

## King Hall 241

### Chapter 241 Junior Brother

While Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru were discussing how to persuade the Chen Family to approach Mu Jinyu,

the busy Mu Jinyu, finally having a moment to relax after a day filled with activities, was about to lie down and rest when he received a phone call.

"Hello..."

Mu Jinyu casually reached for the phone to answer and spoke casually.

"Senior brother, it's me."

On the other end of the phone, a stable and composed male voice came through.

The voice was magnetic, subtly sharp.

"Hmm?!"

As soon as Mu Jinyu heard this long-missed voice, he instantly sprang up from the bed.

"Ah-Xiang, you're back?"

Mu Jinyu's tone was laced with excitement and happiness.

Because the person calling him was his junior brother, Ah-Xiang, whom he hadn't seen for over ten years.

"Yes."

On the other end of the phone, Ah-Xiang gently responded, his tone also carrying a bit of emotion and reminiscence as he softly said, "The battle in the Northern Border has ended, there's nothing much here, and I decided to come back and see you."

"Great, where are you now? I'll come and pick you up."

Mu Jinyu didn't ask Ah-Xiang how he got his number and straightforwardly responded.

Ah-Xiang was also straightforward, not prolonging the conversation on the phone. He gave his location and they both hung up shortly after.

Gu Xiyan watched Mu Jinyu finish his call, his face showing a childlike joy, and curiously asked, "Who was that on the phone?"

"My junior brother." Mu Jinyu, still smiling, took Gu Xiyan's hand and said, "Come on, I'll take you to meet him."

Wen Rou was not at home, she was still busy in the office, so Mu Jinyu didn't specifically call her to come back to meet his junior brother.

Today, he would first introduce Gu Xiyan and Ah-Xiang.

Hearing that it was Mu Jinyu's junior brother returning, Gu Xiyan's originally calm expression suddenly became a bit nervous.

She knew that Mu Jinyu didn't have many relatives; his mother might still be alive, but she had left him, and now, the only relative he could consider was his junior brother, Ah-Xiang.

Is she meeting his family members just like this?

She was a bit nervous!

However, she remembered that Mu Jinyu had mentioned that Ah-Xiang, due to being less talented in the Art of Medicine than him, couldn't inherit their master's legacy and was sent to join the army early on.

Having suddenly returned after so long, it indeed caught her a bit off guard.

"Don't worry, he is a good person."

Mu Jinyu noticed Gu Xiyan's nervousness, pinched her hand gently, and laughed, "An ugly wife always meets the parents eventually, although I don't have parents, my junior brother has always taken good care of me, giving me the feeling of an elder brother. He won't make things difficult for you or make you leave me!"

Gu Xiyan, hearing his words, felt quite odd about it.

What junior brother, and acting like an elder brother?

And moreover...

Why should I be afraid of him!

Gu Xiyan couldn't help but roll her eyes at Mu Jinyu, then said, "Wait a moment, let me go change my clothes."

Mu Jinyu heard this and quickly grabbed Gu Xiyan, exclaiming, "Oh, forget about changing clothes, what you're wearing is pretty enough, do you want him to wait for us for two or three hours?!"

Gu Xiyan couldn't help wanting to complain to Mu Jinyu, "What do you mean 'wait two or three hours,' I'm not even wearing makeup!"

"Come on, let's go."

Mu Jinyu, not daring to let Gu Xiyan go inside to change her clothes and do her makeup, quickly ushered her out of the house.

Gu Xiyan couldn't help but glare at Mu Jinyu due to his urgency.

Really, changing her clothes would take at most ten minutes, and at the latest... half an hour...

Wouldn't it be better to dress beautifully to meet his family?

Gu Xiyan looked down at her black professional attire and thought it looked just fine.

It was now a little past ten in the morning, a time when she would usually be at the company working, just like Wen Rou.

But because Mu Jinyu didn't go to the company to check yesterday's sales figures and some other documents that needed his signature, she had no choice but to go home and bring them to him.

She hadn't expected to be whisked away by him just like that.

Mu Jinyu pulled Gu Xiyan out of the house and told her the place name, urging her to drive there quickly.

As Gu Xiyan started the car, she gave Mu Jinyu a glare and muttered, "Rush, rush, rush, what are you rushing for? Anyone would think you're the wife here!"

Mu Jinyu laughed heartily and said, "If my junior brother were a woman, my junior sister, I would indeed marry her, but unfortunately, I still like women!"

Patting Gu Xiyan's hand lightly, Mu Jinyu added, "So rest assured, you won't lose your favor."

Gu Xiyan rolled her eyes and decided not to talk to him anymore.

She had always felt that Mu Jinyu was not very stable, sometimes quite childish when interacting with him.

But after all, Mu Jinyu was only eighteen, which was understandable.

Now, upon learning that his junior brother was coming back to find him, Mu Jinyu was as excited as an eight-year-old.

His speech became increasingly childish, and Gu Xiyan felt she really had no way to handle him!

But there was no help for it, it was her own fault for ending up with him!

Mu Jinyu, seeing that Gu Xiyan was ignoring him, didn't mind and muttered to himself while stroking his chin, "Ah-Xiang is back, I wonder if he found a place to live; if not, I'll have to make arrangements for him!"

He was worried that Ah-Xiang was not doing well in the military, which might be why he suddenly returned.

If that were the case, he would find a way to arrange both accommodation and a job for him.

Back at Yinlong Mountain, it was always Ah-Xiang who looked after him; if Ah-Xiang's life was not going well now, it was his turn to take care of his junior.

"As his senior, I can't be too stingy; the villa at Seaview Garden is still vacant. I can let Ah-Xiang stay there."

The car started and headed toward Ah-Xiang's location.

Mu Jinyu was preoccupied with thoughts of Ah-Xiang and did not notice that a car was quietly following them from behind.

"Brother Feng, it's them! Follow them!"

A BMW car started and followed Gu Xiyan's car.

Sitting in the passenger seat, the man watching the car ahead would have been recognized by Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan if they were there.

It was Soldier King Lin Feng!

He had incessantly harassed Gu Xiyan's company before and was nearly crippled by Mu Jinyu's Fierce Dragon Crosses the River, which almost shattered his "pillar" into Yinlong Stream.

Since then, he had disappeared for a while.

Today, he had reappeared, apparently seeking help.

The man driving the car was around twenty-six or twenty-seven years old, with a scarred face, sharp and fierce eyes, and a completely unyielding look!

His hands on the steering wheel were calloused.

Apparently, he was no ordinary man.

His name was Ling Feng, also a Super Soldier King who had roamed Africa.

Both were called Soldier Kings: Lin Feng was known as the Snow Leopard Soldier King while he was the Wolf Fang War King!

However, unlike Lin Feng, since he started his career as a hired soldier, he had undertaken thirty-six S-level missions, failing only once and successfully completing the rest!

#### Chapter 242 Reunion

In a quiet park not far from River City Airport.

A handsome young man with delicate features and a sharp gaze sat quietly on the stone bench in the small pavilion of the park. He was wearing a white shirt, sleeves slightly rolled up.

He was Xiang Mantang, who had just arrived in River City and had just made contact with Mu Jinyu.

Compared to Mu Jinyu's playful, laid-back demeanor, Xiang Mantang was entirely serious and strict. Even without the constraints of military regulations, he sat as straight as a spear on the stone bench in the pavilion, his eyes exuding a fierce and commanding presence.

Xiang Mantang put away his phone and a slight smile appeared on the corners of his mouth as he murmured, "Senior brother is still the same as ever, not a bit of change."

"Commander Xiang, here is the information I've just collected, please have a look."

At this moment, a youthful and vibrant woman approached along the cobblestone path outside the pavilion, documents in hand, striding towards the interior of the pavilion.

After speaking, she handed the documents she was holding to Xiang Mantang.

"Thank you for your hard work."

Xiang Mantang took the documents and spoke softly to the vibrant woman.

After saying this, he carefully began to read through the material his subordinates had just gathered.

The spirited woman did not speak to disturb him, standing beside him, gazing at him with an enchanted look.

After about ten minutes.

Xiang Mantang finished reading the detailed account of Mu Jinyu's experiences in River City since coming down from Yinlong Mountain.

As well as the information on the several women who had been at Mu Jinyu's side.

The information was very detailed, recording almost everything save for some extremely secret matters.

The fact that such information could be gathered in just half an hour showed the extent of the power in Xiang Mantang's hands!

Upon finishing the documents, the smile on Xiang Mantang's usually stern face grew thicker, until he couldn't help but let out a chuckle, shaking his head and laughing, "My senior brother really is something. He always said he wouldn't follow Master's example of finding so many wives, but in the end, he still... found it 'delicious'! Hahaha..."

The spirited woman standing by could not help but smile at Xiang Mantang's words.

At the same time, she became even more curious about Mu Jinyu.

After all, a smile from Xiang Mantang was an extremely rare sight at the military department.

Having accompanied him on horseback for many years, this was the first time she saw Xiang Mantang laugh so happily.

It seemed the bond between the two brothers was indeed very strong.

After laughing, Xiang Mantang casually flicked his wrist, and with an outburst of inner strength, he instantly turned the documents to powder. With the wind, the powder drifted into a nearby trash can.

His joyful smile now subdued, he regained his solemn and stately composure, remaining silent, lost in his thoughts as he quietly waited for Mu Jinyu's arrival.

About five minutes later.

Mu Jinyu finally arrived at the park, bringing with him a somewhat coy Gu Xiyan, and soon found the small pavilion where only Xiang Mantang sat.

"Ah-Xiang!"

Seeing the resolute figure sitting on the stone bench, upright as a spear, Mu Jinyu, holding Gu Xiyan's hand with a smile of reunion, called out excitedly.

Hearing Mu Jinyu's greeting, Xiang Mantang, who was seated with his back to them, suddenly turned around, his eyes on Mu Jinyu as a slight smile once again lifted his lips.

"Senior brother, long time no see."

"Yeah, it's been more than a decade just like that!" Mu Jinyu said, quickening his pace as he went in, raising his hand and sending a punch straight towards Commander Xiang at Xiang Mantang!

The spirited woman waiting by the side, seeing Mu Jinyu's action, her gaze sharpened and she brimmed with killing intent, immediately preparing to strike down the audacious individual who dared to attack Beidou Tianshu!

"Hmm?" Commander Xiang hummed lightly, stood up and gestured with his left hand at her, signaling her not to act rashly.

Following that, he too raised his fist, sank his waist and lifted his buttocks, channeling energy into his dantian, exerting all his strength to throw a punch that, like a cannonball, created a sonic boom and charged straight against Mu Jinyu's fist!

"Boom!!"

A roaring sound, like thunderbolts tearing the sky, caused the small pavilion to tremble slightly a few times, almost collapsing from the trial exchange of blows between the two brothers.

Gu Xiyan was so frightened her face went pale, utterly puzzled as to why her brothers would start fighting upon meeting each other; could it be that they harbored grudges?

"Tatatata..."

Mu Jinyu stood his ground, his body as steadfast as a boulder, while Commander Xiang's face turned a shade paler, retracting his fist and stepping back three moves.

The difference in strength was immediately apparent!

Commander Xiang shook his numbing arm, a bitter smile appearing on his face.

He was Mu Jinyu's senior by seven years, at twenty-five this year; because he joined the sect later on, he became Mu Jinyu's junior brother. However, with far less talent than Mu Jinyu, he had always been unable to catch up in cultivation.

And he knew well that Mu Jinyu was always quite lazy and hardly trained rigorously; if he cultivated for three days in a month, just for two hours each day, their master would be beyond pleased.

Whereas he would devote himself to cultivating whenever he had free moments, but even so...

More than a decade had passed, and within Dragon King Hall where he had almost no equals, becoming the Beidou Tianshu of the Northern Dipper Seven Dragon Guards, he was still no match for Mu Jinyu!

Indeed, the gap was just that—a gap!

No wonder their master, back at the orphanage, had taken a fancy only to Mu Jinyu and never saw much in himself. If it hadn't been for Mu Jinyu's insistence and his willingness to advance or retreat alongside him, he reckoned the master wouldn't have taken him in the end.

But the master was also very responsible; whatever he taught Mu Jinyu, he also taught him without holding anything back.

He recalled how after scolding Mu Jinyu, the master had once lamented that if Mu Jinyu were willing to cultivate earnestly, his achievements would be something even the master himself couldn't hope to match in his lifetime.

Regrettably, Mu Jinyu never heeded their master's words!

Thinking of this, Commander Xiang, who once doubted the master, now held complete respect in his heart.

After shaking his arm a few times, the numbness gradually subsided, and Commander Xiang said with a wry smile, "Brother, do you still refuse to cultivate properly? Over a decade has passed, and to think, I've nearly caught up to your level of cultivation."

The spirited woman, originally already stunned by Commander Xiang stepping back three steps, upon hearing his sentiments, her eyes now intensified with a deep disbelief.

Who was Commander Xiang?

In Dragon King Hall, he held the top position among the Northern Dipper Seven Dragon Guards, the Beidou Tianshu, second only to one and above tens of thousands.

In just five years after joining Dragon King Hall, surpassing his predecessor Tianshu, he took over and pressured the other six Northern Dipper Dragon Guards, a testament to Commander Xiang's extraordinary talent!

Yet now, he who had hopes to become the new Dragon King, the Tiance True Dragon, was barely catching up to the young man before him, who appeared to be no more than seventeen or eighteen years old?!

What, then, was the true extent of this young man's terrifying strength?

And by Commander Xiang's implications, this was with Mu Jinyu hardly putting in any effort in cultivating, slowly letting him close the gap...

The woman was immensely shocked, realizing that if she had attacked Mu Jinyu just now, how dire her situation would have been!

Chapter 243 Troublemaker

Listening to Xiang Mantang's wistful sighs with a chuckle, Mu Jinyu grinned and said, "Hey, you know your senior brother has never had that patience and perseverance, right? Besides, I'm not short on money, so I just live day by day."

Xiang Mantang let out a soft sigh and didn't say anything more.

In fact, he knew very well that Mu Jinyu's laziness and refusal to cultivate properly came from two fears: the fear of feeling inferior and the fear that if he performed too well, his master would pay even less attention to him.

So, even when his master scolded him, Mu Jinyu steadfastly refused to cultivate seriously, always sporting a playful grin and pretending to be captivated by fun.

And by pretending over time, he grew accustomed to it, and really became less ambitious and more indolent. Even after leaving Yinlong Mountain, he couldn't change back.

Xiang Mantang felt guilty about this, but at the same time, he was quite envious.

If it were not for the deep blood feud he bore, why would he be so arduous, never daring to idle, deprived of any childhood or joyful moments, climbing step by step to his current status!

Sometimes, he too wanted to give up and live as an ordinary person, but he could never forget the sight of his parents dying before his eyes, and he was determined to find his younger sister who was abducted when she was young!

This pressure always drove him to struggle for survival in the most desperate situations, even if it meant resorting to the lowest of tactics!

Lifting his hand slightly, Xiang Mantang looked at his clean, white palm. His hands were freshly washed, untainted by any filth, but he always felt as if they were coated with a layer of blood that he could never wipe away...

Then, looking at Mu Jinyu's bright and clean smile, Xiang Mantang felt envious yet sincerely hoped that Mu Jinyu could continue living such a peaceful and happy life.

Mu Jinyu noticed Xiang Mantang had suddenly fallen silent, thinking he was feeling regret and guilt, so he stepped forward and lightly punched his shoulder.

"Hey, is it really that bad? Are you that discouraged? I thought after all these years in the military, your state of mind would be much stronger. I didn't expect you to still be so tender!"

A faint smile appeared on Xiang Mantang's face as he bantered with Mu Jinyu.

Then, he looked towards Gu Xiyan, who seemed somewhat dumbfounded, and smiled, "So this is sister-in-law, right?"

"Yeah, how about that, isn't she pretty?!" Mu Jinyu said with a touch of pride.

Gu Xiyan rolled her eyes at Mu Jinyu and then, with a hint of blush, said to Xiang Mantang, "Hello, Little Uncle Master."

Xiang Mantang nodded slightly at her, speaking with an apologetic tone, "I'm sorry, sister-in-law, for the rushed visit today. I didn't bring a gift. I'll definitely make it up next time."

"Oh no, that's not necessary!" Gu Xiyao said, waving her hands dismissively, "There's no need for such formality." UPDATE FROM NOVELFIRE.NET

After speaking, she cast a peculiar glance at Xiang Mantang, then turned to look at Mu Jinyu, whose beard was still downy, and said in a strange tone, "Are you sure you're Jinyu's junior brother? Not his senior brother, going along with his mischief?"

Gu Xiyao, who was not aware of the intricacies, always found it odd. One was barely an adult at eighteen, while the other looked mature, at least in his mid-twenties. So why was it that the younger was the senior brother?

Upon hearing Gu Xiyao's words, Mu Jinyu glanced at her and said in dissatisfaction, "What's with that look? Do I seem like the type who enjoys mischief? Ah-Xiang is indeed my junior brother, and I am his senior brother, that's an ironclad fact, okay!"

Gu Xiyao said disgruntledly, "Can't I even ask?"

Xiang Mantang worried that they would start quarreling and hurriedly said, "Senior brother, sister-in-law, please, let's discuss this peacefully without quarreling."

Continuing, he explained, "It is like this, sister-in-law, because senior brother entered the sect before me, he is my senior brother. Although I am a bit older, if it weren't for his support, I wouldn't even have been able to join the sect, so I sincerely acknowledge him as my senior brother!"

Mu Jinyu said helplessly, "It wasn't that I was supporting you, back then I was just afraid that the old fart would sell me off, so I insisted that we leave together. It wasn't to deliberately help you, there's no need for you to keep it in mind!"

Back then, after Mu Jinyu's father passed away in depression, he was sent to an orphanage. At that time, his personality had already become somewhat twisted and reclusive. He was often bullied in the orphanage, and some bad kids always tried to take his pocket money.

It was Xiang Mantang who couldn't stand by and watch; he stepped in to help him, and afterward, they got to know each other and became good friends.

Later, their master Mu Shao'ai happened to visit the orphanage and wanted to take Mu Jinyu as his disciple after seeing him. Mu Jinyu didn't know the old fart's background, but being adopted was ultimately a good thing. Yet, he couldn't bear to leave his friend Xiang Mantang behind, so he demanded that Mu Shao'ai take them both, and only then would he agree to become his disciple!

At first, Mu Shao'ai didn't want to accept Xiang Mantang. He felt that Xiang Mantang had no talent, but seeing Mu Jinyu's firm attitude, he reluctantly took both of them as his disciples!

The one he truly wanted to take as a disciple was Mu Jinyu, so naturally, Mu Jinyu became the senior disciple, and Xiang Mantang, who used to call him 'big cousin,' became his junior brother!

However, Xiang Mantang's talent was indeed not that great; he was unable to inherit Mu Shao'ai's medical skills, and he also had no interest in learning medicine. Therefore, after teaching him martial arts, the master sent him to join the military and serve the country to share its worries!

Xiang Mantang shook his head slightly and said in a solemn voice, "Regardless of the state of mind you had at that time, Senior Brother, or why you chose to stand with me, the fact that I was accepted as a disciple by Master is still because of you. This kindness, Xiang Mantang will always keep it deeply engraved in his heart!"

Watching Xiang Mantang's serious and earnest expression, Mu Jinyu felt rather helpless.

Long ago, when they were cultivating at Yinlong Mountain, Xiang Mantang was very reserved and taciturn. Now, after many years in the military and having quelled several instances of unrest around the country, he had become even more reticent.

Mu Jinyu sighed softly, just about to say something.

Suddenly, there came a series of footsteps from the stone path outside the pavilion.

Xiang Mantang's eyebrows furrowed slightly as he looked towards the spirited woman standing beside him and said softly, "Liu Mei, what's going on? Didn't I say not to let anyone disturb my reminiscing with Senior Brother?"

Although Xiang Mantang's voice was not loud and he did not reprimand her too severely, Liu Mei was so frightened that her face turned pale. She hurriedly said with a trembling voice, "Commander Xiang, please stay your anger. I will go and ask them to leave immediately!"

Liu Mei did not make excuses for herself. A mistake was a mistake; Xiang Mantang had always disliked it when his subordinates made an error and continued to make excuses. To swiftly resolve the matter was the best response!

As Liu Mei was about to step out of the pavilion to ask the outsiders disturbing their conversation to leave.

A rather cold voice, carrying a hint of murderous intent, rang out from outside the pavilion.

"So they are hiding here, making us search far and wide!"

As the words fell.

Two figures, skirting around the bushes, appeared on the cobblestone path.

It was Lin Feng and Ling Feng!

Chapter 244 Wolf Fang War King

Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyun were about to persuade Xiang Mantang that there was no need to be so domineering; letting others play in the park wouldn't disturb them, and there was no need to ask that person to leave.

However, upon seeing Lin Feng, their expressions immediately darkened!

"Yo, shiny and smug as ever, no wonder Ah-Feng you can't stop thinking about her!"

Ling Feng's eyes lit up when he saw Gu Xiyan, ignoring Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang, he whistled at her and then, as if no one else were around, he said to Lin Feng with a grin.

After speaking, he glanced at Liu Mei, whose beautiful face was as frosty as ever, and teased, "Eh, this chick isn't bad either, how about this: I'll take the beautiful CEO, and you can have the icy harpy?!"

"Go to hell!"

Liu Mei, upon hearing Ling Feng refer to her as an icy harpy, flashed a chilling look in her eyes and was ready to teach them a lesson on the spot!

Xiang Mantang, however, extended a hand to stop her and signaled that she should not be hasty.

Then, he glanced at Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan, who looked displeased, and turned to Lin Feng and Ling Feng with a calm expression and said, "Who are you two, specifically here to trouble my brother and sister-in-law?"

Ling Feng sneered at his words and said, "Sister-in-law? Those two dogs got together so quickly? This brother of yours took my brother's prospects, almost sending him off to Siam for surgery, shouldn't I find trouble with them?"

After pausing for a moment, Ling Feng arrogantly said, "As for who I am? I never changed my name or sat with a different surname, I am the Wolf Fang War King Ling Feng!"

"Wolf Fang War King?"

Xiang Mantang repeated Ling Feng's words with a slight frown, murmuring to himself. He had a vague sense that he might have heard the name before, it rang a bell.

Lin Feng, with a lovesick expression, then called out agonizingly, "Xiyan, come back to my side. I can forgive you for the times you've been deceived by this scoundrel..."

Gu Xiyan glanced at Lin Feng with disgust and said coldly, "Who needs your forgiveness? What relationship do I have with you?! Can't you stop fantasizing?"

As she spoke, she couldn't help but cling tightly to Mu Jinyu's arm, seeking some sense of security.

When Liu Mei heard Ling Feng introduce himself, his profile flashed through her mind.

Then, with raised eyebrows and a disdainful expression, she spoke indifferently:

"Wolf Fang War King Ling Feng? Age twenty-seven, birthday on the 8th of September, blood type A, both parents deceased, sold to Dongying at age seven to be trained as an assassin, killed his master Watanabe Ittou at thirteen, fled to the Philippines, found by Dongying assassins at eighteen, slaughtered indiscriminately, and fled again, moving from place to place, finally settling in Africa as a mercenary!"

"Who are you people?!"

Ling Feng was shocked when Liu Mei spoke of his background, and a chill ran down his spine.

He felt a faint sense that he might have kicked an iron plate, seeing her calm and contemptuous demeanor as she spoke.

How could an ordinary person know of his past, let alone recite his details off the top of their head?

Even after recognizing who he was, she remained so contemptuous, indicating an extraordinary background!

Liu Mei didn't pay attention to Ling Feng; she mainly recounted his details to Xiang Mantang.

"After becoming a mercenary, he only took on S-rank missions and never failed, making a name for himself.

Due to his experiences in Dongying and the Philippines, he combined the Cinvali Short Stick Fighting Technique, the Banana Datu Rope Technique, and Dongying Ninjutsu, and eventually developed his unique rope-killing technique. He was accustomed to strangling opponents with a shoelace, like a starving wolf never letting go of its prey's throat, hence the title Wolf Fang War King."

Gu Xiyan and Mu Jinyu listened with some surprise.

Liu Mei turned the conversation abruptly.

"However..."

As she spoke, Liu Mei raised her eyebrows, and her expression turned mocking, "Three years ago, he arrogantly took on a Super S-rank mission and ended in failure, nearly losing his life, resulting in a shattered myth and tasting defeat."

Liu Mei spoke at length, as if reciting something precious, making Ling Feng seem to have no secrets before her!

Ling Feng's expression was rather ugly, as if had Liu Mei introduced him without such disdain, he might have thought she was a little fangirl of his!

But after the mission failure that shattered his myth years ago, he had come to a sober realization about himself, no longer believing he was invincible, and his once unruly nature had quieted down a lot, becoming much more cautious.

Therefore, he knew that if someone could still look down on him after knowing his information, they were either putting on an act or truly didn't regard him at all.

They had absolute confidence they could crush him with a single finger!

After Liu Mei finished speaking, she watched Ling Feng fall silent with an awkward expression, thinking to herself that the fellow really had become much more restrained after the tragedy he went through back then. If it had been before, he would have probably gone berserk by now!

Shaking her head slightly, Liu Mei looked at Ling Feng with a teasing gleam in her eyes and said leisurely, "You just asked us who we are, didn't you?"

She didn't give an answer, but lightly clapped her hands.

Suddenly, a well-built, muscular man with a tense face came over from the side.

Ling Feng and Lin Feng were instantly shocked, as they hadn't noticed this man standing nearby!

When Ling Feng saw the man's face clearly, his pupils contracted violently, and fear surged uncontrollably.

The brawny man approached, scratching his head and giving Xiang Mantang, who was expressionless, a tentative look, then whispered to Liu Mei, "I just went to the toilet and accidentally let these two slip in."

Liu Mei gave the brawny man a look and shook her head slightly, then turned to Ling Feng, "Do you still recognize this guy?"

Ling Feng didn't speak.

But his hands couldn't help but clench tightly, his somewhat sharp fingernails digging deeply into his palms with the force of his grip.

How could he not recognize this brawny man!

The moment he saw this man, the scar on his face began to throb faintly.

Because, this scar was left by the brawny man in front of him after he had failed the Super S-rank Mission that year.

Originally, after the assassination mission had failed, he was doomed!

But the brawny man, taking into account that they were both from the Hua Clan, had spared his life in the end.

That was how he, Ling Feng, was still able to swagger through life with the identity of the Wolf Fang War King!

And yet he had never expected that by coming back to the country to help his younger brother Lin Feng save face, he would run into this man!

And judging from the circumstances...

This brawny man!

Seemed to be just a subordinate of that quiet young man!

His knack for courting death seemed to have reached a new level!

Ling Feng laughed at himself inwardly.

The brawny man, thinking Liu Mei's words were meant for him, scratched his head and looked towards Ling Feng, then furrowed his brows and stammered, "He seems to be... seems to be..."

Upon hearing these words, Ling Feng felt a chilling despair.

Damn it.

He thought of him as his lifetime adversary.

Yet the man didn't even remember him at all!

Chapter 245: The Past of Xiang Mantang

The burly man had some recollection of Ling Feng, but it wasn't deep enough, so he couldn't remember clearly.

Finally, after a reminder from Liu Mei, he suddenly recalled.

"Oh, so it's you!"

The burly man's expression changed to realization, and then he looked at Ling Feng with a hint of faint anger.

"What? Looking for trouble again? Back then, I spared your life because we were both from the Hua Clan. I can't believe you haven't learned your lesson!"

Ling Feng, facing the burly man, felt an immense pressure, swallowed his saliva, and spoke with difficulty, "I..."

After learning of Ling Feng's background, Xiang Mantang lost interest in him and waved his hand, "Gao Yu, break their legs and throw them out."

His tone was casual, as if a guest sitting in a tavern annoyed by buzzing flies, called over a waiter to swat them dead!

"Yes."

Gao Yu's expression changed, he dared not lecture Ling Feng anymore. His honest expression faded, and his eyes blazed with ferocity as he strode towards Ling Feng and Lin Feng! Google search  
Novel\_Fire(.)net

"You!"

Ling Feng's face turned pale, wanting to say something.

Gao Yu, silent, swung his fan-sized palm directly toward Ling Feng's face!

"Slap!"

Ling Feng was no ordinary man, but Gao Yu was even less so. Gao Yu had calculated all of Ling Feng's possible reactions. Just as Ling Feng prepared to run, Gao Yu shifted his step, instantly moved to his side, and then swung his palm, swatting him away like a fly!

"Aah!"

Ling Feng screamed in agony, his right cheek swelling up, and as he was mid-air, he spat out a mouthful of blood mixed with several teeth!

"Thump!"

Ling Feng heavily crashed to the ground, denting the lawn somewhat.

The moment he hit the ground, he rolled and then propped himself up, attempting to leap up from the ground like a springing tiger.

"Crack!"

Gao Yu strode over and extended a foot, directly kicking towards Ling Feng's right leg. A sharp sonic boom followed by a crisp sound erupted.

"Ahh!!"

His right leg fractured, Ling Feng let out a dreadful scream.

However, Gao Yu, not wanting to disturb Xiang Mantang, quickly reached out and knocked on Ling Feng's head, knocking him unconscious.

The scream abruptly halted.

The skirmish between the two lasted merely ten seconds.

Lin Feng, slightly stunned, came to his senses only to see his elder brother Ling Feng already incapacitated by Gao Yu!

"Gulp!"

Lin Feng unconsciously swallowed his spit, stepped back, and upon seeing Gao Yu turn his head to look at him, immediately turned and fled without hesitation!

Seeing this, Gao Yu left Ling Feng behind, his body moved like a tiger descending a mountain, and in three seconds he caught up with Lin Feng, who had run fifty meters away, then kicked out, accompanied by another "crack" sound.

While running, Lin Feng's leg was broken and he lost control, crashing into a face-plant, his face harshly scraping against the cobblestones.

The sight, tsk tsk... was too horrible to endure!

Barely a minute had passed.

The two Super Soldier Kings who had dominated the African Battlefield were thus effortlessly dealt with by Gao Yu.

"Smack, smack!"

Gao Yu clapped his hands and, like picking up chicks, he picked up Lin Feng and quickly ran back to pick up Ling Feng as well, apologizing to Xiang Mantang with a smile, "Commander Xiang, I'll take the trash out first."

Having said that, he hurriedly carried the two War Kings and dashed out of the park!

Gu Xiyan, holding Mu Jinyu's arm, watched in a stunned silence.

Afterward, Gu Xiyan began to doubt what Liu Mei had said earlier.

If the Wolf Fang War King was really as formidable as she had described, how could he be dealt with so easily?

Xiang Mantang watched the two War Kings being dragged away, one in each hand, thought of Liu Mei's description, and chuckled lightly, "Wolf Fang War King?"

He shook his head in amusement and murmured, "When you give too much face, even a dog thinks it's a wolf!"

Xiang Mantang felt no sympathy for them.

When Ling Feng had just arrived, he was full of arrogance, wanting to assign Gu Xiyan and Liu Mei arrogantly, completely forgetting how he had been spared his life by Gao Yu in the past. Now, having his legs broken by Gao Yu was his own fault!

"Let's talk somewhere else."

Xiang Mantang turned to Mu Jinyu and said.

The disruption, coupled with Ling Feng's teeth and bloodstains not far away, really ruined the scenery, and Xiang Mantang didn't want to catch up with Mu Jinyu here anymore.

"Yeah, let's walk and talk," Mu Jinyu also did not take Ling Feng and Lin Feng to heart, responding with a smile to Xiang Mantang.

Then, the two walked side by side out of the pavilion, while Gu Xiyang lagged a few steps behind them, walking with Liu Mei.

Allowing the two ahead to catch up and talk about old times, she took the opportunity to gather information from Liu Mei.

Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang chatted about their experiences over the years while walking ahead, with mostly Mu Jinyu speaking and asking questions, while Xiang Mantang listened silently, only responding softly when asked.

While talking, Mu Jinyu cautiously asked, "Do you have any news about our little sister now?"

Xiang Mantang's sister had always been his deepest taboo, few people knew about it, and those who did dared not mention it lightly in front of him.

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's question, Xiang Mantang's originally smiling face immediately stiffened, a surge of melancholy and fierceness passing through his eyes as he shook his head and sighed lightly, "No."

As Mu Jinyu broached the subject, memories from Xiang Mantang's past began to resurface.

When he was very young, about seven or eight years old, for reasons unknown, his parents seemed to know something panic-induced and hid him in the closet, instructing him to keep quiet and locking the door.

Then, a group of oddly dressed people entered their house, spoke a few words with his parents, and got into a dispute that soon became physical.

He watched from the closet in terror as his parents fell in a pool of blood, too frightened to make a sound or even breathe.

After these people left, he barely gathered the strength to move but was too scared to come out.

Then, suddenly remembering that his sister was due home, he rushed out of the closet, not stopping to attend to his parents' bodies, and staggered out to pick up his sister, who had been at a friend's house.

Only to learn that the assailants had already taken his sister!

At that moment, he nearly went mad but could not find them no matter where he looked!

Eventually, despairingly returning home, he stayed beside his parents' bodies, overwhelmed with grief and made a vow to find his sister and kill those people in revenge for his parents.

But many years had passed, and though he had become the Beidou Tianshu of Dragon King Hall, he had still found no trace of those people!

He also had no idea whether his sister was alive or dead!

Often, in the quiet of the night, Xiang Mantang would think powerlessly, if he had his current strength back then, would he have had to tremble in the closet, helplessly watching his parents die before his eyes?

And after discovering his sister missing, would he have been powerless to do anything?

Chapter 246: The Beef Noodles in Memory

Having let out a light sigh to ease the frustration in his chest, Xiang Mantang's expression returned to its usual calm as he softly said, "It doesn't matter, as long as they are unharmed. Sooner or later, I will find those people!"

Xiang Mantang spoke in a gentle and indifferent tone, but the fleeting glint of coldness in his eyes revealed that his heart was far from being as serene as his appearance suggested.

Mu Jinyu dared not ask further, unwilling to peel back the layers of Xiang Mantang's emotional scars, and changed the subject, "On this return, are you just staying for a few days before heading back to the military, or are you here for a long stay?"

Xiang Mantang shook his head, "I'm not returning. The main reason I came back this time is for a specific matter. If successful, it would give me a greater confidence in finding those criminals."

"What matter?"

Mu Jinyu asked curiously.

If they had been merely acquaintances, he might not have ventured to probe, but his relationship with Xiang Mantang was so strong that he did not mind inquiring further.

Xiang Mantang did not hide it from him and softly explained, "You know, in our Shenzhou, there traditionally exists an organization comprising one hall, two gates, and three societies..."

"Hmm," Mu Jinyu nodded. "The two gates are the Red Gate and the Blue Gate. The three societies, I am not very familiar with; they seem to have perished long ago."

Xiang Mantang continued, "Yes, the two gates were once dominators of the underworld, specifically dealing with matters beneath the surface. Now, they barely exist in name only, not amounting to a significant force. However, the single hall is Dragon King Hall, which is also known to the people as Dragon Group."

"The origins of Dragon King Hall are unknown, and it is unclear when it was established. But over the centuries, amid the waves of history, it has stood unyielded like an unmatched monument!"

"Its existence is to protect the safety of various top-grade talents and important figures within the country. It also ventures internationally; whenever any force dares to stretch their hands towards Shenzhou's interests, Dragon King Hall ensures that the hand is severed!"

As Xiang Mantang spoke, a sharp light flickered in his eyes, and then he continued, "At the age of twenty, with a senior's recommendation, I passed the assessments and joined Dragon King Hall. Within five years, I became the hall master of Tianshu Palace, the chief among the Seven Sub-Halls, under the title Beidou Tianshu."

"I have returned this time as the Old Dragon King's end is near, and we are preparing to select the new Tiance True Dragon."

The words of Xiang Mantang were not overly clear, but Mu Jinyu understood his intentions.

As the Dragon Master was on his deathbed, he was selecting the next Tiance True Dragon, but Xiang Mantang was not a man to languish beneath others.

If given a chance, he would definitely contest it!

Mu Jinyu nodded slightly and smiled, "I support you. If there's anything I can assist with, just give the order, be it money or manpower!"

"If there really is a need, I won't hesitate to ask," Xiang Mantang also showed a slight smile as he replied.

The two had been friends for many years. Even though they had not seen each other for nearly a decade, their affection did not wane with distance.

"Let's go, let's go eat first."

Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang exited the park. Noticing it was time for a meal, Mu Jinyu suggested.

"Hmm." Xiang Mantang nodded, then glanced around, motioning towards a small restaurant, "Let's go to that one."

The two then walked together towards the small restaurant across the street.

Gu Xiyan followed behind, initially feeling that hosting guests at home would be the proper welcome, but then hesitated thinking about her own cooking skills.

She felt a pang of unease, wishing Wen Rou were at home.

Following Mu Jinyu, Gu Xiyan walked into the small restaurant and glanced at Liu Mei, asking in a low voice, "Sister Liu, are you okay with eating here? Should we find another place?"

It wasn't that Gu Xiyan couldn't eat there herself; if it were just her and Mu Jinyu, she wouldn't have minded eating anywhere.

However, since they had important guests, she felt that even if they weren't going to host them at home, they should take them to a nicer restaurant. Going to this small diner seemed rather stingy.

Liu Mei's spirited and pretty face didn't show any dislike while entering the small restaurant. She smiled openly and said, "It's fine, I can eat here."

As a subordinate of Beidou Tianshu, she had experienced times during missions where she had gone hungry for three days and nights to complete tasks and had even eaten rotten food next to corpses to survive after narrow escapes...

This small diner, despite its modest size, appeared to be clean and hygienic overall; there was nothing she could not eat here.

"Boss, two bowls of beef noodles."

Mu Jinyu called out to the owner and then turned to Gu Xiyan. "If you can't eat the food here, you can go find a restaurant outside with Sister Liu. Eat whatever you want."

Gu Xiyun playfully rolled her eyes at him and retorted, "If you can eat it, why can't I?"

Then, she also called to the owner, "Boss, I want a bowl of beef noodles too."

After ordering, Gu Xiyun turned to Liu Mei and asked, "Sister Liu, what about you?"

Liu Mei smiled and replied, "Since you're both getting beef noodles, I'll have the same."

"Alright, so it's four bowls of beef noodles then?"

The restaurant owner shouted to confirm their order and then went into the kitchen to prepare the beef noodles.

Liu Mei pretended to glance casually at Xiang Mantang, her eyes wandering, thinking to herself that Commander Xiang liked beef noodles after all. She had been following him for so many years and hadn't known this; she felt like she had failed as a subordinate.

Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang continued chatting casually.

Soon, the four bowls of beef noodles were gradually served by the owner.

Xiang Mantang looked at the steaming, hearty bowl of beef noodles in front of him, his gaze somewhat dreamy. He then unwrapped the disposable chopsticks and, instead of eating right away, picked up a few pieces of beef from his bowl and habitually placed them into Mu Jinyu's bowl.

Mu Jinyu, just about to start eating, slightly amused and touched, advised, "Ah-Xiang, eat it yourself, there's no need to give me the beef anymore, I'm not the same Mu Jinyu who often went hungry back then."

Xiang Mantang, whose eyes were slightly hazy, quickly cleared up upon hearing this and chuckled, "It's a habit. Besides, I'm not too fond of beef anyway. You eat it, don't waste it."

Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly and then accepted Xiang Mantang's kindness.

His thoughts drifted, and he seemed to reminisce about their time in the orphanage.

Back then, Xiang Mantang, being seven years older than him, had looked after him in the orphanage. Since the food at the orphanage was not very good, whenever Xiang Mantang managed to save some money from selling scrap, he would sneak him out to secretly enjoy a meal of beef noodles to help the skinny boy get some nutrition...

At that time, he was young and naive. Naturally, he was very happy to have meat to eat, and since Xiang Mantang claimed not to like it, he would accept all the beef handed to him and eat contentedly.

He was entirely oblivious to the fact that Xiang Mantang was also watching his swallowing movements and that, being just a teenager himself, Xiang Mantang too needed proper nutrition...

Just now when he ordered beef noodles, it was merely a spontaneous desire to reminisce about the old times—he hadn't expected Xiang Mantang to still habitually share his beef with him.

Chapter 247: Grandpa?

A large bowl of beef noodles, Mu Jinyu quickly finished.

He pulled out a napkin to wipe his mouth and revealed a reminiscent expression, sighing, "This beef noodle soup really resembles the flavor of the one we used to frequent back then."

"Yeah, the taste is really quite good." Xiang Mantang also finished quickly. Due to his military life, it was almost impossible for him to have the leisure of eating slowly.

Liu Mei was the same, while she didn't appear to be gobbling up her food, she finished quite quickly.

Gu Xiyan watched as they finished in just a few bites, and with three-quarters of the noodles still in her bowl, she couldn't help feeling a bit awkward.

"How did you all eat so fast!"

Gu Xiyan swallowed the noodles in her mouth, then put down her chopsticks, and said somewhat embarrassedly.

"It's okay, take your time. Ah-Xiang and I will go out to talk. We'll wait for you."

Mu Jinyu smiled at Gu Xiyan and then summoned Xiang Mantang to go outside.

Liu Mei did not go out, not daring to disturb their conversation. Sitting at her spot, she felt awkward just watching Gu Xiyan eat. So, she ordered another small dish.

This time, she chewed slowly and struck up a conversation with Gu Xiyan from time to time.

At the entrance.

Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang walked out of the small restaurant, and then squatted down.

Xiang Mantang pulled out half a pack of cigarettes from his pocket, picked one out, and offered it to Mu Jinyu, asking, "Want a smoke?"

"Not used to it." Mu Jinyu waved to Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang took back his hand, put the cigarette in his mouth, then pulled out a lighter to light it, took a deep inhale, and blew out a large ring of smoke.

Xiang Mantang continued to smoke, chatting with Mu Jinyu in a relaxed manner.

At this moment.

A Rolls-Royce suddenly stopped in front of them.

Mu Jinyu glanced over and muttered, "Is the food in this small restaurant really that delicious? Enough to make such a rich person come specially?"

The car door opened, and a middle-aged man with slicked-back hair, dressed in a black tailcoat, got out of the car and walked directly towards them.

"Eh, is he one of your men?"

Mu Jinyu saw the middle-aged man walking towards them instead of entering the restaurant and couldn't help but look at Xiang Mantang, assuming the man was one of his subordinates.

Xiang Mantang had not been paying attention to these details, but upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, he turned his head as well.

When he saw the face of the middle-aged man, he was startled and then shouted, "Uncle Fu!"

The middle-aged man addressed as Uncle Fu by Xiang Mantang approached them slowly, his usually stern face softened with a respectful smile as he said, "Young master, I've come to take you home."

"Hmm?" Xiang Mantang was a bit confused, with Uncle Fu's status, why would he need to call him young master?

Mu Jinyu heard this and, without paying attention to Uncle Fu, turned regretfully towards Xiang Mantang, saying, "You have to leave so soon, sigh."

"It's not... Uncle Fu, what are you saying?" Xiang Mantang was also a bit confused.

Uncle Fu's status was that of the Tiance True Dragon's butler. He had always called him Beidou Tianshu, so why suddenly call him young master?

Wait?! Could it be...

That he had been confirmed as the next Tiance True Dragon?

Caught in confusion, Xiang Mantang...

Uncle Fu, realizing Mu Jinyu might have misunderstood, explained respectfully, "Young Master Mu, I am acting on orders from your grandfather to take you home."

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing the address "Young Master Mu," immediately understood that this fellow was here to find him!

Hmm?

Grandfather?!

He heard this term, which was extremely foreign to him, and his eyes involuntarily narrowed slightly, concealing the fleeting glint of coldness in his gaze.

"Who are you?!"

Mu Jinyu turned his head back, looking at Uncle Fu seriously and indifferently as he spoke.

Uncle Fu replied respectfully: "Young Master Mu, I am your grandfather's butler. You can call me Ah-Fu. I have come this time..."

Mu Jinyu cut him off directly, saying coldly, "Get out!"

He scoffed inwardly—grandfather? Where did he get a grandfather from?!

He was orphaned and had been taken to Yinlong Mountain by his master, depending on each other for survival to this point. Since his master left, the only relative he had was Xiang Mantang.

Uncle Fu listened to Mu Jinyu's impolite rebuke, his face changing ever so slightly, but instead of anger or indignation, there was only a sense of helplessness and pity.

He opened his mouth, wanting to say something.

Xiang Mantang, listening to their conversation and observing the expressions on Uncle Fu and Mu Jinyu, felt as if lightning had struck in his previously muddled mind.

He suddenly remembered some of the past life stories Mu Jinyu had once told him.

Could it be that Mu Jinyu is actually the grandson of the Tiance True Dragon?!

Xiang Mantang thought with some incredulity in his heart, but then he regained his composure and said to Uncle Fu, "Uncle Fu, let us step aside to talk."

Uncle Fu, hearing Xiang Mantang's words, furrowed his brow slightly and opened his mouth. Seeing Mu Jinyu's impatient and disgusted expression, he let out a light sigh and said, "Alright."

Xiang Mantang then said to Mu Jinyu, "Senior brother, you should calm down for a bit."

After speaking, he patted Mu Jinyu's shoulder and then stood up, gesturing to Uncle Fu, "This way."

Uncle Fu followed Xiang Mantang toward the Rolls Royce that he had arrived in, occasionally glancing back at Mu Jinyu, whose face was expressionless, with a complex look on his face.

Xiang Mantang led Uncle Fu near the Rolls Royce, noticing the frequent glances from passersby, furrowed his brows, and then opened the car door and got inside.

Uncle Fu also got in after him.

"The Big Dipper Tianshu—it turns out you are actually my young lord's junior brother!"

Uncle Fu, after sitting down and closing the car door, couldn't help but let out a wry smile, feeling the unpredictability of life.

Xiang Mantang's brows were furrowed as he looked up at Uncle Fu and asked, "My senior brother, is he really the Dragon Master's grandson?"

Uncle Fu nodded and said, "Genuine and guaranteed, he is indeed the Dragon Master's grandson, who was lost in the outside world, but..."

As he spoke, his expression also became one of helplessness and pity, along with a surge of complex emotions.

Xiang Mantang suddenly interjected with a cold laugh, "But he was abandoned by the Dragon Master himself, right? At that time, he didn't even want to acknowledge him, did he?!"

His tone was somewhat heavy, and in the past, no matter the issue, he would have tried to restrain himself in front of Uncle Fu or the Old Dragon King.

But today, now that it involved Mu Jinyu, he couldn't suppress that anger!

Previously, when Xiang Mantang had heard from Mu Jinyu himself that he had been abandoned by his mother, he had found it unbelievable. He couldn't imagine that there could be such a heartless mother in the world.

Compared to his own parents, who spared no effort to protect him, he felt that Mu Jinyu's mother was simply unworthy of being a mother!

But now, he had suddenly learned that the woman he had looked down upon was the daughter of the Dragon King, and the Old Dragon King, whom he had always respected, was actually Mu Jinyu's grandfather!

He felt an anger that was beyond words!

Uncle Fu, hearing Xiang Mantang's words, let out a wry smile and, without minding the disrespectful tone, sighed and said, "The affairs of that year were complicated, but you, Tianshu, should also understand that few mothers do not love their children. The Saintess... she had no other choice!"

Chapter 248 Jinyu Mantang

"What's so desperate?"

Xiang Mantang retorted with a cold sneer, "Isn't it just because she was afraid of giving birth to a son and being punished by the Dragon King, so she just abandoned my brother and didn't care!"

With a snort of derision, Xiang Mantang's eyes filled with contempt as he said, "You tell me, is there a mother in the world who doesn't love her own child? Yet, to my recollection, after she abandoned my brother, hasn't she not contacted him for over ten years? Is this her motherly love?"

Uncle Fu's expression was conflicted as he sighed and said, "The whole matter is like a tangled ball of yarn, not easily clarified or explained, but Tianshu, you should be aware that if the Saintess really didn't care about the young master, how could she have remained so alone until today?"

Upon hearing Uncle Fu's words, a vision of a gentle and beautiful woman, who was often troubled and scarcely happy, arose in Xiang Mantang's mind.

A thought struck Xiang Mantang, wondering, could there really be a reason for her suffering?

Uncle Fu knew that to persuade Mu Jinyu to come back and inherit the position of the Dragon King, he needed Xiang Mantang's help; if he was unwilling, it would be very difficult to persuade Mu Jinyu to return.

Seeing the change in Xiang Mantang's expression and the slight dissipation of the cold light in his eyes, Uncle Fu knew he had somewhat persuaded him and continued to strike while the iron was hot:

"Moreover, Tianshu, your own background is even more tragic compared to the young master's. Now that he can reunite with his biological mother, don't you have the heart to help him?"

When Uncle Fu mentioned his past, Xiang Mantang's expression abruptly changed, and a murderous intent flashed in his eyes. However, as Uncle Fu continued to persuade, his gaze became lost in thought again.

Indeed, compared to a lifetime without the chance to see his parents and be cherished by them, how could Mu Jinyu's mother still be alive in this world? If she had a hidden reason for leaving Mu Jinyu all those years ago, why couldn't he try to understand and accept her instead of harboring resentment and hurting each other?

Xiang Mantang clenched his fists, his gaze wavered for a moment, but gradually cleared again.

Looking at the sincere face of Uncle Fu, he took a deep breath and said, "Alright, then you explain to me the hidden reasons and hardships of the Saintess when she left my brother. If I find the reason convincing enough that it might persuade my brother, I... I will help you!"

A look of surprise appeared in Uncle Fu's eyes, knowing that Xiang Mantang would definitely not refuse him.

Thus, he quickly began, recounting the past events briefly: "Like this... and so on..."

"So, it turns out this is what happened...", Xiang Mantang seemed dazed after listening, feeling Uncle Fu's explanation was reasonable, and he could accept and forgive, but he just wasn't sure if...

Mu Jinyu, could he accept and forgive.

Uncle Fu sighed and said, "The Old Dragon King wasn't as harsh and unapproachable as you think, Tianshu. The reason he urgently summoned the Saintess back then, cutting off contact with her and

their son, was actually to protect the young master and son-in-law, otherwise, he probably wouldn't have survived until now; pity the son-in-law..."

Uncle Fu heaved a long sigh and said, "Pity the heart of all parents in the world, if the Saintess really had no feelings for father and son, why would she still be alone until now."

"Phew..." Xiang Mantang exhaled lightly, his expression regaining its composure, but the slight trembling of his hands and the fleeting cold gleam in his eyes revealed his unsettled mind.

'Shen Family, Shen Cangsheng, what boldness you had, to drive Jinyu and his family to ruin all those years ago. I've noted this debt!' he thought.

Then, Xiang Mantang nodded and said, "Alright, I promise you, I will try my best to persuade my brother. You should go back now, try not to agitate him further."

"This...", Uncle Fu hesitated, then looking out the window at Mu Jinyu, whose expression was cold and unwelcoming to strangers, thought for a moment, and said, "Then I'll rely on Tianshu."

Afterward, Xiang Mantang got out of the car, watching as Uncle Fu drove away.

Looking away, Xiang Mantang sighed softly, taking steps toward Mu Jinyu, who sat crouched at the doorway, his face covered with a layer of frost.

"Brother, are you alright?" Xiang Mantang approached, asking with some concern.

"What could be wrong with me?" Mu Jinyu sneered, murmuring softly, "Back then they abandoned me and my father, and now that the old man is dying and sees that I've made a fortune, does he want me to come home? Ha ha ha..."

Mu Jinyu spoke, and could not help but burst into wild laughter.

"What are you laughing at?"

At this moment, Gu Xiyan, who had finished eating and paying, came out and, seeing Mu Jinyu laughing inexplicably, asked somewhat puzzled.

Mu Jinyu's laughter stopped abruptly.

Then he looked at Gu Xiyan and shook his head, "It's nothing. Have you finished your meal? Then let's go."

After speaking, Mu Jinyu stood up from the ground and said to Xiang Mantang, "Ah-Xiang, my mood is not very good today, so I won't be joining you for fun. Oh, do you have a place to stay now?!"

"Yes," Xiang Mantang nodded. "Liu Mei has already bought a house over at Donghui Mansion."

"Well, then, I'm going to leave first, senior brother." IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT [NOvelFire.net](http://NOvelFire.net)

Mu Jinyu nodded at Xiang Mantang and then pulled Gu Xiyan, who was still somewhat confused, away.

Xiang Mantang watched them leave, his eyes flickering slightly, but he did not open his mouth to say anything persuasively.

He knew that Mu Jinyu's mind was very restless at the moment and wouldn't listen to persuasion; it was better to wait until evening, calm down, then go to him and explain the hidden details of the past.

"Commander Xiang, what was that car just now?"

Liu Mei walked up to Xiang Mantang, thinking about the Rolls-Royce license plate she had just seen, and asked curiously.

"Yes, it was Uncle Fu's car," Xiang Mantang nodded.

"So, the Dragon Master was looking for you because..."

Upon hearing this, Liu Mei, overwhelmed with joy, thinking Xiang Mantang really was going to take over the position of the Tiance True Dragon, quickly asked tentatively.

Xiang Mantang shook his head and said softly, "No, he didn't come for me; he came for my senior brother."

"Eh? For your senior brother?"

Liu Mei, puzzled upon hearing this, wondered.

What did the Old Dragon King want with Commander Xiang's senior brother? Could it be that his time was nearing, but being unwilling to give up, he wanted the divinely skilled Mu Jinyu to save him?

Xiang Mantang said, "My senior brother, he is the grandson of the Dragon Master."

"Ah?!"

Upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words, Liu Mei felt as if a heavy bomb exploded in her mind, buzzing, and she murmured:

"Your senior brother is... the Dragon Master's grandson?!"

"So..." Muttering, Liu Mei suddenly looked up, her eyes anxiously fixed on Xiang Mantang, and asked, "Is the Old Dragon King preparing to appoint your senior brother as the next Tiance True Dragon?"

"Yes, that seems to be the plan," Xiang Mantang nodded lightly.

"Then are you planning..." Liu Mei took a deep breath, wanting to ask if Xiang Mantang had any plans to compete with Mu Jinyu?

"I'm going to help him!" Xiang Mantang said firmly.

Liu Mei stared blankly at Xiang Mantang, trying to see any signs of discontent, frustration, or hatred in his expression, but unfortunately, there were none; instead, there was only a wistful envy.

Liu Mei didn't understand what Xiang Mantang was envious of, thinking it was because Mu Jinyu had a good grandfather.

She asked unwillingly, "Commander Xiang, are you really content with this?!"

"What is there to be discontent about?" Xiang Mantang chuckled lightly, offering no further explanation.

If it had been someone else becoming the new Dragon King, he indeed would have felt discontent, but if it was Mu Jinyu, he didn't mind.

Because he was Mu Jinyu, because they were Jinyu Mantang!

Chapter 249: Chicken Stewed with Mushrooms

After saying goodbye to Xiang Mantang, Mu Jinyu left with a gloomy expression on his face alongside Gu Xiyan.

Once they got home, Mu Jinyu still didn't utter a word and silently went into his room, slamming the door shut with a bang.

Gu Xiyan, who had been worried all the way home, grew even more concerned for Mu Jinyu when she saw this but couldn't help feeling a tad resentful as well.

What on earth had happened, and why wouldn't he talk to her about it?

Anxious, Gu Xiyan simply couldn't focus on going back to work, so she took out her phone to briefly inform Xu Qingya. Then, she ran to Mu Jinyu's room door and knocked lightly, asking, "What would you like for dinner? I will go get it ready in a bit."

The room was very quiet; Mu Jinyu didn't respond.

"Sigh," Gu Xiyan let out a light sigh, her pretty face crumpling into a frown.

It was too bad that she didn't have Liu Mei's or Xiang Mantang's contact details, otherwise, she could have asked them what exactly had happened just now.

Shaking her head slightly, Gu Xiyan decided not to disturb Mu Jinyu any further.

She thought to herself, let him have some quiet time alone; perhaps he'll feel better by the evening.

Today should be the day to show off her culinary skills and make a delicious meal for Mu Jinyu!

Gu Xiyan encouraged herself and headed out to the supermarket to buy ingredients.

Then she spent the entire afternoon in the kitchen, thinking hard about what to cook.

Since she rarely cooked, many of her attempts this afternoon ended in failure, resulting in inedible dishes that she had to throw away.

In the end, she succeeded with a few dishes.

"Phew, that's a relief; I finally made something successful."

Gu Xiyan took off her apron and wiped the fine beads of sweat on her smooth forehead, then checked the time and saw it was already past five in the afternoon.

Wen Rou hadn't finished work yet; with the Beauty Pill just launched, there were lots of things to do at the company, and it had been very busy. Gu Xiyan guessed that Wen Rou wouldn't finish work until nine or ten o'clock that night.

Thinking this, Gu Xiyan glanced at the slow-simmering clay pot on the stove.

The pot contained chicken soup that had been simmering for over four hours already; it should be almost ready.

Gu Xiyan put on gloves, lifted the pot lid, and instantly a rich aroma wafted up to her nose.

"It smells amazing; looks like it's a success."

Gu Xiyan's eyes lit up, and she smiled, then scooped up a little of the chicken soup to taste. It was delicious and very tasty.

"Hmm, time to call Jinyu out for dinner."

After putting the spoon down and covering the pot again, Gu Xiyan washed her hands, left the kitchen, and walked to the door of Mu Jinyu's room, knocking again.

"Hey, Jinyu, come out for dinner. I've been cooking all afternoon, you're not going to snub me, right? It's really delicious!"

Gu Xiyan called out a few times.

Still, there was no reply.

Just when she thought Mu Jinyu was not going to come out, the door suddenly opened.

Mu Jinyu walked out with a calm face, showing no hint of his inner thoughts.

"Is that so? Well, I suppose I'll have to see how good it is. Don't expect me to give you face if it isn't tasty," he said with a light chuckle, teasing Gu Xiyan.

"You'll know whether it's good or not once you've eaten it! If it's not, you're taking over cooking for the rest of the month!" Gu Xiyan, seeing that he seemed alright, felt a surge of happiness inside but still hummed proudly and started bantering with him!

"Wow, you're really setting me up here, aren't you? Even if it's awful, I'd have to pretend to like it now, wouldn't I?" exclaimed Mu Jinyu, reacting dramatically.

Gu Xiyan gave him a glare and then pushed him, saying, "Alright, go wash your hands and let's eat!"

Although she was quite curious about what had happened to Mu Jinyu that afternoon, seeing that he was now in a much better mood, she feared her inquisitiveness might spoil it once again.

Therefore, she suppressed her curiosity, pretended as if nothing had happened, and didn't bring up the incident from noon.

Mu Jinyu walked into the kitchen, washed his hands, and, smelling the rich aroma in the air, flared his nostrils a few times. Closing his eyes slightly, he clicked his tongue and said, "It smells pretty good, but I wonder how it tastes!"

Afterward, he and Gu Xiyan began to serve all the dishes she had prepared to the dining table.

Gu Xiyan's hard work all afternoon was indeed not in vain. At least the dishes looked appealing, with both color and aroma, and if they tasted alright, that would be considered quite a success.

A passable housewife, in the future, dishwashing and cooking could all be handed over to her, hahaha...

Thinking wickedly to himself, Mu Jinyu then picked up his chopsticks, took a piece of braised pork, put it in his mouth, chewed it slowly, and then praised, "Hey, it's actually pretty good."

"Of course it is. Who do you think made it?" Gu Xiyan's previously tense face relaxed at Mu Jinyu's words and then she laughed smugly.

Afterwards, she sat down and started eating with Mu Jinyu.

Halfway through the meal.

Gu Xiyan stood up and said, "Hmm, the chicken stew with mushrooms should be ready by now, I'll go get it for you."

With that, she hurried off to the kitchen.

"Chicken stew with mushrooms, huh."

Upon hearing Gu Xiyan's words, Mu Jinyu paused his action of picking up food, his gaze becoming distant as something came to his mind.

Soon, Gu Xiyan returned with a pot of chicken soup, placed it on the table, and withdrew her hands, muttering, "Hot, hot, hot..."

As she muttered, she raised her scorching hands and hastily pinched her translucent earlobes.

Mu Jinyu didn't look at her or even appear to notice her actions, his expression distant.

Gu Xiyan's hands soon felt much better. She lowered them, took the soup ladle, filled a small bowl for Mu Jinyu, and excitedly called out, "Come on, try it, the taste is absolutely first level."

When she placed the bowl in front of Mu Jinyu and saw that he still hadn't reacted, Gu Xiyuan looked up and noticed that he had spaced out again.

"Hey, hey!"

Gu Xiyuan waved her hand in front of him a few times, calling out.

"Hmm?"

Mu Jinyu blinked, the dazed look in his eyes dissipating as he forced a faint smile and then asked, "What's the matter?"

Though Gu Xiyuan was somewhat worried, she didn't ask any further, instead pointed at the bowl of soup in front of him and said in a gentle voice, "Try my essence of labor."

Mu Jinyu's gaze shifted downward, seeing the rich golden soup with its glistening oil on the table. He hummed a low affirmation, "Hmm."

After that, he slowly raised his hand, cradling the soup bowl with one and taking a spoon with the other, scooping up a small spoonful. He blew on it to cool the heat and then brought it slowly to his lips.

Upon taking a sip, the familiar yet strange flavor immediately evoked long-sealed memories.

"Mom, are you making chicken stew with mushrooms again? It smells so good! When can we eat it? I'm so hungry!"

The little boy of only four or five, standing at the kitchen door, twitched his nostrils, salivating as he called out to the busy woman in the kitchen.

The busy woman in the kitchen turned around upon hearing his call, smiling tenderly at him and said softly, "It will be ready soon, don't be impatient."

The woman's face had become too blurry in his memory after so many years, Mu Jinyu couldn't see what she really looked like anymore.

But the sad and pained look hiding behind her tender smile as she turned became suddenly very clear to him.

Because on that day, after preparing their last sumptuous dinner, the woman would vanish completely from his and his father's world!

Chapter 250 Calling Ruan's Name

Originally, there had been hints that the departure of that woman had been a long time coming, yet at the time, he was simply too indulgent in his tastes to notice. Follow current novels on [NOvelFire.net](http://NOvelFire.net)

Mu Jinyu held the spoon, his gaze distant, his thoughts drifting back to those days...

Over the years, although he had seldom had chicken soup due to that woman's influence, it wasn't that he had never had it at all.

Back then, he wouldn't have thought much of drinking chicken soup, but today, perhaps stirred by Uncle Fu's words, the moment he sipped the chicken soup Gu Xiyan had simmered for an afternoon, memories of the past surged forth.

From the woman preparing him an extremely lavish dinner, to her crying on one side while admonishing him to always eat well, listen to his father, and not to make him angry...

Suddenly, Mu Jinyu felt an uncomfortable sensation in his eyes, as if sand had gotten into them.

He quickly put down the soup bowl, bowed his head and, while incessantly scooping up chicken soup with his spoon and bringing it to his mouth, he mumbled unclearly, "It's really delicious, your cooking skills have improved too quickly, making me drool."

"Drip drop!"

"Drip drop..."

Mu Jinyu bowed his head, engrossed in drinking the soup, as drops of clear liquid gathered at the edge of his mouth, slid a few times and still fell, some splashing onto the table, some into the soup.

Gu Xiyan watched him, her heart extremely heavy, unsure of what exactly was wrong with him.

Mu Jinyu gulped down the entire bowl of chicken soup, then lowered his head to pull out a few tissues to wipe the corners of his mouth, cleansing the drool that had escaped!

"Ding dong!"

At that moment, the doorbell rang just in time.

Gu Xiyan, not knowing whether it was Wen Rou returning, but fearing that sitting still would make Mu Jinyu even more embarrassed, quickly stood up and said, "I'll get the door."

After speaking, she donned her slippers and ran toward the door.

Mu Jinyu waited for her to leave before he raised his head, his eyes slightly red, took out a few more tissues to carefully wipe his eyes, and then discarded the tissues.

"She left already, why come back and disturb my peaceful life..."

Mu Jinyu murmured softly as he looked at the pot of small chicken stewed with mushrooms.

With worry for Mu Jinyu in her heart, Gu Xiyan approached the door with a frown, opened it, and saw a pretty lady standing there.

The lady appeared to be about thirty-something in terms of age but carried a mature, elegant demeanor, suggesting she was likely older than she looked.

"Who are you?"

Gu Xiyang observed the woman, her eyes conveying confusion and uncertainty as she spoke.

Upon seeing that the one who answered the door was not Mu Jinyu, a hint of disappointment flashed in the woman's eyes. Then, looking at Gu Xiyang, she smiled warmly and said straightforwardly, "My name is Su Zijin, you must be Xiyang, right? So lovely."

Gu Xiyang was utterly puzzled, feeling bewildered. But as Su Zijin spoke again, her few light words exploded like a bomb in her mind, buzzing so much that she stared at Su Zijin in disbelief.

Only to hear Su Zijin say with a smile, "I am Jinyu's mother."

Gu Xiyang was stunned for a long while, finally understanding why Mu Jinyu had been acting so strangely all day.

So, he knew that the mother who had abandoned him was coming back to find him.

Gu Xiyang's expression fluctuated, unsure of how to approach Su Zijin.

Should she share his enmity, swear at her, and then slam the door on her, letting Su Zijin kneel outside, full of regret and weeping bitterly?

But in doing so...

How could she know what Mu Jinyu really thought? If he was prepared to forgive her, wouldn't such actions on her part be fatal, completely offending her future mother-in-law?

Then...

Should she greet her as her mother-in-law? Or as 'Mother'? And then welcome Su Zijin inside respectfully?!

But if Mu Jinyu was not prepared to forgive and accept her, such actions would surely provoke him deeply, leading to utter disaster?

Gu Xiyang found it excruciatingly difficult!

If only she had known, she wouldn't have come to open the door; she should have let Mu Jinyu handle it himself!

"What? Won't you let me in?"

Seeing Gu Xiyang's conflicted expression, Su Zijin immediately understood that Mu Jinyu must have surely spoken of her; her heart sank, yet her face bore a gentle smile as she said assertively.

Gu Xiyang struggled internally for quite some time, but eventually, she extended her hand in invitation and said, "Please... please come in..."

She thought to herself, driving away Su Zijin, her future mother-in-law, seemed to bring her no benefit; better to invite her inside. If Mu Jinyu got angry, she could just play dumb about Su Zijin's identity and soothe him; there wouldn't be any trouble then.

So she gritted her teeth and made that decision.

"Who's here?"

Mu Jinyu had just finished his dinner too and walked out of the dining room with a calm expression, asking casually.

As he turned his head, he immediately saw Su Zijin, who had just entered the door and looked extremely excited to see him.

Looking at Su Zijin's face, Mu Jinyu found it somewhat familiar, then his expression changed, and he instantly knew who she was.

"Who let you in? Get out!"

Mu Jinyu's face darkened as he scolded.

"Jinyu, I..."

Su Zijin, seeing Mu Jinyu's rejecting attitude and his cold, disdainful eyes, immediately lost her excited expression, her face turned ghostly pale as she spoke in a trembling voice.

"Get out!"

Mu Jinyu remained indifferent, his voice even seemed to carry a layer of frost as he scolded coldly.

Unable to say anything further, Su Zijin glanced at Gu Xiyan with a pleading look, hoping she would speak on her behalf.

But Gu Xiyan, hearing Mu Jinyu's tone, dared not speak for Su Zijin. She gestured with her eyes a few times and then, while pushing her out, whispered, "Auntie, please go out first. His mood isn't right now; don't provoke him..."

Upon hearing this, Su Zijin felt helpless and pained, but she was also aware that she had indeed arrived quite abruptly. Mu Jinyu clearly wasn't prepared, and naturally wouldn't show her any kindness.

But she really missed Mu Jinyu. Once she knew she could come to see him, she discarded all else, eager to meet Mu Jinyu sooner and make up for the grievances he had endured over the years.

Yet she completely forgot that he might not be willing to forgive her for leaving years ago.

"Bang!"

After giving Su Zijin a few looks, Gu Xiyan closed the door.

Then she turned around somewhat nervously, looking at Mu Jinyu, bracing herself for his reproach.

But unexpectedly, Mu Jinyu did not scold her. Instead, he sat calmly on the sofa, seemingly lost in thought.

Gu Xiyan tentatively said, "Jinyu, are you okay?"

"Huh..." Mu Jinyu let out a breath, slightly shook his head, and said, "Get some drinks, I want to drink."

"Oh, okay." Gu Xiyan obediently and compliantly fetched several bottles of drinks from the refrigerator, red, yellow, white... all were there.

Mu Jinyu drank silently, quickly and urgently. His tolerance for alcohol was never good, and this time he didn't deliberately suppress it with his inner strength, quickly becoming drunk.

"Hahaha..."

Mu Jinyu, drunkenly lying on the sofa, laughed out loud, laughing unrestrainedly, laughing heartily.

As the laughter continued, tears also started streaming down.

Then, under Gu Xiyan's worried gaze, he sang mournfully:

"Who is calling Ruan's name, each word more painful than the last

It feels like asking if Ruan can handle the cold

No need for others to say, my heart also knows

It's your voice, it's your voice

Who lives in Ruan's dream, residing for a lifetime

Still afraid the sun might tear us apart

Though parted so far, Ruan still knows

It's your shadow, it's your shadow

Calling Ruan's name, Ruan uses a lifetime to carefully listen

When I was young, not yet at your side, you were my life

Calling Ruan's name, Ruan needs you to accompany

On the path of life, Ruan loves you leading the way..."