

King Hall 361

Chapter 361 - 361 Miyamoto Musashi

Dongying.

In a martial arts school.

An old man with a stooped figure looked at the body of Nangu Taichi lying on the floor, his eyes filled with a hint of sorrow.

He was Nangu Taichi's master, Miyamoto Musashi.

He was also the former Dongying Sword Saint, now the most unfathomable and fearsome person within Dongying's martial arts realm.

"Master, please accept our condolences."

The other disciples of Miyamoto Musashi, kneeling at the side, spoke with grief-stricken voices.

Miyamoto Musashi remained silent, without a word, his gaze fixated on the disciple he had pinned high hopes on, who had the potential to breakthrough martial arts conventions, to ascend to the God Realm, now lying motionless before him.

After a long while.

Miyamoto Musashi took a deep breath and then slowly exhaled, forming a nearly one-meter-long stream of white breath that stayed cohesive, lasting for ten seconds before dissipating.

This was an indication of his profoundly cultivated inner strength.

He had transformed the martial artist's "energy" into the Taoist's "qi"!

He was on the brink of transitioning from martial arts to a Taoist path, stepping into the God Realm.

"Who did it?!"

Miyamoto Musashi asked in a low tone, his voice neither sad nor joyful.

The disciples looked up upon hearing his voice, exchanging glances, then the one leading spoke, "It should be the work of the New Dragon King of the Dragon King Hall from Huaxia."

"The New Dragon King? Why would he kill Taichi?!" Miyamoto Musashi's eyes narrowed as he asked in a deep voice.

The disciple organized his words, then said, "It is said that the Old Dragon King of Dragon King Hall and Cain of Fallen Splendor perished together in the Eastern Sea. Therefore, this New Dragon King began to hold a worldwide grudge against those of Fallen Splendor, wreaking havoc everywhere. And right here in Dongying, there happened to be a branch of Fallen Splendor hidden away. Just yesterday, the New Dragon King came and obliterated it, not leaving a single one alive..."

Pausing, he continued, "At that time, Senior Nangu just happened to be nearby. Seeing the commotion, he took it upon himself to challenge this New Dragon King, only to...who knew the New Dragon King would strike with such lethal force!"

The disciple had barely finished speaking!

"Clang! Clang! Clang!"

All the blades housed within the martial arts school began to resonate, chiming in unison as Miyamoto Musashi clenched his fists.

The ringing persisted until Miyamoto Musashi suppressed the fury in his heart, and only then did it gradually cease.

"Tiance True Dragon, this is too much!"

"Matsuo, book a plane ticket. Prepare to set out for Huaxia!"

"It's been many years since I've set foot on this land. Has Dragon King Hall truly forgotten the name Miyamoto Musashi? Heh... well, from today onward, I shall make them recall those memories of despair!"

As Miyamoto Musashi's last words fell, all the samurai swords on the nearby racks shattered, countless fragments flying wildly through the air, puncturing the martial arts school with holes everywhere.

And the only item remaining unscathed was a samurai sword emitting a cold, chilling glow.

This sword, named Onimaru Kunitsuna, was one of the renowned swords of Dongying!

...

Northern Canada.

Victoria Island.

Named after Queen Victoria, it is the second largest island in the Arctic Archipelago.

The Mediterranean climate makes Victoria Island mild, sunny, with little rain and a pleasant living environment, making it a suitable place for tourism all year round.

In the northwest part of the island, Holman, where the human presence is scarce, there is a vast estate.

Looking inside, one could see innumerable researchers dressed in white lab coats, glasses, masks, and gloves moving around in various rooms.

And inside the rooms, there were all sorts of precise instruments and culture tanks filled with nutrient solutions, with inhuman-looking beings lying inside.

This place was a very important research branch of Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

At this time, several helicopters slowly flew in from the distance towards the Withered Tree Quest for Spring branch location.

When they neared, they gradually lowered their altitude and, at about fifty meters above the ground, the cabin doors opened, and one by one, people violently jumped out, spreading their arms like birds, soaring downwards!

"Bang!" "Bang!" "Bang!"

They leaped from fifty meters in the air, smashing into the ground creating deep pits, yet their bodies remained unscathed. With knees bent, they forcefully leaped out of the pits and then began to run swiftly through the estate, which was now blaring with alarms.

These people were members of Dragon King Hall, and among them were thirteen elite warriors, three of the Twenty-Eight Star Lords, and one Beidou Star General!

It was the Yaoguang Hall Master, Jian Ruyan!

Jian Ruyan, dressed in flowing white robes, arms crossed over her chest holding a sheathed longsword, looked indifferently upon various creatures rushing from the base that looked like a cross between wolves and humans.

As for the elite warriors of the Dragon King Hall, they simply held a dagger and swiftly dodged the werewolves' attacks, then, with a slice of the blade, cut through their throats.

Causing them to gaze wide-eyed, clutching their throats, and falling to the ground dead!

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

At that moment, more people came out wielding laser guns, firing towards the group of Dragon King Hall warriors.

Seeing this, the warriors quickly ceased their strikes and began to sidestep to dodge.

Fortunately, their martial arts were profound; otherwise, it would have been very difficult to avoid the lethally powerful laser guns.

Even so, they found it challenging to launch an attack on the genetically modified persons, only able to dodge as they watched them close in.

"Whoosh!"

At that moment, a beam of ice-blue laser shot towards Jian Ruyan, who stood still.

The person shooting the gun, looking at Jian Ruyan, had a maniacal smile spread across his face.

It seemed he was about to witness the long-awaited sight of her demise.

However.

Just as the laser beam was about to hit Jian Ruyan, she, expressionless, slightly bent her body, allowing it to brush past her shoulder, without causing any harm or even raising goosebumps on the skin of her neck, as if she had no instinctual reaction to the face of death at all!

The researcher who fired the shot was so shocked his glasses nearly fell off.

He couldn't imagine someone so fearless of death, yet also able to cheat it so successfully.

"Clang!"

After dodging the laser beam, Jian Ruyan, without any expression, drew her sword from its sheath.

Then, with a step, she instantly moved with a terrifying speed of ten meters per second, leaving behind countless afterimages, and charged to the man's side, slashing with her sword!

"Whoosh!"

The bright gleam of the sword burst forth, accompanied by the spurt of crimson blood, which bloomed tragically in the air.

And with it, the withering of life.

"Bang!"

It was only after the researcher fell to the ground that he was decapitated.

Jian Ruyan, having initiated a killing spree, swept her icy gaze over the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring who struggled in the throes of death, no longer holding back. With a shift of her footsteps and a flash of her sword, another spray of blood bloomed, another life withered away.

Soon.

Five minutes later.

All the staff and the genetically modified persons within the estate were killed by Jian Ruyan's sword, and the few that weren't dead yet were finished off by the Dragon King Hall warriors.

Afterwards, they took away the materials inside and then set fire to the estate.

And such scenes were successively happening all over the world.

On this day, the research and experimental bases of Withered Tree Quest for Spring situated around the world were all destroyed by the Dragon King Hall!

Chapter 362: Auction

America.

A highly covert underground experimental base.

At this moment, the person in charge of the base had no mind to oversee the situation of the entire experimental facility; once he learned that the world-renowned Withered Tree Quest for Spring bases had essentially all been destroyed by the infuriated members of Dragon King Hall, he became utterly panicked.

Afterward, those world billionaires who had funded him and helped establish this huge organization, all began to contact him, hurling various severe reprimands.

"Sean, I told you before, if that man has become the Hall Master of Dragon King Hall, then you shouldn't provoke him. But you wouldn't listen, and look what's happened now? The experimental bases we've spent hundreds of billions of dollars to build are destroyed in an instant!"

"Exactly, even if you wanted to act against the Dragon King, you should have planned more meticulously, not just sending a few people over. Now look what's happened? We didn't get the core data of the Spring of Life and the Beauty Pill, and this has led us to suffer the wrathful retaliation of Dragon King Hall!"

"..."

Sean watched the myriad of masked elders on the screen before him berating him harshly, sweat beading on his forehead incessantly.

He felt very troubled.

Although the numerous Withered Tree Quest for Spring experimental bases that Dragon King Hall had just destroyed were not the core of Withered Tree Quest for Spring and didn't actually damage the foundation of the organization, nearly a hundred billion dollars had been wasted with the destruction of these facilities.

This was also the reason why the billionaires backing Withered Tree Quest for Spring were only scolding him harshly, yet had not simply executed him with a shot to the head.

Just as Sean was about to place all the blame for Withered Tree Quest for Spring's debacle on the Clown, suddenly...

"Ring!!"

An ear-piercingly sharp alarm that almost shattered eardrums suddenly echoed throughout the entire underground experimental base.

Sean's face instantly changed color, knowing that the retaliation from Dragon King Hall had arrived.

"Zzt!"

Upon hearing the alarm, the many billionaires who had been scolding Sean on the screen above immediately shut off their communicators, and at once, every one of those screens turned to static, emitting grating noise.

Watching their actions and listening to the continuous alarms within the base, Sean felt utterly desperate.

Having learned that the Withered Tree Quest for Spring bases were undergoing retaliation from Dragon King Hall, he had initially planned to gather the important documents from the base and make a quick escape.

But because these wealthy backers wanted to contact him, he had no choice but to first endure their lectures.

He had thought it would just be a brief delay and that it would be fine.

But he had not anticipated...

That in just this short interval, there would be no chance for escape.

In the aftermath of despair, Sean thought of something and hastily went to grab the weapon he had placed inside this conference room, as a precaution.

Just then...

"Boom!"

The conference room's door, made of superalloy, was directly blown apart with a loud bang, turning into numerous metal fragments that cascaded into the conference room.

"Crash bang!"

The screens that had been used by Sean to communicate with the rich oligarchs also burst into pieces at that moment, shattered by the flying debris.

Then, an expressionless man slowly stepped into the conference room.

Sean, with cold sweat streaming down his forehead, immediately recognized the man's identity upon his entrance.

One of the Dragon King Hall's Seven Sub-Halls, the Hall Master of Tianxuan Hall, Wu Shisan!

Once in the Dragon King Hall, the Old Dragon King, without intervening, was known as an invincible figure.

Later, with the addition of Xiang Mantang to the Dragon King Hall, his ranking finally began to slip.

Even so, he remained one of the top three formidable powers within the Dragon King Hall.

Unexpectedly, it was him who came to destroy his own experimental base!

Sean looked at Wu Shisan, no longer harboring any thoughts of a dying struggle.

...

"Ding!"

"Report to the Dragon Master, the Withered Tree Quest for Spring experimental base in America has been destroyed. Wu Shisan awaits further instructions."

Seaview Garden, Number one Villa.

Mu Jinyu sat in a leisure chair in front of the floor-to-ceiling window and glanced at the reminder on his mobile phone, then asked Mu Hongchen if there were any remaining Withered Tree Quest for Spring bases yet to be dealt with.

Mu Hongchen quickly replied that the above-ground Withered Tree Quest for Spring bases were all that existed, and that deeper branches and Longevity Clubs involved too many people and complications to take action against for the time being.

Therefore, Mu Jinyu replied to everyone that they could bring the documents back to their country.

As a Tiance True Dragon, he naturally did not need to do everything personally. The recent personal action to destroy the Fallen Splendor Sub-Hall was an act of revenge for the Old Dragon King and a way to vent his frustrations and helplessness!

If not for that, he could have simply ordered Wu Shisan, Di Yin, and others to do it.

He put his phone aside on the coffee table, Mu Jinyu picked up a cup of hot tea from the table, sipped it gently, and then picked up a piece of pastry to leisurely enjoy his afternoon tea.

"Ah!"

He let out a sigh and said with a smile, "Indeed, leaving everything to Ah-Xiang was the right decision."

He thought to himself that if he had not let Xiang Mantang manage the Dragon King Hall, he wouldn't know how busy he would be right now. How could he sit in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, watch the seascape outside, and leisurely drink afternoon tea?

Turning to look at Mei Yinxue, who sat on another rattan chair and was still staring thoughtfully at an invitation and a catalogue in her hands, Mu Jinyu couldn't help but ask curiously, "Old Mei, what are you doing gazing at this catalogue? Did you find something you want to buy?"

Not long ago, the Jinyu Group had sent over an auction invitation along with a catalogue listing the items for sale.

However, the address was not in River City, but in Jinling.

The reason for this was their company was planning to open a branch in Jinling, which led countless local groups to fiercely compete for a chance to collaborate with them. The nobility in Jinling were about to host a grand auction and seeing this opportunity, they sent an invitation to them.

Gu Xiyan herself did not have the time to attend the auction, but seeing Mu Jinyu idling at home with Su Zijin, she wanted them to take a break and stop mourning over the Old Dragon King's death. So, she sent over the invitation and the item catalogue to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu was busy handling the Withered Tree Quest for Spring matter at the time and did not pay much attention to it, while Mei Yinxue, who was at his side, took the catalogue and began to casually flip through it out of boredom.

Later, it seemed as though she became fixated on a certain item and kept her gaze on it.

It must have been about five minutes, right?

That's why Mu Jinyu was genuinely curious. What kind of treasure had caught Mei Yinxue's attention and driven her to give herself these continuous, silent hints?

When Mei Yinxue heard Mu Jinyu's question, she snapped back from her daze.

Then, she forced a smile and said, "It's nothing, I just saw an old object that reminded me of some past events, that's all. By the way, can I join you at this auction?"

This auction organized by Jinling's prominent families was not just for anyone to attend. Even Mei Yinxue's Xueyin Group would not have received an invitation.

The Jinyu Group might not have received an invitation either, had they not been about to enter Jinling. Therefore, Mei Yinxue asked if she could accompany him instead of going by herself.

Chapter 363 - 363 Gu Youlan

"Certainly."

Seeing Mei Yinxue's expression, Mu Jinyu sensed something was amiss and quickly agreed, then asked, "What's the matter with you?"

Mei Yinxue didn't intend to hide it from Mu Jinyu and pointed to a picture in the item list, explaining, "This sword, called the Blood-Drinking Sword, was a birthday gift from my adoptive father. It was lost due to unforeseen circumstances, and despite my efforts, I couldn't find it. To my surprise, it showed up at this auction."

Mu Jinyu followed Mei Yinxue's pointed finger to the sword in the picture, which was a three-foot blade shimmering with a cold light, hardly looking like an ordinary weapon.

The catalog described it as: Divine Weapon, Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword, forged from Meteorite Iron from Beyond, Ten Thousand Years Profound Iron, and North Pole Cold Iron, among other rare ores. Capable of slicing through iron as if it were mud and sharp enough to cut a hair blown across it, the starting bid, 1.3 billion!

Mu Jinyu inwardly clicked his tongue, unable to resist commenting, "Is this description true? It sounds so formidable!"

"Not really, it's not as incredible as the appraiser claims," Mei Yinxue shook her head and said, "Although it really can slice through iron and is sharp enough to cut hair, my adoptive father spent only three billion to forge it."

After speaking, Mei Yinxue looked up at Mu Jinyu, her beautiful eyes filled with hope and desire, and pleaded softly, "This sword is very meaningful to me, I need to buy it back."

"Hmm, I'll go with you tomorrow," Mu Jinyu nodded.

Originally, he wasn't interested in attending the auction since, although he was the nominal head, many major decisions still required his involvement.

But since the Blood-Drinking Sword held special significance to Mei Yinxue, he naturally made time to accompany her there to secure it.

"Hmm, thank you, husband..."

Mei Yinxue's expression was joyful and touched.

The next day.

Mu Jinyu, accompanied by Mei Yinxue and Su Zijin, set off for Jinling.

As for Gu Xiyao, Wen Rou, Yu Linglong, and a few others, they stayed behind to deal with some minor company matters and did not join them on the trip.

Upon reaching Jinling, Mu Jinyu, under the guidance of subordinates from Dragon King Hall stationed there, took Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue out for a whole day of fun.

Zhongshan Mausoleum, Jiming Temple, Yuejiang Tower, Xuanwu Lake, Confucius Temple, Purple Gold Mountain... they visited them all.

As evening approached and the auction was about to start.

Mu Jinyu and his companions finally got into the car and headed to a private club called "Listening to the Rain on Bamboo."

"Listening to the Rain on Bamboo" was an elite private club co-founded by the scions of several prominent families in Jinling, open only to those they deemed qualified enough to be members.

Newly rich individuals had no place here.

In their eyes, Mu Jinyu was also somewhat of a nouveau riche, but the explosive success of his Beauty Pill, by that one product alone, made him the richest person in Jiangnan Province within a month.

It was said that his company had several other products as effective as the Beauty Pill. If true, that was horrifying news, qualifying him to compete for the title of the richest person nationwide.

Thus, seeing Jinyu Group preparing to open a branch in Jinling, they finally extended an invitation to them.

As Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue approached the grand entrance of the club, they saw countless luxury cars parked at the entrance. A parade of wealthy, elite individuals, adorned in gold and jewels, alighted from cars worth millions to tens of millions and walked toward the clubhouse. At the entrance, they presented their invitations to the guards and then entered, smiling.

Mu Jinyu stepped out from a red flag sedan, immediately catching the attention of everyone present, instantly becoming the center of attention.

The Red Flag limousine was not something an ordinary person could ride in, especially given the license plate number on Mu Jinyu's car, which was exceptionally ostentatious, giving an ultimate sense of shock.

It made people instantly realize that Mu Jinyu was likely to be the most prestigious presence at tonight's auction!

Mu Jinyu had long been accustomed to the admiring gazes of the crowd, so he calmly led Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue towards the entrance of the club.

The crowd that had been lining up to enter parted to both sides upon seeing Mu Jinyu approaching, clearing a path for him.

Mu Jinyu nodded slightly to them without saying anything like, "You were here first, so let's follow the rules."

Instead, he went straight to the door with Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue, handed the invitation to the guard, and entered.

It wasn't arrogance, but rather, necessity.

If he were to do otherwise, not only would he not exhibit any privilege, but it would also make them feel intimidated and waste much time in unnecessary explanations.

Once they entered the already set up auction hall, many people were seated, all dressed vividly and poised elegantly, sitting in groups of threes and pairs, chatting about the items they were determined to get tonight.

When they saw Mu Jinyu, Su Zijin, and Mei Yinxue walk in, a few men's eyes immediately lit up, captivated by the beauty of the two women.

At the same time, they wondered which of Jinling's renowned ladies looked like them.

Could they be from out of town?

With that thought, their gazes toward Mei Yinxue and Su Zijin became much less bold.

Mu Jinyu glanced coldly at those men and then confidently walked towards his private room.

At that moment, a door to another private room opened, and a stunningly beautiful young madam in a purple dress, holding a glass of red wine, stepped out, leaned on the railing, and looked down at Mei Yinxue, smiling, "Sister Mei, what a coincidence!"

Mei Yinxue's expression changed slightly when she saw the purple-dressed woman, and squinting her eyes, she said, "Gu Youlan, I didn't expect to meet you here!"

This woman was none other than Gu Youlan, who Mei Yinxue had expelled from River City years ago.

And recently, she had even sent people to cause trouble in her casino, taking a good sum of money, but ultimately, under Mu Jinyu's interception, she had to cough it all back, and even suffered a loss of several hundred million.

Gu Youlan's flawless face carried a gentle and tranquil smile. She took a sip of red wine and softly said, "Yes, what a coincidence. Sister, we haven't seen each other for many years, and I didn't expect to meet you here at 'Listening to the Rain on Bamboo'. I originally thought that with your Jianghu status, you wouldn't qualify to enter here."

Her tone was soft and sweet, making her words superficially pleasant but filled with sarcasm, which made Mei Yinxue feel embarrassed.

"Oh, is this lady involved in Jianghu?!"

"No wonder, I always felt that her demeanor didn't quite match cold elegance; so that's the story."

"Indeed, she's more like a blood-stained rose, or a plum blooming in bloodshed—there's a certain allure..."

"..."

The attendees whispered to each other after hearing Gu Youlan's words.

No one doubted the truth of Gu Youlan's words; after all, she is now the young madam of Jinling's Su Family, a most distinguished identity. Would she need to fabricate stories?

Chapter 364: Bid!

Mei Yinxue, upon hearing Gu Youlan's scornful remarks, calmed down instead, revealing a faint smile. She said, "Who still fights and kills nowadays? I was just lucky that my husband got an invitation and could bring me in to see the world."

As she spoke, Mei Yinxue paused for a moment, then continued, "Speaking of which, you were driven out of River City by me back then, and now you seem to be doing quite well. Shouldn't you thank me for that act of kindness?"

By the end, Mei Yinxue couldn't help but laugh out loud, producing a sound as delightful as silver bells ringing.

Gu Youlan's previously light and breezy expression darkened immediately upon hearing Mei Yinxue's last remark.

The crowd inside the auction room, listening to their sharp exchanges, could not help but stiffen their expressions while secretly admiring Mei Yinxue's courage.

This was Gu Youlan.

The beloved wife of the Young Master of the Su Family from Jinling.

In Jinling, there was the Li Family, which was no less influential than the Su Family. Once, a young mistress from Li Family spoke up for the legitimate wife of the Young Master of the Su Family by calling Gu Youlan a home-wrecker. Gu Youlan, sobbing and wailing, complained to the Young Master of the Su Family. Enraged, he rushed to the Li mansion and knocked out the teeth of that young mistress.

The incident caused quite a stir at the time. Eventually, the Li Family, acknowledging their fault, accepted an apology from the Su Family and chose to keep the peace. After a while, that young mistress from the Li Family, once the storm had settled, was driven out of the family home and eventually disappeared without a trace.

Some speculated that Gu Youlan bore grudges and never let the Young Mistress Li off the hook.

Thus, Mei Yinxue's direct confrontation with Gu Youlan could indeed thrill others, but they also worried about her fate.

Fortunately, the Young Master of the Su Family was busy and did not attend tonight. Otherwise, they might have started fighting on the spot.

Gu Youlan, upon hearing Mei Yinxue's words, sure enough, her initial serene and smiling face suddenly turned as gloomy as if draped with clouds. She coolly fixed her gaze on Mei Yinxue, then her face lit up again with a charming smile, laughing, "Indeed, had Sister Mei not driven me out back then, how would I have met Brother Su in Jinling? I really should thank my sister. After the auction ends, don't leave first, Sister Mei, let's have a few drinks."

Mei Yinxue shook her head, "That won't be necessary. We are ultimately not on the same path. Since you were lucky enough not to die back then, from now on, I will stick to my sunny path, and you keep to your solitary bridge."

Gu Youlan wasn't angered, and laughed, "Who can clearly say what the sunny path is? Perhaps one day, old scores will be settled, and some might find themselves behind bars."

Her words were full of threats. If this had been the Mei Yinxue before meeting Mu Jinyu, she probably would have been worried.

After all, from the hushed whispers of those around, Gu Youlan's Su Family was not to be underestimated.

But now, as it turned out, her instincts had been correct; she had truly found a treasure.

Mu Jinyu, now known as the Tiance True Dragon of the Dragon King Hall, should old scores ever be revisited, with all the misdeeds Gu Youlan had committed, she'd likely be the first to pay dearly.

There's no point in talking half a word more.

Mei Yinxue then ceased her conversation with Gu Youlan. Signaling to Mu Jinyu, she then entered their private room along with Mu Jinyu and Su Zijin.

Once inside the private room,

Mu Jinyu complained, "Old Mei, why didn't you let me speak just now? That woman is dumb as a post. A peasant chicken turned phoenix, who still dares mess around after marrying into wealth. If you'd let me say a few words, I could have ensured her immediate downfall, making it impossible for her to stay in the Su Family."

Mei Yinxue was about to say she didn't need him to step in yet, and that if she really couldn't handle Gu Youlan, then she would ask for her husband's help.

But hearing Mu Jinyu's words, she couldn't help but ask out of curiosity, "What do you mean by that? Does she have any dirt on her?!"

"What else could it mean?" Mu Jinyu chuckled, "It's just that her body emits strong chaotic vital energies, varying in intensity. Without guessing, it's obvious, she often sneaks out behind her husband's back, having fun with multiple partners!"

Su Zijin, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, immediately showed a hint of disgust in her eyes.

Being a very conservative woman, she deeply despised and was ashamed of such unfaithful behavior.

When Mei Yinxue heard Mu Jinyu's explanation, she also showed a thoughtful expression and said, "Right, when she was on missions in those years, she often relied on selling herself to complete them due to her poor martial arts skills."

Mu Jinyu said, "It might not be that she went out behind her husband's back, maybe her husband just enjoys that sort of thing, who knows? You wanted me to speak up just now, and by now her reputation would have already been ruined."

"Let's not bother with her," Mei Yinxue gently shook her head and said, "She's just a clown, her threat is far less than Zhu Yeqing's."

Zhu Yeqing is a type of venomous snake, and having grown up alongside Mei Yinxue, who took its name, shows the level of her ferocity.

In the private room, the conversation continued as time slowly passed.

Soon, the lights in the auction hall gradually dimmed.

Then, on the large screen in Mu Jinyu's private room, a presenter appeared, holding a microphone and stepping onto the stage, then smilingly said, "Ladies and gentlemen, good evening, welcome to our Jinling auction. Without further ado, let us start the auction with tonight's first item!"

With that, a lady dressed in a cheongsam, carrying a tray, walked towards the stage.

On that red cloth-covered tray, a dripping green, crystal-clear jade bracelet was placed.

"Tonight's first item is this Green Emperor Jadeite Bracelet, a former royal collection piece that was lost overseas and has only now been retrieved. The starting bid is three hundred million, and each subsequent bid must be no less than one million yuan."

Watching the presentation about this jade bracelet on the screen, as well as its close-up shots by the camera, both Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue's eyes flickered slightly, entranced and tempted.

However, the price of three hundred million was a bit steep.

In the auction hall, after the presenter announced the price, there was a brief silence, then a well-known collector from Jinling raised his sign in the hall and shouted, "Three hundred and one million."

Clearly, although he liked the bracelet, he was not desperate to have it, otherwise, he would not have called out such a price.

If no one else was interested and there were no other bids, he could obtain it for just that small amount. But if someone else was competing, he was ready to give up.

However, how could such a leading auction item have no takers?

Immediately someone else called out a bid:

"Three hundred and ten million!"

"Three hundred and twenty million!"

"Three hundred and fifty million!"

"..."

Eventually, someone called out three hundred and eighty million, and the heated atmosphere finally began to subside.

At that moment, the sound system in the hall played Gu Youlan's voice.

"Four hundred million!"

Gu Youlan placed a bid.

The atmosphere in the auction hall, already quieting down, suddenly stalled again, and shortly thereafter, a lady who was previously determined to win the bracelet, immediately wilted and did not dare to follow up with a bid.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu picked up the microphone and shouted, "Four hundred and one million!"

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"Four hundred million and one million yuan!"

Mu Jinyu's clear voice suddenly rose in the hall, immediately making the group of socialites and noblewomen who were previously envying Gu Youlan all pause in their expressions.

After that, they began to snicker to themselves.

It was indeed amusing that someone dared to cut in front of Gu Youlan when she was determined to get an item.

The host, who was standing on the stage to liven up the atmosphere, had thought the jade bracelet could only fetch four hundred million and was feeling disappointed, but upon hearing Mu Jinyu's bid, immediately became excited and shouted:

"Guest in Room 7 has offered four hundred million and one million yuan. Does anyone have a higher bid?"

"This Green Emperor Jadeite Bracelet, reportedly once worn by Old Buddha and personally nurtured over many years, has significant collectable value..."

The crowd sitting below, upon hearing the host mention Room 7, immediately recalled that Mu Jinyu and her companions had just entered Room 7.

"It was that woman's husband originally, just now I heard Madam Su talking with her, she seemed to have no qualifications to enter the auction but her husband brought her in, no wonder he's now confronting Madam Su, this is all out of deep love for a beautiful woman!"

"Tch, four hundred million. These people really do not treat money as money, totally burning it like paper, I'm so jealous."

"..."

Gu Youlan, sitting in Room 3, heard Mu Jinyu's bid, her face darkened even more.

She did not doubt at all whether Mu Jinyu's group could produce such an amount of money.

After all, just Mei Yinxue alone possessed over ten billion in assets, and Mu Jinyu's Jinyu Group, leveraging the Beauty Pill, had amassed a fortune.

Gu Youlan, who had sent people to probe Mei Yinxue in River City, would not have failed to investigate properly.

"Five hundred million!"

A cold glint flashed in Gu Youlan's beautiful eyes as she then shouted loudly.

No sooner had her words fallen,

Mu Jinyu immediately followed with a bid, "Five hundred million and one million yuan!"

The crowd below, hearing the seemingly spiteful bidding war between Mu Jinyu and Gu Youlan, couldn't help but feel it was a waste of money.

Although the Green Emperor Jadeite Bracelet had excellent quality and the gimmick of having been played with by the former court's Old Buddha, it was really worth at most between three and four hundred million.

Five hundred million was not worthwhile, and was completely a waste of money.

But rich people, ah, they just like to compete even for a breath!

In response, all they could do was harbor sour envy and jealousy, lacking the courage to splurge millions for the smile of a beautiful woman.

In Room 7.

After Mu Jinyu shouted the price of five hundred million and one million yuan, Mei Yinxue and Su Zijin finally came to their senses and then looked at him, frowning and said, "Jinyu, why are you bidding like this? It's unnecessary!"

"Don't you like it?" Mu Jinyu smiled and said, "I just saw that you seemed quite fond of it, so why not buy it, it's just a bit of money after all."

"It's okay, I don't like it that much," Mei Yinxue murmured softly, glancing at Su Zijin beside her.

Thinking that Mu Jinyu was preparing to buy it for his mother-in-law.

Although Su Zijin also liked that Mu Jinyu was willing to buy her a gift, she cared more about the gesture rather than the value of the gift.

So, she too shook her head and said, "I don't like it that much either, we have plenty of such bracelets at home, it's unnecessary..."

Pausing, Su Zijin then gently smiled and said, "By the way, our Su Family has a few ancestral jade bracelets that have been sitting collecting dust at home because your grandfather married only your grandmother. Since you have married quite a few wives now, when I return to Capital City, I'll bring some back for Little Xue and the others."

Mei Yinxue, hearing Su Zijin's words, was both shocked and delighted, and couldn't help but cover her mouth with her hand.

The Old Buddha Jade Bracelet being auctioned outside sounded appealing, but to Mei Yinxue, it was just so-so.

But the jade bracelets that Su Zijin was going to give her were the Su Family's ancestral bracelets, meant to be passed down to daughters-in-law.

The meaning would be completely different then.

It would mean that they had gained the approval of Su Zijin!

"Mom, this..." Mei Yinxue looked at Su Zijin with excitement, wanting to say something but found herself at a loss for words.

Su Zijin smiled gently and said, "There's no need to be so excited, although you are the third daughter-in-law I've met, I remember you were the first to be with Jinyu, right? You've also given him a lot of help along the way, all of you have my approval..."

Speaking of which, Su Zijin stopped.

Because she realized that her approval didn't really mean much to people like Mei Yinxue, after all, Mu Jinyu and she didn't have an ordinary mother-son relationship.

In other families, if a mother-in-law didn't approve of the bride her son chose, the son would definitely reconsider.

But what use was it if she didn't approve of Mei Yinxue or Gu Xiyan?

Would Mu Jinyu listen to her?

Therefore, Su Zijin stopped talking to avoid saying too much and making Jinyu dislike her.

Meanwhile, in suite number seven, during the conversation between Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue.

In suite number three, Gu Youlan, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's bid of Five hundred million and one million yuan, was so angry that she threw her wine glass to the floor, causing the bright red wine to spill onto the expensive Persian carpet, staining it red.

"Seven hundred million!"

Gu Youlan spoke again, directly adding two billion, ready to settle the matter once and for all, to see if Mu Jinyu dared to follow.

If he were to call out seven hundred million and one million yuan, Gu Youlan had decided, she would just let him have the bracelet.

"Seven hundred million!" The auctioneer, standing on the platform, heard Gu Youlan's bid and his face flushed with excitement as he shouted, "Guest in suite number three bids seven hundred million, are there any other gentlemen or ladies who would like to make a bid?"

Inside suite number seven.

Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue, having heard Gu Youlan's bid, both shook their heads at Mu Jinyu to indicate that he should not increase his bid anymore, as it was pointless.

Although this might seem to give Gu Youlan the upper hand, they were not people who cared about vanity. What harm would it do to let Gu Youlan be arrogant for a bit longer?

Empty confidence comes from possession while real confidence comes from within.

For someone of Su Zijin's stature, was there a need to compete with Gu Youlan just to show her own strength?

Mu Jinyu, seeing that they didn't want to compete, also felt it was bland and then took the microphone and said, "Congratulations to the lady in suite number three."

As soon as he finished speaking.

The audience, who had expected Mu Jinyu to bid seven hundred million and one million yuan, were stunned.

Then, they suspected that Mu Jinyu had chickened out.

They couldn't help but let out a few snickers.

Some people, however, felt that Mu Jinyu didn't seem like he had chickened out but rather...

It felt like he had tricked someone else and then mocked them.

After all, if Mu Jinyu hadn't interfered, Gu Youlan would have bought the bracelet for four hundred million, but because of Mu Jinyu's meddling, she ended up spending three billion more.

Inside suite number three, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Gu Youlan was so angry she almost vomited blood!

She had just decided to trick Mu Jinyu and then let it go.

How did Mu Jinyu guess her intent to back out so early?

Was he really that good at reading people's minds?

At that moment, Gu Youlan also remembered how she had sent her men to cause trouble in Mei Yinxue's underground casino recently, only to end up losing several billion due to Mu Jinyu's interference!

Chapter 366: Struggle

Mu Jinyu didn't raise the price again, and no one in the auction hall wanted to take over.

Thus, after the host said a few words and saw no further bids, he finally congratulated Gu Youlan for purchasing the Elderly Buddha Jade Bracelet for seven hundred million yuan.

The jade bracelet, which led the auction, fetched a high price of seven hundred million yuan, marking a great start to the event.

The next auction item was the Golden-threaded Jade Clothes, starting at one hundred million yuan.

Mu Jinyu, seeing this, was not interested at all.

The Golden-threaded Jade Clothes eventually sold for one hundred and eighty million yuan.

In the subsequent auctions, Mu Jinyu and Su Zijin, among others, were basically uninterested, just waiting for Mei Yinxue's Blood-Drinking Sword to appear.

Meanwhile, Gu Youlan participated in several bids and, after purchasing another item, muttered in her box, "Why aren't they reacting? Could they really be scared?"

Whether truly scared or just pretending, Gu Youlan didn't care about these matters; she only thought about severely outbidding Mu Jinyu later when a certain auction item came up to take revenge for the previous trick he had played on her!

"The next auction item is from the internationally renowned fashion designer 'Julianna,' a new creation, a gown made from the expensive Heavenly Silkworm Silk, handcrafted over three months. Ladies present will undoubtedly dazzle in it, starting price, eighty million yuan, with each increase no less than five hundred thousand!"

At that moment, the host introduced the new auction item, and several maids, who had already several people holding the gown, brought it up onto the high stage.

The maids unfolded it, allowing those underneath and in the private boxes to clearly see the specifications and style of the gown.

This was a shoulderless black gown, cut in a very noble and elegant style, which visibly stirred the hearts of many famed ladies and noblewomen present.

But this price...

Eighty million yuan!

They could only console themselves that spending so much money on this rather than a normal fabric gown of the same design, would cost them only about a hundred thousand to a few hundred thousand yuan.

They could buy eight hundred of those.

As for the so-called Heavenly Silkworm Silk, who knows what it actually does.

Of course, those with such thoughts were just about qualified to enter this auction.

But for the real top-grade wealthy elites of Jinling, their female companions immediately wrapped themselves around them, begging to buy the gown.

Thus, without the host needing to hype up the atmosphere much, the bidding for this gown, starting at eighty million yuan, soon surged to eighty-five million yuan.

"Ninety million yuan!"

At this moment, Gu Youlan's clear, orchid-like voice rang out in the hall.

Once Gu Youlan made a bid, it was basically considered final, with few daring to counter bid.

Only...

Just as everyone was thinking of Mu Jinyu,

True to expectations, Mu Jinyu spoke up in a timely manner, "Ninety million and fifty thousand yuan."

In box number seven,

Su Zijin, hearing Mu Jinyu bid, glanced at him, thinking it was for Mei Yinxue, so she said nothing.

Mei Yinxue, however, felt it wasn't for her, especially since during Yu Linglong's birthday, Xiang Mantang had gifted her, Gu Xiyan, and Wen Rou each a set of gowns, not as birthday gifts, but as a courtesy during their meeting.

But it didn't matter, after all, they all had evening gowns and high heels.

So, Mei Yinxue believed that Mu Jinyu was probably gifting it to someone else. As for who? She wasn't sure, but it wasn't her place to ask more or advise him against it, to avoid being seen as jealous.

After Mu Jinyu had made his bid, he was initially expecting Mei Yinxue and Su Zijin to persuade him as before not to waste money since they all had gowns and the like.

But seeing that they didn't, he was surprised for a moment.

Then he realized, it seems that for women, clothes are indeed more persuasive than jewelry!

On the other side,

In box number three, Gu Youlan, hearing Mu Jinyu's renewed bid which she guessed was probably for Mei Yinxue, also bid again, saying, "One hundred million yuan."

"One hundred million and fifty thousand yuan," Mu Jinyu immediately followed, calling out.

"One hundred and ten million yuan!"

"One hundred, ten million and fifty thousand yuan."

"..."

Soon, under the bidding of the two, the evening gown reached one hundred and fifty million yuan.

The crowd below, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's bids, felt somewhat peculiar.

Why did this guy always just add the minimum bid increment?

Previously with the Green Emperor Jadeite Bracelet, each minimum increment wasn't less than one million yuan, and he would always add exactly one million yuan; now with this evening gown, where the increment wasn't to be less than five hundred thousand, he was doing just that.

As for Gu Youlan, she was adding ten million yuan each time.

To say Mu Jinyu was short of money, how could he possibly attend this auction and even compete with Gu Youlan, but if he was wealthy, then why was he seeming so miserly?

Could it be that Mu Jinyu was deliberately trying to annoy Gu Youlan?

Was this why?

The crowd speculated as such.

Gu Youlan actually thought so too.

Originally, when the price had reached one hundred and thirty million and fifty thousand yuan, she hadn't wanted to continue bidding.

After all, even if she gave up proactively, since Mu Jinyu had already conceded to her once, she wouldn't lose too much face, and everyone would just think she didn't see value in continuing.

But it was precisely because of Mu Jinyu's behavior of adding only the minimum increment each time that she felt disgusted and raised the bid to fifty million yuan.

And then, as Gu Youlan directly shouted one hundred and fifty million yuan from one hundred and thirty million and fifty thousand yuan, she suddenly realized something.

She thought about the lesson from being tricked by Mu Jinyu previously and suspected that Mu Jinyu was likely trying to trick her again.

She was somewhat afraid that Mu Jinyu would suddenly stop following her bids, making her overpay by more than fifty million yuan.

Though fifty million yuan meant little to her, the feeling of being duped was hardly pleasant.

Gu Youlan silently congratulated herself on realizing this early on, otherwise, if she let Mu Jinyu infuriate her again and he called out one hundred and fifty million and fifty thousand yuan, and in a fit of rage she shouted two hundred million yuan, wouldn't she be duped even worse?

Now, being duped by fifty million yuan, although it felt as uncomfortable as swallowing a fly, was still somewhat acceptable.

Afterwards, she hoped that Mu Jinyu would call another bid so she could smoothly pass the buck to him.

"One hundred and fifty million and fifty thousand yuan."

Under Gu Youlan's hopeful mentality, as if by miracle, Mu Jinyu spoke up again and added fifty thousand yuan.

Gu Youlan immediately felt joy, and then, imitating Mu Jinyu's earlier behavior, congratulated him with a tone full of mockery.

In Box Number Seven.

Mei Yinxue reminded Mu Jinyu that increasing the bid by fifty thousand yuan incrementally could easily upset the other party, possibly causing them to end up paying a higher price for the gown than simply bidding ten or twenty million yuan outright, projecting a determined attitude that might even push others back.

Mu Jinyu said, "What if I call one hundred and seventy million yuan and she doesn't follow? Wouldn't I lose twenty million yuan?"

Mei Yinxue said, "What if she directly calls two hundred million yuan next?"

Mu Jinyu replied, "Then I'll just raise it by two hundred million and fifty thousand yuan, after all, I'll compete with her up to three hundred million yuan."

No sooner had the words left his mouth.

Than they heard Gu Youlan's sarcastic congratulation, though her words were full of mockery, Mu Jinyu didn't mind.

Instead, he smiled at Mei Yinxue and raised his eyebrows, saying, "Right? If she doesn't follow, I save twenty million yuan."

Mei Yinxue was speechless for a moment.

Why had Gu Youlan grown timid?

However, although it was incomprehensible, it was still a fortunate outcome.

Chapter 367: Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword

Gu Youlan decided not to compete with Mu Jinyu any longer.

Soon, the exquisite gift gown made of Heavenly Silkworm Silk that had taken three months to weave was delivered to their private room by a maid.

After Mu Jinyu settled the bill, the maid respectfully took her leave.

Then, Mu Jinyu handed the gift gown over to Su Zijin.

"Mom, this is for you," Mu Jinyu said with a smile.

"Ah?! For me?" Su Zijin was surprised by Mu Jinyu's words, her mouth agape with shock and joy.

She hadn't expected the gown Mu Jinyu had bid on to be a gift for her.

After thinking for a moment, Su Zijin shook her head and said, "There's no need, I'm old now and have lost my luster. You should give it to Little Xue instead."

Mu Jinyu had not yet spoken when Mei Yinxue, coming back to her senses, quickly urged, "How can you say you're old, Mom? When we walk together, everyone believes we're sisters. This gown really suits you, so please accept it quickly. It represents Jinyu's heartfelt gesture. Don't decline it; you might hurt his feelings, and then he might never buy you anything again."

Mu Jinyu also nodded in agreement and said, "Yes, Mom, please accept it. As for gift gowns and such, Old Mei has plenty of them. Last time, Ah-Xiang even gave several sets of gowns and high heels to each of them, so she's certainly not in need of more."

Upon hearing this, Mei Yinxue secretly rolled her eyes at Mu Jinyu.

A woman can never have too many clothes, and after all, the gifts from Xiang Mantang as a junior brother's greeting present couldn't be compared to the gifts from Mu Jinyu, could they?

However, considering that Mu Jinyu was giving this gown to her mother-in-law, Mei Yinxue decided not to make a fuss.

With the persuasion of Mei Yinxue and Mu Jinyu, Su Zijin eventually accepted the gown.

She particularly liked the style of the gift gown, but more importantly, it was a gift from Mu Jinyu, which made it even more special.

In the subsequent auction, whenever Mu Jinyu was interested in an item, he always raised the bid by fifty million yuan each time.

Sometimes, when others raised the bid by ten million yuan or twenty million yuan all at once, Mu Jinyu would assess the value and decide whether to continue bidding or to give up directly.

After being outmaneuvered by his tactics, many were cautious not to impulsively raise the bid in anger, fearing that instead of trapping Mu Jinyu, they would be the ones left with a heavy loss.

Thus, without increasing his offers by much, Mu Jinyu managed to acquire many items he found desirable quite easily.

Mei Yinxue was somewhat astonished by his bidding strategy.

Finally, the auction was coming to a close.

"We will now begin the bidding for the highlight of tonight's Jinling auction—the absolute treasure sword, the Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword!"

The auctioneer on stage, gripping the microphone, introduced with an excited and passionate tone:

"This peerless sword is forged from scarce ores such as Meteorite Iron from Beyond, Ten Thousand Years Profound Iron, and North Pole Cold Iron. It is a laborious creation of the master swordsmith Ouye Zi. It effortlessly slices through iron and is sharp enough to cut a hair blown across it. The opening bid is 1.3 billion yuan with each subsequent bid increasing by no less than fifty million yuan!"

While the auctioneer introduced the item, a maid had already brought the treasured sword on a tray to the stage.

And at the sight, the atmosphere among the audience grew tense with anticipation.

Some of them came with the specific goal of acquiring a coveted item, while others hadn't noticed anything that caught their eye—except for this peerless sword, which indeed stirred their desire.

However, with a starting bid of 1.3 billion yuan and an estimated final price upwards of two billion yuan, even though it strongly appealed to them, their wallets prohibited any impulsive bidding.

They too were merely present to broaden their horizons.

In private room number seven, both Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue perked up upon hearing the auctioneer's announcement.

The reason for attending the auction was precisely to bid on this Blood-Drinking Sword for Mei Yinxue.

Finally, the moment to auction off her foster father's legacy had arrived.

Under the eager gazes of the crowd, the auctioneer took the sheathed treasured sword from the tray.

The scabbard was made of sharkskin, and as the auctioneer slowly drew the sword, a streak of chilling light flashed by. Under the spotlight, it appeared even more cold and formidable.

Then, the auctioneer plucked a strand of hair from a waiting maid's head and laid it beside the blade. With a gentle blow, there seemed to be a surge of sword qi, instantly cutting the glossy black hair cleanly into two.

"Clang!"

After the demonstration of its sharpness, two burly staff members brought up a steel spear, and the auctioneer, holding the treasured sword, struck down upon the spear shaft!

The sword slashed through the spear, sparking on impact, and then to the amazement of all present, the approximate three-inch thick spear shaft was cleanly severed by the peerless sword.

The crowd watched with excitement, then some began to doubt, had the spear shaft been tampered with in advance?

While they were still harboring doubts, the auctioneer's movements continued without pause, and with several "clang," "clang" sounds, a seven-foot-long spear was chopped into four pieces by the auctioneer!

With a wave of his hand for the staff to take the broken spear shaft away, the auctioneer sheathed his sword with a smile and said:

"Alright, everyone has seen the prowess of this treasured sword, haven't they? No more idle talk, let's start the auction!"

As soon as he finished speaking.

Someone immediately made a bid:

"Thirteen billion five hundred million!"

Then someone promptly bid:

"Fourteen billion!"

"Fifteen billion!"

Some tried to intimidate others by increasing the bid by a billion in one go.

"Fifteen billion five hundred million!"

Unfortunately, it was of no use, as someone immediately continued with a higher bid!

"..."

Soon, the sword named Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword by the auction had its price raised all the way to eighteen billion!

"Twenty billion!"

This time, Mu Jinyu spoke up directly.

He could estimate the value of the other items in this auction and decide whether to give up on them or not, but the only exception was the Blood-Drinking Sword that Mei Yinxue's adoptive father had once given her; Mu Jinyu was determined to win it, even if it cost a hundred billion!

As soon as the bid of twenty billion was made.

The whole venue suddenly quieted down a bit.

After all, the price was rather high, and it was around the figure they had estimated for the final deal.

But quickly, someone continued to raise the bid.

"Twenty-five billion!"

The bidder, naturally, was Gu Youlan.

Mu Jinyu didn't hesitate and immediately made another bid, "Twenty-five billion five hundred million!"

"Thirty billion!"

Gu Youlan's bid came out.

All of a sudden, it made everyone in attendance couldn't help but exclaim in admiration.

The Su family, even if wealthy, shouldn't be so reckless with money, should they?

But why was Gu Youlan being so lavish, raising the bid by five billion each time, lifting the price higher and higher with such grandeur?

It left everyone without any doubt, giving off the feeling that...

She was a "shill" planted by the auction house.

Mu Jinyu frowned at this bid, wondering if Gu Youlan knew that the sword was very important to Mei Yinxue and was deliberately targeting him?

After all, Mei Yinxue along with Gu Youlan, Zhu Yeqing, and Huang Qihua had all been adopted by a Jianghu bigwig from River City, and the Blood-Drinking Sword had been a gift to Mei Yinxue from their adoptive father back in the day—so there was no way Gu Youlan would be unaware of that.

Of course, it could also be that Gu Youlan genuinely liked this sword as well and wanted to snatch it away to further mock Mei Yinxue.

Mei Yinxue's expression, however, changed slightly.

In fact, when she encountered Gu Youlan at this auction, she had a sneaking suspicion that her beloved Blood-Drinking Sword, which she had lost years ago, might have been stolen by Gu Youlan—who was like a sister to her at the time...

Now, Gu Youlan had brought it out to attract her here again.

Chapter 368: Deal!

The reason was that Gu Youlan knew she would spare no expense for this sword, even if it meant selling off the entirety of the Snow-hidden Group.

Therefore, Gu Youlan had put up the Blood-Drinking Sword she stole all those years ago for auction, luring her here so she could comfortably act as a shill, fiercely driving up the price of the Blood-Drinking Sword she had provided, forcing her to bleed cash!

This wasn't merely unfounded speculation on Mei Yinxue's part; there was a precedent.

The underground casino incident with Card Shark had unfolded in exactly this way, hadn't it?

"Three billion, five hundred million!"

Mu Jinyu's expression darkened slightly before he firmly stated his bid.

"Four billion!"

As soon as Mu Jinyu had made his bid, Gu Youlan immediately followed, abruptly raising the stakes by ten billion!

"Four..."

Mu Jinyu was about to place another bid when Mei Yinxue stopped him, shaking her head and advising, "Don't follow it anymore, I don't want this sword anymore; she's intentionally deceiving us."

With that, Mei Yinxue shared her conjecture that Gu Youlan had stolen her Blood-Drinking Sword, then brought it here to auction to lure her, playing the auction's shill to make her spend tens of billions, otherwise she could forget about getting it back...

After hearing this, Mu Jinyu's face also turned ugly.

He hadn't expected Gu Youlan to be so malicious, to steal the sword their foster father had gifted to Mei Yinxue, and now, for whatever reason—whether she was short on cash or something else—she brought forth the sword to attract Mei Yinxue, forcing her to spend tens of billions to take it back, or else...

"Forget it, consider it a gift to a dog."

Mu Jinyu took a deep breath, suppressing his disgust and anger, and bid again, "Four billion, five hundred million."

"There's no need for this... sigh..." Mei Yinxue sighed deeply, her emotions complex, feeling moved, guilty, and somewhat resentful towards Gu Youlan.

Mu Jinyu said, "No worries, if she doesn't know her limits and dares to continue inflating the price, I won't bid anymore. I want to see how she ends this!"

Speaking, a cold gleam flashed in Mu Jinyu's eyes.

Following Mu Jinyu's bid, Gu Youlan was right behind him, directly shouting, "Fifty billion!"

At that bid,

suddenly, the auction house began to resemble a boiling cauldron.

Although this auction was limited to Jinling's high society,

to escalate an auction item's price to fifty billion was extremely rare, only one or two instances having occurred, and those few auctioned items were of national treasure calibre.

And the Peerless Divine Weapon that Mu Jinyu and the others had pushed to fifty billion, while certainly impressive, they didn't feel it was worth fifty billion.

They were truly fired up!

And whether this Peerless Divine Weapon would reach a sky-high price of one hundred billion was anyone's guess.

Of course, there were speculations whether Gu Youlan could actually fork out this much cash.

Whether Mu Jinyu could produce fifty billion wasn't the issue for now, considering he was a reputed powerhouse, and no one knew the extent of his resources.

But Gu Youlan, being from Jinling as well, was an open book to them.

They felt that fifty billion, even for the Young Master of the Su Family, couldn't easily be produced in cash all at once.

But could Gu Youlan really produce it?

Probably, she was truly incensed against Mu Jinyu; even if she couldn't get her hands on the Peerless Divine Weapon, she'd make sure the other party paid dearly!

In room number seven.

When Mu Jinyu heard Gu Youlan's bid of fifty billion, the corners of his mouth turned up in a sneer.

He had already asked Mu Hongchen to check on Jinling's Su Family and Gu Youlan's financial foundations.

Mu Hongchen had just sent him the information.

Jinling's Su Family was indeed a giant, with assets nearing a hundred billion, and the Young Master, Su Xuezheng, personally held assets amounting to tens of billions.

However, the cash he could produce did not exceed twenty billion.

And Gu Youlan, greatly favored by Su Xuezheng and with her own investments, could actually produce no more than ten billion in cash.

One billion!

Although it was a colossal figure for the people below, what right did Gu Youlan have to shout 'Fifty Billion'?!

Moreover, she had just purchased the Old Buddha's jade bracelet—her actual cash flow was only three billion!

Was she acting as a shill, trying to artificially hike up the prices or what?!

In Box Number Three.

Dressed in an elegant gown, Gu Youlan crossed her legs delicately, her flawless, ivory-like legs dazzling under the lights, radiating a mesmerizing sheen.

She took a sip of the red wine in her glass and sneered to herself, "If I don't make you cough up a hundred billion today, I'd be failing to repay Mei Yinxue for driving me out of River City all those years ago!"

Meanwhile, on stage, the host, seeing Gu Youlan bid fifty billion, and Mu Jinyu not immediately following, gripped the microphone tighter, his expression excited and spirited as he shouted:

"Women are no less courageous than men, their boldness never questioned by the heavens. The lady in Box Number Three has bid Fifty Billion, does anyone bid higher?"

While speaking, he cast hopeful looks toward the doorway of Box Number Seven, waiting for Mu Jinyu's bid.

Gu Youlan too was waiting, guessing that Mu Jinyu was hesitating because of the high bid of fifty billion.

However, she thought that the Blood-Drinking Sword held significant meaning for Mei Yinxue and considering Mu Jinyu's net worth was well over a hundred billion, wouldn't Mei Yinxue just need to whisper in his ear for him to buy it for her?

Just like with herself and Su Xuezheng.

Thus, she was not panicking at all.

However, what Gu Youlan truly hadn't expected was...

Just as the host finished speaking, Mu Jinyu followed with, "Then congratulations to the generous and bold miss in Box Number Three."

Gu Youlan: "?????"

What did he mean by that? Was he no longer contesting? Had he chickened out?

Gu Youlan was instantly filled with rage, thinking, what does this mean? A man worth over a hundred billion, and he's unwilling to buy a meaningful divine weapon for his woman?!

And Mei Yinxue, that guy is useless, can't even handle his own man!

Unlike herself, she had Su Xuezheng well-trained, compliant to whatever she desired, daring not to defy her even in public!

'Not interested anymore?'

The host, still on stage waiting for Mu Jinyu to bid, was taken aback upon hearing his words.

He knew the Peerless Divine Weapon was consigned by Gu Youlan, Madam Su of the Su Family.

Initially, seeing Gu Youlan and Mu Jinyu aggressively bidding against each other, raising the price to fifty billion, he thought the final transaction price would be around seventy billion.

Who had known Mu Jinyu would suddenly lose interest!

What to do now?

Gu Youlan ended up winning her own item; the auction house, because of the Su Family's influence, could only earn a small commission, unlike what it would have earned from Mu Jinyu through a hefty fee.

The host had no choice but to employ all his vocal skills, hoping to ignite Mu Jinyu's competitive bidding desire.

But after speaking for three minutes, Mu Jinyu still showed no intention of bidding, making the audience below somewhat impatient.

Seeing this, the host could no longer delay, secretly blaming Gu Youlan, 'Why did you suddenly raise the price by ten billion? Happy now? You've scared them off, and now the item is a hot potato in your hands!'

"If no one else wishes to participate in the bidding, then... this Peerless Divine Weapon will be sold for Fifty Billion to the lady in Box Number Three!"

"Fifty Billion once!"

"Fifty Billion twice!"

"Fifty Billion... three times!"

"Bang!"

The host banged the gavel, managing a strained smile as he said, "Congratulations to the lady in Box Number Three for successfully bidding on this Peerless Divine Weapon at the price of Fifty Billion."

"Clap Clap Clap!"

The audience applauded for Gu Youlan, whose face had turned a stony shade of blue in the box.

Chapter 369: Making a Scene!

"Clap! Clap! Clap!"

Listening to the loud applause coming from outside, Gu Youlan felt no joy but was filled with resentment and discomfort.

After all, the divine weapon she had put up for auction was merely a means to lure Mei Yinxue to her for draining.

Now that Mu Jinyu had stopped competing, although the auction would not force her to spend fifty billion to buy back her own item, the commission fee she had to pay was unavoidable.

Even at the lowest discount, she would still have to pay over a hundred million in fees!

This in and out, just to retrieve her own item, yet she had to pay over a hundred million in fees; this was a terrible loss!

Thus, the applause outside was like a slap to Gu Youlan's face, one after another.

"I'll settle the score with you all later!"

Fuming, Gu Youlan rose from her seat and went backstage at the auction to settle the commission fees for this event.

By then, the applause outside had gradually thinned out.

Abruptly, a voice, under the effect of the venue's sound system, echoed throughout the entire auction hall!

"Host, I have a question now. Does the young lady in booth number three actually have fifty billion in cash to bid on this sword? If not, isn't she deliberately causing trouble? Or did your auction house have her skill to fleece me?"

The speaker was naturally Mu Jinyu.

He could not possibly give up bidding and continue to endure being deliberately schemed against by Gu Youlan.

If Gu Youlan couldn't come up with fifty billion, along with her scheming with the auction house, her reputation would be utterly ruined, and as for Gu Youlan...

He would make her realize what happens when she schemes against him.

As Mu Jinyu's challenging voice arose.

The host on stage, and Gu Youlan inside booth number three, both had their expressions change immediately.

Although they knew Mu Jinyu must have guessed that they had teamed up to set him up in a big scam, since he had already given up on the bidding, why constantly hold on to it?

Could it be that he wasn't afraid of offending the major families of Jinling?

The rich attendees sitting below, hearing Mu Jinyu's skepticism, which they already found somewhat questionable, chose to remain silent.

And those trying to curry favor with the Su Family burst out angrily:

"What do you mean by this? Madam Su is a young madam from a prestigious family in Jinling with a personal fortune exceeding a hundred billion already. Couldn't she get fifty billion?!"

"It's really interesting, you can't outbid others due to lack of money, and you question others right after they bought this divine weapon! What do you think you are? Do you think with a bit of rotten money, you can challenge the Su Family?!"

"Madam Su conspiring with the auction? Her acting as a skill to scam you? Aren't you thinking too much? Do you have a persecution complex?"

"If you don't have the money, don't come to Jinling and embarrass yourself!"

"..."

The crowd was agitated, as if Mu Jinyu's questioning was an outrageous affront.

Mu Jinyu sneered, pushed the door of his booth number seven open, then stood in the corridor on the second floor, hand on the railing, overlooking those mocking him from below, and sharply stared at the host, saying:

"About my doubt just now, can you give me an explanation?"

The host, unable to meet Mu Jinyu's piercing gaze, dodged and shifted his eyes away, sweat forming on his forehead. He then explained:

"I apologize, sir. The lady in booth number three is financially capable, and our auction house does not engage in hiring skills. Besides, the lady's status means she wouldn't participate in such activities for our auction, so you can be assured, but we need to keep our clients' identities confidential and cannot disclose specific transaction processes..."

Mu Jinyu scoffed, cutting off the host's nonsense:

"Stop with the 'young lady in booth number three.' You think I don't know who she is?"

Saying this, Mu Jinyu turned around and strode to the entrance of booth number three.

Then, under the astonished and disbelief-filled gazes of the crowd below, Mu Jinyu kicked toward the doorway!

"Bang!"

The first kick.

Mu Jinyu didn't use much force, just causing the security door to tremble slightly before emitting a dull thud.

Although the thud wasn't loud, in the silent auction room at that moment, it sounded exceptionally piercing and loud, making everyone's heartbeats involuntarily echo it as if their chests were also hammered heavily, causing their faces to turn pale.

"Bang!"

The second kick.

Mu Jinyu had now exerted his Inner Strength, and instantly, the extremely sturdy security door was kicked open by him.

"Clang!"

The security door heavily fell to the ground, shattering the marble floor beneath it, dust billowing, barely revealing the pale figure of Gu Youlan inside.

After that, Mu Jinyu sneered and directly stepped inside.

Under Gu Youlan's frightened and terrified gaze, Mu Jinyu extended a hand, grabbed her by the throat, and, like lifting a small chicken, hoisted her up.

"Whimper, whimper, whimper..."

Because her throat was constricted, Gu Youlan couldn't really say anything and could only emit sobbing noises.

Mu Jinyu didn't care about these things, and holding Gu Youlan like a small chicken, he walked out of room number three.

After that, Mu Jinyu carried Gu Youlan step by step from the second floor to the ground floor auction room, under the incredulous gazes of the crowd, and directly threw the hand-held Gu Youlan onto the ground!

The crowd looked on, their faces turning pale.

This was Madam Su, the woman Young Master of the Su Family loved the most!

This guy, to actually dare treat Gu Youlan like this!

His audacity was boundless.

Those who had earlier rebuked Mu Jinyu, seeing this scene, dared not utter another bold word.

Mu Jinyu, this guy, even dared treat Gu Youlan this way, what were they in comparison? If they dared say a word more, they feared Mu Jinyu might break their legs!

And, with Young Master Su coming over later, if he asked about the recent events, would he suspect that they were deliberately inciting trouble, leading Mu Jinyu to lose his reason and thus treat Gu Youlan in such a way?

If that was the case, they were doomed!

'Done for, done for, things are really going to blow up now!!'

The host and the person in charge of this auction, seeing this scene, all had faces as white as sheets, knowing that they wouldn't be able to escape responsibility when Su Xuezhen arrived.

As for the security guards responsible for the order and stability of the auction, seeing Mu Jinyu kick the security door open, how could they dare to approach and stop Mu Jinyu's rampage?!

"You actually dare treat me this way, I'm going to fight you!"

At this moment, Gu Youlan caught her breath, no longer feeling the suffocation and got up from the ground, flailing her arms, ready to fight Mu Jinyu desperately!

"Slap!"

Mu Jinyu, seeing this, without any pity for beauty, directly slapped Gu Youlan's stunning face!

Gu Youlan, struck by Mu Jinyu's slap, heard ringing in her ears and her cheek swelled up high, appearing both comical and miserable.

Her eyes, filled with disbelief and frenzy, stared at Mu Jinyu and she screamed, "You actually dare to hit me, you dare hit a woman? Are you even a man?!"

"How doesn't hitting a woman make me a man?"

Mu Jinyu sneered, "As for me, aside from my mom, my wife, my daughter whom I won't hit, if any other woman dares to offend me, I always smack without hesitation!"

Chapter 370: What are the consequences?

"Ah! I'm going all out against you!"

Gu Youlan's eyes were bloodshot. At this moment, she could no longer maintain her usual delicate demeanor. Utilizing her not-so-strong martial arts, she charged at Mu Jinyu once again, swinging her sharp nails aiming for Mu Jinyu's eye sockets!

"Smack!"

"Smack!"

"Smack!"

Would Mu Jinyu let her sneak attack succeed?

With a flick of her hand, she sent a series of slaps to Gu Youlan.

Directly causing Gu Youlan's cheeks to swell, seeing stars, and then with a thud, she fell to the ground.

Mu Jinyu examined Gu Youlan's swollen cheeks and clicked her tongue in admiration, "Now the swelling is even on both sides, much easier on the eyes."

Then, Mu Jinyu turned her head towards the trembling host and the auction's manager and said coldly, "Come here and check, see if this wench actually has five billion to compete with me for that sword. If she doesn't, and if you still let her recklessly shout bids, then you better handle it yourselves!"

Under the terrifying might of the Dragon King exuded by Mu Jinyu, the manager, originally wanting to wriggle out, felt as though a massive mountain was pressing on his shoulders. If he dared utter a word of refusal, in an instant, that mountain would undoubtedly crush him to death!

Thus, the manager could only move his trembling legs, calling for someone to bring the POS machine over to immediately verify Gu Youlan's funds, to see if she indeed had enough to purchase the fifty billion Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword.

Making such a decision was indeed tough, but he had no choice.

Offending Gu Youlan and the Su Family behind her meant at most losing his job or getting his legs broken, but offending Mu Jinyu might mean dying on the spot!

Hence, the auction manager could only hope for Su Xuezhen and the young masters of several grand families who jointly created "Listening to the Rain on Bamboo" private club to quickly come and take control of the situation!

That way, he might be able to get out sooner and no longer bear the immense pressure from Mu Jinyu.

Suddenly, staff members accompanied the manager, and they rummaged through Gu Youlan's purse for her Citibank advanced-level VIP card, then began to process the transaction and input the password...

Hmm...

The password for Gu Youlan's card was simple, six sixes, which they all remembered, allowing them to input the password while Gu Youlan was semi-conscious.

"Beep-beep..."

Mu Jinyu heard the alert sound, leaned her head towards the screen; the POS machine displayed insufficient funds, transaction failed...

The manager began to sweat profusely.

Initially, he had been earnestly praying in his heart, hoping Gu Youlan's card had fifty billion...

Even though it was a slim hope.

If that were the case, then Mu Jinyu would've had to pay the price.

But now...

Gu Youlan did not have sufficient funds to cover the fifty billion she had bid, meaning her previous actions...

were indeed just causing trouble!

With difficulty, the manager raised his head and displayed a flattering smile to Mu Jinyu, saying, "Mr. Mu, I apologize, Ms. Gu's card balance is insufficient. She indeed disrupted your proper bidding just now. If you still want this precious sword, you can take it now for the initial price of two billion."

"Heh..."

Upon hearing the manager's words, Mu Jinyu almost found it humorous, scoffed coldly, and said, "Do you think that will allow me to let bygones be bygones?!"

Speaking further, her tone suddenly intensified, "If it were just the starting bid of two billion earlier, I might not have cared—spending this money to buy back the old item stolen from my wife. But now, at this point, you still consider me an easy mark?!"

Having said that!

Mu Jinyu turned her head towards Star General Jingmu, who was waiting on the side, and said, "Jingmu, go find the list of the people who filed this sword for auction at the auction house!"

"Yes!"

Star General Jingmu immediately turned around, left the auction venue, and went to the auction backstage to find the list of consignors for this auction.

The person in charge's face turned deathly pale, feeling that the situation was getting out of control.

Because the Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword was indeed provided by Gu Youlan for the auction. If Mu Jinyu were to find out, wouldn't that confirm the auction's collusion with Gu Youlan in setting a trap to defraud people?

Who would dare to attend their auctions in the future?

The years of hard work by the young masters of Jinling's major families would be completely wasted.

At this moment, the person in charge truly despised Gu Youlan. Why did she have to maliciously bid against Mu Jinyu just now? Wouldn't it have been better to just close the bid at two billion yuan?

The person in charge still thought that Gu Youlan was acting out of spite after losing to Mu Jinyu several times in the bidding, which led her to maliciously bid on the Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword.

Little did he know that from the beginning, Gu Youlan's intention was to severely trick Mu Jinyu. How could she possibly not maliciously outbid him?

Soon, Star General Jingmu found the list of consignors for this auction.

Then, he displayed it directly on the auction's silver screen.

Instantly, everyone present could clearly see that the consignor of the sword named Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword was indeed...

Gu Youlan!

The crowd looked at the scene, their expressions a mix of shock and anger.

Originally, some people believed that Gu Youlan surely brought enough money, and just after the transaction failed, they thought she might have just brought the wrong card. But now...

Gu Youlan had truly slapped them in the face!

She really did collude with the auction to deceive others!

She had no fifty billion yuan, yet dared to bid fifty billion yuan; she wanted to ruin Mu Jinyu!

It's no wonder Mu Jinyu was so furious!

Meanwhile, another set of photos appeared on the silver screen.

These were photos from Mei Yinxue's seventeenth or eighteenth birthday, showing a middle-aged man handing a gift box to Mei Yinxue. She opened it, revealing a sword with a shimmering cold light inside.

Next to them, a few young girls stood, one of whom was Gu Youlan.

Although Mei Yinxue and Gu Youlan looked very young and tender in the photos, they had matured by now, and the crowd recognized them immediately.

Looking at these photos, everyone was somewhat stunned.

If these photos were authentic, then it meant that this sword was originally a birthday gift for Mei Yinxue.

Why then did Gu Youlan possess this sword and put it up for auction?

Thinking back to the fact that they'd met at seventeen or eighteen years old, and given Gu Youlan's recent malicious bidding against Mu Jinyu, everyone realized that the auction of the Zichen Demon-Slaying Sword might have been a scheme Gu Youlan set up against Mei Yinxue from the start...

This set of photos was naturally retrieved by Dragon King Hall's intelligence team from Mei Yinxue's computer and released by Star General Jingmu.

Facing the speechless person in charge, Mu Jinyu scoffed, "So now, you still want me to spend two billion yuan to buy back the sword that the wretch stole from my wife?"

The person in charge broke out in a cold sweat, unable to utter a single word.

Mu Jinyu, standing with his hands clasped behind his back, glared down at him and said, "Bring out the families behind your auction hall. If they don't give me an explanation today, you might want to consider the consequences!"

"Oh? What consequences?!"

At that moment, the doors of the auction venue were pushed open, and several smartly dressed men, surrounded by numerous bodyguards, strode in.