

Golden 98

Chapter Ninety-Eight: The Unlucky Guy (Part 1)

"Godmother, let's eat together when Godfather gets back. I brought some Tibetan medicine that the Living Buddha gave me; let me apply some medicine to your lower back first.

Since he had nothing else to do, Zhuang Rui thought he should first help his godmother get better. When his godfather came back, he would also need to infuse him with some spiritual energy. The old man was from the army and had served on the front lines of Laoshan. Although he hadn't been shot, he still had quite a few old injuries from training.

Since they had all grown up together, Liu's mother didn't hold back with Zhuang Rui. Once inside, she lay on the bed and pulled up her clothes around her waist. Zhuang Rui took out a small box of Tiger Balm, about the size of a thumbnail, containing some dark Tibetan medicine. This medicine was indeed genuine Tibetan medicine, but Zhuang Rui didn't know what it was for, or whether it was for internal or external use.

After these days of pondering, Zhuang Rui has gained a general understanding of the recovery speed of spiritual energy in his eyes. Using one-tenth of the spiritual energy at a time takes about a day to recover, which is enough for Zhuang Rui to consume spiritual energy in his eyes without any worries.

However, for Liu's mother's back pain, he only used one-third of the spiritual energy he used to treat his own mother. This was not to show favoritism, but the treatment he gave his mother had also cured her insomnia and headaches. If it had such a miraculous effect on his godmother, then Zhuang Rui probably wouldn't need to go back to work in Zhonghai. He would be immediately grabbed by this group of old men and women and made into a friend of elderly health care.

"Xiao Rui, this medicine is really amazing! My back doesn't hurt at all anymore. By the way, how much medicine do you have left? Give it all to me, my godmother still needs it."

Even though Zhuang Rui used very little spiritual energy, Liu's mother felt much better in her lower back, which had been bothering her for a long time. It was as if a huge stone had been lifted off her back. She excitedly pulled Zhuang Rui and asked him to leave some more Tibetan medicine so she could give it to her old friends.

"Godmother, this medicine is very precious. I heard it uses some kind of ancient snow lotus and thousand-year-old pearl. The Living Buddha only gave me this much, and I've used most of it for you. Look, this is all there is. When Godfather comes back later, you should give him some too.

Liu Chuan handed the small tin box of medicated oil to his mother. Inside the tin box was only a layer of dark ointment, which had a pungent smell. At this moment, Zhuang Rui was secretly glad that he hadn't been prepared, otherwise he might have been exposed.

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui mention the preciousness of the medicine, Liu's mother stopped talking. Although Zhuang Rui was not an outsider, she couldn't make things difficult for the child. Besides, Zhuang Rui was thinking of his old husband, so Liu's mother couldn't say anything more.

"Liu Chuan, you're getting bolder and bolder. You even dared to borrow your Uncle Gu's hunting rifle. If Old Gu hadn't brought it up in conversation today, I would still be in the dark. And Xiao Rui, are you also tired of this? You and this scoundrel are keeping it from me?"

After a while, Liu's father also returned home. The old man still had two or three years before his official retirement. He was currently in the position of the head of a branch bureau and was doing a great job. When he entered the house and saw Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan, he immediately put on a lecturing tone.

"Oh, Godfather, you are wise and mighty! This is not my fault. Liu Chuan was just itching for a fight. But we are also fortunate to have this gun. If we hadn't had this gun, we probably wouldn't have made it back from the grasslands. Back then, it was..."

Seeing that things were not going well, Zhuang Rui quickly changed the subject. Liu's father loved listening to stories, and Zhuang Rui happened to have a talent for storytelling. Every time he used this trick, it worked. Sure enough, Liu's father was attracted by Zhuang Rui's story. When he heard the thrilling parts, he wished he could go and kill a few wolves on the grassland.

"Hmm, you two are finally showing some ambition. Da Chuan is planning to start a mastiff kennel, right? That's great, it'll allow us to supply some good police dogs to our department's police dog base in the future. Xiao Rui, you need to keep an eye on Da Chuan and make sure he doesn't go astray.

After Liu Chuan returned, he told his family about his idea. He told his father that he wanted him to use his connections to help him get a piece of land. Although it was impossible in Pengcheng City, it didn't

matter if it was further away. After all, buying land involved many aspects, and there were some connections that Liu Chuan couldn't handle.

Upon hearing that his father had his eye on Tibetan mastiffs, Liu Chuan quickly said, "Dad, Tibetan mastiffs can't be police dogs. They're too wild and undisciplined. If you anger them, they'll even bite their owners. They're not suitable as police dogs."

"Nonsense, it's good that they're wild. Our police dog trainers can handle any dog. You little brat, are you just being reluctant to give them up?"

Liu's father's temper flared up again, and Liu Chuan lowered his head and simply stopped talking, thinking to himself, "You'll know what's what once you bite a few of you."

"Godfather, we do want to do something, but building a mastiff kennel will require at least ten or twenty acres of land. We don't have much money on hand, so you'll have to help us with this."

Upon hearing Liu's father mention the mastiff kennel, Zhuang Rui quickly shared his thoughts. He and Liu Chuan had initially underestimated the situation. After returning to Pengcheng, they inquired about land prices and concluded that after purchasing the land with their six or seven million yuan, they estimated they wouldn't have much money left.

Although Zhuang Rui kept saying he wouldn't interfere with this mastiff kennel, it was the first time in his life he had invested in a business, so he was very concerned about it. In the two days he had been home, he had also done a lot of research.

"I've taken care of this for you. The bureau has 20 acres of land next to the police dog base. It was originally planned to expand the police dog base, but the plan was later canceled. The land has been idle ever since. I went to the municipal bureau today to inquire. The land can be rented to you for 20 years, but it cannot be sold to you. Moreover, the rent payable must be paid in full."

Also, when the lease expires, all the facilities on that land will be given to the bureau free of charge. If you two agree to this, go and sign the contract and complete the formalities yourselves tomorrow. If you don't agree, I'm not going to get involved anymore. I've already swallowed my pride and said this today.

Upon hearing this, Liu Chuan and Zhuang Rui were overjoyed and nodded repeatedly. The conditions proposed by Liu's father were nothing. After all, even when a highway is built, the ownership still belongs to the state after a certain number of years of use. Renting instead of buying was exactly what the two wanted. They could use the funds to build kennels and expand the site. In this way, the mastiff kennel would be able to open for business in no time.

More importantly, the police dog base is not far from the city center, only an hour or two's drive away. Moreover, building the mastiff kennel next to the police dog base can also prevent thieves from stealing puppies. You know, such things have happened in many mastiff kennels. These days, there are plenty of people who would risk their lives for money.

The matter that had troubled Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan for several days was resolved by Liu's father. Seeing that Liu's father's anger over their unauthorized carrying of guns had also subsided, Zhuang Rui hurriedly took out his panacea ointment as if presenting a treasure and applied it to all the joints of Liu's father's old injuries.

The result was a cure, of course. However, Liu's father was not so easy to talk to. He almost ordered Zhuang Rui to get him another ten or twenty catties of ointment. Helpless, Zhuang Rui could only nod in agreement. He took Liu Chuan and the three Tibetan mastiffs and left the house. As for the ointment, with Liu's mother's help and some persuasion, the matter would naturally be dropped.

It was only 1 p.m., and Song Jun estimated that he wouldn't be back in Pengcheng until 4 or 5 p.m. Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan didn't have anything to do, so they decided to go to Liu Chuan's shop in the flower and bird market. From now on, Liu Chuan would focus his main attention on the mastiff kennel. As for the pet shop, Liu Chuan planned to promote one of the current employees to the position of shop manager and give him a 10% share of the business. He would let them handle any issues that arose in the future.

"Hello, who is this? Brother Zhou, what did you say? You're at Pengcheng Railway Station! Just wait at the exit, Mu Tou and I will come pick you up right away..."

Just as Liu Chuan parked the car, his phone rang. He answered and heard it was Zhou Rui calling. Zhou Rui had already arrived in Pengcheng and gotten off the train. Liu Chuan quickly hung up and started the car again.

Liu Chuan had spoken with Zhou Rui on the phone just two days ago and learned that his resignation had gone smoothly and that he had returned to his hometown in Shaanxi. However, Liu Chuan still had

no idea about the land needed to build the mastiff kennel, so he told Zhou Rui to spend more time with his parents in his hometown and come to Pengcheng in half a month. Unexpectedly, Zhou Rui still retained his military style and acted decisively.

The antique market was very close to the train station. In just five or six minutes, Liu Chuan drove to the train station and spotted Zhou Rui immediately. Zhou Rui was standing empty-handed at the place where he had arranged to meet Liu Chuan, carrying only a simple backpack.

After all, they were friends who had gone through thick and thin together. Although they hadn't seen each other for only a few days, the three of them were very happy to reunite in Pengcheng. Liu Chuan made a phone call home and asked his mother to clean the apartment that her work unit had allocated to her so that Zhou Rui could stay there temporarily. In this way, Zhou Rui and Zhuang Rui became neighbors, because Liu Chuan's apartment was right above Zhuang Rui's.

Liu Chuan often stayed in that house. The furniture and everything else were already there, so there was no need to buy anything. He just needed to clean it a little.

"Brother Zhou, if you're not tired, come sit at my shop for a bit. You can get acquainted with the place. We'll have a nice meal together tonight to welcome you back." Liu Chuan was being generous with other people's money again.

"Not tired, I slept on the train last night."

Zhou Rui spoke simply as always, but you could hear a hint of excitement in his tone, after all, Liu Chuan had said that he owned 20% of the pet shop.

Liu Chuan didn't say anything more. After driving back to the flower and bird market, he took Zhou Rui to his pet shop.

"Hey, Xiong Ge, Monkey, you two are rare guests. What brings you to my little shop?"

Before even entering the pet store, Liu Chuan saw two faces he didn't particularly like.