

## King Hall 261

Chapter 261: Who is Cooking in the Kitchen?

Chen Wudao had died, and with that, the formidable aura of Xiang Mantang was finally exhausted!

"Phew..."

He stood still, his chest heaving powerfully, and finally, his legs gave way, and he slowly lay down on the ground, greedily gasping for air.

After all, Chen Wudao was a seasoned grandmaster, and Xiang Mantang's strength compared to him was only marginally different.

But the opponent was too old, lacking that ruthless vigor of a young bull unafraid of a tiger. Perceiving a likely outcome where both would be hurt and perish together, he harbored thoughts of retreat.

This retreat allowed Xiang Mantang to alter his doomed path!

Otherwise, had he also carried a resolve to die against Xiang Mantang, the final victor would still be uncertain, not to mention allowing Xiang Mantang to successfully pin him down within three minutes!

Thinking thus, Xiang Mantang barely gathered a vestige of strength in his body, then tremblingly stretched his left hand, laboriously reaching inside his robe, and subsequently pulled out a small medicine bottle.

With his left hand trembling, he brought the small medicine bottle to his mouth. Then, he bit on the cork, pulled it off with a "pop," spat it out, and began greedily drinking the medicine inside the bottle!

After consuming the medicine inside the small bottle, Xiang Mantang's pallid complexion began to visibly and rapidly regain its rosiness.

Afterward, Xiang Mantang tossed away the bottle, closed his eyes, and began to regulate his breath.

Ten minutes later.

Xiang Mantang breathed out a long turbid breath, slowly opened his eyes, which sparkled anew, revived from their previous dullness.

"Phew..."

Xiang Mantang collected his energy and then got to his feet, his disabled right arm weakly flopping like overcooked noodles.

He turned his head to look at his right arm, shook his head slightly, and murmured to himself, "I was still too careless, I can't be like this next time."

After reprimanding himself, Xiang Mantang no longer concerned himself with his ruined right arm and strode directly toward the Chen Wudao, who was nailed dead to an ancient tree.

Chen Wudao was already thoroughly dead, and Xiang Mantang didn't look at him, raised his left hand, gripped the spear shaft, and with a slight effort, pulled out the Overlord Spear.

"Plop!"

Chen Wudao slid down from the tree, his collapsing eyes still staring fixedly at Xiang Mantang, exuding endless resentment and unwillingness.

After disassembling the Overlord Spear and placing it inside a wooden box, Xiang Mantang took out his phone to look, and sure enough, it had been damaged in the battle just now.

Even if the phone hadn't been broken, there would have been no signal near the Valley of Death anyway.

But he had already planned for this, so he did not show any disappointed expression.

After waiting a few more minutes.

Xiang Mantang's subordinates finally arrived on time.

When they saw Chen Wudao, who had been dead for quite some time, the way they looked at Xiang Mantang carried an added measure of fear.

"Clean up the scene, we're heading back."

Xiang Mantang instructed his people.

Even though the Valley of Death seldom saw any visitors, if someone indeed came and saw Chen Wudao's corpse, it would complicate matters.

Moreover, this was the entrance to the Kunlun Ruins, leaving Chen Wudao's body might seem like a provocation to the insiders.

Better to just handle it immediately.

A few men with special Corpse Water quickly dissolved Chen Wudao's body into a viscous liquid, then cleaned up the battlefield, supported Xiang Mantang, and took the wooden box with the Overlord Spear, then descended the mountain.

...

Mu Jinyu was unaware of the battle in the Valley of Death on Kunlun Mountain.

At that moment, he just got home in Liu Mei's car.

As soon as he got home, Mu Jinyu sensed that something was not right.

The house was filled with a strong fragrance, emanating from the kitchen where someone was apparently cooking.

But hadn't Wen Rou and Gu Xiyan both gone to work?

Then who was cooking in his house?

Mu Jinyu turned his head towards Liu Mei and asked, "Was it someone you called? They sure acted quickly."

Although it felt uncomfortable to think that the chef Liu Mei had called had managed to get into the house and start cooking before he had even returned, after all, it was he who had asked Liu Mei to find someone to cook while they were in the car. Perhaps there had been a misunderstanding, and the chef had thought he wanted a hot meal ready as soon as he got home, hence their actions?

Mu Jinyu suppressed his discomfort and his tone did not carry much blame towards Liu Mei.

However, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Liu Mei was slightly stunned, then her face stiffened as she hesitantly said, "The person I called hasn't arrived yet, and even if they had, they wouldn't dare to break in like this, this..."

"Hmm?!"

Upon hearing Liu Mei's words, Mu Jinyu immediately realized that the person cooking in the kitchen was not the one she had invited.

"Little Mu, are you back?"

At that moment, the person from the kitchen heard the door open and walked out, greeting Mu Jinyu.

It was indeed Wen Rou.

Her expression was slightly strange, not because of Liu Mei. She forced a smile and said, "I just texted you to ask if you were coming back for lunch. You didn't reply, and I wasn't sure whether to continue cooking or not."

"Sorry, I had my phone on silent and didn't check it,"

Mu Jinyu apologized, then took out his phone from his pocket, checked it, and indeed, Wen Rou had called and also sent a text message.

Putting away his phone, Mu Jinyu asked with a puzzled tone, "Aren't you supposed to be at work? Isn't it very busy at the office? How come you suddenly came back to cook for me?"

Wen Rou's cheeks turned a slight pink as she honestly replied, "Sister Xiyun said you've been in a bad mood these past few days, and the office isn't that busy anymore, so she asked me to come home and keep you company. It's been a while since I cooked for you, so I came back to make you something delicious."

"Oh, thank you." Mu Jinyu felt warmed by her words and softly responded.

He wasn't that fragile, not needing their comfort, but he didn't want to refuse his woman's kindness.

"Ding ding dang dang!"

Just then, the sound of dishes falling to the floor came from the kitchen, loud and clear.

It seemed like someone was clumsily handling things in the kitchen, accidentally knocking plates to the floor.

"Hmm?"

Mu Jinyu's eyes suddenly sharpened.

Hadn't Wen Rou said she was the only one who came back to cook for him?

But if she was standing right in front of him, then who was in the kitchen...

Who is it?!

Mu Jinyu thought briefly and guessed who it might be. His expression turned cold as he asked, "Who's in there?"

Wen Rou's expression became even more peculiar and awkward, and she struggled to find the words to respond.

Mu Jinyu also understood that the person cooking in the kitchen must be Su Zijin!

He then realized why Wen Rou's expression had been so odd and awkward when she emerged from the kitchen.

Given Wen Rou's nature, she most likely wouldn't have intentionally invited Su Zijin over.

It was highly probable that Su Zijin had arrived very early, probably waiting at the door, and then ran into Wen Rou who was returning from shopping.

Then, unable to resist Su Zijin's persistent pleas, Wen Rou let her in and allowed her to cook a meal for him.

However, they probably didn't dare let him find out about this.

Thus, Wen Rou had called and texted to ask when he would be returning.

Chapter 262 - Dining Together at the Same Table

In the kitchen, Su Zijin stood in front of the stove, her ears perked up as she eavesdropped on the conversation between Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou, while carefully stirring the food in the pan with a spatula.

Then, in an incautious movement, she knocked over a porcelain plate resting on the table. As she clumsily tried to catch it, it was beyond her grasp and she could only watch helplessly as the glossy plate fell onto the tiled floor, shattering into pieces!

"Bang!"

Su Zijin grimaced, hurriedly covering her ears as if trying to deceive herself, not daring to listen.

She gazed at the countless fragments of the smashed plate on the ground, feeling as if her heart had been shattered just as thoroughly.

Her eyes held a vacant expression, convinced that she was bound to be mercilessly driven away by Mu Jinyu any moment now.

Quite a while.

Finally, Su Zijin came back to her senses, slowly releasing her hands from her ears, cautiously eavesdropping on the sounds outside once again.

There was no noise outside.

Her brows furrowed tightly, and her heart grew restless, uncertain whether Mu Jinyu had heard the sound of the plate breaking or not.

Su Zijin was full of regret, blaming herself immensely for her carelessness.

She had come over today intending to sneak a few glances at Mu Jinyu before returning.

But it just so happened that she ran into Wen Rou, who was coming back from shopping. Upon learning that Mu Jinyu was not at home, she pleaded earnestly with Wen Rou.

Wen Rou, ever so soft-hearted, faced with the earnest pleas of Su Zijin, her future mother-in-law, how could she bear to refuse?

So, with a heart full of joy, Su Zijin followed Wen Rou inside, intending to show off her cooking skills and make an elaborate lunch of Mu Jinyu's childhood favorites.

Of course, fearing that Mu Jinyu would disdain to eat the meal if he knew she had cooked it, she planned to leave as soon as lunch was ready, then have Wen Rou take the credit, claiming it was all her own cooking.

It could be considered that Wen Rou cooked as well, since she did help out.

That way, even if Mu Jinyu did not know that she was the cook, Su Zijin would still feel very happy, and later that night she could ask Wen Rou in detail about Mu Jinyu's reaction when eating the dishes...

However, to her surprise, Mu Jinyu suddenly came back, catching her completely off guard.

She was extremely nervous, having planned to have Wen Rou draw Mu Jinyu away later so she could sneak out. However, she was so nervous that she accidentally broke the plate!

'Now it's all over, there's no way to secretly cook for Jinyu anymore.'

Su Zijin thought regretfully.

At that moment.

Wen Rou approached carefully from outside, looking at the dazed Su Zijin, and asked, "Auntie, are you hurt?"

Understanding Su Zijin's identity, Wen Rou initially felt it wasn't appropriate to call her auntie, feeling a bit estranged, but being too affectionate might anger Mu Jinyu if he overheard.

So she ended up using that address anyway.

"Ah?" Su Zijin snapped out of her daze, her face pale as she forced a slight smile, shaking her head slowly at Wen Rou, "It's nothing, auntie is fine, sorry for the trouble I've caused you."

Su Zijin was filled with self-reproach for having earnestly begged her way in, which caused Wen Rou to let her inside, and then, because of her own carelessness, had made Mu Jinyu find out about these things, surely burdening Wen Rou as well.

"It's okay, he didn't scold me." Wen Rou's expression was complicated as she glanced at the broken plate pieces on the floor, softly saying, "Auntie, you clean up the porcelain pieces, I'll take the food out, then you come out and we can all eat together later."

"Oh, right, I got it..."

Su Zijin felt terrible as she listened to Wen Rou's words, initially thinking that Wen Rou wanted her to clean up the porcelain pieces, then she'd throw away the dishes since these dishes were her own essence blood, and she would definitely not bear to do it herself.

But as she listened to the end, she felt something wasn't quite right.

Just as she was squatting down, preparing to pick up the porcelain pieces and throw them into the trash can, Su Zijin paused, then suddenly raised her head and looked at Wen Rou with an excited voice, "Xiaorou, what did you just say? You're not going to throw away the dishes? I can... I can also take a seat and eat later?!"

Wen Rou looked at Su Zijin's face full of excitement and exhilaration and felt a bitter pain in her heart, then she gently nodded and said, "Yes, he said the food is all prepared, it would be wasteful to throw it away, and it would be too much trouble to wait hungrily for me to cook again, so let's just eat it..."

Wen Rou organized her speech to convey Mu Jinyu's words more tactfully.

Back in the living room, Mu Jinyu hadn't spoken like this, his tone was quite unpleasant, but Wen Rou had also sensed the obstinance and insincerity in Mu Jinyu's words, so she translated them to sound nicer.

"Great, great, great..." Su Zijin, thrilled to no end, quickly picked up the pieces of porcelain from the floor and threw them into the nearby trash can, then took a broom and dustpan to sweep up the broken pieces.

Wen Rou, on the other hand, carried the dishes that Su Zijin had just served while they were still steaming hot out to the dining room.

In the dining room, there was only Mu Jinyu sitting distractedly.

Liu Mei's figure was nowhere to be seen.

Although it was somewhat impolite, once Mu Jinyu knew that Su Zijin was the one cooking in the kitchen, he thought about it and let Liu Mei leave without asking her to stay for the meal.

Liu Mei naturally didn't dare to say anything; she could also sense the abruptly tense atmosphere in the house, which felt quite frightening. Being driven away was a relief to her.

Wen Rou brought the dishes to the table one by one, glancing cautiously at Mu Jinyu whose expression was changing constantly, and said in a soft voice, "Little Mu, the food is served, you can start eating first..."

At her words, Mu Jinyu came back to his senses, his eyelashes fluttering a few times, then with a stiff expression, he forced out a sentence, "Wait for that person."

Upon hearing this, joy surged in Wen Rou's heart as she knew her guess had not been wrong.

"Okay."

Wen Rou responded with a voice full of delight, and then swiftly ran out to the kitchen to call Su Zijin, who was still apprehensive, to come to the dining room to eat.

Su Zijin followed Wen Rou to the dining room with a heavy heart, glanced at Mu Jinyu who was sitting with a stern face and lowered head, then found a seat to sit down.

Her heart was pounding; she was excited, pleased, and felt like crying.

For so many years, Su Zijin had always longed to have a family reunion, to eat a peaceful and happy meal together.

But unfortunately...

Today, even though her husband had left her forever, their son was sitting with her at the same table.

Wen Rou glanced at the two of them, not daring to make a noise to shatter the unspoken silence. She opened the rice cooker, picked up a porcelain bowl and a wooden spoon, and began serving rice to them.

After that, they started eating silently, quietly picking up food and eating their meal.

The quiet dining room was left with only the subtle sounds of their chewing and swallowing.

After eating for a while, Su Zijin saw Mu Jinyu didn't resist her presence too much but also didn't show any reaction to the meal she had painstakingly prepared.

Thinking it over, Su Zijin mustered her courage, picked up a piece of braised pork, placed it in Mu Jinyu's bowl, then quickly withdrew her hand and went back to idly pushing rice around in her bowl with her head down.

Chapter 263: Content Su Zijin

Mu Jinyu stared at the extra piece of braised pork in his bowl, his expression momentarily stunned.

He stopped eating, slightly lifted his head, and looked at Su Zijin who was delicately shoveling rice into her mouth.

After taking a few bites, Su Zijin couldn't help but want to see if Mu Jinyu would eat the dish she had served him, so she subtly lifted her head and stealthily glanced in his direction.

Then, she saw that Mu Jinyu was looking at her.

His expression revealed no particular attitude.

Feeling guilty, Su Zijin didn't know if Mu Jinyu was angry, so she quickly lowered her head and continued to focus on eating her rice.

Mu Jinyu's gaze lingered on Su Zijin, observing her guilty, humble, and appeasing expression when she had just looked up and realized he was watching her. Her cautious demeanor seemed as if she was afraid of inadvertently displeasing him.

Mu Jinyu suddenly felt a twinge of heartache.

Initially, when he discovered that Su Zijin had come to his home again and was bustling about in the kitchen, he was annoyed and had even planned to send her away and discard the meal she had painstakingly prepared!

But then he remembered the words Xiang Mantang had spoken to him that morning.

In the end, he hadn't the heart to send Su Zijin away and even let her stay for a meal.

Although, he still didn't want to speak to her.

Sighing softly to himself, Mu Jinyu clenched his chopsticks and continued eating.

As he ate and served himself more food, he looked at the piece of braised pork in his bowl, thought for a moment, and then ate it.

The lunch was silently finished among the three of them.

Although Su Zijin later realized that Mu Jinyu had eaten the piece of braised pork she served him, she didn't dare continue serving him food.

But she was already very satisfied with the meal.

Although Mu Jinyu hadn't spoken a word to her throughout the meal.

After finishing the meal, Su Zijin wanted to help Wen Rou clean up the dishes and wash them at the sink, but Wen Rou refused.

Having no choice, Su Zijin returned to the living room, hoping to see Mu Jinyu again.

However, when Mu Jinyu saw her come out, he immediately went back to his room and did not seem inclined to speak to her.

Seeing this, disappointment flashed in Su Zijin's eyes, followed by a soft sigh as she muttered to herself, "I shouldn't be too greedy, staying for a meal should be enough satisfaction..."

After that, Su Zijin went back into the kitchen to help Wen Rou clean up, and then she finally said goodbye and left.

Once Su Zijin had left the complex,

Mu Jinyu withdrew his gaze, moved away from the window, and lay back down on the bed, staring at the ceiling with a somewhat bewildered look in his eyes.

"Thud thud!"

Mu Jinyu didn't know what he was thinking or for how long he had been lost in thought when he suddenly heard someone knocking at his door.

"Little Mu, may I come in?"

Wen Rou's voice came from outside the door.

"Yes, come in. The door isn't locked,"

Mu Jinyu replied in a low voice.

Su Zijin had not expected that Mu Jinyu, after retreating to his room to avoid her, hadn't locked the door.

But even if she had known, she probably wouldn't have had the courage to knock on the door and speak to him.

She feared that her continuous actions might make Mu Jinyu dislike her even more.

Hearing Mu Jinyu's response, Wen Rou opened the door and walked in.

"Little Mu, are you... alright?"

Wen Rou entered the room, her eyes filled with concern as she looked at Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu sat up straight from the bed and shook his head slightly, saying, "It's nothing. Next time, do not let anyone come in randomly."

When Wen Rou heard Mu Jinyu's words, although she felt he was somewhat blaming her, being familiar with him, she knew he was not really blaming her.

It was just him being stubborn.

Wen Rou did not reveal any smirk, instead, showing a timid and anxious expression, she whispered, "I'm sorry. I just thought Auntie, she's also having a hard time, so I let her in..."

"Forget it, I'm not blaming you." Mu Jinyu saw Wen Rou's self-reproachful expression, and felt somewhat irritated, said solemnly.

Wen Rou's expression was resolute, nodding her head in assurance, "Yes, I will be careful next time, I'll definitely stop her and won't let her come in again."

Mu Jinyu was taken aback, looked at Wen Rou for a few moments, his lips moved, and finally squeezed out a sentence in frustration, "There's no need to be so harsh, just ignore her."

"Oh, okay." Wen Rou obediently nodded.

Seeing Mu Jinyu's hesitation, and realizing he wasn't as hard-hearted as he initially claimed, Wen Rou probed again, "Little Mu, if your uncle were still alive, what do you think he would do about her?"

Mu Jinyu was startled.

Memories of his father's blurry face began to surface in his mind.

If his father were still alive, and Su Zijin came back to find them, what would he do?

Mu Jinyu thought for a moment, knowing his father's temperament, if Su Zijin came back and explained her hardships and reasons, he likely wouldn't blame her, and might even cherish the regained relationship more.

Mu Jinyu became inexplicably agitated.

But what did that have to do with him?

Mu Jinyu shook his head heavily, his tone irritable, "I don't know, it's not something I can manage, and don't ask me these kinds of questions anymore!"

"Oh, okay, I understand." Seeing Mu Jinyu's distressed expression, Wen Rou felt somewhat afraid, thinking she had pressed too much.

Then, Wen Rou quickly shifted the conversation to some interesting stories about the company, which gradually dissipated Mu Jinyu's irritable mood.

The two of them talked for the afternoon.

During that time, Wen Rou dared not casually bring up Su Zijin again.

When it was a little past four o'clock, Wen Rou looked at the time and said, "I'll go make dinner now, just wait a moment."

"Yes." Mu Jinyu nodded.

He was not in the mood to help Wen Rou with cooking anymore.

Although it felt rather awful, he just didn't have the inclination.

Mu Jinyu turned his head towards the window and sighed lightly, feeling his mind was still in chaos.

And due to what Wen Rou had just said, the irritation aggravated.

Yet, he felt that even if he was in a bad mood and was irritable, he shouldn't have taken it out on the woman who cared about him, so he forcibly suppressed it.

Mu Jinyu stared blankly out the window, unsure what he was thinking about, and seemed to be thinking a lot. Eventually, he sighed deeply, violently shook his head a few times, and forced himself not to think anymore.

"Ding."

Just then, his phone, which was placed next to him, rang with a message notification sound.

Mu Jinyu reached for his phone, glanced at it, and his expression immediately turned solemn.

The message was from Xiang Mantang, saying he had just gone out on a mission and got injured, he was now on his way back to River City, and would need his senior brother to treat him later.

After reading it, Mu Jinyu muttered irritably to himself, "Ah-Xiang, this guy, couldn't even call me when there was an issue."

Having said that, he set aside the headache and irritation brought by Su Zijin, got off the bed, and started preparing medicine and Silver Needles, ready to treat Xiang Mantang once he arrived.

Soon, Xiang Mantang hurriedly arrived at his house.

When Mu Jinyu opened the security door and saw Xiang Mantang standing at the door with one arm almost completely incapacitated, he couldn't help but frown deeply.

Chapter 264: Membership Dues

"What did you do to yourself, getting into this state?"

Mu Jinyu couldn't help complaining when he saw the sorry state of Xiang Mantang.

With a pale face, Xiang Mantang lightly chuckled upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, saying, "The task was a bit tricky, I was a little careless, and this happened. But you're here, aren't you? So, it doesn't really matter."

Xiang Mantang didn't intend to reveal the truth to Mu Jinyu—that he specifically went out of his way to deal with Chen Wudao first because he feared that Chen Wudao would cause trouble once he resurfaced.

If Mu Jinyu knew this, he would certainly feel guilty and troubled.

There was no need for that, considering that the decision to annihilate the Chen Family was his own. So, he would suffer the consequences quietly by himself.

"Sigh, why must you be so reckless? I'm truly afraid that one day, I'll receive news that I have to retrieve your corpse!"

Mu Jinyu shook his head helplessly as he watched Xiang Mantang's indifferent demeanor, and spoke with a bit of blame.

Xiang Mantang just smiled and didn't say anything more.

People are like this after all, prone to making presumptions without fully understanding the situation based on their own judgments.

They never consider that the person they blame could actually be bringing trouble upon themselves for your sake.

"Come in, let me take a look at your injuries."

Seeing Xiang Mantang's continued indifferent expression, Mu Jinyu gave up trying to argue and stepped aside to let Xiang Mantang hurry into the house.

Once Xiang Mantang entered, he glanced around the room and hearing noises from the kitchen, couldn't help but smile and say, "Is sister-in-law cooking? She's really virtuous."

Mu Jinyu nodded, "Yes, it's your other sister-in-law. Stay for dinner later, I'll introduce you to her."

"Mmm," Xiang Mantang nodded.

Afterward, he followed Mu Jinyu into his room.

Mu Jinyu dared not treat Xiang Mantang's injuries in the living room—what if he scared Wen Rou who just came out?

So, it was better to take Xiang Mantang into the room for treatment; it was quiet and wouldn't startle anyone.

"Take off your clothes first."

Once they were in the room, Mu Jinyu had Xiang Mantang sit on a chair and instructed him.

Xiang Mantang then took off his upper garment.

Mu Jinyu immediately saw Xiang Mantang's body covered in scars, including a blood hole pierced through his shoulder joint. Although medicine had temporarily stopped the bleeding, the damaged tendons and bones were not so easily healed.

Seeing Xiang Mantang's scars, which spoke of both glory and a struggle for survival, Mu Jinyu could guess how miserable and desperate Xiang Mantang's past years had been!

With a soft sigh, Mu Jinyu understood why Xiang Mantang could be so indifferent about having one arm disabled.

After all, he had multiple wounds on his body, many of which could have been fatal. The fact that he was still alive was very fortunate.

And this time, his task only resulted in a disabled arm without too many fatal injuries. Compared to before, it indeed seemed insignificant.

Mu Jinyu gently placed his hands on Xiang Mantang's shoulder and pressed several times, squeezing out a mouthful of clotted blood, causing the somewhat scabbed wound to flow with fresh, scarlet blood again.

Taking a clean towel, Mu Jinyu wiped off the fresh blood from Xiang Mantang's arm, then took out a packet of medicine. He selected a pill, crushed it into powder, and sprinkled it evenly over Xiang Mantang's wound.

"Hmph!"

As the medicine powder sprinkled on the wound, it turned Xiang Mantang's face deathly pale, and he couldn't help but let out a stifled groan.

Even with Xiang Mantang's tenacious will, he couldn't help but make a sound under the application of the medicine powder, indicating just how potent and forceful the medicinal effect was.

In fact, Mu Jinyu did have a painless and equally effective medicine powder at his disposal. However, he wanted Xiang Mantang to experience more pain, to teach him a lesson so that he would not handle tasks so recklessly in the future.

"Sss..."

Unable to bear it, Xiang Mantang involuntarily inhaled sharply, his voice trembling as he said, "Your medicine... it's getting... stronger and... more intense now!"

Having known Mu Jinyu for many years, Xiang Mantang was well aware of Mu Jinyu's cunning thoughts.

Back when they were on Yinlong Mountain, every time he returned injured and dared not ask their master for help with his healing, he would turn to Mu Jinyu instead. At first, Mu Jinyu would treat him painlessly. Later, each treatment became a life-and-death ordeal, truly a pain beyond endurance.

Xiang Mantang had developed a bit of a psychological shadow because of this. If it hadn't been for the truly effective healing results from Mu Jinyu, he probably would have stopped asking him for treatment long ago.

This time was no exception. If Xiang Mantang had sought treatment from his own personal physician, he wouldn't have suffered nearly as much. But he would likely have needed to recuperate for some time.

Therefore, he would rather endure some torment if it meant that Mu Jinyu could heal his useless arm sooner.

Soon, Xiang Mantang's forehead began to bead with cold sweat.

Mu Jinyu glanced at him and started to massage several acupoints on his arm, accompanied by the cracking sound of bones.

Mu Jinyu promptly set Xiang Mantang's dislocated and broken bones back into place.

As Mu Jinyu continued the massage, Xiang Mantang's severely damaged meridians were also realigned and repaired, and the healing process was accelerated by the medicine powder's effect.

Xiang Mantang no longer felt unbearable pain. The area of his injured shoulder began to emit countless warm flows, making him feel warm all over.

Mu Jinyu continued to press on Xiang Mantang's arm for a while longer, then stopped once he was sure he should be fine, picking up another clean towel to wipe his hands. "There, try moving it," he said.

"Mhm." Languidly reclining in the chair, Xiang Mantang tentatively moved his right arm and discovered that it had returned to normal from its previous limp state.

However, he could still feel a bit of stiffness and pain as he moved his arm, telling him that he should not engage in vigorous activities just yet.

Instantly forgetting the pain he had just endured, Xiang Mantang laughed heartily and said, "Indeed, there's no faster healer than you. With any other physician, I'd probably need a longer period of convalescence."

Mu Jinyu extended his palm, speaking indifferently, "There, the treatment costs a million, time to pay up."

Xiang Mantang laughed it off and said, "The usual rules, let's put it on the tab for now. I will pay you back once I have the money, brother."

Mu Jinyu looked at him in disbelief. "Pay back when you have the money? You already owe me hundreds of billions! When will I ever see you with money?!"

After a pause, he continued, "Besides, didn't you return to your hometown in glorious triumph? You bought a luxury house on the day you returned, and you're saying you're short on my money? It seems to me that you just want to default on your debt!"

"Dare not, dare not," Xiang Mantang shook his head and said. "How could I dare to skip out on your debt? That luxury house wasn't bought by me; it was bought by Liu Mei. I really am poor, brother. Once I have the money, I will surely repay it, surely repay it."

Mu Jinyu sighed. "It seems, I will never see that day."

Xiang Mantang laughed and said, "Don't worry, it won't be too long. On the day you get married, I will surely pay off my debt to you as a wedding gift."

Mu Jinyu responded discontentedly, "Paying off a debt as a wedding gift? That's really shameless of you!"

Chapter 265: News of Yu Linglong

At this moment, if Liu Mei were also in this room and saw this scene, she would certainly be utterly astonished.

The always serious Xiang Mantang, it turned out, could also have a playful and smiling side.

If his subordinates saw this, they would definitely be shocked beyond belief.

After laughing and joking with Xiang Mantang for a while,

Mu Jinyu stood up, took a piece of clothing out of the wardrobe, and tossed it to Xiang Mantang, saying, "Put on the clothes, and get ready to go out for dinner."

As for the so-called repayment, Mu Jinyu wasn't being serious or concerned about it; it was just a joke with Xiang Mantang.

However, what he didn't know was that, although Xiang Mantang also spoke in a joking tone, in his heart, he was very serious.

He had long been prepared to present assets worth tens of billions, including real estate and company shares, as soon as Mu Jinyu got married, to truly make Mu Jinyu's fortune shine bright.

Although, with Mu Jinyu's current net worth, he certainly wouldn't miss that bit of money, Xiang Mantang felt that what he owed should still be given.

"Alright." Xiang Mantang took the clothes thrown by Mu Jinyu and replied.

The two men were similar in stature and height, but Mu Jinyu was slightly thinner and not as muscular as Xiang Mantang, so Xiang Mantang could fit into Mu Jinyu's clothes just fine.

After changing into the clothes, Xiang Mantang got up with Mu Jinyu and walked out of the room.

Mu Jinyu told Xiang Mantang to sit in the living room for a while, and he himself went to the kitchen to check if Wen Rou had finished preparing dinner.

"It'll be ready soon, just wait a little longer," Wen Rou said, turning to see Mu Jinyu come in, while she continued to stir-fry the dishes.

"Hmm, my junior brother has come over; see if there's enough food, or if we need to add more dishes?" Mu Jinyu said.

"Ah? Your junior brother came over? Then I'll prepare a few more dishes. You go out and accompany your junior brother," Wen Rou said, feeling a bit nervous, she busied herself.

"No worries, let him chill out there by himself. You need help here, right? I'll help you," Mu Jinyu said with a smile.

Initially, Mu Jinyu's mood had been constantly agitated by Su Zijin's visit, but it dissipated quite a bit with the arrival of Xiang Mantang and their bantering. Now feeling a bit guilty toward Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, Mu Jinyu decided to come and lend a hand.

"Isn't it a bit rude to leave the guest out there?" Wen Rou hesitated.

"We're all family here; no need for such formalities," Mu Jinyu said, moving over to help Wen Rou.

With Mu Jinyu's assistance, Wen Rou quickly cooked a few more dishes.

Then, Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou carried the dishes to the dining room table, while he called out, "Ah-Xiang, dinner's ready."

"Hmm," Xiang Mantang responded and came in from the living room.

He didn't have anything particular to greet Mu Jinyu with since they were well acquainted, but he naturally couldn't be impolite to Wen Rou, his sister-in-law. He nodded slightly to Wen Rou with a smile

and said, "Sister-in-law, I apologize for coming over without any gifts due to the short notice. I'll make sure to make it up another day."

"No need, no need, you're Little Mu's junior... junior brother, we're all family here, no need to be so polite," Wen Rou said, quickly waving her hands.

She too found it a bit weird that Xiang Mantang was Mu Jinyu's junior brother, but she didn't have the same curiosity as Gu Xiyan to explore the matter further.

On hearing this, Mu Jinyu reached out and pretended to clean his ear, then joked, "Hey, that sounds, somehow, very familiar to me!"

Xiang Mantang was taken aback, then also burst into laughter, saying, "Haha, definitely next time, definitely next time."

He also remembered that when he met with Gu Xiyan yesterday, he had said he would prepare a gift for another day, yet today, he made the same remark to Wen Rou.

But truly, each occurrence was an accident.

He had only just returned yesterday and wasn't aware that Mu Jinyu had already found him several sisters-in-law and even brought one over, so he was unprepared for anything in the rush.

And today, he hadn't planned on visiting Mu Jinyu; he came over because he was injured after killing Chen Wudao and wanted Mu Jinyu's help in healing his wounds. He hadn't expected Wen Rou to be at home, so naturally, he arrived empty-handed again.

Now, Mu Jinyu had teased him about it, and once Xiang Mantang caught on, he also felt rather embarrassed.

He decided in his heart that when he returned, he would have Liu Mei accompany him to select a few items to make up for it with his sisters-in-law.

Of course, aside from the confirmed sisters-in-law—Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Mei Yinxue—he couldn't forget about Xu Qingya, Shen Shuyao, and Lin Qiaoxia, the potential ones.

He needed to prepare for them as well, just in case they suddenly became his sisters-in-law one day. Being called out for not giving them gifts would be even more embarrassing.

After teasing Xiang Mantang a bit more, Mu Jinyu stopped talking and quietly continued eating.

After the meal, Mu Jinyu told Xiang Mantang to either stay in the living room to play or just leave; then, he and Wen Rou went to the kitchen to wash the dishes.

Xiang Mantang wasn't someone who couldn't read the room. Understanding that the couple might want to "exercise" after their meal, he took the hint and said his goodbyes.

"Senior brother, I'll head out first. I'll make up for the missed gifts for the sisters-in-law another day. Don't worry, I won't shirk this." Xiang Mantang left this message as he departed.

After leaving Mu Jinyu's apartment, Xiang Mantang took out his newly exchanged phone and called Liu Mei, asking her to accompany him to the mall and the antique street to pick out gifts for his sisters-in-law and potential sisters-in-law.

...

Having washed the dishes and completed their "post-dinner exercise," Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou went to the washroom to take a bath one after the other.

Before long, Gu Xiyan also returned.

Seeing Gu Xiyan's furrowed brows as she returned home, Mu Jinyu's own brows furrowed, and he asked, "What's wrong? Is there trouble at the company?"

"No!" Gu Xiyao shook her head, not wanting to discuss it with Mu Jinyu and quickly adjusting her mood and expression, trying to reveal a cheerful smile.

However, that smile seemed a bit forced.

Gu Xiyao didn't want to bother Mu Jinyu, especially since he was already anxious about Su Zijing's affairs.

Mu Jinyu's frown deepened, and he said, "If there's something bothering you, just say it. What's the point of bottling it up? Has someone bullied you, or what?"

He guessed that it might be the Gu family Members pestering Gu Xiyao again, asking her for a favor.

But the issue with the hidden dangers of the Jade Bee Dew produced by the Gu Family wasn't something they could just let go of because they wanted to; it had become uncontrollable due to Du Xiangcheng's involvement.

"No one has bullied me; it's just that I..." Gu Xiyao thought for a moment, then sighed, "It's about Linglong."

"Linglong?" Mu Jinyu paused, slightly taken aback, then remembered that Linglong was Gu Xiyao's close friend he hadn't seen for a while, Yu Linglong.

He recalled that Gu Xiyao once mentioned that Yu Linglong's father seemed to be manipulated by Gu Zhengxin into going to the Haojiang Casino, where he lost tens of millions. Eventually, they had no choice but to sell Yu Linglong's Essence Blood—the Face of Jade Group's shares to the Gu Corporation to save her father.

At that time, Yu Linglong probably wasn't fully aware of the relationship between Gu Xiyao and the Gu Family. It's commonly said that one shouldn't air one's dirty laundry in public, and even between close friends, such embarrassing matters are not easily conveyed. That's why Yu Linglong had decided to sell her shares to the Gu Corporation, allowing Gu Zhengxin to succeed.

But what else had happened to Yu Linglong?

## Chapter 266: Yu Linglong's Trouble

Gu Xiyan looked troubled and bit her lip as she said, "Linglong sold her shares in the Face of Jade Group to my grandfather, receiving over ten million yuan. After using that to pay off her father's gambling debts, there should have been more than one million yuan left over, enough to live quite comfortably, but..."

Mu Jinyu's expression darkened slightly as he cut in, "But that one million yuan was gambled away by her dad again? Lost it all?"

Gu Xiyan nodded slightly, her complexion looking poor, "She's sunk so deep, she gambled away all of the remaining money. I feel like I've really let her down."

Mu Jinyu asked, "Didn't her father gamble before?"

Gu Xiyan furrowed her brow and replied, "He did, but his addiction wasn't as severe as now. He's been deceived and ruined by my grandfather, and now he can't escape from it."

Mu Jinyu nodded slightly, understanding Gu Xiyan's thoughts, and said, "So you feel very guilty and want to help her, right?"

"Yes." Gu Xiyan pursed her lips with a sense of helplessness, "The most important thing is, she's now out of money, and her dad still wants to gamble. He's even forcing her to marry a sixty-year-old nouveau riche for some betrothal gifts to keep on gambling. He has really lost his mind, always believing he can turn his luck around..."

"That's just too much," Mu Jinyu said, his brows furrowing instantly upon hearing Gu Xiyan's words.

Mu Jinyu hadn't interacted much with Yu Linglong, but he thought that with her looks, she could totally marry into a good family.

Forcing her to marry an awful sixty-year-old, that was truly a waste of her.

But now, her father had gone mad with his gambling addiction. Knowing that no wealthy, handsome men or rich second-generation heirs would be willing to cover his debts, only older, nouveau riche men would be willing to offer a large dowry to take his daughter off his hands.

Seeing Gu Xiyan's distressed look, Mu Jinyu thought to himself that, for her sake, he couldn't just ignore Yu Linglong's plight.

With a light sigh, Mu Jinyu asked, "Are they still in Haojiang?"

"No," Gu Xiyan shook her head and said, "They've already returned to River City. After all, the nouveau riche her dad knows are all in River City. Who could he know in Haojiang? Even if he did, who would take on that role of a fool?"

"If they're back in River City, then the matter will be much easier to handle."

Mu Jinyu nodded lightly and then asked, "When is her dad planning to sell his daughter?!"

"It's happening tonight!" Gu Xiyan took a deep breath and exhaled slowly, her voice grave.

"No wonder you're like this tonight," Mu Jinyu realized, then asked, "Have you eaten?"

"I haven't felt like eating, why?" Gu Xiyan asked with curiosity.

Mu Jinyu said, "If you haven't eaten, let's grab something on the way. We should head over to see Yu Linglong first and help her out of this mess."

Gu Xiyan's expression relaxed considerably, and she replied, "Okay."

All day long, she had been thinking about how to help Yu Linglong. Although she was now the CEO of the Jinyu Group, and Mu Jinyu's woman, she had hardly any money of her own, her salary had not yet been paid, and she couldn't bring herself to use Mu Jinyu's money to cover Yu Linglong's debts. She had been struggling with how to help Yu Linglong.

Even so, she thought that if Yu Linglong was destined to be sold by her father for the betrothal money, rather than to a sixty or seventy-year-old wreck, it might be better to be sold to Mu Jinyu.

After all, Mu Jinyu was also young and handsome.

It's just...

This approach was too awkward.

And Mu Jinyu might not be willing.

Now that Mu Jinyu had agreed to help, she immediately felt a sigh of relief. Although she didn't know how Mu Jinyu would help Yu Linglong, she believed he could pull it off.

As for not having eaten, that wasn't even considered a problem.

Mu Jinyu was unaware of Gu Xiyan's thoughts. He went back to the room, told Wen Rou to rest first, and then left the neighborhood with Gu Xiyan, heading to Yu Linglong's home.

During the drive, Mu Jinyu asked Gu Xiyan to stop the car, found a random restaurant by the roadside, and bought her a portion of fried noodles to tide her over. He suggested they could have a proper meal together after settling Yu Linglong's troubles.

Gu Xiyan quickly finished eating and they hit the road again.

Yu Linglong's home was located in a high-end apartment complex in River City's Southern District. Her father wasn't wealthy and had sold his own place at a low price to get money for gambling, eager to get the cash as soon as possible.

Yu Linglong's apartment was bought with her own earnings. When her father wanted her to sell it for cash, she refused, which was why she still had a place to stay upon her return to River City.

Mu Jinyu had also asked Gu Xiyan why Yu Linglong would be so obedient to her father.

Gu Xiyan explained that Yu Linglong's mother died in a car accident a long time ago and her father had raised her since she was young. He treated her so well that he didn't mind his own hardships; he just didn't want his daughter to lose out to anyone else.

Thus, even though her father was only in his fifties, he looked almost like he was in his seventies.

Therefore, Yu Linglong was very grateful to her father. After earning money, she was very filial to him, buying him almost anything he wanted.

And Father Yu, who had endured hardships for most of his life, was initially not used to such indulgence but began to let himself enjoy a better life after realizing it was his daughter's way of showing filial piety.

Then, he became accustomed to spending money lavishly and, after getting to know some people, he learned to live a life of luxury and excess.

Whenever he wanted money, he would ask Yu Linglong for it.

Although Yu Linglong felt this wasn't right, she also considered how her father had suffered for most of his life for her sake and now it was time for him to be happy and content.

And so, despite earning a considerable amount, Yu Linglong's living conditions became increasingly strained. She would have been fine with that, but unfortunately...

Father Yu was swindled by Gu Zhengxin. What started as casual, leisurely gambling spiraled into a serious addiction at Haojiang Casino. He didn't care how much money he borrowed from friends, believing his next bet would surely turn his luck around.

As a result, he lost over ten million yuan. Initially, he didn't care since his daughter had money.

In the end, Yu Linglong had to sell her company's shares to free him from his debts.

After escaping that trouble, he regretted his actions. But when the urge to gamble struck again, he became desperate to win back what he lost through gambling and then vowed to quit for good.

He started selling off properties and even asked Yu Linglong to sell her apartment. Naturally, she refused. After Father Yu lost all his money, he lured Yu Linglong back to River City under the pretense that he would quit gambling for good. But once back in River City...

He had become so obsessed with gambling that he contacted a nouveau riche who had once offered a dowry of one million yuan if his daughter would marry him. He was preparing to force Yu Linglong into marrying the man.

Yu Linglong, of course, was unwilling, so Father Yu knelt down and threatened her with his life, talking about his hardships, how he had raised her all by himself, how difficult and unbearable it had been.

What else could Yu Linglong do?

Driven to madness, she gave up fighting and agreed to her father's demand.

"It's really hopeless."

Upon hearing Gu Xiyan's words, Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly and commented.

It was unclear whether he was referring to Father Yu or to Yu Linglong.

Chapter 267: Taking Over?

About ten minutes later.

Gu Xiyan drove to the apartment complex where Yu Linglong lived.

After parking the car, she and Mu Jinyu went upstairs, arriving outside Yu Linglong's apartment door.

They rang the doorbell, and the door opened quickly.

It revealed Yu Linglong's delicate but exhausted face.

Seeing that it was Gu Xiyang, Yu Linglong was surprised, then frowned slightly and said, "Xiyang, what are you doing here? And this... Jinyu, is it? What's going on?!"

Her current situation was terrible. Even though Gu Xiyang was her close friend and wouldn't mock her, no one wants to reveal their embarrassing moments to their friends!

Especially, she had a bit of a crush on Mu Jinyu.

She definitely didn't want him to see her like this.

Gu Xiyang said, "We're here to help you."

Yu Linglong looked uneasy and shook her head, "There's nothing wrong with me. Aren't your businesses booming recently..."

She hadn't finished speaking when someone inside interrupted her.

"Linglong, who is it? Why are you taking so long? If it's a friend, invite them in."

The voice was aged and slightly slurred.

Mu Jinyu guessed it was probably Yu Linglong's father or the man over sixty she was currently dating!

Yu Linglong's face changed at once, and she turned to Gu Xiyang, "You guys should go back. I have things to handle here."

With that, she moved to close the door.

Mu Jinyu thought for a moment, unable to bear Yu Linglong demeaning herself like this. He gave Gu Xiyuan a look and, not caring if Gu Xiyuan understood, blocked Yu Linglong's attempt to close the door and forcibly entered.

"What are you doing?"

Yu Linglong was immediately incredulous and angry upon seeing Mu Jinyu barging into her house.

Especially since her "date" was still at home, how would it look to have her and Mu Jinyu tugging at each other!

Mu Jinyu ignored all of that and grabbed Yu Linglong's hand, heading toward the living room.

Gu Xiyuan watched their actions thoughtfully, still unclear on exactly how Mu Jinyu planned to help Yu Linglong, but it probably was close to what she had in mind, right?

Thus, Gu Xiyuan didn't follow them in but silently walked to the elevator, pressed the button to go down, and decided to wait until Mu Jinyu had dealt with Yu Linglong's issue before going to check.

Mu Jinyu pulled Yu Linglong toward the living room, and while walking, whispered to her, "I'm going to help you sort out this mess and make sure your dad completely quits his gambling addiction. Do not refuse. From now on, consider me your boyfriend and act accordingly."

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Yu Linglong, who had been trying hard to pull her hand away, suddenly froze.

At the same time, her resistant shuffling stopped, and she let Mu Jinyu lead her to the living room.

Her gaze fixated on Mu Jinyu's handsome profile, undeniably, she felt her heart stir in that moment.

Frankly, she had only harbored a small crush on Mu Jinyu and often joked with Gu Xiyan about chasing him herself if Gu didn't make a move. However, she never actually acted on it.

Because it was truly just a joke.

But now, comparing him with her sixty-year-old "date," she felt her minor crush on Mu Jinyu was greatly magnified.

If she had to choose between Mu Jinyu and that old man, she would definitely hope for Mu Jinyu.

However, Mu Jinyu had long been with her best friend...

How could she possibly do something like stealing her friend's man?

In Yu Linglong's conflicted state of mind.

Mu Jinyu had already pulled her into the living room.

In the not-so-large living room.

At that time, two old men with gray hair were sitting there, each holding a small cup and slowly sipping Maotai Wine, their faces flushed and eyes showing signs of intoxication, clearly having had quite a bit to drink.

When they heard the noise, they turned their heads and saw Mu Jinyu pulling Yu Linglong toward them, her expression one of anger, while Yu Linglong did not resist the pulling, looking completely like a submissive wife.

One of the old men, seeing Mu Jinyu's accusatory appearance, suddenly sobered up quite a bit.

He looked at Mu Jinyu with a mix of shock and anger and demanded, "What... what is this?!"

He could sense that there must be some relationship between Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong, so what was his role in all this?!

This old guy, Yu Xiuwen, had he not told himself that his daughter was very innocent, that she had never been in a relationship?!

Mu Jinyu, pulling Yu Linglong, walked up to him, looked down on him from a position of authority, and asked, "So, are you the one trying to steal my woman?!"

Yu Linglong's father, Yu Xiuwen, startled by Mu Jinyu's words, also sobered up, looking at Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong in a mix of shock and anger, somewhat confused about what was going on!

He angrily asked, "What are you doing?! Who let you barge into my house?"

Mu Jinyu, withdrawing her scrutinizing gaze from the old man, looked at Yu Xiuwen and calmly said, "Uncle, although I don't have much money, you shouldn't force Linglong to marry this old man just for money, right? He's almost your age, too! I absolutely cannot accept this. Moreover, Linglong is carrying my child in her womb!"

"What?!"

The sixty-year-old man who was in a relationship with Yu Linglong stood up abruptly from the sofa, his eyes filled with disbelief as he looked at Yu Linglong.

It was unimaginable that she was already pregnant!

Then, he turned sharply to look at the equally stunned Yu Xiuwen and cursed, "Yu Xiuwen, what the hell are you thinking? Your daughter is pregnant, and you wanted me to take the fall? Good for you, not only did you want to trick me out of one million yuan as a dowry, but knowing I have no children, you also planned to swindle my family fortune!"

After cursing, he stormed out, not even giving Yu Linglong a second glance.

He thought to himself, luckily, he hadn't yet paid that one million yuan dowry, or he really would have suffered a huge loss, picking up a broken shoe and it even came with a bonus child!

No wonder Yu Xiuwen, this old fool, had been adamantly refusing before but had contacted him in recent days, agreeing to marry his daughter to him.

Damn it, he wanted to make me take the fall!

Yu Xiuwen was dumbfounded for a while, shocked by his daughter's sudden pregnancy, and then upon hearing the old man's words, he snapped back to his senses and hastily shouted, "Director Wang, wait, it's not what you think..."

"Bang!"

Director Wang didn't bother with him at all and left Yu Linglong's small apartment, slamming the door shut.

Yu Xiuwen watched as Director Wang walked away without turning back, feeling as if he were watching the one million yuan flying away with wings.

He had been counting on that one million yuan to turn things around!

Yu Xiuwen was on the verge of tears, feeling as if all his strength had been drained, his vision blurred and he stumbled back onto the sofa.

"Dad! Dad!!"

Yu Linglong, who had been somewhat happy to see Director Wang driven away by anger, instantly cried out in alarm upon seeing her father appearing to be sickened by rage.

Chapter 268: Buy Yu Linglong

After Mu Jinyu's resuscitation, Yu Xiuwen quickly regained consciousness.

Once he awoke, he also realized that Yu Linglong probably wouldn't dare to be pregnant before marriage. Their recent conversation had been nothing but a deception aimed at him and Director Wang!

It was just that he had been too angry to consider this before.

"You... You've been conspiring to deceive me, haven't you?"

As soon as Yu Xiuwen came to, he glared at Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong with red eyes, whether from drunkenness or rage, it was hard to tell.

Mu Jinyu withdrew the Silver Needle and feigned surprise, "You figured that out? Uncle, you're truly clever!"

Yu Xiuwen was livid, pointing at Mu Jinyu, "You! You!"

After stuttering for a while, Yu Xiuwen turned his head to look at Yu Linglong and said, "Do you know what you're doing? Director Wang was finally ready to pay the dowry, and I was about to turn things around. Then you start causing trouble with him! Are you trying to drive me to my grave?!"

Yu Linglong hung her head, her lips pursed, staying silent.

Mu Jinyu said, "This was all my idea, why are you scolding Linglong?"

When Yu Xiuwen heard Mu Jinyu's words, he turned back to glare at Mu Jinyu and cursed, "You still dare to speak. If it weren't for you, I would have the money already! I..."

Looking around, his eyes suddenly lit up. He grabbed a broom that was lying nearby and advanced toward Mu Jinyu, "I'll beat you to death, you bastard, for causing a million yuan to slip through my fingers!"

Mu Jinyu had no intention of letting himself be beaten up, and with a swift hand motion, he grabbed the broomstick that Yu Xiuwen swung at him. His expression darkened as he said flatly, "Uncle, if you remain unreasonable like this, don't blame me for not being polite!"

Yu Xiuwen felt a chill when he heard Mu Jinyu's calm threat and involuntarily let go of the broom.

Mu Jinyu then took the broom, tossed it aside, and dusted off his hands, "You don't need to be like this, uncle. It's just one million yuan after all. I can give you ten million. How about you sell Linglong to me?"

Mu Jinyu deliberately used the sharp term "sell."

Yu Xiuwen's countenance involuntarily changed upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

It was as if his fig leaf had been ripped away, causing his face to turn even paler.

Yu Xiuwen's lips quivered, attempting to retort.

Mu Jinyu spoke, "Don't question whether I have the money. Have you heard of the Beauty Pill that's all the rage? I own that company, so I won't be short-changing you!"

After a pause, he continued, "I'll give you ten million yuan, ten times what Director Wang offered, to buy Linglong off you. From then on, she has nothing to do with you. How about it?"

Seeing Yu Xiuwen still hesitant, Mu Jinyu said, "Look at me, young and handsome, offering ten times what Director Wang did. What is there for you to refuse? Would anyone else spend ten million yuan to buy Linglong?"

Yu Xiuwen, upon hearing this, also felt it unlikely and, after his complexion changed a few times, he finally gritted his teeth and said, "Fine, I agree!"

As soon as these words were spoken.

Yu Linglong, whose face had already turned pale because of Mu Jinyu's sharp words, went completely ashen when she saw her father, who had been so indecisive, finally agreeing to sell her to Mu Jinyu.

Yu Xiuwen didn't dare to look at Yu Linglong.

With a few shifts in his gaze, he said to Mu Jinyu, "Give me the ten million yuan, and I'll leave at once, never to contact Linglong again, nor will I ask her for money."

He thought to himself, just wait until I make my comeback. I'll return twenty million yuan to you and keep you away from my daughter, huh!

Mu Jinyu said, "Don't rush. I don't believe empty promises. Let's sign a contract, shall we?"

Then, Mu Jinyu asked Yu Linglong to fetch some paper and pens.

Yu Linglong, white as a ghost, didn't move at first. After being reminded several times by Mu Jinyu, she went and fetched them in a daze.

Mu Jinyu took the paper and pen and started writing swiftly. He quickly finished, then handed the written agreement to Yu Xiuwen.

Yu Xiuwen took it, read it over, and saw that it stated that after Mu Jinyu paid him ten million yuan, he and Yu Linglong would sever their father-daughter relationship. He would not be allowed to bother her anymore, among other stipulations...

I wrote a lot, and every single clause was a restraint on him. Once he took the money, he would have to roll out of Yu Linglong's world forever.

Yu Xiuwen's hands trembled slightly as he clutched the paper, his gaze fixed on the line "terminate the father-daughter relationship."

He hesitated for a long time but finally signed his name on it and pressed his handprint with the red clay.

Seeing this, a trace of disappointment flickered through Mu Jinyu's eyes.

This guy, he's truly beyond salvation.

Yu Linglong's complexion also turned utterly pale, devoid of a single trace of color.

Yu Xiuwen handed the terms to Mu Jinyu and said, "Bring the money!"

In his frenzy, he thought that once he turned the tables, he would definitely win back Linglong. If he couldn't turn the tables, Linglong, being with someone willing to spend ten million yuan to buy her, probably wouldn't live too poorly!

Mu Jinyu took the terms, put them away, and then asked Yu Xiuwen for his bank account, took out her phone, and made a call.

Soon.

"Ding!"

The message notification sound from Yu Xiuwen's phone rang out.

He immediately took out his phone and saw the message. His originally pale face, which had not a hint of color, suddenly flushed with excitement!

Yu Xiuwen was thrilled. He finally had money again to turn the tides at gambling.

Turning to look at Yu Linglong, who had a vacant expression and seemed to have lost her soul, Yu Xiuwen hesitated and then said, "I'm leaving, and I won't bother you guys anymore!"

He clenched his fists slightly and planned to book a plane ticket for Haojiang Casino that very night, to reverse his fortune as soon as possible and redeem his daughter sooner!

Seeing him about to leave, Mu Jinyu quickly stretched out her hand to stop him, saying, "Uncle, are you planning to go to Haojiang Casino?"

"What does it have to do with you?" Yu Xiuwen glared at Mu Jinyu with displeasure.

Although Mu Jinyu had given him ten million yuan to buy Yu Linglong, if it weren't for her, his relationship with Yu Linglong would never have hit rock bottom, exposing the raw truth of selling his daughter for money.

Mu Jinyu said, "There's no need to make a special trip to Haojiang. Here in River City, there's actually a very well-run gambling house. I believe you must have heard of it but don't know how to get there, right?"

"You know?" Yu Xiuwen, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, brightened up and quickly asked.

Mu Jinyu half-truthfully replied, "Hmm, I just won 1.1 billion there recently, and it was with that starting capital that I established Jinyu Group."

"Really?" Yu Xiuwen asked incredulously.

The biggest worry about gambling was winning too much money but not being able to leave the house.

If what Mu Jinyu said was true, then the gambling house evidently had a good reputation and was worth a shot.

Mu Jinyu said, "You must know a lot of gamblers, right? Just make a phone call and you'll know."

Yu Xiuwen hurriedly made a call to inquire.

He then received confirmation that indeed, there was a teenager, seventeen or eighteen years old, who started with one hundred yuan at the Xueyin Commerce Chamber gambling house and won 1.1 billion, leaving unscathed.

Yu Xiuwen looked at Mu Jinyu again, and seeing his demeanor, he instantly believed him.

He eagerly said, "Then take me there!"

Mu Jinyu nodded with a smile.

She thought to herself, 'The big fish is hooked.'

Chapter 269: Ear Biting

Indeed, Mu Jinyu's plan had initially been to use the sharp phrase "selling Yu Linglong" to make Yu Xiuwen come to his senses sooner.

But since Yu Xiuwen refused to repent and chose to stubbornly go his own way, actually selling Yu Linglong to him.

Then, Mu Jinyu could only choose to dig him deeper into the pit, letting Mei Yinxue's subordinates properly educate him and help him kick his gambling addiction!

"Let's go!"

Mu Jinyu turned his head to look at Yu Linglong, who was standing aside, her eyes lost and pained, took her small hand, and said.

"You guys go ahead, I'm not going."

Yu Linglong shook her head slightly, her expression filled with weariness and pain, but looking deeper, there was actually a hint of relief.

Her mind replayed over and over the scene where Yu Xiuwen gritted his teeth and signed the document that severed his relationship with his daughter.

It ended, her relationship with her father, it really had ended...

Seeing Yu Linglong like this, Mu Jinyu frowned and knew it was even less possible to leave her at home, for fear she might do something desperate out of despair. How could he handle that?

He had to bring her to the underground gambling den and see with her own eyes Yu Xiuwen's sudden regret.

"Come on!"

Mu Jinyu emphasized, forcefully pulling Yu Linglong along to leave with him.

Seeing this, Yu Xiuwen's brow furrowed, wanting Mu Jinyu to treat his daughter properly, but after his lips quivered a few times, he felt that he currently had no position to lecture Mu Jinyu.

He had already sold Yu Linglong to Mu Jinyu!

Yu Linglong was pulled by Mu Jinyu, and in the end, had no choice but to go with them reluctantly.

Only, her fondness for Mu Jinyu dissipated a lot, replaced by a bit more disgust.

"Don't pull me first, how can I go out like this? Let me go back to my room and change my clothes!"

Yu Linglong suppressed the disgust and said to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu, noticing her home attire and the slippers on her feet, let go and urged her to hurry up.

Once Yu Linglong got back to her room, where no one else was, tears immediately surged and streamed down. She sat in silence for a while, then pulled out a few tissues to wipe her tears, before quickly changing into a chiffon dress and applying light makeup. Then she opened the door.

Mu Jinyu said, "You changed clothes quite quickly, huh? Only twenty minutes."

Yu Linglong couldn't help but give Mu Jinyu a glare and, without speaking, walked to the entryway, opened the shoe cabinet, and found a pair of red high heels to put on.

"Let's go!"

She called back to Mu Jinyu.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu led the Yu Family father and daughter out of their small apartment and took the elevator downstairs.

Once downstairs, Mu Jinyu took out his phone, and sent a text message to Gu Xiyan, telling her to go back first and that he was going to take Yu Linglong's father to the casino to play for a while.

Gu Xiyan, startled by the text message, quickly asked him what on earth he was planning to do?

Mu Jinyu replied to her that the earliest plan had failed, and he was preparing to take drastic action. Not to worry, he wouldn't let Yu Xiuwen die!

Gu Xiyan felt somewhat reassured after receiving the message, then sat in the car, watching Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong as well as her father leave the community.

Mu Jinyu put away his phone and said to a glancing-around Yu Xiuwen, "Let's go, we'll hail a cab outside!"

"Huh? Don't you have a car?" asked Yu Xiuwen, puzzled.

In his view, Mu Jinyu, who was so rich he could easily transfer ten million yuan, should not have been unable to afford a car!

Why do we still need to take a taxi?

Mu Jinyu casually said, "I can't drive."

Yu Xiuwen was at a loss for words.

Afterward, they walked out of the residential area, hailed a taxi at the roadside, got in, and Mu Jinyu reported the destination and the taxi took off.

Yu Xiuwen naturally took the passenger seat, letting Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong sit in the back.

Mu Jinyu, noticing that Yu Linglong's eyes were slightly swollen and her complexion still looked terrible, shifted her bottom and moved closer to Yu Linglong, about to whisper to her.

Yu Linglong furrowed her eyebrows slightly and then shifted farther inwards too.

"Huh?!"

Mu Jinyu raised an eyebrow, feeling somewhat annoyed, and again moved closer to Yu Linglong.

Yu Linglong's brows knitted tighter, also keeping her distance.

In the end, with no escape, she could only let Mu Jinyu sit right next to her.

"What are you trying to do? Aren't you afraid I'll complain to Xiyan?!"

Yu Linglong twisted her Liu Mei, cautiously glancing at Yu Xiuwen sitting in the front, then warned Mu Jinyu in a lowered voice.

Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly and said, "Not afraid, who asked you to resist me like this?"

Having said that, he glanced at Yu Xiuwen, saw that he wasn't paying attention to the situation in the back, and then leaned in towards Yu Linglong, ready to whisper in her ear and clarify not to misunderstand him.

Little did he know that Yu Linglong thought Mu Jinyu was about to kiss her, frightened she closed her eyes tightly. Although she clutched her purse tightly to her chest as a shield, she didn't cover her face; her eyelashes trembled gently, her cheeks flushed with a rosy hue, presenting an aspect of ripe for the picking.

Mu Jinyu was speechless.

The taxi driver sitting in the front, as well as Yu Xiuwen, both noticed their subtle movements.

The driver naturally assumed they were a young couple and smiled without comment.

Yu Xiuwen, however, felt Mu Jinyu was bullying his daughter and was very angry, but he had no grounds to stand up for Yu Linglong anymore, feeling both irritated and regretful.

After being speechless for a while, Mu Jinyu, of course, wouldn't take advantage of the situation but simply whispered in Yu Linglong's ear, "Hey, are you serious? I just want to talk to you, do you think I'm trying to take advantage of you?"

Yu Linglong heard Mu Jinyu's words, felt the warmth of his breath on her ear, her eyelashes fluttering a few times, and finally, she opened her eyes to look at Mu Jinyu.

Seeing the smile that wasn't quite a smile on Mu Jinyu's face, she blushed, her translucent earlobes red as rubies, feeling terribly embarrassed by her own reaction.

What's critical is that she had just wrongly thought Mu Jinyu was going to kiss her, yet she hadn't resisted much!

If Gu Xiyan found out, what would she think?

Looking at Yu Linglong's bashful annoyance, Mu Jinyu suddenly felt she was actually quite cute, then he whispered in her ear again, "Work with me later, like this... and like that..."

After listening to Mu Jinyu's plan, Yu Linglong's expression was initially blank, then it dawned on her, and the aversion she had felt towards Mu Jinyu for buying her out and forcing her to come with him dissipated.

Yu Xiuwen, sitting in the front, kept sneaking peeks at Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong in the back, sitting tightly together "whispering," his feelings incredibly mixed.

His gaze struggling, uncertain whether or not to return the money to Mu Jinyu and not sell his daughter!

But recalling how much he had already lost, he was very unwilling to let go; he wanted to rely on that ten million yuan from Mu Jinyu to turn the tables!

If Mu Jinyu could win 1.1 billion yuan with just one hundred yuan, why couldn't he?!

Yu Xiuwen's struggle in his eyes suddenly turned to determination, he could turn the tide, and then he would buy his daughter back!

Having made this decision, Yu Xiuwen closed his eyes, no longer looking at Mu Jinyu and Yu Linglong interacting behind him, choosing to turn a blind eye!

Chapter 270 - This Cup is Not Yours

Soon,

the taxi arrived at the small teahouse where Mu Jinyu had made his first fortune.

After paying the fare, Mu Jinyu led Yu Linglong and Yu Xiuwen out of the taxi.

"We've arrived, this is the teahouse!"

Mu Jinyu raised his hand, pointing across the street to the teahouse, and introduced it to Yu Xiuwen.

"So that's how it is, no wonder those without connections can never find the biggest gambling den in River City!"

Yu Xiuwen looked at the teahouse, which was doing meager business but had never closed down, and couldn't help but exclaim.

Having lived in River City for many years, he was naturally familiar with this teahouse. It was strange; it was located on the best stretch of road, yet the waitstaff had awful attitudes, and the tea they served was the cheapest kind, bland and tasteless, resulting in very poor business.

Yu Xiuwen had thought a few years ago that the teahouse was failing and would close down soon.

Damn it, several years later, it still hadn't closed!

Turns out, the real owner behind the scenes wasn't in the tea business at all but in the gambling business!

Those without connections, unaware of the truth, were just waiting to see the joke unfold.

Mu Jinyu ignored Yu Xiuwen's lament and led the way across the street, entering the teahouse with them.

The listless waitstaff inside the shop barely glanced at the newcomers.

But...

when they saw Mu Jinyu,

they instantly perked up.

They became very spirited, their faces filled with smiles, and they quickly called out sweetly:

"Welcome!"

Although they didn't know about the relationship between Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue, the fact that Mu Jinyu had made 1.1 billion yuan from the gambling den and received respectful treatment from Brother Biao,

was deeply etched into their minds.

Not to mention Mu Jinyu's wealth, just Brother Biao's attitude towards him was enough for them to show the utmost respect.

So, seeing Mu Jinyu now, they naturally showed no impatience or arrogance but were extremely humble.

Yu Xiuwen entered behind and was a bit surprised to see this scene. He thought to himself, weren't these staff members very dismissive just outside?

Why are they now so courteous?

Yu Xiuwen began to puzzle through this, but upon seeing Mu Jinyu's handsome face, he seemed to understand somewhat.

He felt a sour feeling inside, as if he had bitten a lemon.

Mu Jinyu waved at the waiter and said, "I won't have tea today, this boss wants tea!"

As he spoke, he pointed back at Yu Xiuwen.

"Oh." The staff, upon hearing this, showed no disappointment but turned their eager attention to Yu Xiuwen and asked warmly, "Sir, how expensive a tea would you like?"

Yu Xiuwen, still unclear about the rules of the teahouse, was a bit confused.

He was about to say maybe one hundred or eighty yuan.

Mu Jinyu had already made the choice for him, "He's a big boss, of course, he'll have the ten million yuan Immortal Tea!"

Yu Xiuwen: "???"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, he was initially stunned but then realized, drinking tea meant exchanging chips.

So he kept silent.

Even though he was initially planning to exchange just one million yuan in chips.

But after Mu Jinyu had spoken like that, he felt embarrassed to change his statement. It would have seemed a bit shameful.

The waitresses, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, lit up immediately and hurriedly exclaimed, "The boss is really generous!"

Afterward, one of them went to brew the tea while another took Yu Xiuwen to pay the bill.

Soon, Yu Xiuwen had transferred the ten million yuan that he had just received to the account specified by the waitress.

He then received ten tea purchase receipts, each worth one million yuan.

He felt a bit of heartache.

But what he didn't know was that this ten million yuan would soon end up back in Mu Jinyu's hands.

If he had known, he would have felt even more heartache.

"Boss, the tea is here," they announced.

At that moment, several waitresses came toward them carrying the tea.

They brought two cups of tea, one that looked like plain hot water with a few tea leaves in it, and another with a clear, light-yellow tea soup, emitting an extremely strong and rich aroma even from afar.

Yu Xiuwen naturally assumed that the cup with just a few tea leaves was for Mu Jinyu, feeling somewhat proud, "Indeed, this ten million yuan tea isn't too bad after all."

However, little did he know...

When the two waitresses approached, they actually handed the good tea to Mu Jinyu and gave him the lousy tea that looked like plain water with a few leaves thrown in!

Shocked and angered, Yu Xiuwen couldn't help but ask, "Isn't there a mistake here?!"

Mu Jinyu was also surprised and didn't take the cup of tea, saying, "I didn't buy tea!"

The waitress serving Yu Xiuwen, stuffing the plain water into his hands with an indifferent expression, said, "No mistake, this is your cup of tea!"

They had been working here for many years after all; a bet of ten million yuan was nothing new to them.

Moreover, considering Yu Xiuwen's age, he naturally didn't catch their attention much.

Most importantly, since Mu Jinyu treated Yu Xiuwen like a fat sheep ready for slaughter, the very observant waitresses naturally lost their last bit of enthusiasm once Yu Xiuwen finished paying.

The waitress serving Mu Jinyu, meanwhile, said with a shy smile, "You didn't buy tea, but this cup is a personal gift from me."

Hearing their words, Yu Xiuwen's gaze became vacant; then, shaking with anger, he nearly went mad.

Damn it, you bunch of shameless wretches, so the tea I bought for ten million yuan isn't even as good as someone's face?

Mu Jinyu heard this and felt flattered but grateful as he said, "Thank you then."

He had no intention of paying, as that would have made it a forced sale, which wasn't worthwhile. He planned to have Li Heshan give them the money later.

As he sipped the tea and exhaled contentedly, Mu Jinyu then glanced at Yu Xiuwen, who was fuming and pale, and calmly said, "Uncle, don't be angry. Remember, we're not here to drink tea; we're here to turn the tables!"

Yu Xiuwen, initially wanting to be confrontational, heard Mu Jinyu's remark and could only suppress his anger, saying stiffly, "How do we get in there?"

"Follow me."

Mu Jinyu said, then glanced at Yu Linglong, who was smirking, and nodded toward her. Carrying his tea cup, he leisurely walked towards the inner rooms of the teahouse!

Yu Linglong and Yu Xiuwen quickly followed him.

When they reached the last door down the hallway of the inner room, Mu Jinyu opened the door and walked down the stairs.

Yu Xiuwen, upon seeing this passage and hearing the faint noise, realized that this was what the underground gambling den was all about; no wonder he had never been able to find it before.

Then, with his mind ablaze, Yu Xiuwen hurriedly followed Mu Jinyu's steps.

Yu Linglong followed them closely down the stairs.

After descending the stairs,

Yu Xiuwen looked at the spacious underground world, the brightly-lit gambling den filled with gamblers, his eyes burning with fervor.