken over an antique shop in Panjiayuan, Beijing. I'd like you two to come and learn something from me first. After a few years, I'll hand the shop over to you two to manage. You two can discuss it and see if you're willing."

Although Zhuang Rui treated Zhao Hanxuan very well, there was no guarantee that Zhao Hanxuan wouldn't start his own business after a few years, so Zhuang Rui needed to have a backup plan.

Once Da Xiong and the monkey are familiar with those businesses, even if Zhao Hanxuan is no longer around, the stationery business can continue. As for the jewelry and antique business, it's relatively simple; just set the prices and let them sell accordingly.

With Da Xiong and Monkey's experience in the underworld, they should be able to handle most minor problems. Even if someone tries to set them up, the two of them don't have the money to buy so-called treasures, so Zhuang Rui isn't worried about them being deceived.

"Brother Zhuang, let's go outside and discuss this. We'll get back to you later..."

Upon hearing this, Da Xiong and Monkey were hesitant. They had lived their entire lives in Pengcheng, with Da Xiong's furthest trip being to Tianjin. Zhuang Rui's sudden suggestion of a change of environment was a bit hard for them to process.

"It's okay, you can give me an answer tomorrow..."

Zhuang Rui said with a smile, but he was also a little helpless. He really didn't have many people he could use. He saw those big bosses on TV with so many people under them, but that was all nonsense. He still had to do everything himself.

"No need, no need, Brother Zhuang, I'll give you an answer right away..."

Monkey and Da Xiong opened the door to the private room and walked to the entrance. Da Xiong hesitated and said, "Monkey, I don't want to go. I'm getting married soon, and I have nothing if I go to Beijing. Will Xiao Jing still be willing to be with me?"

Xiaojing is Daxiong's girlfriend. Although there's a saying that women don't love bad boys, these two have never lacked women, but those women weren't exactly respectable. Xiaojing, on the other hand, is a decent girl, and the two of them are planning to get married.

"Hey Xiong, why don't you talk to Zhuang about this later? Let's see what kind of treatment he can offer. If it's better than this pet shop, we can go and earn some money for two years. I'm sure your wife will understand. If it's about the same as the pet shop, then we'll turn down this job. What do you think?"

Da Xiong nodded upon hearing this. Although the job at the pet shop was good and the salary was two or three thousand, people always strive for better opportunities. Who wouldn't want to go where there's a better chance for advancement?

"Brother Zhuang, to be honest, I was planning to get married around April or May after the New Year. It's not that I can't go to Beijing, it's just that..."

After returning to the private room, Da Xiong was a little embarrassed to ask Zhuang Rui about his and Monkey's treatment, and he stammered and couldn't say anything.

"Haha, Nobita, I really didn't know that. Congratulations! By the way, what does your girlfriend do?"

Zhuang Rui laughed when he heard this. No wonder he seemed much more composed when he saw Da Xiong this time. It turns out he has someone at home keeping an eye on him.

"My girlfriend just graduated from university not long ago. She worked at Jiafu Supermarket for a while, but she just quit. She's planning to look for a job after the New Year. I'll bring her to see you, Brother Zhuang, another day."

Although Da Xiong didn't understand the meaning behind Zhuang Rui's question, he still answered honestly. He and the monkey both had a strange feeling that they had become Zhuang Rui's employees, answering questions as if they were talking to their boss.

In fact, Zhuang Rui didn't know that with the increase of his knowledge and the accumulation of wealth, he had developed a kind of confidence that came with success. Although he didn't deliberately show it, it still influenced the other people around him.

"Hey, Nobita, I didn't realize you dropped out of junior high and found a college student girlfriend."

Here's what we'll do: if your girlfriend is willing to go to Beijing with you, I'll arrange a job for her as a sales clerk in a jewelry store. I'll also rent a three-bedroom apartment for the three of you in Beijing so you can live together temporarily.

"If Monkey finds a girlfriend later, we can rent another place. You two brothers can work together for a few years, and maybe then you'll be able to afford a house in Beijing. What do you think?"

Zhuang Rui thought about it for a moment. If Da Xiong's girlfriend graduated from university, it shouldn't be a big problem for Qin Ruilin to arrange a shop assistant job for her.

Don't think that working as a sales clerk at Qin Ruilin's shop would be a disservice to Daxiong's girlfriend. You should know that most of the customers Qin Ruilin deals with are either rich or noble, and there are also many foreigners. The shop assistants all have college degrees or above, and the manager named Li Xia is even a graduate student.

However, Da Xiong didn't know about this. When Zhuang Rui said it was for a sales clerk position, he hesitated and said tentatively, "Brother Zhuang, I need to discuss this with Xiao Jing. I don't care what Monkey and I do, but I'm afraid she won't be happy if she becomes a sales clerk..."

Upon hearing this, Zhuang Rui slapped his head. After talking for so long, he realized he hadn't mentioned even a single benefit or perk. He was so foolish. These two guys were quite stable in Pengcheng now, and the fact that they hadn't directly rejected him was already quite good.

"Da Xiong, that jewelry store caters to high-end customers. Most of the sales staff have bachelor's degrees and are good at English. The salary is 5,000 yuan per month, plus double pay at the end of the year."

The store pays for social security and housing fund contributions, and the salary increases every six months based on individual performance, ranging from approximately 500 to 1500 yuan. You can discuss this with your girlfriend and see what she thinks..."

"Brother Zhuang... I agree, I agree, there's no need to discuss it anymore, I've made the decision, Xiaojing will definitely agree to go..."

Before Zhuang Rui could finish speaking, Da Xiong interrupted him. He didn't notice that as he spoke, Da Xiong and the monkey's mouths involuntarily opened wide, their faces full of astonishment.

It's no wonder these two guys are behaving this way. Their current salaries are already quite high in Pengcheng, but they never expected that a salesperson in Beijing would earn twice as much as them and even have social security contributions paid like a state-owned enterprise employee. This is even better than the treatment of civil servants.

According to Zhuang Rui's salary and benefits, plus the floating salary after six months and the double salary at the end of the year, it adds up to nearly 100,000 yuan. In Pengcheng, that would be enough for

Da Xiong and Monkey to work for three to five years, and they would have to save money without eating or drinking.

"Brother Zhuang, what kind of jewelry store is this? The benefits are so good! What if other customers don't want it?"

The monkey was also excited, wishing he could grab a girl on the street and make her his girlfriend so he could also earn five thousand yuan a month. Little did they know that the jewelry store originally belonged to Zhuang Rui, and giving it to an employee was no big deal.

Zhuang Rui laughed upon hearing this and said, "I said you can get in, so there's nothing to worry about. Let's talk about your treatment. Da Xiong is more stable. I'll arrange someone for you to learn about stationery from, and you need to master all aspects of the supply channels. Maybe in two or three years, you'll be in charge of this area..."

"Brother Zhuang, have some water..."

Seeing that Zhuang Rui had stopped talking, the monkey thoughtfully poured him a cup of tea.

"Thank you. Monkey, you'll be in charge of the antiques section. I'll be your mentor at first. When I'm not around, just go into those stalls and learn as much as you can. I don't need to teach you these things; it's similar to the antique market in Pengcheng."

As for the benefits, you two will receive the same: 8,000 RMB per month for the first year and 10,000 RMB per month for the second year. I will provide housing for you, but you will need to buy your own food or cook for yourselves.

"If you can each take charge of your own part of the business in two or three years, I guarantee your annual salary will be no less than 300,000 yuan. At that time, it won't be impossible for you to settle down in Beijing..."

Even though Da Xiong and the monkey had some prior preparation, they were still so excited by Zhuang Rui's words that their blood boiled and their faces turned bright red.

Da Xiong and the monkey finally understood that Zhuang Rui's so-called request for their help was actually an attempt to elevate them and give them a great opportunity for development.

At this moment, the two brothers' minds were completely filled with the numbers Zhuang Rui had mentioned. Whether the monthly salary was 10,000 or 8,000 was no longer important. In short, they never dreamed that they, two street thugs, could earn such a high salary.

"Brother Zhuang, what do you think of us? Would you say we're a good match?"

Before the two brothers were completely overwhelmed by the windfall, after their initial excitement subsided, Da Xiong asked Zhuang Rui somewhat nervously.

Zhuang Rui smiled and said, "You two should both know the ins and outs of the antique trade. Your task for the first year is to learn, not only from the store manager, but also from the people who set up stalls on the street."

It's all about dealing with people. If you two feel confident, then get ready and head to Beijing in the next couple of days. If you're unsure, just tell me now and I'll find someone else..."

Chapter 552 Arrangements

"No, no, Brother Zhuang, we promise, we promise..."

"Yes, it's because of you, Brother Zhuang, that we've been promoted. We'll follow you from now on..."

Upon hearing that Zhuang Rui wanted to find someone else, Da Xiong and Monkey immediately became anxious. Monkey even unbuttoned his yellow cotton-padded jacket, patted his bony chest, and said, "Brother Zhuang, if we two don't work hard, you can twist my head off and use it as a football..."

"Waaaaah..."

The white lion lying next to Zhuang Rui was startled by the two men's actions. Thinking they were going to harm Zhuang Rui, it stood up from the ground and let out a low growl, which frightened the two men into retreating.

"White Lion, sit down..."

Zhuang Rui quickly comforted the white lion. His little guy seemed to have been a bit traumatized yesterday. It seemed he needed to find it a girlfriend soon, otherwise he wouldn't be able to take it to the mastiff kennel again. Everyone else was in pairs, and the animal couldn't stand it being paired up.

"Alright, then it's settled. You two go and make preparations, explain things to your families, and let Li Bing know, and then..."

Zhuang Rui took out his phone and checked the date, then said, "The day after tomorrow, you two will come back to Beijing with me..."

"Okay, thanks, Brother Zhuang. We'll definitely make the arrangements the day after tomorrow..."

Monkey and Da Xiong left the teahouse, expressing their gratitude profusely. Zhuang Rui then made a phone call to Ouyang Jun.

"What? Rent a house, and it has to be close to Panjiayuan? Wu'er, what do you take me for? You expect me to handle such a trivial matter?"

After hearing what Zhuang Rui had told him on the phone, Ouyang Jun jumped up. What a joke! Did the Fourth Young Master Ouyang become a waiter for Zhuang Rui?

"Fourth Brother, I don't know anyone else. You can arrange for someone else to handle it. I didn't say you had to go rent it yourself..."

Zhuang Rui spoke to Ouyang Jun without any hesitation. This cousin of his frequently came to his place to eat and drink for free, and last time he even managed to extort two tiger penises from him. He said those two things were worth enough to buy a house.

Ouyang Jun said irritably, "It's embarrassing for my brother to have someone rent to him. Fine, you're not short of money anyway, just buy two sets..."

"Buy a house?"

Zhuang Rui was taken aback. He had always been happy to invest in real estate. The house he bought in China Overseas for a little over 1 million yuan had more than doubled in just over half a year. The house prices in Beijing should be even higher, right?

"Well, someone owed me some money, and they settled it with a few houses a while ago. The locations are similar to what you described, and they're all over 100 square meters each. I'll give you 3 million for two of them. If you want them, I can have them furnished, and you can move in anytime..."

After hearing Ouyang Jun's words, Zhuang Rui did some mental calculations. A 100-square-meter apartment was only worth a little over 10,000 yuan per square meter. In the Panjiayuan area, it was still a good deal. He nodded and said, "Okay, Fourth Brother, you go and handle the formalities. I'll go back to Beijing and give you the money. But I'm telling you, it's only 3 million yuan. You can't just give it to me for free."

"Get out of my way! The old man won't let me get a loan from the bank. I don't even know how I'm going to develop that land. Three million is already a bargain for you, kid..."

After getting married, Ouyang Jun wanted to close down the club business and start a real business. However, it was not as simple as he imagined. Just acquiring a qualified construction company almost emptied his pockets.

The two plots of land that Ouyang Jun acquired through connections still haven't been developed. With the real estate market booming and prices rising day by day, he's short of money, and Ouyang Zhenwu is keeping a close eye on him. These past few days, he's been like an ant on a hot pan, running around frantically.

It wasn't that he couldn't find ways to raise money; it's just that for someone of his status, having to borrow funds to independently develop a real estate project would be somewhat undignified. Young Master Ouyang cared about his reputation. Otherwise, raising several hundred million yuan in three to five days would be very easy for him.

Zhuang Rui was naturally unaware of his cousin Ouyang's predicament. After becoming a familiar face on television, he couldn't go to the antique market anymore, so he simply called Grandpa Lü to wish him a Happy New Year, and then drove to visit his old classmates.

In the following days, Zhuang Rui was busy visiting the uncles and aunts who had watched him grow up with his mother. He and his mother discussed it and decided not to invite their friends from Pengcheng to Beijing, as that would be too troublesome. They would go back to Pengcheng after the engagement in Beijing and invite some close friends and classmates to have a banquet.

After a few busy days in Pengcheng, Ouyang Wan flew back to Beijing with her granddaughter. Zhuang Rui then called Daxiong and Houzi, preparing to drive them to Beijing. However, when they arrived at the agreed-upon place, they were dumbfounded.

"So, are you two moving?"

There were five or six suitcases of various sizes under Da Xiong and the monkey's feet, and there were also bedding in canvas bags on the ground. Even more exaggeratedly, there were pots, pans and ladles in two red buckets. All that was missing was a gas cylinder and a gas stove, so they could start cooking right there on the street.

How come Zhuang Rui never realized before that these two brothers were good at managing their finances?

Seeing that Zhuang Rui's expression wasn't good, Da Xiong quickly said, "Brother Zhuang, this car can fit, let's bring it ourselves, it'll save us from buying another one..."

"No, this car can't fit everything. You two hurry up and take the stuff home..."

Zhuang Rui waved his hand, both amused and exasperated. He agreed with the idea of being thrifty, but the car really couldn't hold that much stuff. Besides, the two houses Ouyang Jun had prepared were just model homes; they were fully furnished, and people could just walk in naked.

"Brother Zhuang...this..."

"Brother Xiong, let's go, let's listen to Brother Zhuang..."

When the monkey saw that Da Xiong was about to speak, he quickly pulled him back. The monkey understood perfectly well that since Zhuang Rui said he wouldn't bring them, then he wouldn't bring them. After all, they would have to be given a place to stay when they got to Beijing, so what was there to be afraid of?

After the two returned the items, Zhuang Rui drove them to pick up Da Xiong's girlfriend. This girl was several years younger than Zhuang Rui and seemed very quiet. It was a mystery how Da Xiong had managed to win her over. It seems there's some truth to the saying that "women don't love bad men."

Around 7 p.m., Zhuang Rui drove into Beijing. He first took Da Xiong and the other two to a place for dinner, then went to a supermarket and bought them several sets of bedding. Around 9 p.m., he finally called Ouyang Jun.

Ouyang Jun had already arranged for someone to deliver the room key to Zhuang Rui. When Zhuang Rui arrived at the place, he found it to be quite nice. It was a newly developed community with shopping malls and supermarkets nearby, complete supporting facilities, and exquisite landscaping. It was even better than the apartment he had bought in Zhonghai.

"Are you Mr. Zhuang?"

As soon as Zhuang Rui parked his car at the entrance of the residential area, someone came to greet him.

"I am Zhuang Rui, and you are?"

"I am the property manager. This is the key Mr. Ouyang gave you. The rooms are 802 and 602. Would you like me to take you up?"

As he spoke, the man handed Zhuang Rui two large bunches of keys. Although he was a little annoyed that his boss had called him out of his house just to deliver two bunches of keys, he didn't dare to be negligent at all. Just the Tibetan Mastiff sitting in the passenger seat of this car was something that not just anyone could afford to keep.

"No need, just tell them to get me a few access cards tomorrow..."

Zhuang Rui knew that this kind of residential area required a card to enter, and he didn't want Da Xiong and the others to be unable to get back in, which would be a real embarrassment.

"No need to wait until tomorrow, I'll arrange for someone to deliver your access card to you right away..." The manager gestured to the security guard at the gate to open it. After Zhuang Rui's car went in, he quickly took out his phone to report the situation to his boss.

"Do you want to stay on the sixth floor or the eighth floor? Either way, there's an elevator, it's the same..."

After parking the car, Zhuang Rui looked at Da Xiong and asked, "Although we have two houses, it would be a waste to live in them separately. Zhuang Rui only plans to give them one."

This is a building with two units per floor, which is considered quite good in Beijing. Zhuang Rui could tell that if he were to buy it directly from the developer, he probably wouldn't be able to get it for more than 10,000 yuan per square meter.

"Living...living on the eighth floor...good heavens, is this a place we can live in?"

Da Xiong, who was with his girlfriend, remained relatively calm. However, Monkey was so shocked that he could hardly speak. Although Pengcheng had developed several decent housing projects in recent years, firstly, Monkey and his friends had never been to any of them, and secondly, in terms of planning and landscaping, Pengcheng's housing projects were far inferior to those in Beijing.

"Look at you, so pathetic! Hey, honey, pinch me, is this for real?"

Da Xiong's joke made everyone laugh, and they took the elevator to the eighth floor.

Since the model apartment was mortgaged to Ouyang Jun, the furniture, air conditioner, television, and other items that were originally placed inside as a display were left inside. After changing the bedding with newly purchased items, it was ready to live in immediately.

Zhuang Rui walked around the house for a while, then said, "Daxiong, this is your first time in Beijing. Spend a few days exploring the city and getting familiar with the surroundings. Then go to the supermarket to buy the kitchen supplies. I'll take you to your workplace in a few days..."

"Brother Zhuang, you don't need to play anymore, you can go to work tomorrow..."

Da Xiong and the monkey quickly expressed their determination. What a joke! Living in a place like this, how could they sleep at night if they didn't work their butts off for Zhuang Rui?

Along the way, they had gotten to know Zhuang Rui quite well. Da Xiong's girlfriend, Xiao Jing, chimed in, "Yeah, Brother Zhuang, you've had a long holiday over the New Year. I can go back to work tomorrow..."

"No, you guys should enjoy your time in Beijing for a few days first. Here's 10,000 yuan for your living expenses this month. We can talk about work later..."

Zhuang Rui has really been busy these past few days. Qin Xuanbing is coming to Beijing tomorrow, and his own little corner of the world needs some attention too.

Chapter 553 Qin Shi Arrives in the Capital

"Uncle Qin, Aunt Fang, hello! Grandpa Qin, you're here too? This is my mother..."

Zhuang Rui, who had been waiting at the Capital Airport since around 10 a.m., immediately saw Qin Xuanbing helping an elderly person out of the airport exit and rushed to greet her.

Zhuang Rui was surprised that Grandpa Qin had also come to Beijing. Fortunately, his mother had come with him to welcome his in-laws today; otherwise, it would have been quite impolite.

Although Grandpa Qin was nearly eighty years old, he was in excellent spirits. After exchanging a few polite words with Ouyang Wan, he turned to Zhuang Rui and said with a smile, "Hehe, Bing'er is my favorite granddaughter. Of course, this old man had to come to her engagement..."

The old man spoke in a very loud voice, which attracted the attention of people coming and going in the airport terminal.

Zhuang Rui's group consisted of men with extraordinary bearing and women who were slender, tall, and beautiful, making it hard not to take a second look. Of course, the most attention was naturally focused on Qin Xuanbing.

"Grandpa Qin, let's go to the hotel first..."

Zhuang Rui walked to the side of Old Master Qin, reached out to support him, and together with Qin Xuanbing, helped the old man out of the airport, one on each side.

The weather in Beijing has been good this year. After a heavy snowfall before the Lunar New Year, the weather has been fine from New Year's Eve until now, and the temperature has also risen. However, after Mr. Qin walked out of the airport, he still shivered. Having lived in Hong Kong for a long time, he was really not used to the weather in the north.

Hao Long and Peng Fei, each in a car, were already waiting at the airport entrance. After everyone got into their cars, they headed to the hotel that Zhuang Rui had booked.

Zhuang Rui booked more than twenty rooms at a five-star hotel not far from his courtyard house, because many of his classmates and friends from other places would be coming for his engagement.

People like Wei Ge from Zhonghai, Lao San from Shaanxi, and Lao Si from Guangdong, not to mention Yue Jing from Beijing, will all be attending Zhuang Rui's engagement ceremony. Additionally, Zhuang Rui sent invitations to Uncle De and Fatty Ma from Shanxi before the new year, and they are expected to arrive in Beijing within the next day or two.

Zheng Hua of Zheng's Jewelry in Hong Kong, along with the Bai siblings, also clearly stated that they would attend Zhuang Rui's engagement ceremony. Hong Kong was formerly a British colony, and in Western culture, engagement is considered no less important than marriage.

"Honey, have you missed me?"

After having lunch with Grandpa Qin and the others, Zhuang Rui went to Qin Xuanbing's room, put his arms around her slender waist, lowered his head slightly, and greedily inhaled the fragrance of her hair.

Although Qin Xuanbing was wearing a knee-length coat today, Zhuang Rui's hand went deep under the coat hem and the first thing he touched was her incredibly elastic buttocks. Qin Xuanbing's slender waist was so delicate that it could be grasped in one hand and felt as soft as if it had no bones.

Smelling the fragrance emanating from Qin Xuanbing's body, Zhuang Rui's hands immediately became restless. After giving her incredibly elastic buttocks a squeeze, he reached inside Qin Xuanbing's underwear and began to roam upwards.

Once the unspoken understanding between a man and a woman is broken, the expression of feelings often relies on the most primal forms of human communication. Those scenes in movies where couples spend hours talking and flirting are all utter nonsense. At least right now, what Zhuang Rui wants most is the exchange of bodily fluids.

"No, it's broad daylight..."

Qin Xuanbing blushed at Zhuang Rui's actions and pushed him away with both hands. However, as Zhuang Rui's large hand moved from her waist to her chest, Qin Xuanbing's body went limp, her breathing became rapid, her eyes became hazy, her pretty face lifted up, her lips met his, and her small hands wrapped around Zhuang Rui's neck.

The room seemed to heat up instantly. Zhuang Rui's lips remained pressed against Qin Xuanbing's for two or three minutes before they parted. For a moment, only their heavy breathing filled the room.

The clothes they were wearing had become somewhat superfluous, and both hands were frantically tearing at each other's clothes.

"Damn it, winter is such a hassle, why do you have to wear so many layers..."

Zhuang Rui spent ages unbuttoning the seven or eight buttons on Qin Xuanbing's coat. If it hadn't been so securely sewn, he probably would have ripped it open long ago. Summer is so much more convenient; you can just lift up the skirt and... well, you know...

"Why are you in such a hurry..."

Seeing Zhuang Rui's anxious look, Qin Xuanbing couldn't help but giggle. She pushed Zhuang Rui away, unbuttoned her coat, and took it off, revealing a close-fitting gray sweater and black leggings underneath, showing off her graceful figure.

"Ding-dong... ding-dong..."

Who is it?

Just as Zhuang Rui picked Qin Xuanbing up in his arms, the doorbell suddenly rang, making Zhuang Rui so angry that he almost lost his temper. He asked loudly and irritably.

"Xiao Rui, I'm your Uncle Qin. Come to my room, I need to talk to you about something..."

The reply from outside made Zhuang Rui stick out his tongue, and his lust instantly subsided. Qin Xuanbing in his arms blushed deeply, her little fists pounding against Zhuang Rui's body.

Zhuang Rui's impatient tone was so obvious that even a deaf person could tell what was going on. In broad daylight, Qin Xuanbing's blush deepened.

Zhuang Rui put Qin Xuanbing down, gently tucked her slightly disheveled hair behind her ear, and then asked, "Xuanbing, are you coming along?"

"How am I supposed to get there? It's all your fault, you're so mean..."

Qin Xuanbing's face was full of lust, which anyone could see. How could she be so embarrassed to go out? She just kept pinching Zhuang Rui's waist with one small hand to vent her anger. She was a perfectly normal girl, so why did she not know what to do when she saw this nemesis?

"Hehe, I'll let you punish me as you see fit, okay? You go and get some sleep first, I'll see what Uncle Qin wants with me..."

Zhuang Rui lowered his head and kissed Qin Xuanbing on the cheek, then carried her to the bed. After straightening his clothes, he opened the door and went out. When he arrived at Qin Haoran's room, he found that Old Master Qin was also sitting in the living room of the suite. Zhuang Rui had originally thought that he had gone to rest.

"Xiao Rui, come, sit down..."

Qin Haoran and the old man were both experienced people, and they could guess with their bare hands what the young couple had been doing in the room. So they didn't mention it at all and invited Zhuang Rui to sit down.

"Grandpa Qin, Uncle Qin, what can I do for you? By the way, where's Aunt Fang?"

Zhuang Rui first took the teacups from the room, rinsed them clean, and then brewed a cup of hot tea for both Grandpa Qin and Qin Haoran before sitting down on the sofa opposite Grandpa Qin.

Qin Haoran smiled and said, "Your Aunt Fang and your mother went shopping. They didn't need anything, just wanted to talk to you about the jade they gambled away in Myanmar..."

Zhuang Rui looked astonished upon hearing this and asked, "What happened to those materials? Did the gamble fail? Uncle Qin, I told you before, I can't guarantee that they'll all yield jade..."

Zhuang Rui's expression at this moment was quite interesting, and his tone even revealed a hint of grievance, which made Old Master Qin and Qin Haoran chuckle, and also made the last bit of doubt in their hearts disappear.

"Hehe, it's not that we gambled away money, it's that we gambled big. Of all the rough stones we bought, except for three or four pieces that didn't contain any jade or were of extremely poor quality, the ones you asked us to bid on have basically all been profitable. For the next 10 years, Qin Ruilin will never have to worry about jadeite raw materials again..."

When Qin Haoran talked about the batch of raw stones, his eyebrows immediately lit up with excitement, and he seemed to be pointing out the flaws in the landscape with great confidence.

After leaving Myanmar, Qin Haoran immediately organized the company's top stone-cutting experts. Even during the Chinese New Year, they didn't rest. They spent more than 20 days cutting open all the jadeite rough stones they had bought in Myanmar. The result, of course, made him and his grandfather extremely happy.

Excluding the red jadeite piece unearthed in Myanmar, the nearly 100 million euros spent on the raw materials yielded nearly a thousand kilograms of rough jadeite containing glass-type, ice-type, and golden silk hibiscus-type jadeite. Although there were no top-grade imperial green varieties, the jadeite jewelry carved from these raw materials were the highest-end products on the market.

According to relevant assessments, the value of these jadeite raw materials is approximately over 3 billion yuan. If they were carved into jade ornaments, the value should not be less than 5 billion yuan. In other words, the profit from Qin's Jewelry's trip to Myanmar is as high as 50 times the investment.

It's important to understand that this is calculated in hundreds of millions. The value of these jadeite pieces won in the gamble alone is already higher than the total assets of Qin's Jewelry. As a result, the rise of Qin's Jewelry is unstoppable.

It's important to understand that while the jewelry industry is highly profitable, it's still not as lucrative as the securities and finance industry. However, this industry is more stable and doesn't carry the same risks of dramatic ups and downs.

With these jadeite raw materials, even though Qin's Jewelry's foundation is not as strong as Hong Kong's Cheng's Jewelry, it is only a matter of time before it surpasses Cheng's Jewelry in terms of jadeite products alone.

Qin Haoran has already instructed several jade factories of Qin's Jewelry to rush production and stockpile a batch of high-end jadeite ornaments, waiting for the right opportunity to launch a major battle in the jadeite jewelry sales market across China and Hong Kong.

Zhuang Rui scratched his head and said with a smile, "Uncle Qin, you startled me. It's good that it's gone up..."

"Xiao Rui, this jade gambling venture was all thanks to you. Otherwise, the Qin family would have suffered huge losses, especially with those pieces that Haoran had his eye on..."

Old Master Qin's words made Qin Haoran, who was sitting to the side, blush a little. However, it was also true. Without the raw stone information provided by Zhuang Rui, his trip to Myanmar would probably have ended in failure again.

Chapter 554 A Towering Mountain to Admire

"Grandpa Qin, please don't say that. I was just lucky. There were also scraps that didn't yield any jade..."

Upon hearing Grandpa Qin's words, Zhuang Rui waved his hands repeatedly. He'd done good deeds anonymously so many times already, he didn't care anymore. The main problem was... he just couldn't explain this matter clearly.

"Xiao Rui, we're aware of these things. Without your help in selecting the rough stones, we wouldn't have had so many successful gambles. We've discussed it, and for the next two years, all the mid-to-high-end jadeite jewelry needed by this jewelry store in Beijing will be provided free of charge by the head office. It's just a small token of our appreciation..."

Qin Haoran's words surprised Zhuang Rui. Their small token of appreciation was quite valuable.

Currently, Qin Ruilin's monthly sales of jade jewelry in Beijing are around four million RMB, and they can be higher during holidays. If all the mid-to-high-end jade jewelry sold in the Beijing store within the next two years were supplied by Hong Kong, that would amount to more than 100 million RMB.

This sum of money may seem substantial, but compared to Qin's Jewelry's gains at the Myanmar jade auction, it is insignificant, amounting to only a fraction of Qin's Jewelry's winnings in jade gambling.

Originally, Old Master Qin intended to give Zhuang Rui some shares of Qin's Jewelry, but fearing conflict among his sons, he compromised by supplying Qin Ruilin in Beijing for two years, which could be considered another helping Zhuang Rui.

However, with Qin's Jewelry doing this, it seems that the rough stones Zhuang Rui gambled on don't need to be cut open, which coincides with Zhuang Rui's idea of hoarding jadeite rough stones.

The rough stones gambled in Myanmar were sent to the Pengcheng villa long ago. Zhao Guodong was the one who received them. A few days ago, when Zhuang Rui was in Pengcheng, he took some time to cut out two high-grade icy jade stones.

From those two rough stones, Zhuang Rui extracted approximately 100 jin (about 50 kg) of jade, all of which he gave to Zhao Guodong. This should be enough for Luo Jiang and his apprentices to carve for about a year, meaning that Zhuang Rui wouldn't need to worry about jade jewelry for the next three to five years.

As for the piece of yellow jade, it had already been sent to Beijing before Zhuang Rui returned, and it is now hidden in the basement of Zhuang Rui's courtyard house. Zhuang Rui has not yet figured out what to do with this piece of jade.

The solution definitely needs to be found, but this top-quality yellow jade is too precious. Zhuang Rui still needs to sound out Old Master Gu's opinion on who should carve it. If Old Master Gu is willing to come out of retirement, Zhuang Rui will immediately go and retrieve the material.

Given the rarity of that piece of yellow jade, if it could be carved into an object, it would definitely be the crown jewel of Qin Ruilin's shop in Beijing. Zhuang Rui dared to guarantee that no piece of yellow jade that had ever appeared in the domestic jade market could compare with his own yellow jade rough in terms of quality and size.

"this....."

"Alright, let's do as Haoran says. Come to think of it, we're the ones who benefited from you..."

When Old Master Qin saw Zhuang Rui about to decline, he waved his hand and settled the matter. Zhuang Rui had won so many rough stones this time, and who knows if he could do it again next time. If he was too stingy, he would be embarrassed to ask Zhuang Rui to help him gamble on stones again in the future.

"Then thank you, Grandpa Qin..."

Seeing the old man's resolute attitude, Zhuang Rui stopped being coy. He knew perfectly well how much the rough stone he had Qin Haoran bid for was worth.

"Well, Xiao Zhuang, do you think it would be possible for me to visit General Ouyang and Mr. Ouyang Zhenhua sometime?"

After discussing the jade, Old Master Qin made a request to Zhuang Rui. After Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, the wealthy businessmen in Hong Kong had become increasingly close to the mainland's high-ranking officials. The level of people they could associate with on the mainland had implicitly become a symbol of their status and position in Hong Kong.

The Ouyang family is currently at the height of their power in mainland politics. The older generation includes Ouyang Gang, who possesses the charismatic presence of Hu Jintao, and Ouyang Zhenhua, who has entered the central government. Even a simple meeting with these two, without any substantial gain, would be enough to make many people look at Qin's Jewelry with new respect.

Zhuang Rui hesitated for a moment upon hearing this, and said, "Seeing my maternal grandfather is no problem, I can arrange it tomorrow, but seeing my maternal uncle... I might need to ask first, I don't even know if he's in Beijing..."

"It's alright, let's meet General Ouyang first. I've admired him for a long time, but I've never had the chance to meet him..."

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Old Master Qin stood up happily, waved his hand, and said, "Alright, go keep Xuan Bing company. This old man has disturbed you young people's intimacy; Xuan Bing will complain again later..."

The old man's words made Zhuang Rui's face turn red, a rare occurrence for him.

After leaving Qin Haoran's room, Zhuang Rui returned to Qin Xuanbing's guest room. Upon entering, he found Qin Xuanbing already asleep, a sweet smile on her sleeping face.

"The phone's ringing, the phone's ringing..."

Just as Zhuang Rui took off his coat and was about to crawl into the fragrant quilt, his phone suddenly rang, waking Qin Xuanbing from her sleep.

"Sorry, I disturbed you..."

"It's okay, Rui, sit next to me and take it..."

Just as Zhuang Rui picked up the phone and was about to go out to answer it, Qin Xuanbing stopped him. At that moment, Qin Xuanbing exuded a languid sexiness, making Zhuang Rui almost not want to answer the phone.

"Stop fooling around, answer the phone..."

Qin Xuanbing gave Zhuang Rui a dirty look, pushing away the large hand that reached for her chest, but rested her head on Zhuang Rui's broad chest, carefully inhaling the masculine scent on his body.

Hello, who is this?

"Brother Zhuang, this is Hu Rong. I just got off the plane and I'm at Beijing Airport now..."

The voice on the phone made Zhuang Rui stop what he was doing. It turned out that Hu Rong had also come from Myanmar. That was perfect. He probably brought the tiger skin with him. He could go see his grandfather with Grandpa Qin and the others tomorrow.

Upon receiving Hu Rong's call, Zhuang Rui suddenly remembered that Wei Ge and Uncle De from Zhonghai were also taking an afternoon flight, and he insisted on personally picking them up from the

airport. It seemed that his desire to spend some time with Qin Xuanbing would have to wait until the evening.

"Brother Hu, please wait a moment at the airport, I'll be there in about half an hour..."

After hanging up the phone, Zhuang Rui kissed Qin Xuan's fair and delicate face and said, "Brother Hu from Myanmar is here. I need to go to the airport to pick him up. Baby, you can sleep a little longer..."

"No, I'll go with you to pick it up..."

As Qin Xuanbing spoke, she lifted the blanket, revealing her pair of long, slender, snow-white legs. It turned out she had been waiting for Zhuang Rui. The black lace-trimmed shorts made Zhuang Rui's blood boil instantly. He pulled her back and quickly removed his clothes.

"Well, Brother Hu, you probably don't mind waiting an extra ten or twenty minutes, right?"

After the thought crossed Zhuang Rui's mind, he was completely overwhelmed by Qin Xuanbing's alluring posture as she lay there, and immediately, moans filled the room.

Zhuang Rui had clearly underestimated his own fighting strength. It took more than half an hour for the downpour to finally stop, and Qin Xuanbing was already limp as if she had no bones. Helpless, Zhuang Rui could only put on his clothes, call out to Peng Fei, and each of them drove a car to the airport.

"Brother Hu, I'm so sorry to have kept you waiting..."

As Zhuang Rui entered the airport exit hall, he immediately spotted Hu Rong. Beside him stood a young man about Zhuang Rui's age, whom Zhuang Rui recognized as Hu Rong's younger cousin, whom he had met once before in the Chinatown in Myanmar.

"It's nothing, Brother Zhuang. I have some great news to tell you, haha. I didn't call you because I wanted to surprise you..."

Hu Rong, who is usually very composed, actually gave Zhuang Rui a hug first thing upon seeing him. The strength of the hug was so great that Zhuang Rui's back, which was already a little sore from exercising, suddenly felt a bit overwhelmed.

After hugging Zhuang Rui, Hu Rong greeted Peng Fei. They had become quite familiar with each other after spending several days together in Myanmar.

"Attention passengers, flight xxxx from Zhonghai to Beijing is about to land..."

Just as Zhuang Rui was about to ask what was going on, he suddenly heard the airport announcement and quickly said, "Brother Hu, let's sit down and talk. I happen to have an elder and a friend on this flight, let's wait for them..."

Zhuang Rui brought Peng Fei along, intending to pick up Hu Rong and have Peng Fei take him back to the hotel first. However, he didn't expect that Uncle De and Brother Wei's flight had also arrived, so he simply picked them up and took them together.

"Okay, no problem..."

After sitting down, Zhuang Rui asked, "Brother Hu, did you bring my batch of gold too?"

After Zhuang Rui returned to China, he instructed Manager Wu, who is now in charge of Qin Ruilin's business, to import 2 tons of gold from Hu Rong's company in Myanmar under Qin Ruilin's name. It should be cleared through customs soon.

Hu Rong waved his hand, his face beaming, and said, "It's not that. The gold will take a few more days. Brother, I'm telling you, we've found a vein in our jade mine!!!"

"Oh? Brother Hu, how did you find it?"

Zhuang Rui was taken aback. He had expected that the jade mine would produce a vein, but the fact that it had been discovered in less than a month was beyond his expectations.

"Brother, this is all thanks to you. If you hadn't pointed out that we needed to dig tunnels along that railcar route, we probably wouldn't have found the vein even in another six months..."

Hu Rong now holds Zhuang Rui in the highest esteem and is completely convinced of his abilities. He had invited more than 10 geological experts from China and Europe to conduct explorations, but none of them found any mineral veins. He never expected that a single sentence from Zhuang Rui would save him countless hours and resources.

Moreover, the predicament that Hu encountered in Myanmar has vanished with the discovery of the mines. Now, those jade companies in Myanmar are practically wearing down their own company gates.

Chapter 555-556 Eating Alone

In Myanmar, resources represent wealth and status. Even the military government, let alone the jade company owners, can't do anything about these resource tycoons. Like in the United States, personal property is inviolable in Myanmar.

Furthermore, resources are also exchanged among various jade companies within Myanmar.

After news of Hu Rong's discovery of the mineral vein spread, many business owners came to him with cash, ready to buy a batch of jadeite rough stones. For them, jadeite rough stones were the very foundation upon which their companies depended for survival.

Myanmar holds three to five jade auctions every year. If it relied solely on the jadeite rough produced by its own mines, at least half of Myanmar's jade companies would go bankrupt. Therefore, many people are now scrambling to pre-order rough stones from the Hu Rong mine and make a profit at the auctions.

This is also the rule among the various jade companies in Myanmar. If any company tries to monopolize the profits, it's inevitable that some envious people will try to sabotage it. In a place like Myanmar, small-scale gunfights and brawls are common occurrences.

To prevent this from happening, Hu Rong has mobilized a mine protection team of more than 300 people to guard the entrance to the jade mine. They are currently surveying the terrain and the reserves of raw jade stones, making preparations for mining.

If it weren't for wanting to personally thank Zhuang Rui, Hu Rong wouldn't have had time to attend Zhuang Rui's engagement ceremony.

Of course, the raw stones haven't been mined yet, but the visits from these bosses have allowed Hu Rong to dispose of Zhuang Rui's three tons of gold and convert it all into euro bank drafts from a Swiss bank. This is one of the main reasons he came to China.

“Brother Hu, I just feel that people have a tendency to overlook what's right under their noses. The things that are most obvious are often overlooked. I've always been a person who pays a lot of attention to detail, and perhaps that's why I've always been lucky...”

While making excuses, Zhuang Rui didn't forget to pat himself on the back. Although it sounded a bit like self-praise, Hu Rong thought Zhuang Rui was being extremely modest.

More than 10 geological experts from home and abroad, including those from Europe, spent nearly a year trying to find the exact location of the ore vein, but Zhuang Rui pointed it out in a single sentence. This can no longer be explained by luck. Without extraordinary vision and superhuman judgment, how could Zhuang Rui have invested 2 tons of gold in that mine?

"Whether it was luck or skill, I found the vein by following your directions, so I still want to thank you, brother..."

Hu Rong was truly grateful to Zhuang Rui. Before coming to China, some family members raised objections, saying that Zhuang Rui had only spent over 200 million RMB to buy 30% of the mining shares, which was a huge bargain.

However, Hu Rong immediately reprimanded the man. It's easy to add flowers to brocade, but difficult to provide charcoal in the snow. When no one offered a helping hand to the Hu family at that time, if it weren't for Zhuang Rui providing those 2 tons of gold and his exploration opinions, the Hu family would probably be in a difficult situation to hold on now.

Moreover, Zhuang Rui's background is a major asset for Hu Rong's development in China. He is not a short-sighted person, so he came here in person this time.

"Hehe, Brother Hu, we're practically family, so don't stand on ceremony. I'm counting on your jade mine to make me a fortune..."

Zhuang Rui smiled and changed the subject. He was unwilling to do something like this, since he had benefited from the situation and was now acting innocent, as it would give people a superficial impression.

"Well, according to our preliminary exploration, the vein should be over a hundred meters long, extending 25 to 50 meters into the rock wall. The jade quality is quite good. Judging from the jadeite brought out from several exploratory caves, there should be a considerable amount of icy jadeite. I estimate the value of this batch of jadeite to be around 1 billion euros..."

When the mine was mentioned, Hu Rong's eyes lit up. However, the number he finally announced startled Zhuang Rui. What a joke! 1 billion euros, that's 10 billion RMB. If he got 30%, wouldn't that be 3 billion?

"Brother Hu, is it really worth that much?"

Although Zhuang Rui now views money more as a number, he couldn't help but feel excited and overwhelmed when he heard this "number" from Hu Rong. Speaking of which, how much was the richest person in mainland China on the Forbes list last year?

"Hmm, this should be the largest jade mine discovered in Myanmar. It'll probably take more than 10 years to mine using machinery. Brother, just sit back and wait for your share of the profits..."

Speaking of this, Hu Rong was very excited. With this mine in hand, the Hu family would truly become veritable jade tycoons.

Furthermore, as jadeite mines are depleted, the value of this vein will become increasingly important. Perhaps in 10 years or so, this will be the only jadeite mine left in Myanmar.

"By the way, brother, I've sold those other three tons of gold for you. The international gold price has been rising recently, to about 135 per gram, which is a little over 400 million. I've converted it all into Swiss bank drafts for you, about 40 million euros..."

As Hu Rong spoke, he opened a box beside him to take out a checkbook, but Zhuang Rui grabbed him and said, "Brother Hu, these things aren't urgent, let's talk about them when we get back..."

"Hehe, look at me, I got so happy I forgot the occasion..."

Hu Rong laughed upon hearing this, realizing that he was almost 40 years old and not as composed as this young man.

As the two were talking, the flight from Shanghai to Beijing landed, and people began to emerge from the airport exit.

"Brother Wei, over here, I'm here..."

Zhuang Rui spotted Yang Wei walking out and immediately stood up, shouting loudly before heading over. However, Yang Wei's reputation was so great that everyone coming and going in the airport gave him a stare.

"Hey kid, are you doing this on purpose? Give your older brother some face..."

Yang Wei stepped forward and punched Zhuang Rui. The two brothers hugged tightly. They hadn't seen each other for more than half a year since attending their third brother's wedding in Shaanxi. They were all extremely happy to be able to get together again on the occasion of Zhuang Rui's engagement.

"Come on, I haven't even called you Yang Wei by your full name yet..."

"Stop, stop, your sister-in-law is following behind..."

Yang Wei wished he could shut Zhuang Rui up; his name was a deadly weapon, and no one could help but laugh when they heard it.

"Huh? Nurse Song, you two? What are you doing together..."

Upon hearing this, Zhuang Rui looked behind Yang Wei and was stunned to see the "sister-in-law." It turned out that she was also an acquaintance, Song Xingjun.

"Can't you speak properly? What do you mean by 'got together'? Don't you see we're a perfect match, a handsome man and a beautiful woman?"

Wei Ge was very dissatisfied with Zhuang Rui's words and started shouting loudly.

"Fine, I admit I misspoke, Nurse Song, hello..."

Zhuang Rui greeted Song Xingjun, not caring how the two of them ended up together. He saw Uncle De standing at the back, quickly went over, bowed deeply to him, and said, "Uncle De, I've asked you so many times before you finally decided to leave Zhonghai?"

If you were to ask Zhuang Rui who the most respected elders in his life were, besides his mother and Liu Chuan's parents, it would be Uncle De and Master Gu. As for the elders in his family, there might be more kinship, but in Zhuang Rui's heart, they were not as close as the people mentioned above.

When Zhuang Rui was with Uncle De and Grandpa Gu, he felt very relaxed and could make a few harmless jokes. However, in front of those uncles, he felt more like he was being inspected by his superiors, which made him feel uncomfortable. He was far more at ease with Uncle De and the others.

Uncle De, in particular, provided Zhuang Rui with a great deal of help when Zhuang Rui first graduated and started working at the pawnshop. His care and assistance were entirely selfless, stemming from his admiration for Zhuang Rui's character. Moreover, Uncle De later strongly recommended Zhuang Rui to become the manager of the pawnshop, and the experience he gained during that period was invaluable to Zhuang Rui.

"You brat, I'd be so happy staying home, taking care of my grandson and tending to my flowers. I only came to see an old friend this time. But you did well, you passed the preliminary exam, otherwise I wouldn't have the face to see my old friend..."

Uncle De chuckled and scolded Zhuang Rui, then looked at the young man who was like both his disciple and his nephew with satisfaction, his heart filled with pride.

It's important to understand that Zhuang Rui is no longer the inexperienced, greenhorn who couldn't handle things properly. After the CCTV treasure appraisal program aired, Zhuang Rui's status in the domestic collecting world is no less than his own. Uncle De is naturally very happy to have trained such a disciple in his later years.

Uncle De had a very happy Chinese New Year this year because many people in the China Overseas Collections circle know that Zhuang Rui is his disciple. So when they wish Uncle De a Happy New Year, they always remember to say that a great teacher produces a great student. For Uncle De, this is the greatest praise and reward he has received for cultivating Zhuang Rui.

"Hehe, Uncle De, your name is quite well-known in Beijing. Peng Fei, these next few days you'll be in charge of picking up and dropping off Uncle De to see his old friends..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled and joked with Uncle De, then waved Peng Fei over, asking him to be Uncle De's personal driver for the next few days. He added that if he hadn't been busy, Zhuang Rui would have been Uncle De's driver himself.

"No need, no need. It's very convenient to take a taxi in Beijing. You just need to take care of your own things..."

Uncle De waved his hands repeatedly, but he was as happy as if he had eaten honey. He felt that he had not taught this disciple in vain.

Song Xingjun stood silently to the side, watching Zhuang Rui, Uncle De, and Yang Wei chatting and laughing, and suddenly felt that Zhuang Rui was unusually unfamiliar.

More than a year ago, the big boy who was lying in the hospital bed with an eye injury has now become a mature man. Although he greeted her just now, his attention was not on her, which made Song Xingjun feel a little disappointed.

After meeting Zhuang Rui at the Zhonghai Antique Market, Song Xingjun received his help in auctioning off a Ming Chenghua chicken cup, which greatly improved her family's situation. Song Xingjun has always been grateful to Zhuang Rui, or rather, she has some affection for him.

However, Song Xingjun knew that Zhuang Rui had a girlfriend, and that Officer Miao, who appeared in Zhonghai, was much more outstanding than herself, so Song Xingjun never revealed anything.

After Zhuang Rui left Zhonghai, his feelings for her gradually faded. Song Xingjun was born into a very ordinary family and knew that stories about princes and princesses only existed in fairy tales.

Perhaps Song Xingjun's feelings for Zhuang Rui were just out of gratitude. Girls like her, born into ordinary families, tend to be more practical. After Zhuang Rui left, Yang Wei often went to the hospital to visit her, and before long, the two actually started dating.

Song Xingjun is quiet and reserved, while Yang Wei is more outgoing and competitive. Their personalities complement each other well. After dating for more than half a year, they got engaged and are planning to get married this year.

"Nurse Song, you'd better keep an eye on Viagra from now on. Back in school, he was known as a heartbreaker for middle-aged and elderly women..."

After introducing Hu Rong to Uncle De, Zhuang Rui turned to Song Xingjun and started joking. They were all old friends, and Zhuang Rui was happy to see Song Xingjun and Yang Wei together.

However, there were some things in Zhuang Rui's heart that he couldn't tell others. The first time in his life that Zhuang Rui had truly seen a woman's breasts was with Nurse Song.

Of course, this is something you can only think about occasionally, and keep to yourself for the rest of your life. You can never tell anyone, no matter what. As the saying goes, you can't mess with your friend's wife, and seducing your sister-in-law is a major taboo in the martial arts world.

"Little brother, don't talk nonsense. Your brother is a model man of the modern age..."

Yang Wei was actually a little nervous after hearing Zhuang Rui's words. Although he used to often tease Zhuang Rui for being a virgin, he himself was not much better, having had several relationships with girls that all ended without a trace.

Wei Ge took a liking to Song Xingjun at first sight and went to great lengths to win her over. If Zhuang Rui dares to speak ill of him again, Wei Ge is ready to fight to the death.

"Alright, you model man, let's go..."

Zhuang Rui took the bag from Uncle De and playfully left the airport with Yang Wei.

Seeing their appearance, Song Xingjun, who was following behind, finally let go of the slight resentment in her heart. Everyone has their own happiness, and besides, Wei Ge treated her very well. Song Xingjun liked the gentleness of men from Zhonghai.

Just as you only know if shoes fit after wearing them, it's the same with men and women. It's difficult to know if two people are compatible without spending time together.

After Zhuang Rui dropped Uncle De and the others off at the hotel, he didn't even have time to spend some time with Qin Xuanbing. Then, Lao Si arrived at the Capital Airport from Guangdong and Lao San from Xi'an. Zhuang Rui was too busy to be in two places at once, so he simply called over Yue Jing, the local bigwig, to pick them up.

That evening, Zhuang Rui took Qin Xuanbing and a few classmates out for dinner, while Hu Rong stayed with Qin Haoran and the others. They were relatives, and Zhuang's mother personally hosted them, as in-laws couldn't be neglected.

That evening, Fatty Ma also arrived in Beijing. However, Zhuang Rui didn't need to entertain him; he simply called to inform Zhuang Rui that he would be attending Zhuang Rui's engagement ceremony the day after tomorrow, along with Song Jun.

"Xuanbing, come home with me tonight?"

After sending Wei Ge and the others back to their hotel rooms, Zhuang Rui pulled Qin Xuanbing aside.

"No, Mommy said I have to stay in a hotel until the engagement. You rascal, you did something naughty this afternoon too..."

Seeing Zhuang Rui's disappointed expression, Qin Xuanbing couldn't help but laugh and tap Zhuang Rui's forehead with her finger. Before Zhuang Rui could react, she laughed and ran into her room.

"Alright, buddy, I'll just have to bear with it for a couple more days. In a few days, I'll make you beg for mercy..."

Zhuang Rui pushed the door open, only to find it locked from the inside. He walked out of the hotel dejectedly, took a taxi straight to the courtyard house. The two cars that Peng Fei and Hao Long had brought were used by Qin Haoran and Uncle De, respectively, so Zhuang Rui himself didn't have a car to use.

As soon as Zhuang Rui stepped into the courtyard, he saw Ouyang Jun sitting in the main room watching TV. Next to him sat two strangers. Zhuang Rui couldn't help but ask curiously, "Fourth Brother, what brings you here? Where is your wife?"

It was already past 9 p.m., and since Xu Qing became pregnant, Ouyang Jun rarely stayed out past this hour.

"I've brought you the car. Here, you two get to know him. Just come here tomorrow morning and let my brother give you instructions..." Ouyang Jun instructed the two men beside Zhuang Rui as Zhuang Rui entered the room.

"Yes, Mr. Ouyang, don't worry. If there's nothing else, we'll come again tomorrow."

The two men got up, greeted Zhuang Rui, waved to Ouyang Jun, said goodbye, and left the courtyard.

After the two men left, Zhuang Rui took out the good tea leaves he had taken from Ouyang Jun, brewed him a cup of hot tea, and said with a grin, "Fourth Brother, I really have to thank you for this. I was just looking for a car..."

"Fine, this little thing made me wait for over half an hour. Okay, I'm leaving, my head is full of mush..."

Ouyang Jun has been quite troubled by that real estate project lately. The plans are all done, and construction has already begun, but there is still a shortfall of 200 million yuan. He can't get a loan from the bank, and he doesn't want to borrow from others. He's really worried about it.

Everyone says that the real estate business relies entirely on banks, and Ouyang Jun is now cursing under his breath. Everyone in the country does it this way, so why is it not working for him?

"Hey, Fourth Brother, slow down, I have something to tell you..." Zhuang Rui called out to Ouyang Jun when he saw his expression.

"What's up? You're not going to ask Fourth Brother to be your driver, are you?"

Ouyang Jun turned around and joked with Zhuang Rui, saying that business matters were just a bit troublesome, not that there were no solutions, but that he was simply unwilling to do so.

"If you're free, I'd like to hire a driver..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled, and seeing that Ouyang Jun was about to get angry, he quickly said, "How much money do you still need for your project? I'm a bit more financially secure now..."

"Forget it, you should save that little bit of money for getting married. Tens of millions won't be of much use..."

When Ouyang Jun heard Zhuang Rui mention this, his face wrinkled up again. These days, legitimate business is really tough. You can't evade taxes, and then there are the costs of building materials and labor. If you want to do full-scale construction, you can't get it done for less than 200 million.

Of course, the land that Ouyang Jun developed is worth the investment of so much money. The location is excellent, and the surrounding facilities are complete, including hospitals, schools, and large supermarkets. Given the current upward trend in Beijing housing prices, once the community is completed, it will definitely sell well.

However, Ouyang Jun is currently short of money. Even selling apartments off-plan requires building at least a few floors first, but he hasn't even laid the foundation yet.

"Tell me the total investment amount, but let me make this clear from the start: this money isn't a loan; it's an investment of shares. I'll get a share of the profits when the house is sold..."

Zhuang Rui currently has 40 million euros in Swiss bank drafts in his handbag, and he speaks with great confidence. He hadn't decided how to spend the money, but after hearing Ouyang Jun's words, he's starting to think about investing in real estate.

In the past two years, housing prices across the country have been rising. In places like Shenzhen and Guangzhou, houses that used to cost three or four thousand yuan per square meter have now risen to seven or eight thousand yuan. Not to mention Beijing's China Overseas, housing prices have skyrocketed. If Zhuang Rui can't see this, then his four years of university have been a waste.

How much money do you have?

Ouyang Jun looked at Zhuang Rui with some disbelief. This younger brother of his was complaining to him about being poor just a few days ago. Even winning the lottery wouldn't happen this fast, right?

How much money do you want?

Zhuang Rui adopted a "believe it or not" attitude. Although Yang Bailao has become a big shot these days, that only applies after the money has been lent out. Now, whoever has money in their hands is the big shot.

Ouyang Jun curled his lip and said, "It'll cost at least 200 million, and we might have to throw in another 100 million later. Do you have that much?"

"How many shares can you give me?"

Zhuang Rui asked noncommittally, "Only large investments yield large returns. Money in hand won't generate any wealth. If Ouyang Jun's project is truly promising, there's nothing wrong with investing in it."

"Are you serious?"

"Of course! I've been as busy as a rabbit's father these past few days. Why would I be teasing you?"

Seeing that Zhuang Rui didn't seem to be joking, Ouyang Jun calmed down and started to make plans in his mind.

To be honest, Ouyang Jun's lack of money is just a facade. Even without going through banks or other credit institutions, it wouldn't be difficult for him to raise several hundred million yuan with his connections. However, he would inevitably have to share a portion of the profits.

It's important to understand that the Ouyang family isn't the only powerful force in Beijing. There are quite a few people who have the qualifications and the guts to covet the land he acquired. Therefore, Ouyang Jun has never decided whether to cooperate with others or keep it all to himself.

Although it's a big no-no to eat alone these days, as long as you have money and don't let anyone find fault with you, given the Ouyang family's power, no one can do anything to Ouyang Jun even if he eats alone.

But the most crucial point is that the four young euro holders, who have always been playing the game of getting something for nothing, are now most in need of money.

Chapter 557 Zhuang Rui's Engagement (Part 1)

Since getting married, Ouyang Jun no longer wanted to get involved in romantic affairs. He had already planned to close the club and focus his future investments on real estate projects. Therefore, he spent more than 100 million yuan to buy a well-established and qualified construction company.

However, precisely because of this, Ouyang Jun's finances became very tight. He could sell his club for a hundred or two hundred million, but selling it at this crucial moment would inevitably make him a laughing stock. Anyone with eyes could see that the Fourth Young Master Ouyang was short of money.

"Wu'er, my initial investment wasn't that much, around 200 million, but there are still some personal connections involved. If you really want to invest, put up 250 million, and I'll give you 40% of the shares..."

Ouyang Jun sat on the sofa with his head tilted back, and after thinking for more than ten minutes, he finally gave his answer.

Although Ouyang Jun only invested 200 million yuan to acquire 60% of the shares, Zhuang Rui invested 250 million yuan but only received 40% of the shares. This seems unfair, but in fact, Ouyang Jun has already made a great concession.

The large garden-style residential community developed by Ouyang Jun has an estimated cost of around 500 million yuan, but once completed, its market price is over 2 billion yuan.

In other words, Zhuang Rui's investment of 250 million yuan could potentially turn into 1 billion yuan in one or two years. Therefore, there are many people with funds who want to get involved in Ouyang Jun's project. Even if Ouyang Jun only offers 20% of the shares, there are still people scrambling to get them.

Giving Zhuang Rui 40% is already considered very generous by Ouyang Jun. This project is definitely a sure thing, and anyone can see that. Bai Feng has been chasing after Ouyang Jun for half a month, but Ouyang Jun hasn't given in. If it weren't for Zhuang Rui, Ouyang Jun wouldn't have included him at all.

"Alright, Fourth Brother, we'll do it your way. But I won't have time these next few days. You can handle the shares and stuff..."

Zhuang Rui didn't keep Ouyang Jun waiting long. After a quick mental calculation, he agreed. He had heard Ouyang Jun talk about this project before and knew the location was good. Given the current real estate boom, investing the money there would definitely be higher than keeping it in the bank earning interest.

"You've got a sharp eye, kid, and you've got guts too. No wonder you've built this empire..."

When Ouyang Jun saw that Zhuang Rui had made a decision in just a few minutes, even he was impressed. Zhuang Rui dared to place an order for over 200 million RMB without even seeing anything. If their positions were reversed, Ouyang Jun knew he would never have dared to do so. At the very least, he would have done some research beforehand.

"Hehe, Fourth Brother, I'll only provide the money. After the house is sold, I'll get the money according to my share. I won't concern myself with anything else, so please don't come looking for me..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled, took out the bank draft he hadn't even had a chance to warm up from his handbag, handed it to Ouyang Jun, and said, "This totals 40 million euros. You give me 25 million, and the rest can be issued as a Swiss bank draft..."

Zhuang Rui was considering that if he needed to go abroad in the future, he wouldn't need to exchange foreign currency with Ouyang Jun anymore. With more than 10 million euros on hand, he would generally have enough to use wherever he went. As for China, he also had about 10 million RMB, so he wasn't short of money.

Furthermore, around April or May, Xinjiang will also receive a sum of money, which should be around 100 million RMB. What Zhuang Rui needs to do now is to find some promising projects and invest this money.

Zhuang Rui is not short of money now, but he enjoys the joy of the returns from his investments. This feeling is more fulfilling than finding a bargain on Taobao. After all, when it comes to appraising antiques, even if you find a good item, the thrill is not as strong.

"Okay, I'll have someone process the share transfer documents later and bring them to you for your signature. I'm heading back now, otherwise your sister-in-law will be worried sick at home..."

As the saying goes, "charity begins at home." Zhuang Rui solved the funding problem, and although he had to give up almost half the pie, at least no one benefited. Ouyang Jun was quite satisfied with the result.

After seeing Ouyang Jun off, Zhuang Rui returned to his room, took a shower, and then went to his basement.

Now, the antique shelves in the basement are filled with some items, unlike when they were empty. Perhaps in a few more days, a batch of dazzling gold will also be among them.

Zhuang Rui now has a plan in mind: once he's more settled, he plans to travel abroad and use his special eye to acquire as many Chinese cultural relics that have been lost overseas as possible.

Of course, he didn't intend to donate the acquired items to the country, but he could consider opening his own museum. There are already two private antique museums in China.

Zhuang Rui's mindset towards antiques is becoming more and more like that of a collector. Every time he goes into the basement to observe the calligraphy, paintings, and ceramics, he feels a special peace of mind.

Behind every antique lies a story, whether real or unverifiable, from history. This requires people to guess and ponder, which is part of the joy of collecting.

As Zhuang Rui gained a deeper understanding of antiques, he gradually became able to feel the profound sense of history and vicissitudes contained within them, as if scrolls of images were taking him into the long river of history.

After spending more than half an hour alone in the collection room, Zhuang Rui returned to his room with an indescribable emotion and fell into a deep sleep.

“Mr. Zhuang, well... even if you don't wear a tie, you still need a bow tie...”

In Zhuang Rui's backyard, a lively scene unfolded as a large group of people gathered, ready to witness Zhuang Rui's downfall.

A female makeup artist, hired by Ouyang Jun, was holding a bow tie and adjusting Zhuang Rui's clothes. Although Zhuang Rui was blushing, it wasn't visible on his face because he had just had foundation applied.

Today is Zhuang Rui's engagement day. Originally, we thought of holding the ceremony at a hotel, but considering that all the guests are relatives and friends, and Grandpa Ouyang will also be there, it seems a bit inappropriate to go to a hotel. It would be better to hold the ceremony in Zhuang Rui's traditional courtyard house. As for the engagement banquet, we will go to the hotel after the ceremony.

Around six o'clock in the morning, Zhuang Rui was woken up by a group of people. Several classmates, Ouyang Jun, and Song Jun and Fatty Ma, who were obviously a year older than them, all came to join in the fun, making Zhuang Rui suffer terribly.

"Alright, hurry up and go out to greet the customers..."

Zhuang Rui rolled his eyes at Ouyang Jun's words, but he still obediently walked to the middle courtyard, met up with Qin Xuanbing, and then walked to the gate of the courtyard house, where they stood side by side.

"Honey, are you cold?"

In February, the weather in Beijing was still quite cold. When Zhuang Rui saw Qin Xuanbing, he was worried that she, who had lived in Hong Kong since childhood, might not be used to it, even though she was wearing a bright red cotton-padded coat.

"I'm cold, Brother Zhuang Rui, can you hug me?"

Wei Ge, who was standing opposite Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing, suddenly started to imitate a woman's voice after hearing Zhuang Rui's words, which made everyone laugh. Many old residents in the alley stuck their heads out to watch the lively scene.

"Get out of my way..."

Zhuang Rui cursed irritably. Didn't you see that I'm wearing a suit and shirt in this freezing weather? Luckily, I had thermal underwear under that shirt, otherwise I would have been freezing.

Fatty Ma nudged Song Jun and said, "Old Song, we two brothers should walk through the gate one more time and give them our blessings..."

"So, you just want to show off your gift, huh..."

Song Jun was pulled out by Fatty Ma. When they returned, Fatty Ma was carrying a long wooden box, which was obviously a painting, while Song Jun was carrying a light brocade box, which was beautifully packaged.

"Brother Zhuang, I'm not very educated, but I'm trying my best to become one. This is a painting of 'Osmanthus, Chrysanthemum and Mountain Birds' by Lü Ji of the Ming Dynasty, which I have in my collection. Hey young man, can you open this painting and take a look?"

Fatty Ma called out to Yang Wei, instructing him to hold one side of the scroll and slowly unfurl the painting.

"Brother, these birds, mynas, osmanthus, and chrysanthemums are all auspicious, symbolizing wealth, prosperity, good fortune, and longevity. I wish you and Miss Qin a long and happy marriage, and many children!"

Fatty Ma's words were met with cheers, and Zhuang Rui repeatedly clasped his hands in gratitude. The people present were all laymen and did not know the value of the painting, but Zhuang Rui understood it very well.

Lü Ji, courtesy name Tingzhen, sobriquet Leyu, was a court painter during the Hongzhi era of the Ming Dynasty. He held the official positions of Commander of the Embroidered Uniform Guard and Deputy Commander, which was a very high and powerful position in the Ming Dynasty.

Lü Ji was renowned for his flower-and-bird paintings. His typical style was meticulous brushwork with heavy colors, but he was also skilled in meticulous brushwork with light colors and freehand ink painting. The subjects he chose were mostly imbued with auspicious and wealthy connotations, and in

terms of form, he pursued a rich and beautiful aesthetic taste, with distinct characteristics of court art. His painting style had the greatest influence on Ming Dynasty court flower-and-bird paintings.

Lü Ji's painting style is exquisite and admired by later generations. There are not many surviving works, and the price has always remained high. The genuine work that Fatty Ma brought is about 100cm in height and 55cm in width. If it were to be auctioned, it would cost at least 5 million RMB. Fatty Ma's spending is quite generous.

"Alright, Fatty, move aside..."

Song Jun, standing behind Fatty Ma, pushed Fatty Ma aside, raised the brocade box in his hand, and said, "Brother Zhuang, can you guess what gift I'm holding?"

Chapter 558-559 Zhuang Rui's Engagement (Part Two & Three)

"Brother Song, it's already a great honor for me that you and Brother Ma came. Brother Ma's gift is a bit too expensive, so please just give me a 200 yuan cash gift..."

Zhuang Rui gave a wry smile. Fatty Ma was offering antiques worth millions; the items the Song army brought out certainly wouldn't be shabby. He was almost hesitant to accept them; these were all favors.

"Bullshit, are you trying to slap me in the face? 200 yuan, how dare you even say that..."

Song Jun was both amused and exasperated by Zhuang Rui's words. If he were to actually give 200 yuan as a wedding gift, he would be too ashamed to show his face in public. These days, even a small family would spend more than 200 yuan on a wedding banquet. Song Jun really couldn't bear the embarrassment.

"That's not what I meant, Brother Song..."

"Alright, stop dawdling. This was originally yours, so here you are..."

Song Jun waved his hand to interrupt Zhuang Rui, and shoved the light brocade box in his hand into Zhuang Rui's hand. Zhuang Rui could only accept it with a wry smile.

"Is it the 'Fragrant Ancestor's Notebook'? Brother Song, this... how can I accept this?"

Upon opening the brocade box, Zhuang Rui was stunned. This item had indeed once belonged to Zhuang Rui, and it was the first bargain he had ever found in his life. The 3.8 million RMB he received from selling it to the Song army was also the first pot of gold he had ever earned.

"I know this is the first thing you've ever gotten by scavenging, so I got it back from the old man. Keep it for yourself as a keepsake..."

Song Jun is a collector, so he naturally knows that everyone has a deep memory of the first item they collect after entering this circle. Therefore, he specially picked it out and sent it back to Zhuang Rui.

Seeing this handbook, Zhuang Rui felt a pang of emotion. Although it had been more than a year, the scene from that time—the old woman standing in front of Liu Chuan's shop in the heavy snow—seemed as if it were right before his eyes.

"If I have the chance in the future, I should make it up to that old woman..." Zhuang Rui thought to himself. It was because of this manual that Zhuang Rui learned that spiritual energy could be used to distinguish antiques, which led him to enter this industry.

"Brother Song, thank you so much. I'll accept this..."

For Zhuang Rui, the commemorative significance of this manual far outweighs the value of the object itself. Coupled with Song Jun's sentiment, this gift is no less significant than the "Osmanthus and Chrysanthemum Mountain Birds" painting given by Fatty Ma.

"Don't waste my breath. My father is counting on you for his birthday gift. Just don't be unable to provide it..."

The Song army is now blaming Zhuang Rui for this; it's all because you showed off all the good stuff you got.

Zhuang Rui ignored Song Jun's comment and said with a grin, "Hehe, Brother Song, why don't you just return that painting of Li Duanduan by Tang Bohu to me as well..."

"Get out of here. I even stole this manual without the old man knowing. You can forget about that painting. Alright, Old Ma, let's go inside and have some tea. Let's not waste time arguing with this kid here..."

Song Jun glared at Zhuang Rui with annoyance, and under Liu Chuan's guidance, they entered the central courtyard. Today, not only Liu Chuan, but also Wei Ge and other classmates had become waiters, shuttling between the gate and the central courtyard to pick up and drop off guests.

"We have a guest!"

The third brother, who was standing outside the door, suddenly shouted in a gruff voice. Zhuang Rui peeked out and saw three people walking from the alley entrance. He quickly ran down the steps to meet them.

"Uncle De, Teacher Sun, Teacher Jin, why did you all come together..."

Zhuang Rui greeted the group, then turned to Qin Xuanbing and said, "Xuanbing, this is my teacher, Uncle De, and these are Teacher Jin and Teacher Sun. They are all senior figures in the antique trade..."

"Hello Uncle De, hello Teacher Jin, hello Teacher Sun, thank you all for coming to my engagement ceremony with Zhuang Rui..."

Qin Xuanbing followed behind Zhuang Rui, greeting the group with a graceful and poised manner.

"Good, good, a perfect match, a match made in heaven..."

When Uncle De heard Zhuang Rui's words about being a teacher, his old face beamed with joy. He felt that his efforts in teaching Zhuang Rui had not been in vain, and he had gained a lot of face in front of his old friends.

"Uncle De, please come in and rest for a while, have some hot tea..."

Zhuang Rui knew that Uncle De and Sun Dasheng had a very good relationship, but he didn't expect them to come together. He quickly called over the third brother and asked him to bring people into the central courtyard for tea.

Fatty Jin waved his hand, interrupting Zhuang Rui, and said, "No rush, Brother Zhuang. Today is your engagement, and I wanted to join in the fun. I brought you two items; let's take a look..."

Zhuang Rui then noticed that everyone was carrying something, and quickly said, "Teacher Jin, it's already a huge honor for me that you all came. We don't need to stand on ceremony..."

Zhuang Rui meant it sincerely. The people in front of him were all his mentors in the antique business, so he really didn't care about the gifts.

"Hey, the ancients said that passing the imperial examination and the wedding night are the greatest joys in life, so it's only right that we bring something..."

Fatty Jin chuckled and said, holding two long cardboard boxes. He first handed one box to Uncle De, then opened one of the scrolls and said, "Brother, this painting is one you once asked me to appraise. The result is in: this Guan Gong portrait is a copy made by Zhang Daqian in the 1920s or 30s..."

"A painting copied by Zhang Daqian?"

Zhuang Rui was stunned for a moment. He had bought this small painting at the black market in Beijing last time. When he saw that the spiritual energy in it was yellowish, he thought it was a copy made by someone in the Qing Dynasty. He didn't expect it to be the work of Zhang Daqian. But thinking about it, some objects in modern collections also have a yellowish spiritual energy.

Zhang Daqian holds a pivotal position in the history of modern Chinese painting, which is why Zhuang Rui knows him very well.

It can be said that Zhang Daqian was a genius painter whose works "encompassed the strengths of various styles and combined the richness of the Northern and Southern schools." He integrated literati painting, professional painting, court painting and folk art into one, and was proficient in all aspects of

Chinese painting, including figures, landscapes, flowers and birds, fish and insects, and animals, whether in meticulous or freehand style.

Zhang Daqian's painting style in his early and middle years mainly consisted of copying and imitating ancient works. He spent most of his life studying the works of the Qing Dynasty and the Sui and Tang Dynasties one by one, from copying to imitation, and then to forgery.

Zhang Daqian's painting style before the age of 30 can be described as "fresh and elegant," reaching "magnificent and majestic" at 50, and after 60 reaching the realm of "deep and profound tranquility." After 80, his temperament became refined, with simple brushstrokes and light ink. His unique splashed-ink landscape paintings are magnificent and beautiful, blending with nature. This enhances the appeal of the artistic conception and the overall effect of the painting.

In the 1920s, Zhang Daqian and his brother Zhang Shanzi were known as the "Two Heroes of Sichuan" in the Chinese painting world. In the 1930s, he was as famous as Pu Ru (Xinyu), a great painter from the north, and they were known as "Zhang in the South and Pu in the North" in the Chinese painting world. He was hired as an art professor at National Central University. Xu Beihong once praised Zhang Daqian as "the greatest painter in five hundred years".

Daqian Jushi was also one of the modern painters who created the most forgeries. His forgeries of ancient paintings were almost indistinguishable from the real thing. Sometimes, after his forgeries were authenticated, they were worth more than his signed paintings, which can be described as a remarkable story in the art world.

"Yes, this painting was authenticated by the teacher. It's definitely by Zhang Daqian. He rarely imitated ancient figure paintings. His portraits are very expensive. Although this painting isn't large, it would fetch at least 1.5 million RMB at auction. You've really gotten a great deal..."

Jin Pangzi knew that Zhuang Rui had bought the painting for 5,000 yuan, which is why he said that. Moreover, paintings that have been appraised and stamped by a master will have an even higher market value.

"Thank you so much, sir. Once I'm done with this busy period, I'll definitely visit you to receive your guidance..."

Zhuang Rui truly respected Jin Pangzi's teacher from the bottom of his heart. He never expected that the painting he had acquired would be authenticated by the master himself.

"Alright, this painting is yours. Keep it and look at it slowly later. I brought you a piece of calligraphy, which happens to be written by Zhang Daqian. Consider it fitting for the occasion..."

Fatty Jin took out the painting "The Scholar of Shiyuan" that he had given to Zhuang Rui.

"Teacher Jin, thank you so much. I'm really sorry to have troubled you with all this money..."

Zhang Daqian's paintings are much more expensive than his calligraphy. Nowadays, a calligraphy work costs about 30,000 yuan per square foot. This piece of calligraphy is less than two square feet, which is about 50,000 yuan. Given the friendship between Jin Pangzi and Zhuang Rui, this gift is already quite substantial.

"Mine is nothing. Look at what your teacher gave you. We asked him for ages, but Grandpa De just wouldn't tell us. It must be something good..."

Fatty Jin waved his hand and handed the item to Wei Ge behind Zhuang Rui. Yang Wei knew the item was valuable, so he quickly took it to a room in the central courtyard. There was a table in the middle room of the central courtyard, which was specifically for displaying gifts.

"You fatso Jin, trying to outmaneuver me with a painting by Zhang Daqian, huh?"

Uncle De smiled and pointed at Fatty Jin, opening the box in his hand. Inside were two jade pendants, one in the shape of a dragon and the other in the shape of a phoenix. The carving was exquisite, the jade was smooth and round, and the jade was colorful. At a glance, five or six colors could be distinguished. It was definitely an ancient jade.

"Uncle De, this is absolutely unacceptable! You've been collecting these two items for decades..."

When Zhuang Rui saw the item that Uncle De took out, he was immediately startled and waved his hands repeatedly to decline. The value of the item was secondary; the key was that it was something Uncle De had carried with him for decades and was deeply loved by him.

Not to mention Zhuang Rui, even Fatty Jin and Sun Wukong next to him gasped when they saw the two jade pendants.

When it comes to ancient jade, the first thing to look at is the quality of the jade itself, followed by the patina. The more patina a piece has, the more valuable it is. Most ancient jade pieces at auctions nowadays have three or four types of patina, and their prices remain high. Jade pieces of slightly lower quality are generally priced at over a million.

The two jade pendants that Uncle De took out were carved from top-quality Hetian jade. The color was naturally smooth and rounded. After being handled by Uncle De for decades, they had become exceptionally smooth. The dragon and phoenix patterns were lifelike. When held in the palm of one's hand, the dragon and phoenix seemed to leap out.

Although Zhuang Rui was not very familiar with the market for ancient jade, he knew that the combined value of these two jade pendants was probably over ten million.

"Take it..."

Uncle De first took out a phoenix-shaped jade pendant from the box and handed it to Qin Xuanbing, saying, "Uncle De doesn't have much to give you, but this is just right for the occasion. I wish you two a harmonious and loving marriage, and um, that you have a big, healthy son soon..."

"Uncle De, you should leave this to the younger generation..."

Zhuang Rui gestured to Qin Xuanbing not to reach out and take them. He had seen Uncle De's collection in Zhonghai, and these two jade pendants were arguably the most valuable. If Uncle De were to give them to him, his descendants would inevitably be unhappy.

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Uncle De immediately glared at him and said, "Why all the nonsense? Aren't you my junior? I can give my things to whomever I want. Don't be so pretentious, kid. Just for the fact that you called me 'teacher,' I'm not losing out by giving you this..."

"Uncle De, please don't be angry, I'll accept it, okay..."

When Zhuang Rui saw that Uncle De was really angry, he quickly nodded to Qin Xuanbing, signaling her to take the jade pendant. However, Zhuang Rui was still thinking to himself that he should find an opportunity to make amends to Uncle De. It seemed that Uncle De would be celebrating his 66th birthday this year, and he had to find a good gift to send him.

"Thank you, Uncle De..."

After Qin Xuanbing took the jade pendant, she smiled sweetly at Uncle De.

"Hmm, that's more like it. Is there any way to get back what Uncle De has given away..."

Uncle De finally smiled when he saw Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing accept the two jade pendants.

The reason why Fatty Jin gave Zhang Daqian's calligraphy was because Zhuang Rui had previously given him a nice pearl necklace to his "girlfriend," so it was a matter of reciprocity. As for the relationship between Uncle De and Zhuang Rui, it goes without saying.

As for Sun Dasheng, his relationship with Zhuang Rui was just so-so. This time, he only brought an ordinary gift. After seeing the gifts of the other two, he didn't take it out to show off and casually handed the gift to Yang Wei, who was standing by the door.

"Uncle De, let me escort you all inside..."

"No need, no need, just have someone else deliver it. You can keep busy here..." Uncle De waved his hand repeatedly.

"It's alright, Uncle De, Teacher Jin, Teacher Sun, please come in..."

This time, Zhuang Rui didn't let Wei Ge and the others send people in; for an elder like Uncle De, he had to send him in himself.

After entering the courtyard, Zhuang Rui found his mother and asked her to accompany Uncle De for tea and conversation before returning to the entrance of the courtyard to work as a receptionist.

"Zhuang Rui, how much is that jade pendant worth? Is it very valuable?"

When Zhuang Rui returned, Qin Xuanbing asked him about it. Although she could tell that the two jade pendants were of good quality, she was not entirely convinced. She thought that the two pieces of jade were worth around 70,000 to 80,000 yuan, and that Zhuang Rui was making a big fuss about them.

As Zhuang Rui spoke, he held up one finger to Qin Xuanbing and said, "They are indeed very valuable. These are the two best items in Uncle De's collection. Sigh, this is a bit too much of a burden..."

"100,000?" Qin Xuanbing asked, the price was about what she had expected.

"100,000? It's 10 million, okay...?"

Zhuang Rui rolled his eyes. You underestimate your taste as a man. A 100,000 yuan item can make you so nervous?

"It really is very valuable..."

Qin Xuanbing stuck out her tongue and remained silent. Although she came from a wealthy family, she rarely saw such an expensive gift. You know, for those rich young men in Hong Kong, keeping a celebrity only costs a few million.

"A guest has arrived..."

While Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing were talking, the third brother standing outside the door shouted, but he stopped before he could finish. He was afraid that the person who came this time was a resident of the alley, and it would be embarrassing if he called the wrong person.

"Hey, Nobita, Monkey, you're here! We're over here..."

When Zhuang Rui saw the two people peeking out of the alley, along with the girl behind them, he couldn't help but laugh. He waved and greeted them. The people who came were Da Xiong, Hou Zi, and Xiao Jing. Zhuang Rui had called them yesterday and given them this address, but he hadn't mentioned his engagement.

Zhuang Rui was originally a true grassroots man. Although he later accepted his maternal grandfather's marriage, it was only for a little over half a year. He didn't have any sense of class distinctions. Da Xiong and Monkey were his friends, and they were the ones he had invited to Beijing. Of course, he had to invite them to his engagement.

"Brother Zhuang, we've been looking for you for ages! Oh, so this is where you live..."

When Monkey and Da Xiong heard Zhuang Rui's voice, they rushed over, but when they saw the brightly decorated gate with the character (double happiness) hanging in front of them, they were dumbfounded.

"Brother Zhuang, you...you're getting married? This...this..."

When the monkey saw the somewhat exaggerated front door of Zhuang Rui's house, and then saw the tall and beautiful Qin Xuanbing behind Zhuang Rui, its usually quick tongue suddenly became stuttering, and it couldn't utter a single word.

"What is this? It's not a wedding, it's an engagement. We've invited you here for an engagement banquet. Oh, right, you two brothers take Xiaojing inside. Dachuan is inside. Let Xiaojing stay with Dachuan's wife for a while. You two come out and help out..."

Seeing the two of them, Zhuang Rui knew that even if he let them stay inside, Da Xiong and Monkey would probably feel uncomfortable, so he decided to let them help out.

"Brother Zhuang, look... you didn't even say a word, we didn't even bring a red envelope..."

While speaking, Da Xiong frantically tried to take out money to give as a gift.

"Alright, we're all friends, let's skip the formalities and get Xiaojing inside quickly. We'll come out and help later..."

Zhuang Rui pulled Da Xiong aside and escorted the three of them through the gate, without telling them that he was getting engaged today, even though he didn't want them to spend any money.

"Good heavens, is this a place for humans to live?"

Upon entering the courtyard, the monkey looked at the blue bricks, red tiles, and large blue stone floor, as well as the exquisite and elegant hanging flower gate, and felt a bit like Grandma Liu visiting the Grand View Garden.

"What are you saying? If you can't speak properly, shut your mouth..."

Da Xiong patted the monkey on the head from behind and then said, "This really isn't a place for humans to live, ptoeey, no, this isn't a place for ordinary people to live..."

"Alright, you two, stop talking nonsense..."

Xiao Jing, who was following behind, looked at her boyfriend and the monkey with a mixture of amusement and exasperation. Although she was also shocked by the scene before her, she was relatively calmer. From the grandeur of Zhuang Rui's house, she could tell the social class of the people he associated with. She didn't want her boyfriend to embarrass himself when he went in.

Upon entering the central courtyard, the artificial hill and pavilion dazzled the group. It was just like something out of a Qing Dynasty drama. Da Xiong and Monkey were secretly relieved, thinking that following Zhuang Rui to Beijing was the best decision they had ever made.

"Hey, Da Xiong, Monkey, you two are here too! Come over here..."

Liu Chuan, who was talking to Song Jun, saw Da Xiong and the others and greeted them immediately. Liu Chuan himself was a man who made friends with all sorts of people, so he didn't look down on Monkey and his friends. Meeting fellow townsmen in Beijing was always a happy thing.

"Brother Liu, we were just looking for you. Oh, by the way, this is my wife. Brother Zhuang said she should stay here for a while while we two brothers go out and help out..."

After Da Xiong walked over, he realized that the person sitting next to Liu Chuan was actually Song Jun. Although Song Jun didn't recognize the two of them, they recognized Song Jun and knew that he was a powerful figure. They were a little reserved. After introducing Xiao Jing to Liu Chuan, they prepared to leave.

"Okay, let's go to my wife's group..."

Because there were so many people today, all six main rooms in the central courtyard were cleared out to entertain guests. Elders like Uncle De were personally accompanied by Ouyang Wan, while Song Jun and others were accompanied by Ouyang Jun and his peers. The other women stayed in the side rooms chatting.

Liu Chuan had been slacking off here for half a day, so he stood up, led Xiao Jing to the side room, introduced her to Lei Lei, and then returned to the entrance of the courtyard with Da Xiong and the other two.

It was almost 10 a.m., and more and more guests were arriving. Among them were people Zhuang Rui knew, such as Bai Feng, the host Liu, and Li Jia, who had previously worked with him on a CCTV treasure appraisal program. He was the host of Zhuang Rui's engagement ceremony.

The story of Li Jia becoming the host started when Zhuang Rui called him that day. Li Jia volunteered himself, knowing that Zhuang Rui had a powerful background and that building a good relationship with such a person would definitely be beneficial to him.

Zheng Hua and the Bai siblings from Hong Kong also rushed over, along with several young people Zhuang Rui had met in Hong Kong. They all presented valuable gifts. As for Hu Rong, he was a member of the bride's family and had arrived at the courtyard house long ago.

In addition, Yang Bo, a famous young man from the capital, also came to the door after somehow getting wind of the news. As the saying goes, guests are always welcome, so Zhuang Rui invited him in. His group had spent quite a bit at Qin Ruilin's place.

"Miao...Feifei...Officer, you're here too..."

As Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing were whispering to each other at the door, a beautiful figure suddenly appeared before them.

Chapter 560 The two women met and felt like they were sitting on pins and needles.

Today, Miao Feifei wasn't wearing her police uniform. Instead, she wore a loose-fitting, bright red sweater, skinny jeans, and long black leather boots. Combined with her neat long hair and easily misunderstood face, she gave off a refreshing vibe.

Although Miao Feifei is slightly shorter than Qin Xuanbing, standing in front of Qin Xuanbing now, she is in no way inferior to Qin Xuanbing in terms of appearance and temperament. The two girls each have their own advantages.

Qin Xuanbing looked noble and elegant, especially after being touched by Zhuang Rui, she exuded a mature woman's charm. Miao Feifei, on the other hand, was as fresh and refined as a lotus after the rain. The two of them standing together were like plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, and chrysanthemums, each with their own strengths. Moreover, they were both wearing red clothes and looked like brides.

The wolves behind Zhuang Rui were already dazzled. As the saying goes, one should not flirt with a friend's wife. They could not stare directly at Zhuang Rui's wife, but they had no such restraint when looking at Miao Feifei.

"Zhuang Rui, who is this young lady?"

Women's intuition is always extremely sharp. After Zhuang Rui called out Miao Feifei's name, Qin Xuanbing felt something was amiss. She had also greeted several girls at the door with Zhuang Rui earlier, but she had never seen Zhuang Rui show such a stumbling expression before.

“My name is Miao Feifei, and I’m Zhuang Rui’s ‘good’ friend. Ms. Qin, it’s a pleasure to meet you. I’ve often heard your name mentioned by Zhuang Rui before...”

Before Zhuang Rui could answer, Miao Feifei stepped forward and extended her right hand to Qin Xuanbing. However, when she spoke, she deliberately emphasized the word "good," so much so that even Da Xiong and the monkey who had just arrived could hear it.

"Damn it, you're a friend, that's true, but don't say 'good' through gritted teeth. Also, my buddy's been avoiding you lately, when have I ever mentioned Qin Xuanbing to you so often..."

Zhuang Rui was on the verge of tears. "I'm innocent!" he thought, stealing a glance at Qin Xuanbing, only to find that she remained unmoved by Miao Feifei's words, her expression unchanged.

"Xuanbing, let me introduce you, this is..."

"No need, honey. Didn't you tell me before that this must be Officer Miao?"

Zhuang Rui was about to explain to Xuan Bing when Qin Xuan Bing interrupted him, extending her slender hand to shake hands with Miao Feifei. Although the scene looked incredibly harmonious, like two close friends having a conversation, Zhuang Rui always felt that something was off.

Moreover, it seems that Qin Xuanbing has never called him "husband" before, right? To Zhuang Rui, the way she called him "husband" didn't sound very affectionate; it sounded more like she was saying it through gritted teeth.

"Little Feifei is so pretty! Why didn't you come with your boyfriend?"

Qin Xuanbing's seemingly casual question caused Miao Feifei's smiling face to change, but she quickly smiled again and said, "No way, Sister Qin is the prettiest. Otherwise, how could she have Zhuang Rui tied down? Zhuang Rui is very popular with girls..."

"Officer Miao, you can't just say things like that..."

Zhuang Rui couldn't hold back any longer. "Dude, I've never had a girl like me since I was a kid. I dated one in college, but she went abroad right after we started holding hands. I didn't even get to kiss her. I'm more wronged than Dou E!"

"Of course, if Zhuang Rui weren't charming, I wouldn't be able to like him..."

Qin Xuanbing ignored Zhuang Rui, but her words became increasingly sharp, which made Zhuang Rui's face turn bitter. Today was his big day, Officer Miao wasn't such a clueless person, was she?

"Alright, congratulations on your engagement! But engagement isn't the same as marriage, Miss Qin. You need to hold onto Zhuang Rui tight. Men, sometimes, tsk tsk..."

Miao Feifei felt that her wit was far inferior to Qin Xuanbing's, and since Qin Xuanbing was playing on her home turf, she was at a disadvantage. After saying this, she smiled and greeted Qin Xuanbing and Zhuang Rui before walking through the door.

Of the guys behind Zhuang Rui, only Yue Jing knew that Miao Feifei was a feisty girl. The third brother and Wei Ge were already taken. The remaining fourth brother, a single bachelor, hurriedly followed them inside.

But less than a minute later, the fourth brother came back, limping and staggering.

"Fourth brother, what happened? Did you hurt your foot?"

Yue Jingxiong greeted him with a wicked grin. Knowing Officer Miao as he did, he knew that the fourth brother had definitely suffered a setback, and it seemed that he had also been physically injured.

"That girl... no, Miss Miao's high heels accidentally stepped on me..."

The fourth brother was telling the truth. When he tried to strike up a conversation with Miao Feifei, Officer Miao slowed down and "accidentally" stepped on him. Moreover, the high heel of her leather boot landed right on the fourth brother's foot.

"Ha ha....."

As soon as Lao Si finished speaking, Yue Jingxiong burst into laughter. In the small circle of Beijing, no one was unaware of Xiao Chili's name. Lao Si was simply asking for trouble. What was funniest was that he actually thought Officer Miao had stepped on it accidentally.

"Come here, come here, fourth brother, I have something to tell you..."

Yue Jing pulled Lao Si aside, and the two went to the gatehouse to whisper. Wei Ge was also laughing non-stop. He knew Miao Feifei in Zhonghai and naturally knew about the ambiguous relationship between her and Zhuang Rui. He had been watching with great interest.

"Xuanbing, Officer Miao and I really have nothing going on, we're just friends..."

Zhuang Rui pulled Qin Xuanbing a little further away from his group of friends and quietly explained to his future wife. Although Qin Xuanbing's expression remained unchanged, who knows what she was thinking?

"Of course I believe you. Okay, look at how anxious you are. You haven't done anything wrong, so why are you so worried..."

Qin Xuanbing gently took out a handkerchief from her pocket and wiped the sweat from Zhuang Rui's forehead. However, her words made Zhuang Rui sweat even more. She had said she believed him at first, but her later words just didn't sound right.

"Oh, how can I possibly convince you..."

Zhuang Rui grew increasingly anxious. This was too much to bear! Miao Feifei had been treating him so badly just now, and now Qin Xuanbing's attitude had also become rather strange, making Zhuang Rui extremely uncomfortable.

"Damn it, is Miss Miao going to stage a scene from The Heaven Sword and Dragon Saber where she tries to steal a husband?"

Although Zhuang Rui knew he hadn't had any real "communication" with Miao Feifei, given her personality, she might actually do something shocking. Thinking of this, sweat poured down Zhuang Rui's forehead.

"It's okay, honey. You've mentioned this girl to me before, I know..."

When Qin Xuanbing saw that Zhuang Rui was really anxious, she couldn't help but laugh. Although she had a little bit of a problem in her heart just now, after thinking about it again, she realized that Miao Feifei's words were sour. Even if Miao Feifei had feelings for Zhuang Rui, she was still the winner. There was no need for her to act like a jealous little woman and push her husband into someone else's arms.

It must be said that Qin Xuanbing is an extremely intelligent woman. If it were any other woman who heard Miao Feifei's last few words, she would inevitably have grabbed her husband's ear and pressed him for answers, which would have only backfired.

Although Hong Kong and Macau also practice monogamy, it is not uncommon for successful men to have multiple wives. For example, the Macau gambling tycoon had six or seven wives. Moreover, Hong Kong has inherited a great deal of traditional Chinese culture, especially in some large families, where it is not uncommon to see a teapot with several teacups.

Of course, these mostly happen to the older generation. The younger generation still finds it hard to accept sharing a husband with others. Qin Xuanbing is no exception, but she believes more in her own charm and is not inferior to that Miss Miao.

Miao Feifei's arrival was just a minor incident, but what Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing were thinking was unknown to outsiders. To be honest, Zhuang Rui also had a good impression of Officer Miao, otherwise he wouldn't have envied Myanmar's marriage system.

However... Zhuang Rui could only think about this secretly in his heart. Given the background and personality of those two girls, they probably wouldn't allow another woman to share their husband with them.

By 11:30 a.m., almost all the guests had arrived. Although most of them were close friends and acquaintances, and no one had been notified of Mr. Ouyang's old subordinates and friends, there were

still more than 200 people who came. The rooms in the central courtyard were already full, and many acquaintances were standing and chatting in the central courtyard.

At the entrance of the main building of the central courtyard, a simple shed had been erected. In the middle of the shed, there was a square table with many gifts from others on it. On either side of the table were two chairs, but they were currently empty.

Most notably, on one side of the shed, hung a calligraphy scroll, which was written by a master a few days ago for Zhuang Rui. The scroll read "Harmony between Qin and Se, Perfect Match," and Zhuang Rui took it back to Pengcheng to have it framed by Grandpa Fang.

The reason for hanging this calligraphy there is twofold: firstly, it is quite fitting for the occasion, and secondly, it is to show Zhuang Rui respect for the calligraphy master and Mr. Fang, both of whom hold significant positions in their respective fields.

"Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, welcome to the engagement ceremony of Mr. Zhuang Rui and Ms. Qin Xuanbing..."

At exactly 11:00 a.m., Li Jia's voice came from several speakers placed in the courtyard, attracting everyone's attention to the center of the courtyard. Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing walked hand in hand to the center of the courtyard as the host spoke.

"Mr. Zhuang Rui is a renowned expert in antique appraisal, jade appraisal, and collector in China..."

The host began introducing Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing to the guests, but Zhuang Rui was puzzled. When did so many expert titles appear after his name?