

History's Strongest Son-In-Law - History's Strongest Son-In-Law Living With The In-Laws

Chapter 21: Xuanwu City's Wilderness! Tian Thirteen Trembles

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

After the Earl's command, the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu sent dozens of people to announce Jin Mulan's marriage to the public. They also sent out invitations to people in Xuanwu City to attend her wedding tonight.

Instantly, the entirety of Xuanwu City became triggered. Countless young men were frustrated when they heard the news.

She was the daughter of the Palace of the Earl. She had an extremely superior status, stunning beauty, and refined figure.

She was like a goddess. She could even be called the goddess of the Nujiang county, whom everyone loved.

Xu Qianqian, who was born into a wealthy family, had to continually publicize herself to become the lady of the Nujiang county.

However, Jin Mulan did not publicize herself. The term "lady" was considered a praise for Xu Qianqian but an insult for Jin Mulan.

She was the daughter of a hundred-year-old wealthy family, what lady? That term was too inferior for her.

Many people wooed Xu Qianqian. Jin Mulan was even more beautiful than her and had a better figure. However, nobody around Xu Qianqian dared to woo her.

They felt that they could not match up to her!

Everyone felt that Jin Mulan had to at least marry a family of marquis.

All the men in Xuanwu City could only look at her with desire.

However, they did not expect her to marry someone else. It was a piece of terrible news!

Although they could not deal with a beautiful goddess like her, she could not possibly marry someone else; it would be best if she did not marry at all.

On this night, countless young fellas got drunk and started behaving wildly.

“Who is it? Which man married my princess; I will kill him, kill him!”

“Goddess, how can you be like this? How can you marry someone else? You betrayed us!”

Meanwhile, the other slightly famous individuals felt that something was amiss.

Who would Jin Mulan marry? The groom’s name was not written on the wedding invitation, and they had not heard any news about this before.

The strangest thing was that the wedding was to be held that night. That was so rushed.

Usually, such weddings should require complicated planning and be extremely grand. A massive team of people and goods should be sent over to ask for the bride’s family’s approval before they proceed to the engagement.

After the engagement, both families would send gifts back and forth and hold several feasts and hunts. This was to let the other wealthy families know that the two families were about to hold a wedding.

Then, both parties would wait for the monarch’s blessings.

Usually, the monarch would be glad to give his blessings. Not only would he send his well-wishes, but he would also provide both parties with gifts.

After receiving the blessings from the monarch, the fortune teller would be asked to find a suitable date for the two families before holding the wedding.

With all of these, the wedding would be held at least one and a half years later.

How was it possible for the wedding to be held on the night that it was announced? That was too strange.

...

Meanwhile, the entire Palace of the Earl was preparing for that night’s wedding.

There was a lot of food, fruit, and drinks. The entire garden and the palace was decorated with lights, and all the servants received bonuses and new articles of clothing. Even the horses and dogs had extra food.

Although it was rushed and the son-in-law will live with the woman’s family, the wedding had to be grand since it was a show for the Zhu Family.

Although Shen Lang was the main male character of this wedding, he acted like he was not involved at all. In his room, he simply ate and slept.

Since the groom's name was not written in the wedding invitation, this wedding did not concern Tian Heng.

Although he was the leader of a gang, he could not match up to the status of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu. Therefore, he couldn't be invited to the wedding.

Of course, as the leader of the military army of the Xuanwu City, he would definitely send gifts over there. However, it was up to the Earl to accept it.

Tian Heng did not care about this since his people were not in the same faction as the Earl of Xuanwu.

He was actually pretty thankful for Shen Lang. Initially, the Xu family was only willing to offer him 100 gold coins, but when Shen Lang made the new formula for the gold dye, everything changed. He received over 1000 gold coins.

Not only did he receive gold coins from the Xu family, but the Lin family also gave him 500 gold coins as appreciation.

Since the Lin family collaborated with the Xu family, be it the martial arts competition or the ranking Lin Mo's son received after the tournament, he would be greatly benefitted.

Therefore, the Lin family had to thank Tian Heng.

Shen Lang developed a new formula for gold dye. This was a huge benefit. When three parties worked together and killed Shen Lang, they could reap the benefits together.

Then, the other not-so-nice words should be left to Tian Heng!

After sending Tian Thirteen to kill Shen Lang's family, Tian Heng did not care anymore.

Shen Lang was an insignificant character who did not deserve his attention.

To show that he meant it, Tian Thirteen brought more than ten people over to the Maple Leaf Village and surrounded Shen Lang's torn and tattered house.

Tian Thirteen looked at the broken walls and sighed. "It is saddening that he is so weak!"

Then, he waved his hands and said, "Based on the City Lord's orders, Shen Wan's family has attempted to hide some land and escape from taxes. We will capture you immediately. If anyone dares to oppose, we will kill!"

"Attack!"

When Tian Thirteen said that, the warriors of the Black Clothes Gang, who were wearing clothes of the military army, whipped out their knives and charged toward Shen Lang's house.

Although they were a gang, they did things according to a procedure. They would not barge into the house to kill. They would use an excuse as an official to capture the entire family. By then, Shen Lang would be forced to hand over the formula for the purple and rainbow dye even if he did not want to.

Of course, even if Shen Lang was willing to pay, his family would be unable to escape unscathed.

The gang leader really had the status as an official. The warriors under him were a civilian army. Tian Thirteen really had the notice of arrest, and all of this was legal.

“Peng, peng...”

Shen Lang’s house door was extremely fragile. It was flung out immediately.

However, after Tian Thirteen charged into the door, the situation he saw left him in horror.

There were no surprises or screams of terror.

Shen Lang’s father laid on his bed. He coughed while he held a knife.

Shen Lang’s mother stood in front of the bed with a knife in her hand. On the other side, Shen Lang’s brother sat up and was holding onto the walking stick, which he had just finished making.

None of the three of them pleaded for help. They merely stared at the warrior of the Black Clothes Gang.

Shen Lang was not at home, so their weakness was not present. In fact, they seemed to be unafraid at all.

When he saw this, Tian Thirteen became slightly stunned. He laughed, “Old guy, what are you doing?”

When he said, he whipped out the metal ruler and walked toward Shen Lang’s father with a bright smile on his face.

Shen Lang was not at home, but Tian Thirteen was not worried. As long as he captured Shen Lang’s family members, Shen Lang would definitely appear, and it would be impossible for him to escape.

Shen Lang’s father said, “We are useless people; we don’t care anymore.”

Tian Thirteen said, “Are you trying to defend yourself with a knife? You’re acting like a rebel. I’m sorry, I can only take action.”

After saying that, he was about to throw the metal ruler to Shen Lang’s father’s arm.

If the metal ruler struck, Shen Lang's father's arm would definitely break into pieces.

At the same time, the other warriors went forward and targeted Shen Lang's mother and brother.

At this moment, Tian Thirteen suddenly felt the hair at his back rise. He turned around instantly and saw a figure standing outside of Shen Lang's house door.

It was an ordinary middle-aged man. He was not holding any weapons, but the aura he exuded gave Tian Thirteen chills.

He was an expert.

"I am here under the City Lord's order to capture these people for hiding illegal land and not paying taxes," shouted Tian Thirteen.

The person in front of Shen Lang's door was Jin Zhong, the servant of the Palace of the Earl. In fact, he had reached long ago but purposely waited for Tian Thirteen to enter before he appeared. This was how he usually did things.

After hearing what Tian Thirteen said, Jin Zhong replied, "Oh, we shouldn't disturb what the City Lord has to do. However, my master has invited the entire Shen family to attend a wedding. If I don't bring them over, I won't be able to explain it to my master. Please, can you allow me to do this?"

After hearing that, Tian Thirteen felt that something was amiss. That was because Jin Zhong was extraordinarily courteous and calm.

He had met too many people and killed many as well. He knew that the calmer the person, the more superior he was. Instead, someone without any background would be arrogant.

Tian Thirteen said, "May I ask who you are?"

If the other party had a superior status, he would have to deal with him appropriately. If he did not, Tian Thirteen would just be cruel like he was doing things as instructed.

"Jin Zhong," said the middle-aged man.

When Tian Thirteen heard this, his expression changed drastically.

He had heard this name before!

Of course, Jin Zhong was not someone of extremely superior status and was not considered remarkably capable in the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu. However, according to Tian Heng, he was someone whom they must not mess with. That was because he was a notably close servant of the Earl of Xuanwu.

Moreover, what was more frightening was the fact that his higher-up was Jin Zhuo, the Earl of Xuanwu.

Tian Thirteen felt like his breath was getting heavier as he started to sweat profusely. His hair stood up in fear too.

He forcefully calmed himself down and asked, “Your master is asking Shen Lang’s parents to attend his wedding?”

“Yes!” said Jin Zhong.

Tian Thirteen immediately remembered Shen Lang’s handsome face. When they parted ways at dawn the day before, Shen Lang disappeared.

He did not expect Shen Lang to have made connections with the Palace of the Earl. This was terrible.

Tian Thirteen immediately felt impending doom. He could not confirm what the relationship between Shen Lang and the Palace of the Earl was.

However, he hoped that it was not too close, or he would be in grave trouble.

Chapter 22: Tian Heng and Master Xu Panicked, Xu Qianqian Attends the Wedding

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

“Since the Palace of the Earl wants them, I won’t dare to stop. I will report this to the City Lord,” said Tian Thirteen.

Jin Zhong was emotionless but still said courteously, “Sorry to trouble you.”

“Invite Mr. and Mrs. Shen and their son to the carriage,” Jin Zhong ordered.

Then, ten warriors appeared from behind him. However, none of them were holding onto any weapons. Instead, they were holding on to a stretcher.

The Earl was remarkably against Shen Lang but respected Shen Lang’s parents. He instructed everything.

The warriors carefully brought Shen Lang’s parents and brother onto the stretcher before settling them down in the large carriage.

The carriage was so huge that one could lie down in it.

Then, six warriors carried the three carriages and left without making a noise, as though the transport was as light as a feather.

“Goodbye,” said Jin Zhong.

“Have a great journey.” Tian Thirteen bowed and sent them off.

From the very beginning, Jin Zhong did not threaten anyone since Tian Thirteen was doing something completely legal. He even had the notice of arrest from the City Lord.

Shen Lang’s father had indeed created land from the mountains and did not pay taxes.

However, everyone in Xuanwu City had done this, and the City Lord did not bother. As the saying went, if nobody reported it, the officials would not pursue the matter.

Moreover, Jin Zhong only had the responsibility to protect Shen Lang’s family. The Earl did not give him any other instructions.

When Jin Zhong and the warriors of the Palace of the Earl left, Tian Thirteen panicked.

One of the warriors went up to him and said, “Sir, what happened? If we let them go, the boss would definitely rage at us.”

Tian Thirteen said, “Do you have any idea who those people are?”

The warrior from the Black Clothes Gang shook his head and said, “No.”

“Jin Zhong, the trusted servant of the Earl of Xuanwu,” said Tian Thirteen.

Instantly, the expressions on the warriors changed.

“Who did Shen Lang make connections with from the Palace of the Earl?” the warrior asked.

Tian Thirteen said, “Let’s just pray that their relationship isn’t very close. I hope it is just a servant from the Palace of the Earl and using it for his own benefit, or else...”

“Or else what, sir...” the warrior said worryingly.

Tian Thirteen said, “Or else, everyone better return to their families and bid farewell to their family members.”

“We will be arrested?” asked the warrior.

“You will die!” said Tian Thirteen.

Images of the short interactions he had with Shen Lang flashed back in his memory. The beautiful face was calm and always full of smiles.

However, now, Tian Thirteen realized that the smile was filled with hidden danger.

“Let’s go back and tell this to our foster father. If something bad is about to happen, we have to be prepared. We are helping them; they can’t possibly leave us in the lurch!” said Tian Thirteen.

Then, he rode the horse immediately and rushed to the Black Clothes Gang.

To save himself, he had to be fast. If Shen Lang had really gotten himself involved with the Palace of the Earl, it would be too late for him to take action.

Shen Lang was an incredibly sly person. He could feel it through the interaction they had for a day.

Tian Thirteen rushed like crazy and reached the Black Clothes Gang in less than an hour.

The Black Clothes Gang was not in Xuanwu City. It was located more than ten kilometers away from the city, and it was a small castle.

Of course, the castle was called the campsite of the civilian army of the Xuanwu City. There were several hundreds of people inside the castle.

Because of the new governance, the local officials tried their best to use their powers to go against the traditional power of the aristocrats. Therefore, Tian Heng’s gang took up the banner of a local campsite.

Tian Thirteen rushed into the castle.

Usually, he would definitely greet his brothers in the castle. Tian Heng had many disciples, and it was not easy for one to stand out and obtain the highest power. Not only must they suck up to Tian Heng, but they also had to persuade others.

However, Tian Thirteen did not care about this at all. He charged into the castle. Without giving any notice, he rushed into Tian Heng’s room.

Tian Heng was about to throw a cup over at him. However, after seeing that he was Tian Thirteen, he stopped and said coldly, “If you don’t have a good reason to do this, I will dig one of your eyes out.”

Tian Thirteen immediately fell to his knees. “Please forgive me, I screwed up and was unable to kill Shen Lang’s family.”

Tian Heng looked at him coldly. The person whom he regarded highly could not even accomplish such a small task? He had already taken his cash, 1500 gold coins.

Tian Thirteen said, "Jin Zhong from the Palace of the Earl brought ten warriors to Shen Lang's house and picked up his parents and brother for a wedding in the Palace of the Earl. They left with three huge carriages."

Instantly, Tian Heng stood up, and his expression changed drastically!

"Ah..." A lady shouted in agony, and blood flowed from the corner of her mouth. She said in misery, "Sir."

"Scram!" Tian Heng roared.

Instantly, the lady scrambled out of the room.

Men were like this. On regular occasions, they would dote on their loved ones. However, now, they chased their loved ones out mercilessly.

Tian Thirteen said, "Father, who is getting married in the Palace of the Earl? Is it the Earl's son? Could Shen Lang have gotten connections with him? I heard that the Earl's son was also a useless person. Both useless individuals might get along well."

Tian Heng said, "Do you think Shen Lang is useless?"

Tian Thirteen thought about it and shook his head.

Tian Heng said, "The wedding in the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu is not for the Earl's son; it is for his daughter!"

When Tian Thirteen heard that, his expression changed drastically, and he shook his head. "No way, it can't be it."

Tian Heng said, "I don't think it's possible too."

Tian Thirteen said, "Who is Shen Lang? A poor villager who is not even worth that of grass. What about Miss Jin? She is excellent in all aspects, be it martial arts, military rule, looks, and figure. She is the daughter of a wealthy family. Shen Lang would never match up to her. If the Xu Family does not view Shen Lang as worthy, how would the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu, which has a much higher status, view him in favor?"

Tian Heng nodded too. Nobody would be able to match Shen Lang and Jin Mulan together. Both of them were like heaven and earth, and it was impossible to relate both of them together.

However, Jin Zhong from the Palace of the Earl invited Shen Lang and his family to the wedding. That was really strange.

Tian Heng stood up and walked around with a worried look.

"I will make a trip to the city; we better be prepared for this," said Tian Heng.

After about an hour, Master Xu, Master Lin, and Tian Heng gathered in the secret room.

After hearing what Tian Heng said, both of them said in unison, "Impossible, definitely impossible!"

Master Xu was shocked beyond words.

Tian Heng said, "Yesterday, soon after Shen Lang left the Silk Pavilion, he was knocked down by the cavalry of the Palace of the Earl and was brought over there. Today, we received the news of the Earl's daughter's wedding. Moreover, Jin Zhong sent people over to fetch Silk Pavilion's family members."

When Master Xu took a quick glance at the rest, he continued, "If Shen Lang, this useless man, managed to make some connections with the son of the Duke, it is understandable since both of them are useless. However, Miss Jin Mulan has a superior status, and it's impossible for her to fall in love with Shen Lang. Moreover, I just chased Shen Lang out of his house. How would someone who was chased away become the Earl's son-in-law? That doesn't make any sense."

Lin Mo, the boss of the Silk Pavilion, said, "Brother Xu, Shen Lang is probably not a useless person. If he is, I don't think he can come up with the new golden dye formula."

Xu Guangyun said, "Brother Lin, you must be overthinking. The new formula depends on luck, and it also requires those silly fools to invent it."

Lin Mo thought about it, and it made sense. However, from the short interaction they had last night, he knew that Shen Lang was definitely not a fool.

Xu Guangyun said, "The most important thing is that when Shen Lang was chased away by me, we framed him for theft and indecency. How could the Earl be so shameless to accept someone with such a bad reputation as his son-in-law?"

After that statement, the three of them felt relieved.

Many people could be shameless in the Xuanwu City except for the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu.

Tian Heng said, "Master Xu, the Earl suddenly sent out wedding invitations today; do you know who the groom is?"

Xu Guangyun shook his head. "No, but it definitely won't be Shen Lang. It is impossible."

Lin Mo said, "Even if it is not Shen Lang, it will be best if we figure out. How about we send someone to attend tonight's wedding?"

Instantly, the three of them looked at each other. None received the invitation from the Palace of the Earl.

Many invitations were sent out, for example, to the military officials of Xuanwu City, formal officials, scholars, and famous celebrities.

Although the three of them were reputable, both of them were businessmen, and one was a gang leader.

Tian Heng suddenly said, "I will attend the wedding."

Of course, he would not be chased out if he attended the wedding without an invitation since the Earl of Xuanwu was not so mean. However, it still required some courage to do that.

Lin Mo said, "Thank you, Tian Heng, as for the present, I will get it."

Xu Guangyun said, "After all, the Earl of Xuanwu is considered the owner of Xuanwu City. Even if we don't attend the wedding, we have to prepare an expensive gift. I am not stingy enough not to do that."

Tian Heng said, "Alright, please prepare the gifts as soon as possible. I will head to the Palace of the Earl."

Lin Mo said, "I will go ahead and prepare now."

Then, he went to the storeroom to pick an expensive gift. He continued to recall the scenes of interactions between him and Shen Lang and shuddered.

Not only did he betray Shen Lang, but he also said many immoral words to him.

For example, things like 'Shen Lang, a useless brat who doesn't know where you stand, you will be the first to die.'

If heaven really made Shen Lang the son-in-law of the Palace of the Earl, then... things would be disastrous.

He could only pray that this would not come true.

However, such things would definitely not happen if one reasoned. How could the Earl of Xuanwu allow Shen Lang to become his son-in-law? Moreover, he was just kicked out of the Xu Family.

He was just scaring himself!

After half an hour, three of the parties prepared three carriages worth of gifts.

Tian Heng sat on one of the carriages and headed to the Palace of the Earl. He was about to attend Jin Mulan's wedding without an invitation.

"Please, don't let it be Shen Lang, please!"

Meanwhile, Xu Qianqian, the ex-wife of Shen Lang, went to the wedding righteously. That was because her fiancé was the son of the governor and the general of Xuanwu City. He had received an invitation.

Xu Qianqian asked Zhang Pu, "Zhang Pu, the Palace of the Earl is behaving so strangely. Who do you think the groom is? Which aristocrat's son or some talented guy could marry Jin Mulan?"

Chapter 23: Shen Lang's Marriage

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

Even Shen Lang himself was suspecting if he was really the groom of tonight.

That was because apart from sending him food, nobody came to visit Shen Lang. Even the person who sent him food did not talk to him.

The Earl did not visit him, and neither did his wife nor Jin Mulan. In fact, even Jin Zhong did not visit him. He seemed to have been forgotten in the guest room.

He was suspecting if the Palace of the Earl had found a better candidate. That was because people who were more suitable for the role in Xuanwu City were uncountable. Countless young men were willing to sacrifice themselves for Jin Mulan.

Finally, the evening came!

Two servants entered his room. Rather, two middle-aged women came in with red and gold robes, the groom's headwear, belt, shoes, and more.

"Mr. Shen, please take a shower and change your clothes in preparation for the wedding!"

The process of accepting a son-in-law was similar to marrying a wife. The female side would have to head over to the male side to invite them while the wedding was held at the female's side.

Most of the time, the bride would be covered with a veil and return to her house after sitting on a carriage going one round outside her house.

Occasionally, when things were more extreme, the groom would be required to sit on the carriage with a headwear until he paid respects at the bride's house.

Unfortunately, Xuanwu City belonged to the traditional area, whereby practices were more extreme. As a son-in-law, the groom had to sit in the carriage. Of course, he did not have to wear the headwear, but he had to wear a mask."

However, even with that, many people thought that this was defeating a man's morale.

Therefore, many of the men in Xuanwu City would rather stay single than do this.

At this moment, Shen Lang had finished wearing his red robe and sat in the carriage with a silver mask.

From the Palace of the Earl to the temple, followed by paying respects to the bride's parents...

The entire Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu was decorated with lights, and the servants were busy.

There were not many guests, but they totaled up to 100 people.

More than half of them were related to the Palace of the Earl. The others were celebrities, scholars, officials, and excellent martial artists from Xuanwu City.

By right, there would be many guests attending the wedding of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu's daughter. Besides Nujiang County, even the governor and the monarch would send people over.

However, the wedding happened at the last minute. Therefore, the guests from Nujiang County were unable to rush over there.

This was considered the least-prepared wedding in the history of the Palace of the Earl.

Although the guests were talking in the hall, none of them were focused since they kept looking at the door.

Everyone was inquisitive and anticipated about who the groom was.

Jin Mulan was the princess of Xuanwu City. Who could marry her? How wonderful must he be?

Although he was moving into the female's house, it made others extremely jealous.

Especially those young men who were not married, they were green with jealousy. They held their breaths and stared at the door.

Who on earth was he to be able to match up to Miss Jin Mulan?

Although he did not receive an invitation, Tian Heng, the leader of the Black Clothes Gang, came shamelessly. He was extremely nervous. If the groom was Shen Lang, he would be in trouble.

However, he overheard others talking about how the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu was very outstanding and how excellent Jin Mulan was.

Moreover, many celebrities were guessing who the groom was. The names they suggested were all talented and handsome young men who were at least a first-degree scholar. They were either a first-degree scholar of literature or martial arts.

“First-degree scholar? Please don’t joke around. The groom must be at least an imperial scholar.”

“That’s right. Jin’s family is not an ordinary noble family. Their rank is way higher than that. Although some of the imperial scholars are talented, they did not have anyone to back them up, so if they married into the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu, they could get wealth out of nowhere.”

In the Ming dynasty, a rule forbade those who lived with their in-laws from participating in scholarly examinations. However, there was no such rule in the Yue State.

“Yes, moreover, Miss Jin Mulan is so beautiful and outstanding. She is loved by countless guys.”

“That’s right! If the person is not an imperial scholar, then he does not deserve to marry Miss Jin Mulan.”

As for Shen Lang, nobody bothered to mention his name. How was it possible? It was a complete mismatch.

Therefore, Tian Heng felt slightly more relieved.

At this moment, Zhang Pu was staring at the door. He was also jealous of the groom.

Who was Jin Mulan? She was the dream girl of all the young men, including Zhang Pu.

He knew why the wedding was so rushed. That was because the Earl of Xuanwu did not want his daughter to leave the family after marriage. Moreover, the people from the Zhu Family were on their way to ask for the Earl’s blessing.

Zhang Pu did not bother about that. He was actually slightly happy that Jin Mulan, a stunning beauty, did not marry Zhu Hongxue. Why should Zhu Hongxue deserve Jin Mulan?

When Xu Qianqian saw his fiancé's expression, she felt jealous but did not show it. Instead, she smiled and said, "I am really curious, I wonder who is the lucky man who managed to marry Miss Jin Mulan."

At this moment, the entire atmosphere turned silent.

That was because the Earl and his wife had appeared. They sat at the center of the hall.

Beside them stood a plump young man who looked unhappy. He was the son of the Palace of the Earl.

Everyone was anxious. The wedding ceremony was about to begin, and the groom was about to be revealed.

"Pa, pa, pa..."

At this moment, loud firecrackers were heard outside the door.

The groom had arrived!

Everyone swarmed forward to look at the lucky guy.

Amidst all the attention, a carriage was gradually carried to the door. The curtain opened, and the groom entered.

He was wearing a silver mask, and his face could not be seen clearly. He was slim and had fair hands. He should be a literary scholar.

Everyone was guessing his identity.

"The bride has arrived!"

Jin Mulan also appeared!

Every man stopped breathing while all the women widened their eyes in jealousy.

That was because Jin Mulan was marrying a man who was about to live with her family. Therefore, she did not wear a red dress but a silver dress instead.

The silver dress was neutral and extremely fitting. Jin Mulan looked extremely stunning and perfect.

This was a strong signal that told everyone that Jin Mulan was a female soldier. Moreover, she would fight for the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu in the future, and nobody could stop her.

Her silver dress also complimented her figure so well that it made their heart flutter.

Absolutely gorgeous, extremely eye-catching...

Instantly, all the men were even more jealous of the groom who was wearing the mask.

Jin Mulan did not look happy or sad. For her family, she was completely willing to sacrifice her happiness. Moreover, someone like Shen Lang was more suited for her family's benefit.

However, Shen Lang had a poor reputation after all.

He had a low IQ, could not manage his own living, and was unable to graduate elementary school despite ten years of studies.

Therefore, even if she sacrificed for her family, marrying someone like this definitely made Jin Mulan slightly sad.

"The time has come!"

Everyone rose to their feet in unison.

"A bow to heaven and earth!"

"A bow to the parents."

"A bow to each other!"

"The ceremony has ended, enter the room!"

The ceremony was formal but short.

Like a bride, the groom could only remove his mask when they entered the room.

That was frustrating!

Suddenly, a voice emerged. It was none other than Liu Chengyan, the City Lord of Xuanwu City.

"Earl, although according to traditions, the groom can only remove his mask after he enters the room, all of us are very curious as to who can match up to Miss Mulan. Can you please satisfy our curiosity?"

Liu Chengyan spoke the thoughts of everyone.

At this moment, a peal of laughter was heard from outside. However, it sounded frigid.

“Hahahaha! I was just here to pay a visit to the Earl, I can’t believe I made it to the wedding of my niece.”

This laughter was so thunderous that it almost broke people’s eardrums.

This person was very skilled!

With the laughter, a tall figure walked in slowly.

The Earl of Xuanwu hurried forward to welcome him.

Everyone fell to the knees and bowed!

“Greetings, Sir Zhu Lin!”

He was Zhu Lin, the governor of Tian Nan Province, the brother of the monarch’s wife, the Ping Nan General of Yue State, the governor of Baiyun province, and the City Lord of Pingnan Pass. He was extremely powerful.

He represented the Zhu Family to ask for the Earl of Xuanwu’s blessings. He was swift. He traveled 200-300 miles a day, and nobody expected him to reach in time for Jin Mulan’s wedding.

The announcement was made the same day as the wedding?

What on earth was happening? Wasn’t it clear?

They did not want to be involved with the Zhu Family and did not want to reject them upfront. Therefore, before he rushed over, they married off their daughter.

“Earl of Xuanwu, what kind of friend are you, why didn’t you inform me about your daughter’s wedding? If I had not come to Xuanwu City for business matters, wouldn’t I miss the wedding?” Zhu Lin’s gaze was cold, and he smiled as he said, “I wonder who is the young man that is worthy of being my niece Mulan’s husband; take off his mask and let me take a look!”

“Yes, take it off!” Everyone shouted.

Jin Mulan looked at Shen Lang and nodded.

Shen Lang immediately took off the mask!

Instantly, many people gasped in horror.

Tian Heng’s eyes widened, and his body froze.

It was... really Shen Lang!?

He was in great trouble!

The people who were the most stunned were none other than Xu Qianqian and Zhang Pu.

At this moment, Xu Qianqian could no longer control herself. She forgot to keep her good manners and gasped in disbelief and shock when she saw Shen Lang's handsome face!

Chapter 24: Slaps In The Face At The Wedding

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

Never in Xu Qianqian's dreams would she have thought that the groom tonight would be Shen Lang.

"How could it be him? It's impossible even if the sun rose from the west!"

What sort of person was Jin Mulan!? She was a goddess that was out of reach!

What sort of person was Shen Lang? He was a mentally challenged moron, ah! A useless fool who couldn't even wear his clothes properly, ah!

She had just chased Shen Lang out of her house the day before and even framed him for theft and misconduct.

How could a distinguished place like the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu pick a bum like this man, someone with a lowly standing, as their son-in-law?

No, she ultimately couldn't accept an outcome like this.

"Shen Lang, since you've been chased out of my household, then you should return back to the dust in a lowly manner. It'd be best if you turn into a pile of dog sh*t on the ground, stepped on by everyone else."

"Now, you actually married a woman who is more beautiful and distinguished than me?"

"How was that possible?"

"Heavens, is this a joke?"

Zhang Pu, who was beside her, was about to vomit blood because of jealousy.

"On what basis?"

Even Zhang Pu himself dared not wish to hope for an absolute beauty like Jin Mulan! Then, she ended up marrying a moron like Shen Lang?

“Hahahaha...”

Zhang Pu suddenly burst into laughter, and everyone couldn't help but look over at him.

Zhang Pu said, “Miss Jin Mulan, your wedding is fake; it's a conspiracy, isn't it.”

Jin Mulan replied coldly, “What made you say this?”

Zhang Pu pointed at Shen Lang, “Does everyone know who this person is? He is called Shen Lang! He couldn't even master a thousand words despite studying for ten years and was chased out by Hanshui Town College. After marrying into the Xu Family, he was banished for theft and indecency. Why would the Palace of the Earl consider a useless fool like this? Why would Miss Jin Mulan consider him? This wedding is fake.”

“That's right! That's right!” The young talents around couldn't help but holler.

They also felt that this was fake. Why would Miss Jin Mulan marry a good-for-nothing like this?

When Zhang Pu started this topic, he gave a meaningful look at someone in the crowd.

He was the son of a governor, after all. It would be too rudimentary and unbecoming for him to personally engage in a catfight with Shen Lang.

A scholar stepped out from the crowd.

He thundered, “I can attest to this because I had studied in the same Hanshui College with him in the past. Shen Lang is a moron.”

Shen Lang could recognize this person. His name was Yan Xiong and was, indeed, a classmate from Hanshui Town College.

As expected, those that came out to stab one's back at critical times were familiar acquaintances.

This Yan Xiong had come from a poor family and was not of suitable status to attend the wedding tonight. However, after becoming a scholar, he followed a good teacher—the previous City Lord of Xuanwu City who had already retired, Zhang Boyan. Thus, he followed along.

Of course, he didn't only suck up to Zhang Boyan but Zhang Pu too. Thus, he did have some sort of connections to the Zhang Family now.

Back in Hanshui Town College, Yan Xiong was the top student, while Shen Lang was the worst. He wouldn't even look at Shen Lang in the eye.

However, he had never imagined that Shen Lang would be marrying into the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu at this moment! To marry the Princess of the Xuanwu City, Miss Jin Mulan, as his wife, how could he accept this?

Thus, he instantly forgot about being polite, plus with the meaningful look from Zhang Pu, he came charging out to him.

Shen Lang stepped out and said indifferently, “Yan Xiong, you said that I was a moron, do you have any evidence?”

“Haha! You’ve studied for ten years, but you couldn’t even read a thousand characters, isn’t this evidence? Alright, I’ll write a few characters, if you can recognize them, I’ll retract my comment of you being a moron. If you can’t, then you’re a moron! How’s that?” Scholar Yan Xiong said.

Jin Mulan instantly wanted to stop him, but Shen Lang agreed before she could do so. “Fine!”

“Bring some ink and paper,” Yan Xiong said.

At first, he was feeling a little uneasy. This was the Palace of the Earl, after all—it wasn’t a place where a mere scholar like him could act brazenly. Thus, both his legs were trembling.

However, right now, seeing how everyone else was supporting him, Yan Xiong no longer had any uneasiness left in him. All he could think about was pushing himself into the limelight; it would be best if he could break the marriage between Shen Lang and Jin Mulan.

Of course, the Palace of the Earl didn’t fetch any ink and paper, but some people were registering the gifts. Thus, someone went to fetch it immediately.

Yan Xiong picked up the brush and wrote some words on the red paper.

Everyone in the crowd leaned forward to look, but they only felt a chill behind their backs.

After all, these words look familiar, but they didn’t know them at all!

They were too rarely seen. Even some successful scholars couldn’t recognize the characters, what more those that practice martial arts. No one would go and familiarize themselves with these sorts of characters for no reason, ah! They wouldn’t even use it!

It could be said that in ten scholars, there were eight of them who couldn’t recognize the three words Yan Xiong had written.

It was indeed too difficult.

“Just these three simple words. If you could recognize them, then you’re not a moron. If you couldn’t, then admit you are a moron,” Yan Xiong said gleefully.

Jin Mulan glanced at the words and instantly frowned.

Of course, she could recognize these characters. Though she practiced martial arts, she also read widely. However, these words were truly too unfamiliar. If it weren't because she had coincidentally seen these words in a book, she wouldn't recognize them, for these words were barely used.

Shen Lang went forward to take a look. These three characters were: 莪(é), 璽(sù), and 𢀛(gǔn).

"As expected, it's complicated, ah." Shen Lang may have graduated with a master's degree in a medical university, but he could only recognize the first word amongst these three.

"Haha... You don't know these characters, do you? It'd be remarkable if you could recognize a single word," Yan Xiong said, "be honest and admit that you don't recognize these words and admit that you are a retard. To not even know these three simple words despite studying for ten years..."

Many people present began to perspire. They had also studied for over a decade and also became scholars, and some of them even became first-degree scholars. However, even they couldn't recognize some of these characters, ah.

Although Shen Lang didn't recognize them, there was an Alienware laptop that transmigrated with him ah! There were all sorts of dictionaries in there. He found them effortlessly.

This Alienware laptop had advanced even more in his brain. Shen Lang only needed to scan with his eyes, and he could instantly get his answers and any other possible answers.

At this moment, everyone looked at Shen Lang, waiting for him to embarrass himself.

Shen Lang said, "This first character is pronounced the same as the character 'goose,' it is a type of plant and can be used in medicine. It came from one of the main divisions of the Book of Songs¹, The Poetry about Enjoying Teaching."

The moment this was said, Yan Xiong became stunned. This character might be the easiest, but a moron like Shen Lang shouldn't be able to recognize it.

However, he was very confident that Shen Lang wouldn't know the next two characters.

However, Shen Lang continued to speak without pausing, "This second character is pronounced as Su, it could mean a jade with a blemish, or the royal family."

Before allowing Yan Xiong to be shocked, Shen Lang continued without stopping, "It is true that this third character is exceptionally rarely seen, and it can have various pronunciations. The first would be as 'vertical'¹, which means standing upright."

"The second is to pronounce it as 'roll,' and it means linking up top and bottom."

"And the third way of pronouncing it is to read it as 'tui,' which means moving back."

“And the fourth is to pronounce it as ‘one.’ It is an ancient surname and has its origins in the ancient Jiang Clan.”

Many histories of this world were once destroyed, but people had managed to uncover many ancient Chinese records later and used it as the guide for civilization.

Thus, many ancient cities dug out all these books, which weren’t part of the history of this world but were recorded and made into history.

When he was done speaking, Shen Lang looked at Yan Xiong and said, “Am I correct?”

Yan Xiong looked at Shen Lang incredulously. He only knew two ways to read this last character, which were ‘vertical’ and ‘one.’ He didn’t know the other two forms of reading it!

“Wasn’t Shen Lang a retard? He was incredibly stupid when we were studying, ah! He couldn’t even read the most basic characters, what more, these unfamiliar words!”

Shen Lang looked at Yan Xiong’s teacher, the previous City Lord of Xuanwu City, “Sir Zhang, you are extremely knowledgeable and an all-rounder in martial arts and literature. Do tell, have I read these three characters correctly?”

That old City Lord whose hair and beard was utterly white glared at his disciple Yan Xiong and chuckled, “All of them are correct!”

Everyone was stunned when this was said.

Zhang Pu and Xu Qianqian were exceptionally dazed upon seeing this. Xu Qianqian was the clearest about what sort of person Shen Lang was.

She thoroughly knew how unfamiliar these three words were, especially the last one. Xu Qianqian didn’t even know it, while Shen Lang, who couldn’t even pass the elementary levels in a decade, could?

How... how could this be possible?

Shen Lang continued to say, “Yan Xiong, since we’re playing a game of recognizing words, I’ll also write a few words for you to recognize; what do you think?”

Yan Xiong laughed coldly, “Coming from you? What characters could I not recognize? Ridiculous!”

Shen Lang picked up the brush and dipped it in ink before writing many characters on the paper.

龕 龕 我 | 龕 龕 龕 龕.

鬱 是 Am 龕 龕 龕 龕 龕.

驕矜傻 A 鑄詣夢戀.

龜麟齷逼 Dumb*ss 驢麤鵝.

When he was done writing, Shen Lang asked, “Yan Xiong, which of these characters can you recognize? If you could recognize more than four of them, I’ll concede defeat.”

Yan Xiong looked at the characters and instantly felt dizzy. This... What are these words, ah...

However, there were some that he could clearly recognize, and he couldn’t help but read them out loud: “I am a dumb*ss1!”

Chapter 25: Slapping the Face of a Big Figure Too! Shocking Everyone!

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

The moment Yan Xiong read these four characters, many people burst into laughter. Even Jin Mulan couldn’t help but break into a beautiful smile.

However, Yan Xiong’s teacher’s face instantly blackened.

Yan Xiong only realized that he was fooled when he was done reading it. However, words spoken were like water that’s thrown out, and it couldn’t be retracted. He instantly trembled with anger. Pointing one of his fingers at Shen Lang, he growled, “You... You...”

“That’s right, you’re a dumb*ass! Brother Yan Xiong, you’ve always been so honest from a young age until now, ah!” Shen Lang said.

Yan Xiong was about to explode from anger. He was about to go forward to argue when his teacher, the former City Lord of Xuanwu City, Zhang Boyan said coldly. “Get down. Do you find this not embarrassing enough?”

Yan Xiong stomped off angrily. Feeling the mocking gaze from everyone, he instantly wished he could burrow himself into the ground.

Scholars like him were most concerned about their reputation. At the very least, the words ‘I am a dumb*ss’ would follow him for the rest of his life now.

It would also affect him when he went for the provincial examinations.

Instantly, Yan Xiong hollered angrily, "Lord Earl, this is your Palace of the Earl! Shen Lang is your son-in-law, are you going to allow him to degrade literature and ruin the reputation of the Jin Family?"

The Earl of Xuanwu smiled but did not speak.

The Earl couldn't open his mouth. If not for the fact that his teacher was the former City Lord of Xuanwu City, a mere scholar like him wouldn't even be able to step into this hall. If the Earl had to answer the words of small fries like this, wouldn't he be exhausted to death?

Furthermore, it was the magnanimity of the Earl of Xuanwu not to pursue the matter for a small scholar like Yan Xiong to question and doubt the marriage affairs of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu.

"Yan Xiong, you were the one who said those four words; I didn't use a single vulgarity, ah." Shen Lang chuckled, "As for ruining the reputation of the Jin Family, you can be assured. The Jin Family is powerful, something this small wouldn't ruin our reputation. Jin Family's reputation comes from the hearts of the people. It was all rooted in their love and concern for their constituents. That and their loyalty to the Monarch are what the long-lasting generations of Xuanwu Earls offer to its people, not the mouths of shameless scholars like you."

The moment this was said, the Earl of Xuanwu became stunned. What Shen Lang said was really on point.

When Shen Lang said he wanted to marry Jin Mulan, the Earl even had the urge to murder this insolent man.

However, right now, he felt that this Shen Lang was not too bad as a person. At the very least, he understood the Earl's thoughts.

The Earl of Xuanwu was magnanimous because of the genuine love and care he has for the people of Xuanwu City. However, he was also definitely not a pedantic type of person who was overly particular about things. So what if his son-in-law had scolded someone. It wasn't a problem as long as he did it with correctitude.

Xu Qianqian couldn't help but feel shocked when she heard Shen Lang's words!

This person with a glib tongue was Shen Lang? This man spoke ever so slowly before! He couldn't even utter a complete sentence.

He had undergone such a tremendous change after being chased out of the Xu Family?

"Shameless!" Zhang Pu couldn't help but mutter under his breath.

"You had just completed the wedding rites, and you're already speaking of the Jin Family as if you're a part of them? You're really a panderer, huh!? Can you be less shameless!?"

However, Shen Lang's words had offended a prominent figure.

The former City Lord of Xuanwu City, Zhang Boyan... Not only was he Yan Xiong's teacher, but he was also a traditional-minded scholar.

He had treated it as a game between youngsters when Shen Lang humiliated Yan Xiong.

However, now Shen Lang was calling scholars shameless, which meant Shen Lang was slapping his face and insulting him. Zhang Boyan absolutely had to discipline this lad; otherwise, he would be too full of himself just because he could recognize some strange characters.

"Student Shen, looks like you are well-versed in unfamiliar characters?" Zhang Boyan said.

Shen Lang replied, "I do not dare to claim to be well-versed, but I do know a few."

"I have a character here. These students of mine were incompetent and couldn't recognize it, I wonder if Student Shen is willing to help them dispel their doubts?" Zhang Boyan said.

The moment this was said, everyone became instantly energized. The student was slapped in his face, so the teacher had stepped in personally.

Who was this Zhang Boyan? The former City Lord of Xuanwu City, ah! He had read extensively and was particularly fond of exploring historical sites. He opened a study hall in the city after his retirement. Many scholars took him as their teacher. How profound was his knowledge?

The Earl of Xuanwu was the master of Xuanwu City. Why was this former city lord trying to oppose the Palace of the Earl?

This had to do with the new politics. From a decade ago, the Monarch began withdrawing feudal lands and authority from old aristocratic families.

Previously, the Palace of the Earl assigned the position of the City Lord of Xuanwu City and is usually the younger brother of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu.

Approximately eleven years ago, the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu gave up the position of the City Lord, and the Monarch became the one that decides who will take on the job.

From then, City Lords had one mission, and that was to draw the line with the Earl of Xuanwu and vie with them in the dark.

Shen Lang chuckled, "Since Sir Zhang wishes to test me, then I shall give it a shot."

This time around, the Earl of Xuanwu and Jin Mulan did not try to stop him. Shen Lang had already gotten his face back earlier, so it was no big deal even if he lost to Zhang Boyan.

What sort of figure was Zhang Boyan? A famous great scholar, ah!

Shen Lang had only studied for a few years in a town college, wasn't it normal for him to lose to him?

Scholar Yan Xiong was elated upon seeing that his teacher stuck out for him. He hurriedly grounded the ink and spread the red papers for his teachers. Then, he respectfully offered the brush with both hands.

Zhang Boyan wrote a single character on the paper after receiving the brush.

Everyone came forward to take a look; even Jin Mulan glanced over.

"Great writing!"

"Graceful with hidden depth! It's impossible to write like this without decades of practice."

When Zhang Boyan was done writing, everyone cheered.

This former City Lord of Xuanwu City indeed had great calligraphy.

However, no one present could recognize the word he had written.

"Sir Zhang's words are truly and genuinely good, ah! Every stroke is enough to make one drunk."

"Indeed! It's impossible to write like this without the skills of decades!"

"But what is this character?"

"I don't know!"

"I don't know!"

Everyone present shook their heads. Not a single person could recognize it.

Be it the scholars, Mulan, or even the Earl. None of them could recognize the word.

Someone said, "Sir Zhang is fond of exploring historical sites; this is definitely taken from inscriptions on ancient tablets and is extremely rarely seen! It's not even found in books, so no one could recognize this word!"

Upon hearing these murmurs, Zhang Boyan instantly felt pleased.

This word was indeed obtained from inscriptions of an ancient tablet when he was excavating historical sites. He managed to figure out what word it was after reading the context of that inscription. There was no way it could be found in books.

Thus, apart from those who had read the inscriptions on the tablet personally, no one knew this word.

Shen Lang went forward to take a look only to realize that it was written in a small seal¹.

This character was elementary; it was the character for 'goat' with two strokes removed. When written in a simplified Chinese style, it's '𠂔.'

Every modern-day Chinese person would be familiar with it because it's the sign for the Chinese Renminbi, which is read as 'Yuan.'

However, in ancient context, it definitely wasn't 'yuan.' Shen Lang really didn't know what it meant and how it should be read.

Aside from the minority group of people who excavated historical sites in the Dayan Dynasty, no one else would touch on looking into a lesser seal. Because this word didn't use the lesser seal as their words. It was merely a hobby of a small group of people.

Thus, the difficulty of the character this time was a bit heaven-defying.

Had it been Shen Lang alone, he would have definitely lost this time.

However, there was an Alienware Laptop in his body which had already merged with his brain.

He only needed to take a glance, and he instantly found the answer through his database.

The Earl of Xuanwu said, "Shen Lang, this character is complicated; if it's not seen on the ancient tablet by coincidence, then no one would recognize it. It's alright if you say that you do not know." Then he added, "Your parents insist on not joining the ceremonial rites. You and Mulan should go and pay your respects to them."

He was giving Shen Lang an excellent way out of this situation.

Zhang Boyan didn't care about winning against someone as small as Shen Lang.

However, since he managed to perplex everyone present with a single character, this former City Lord of Xuanwu City couldn't help but feel a little gleeful. He placed both his palms behind his back and tried to look aloof.

Shen Lang said, "Sir Zhang, if my guess is not wrong, you also don't know how to read this character, right? You should have obtained the meaning of this character according to the inscriptions, but you don't know how to read it."

"Indeed, that is true, but isn't it more important to know the meaning, rather than how it is pronounced?" Zhang Boyan said.

Shen Lang replied, "What a coincidence, I happened to know how this character is read."

“Impossible. My teacher has said it, he only knew the meaning of this character by reading the inscriptions. No one knows how to read this word,” Scholar Yan Xiong said.

Shen Lang said, “Then if I know how this word is read and it’s meaning, can you slap yourself since you had spouted nonsense earlier and called me a moron.”

Yan Xiong said, “And what if you are wrong?”

Shen Lang replied, “Then I’ll slap myself.”

“Fine, it’s a deal. Everyone present shall testify for it.”

Zhang Boyan did not stop him because it was politically correct for him to go against the Palace of the Earl. Also, Shen Lang was too brazen tonight, so he should be appropriately disciplined.

Shen Lang said, “This word is pronounced the same way as ‘endure’¹”

“Hahaha... What? Just because you said it’s ‘Ren,’ then we’ll just agree that it’s read as ‘Ren’? Who can prove it, huh?” Yan Xiong laughed.

Shen Lang continued, “The meaning of this word should be similar to ‘pierce.’”

The moment this was said, the former City Lord of Xuanwu City Zhang Boyan’s face instantly changed to an incredulous look.

“This... this is impossible!”

“Have I met a ghost?! Shen Lang can recognize a word that hasn’t been published, and he even knows how to read it?”