

King Hall 291

Chapter 291: Collision

Three days later.

Mu Jinyu, following Mei Yinxue's suggestion, decided to hold Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia's birthday party on the third floor banquet hall of the Kaiyan International Hotel.

The Kaiyan International Hotel, while not the most luxurious hotel in River City, was decently grand—not too big, not too small.

Originally, Mu Jinyu wanted to have their birthday party at the most expensive and best hotel in River City, but Mei Yinxue thought it wasn't a good idea, fearing it might intimidate Lin Qiaoxia and her family, so they settled on this place.

Indeed, after being reminded by Mei Yinxue, Mu Jinyu also invited Lin Qiaoxia's parents to join the fun, as it was their daughter's birthday after all, and it wouldn't be nice to leave them out.

He didn't have any ulterior motives anyway; he thought, what could be wrong with her parents attending when he wasn't planning to get Lin Qiaoxia drunk and take advantage of her at the birthday event?

After spending the afternoon shopping with Mei Yinxue, Mu Jinyu picked out a few gifts for Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia's birthday. Seeing it was getting late, he said to Mei Yinxue:

"Let's go, let's head out."

Mei Yinxue stood still, slightly annoyed, and reminded him, "You bought a few gifts, why not buy a bit more for Xiyan and the others?"

Mei Yinxue solemnly reminded him, "You've been with them for a while and seem to have never given them any gifts, have you?"

"Ah, that's right." Mu Jinyu nodded, realizing, and gratefully smiled at Mei Yinxue, "That's true, let's pick out a couple more gifts then."

Hearing this, Mei Yinxue really wanted to bite him!

Although with her status, she really didn't lack anything, she had stated when choosing to be with Mu Jinyu that she did not care about status or identity.

But she still hoped that Mu Jinyu would pay more attention to her.

She would have been truly happy if Mu Jinyu bought her a small gift, but he had never cared about her feelings, only coming to her when there was a need, or when Xiyan and others weren't at home, which made her feel quite upset.

Mu Jinyu laughed, "Don't worry, there is definitely something for you. I haven't forgotten you. Look at how aggrieved you look."

As he spoke, he took out a small gift box from his pocket, opened it, and revealed a platinum necklace inside.

The necklace wasn't very expensive; Mei Yinxue had seen it a few times and clearly liked it a lot, so Mu Jinyu sneakily ran back to buy it while she was in the restroom.

He had planned to give it to her later, but seeing her a bit upset, he decided to give it to her now.

The pendant of the platinum necklace consisted of two hearts pierced by an arrow, adorned with numerous small diamonds, and looked quite appealing.

Upon seeing the necklace, Mei Yinxue's face lit up with surprise and joy, her eyes slightly reddening as she excitedly hugged Mu Jinyu, completely disregarding the glances of passersby on the street, and gave him a kiss.

After a long moment, they separated, and Mei Yinxue, feeling a bit embarrassed, lowered her head with a blush and said, "Thank you."

"No more sulking now, huh?" Mu Jinyu wiped the lipstick mark from the corner of his mouth and said with a smile.

At his words, Mei Yinxue couldn't help but playfully hit Mu Jinyu lightly and countered, "Who was sulking?"

Despite being a twenty-five-year-old older sister figure, she was behaving like a little girl at the moment.

But this was normal, as Mei Yinxue had never been in love before. Being with Mu Jinyu, and not receiving much attention from him, always left her feeling insecure and anxious.

Now that Mu Jinyu finally showed her a bit of attention, she was naturally overjoyed.

Mu Jinyu held her hand, no longer teasing her, and said, "Come on, let's pick a few more items, then head to the Kaiyan Hotel to celebrate their birthday."

"Hmm."

Soon, the two of them finished buying the gifts, and then Wang Zhengbiao drove them to the Kaiyan Hotel.

At the hotel, they went to the third floor, ready to check on the birthday party's venue setup, when they saw someone arguing with the lobby manager.

"What do you mean by this? Didn't we reserve your banquet hall for today a week ago? How can you now go back on your word and deny it?!"

A somewhat sharp and harsh woman's voice arose.

Then, the lobby manager's calm and composed voice followed:

"I'm sorry, ma'am, you're right that you called a week ago to reserve the banquet hall in advance, but firstly, you didn't pay a deposit, and secondly, you didn't specify which banquet hall. Naturally, we couldn't just reserve the large banquet hall for you. We managed to keep the smaller banquet hall available, which is the biggest commitment our hotel could offer. If you don't want it, I can arrange for others right now..."

Upon hearing this, the woman became even more infuriated and said angrily: "Pay a deposit first? Do you think someone of my status would be short of that money? And you've arranged a small banquet hall that can only accommodate twenty tables, do you think that's appropriate for my grandmother's grand birthday?"

"Hurry up and vacate the large banquet hall for us!"

The Kaiyan Grand Hotel's third-layer banquet hall has two rooms, one of which is the largest and can accommodate fifty tables, while the other is smaller, fitting only twenty tables.

The woman, of course, wanted the one with fifty tables.

"Sorry, the large banquet hall is already booked. We can't provide it for you. If you think the small banquet hall isn't enough, I'm truly sorry about that..."

The lobby manager said apologetically. Although he didn't use any harsh words, his meaning was clear: he thought the smaller banquet hall was too small, so he was effectively telling her to leave and find another hotel, so he could quickly arrange for someone else.

The woman, upon hearing this, was furious and started to scold sharply and harshly again.

Mu Jinyu frowned slightly as he listened, feeling that he had heard this woman's voice somewhere before.

Then, he and Mei Yinxue walked to the entrance of the banquet hall, and upon seeing the woman's appearance, he finally realized why her voice felt familiar.

It turned out to be Lin Qiaoxia's classmate, Chen Jiahui.

Standing by her side was her boyfriend, Wang Chaoyong.

"So it's them!"

Mu Jinyu muttered, frowning.

Mei Yinxue asked, "Do you know them?"

She thought if they still had a good relationship, she would step in and arrange something for them.

If not, then she would leave them be.

Mu Jinyu said, "Sort of, but we don't get along. They were Qiaoxia's college classmates. We met them at dinner the other day, and they were quite rude, even vilifying Qiaoxia over a few ambiguous photos..."

Having heard this, Mei Yinxue's expression darkened, and she said, "This hotel is mine. Since they are being so impolite, should we kick them out?"

Mu Jinyu hesitated for a moment. If the small banquet hall was just for ordinary use, kicking them out wouldn't matter much since they indeed had spoken rudely. But since it was for their grandmother's grand birthday...

"Let it be." Mu Jinyu shook his head and said, "Go over and tell them, take it or leave. If they still want to make a scene, then kick them out!"

Chapter 292: The Birthday Guest Has Fled

"Fine," Mei Yinxue said, following Mu Jinyu as they walked towards the entrance of the banquet hall.

"What are you arguing about?" she asked quietly, her face expressionless.

Chen Jiahui, who had been clamoring for the lobby manager to explain themselves, stopped speaking when she saw Mei Yinxue and her aura, which was as intimidating as that of a queen.

"You...who are you?" stuttered Chen Jiahui.

Wang Chaoyong's eyes lit up, struck by Mei Yinxue's beauty. He hadn't expected to find such a beautiful woman in River City.

Given their status, they naturally wouldn't have the opportunity to meet someone like Mei Yinxue.

Mei Yinxue simply stated, "This hotel belongs to me."

"Ah? You're the owner!" exclaimed Chen Jiahui, her fear momentarily subsiding. "Then could you please explain this to me? We made our reservation a week in advance, and now you've given us a small banquet hall. We can't fit all our guests. What are we supposed to do?"

"Today is my grandmother's major 66th birthday. How will it look to our guests if they arrive to this mess? We'll be humiliated!"

"So, I expect you to provide me an explanation. Either free up the large banquet hall for us or compensate us. We'll need to find another hotel, and at this time, it won't be easy to find one with a vacant banquet hall."

Listening to Chen Jiahui's reasonable demands, Mei Yinxue smiled faintly and said, "First, when you reserved the banquet hall, you didn't pay a deposit, and you didn't specify whether you wanted a large or small one. Second, I need the large banquet hall tonight, so do you really think I would free it up for you?"

Anxious, Chen Jiahui replied, "Isn't it obvious we would need the large hall for such a significant occasion? You are intentionally making this difficult..."

Mei Yinxue cut her off, "You have two choices now: first, use the small banquet hall; second, leave, as our hotel will no longer serve you!"

At that moment, Mu Jinyu also spoke up to advise them, "I suggest you just take the small banquet hall for now. Finding another available banquet hall at this time will be very difficult."

As soon as Mu Jinyu spoke, Chen Jiahui and Wang Chaoyong, who had been focusing on Mei Yinxue, realized that this smartly dressed, handsome man was the same Mu Jinyu who had dined with Lin Qiaoxia the other day!

"It's you?!"

Their looks were filled with suspicion and anger.

They suspected that Mu Jinyu, knowing that they had also arranged their grandmother's 66th birthday at Kaiyan Hotel, was deliberately making things difficult for them.

Mu Jinyu, uninterested in further discussion, ordered, "Fine, just make your decision. If they don't want the small banquet hall and still want to cause a scene, just kick them out."

The first part was addressed to Chen Jiahui and the rest, to the lobby manager.

"Yes," replied the lobby manager respectfully.

Then, Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue pushed open the door to the large banquet hall and entered.

"He's just a small-time cosmetics company owner, and he dares to treat us this way! It's infuriating!" Chen Jiahui fumed over Mu Jinyu's attitude. But there was nothing she could do at this point—it was indeed difficult to find another hotel now, especially since the location had already been communicated to friends and family. Changing the venue last minute was also not suitable.

So, resentfully, she let the lobby manager lead them to the nearby small banquet hall.

Half an hour later.

Chen Jiahui's parents and grandparents had rushed from their home and office to the Kaiyan Hotel.

When they arrived at the small banquet hall and saw the setup, which included only about twenty tables, their expressions tightened with displeasure.

"Jiahui, what have you done here? Just over twenty tables, where will all the relatives and friends sit later?"

Jiahui's grandfather began to scold her.

Jiahui said with grievance, "I didn't want this, but the hotel gave us a hard time, and now there is no other place to switch to!"

As she spoke, she informed everyone about what had happened earlier.

After listening, her grandfather was also infuriated to the point of shaking all over. He cursed, "How dare they bully people like this? Do they really think the Chen Family is easy to provoke? I'm going to demand an explanation from them right now!"

Saying so, he prepared to go and argue with the lobby manager.

"Ding-ling-ling."

At that moment, his cell phone rang.

Jiahui's grandfather paused his anger, pulled out his cell phone, and upon seeing the caller ID, his expression instantly changed, his face breaking into a respectful and joyful smile, "Hello, is that Director Wang? Hahaha, you've arrived? I'll come to receive you right away."

"Grandpa, have the guests arrived?" Jiahui asked her grandfather after he hung up, unable to contain her anxiety, "Can we manage in time? Should we invite them here first?"

"It's too late for that, let's bring them here first, and after settling them in, I'll go settle the scores later!"

The elderly man declared angrily and then had his son accompany him outside to welcome the aforementioned Director Wang.

Upon reaching the hotel entrance, they walked towards a middle-aged man in a suit with a large belly.

After exchanging pleasantries, they invited him upstairs.

Just then, they heard the sound of a car stopping, thinking another friend had arrived. Turning around, they saw a man in his thirties stepping out of the car.

They focused their gaze, both shocked and pleased, "Hey, it's Secretary-General Lin! I called you a few days ago and you said you were busy, now you've made it amidst your busy schedule, haha, thank you so much for gracing us with your presence..."

It wasn't possible for just any secretary to be treated with such respect, and even someone of status like Director Wang was similarly humble and eager to please.

This was because Secretary-General Lin was the Secretary-General to the Governor of River City.

Secretary-General Lin, upon hearing their greetings, paused for a moment and then said with a smile, "I'm sorry, Old Chen, but you seem to be mistaken. I'm not here to attend your birthday celebration, I represent the Prefect attending Mr. Mu's friend's birthday."

"Ah? Is that so?"

On hearing this, Old Master Chen felt somewhat disappointed, thinking to himself, surely yes, he is the Governor of River's City Secretary, how could he possibly attend our family's birthday celebration!

Secretary-General Lin no longer paid attention to them, got out of the car, picked up a gift bag from the trunk, and walked towards the elevator.

"This... Secretary-General Lin representing the Prefect to attend someone's birthday is already a great honor, and he even brought a gift. What is the status of the other party?"

Old Master Chen watched the scene, full of curiosity.

"Dad, could it be... that Secretary Lin's birthday party is the one that took over our grand banquet hall?" Jiahui's father suddenly surmised, worriedly.

Meanwhile, Director Wang, watching Secretary Lin's departing figure, pondered his words, "Mr. Mu..."

He mumbled to himself, then seemed to realize something and apologetically said to the Chens, "Director Chen, Old Master Chen, I'll go have a look too, and then I'll come over to wish your mother a happy birthday."

Having said this, he didn't hand over the birthday gift he was carrying to the Chen men but hurriedly ran after Secretary-General Lin.

The somewhat dumbfounded Chen father and son were left standing there in shock!

Chapter 293 Next Time for Sure!

"Hey, hey, hey, Director Wang, where are you going?!"

The father and son of the Chen Family reacted and hurriedly called out to Director Wang's retreating figure.

But Director Wang turned a deaf ear, carrying the birthday gift originally intended for Grandma Chen's grand celebration, went over to Secretary-General Lin, whispered some flattering words, and then joined him in getting into the elevator.

"Hey, hey, hey! Director Wang..."

The Chen father and son ran over breathlessly, but they still couldn't catch Director Wang in time. They just watched helplessly as the elevator doors closed and then saw the indicator light showing they had gone up to the third floor!

"What on earth is going on?!"

Old Master Chen was somewhat frustrated and wondered aloud, "What is Director Wang up to? Could he be going to deliver gifts to the person Secretary-General Lin is celebrating?"

"That's possible!" Chen Jiahui's father agreed with a nod, then hesitated and added, "Of course, it's also possible that he has some business to discuss with Secretary Lin and just went up for now, and he might still come to wish Grandma later..."

In the end, he himself felt it was not very likely!

"Forget it, if he doesn't come, so be it. A blind fool!"

Old Master Chen cursed under his breath.

Of course, while he cursed, in his heart he still hoped and waited for the elevator to come down, then went to their small banquet hall to see if Director Wang had gone there.

However, when they returned to the small banquet hall and saw only the cold dishes being set up and a few waiters holding red wine and beverages, without a trace of Director Wang's portly figure, they were immediately infuriated.

This guy really disappeared into thin air.

Still unwilling to give up, Old Master Chen went to ask Chen Jiahui and others, "Have you seen Director Wang come here?"

"No way!" Chen Jiahui shook her head and asked, "Grandpa, weren't you supposed to pick him up?"

"Pick him up, my ass! The man ran away!"

Old Master Chen grumbled, then shared their recent encounter with Chen Jiahui and others!

After hearing the explanation, Chen Jiahui and Wang Chaoyong couldn't help but exchange looks.

They recalled the scene they had seen earlier of Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue entering the main banquet hall.

And before that, Mei Yinxue had mentioned that the hotel belonged to her, and that the main banquet hall was also reserved for her use tonight.

Could it be...

That the Prefect's Secretary-General and Director Wang both went there to celebrate their birthdays?!

No, no...

Chen Jiahui thought of the conversation she had heard that day and felt certain that today was not Mu Jinyu's birthday, but rather Lin Qiaoxia's and others' birthdays!

That must be it!

But then...

Jealousy raged in Chen Jiahui's heart.

What merit and ability did Lin Qiaoxia have to make so many important figures come to celebrate her birthday?

And even led Director Wang, who had originally come to wish her grandmother, to redirect the birthday gift to her?!

After all, Director Wang was a big boss with assets worth billions—had it not been for his relationship with their Chen Family, how could he possibly come personally to wish her grandmother?

Yet such a significant figure, in face of Mu Jinyu—a mere petty businessman selling flawed makeup—has to do this?

It must be because of Mei Yinxue, right?

Two men living off women! What scum!

Chen Jiahui cursed inwardly.

To this moment, she still thought of Mu Jinyu as just a minor businessman.

But little did she know, the so-called bigwig, Director Wang, in front of Mu Jinyu, didn't even qualify to carry his shoes!

Just as she was struggling to accept this, her parents and grandparents' phones began to ring one after another.

Upon answering, sure enough, the calls were all from relatives like distant aunts and uncles, along with a few close friends.

Let them come out to meet them, they don't know the way.

"Come on, come on, let's all go out to meet them."

Old Master Chen hung up the phone, shaking off the gloom brought about by Director Wan, and shouted excitedly to everyone.

Afterwards, except for Grandma Chen who was the star of tonight's birthday banquet and still remained seated, all the other Chen family members and Wang Chaoyong, who was Chen Jiahui's boyfriend, went out to welcome the guests who had come to attend the birthday banquet.

"Ah, there are already dozens of people here, and there are still twenty-some tables left that can seat people. But what about when it's seven o'clock, and everyone arrives? How are we going to fit everyone then? It's so annoying!"

Old Master Chen was still in a sullen mood while riding the elevator downstairs.

He had originally planned to meet Director Wang first and then go to the main banquet hall to confront that group for an explanation, but after learning that Secretary-General Lin was representing the Governor of River City to celebrate for them, he naturally dropped the idea.

Thus, he was very vexed as he thought about the thought of not being able to seat everyone once all the guests arrived, and how impolite that would be.

If he had known it would be like this, he should not have let Chen Jiahui handle the location for the birthday banquet.

However, his current concerns soon vanished in the following moments.

"Director Jiang, about that matter we discussed last time, do you think it's possible?"

"Director Jiang..."

Just as Old Master Chen led people out of the hotel, he saw their family and friends walking alongside a pretty lady, servilely saying flattering words to her.

That woman, upon closer inspection, turned out to be Jiang Huaimeng, the eldest daughter of the Jiang Family, one of the Four Great Families of River City!

'She actually came to wish his wife a happy birthday?'

This thought suddenly appeared in Old Master Chen's mind.

They had just had a small cooperation with the Jiang Family recently, and he didn't expect Jiang Huaimeng to remember his wife's major birthday and show up unannounced.

He felt very happy and honored.

Chen Jiahui's parents thought the same, and they were very happy too.

But Chen Jiahui and Wang Chaoyong exchanged looks, sensing that things were about to go wrong.

They felt that Jiang Huaimeng was unlikely to have come just to wish their grandma a happy birthday!

As expected.

When Old Master Chen walked towards Jiang Huaimeng smilingly, he called out, "Hey, Director Jiang, how come you're also here? You didn't even tell us; really, if we had known you were coming, the wife would definitely have come down to meet you too!"

Upon hearing Old Master Chen's words, Jiang Huaimeng looked baffled as she stared at him approaching and then asked, "Who are you?!"

Old Master Chen, Father Chen, and Mother Chen immediately turned to stone, their faces stiffening.

How awkward!

They had thought that because of a prior collaboration and a brief acquaintance, she had remembered this birthday banquet and specially come to congratulate them, but who could have guessed...

She didn't remember you at all, nor did she even know who you were!

That was so damn awkward.

Even Chen Jiahui, who had originally felt that Jiang Huaimeng was not likely to have come for their grandma's birthday, now felt extremely awkward.

After glancing at them, Jiang Huaimeng, feeling confused, walked towards the elevator without paying further attention to them.

And those family friends, who were originally supposed to come for their grandma's major birthday, now shamefacedly followed Jiang Huaimeng, intending to blend into the birthday party that Mu Jinyu was hosting for Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong!

"Hey, auntie, where are you going?!"

"Director Zheng? Why are you leaving too?!"

Seeing that these people weren't stopping to greet and were just walking past, Old Master Chen was startled and then called out.

At the sound of Old Master Chen's words, they hesitated for a moment, then turned back and explained:

"We have something urgent to attend to first, so we can't make it to auntie's big day. We are truly sorry. I will make sure to send a birthday gift later, and we will definitely come next time!"

"Next time for sure, next time for sure..."

Chapter 294 Old Master Chen Also Wants to Go Over

After chatting, seeing that the elevator doors had opened, they didn't waste any more words with the Chen Family People and hastily slipped inside.

Of course, there were two elevators: one for Jiang Huaimeng and the other ladies, while the other was crammed with them, a bunch of grown men.

If those had been beauties with no particular status, they certainly would have enjoyed squeezing into the elevator with them, getting their kicks, but what status did Jiang Huaimeng have, who would dare to be presumptuous with her?

The Chen Family People, petrified where they stood, looked around at the empty space beside them; as a breeze blew by, stirring the leaves at their feet into a whirl, they felt so desolate and lonely!

Everyone, gone again!

Old Master Chen, once he came to his senses, was so angry he could spit blood!

Dammit, this isn't how you treat people!

They had clearly come to celebrate his old companion's sixty-sixth birthday, so why had everyone run off to a kid's birthday party instead?!

You damn people, you don't even recognize them, how could you have the audacity to shamelessly show up there?!

"Dammit, I refuse to believe that today, no one will come to wish my companion a happy birthday!"

Old Master Chen cursed out loud and decided just to block the doorway; he wouldn't let their friends and family be delayed a moment longer when they arrived, and he certainly wouldn't let them run off with whomever they saw upon arrival.

So, the Chen Family People no longer went up to the small banquet hall first to wait around since there weren't any guests requiring their company at the moment.

Soon, several luxury cars, the cheapest of which was worth three million, drove into the parking area in front of the Kaiyan Hotel.

The sight only made the Chen Family People murmur to themselves, guessing they were probably here for the mysterious person's birthday celebration in the large banquet hall.

Because they knew their friends and family didn't roll in that league!

Then, the car doors opened, and a group of people got out, each carrying a gift box. From their cautious expressions, it seemed the gifts were quite expensive.

Old Master Chen focused his gaze for a moment and immediately recognized who they were.

The CEO of Heavenly God Technology Co., Ltd., with a net worth of over ten billion!

The CEO of Mu Group Textiles, similarly worth tens of billions!

And another was even more frightening, a well-known billionaire in Jiangnan Province, with a net worth over a hundred billion!

And today, they've all come to celebrate somebody's birthday?

"Jiahui, go over and ask, see if they're really here to celebrate next door?"

Old Master Chen murmured in his heart, skeptical yet unwilling to believe it, and nudged his granddaughter with his foot, coaxing her to go over there and inquire.

"Me?!" Chen Jiahui looked at the group of people, feeling the immense pressure, only to find her grandfather actually telling her to go ask, which made her legs tremble even more.

"But they probably won't pay any attention to me!"

Chen Jiahui complained with a mournful tone.

Old Master Chen frowned and said, "Hurry up and try, everyone's already here. Not going to make your dad and me lose face, are you?"

'Crap!'

Chen Jiahui cursed internally, realizing full well that approaching them would be embarrassing, yet here she was being pushed to do just that!

What a shameless old man you are!

Chen Jiahui mentally complained and then glanced at Wang Chaoyong, who stood next to her, dazed and confused. Annoyed, she kicked his leg and scolded, "What are you spacing out for? Go over there and ask already!"

Wang Chaoyong, jolted by the kick, felt extremely aggrieved.

But who asked him to marry into the family? This treatment was rightly his to bear.

Afterward, Wang Chaoyong summoned his courage and approached the group.

As he walked, his legs began to feel weak; he didn't dare to test the waters carelessly.

His eyes darted around, and then a thought struck him; he stiffly smiled and asked, "Excuse me, are you here to attend Miss Lin's birthday party today?"

"Yeah, and you are?"

A few people looked at Wang Chaoyong, unable to grasp his status, and their tone was quite polite.

'Indeed.' Wang Chaoyong thought that the birthday celebrant they were here to honor must be Lin Qiaoxia, so he deliberately called out Miss Lin's birthday. With this test, he indeed sussed it out.

He had initially planned to report back to the Chen Family People after finding out, but facing the stares from this group, he felt immense pressure and let out a hearty laugh, saying, "I came down to receive you guys!"

"That's really considerate!"

On hearing this, they felt somewhat flattered.

They had come unannounced, and Mr. Mu had actually sent a staffer down to receive them—it was indeed very courteous.

Consequently, they followed Wang Chaoyong, this waiter, upstairs to the third floor.

"This is the place."

Wang Chaoyong led them to the entrance of the grand banquet hall and spoke respectfully.

"Thank you!"

The group of company bosses arrived at the door of the grand banquet hall, took out their wallets, pulled out a handful of red banknotes, handed them to Wang Chaoyong, and then went inside.

Usually, tasks like giving tips were handled by their secretaries or assistants, but so many were coming to the birthday celebration today that they feared bringing their secretaries would make them seem too high-profile, risking a beating and ejection, so they came alone.

They didn't even bring their bodyguards!

Wang Chaoyong caught the banknotes, feeling somewhat bemused.

Damn it, impersonating a waiter and he actually received a tip of four or five thousand.

Frick, he slaved away for Chen Jiahui and didn't get this much of a tip!

"Damn it, who told you to come down here and play waiter? You've completely disgraced me!"

At this moment, Chen Jiahui also came over, grabbed Wang Chaoyong's ear, and started scolding him.

She, along with her parents and grandfather, had watched with wide eyes as Wang Chaoyong led the group away, initially thinking that he, with his thick eyebrows and large eyes, had also betrayed them.

She was so furious, hence she followed them up. She had intended to burst into the grand banquet hall and drag Wang Chaoyong out, but seeing his sheepish demeanor, she understood he wasn't a traitor; he had acted cowardly and pretended to be a waiter to probe for information!

She couldn't help but come over to scold and hit the guy.

Then, she snatched the banknotes from his hand.

She had intended to just throw them away but, after a thought, four or five thousand wasn't a negligible amount, and she felt it would be wasteful to discard it, so she pocketed it herself.

Wang Chaoyong watched Chen Jiahui's actions, his lips quivered a few times, wanting to say the money was his, but intimidated by her fierce glare, he faltered and dared not speak.

Afterward, they went back downstairs to report the situation to Old Master Chen.

"I see."

Old Master Chen's face darkened, and he said no more.

Because by the time Chen Jiahui had come down, the most sought-after eldest granddaughter of the Xu Family of the Four Major Families, Xu Qingya, had already gone up in the elevator.

In addition to Jiang Wangchuan's most beloved daughter, Jiang Huaimeng.

The mysterious person who had commandeered their grand banquet hall for their birthday party had attracted so many significant figures!

How could he dare to gossip about it now?

Who exactly are they?!

Old Master Chen muttered to himself incessantly in his heart.

At this moment, he also couldn't help feeling the urge to ignore his own partner's birthday feast and sneak a peek at the neighbor's event, to see who exactly they were!

However, Old Master Chen feared that doing so would result in his partner breaking his legs, so he didn't dare to take action!

Chapter 295: Comparing with Others Can Drive You Crazy!

Time passed slowly.

By the time it was six fifty.

Despite the Chen Family People's efforts to round everyone up, there were still some who weren't tempted to join the hubbub in the grand banquet hall but chose to obediently sit in their assigned seats at the smaller banquet room.

Even so, the smaller banquet room, which was initially set for over twenty tables and even squeezed in a few more out of fear that there might not be enough seating, was now only hosting four or five tables of guests.

Of course, these four or five tables of guests weren't unaware of the festivities next door; it's just that they were poor relatives of the Chen family. Even if they went over, they wouldn't be able to mingle with the important guests or gain any benefits.

Therefore, they dutifully sat on the Chen Family's banquet side, waiting to eat.

The large small banquet hall now seemed eerily empty and quiet, completely lacking the festive and joyous atmosphere of a sixtieth birthday celebration.

Now, even twenty tables seemed too many.

Grandma Chen was so angry that her face turned steel blue. She slammed her walking stick on the ground several times, saying, "They actually dare to humiliate me like this. They all came and... and..."

She meant to say even if everyone wanted to join the excitement next door, they should have at least left their Birthday Gifts—taking even the gifts with them was going too far!

But voicing this complaint might offend the crowd, potentially driving away the four or five tables of poor relatives still seated.

Then what would be the point of her birthday celebration?

However, the more Grandma Chen thought about it, the angrier she got and the harder it was to get over this hurdle.

"I've never suffered such an insult; I want to go over there and demand justice!"

As she spoke, Grandma Chen, using her walking stick, walked out of the small banquet hall and headed towards the nearby grand banquet hall.

Seeing this, Chen Jiahui and others worried she might cause a scene. After exchanging glances, they quickly followed her out.

As they approached the entrance to the grand banquet hall, they could already hear the boisterous noise from inside.

Who gave what...

Listening at the door, Grandma Chen's face darkened. She felt that some of the gifts being announced inside were meant to be Birthday Gifts for her!

The proverbial duck that was in hand had taken flight!

Thinking this, Grandma Chen pushed open the doors of the grand banquet hall and walked in!

"The president of Jiang Group, Ms. Jiang Huaimeng, has given each of the Misses Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia a pair of Jade Bracelets!"

Just as they opened the door, they heard the announcer's voice and the atmosphere heated up even more.

Chen Jiahui also walked in, looking up at the stage where the emcee revealed the gift boxes containing the two transparent and lustrous, intensely green bracelets!

Her eyes widened in astonishment.

Chen Jiahui had some knowledge about jade and recognized at a glance that the pair of Jade Bracelets Jiang Huaimeng had given were of pure quality, without a hint of impurity—genuine natural Green Emperor Jadeite, where one wouldn't be able to get their hands on a single one for less than a hundred million!

And it was a pair, which likely meant an even more astronomical price!

Could Jiang Huaimeng actually be giving these to Lin Qiaoxia?!

At this thought, Chen Jiahui felt an insane jealousy coursing through her.

Meanwhile, Lin Qiaoxia, dressed in an elegant and noble gown and looking stunningly beautiful under the spotlight, covered her mouth in shock upon hearing the price mentioned by Mu Jinyu.

"This is too expensive, I can't accept it!"

With flushed cheeks, Lin Qiaoxia dared not meet the envious gazes of those around her as she whispered to Mu Jinyu.

Under the repeated exhortations of Mu Jinyu, she finally wore the evening gown Mu Jinyu gave her tonight, and took off the large black glasses she had always worn; she was like Cinderella transforming into Snow White. In such an occasion, her beauty actually surpassed that of Gu Xiyan and the other women by a considerable margin!

This made her feel especially embarrassed and awkward. If it weren't for Mu Jinyu pulling her along, she would have run away long ago.

And now, hearing Mu Jinyu say that the Green Emperor Jadeite Bracelet Jiang Huaimeng gave her was worth over a hundred million, she was even more reluctant to accept it.

Mu Jinyu took Lin Qiaoxia's hand and received the gift box respectfully presented by the waiter, directly taking out one of the jade bracelets and, under the envious gaze of the waiter, put it on Lin Qiaoxia's wrist.

Then, following the same method, she grabbed Yu Linglong's hand and put one on her as well.

Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, along with the other women, stood by with eyes full of envy.

Gu Xiyan and the others had dressed down tonight so as not to outshine Yu Linglong and the others.

Seeing so many people there to celebrate Yu Linglong's birthday, it was natural for her to feel envious in her heart.

Thus, she was also thinking about what kind of celebration Mu Jinyu would organize for her own birthday next time.

Lin Qiaoxia's parents were seated at the main table nearby, looking at this scene with joy, yet deep in their eyes there was a thick layer of worry.

After coming here, they had also become aware that Mu Jinyu wasn't single; he already had several women.

As parents, deep down, they didn't want Lin Qiaoxia to continue associating with Mu Jinyu, in case she truly fell for him.

At the same time, they also didn't understand why Gu Xiyan and the other women were willing to be with Mu Jinyu together and why their parents didn't oppose it.

But after getting to know the backgrounds of Mei Yingxue, Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and others, realizing Mei Yingxue and Wen Rou had no parents or relatives, and that Gu Xiyan had long severed ties with the Gu Family, they began to understand.

Seeing that these women got along quite happily, without any noticeable jealousy or competition for favor, they were somewhat reassured.

Then they thought, a daughter couldn't be kept at home once she's grown. They couldn't really control her anymore; a child's fortune is their own, and as long as their daughter didn't regret it in the future, it was enough!

As for Yu Linglong's father, Yu Xiuwen, if it had been his former temperament, Mu Jinyu wouldn't have let him attend, but since he had sincerely changed his ways, Mu Jinyu had allowed him to come over tonight.

And he was seated with Lin Qiaoxia's parents at the main table.

He watched Yu Linglong, who had once again shone with unmatched radiance, no longer the dusty pearl of the previous days, and he regretted even more the folly that had once gripped him, dragging down his daughter.

And with his current mindset, he naturally wouldn't think, "Wow, a jade bracelet worth over a hundred million! I could sell it and gamble for a good while."

Yu Xiuwen thought that if he dared to even entertain such a thought, his legs would definitely be broken by his son-in-law Mu Jinyu. He did not doubt Mu Jinyu's resolve at all.

At this moment, the emcee on the stage continued to announce the next gift.

"Mr. Xiang Mantang presents to both Miss Yu Linglong and Miss Lin Qiaoxia villas number two and three of Seaview Garden..."

Upon hearing the emcee's words, the entire venue immediately erupted.

"Wow, villas number two and three from Seaview Garden, that's some serious cash."

"Tsk tsk, those villas in Seaview Garden, this birthday party for the two young ladies tonight feels even more impressive than someone's grand eightieth birthday celebration from a while ago!"

Villas in Seaview Garden are considered high-end residential areas in River City. The King of the Building, villa number one, is priced at over a billion. While numbers two and three are not the King of the Building, they are also valued at seven to eight hundred million!

Who knows who it is, so generous to give a gift nearing twenty billion!

And upon hearing this, Grandma Chen who had come to make accusations was suddenly short of breath, and no longer dared to be reckless.

She thought, everyone was celebrating birthdays in the same way, and she had just celebrated her sixty-sixth birthday. The best Birthday Gift she had received was a jade bracelet worth three thousand yuan from a poor relative. It was not even comparable to the mansions mentioned by Xiang Mantang, let alone the Green Emperor Jadeite previously given by Jiang Huaimeng!

Comparing oneself to others could really be maddening!

Chapter 296 Hurry up and bring out the meeting gift!

Upon hearing the announcer's declaration, not only were Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong shocked, but even Jiang Huaimeng, Xu Qingya and others who had just given gifts worth dozens of millions to billions, also found it unbelievable.

This kind of birthday gift, given the financial backing of the Xu Family and Jiang Family, wasn't something they couldn't afford, but it was unnecessary.

Because tonight's birthday protagonists, Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong, had no significant ties to Mu Jinyu. Representing their families by giving gifts worth tens of millions to billions was already a huge face-giving gesture to Mu Jinyu.

Giving a gift worth tens of billions was completely unnecessary.

Unless it was Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, or Mei Yinxue's birthday.

Only then would Xu Tianzheng and Jiang Wangchuan send a costly gift to further their relations with Mu Jinyu.

So, after hearing the announcer's words, they, as well as representatives from other prominent families who came with gifts, all thought to themselves, 'Who is this fool? Thinking that Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia are Mu Jinyu's women too?'

However, having met Xiang Mantang once, Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, while surprised by the announcer's declaration, did not find it too hard to accept.

After meeting Xiang Mantang, they knew at first glance that he was no ordinary person and were not surprised by his financial power.

Nevertheless, for Xiang Mantang, Mu Jinyu's junior, to give each of them a villa worth seven or eight-hundred million, they were not jealous, but they did feel somewhat envious and slightly sour.

They weren't envious of the gift's value, but of Yu Linglong receiving recognition from Xiang Mantang.

They had met Xiang Mantang, and although he had promised them a meeting gift, he had yet to deliver. They said it wasn't necessary, but seeing that Yu Linglong and others received gifts made them feel rather uncomfortable, thinking that Xiang Mantang did not acknowledge them as his sisters-in-law.

Therefore, they sat there, looking at Mu Jinyu standing in front, and gave him several stern glares, starting to sulk.

Mu Jinyu hadn't noticed these reactions, but was surprised about when Xiang Mantang had arrived. He had not seen Xiang Mantang when he had arrived at the banquet hall and had called him several times to ask when he would return.

The latter had mentioned traffic and that he might be delayed by an hour or two.

After that, the birthday banquet began, and Mu Jinyu put the matter aside and started celebrating the birthdays with Yu Linglong and the others.

Later, he saw some people sneaking into the grand banquet hall trying to freeload and network with his friends; in a fit of irritation, he asked the announcer to declare everyone's gifts to the public.

Seeing this group, still shameless enough to freeload?

Consequently, those who initially wanted to give small, inexpensive gifts and just familiarize themselves with the Xu Family and Jiang Family had no choice but to painfully hand over gifts worth tens to hundreds of thousands!

Seeing these strangers showing expressions of distress, Mu Jinyu felt very pleased.

And then, upon hearing that Xiang Mantang had given a gift of almost two billion worth of mansion, he realized that Xiang Mantang had already arrived.

But where was Xiang Mantang?

Mu Jinyu turned around, searching for Xiang Mantang's figure.

"Senior brother, I'm here, no need to look anymore."

As Mu Jinyu turned around, the clear voice of Xiang Mantang suddenly came from behind him.

Mu Jinyu immediately turned his head and saw the familiar face of Xiang Mantang.

He then went over and punched him, cursing, "You kid showing up so late, I thought you were scared of giving gifts again and deliberately arrived late so I wouldn't receive your gift, and you could save some money, right?"

"Ah..." Mu Jinyu sighed lightly and said, "I thought I was quite stingy myself, but it turns out that you, who used to be quite generous, are getting stingier!"

"Me, stingy?!" Xiang Mantang raised an eyebrow in dissatisfaction when he heard Mu Jinyu's complaint and said, "I've given away two luxury mansions, totaling sixteen billion, and I'm still stingy?"

"Of course." Mu Jinyu shook his head, his expression disappointed, and then pointed to a few people who had originally come to wish Chen Jiahui's grandmother a happy birthday, and said, "Do you see those people? I don't even know them. Looking at their restrained appearance, they probably make just over a hundred thousand a year, right? But they have just given a pair of Jade Ruyis worth over twenty thousand—pretty generous, huh?"

As he spoke, he looked at Xiang Mantang with a dissatisfied expression and said, "And you, making a few hundred billion a year, not to mention giving it all away, but giving a hundred and eighty billion should be expected, and yet you only gave a dozen billion, isn't that stingy?!"

"Ah, if they had that fortune, they would definitely give me ten contiguous villas!"

Mu Jinyu had no idea that the Jade Ruyis and other gifts they were giving were not meant for Yu Linglong and the others; they were meant for someone's grandmother's grand sixty-sixth birthday, otherwise they wouldn't have agonized over preparing such expensive gifts.

But he misunderstood them as being generous.

Who knows whether they would cry or laugh if they knew that this was Mu Jinyu's impression of them.

When Xiang Mantang heard what Mu Jinyu said, he was so upset he almost spat blood, glaring at Mu Jinyu irritably and saying, "I'm telling you, big brother, aren't you being too greedy? I don't make that much money in a year, and you expect me to always give such generous gifts? After giving some to my future sisters-in-law, wouldn't I be working just to give you gifts?"

"Isn't that expected?" Mu Jinyu said with a light laugh.

As he spoke, something seemed to come to his mind, and he said, "Eh, these two mansions you gave, why do they sound familiar?"

"Of course you've heard of it," Xiang Mantang said somewhat speechlessly, "because the SeaView Garden Number One Building King, worth over ten billion, is in your hands!"

"Oh, right." Reminded, Mu Jinyu suddenly recalled the Building King he had gotten from Wang Zhengbiao a month ago.

He hardly ever went there, so he even forgot the name of the villa area.

"So, are you saying there was a deeper meaning in giving them these two mansions?"

Mu Jinyu pondered and asked Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang nodded slightly, saying meaningfully, "Yes, they are only potential sisters-in-law now, right? I specially gave them these two mansions so they could be your neighbors and you could hide your beauty in the golden house."

Mu Jinyu said, "But you just blurted out the name of the villa area, how can I hide my beauty in the golden house now?"

Xiang Mantang shrugged and said, "That's something you need to consider, big brother. It has nothing to do with me."

At this moment, the waiter also brought down the keys to the villas and the property deeds, handing them to Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia.

But they dared not accept them, as they were too valuable.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu had no choice but to take them himself and then stuffed the keys and property deeds into their purses.

Ignoring the girls' resistance, Mu Jinyu noticed the upset expressions of Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, and an idea struck him. He turned to Xiang Mantang and said, "Hey Ah-Xiang, have you seen the expressions on your two future sisters-in-law? Aren't you going to bring out the gifts you owe?"

Chapter 297 Sending the Child

Gu Xiyan, who originally did not show much change in expression besides a slight gloom in her eyes, and Wen Rou, became somewhat panicked upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

Wen Rou hastily waved her hands and said, "I didn't, I'm not, don't talk nonsense..."

Gu Xiyan fiercely glared at Mu Jinyu and said, "Junior Brother, don't listen to your Senior Brother's nonsense. We didn't say that..."

Although they said this, they were insincere, looking at Xiang Mantang beside Mu Jinyu, there was still a hint of expectation in their eyes.

"Of course, I brought gifts for the occasion, I haven't forgotten."

Xiang Mantang nodded to Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou as a greeting, then called Liu Mei over to deliver the gifts he had prepared.

They were several sets of evening gowns and high heels.

The fabric of the evening gowns was not only extremely expensive, but the design was also very lavish and exquisite. Gu Xiyan could see, at a glance, that these gowns were adorned with a significant number of diamonds.

The most extravagant gown had over seven hundred diamonds, totalling 1100 carats. Gu Xiyan roughly estimated that this gown alone was worth at least thirty million dollars.

It must have been custom-made by a well-known designer for one of them.

This was one of the most luxurious and noble evening gowns.

As for the others, although they didn't have as many diamonds as that one, they were each equally breathtaking, with styles that were either graceful or pure, clearly indicating that the designer did not make these with quantity in mind, but tailored them according to their individual temperaments.

So, even though there were fewer diamonds, their value was by no means less than that of the most lavish gown.

The high heels were just as special, with crystal-like surfaces embellished with extremely rare large pink and blue diamonds, and also accented with four flawless white diamonds of 3 carats each.

The pattern of the shoes was an Arab-style jasmine design, and these high heels were made by hundreds of workers who spent several hours sewing with 18-carat gold thread entirely by hand.

"Wow, so beautiful!"

Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Mei Yinxue were all bedazzled by the evening gowns and high heels, their eyes glowing as they stared without being able to look away.

Then, Liu Mei carefully folded these gowns and high heels, placed them into bags, and handed them individually to Mei Yinxue and the others.

The most magnificent and noble one, studded with over seven hundred diamonds, naturally belonged to Mei Yinxue.

Only she could pull off such an imposing and grand evening gown. Others, like Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, or Lin Qiaoxia, simply couldn't handle it.

If they were to wear such a gown, it would be a humiliation, making them look as if a little girl insisted on wearing her mother's clothes.

The evening gowns tailored for Gu Xiyan and the others reflected their temperaments more appropriately, not overly showy. Although the price did not match up to Mei Yinxue's, they were more to their liking.

"Isn't this a bit expensive?!"

Gu Xiyan estimated that her own set of evening gown and high heels was worth well over two hundred million and felt that giving such an expensive gift for a first meeting, although delightful, seemed somewhat inappropriate.

"There's nothing inappropriate about it. If you don't want it, I'll just give it to someone else," Mu Jinyu retorted, treating Xiang Mantang's gift as if it were his own. Hearing Gu Xiyan's hesitancy and struggle, he almost immediately tried to take it from her to give to someone else.

"You dare!"

Gu Xiyan glared at Mu Jinyu, then hugged her evening gown and high heels tight, not giving Mu Jinyu a chance to take them away.

All the women present, including Jiang Huaimeng, Xu Qingya, and Chen Jiahui, who had originally planned to make a scene, looked at their evening dresses with eyes filled with intense envy.

Xiang Mantang watched Mu Jinyu and Gu Xiyan playing around and smiled, "Sister-in-law, are you satisfied with the dress and high heels?"

It wasn't just a question for Gu Xiyan, but also for Wen Rou and Mei Yinxue.

Mei Yinxue, although she had not met Xiang Mantang before, had heard about him from Mu Jinyu. Hearing Xiang Mantang's words, she also nodded gently, "I like them very much."

Her expression was still calm. After all, she was no longer a little girl, having seen too many storms; the meet-and-greet gift from Xiang Mantang, despite being valuable and to her liking, couldn't elicit too much excitement from her.

After all, she could buy them herself if she wanted to, and the significance wasn't nearly as much as the platinum necklace Mu Jinyu gave her, which was only worth several thousand yuan.

Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou also nodded gently. Seeing Mu Jinyu telling them to accept it, they thanked Xiang Mantang.

"As long as you like them," Xiang Mantang said with a smile and a nod.

The reason he gave gifts like this to Gu Xiyan and the others, rather than villas like the ones Lin Qiaoxia received, was first, not to outshine the hosts, since today was Lin Qiaoxia's birthday party.

Secondly, since they lived with Mu Jinyu, giving them villas also wouldn't make much sense.

And for Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong, who were now not very rich, a villa clearly made a much better gift than dresses and high heels.

After speaking, Xiang Mantang saw Gu Xiyan hinting Mu Jinyu with her eyes and had an idea. He offered his help, "Senior brother, you have been with your sister-in-law for some time now. I don't know what kind of gifts you've given them. It would be good for me to have a reference for their next birthdays."

"Uh..." Mu Jinyu, hearing Xiang Mantang's words, thought about what gifts he had given to Gu Xiyan and the others, but couldn't remember anything noteworthy.

It seemed that he had not given them a single gift, right?

"Senior brother, from the way you look, could it be that you have never given a gift to your sister-in-law?" Xiang Mantang teased him upon seeing his reaction.

He thought to himself, really wondering how such a straight-shooting guy like his senior brother managed to woo so many sisters-in-law.

Mu Jinyu, feeling the reproachful gaze of Gu Xiyan, felt a tingling sensation in his scalp and hurriedly said, "How is that possible? I've tried to give them gifts many times; I just never succeeded in doing so."

"What gift did you give me? I don't recall at all," Gu Xiyan questioned Mu Jinyu's evasion, knowing that she should save his face in front of others, but still couldn't help herself.

Mu Jinyu turned his head away, not daring to look at her, and chuckled, "My child! It's just that the gifts were never successfully given."

"Mu Jinyu, you're looking for trouble!"

Gu Xiyan's cheeks flushed with shame; she stood up and came over to punch Mu Jinyu with her small fists.

Really, this guy was too much, saying such things in front of so many people; she was utterly embarrassed!

"Okay, okay, no more hitting. I will make up for the gift right now." Mu Jinyu raised his hands to fend off Gu Xiyan's punches while taking out two small boxes from his pocket.

He then opened them, revealing platinum necklaces inside, much similar to the one given to Mei Yinxue.

Seeing Mu Jinyu take out the gifts, Gu Xiyan slowly stopped her punches, her eyes lighting up as she stared intently at the necklace in Mu Jinyu's hands.

"How about it, do you like it?"

Mu Jinyu, seeing the look on Gu Xiyan's face, secretly breathed a sigh of relief. Thankfully, Mei Yinxue had been hinting at him to give her a small gift under the pretense of Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, so he had bought a few extra items; otherwise, this moment would have been difficult to navigate.

Chapter 298: You've already come, why bring so many gifts?

Gu Xiyan looked at the necklace in Mu Jinyu's hands with surprise and excitement, glanced at Mu Jinyu, and finally nodded her head gently, replying, "Mm."

This was the first time Mu Jinyu had given her a gift, and it was done proactively without any hints from her, which made her exceptionally excited. The evening gown and high heels Xiang Mantang had sent her were now completely forgotten.

They no longer caught her attention.

Originally, after receiving the welcoming gift from Xiang Mantang, Gu Xiyan had planned to subtly hint Mu Jinyu to give her a gift too once she got home. It wasn't about the value of the gift but the thought behind it.

But to her delight and emotion, Mu Jinyu had already prepared ahead of time, which made her very happy.

However, if she knew that it was Mei Yinxue who had hinted to Mu Jinyu first before he went to buy it, she probably wouldn't have been so moved.

Mu Jinyu secretly breathed a sigh of relief, then said to Gu Xiyan, "I'm glad you like it. Let me put it on for you."

"Okay." Gu Xiyan nodded obediently, no longer feeling the urge to punch Mu Jinyu that she had felt before.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu put the necklace on for Gu Xiyan. The silvery-white necklace shimmered with an enchanting luster under the light, complementing Gu Xiyan's pale and delicate neck and her petite collarbone, enhancing her beauty.

Then Mu Jinyu also put one on for Wen Rou.

As for Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong, since they weren't his women, it wasn't appropriate for him to help them put it on, so he simply handed it to them.

They were also thrilled to receive the gifts in their hands.

Previously, when Xiang Mantang had given them a mansion worth nearly a billion yuan, they didn't show such expressions but were trembling and hesitant to accept it.

The people present observed this scene and, aside from the very few who were unaware of Mu Jinyu's identity and disdained the gesture,

no one thought that the necklace Mu Jinyu gave, worth several thousand yuan, was inferior to the over-billion-yuan gown and high heels from Xiang Mantang.

Because it was from Mu Jinyu.

Besides, since the parties involved didn't show any dissatisfaction, others dared not gossip too much about it!

However, Chen Jiahui, who was a classmate of Lin Qiaoxia's, felt envious and couldn't help but mutter quietly, "What's there to be happy about? It can't compare to the mansion and evening dress they were given!"

Chen Jiahui's voice was very soft, obviously not wanting to be noticed, but she had forgotten that in the silent banquet hall where one could hear a pin drop, her soft voice was basically heard by everyone.

Suddenly, everyone turned their heads in unison, looking at her.

"Who is this woman? I haven't seen her before!"

"Maybe she's like those people who just came on their own to join in?"

"That must be it, but she has guts to say something like that, truly admirable!"

"..."

Chen Jiahui, upon seeing that everyone had turned their gaze toward her, showing pity and regret, was suddenly startled, realizing she had misspoken and might have big trouble coming her way.

The Old Master of the Chen Family and her grandmother, seeing that everyone was looking at them, also felt their scalps tingle and scolded Chen Jiahui with their eyes for speaking out of turn.

Mu Jinyu, who had just finished giving gifts to Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong, heard the disdainful and sour voice, frowned slightly, then turned around, following the sound, and looked towards the group standing by the door from the Chen Family.

Upon seeing Chen Jiahui and Wang Chaoyong, he immediately understood that the sour words must have been spoken by this woman.

Mu Jinyu's brows furrowed briefly before she relaxed and said with a smile, "Isn't this Qiaoxia's college classmate? Are you here to attend her birthday celebration as well? Come over, come over."

Following Mu Jinyu's invitation, a waiter brought the Chen family members, who were trembling with apprehension, to a table near theirs.

Suddenly, all eyes were on them.

Old Master Chen and his wife were still unaware of the minor grudge between their granddaughter and today's Birthday Girl. Upon learning that their granddaughter was acquainted, they were overjoyed, thinking this was an excellent opportunity to connect with these great families, soar to the heavens, replace the Old Chen Family, and become the new Four Great Families of River City.

When they arrived, they were a bit disgruntled with their granddaughter. "Look at you, you already know them but didn't tell us, really!"

Chen Jiahui was too embarrassed to tell them about her small feud with Lin Qiaoxia, so she followed with a hardened face. Then, looking at the radiant Lin Qiaoxia, she forced a slight smile and said, "Qiaoxia, happy birthday... "

"Hmm, thank you," Lin Qiaoxia also smiled, though not as warmly.

Mu Jinyu then laughed and said, "Ah, look at you guys, you're all Qiaoxia's classmates. Now that you're here, why bring gifts!"

As she spoke, she didn't snatch the Birthday Gift that Chen Jiahui held in her hand, planning to give it to Grandma Chen once the birthday banquet started, but her gaze intensely fixed on it.

Mu Jinyu did not initiate a gift-giving for Lin Qiaoxia's sumptuous birthday banquet tonight. It was only when more and more strangers appeared that he couldn't outright send them away, so he used the pretext of gift-giving to urge them to leave.

The only people from whom he would actively accept gifts were two types, acquaintances and enemies.

Acquaintances, of course, are close friends like Xiang Mantang, with whom one could directly ask for a gift without any harm.

Enemies, since there's already enmity, why fear damaging feelings?

Seeing Mu Jinyu's undisguised "greedy" gaze, Chen Jiahui's hand reflexively retracted, about to say that the gift was for her grandma, not Lin Qiaoxia.

Her grandmother saw this and didn't think much of it, assuming it was the birthday gift Chen Jiahui had prepared for Lin Qiaoxia. She hastily grabbed it and, with a sycophantic smile on her face, said, "What's there to be shy about? The gift might not be great, but it's the thought that counts. Qiaoxia won't blame you for it."

Then, her grandmother proactively handed Mu Jinyu the Birthday Gift.

Lin Qiaoxia stood aside, feeling weird; she thought that given her relationship with Chen Jiahui, the latter wouldn't gift her something, let alone prepare it beforehand.

Mu Jinyu, however, didn't care about all that. Since the gift was presented to him, he took it and unwrapped it to reveal a Shoushan stone sculpture of a Maitreya Buddha with eight characters engraved at the bottom: "As Fortunate as the Eastern Sea, Longevity as Enduring as the Southern Mountains."

Upon seeing the Jade Buddha, Chen Jiahui's grandma's heart skipped a beat.

This Jade Buddha was not cheap. With that size and quality, it had to be upwards of thirty thousand yuan.

Moreover, who would give such a gift to a friend for a birthday? It was odd...

She began to suspect that this gift might have been the Birthday Gift Chen Jiahui was preparing for her own sixtieth birthday!

Her scrutinizing gaze shifted to Chen Jiahui, who was beside herself with guilt. Upon receiving a nod in confirmation, she suddenly felt the world spinning.

What a calamity, the Birthday Gift her granddaughter meant for her had been given away by her own hands!

Mu Jinyu glanced at the Jade Buddha a few times, finding it uninteresting, but since it was a kind gesture, he accepted it and handed it to Lin Qiaoxia to keep. Then he turned to Chen Jiahui's parents.

And to the several bags they were carrying.

Those also contained Birthday Gifts they planned to give to Grandma Chen but were afraid of leaving in the small banquet hall, lest the poor relatives take them, so they carried them along.

Mu Jinyu's eyes shifted, then he complained, "Ah, really, if you're going to come, just come, why bring so many gifts! This one is for Linglong's birthday gift, right?"

Chapter 299: Lost His Wife and Lost His Troops!

Chen Jiahui's parents, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's extremely polite words, almost fainted.

What the heck, this is the birthday gift I prepared for our mom's grand sixty-sixth birthday, a gift for you?!

They looked at Mu Jinyu's radiant smile, really wanting to question him, "Do you have no shame? Who pressures others for gifts like this?"

But under the watchful eyes of everyone, they felt like nails were on their backs, especially knowing that Mu Jinyu was no ordinary person. Though they wanted to complain, they dared not challenge him or admit they didn't prepare any gift at all.

If they dared to say so, they would probably be beaten out with sticks by people called by Mu Jinyu!

That would completely humiliate them.

Hence, after hesitating for a moment, Chen Jiahui's parents eventually chose to swallow their pride, ignored the angry glares from their elderly mother beside them, and, with forced smiles, handed the gift to Mu Jinyu, saying, "Yes, just a little token of..."

Standing aside, Yu Linglong, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words and seeing Chen Jiahui's parents' distressed expressions, couldn't help but chuckle.

She understood there must be some grudges between them, otherwise Mu Jinyu wouldn't go so far as to put them in such a spot.

Mu Jinyu generously accepted the gift bag handed over by Chen Jiahui's parents and violently ripped it open, revealing a scroll of calligraphy inside.

After looking at it for a few moments, he nodded and said, "Hmm, it's an original, not bad, worth probably tens of thousands."

After assessing it, Mu Jinyu handed the scroll to Yu Linglong, saying, "Here, your birthday gift."

Yu Linglong caught it, feeling somewhat odd. It was clearly coerced from others, yet he spoke as if he was gifting it himself.

Meanwhile, Grandma Chen, seeing the scroll, looked like she was about to breathe fire.

She recognized it as an original from her favorite artist, depicting longevity peaches. Previously, her son had mentioned he might buy it for her, which she thought was too expensive and unlikely for her son to purchase.

Unexpectedly, her son had indeed bought it, planning to give it to her as a gift for her sixty-sixth birthday!

But what she didn't anticipate was that the gift wouldn't end up in her hands but in those of unrelated people!

Seeing this, Grandma Chen felt so aggrieved she could spit blood.

She felt steam rising from her head in anger.

It was just her sixty-sixth birthday, how could it be so difficult? Not only had the young girl stolen all the spotlight, but even the granddaughter's gift had been handed over by her own hands to someone else.

How suffocating!

Then, using the same excuse, her son and daughter-in-law's intended gift was given to Yu Linglong, who had absolutely no relation to them.

Giving the gift to Lin Qiaoxia, there was at least some vague student relationship with their granddaughter, and the two to three thousand worth Shoushan Stone Buddhist figure pinched her heart, but she felt it was worth it if it could bring them closer!

But what about Yu Linglong? And the gift was a scroll worth tens of thousands!

Chen Jiahui's father, seeing his elderly mother trembling as if unable to bear the shock and about to faint, hurriedly came over to console her, "Mom, don't be angry, it's just a thing worth tens of thousands, it's nothing. As long as we use this opportunity to connect with them and cooperate with the people present, isn't the money going to come back to us in a few days? Don't be upset..."

Thinking this way, Grandma Chen felt it made sense and decided not to be too upset; she just planned on attending her own birthday banquet, letting Mu Jinyu help them arrange a table, and then slowly mingling with the people in the banquet hall afterward.

Especially with the Jiang and Xu Families' young ladies, she couldn't miss the chance to make connections.

Having just earned some favor in front of Mu Jinyu, they should give them some face, and with just a little leak from their hands, wouldn't their tens and hundreds of thousands be deposited into their accounts in minutes?

Not a bad deal at all!

Grandma Chen was forcibly consoling herself and was about to ask Mu Jinyu to arrange a table for them!

However, they hadn't even spoken yet.

At that moment.

The ringtone of Chen Jiahui's father's phone suddenly went off.

He took out his phone and hesitated for a moment before answering it.

"Hello, what's going on with Uncle Six? You guys go ahead and eat!"

The venue was noisy, and after answering the call, Chen Jiahui's father shouted a few times before switching to speaker mode, and suddenly the loud voice of Uncle Six boomed out.

"Hello, are you still having the birthday banquet or not? We've been waiting for half a day now, and the banquet hasn't started. Where has everyone gone?"

Chen Jiahui's father was about to explain to Uncle Six, asking him to stay calm and that he would arrange the banquet shortly; they could just eat slowly on the side.

But when Mu Jinyu heard Uncle Six's voice, he raised his eyebrows in surprise and said, "Ah?! So you're also having a birthday celebration tonight, oh no, I mean, a birthday banquet!"

When Chen Jiahui and Wang Chaoyong heard Mu Jinyu say this, they immediately felt a pang of dread, sensing trouble brewing.

Sure enough.

Mu Jinyu continued, "Then, I truly apologize for keeping you too long. We won't hold you up then, take care, and happy birthday!"

Mu Jinyu didn't even know whose birthday banquet it was, nor did he care; he casually wished them a happy birthday without planning to give them a birthday gift and then called out:

"Ah-Biao, see the guests out!"

As soon as he finished speaking.

The imposing Wang Zhengbiao, clad in a suit that was nearly bursting at the seams, walked over and with a cold voice gestured to the stunned Chen Family and said:

"This way, please!"

The Chen Family members, still dazed, really wanted to say, "We're not prepared to celebrate the big six-six birthday; we'd like to stay for a meal!"

But intimidated by Wang Zhengbiao's gaze, they swallowed their saliva. In the end, they obediently followed Wang Zhengbiao and left the banquet hall! The source of this content is Nov31Fire.net

As soon as the door closed, the festivities inside had nothing to do with them!

After the Chen Family left, Grandma Chen, still a bit confused, suddenly realized something and jumped up furiously, cursing, "Damn it, they didn't give us a return gift!"

"Exactly, what kind of people are these? Even if we were celebrating a big birthday, he took so many gifts from us, shouldn't he give something in return?"

Chen Jiahui's parents, as well as her grandfather, also caught on and were furious!

Then, they turned their eyes toward the shivering Chen Jiahui and Wang Chaoyong, their looks menacing as they demanded sternly, "Speak up, what exactly happened? Aren't you supposed to be classmates with them?"

Chen Jiahui had no choice but to admit that her relationship with Lin Qiaoxia was not good.

The Chen Family, upon hearing this, rolled their eyes and almost passed out.

Shit, so you had beef with them? Why didn't you say so earlier? We wouldn't have bothered planning for the big six-six birthday, shamelessly staying back trying to connect with them.

And fuck, the birthday gift was already sent out, but we didn't get anything in return, not even a chance to familiarize our faces!

Chapter 300: Is Su Zijin Getting Married?!

The sadness of the Chen Family People was quickly dismissed by Mu Jinyu after Wang Zhengbiao had sent them away.

Mu Jinyu couldn't be bothered to care whether they would fight afterwards or not.

How was that his business?

He had always been a stingy person; if Chen Jiahui and others dared to slander Lin Qiaoxia with baseless accusations and he hadn't caught up with it, he wouldn't have bothered to deal with Chen Jiahui either.

But since they took the initiative to bring gifts, shamelessly trying to foster a relationship, he naturally wouldn't be polite and accepted all the gifts they sent as per the list.

And since they had a big celebration to prepare for, there was no need to keep them around any longer, saving him the eyesore and the waste of drinks.

By the side, Xiang Mantang watched Mu Jinyu's maneuvers, and after being stunned for a while, blinked and gave Mu Jinyu a thumbs-up, clicking his tongue in admiration, "Senior brother is truly amazing. I really can't match that thick skin."

"Of course, you should learn from me more in the future," Mu Jinyu said, accepting Xiang Mantang's teasing as a compliment.

Xiang Mantang: "..."

Gu Xiyan and the other girls standing by couldn't help but giggle.

Later, seeing that no one else seemed to be coming to offer gifts anymore, Mu Jinyu said to Xiang Mantang and Lin Qiaoxia and the others, "Let's go, let's go back to our seats to eat, I'm starving."

The group followed Mu Jinyu's arrangement and sat at the main table closest to the stage.

This table was very large, capable of seating more than twenty people, but there were only a few who were qualified to sit there.

Only the parents of Lin Qiaoxia, the father of Yu Linglong, and the two birthday stars of the day, Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong, along with Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Mei Yinxue, the three women with a deep relationship with Mu Jinyu, were present.

The last ones were Xu Qingya and Jiang Huaimeng, representing the Xu Family and Jiang Family to celebrate their birthdays.

And finally, Xiang Mantang, who arrived last.

Only these twelve people sat there, and even the Chief of Staff of the Governor of River City was not invited by Mu Jinyu to this table.

If it were Gu Xiyan or Wen Rou's birthdays, there would probably be more people than this. Xu Tianzheng and Jiang Wangchuan would not rely on their status and send juniors, but would come personally. This text is hosted at Novel-Fire.net

And due to their relationship with Mu Jinyu, they too would likely be squeezed onto this table.

The banquet soon began.

Mu Jinyu and the others began to eat and drink.

Xiang Mantang sat next to Mu Jinyu, turned his head and saw him dealing with the lobster with a somewhat distracted expression, and whispered, "Do you feel like someone else is missing?"

"Hmm?" Mu Jinyu, hearing Xiang Mantang's words, refocused and then mulled over it for a moment before replying faintly, "Who's missing? It's just the right number of people."

Xiang Mantang, while using a ladle to scoop Buddha Jumps Over the Wall, continued to speak to himself, "She didn't come not because she doesn't want to come back, or because she doesn't consider them part of the family and thus relies on her status to avoid coming. It's because..."

While Xiang Mantang continued to speak, Mu Jinyu's expression darkened. He had planned to stuff a piece of lobster meat into his mouth to shut him up, but upon hearing the end, he paused, also curious about the reason.

But after his lips moved a few times, he didn't ask, thinking to let Xiang Mantang continue on his own.

However, after waiting for a while, Xiang Mantang did not speak anymore.

This annoyed Mu Jinyu so much that he really wanted to take the Buddha Jumps Over the Wall, which had been simmered slowly over twelve hours in front of him, and smash it on his head!

Unable to hold back any longer, Mu Jinyu finally asked impatiently, "Because of what?"

Xiang Mantang chewed the food in his mouth carefully, smiling inside but not making a sound. After a good while, he swallowed his food and, seeing that Mu Jinyu was about to lose his temper, he spoke evenly:

"Because she's getting married."

As soon as the words fell.

"Clang."

The spoon in Mu Jinyu's hand dropped directly onto the bone plate, making a loud crisp sound.

The people who were eating turned their heads upon hearing the noise, curious about what the fellow disciples were discussing that could cause Mu Jinyu to lose his composure like that.

Hearing Xiang Mantang's words, Mu Jinyu felt his throat go dry and his mind buzzed, as if several flies were buzzing inside his head.

Mu Jinyu shook his head, waved his hand at Gu Xiyan who was sitting next to him, and said hoarsely, "I'm fine, you guys continue eating, Ah-Xiang and I will step outside for a moment."

After speaking, Mu Jinyu stood up, patted Xiang Mantang on the shoulder, and then walked towards the banquet hall's main door.

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang chuckled softly, shook his head slightly, ate a few more bites, and then casually got up and followed Mu Jinyu out.

Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, watching Mu Jinyu's somewhat strange behavior, wondered what was going on. They felt a vague worry and thought that they would inquire and comfort Mu Jinyu when they got back.

Mu Jinyu walked on the red carpet, ignoring the people at the tables along the way who greeted him. Some he knew, others he did not, but it did not matter; he ignored them all now.

His mind was a bit messy, and he felt inexplicably irritable inside.

He knew something was wrong. He had thought long ago that the woman's affairs were none of his business. He did not even want to pay attention to that woman anymore.

Why, then, hearing that the woman was getting married, did he feel this annoyed? Was it because he felt it was unfair to his deceased father once more?

Hadn't he always thought that the woman was materialistic, abandoning her husband and child to remarry someone else?

Now, she was merely turning the misunderstanding from those years into reality. Why should he feel upset about it?

After leaving the banquet hall, Mu Jinyu wandered aimlessly before entering an empty conference room to wait for Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang soon followed him in, holding a glass of red wine that was still mostly full. He took a sip as he entered and said with a light smile, "What's the matter? We haven't even finished eating yet. You dragged me all this way, and I'm still hungry."

Mu Jinyu came to his senses, his gaze as sharp as a sword, and asked hoarsely, "Stop beating around the bush, what's going on?"

Xiang Mantang casually responded, "Which matter? About me not being full, or about Su Zijin getting married?"

"What do you think?!" Mu Jinyu's voice grew louder.

Xiang Mantang said, "Oh, I thought you really didn't care about such trifles. I thought you'd be more concerned about your brother preparing a meeting gift for your sister-in-law, running around tired, hungry for half a day."

As Xiang Mantang spoke, he shook his head in disappointment, his face full of sorrow, "Brother, you really break your brother's heart!"

Mu Jinyu didn't reply, just staring intently at Xiang Mantang.

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang pursed his lips and shook his head:

"Ah, this is so boring. I'll just tell you straight, then,

Years ago, Su Zijin's fiancé, now seeing the Old Dragon King on his deathbed, to court favor for the True Dragon title, used the backing of his sect to pressure the Old Dragon King into agreeing to marry the Saintess to Beidou Tian Quan!

In order not to let the Dragon King Hall fall apart after his death, he finally agreed."