

# Ms. Tan Is The Real Boss

Chapter 031 - 032

031 Nervous

Wisps of smoke drifted out, and the faint fragrance carried the smell of Chinese medicine. Zhuang Liu took a deep breath and miraculously felt that his entire body seemed to have been opened up by the soft fragrance.

Zhuang Liu slightly narrowed his eyes, feeling a rare sense of relaxation, and actually felt a little sleepy.

Xiao Mo also felt that it was very magical, "Is this fragrance really so magical? The third Young Master hasn't been resting well because he was overly worried. It's been a long time since he's relaxed."

Seeing Zhuang Liu's satisfied expression, Xiao Mo had already thought of bringing more incenses back from Bai Jing's place in a while. Third Young Master could finally sleep well.

Bai Jing felt honored, "Of course. That young friend is a rare genius. An ordinary person would feel relaxed just by smelling this fragrance. It has the effect of cultivating one's body and mind. But for someone like Xiao Liu who is overly worried and has been in a deficit for a long time, it is especially nourishing."

Zhuang Liu simply closed his eyes and immersed himself in the fragrance. He agreed and said, "It is indeed good. No wonder you value it so much."

Bai Jing slowly squatted down and rolled up Zhuang Liu's trousers, "Then shall I begin?"

Xiao Mo who was aside nervously squeezed his hands.

Zhuang Liu slowly nodded. "Let's begin."

Just as he said that Bai Jing picked up the acupuncture needles and smoothly poked them into Zhuang Liu's legs. His speed was unbelievably fast.

Zhuang Liu's legs were especially thin because he had been sitting in a wheelchair all year round. Moreover, because the toxins had been accumulating for a long time, his legs were faintly purplish-green. Now that his legs are filled with silver acupuncture needles, they looked even scarier.

As Bai Jing moved the silver needles bit by bit according to the direction of his acupuncture points, beads of sweat gradually began to appear on Zhuang Liu's forehead.

Bai Jing was highly focused. He did not even dare to blink his eyes. Soon, his body was also drenched in sweat.

Time passed bit by bit. Xiao Mo was so nervous that he did not even dare to breathe. He stared intently at Bai Jing's rapidly moving hands.

Bai Jing anxiously shouted, "Xiao Mo, go get the medicine that I just brewed and give it to Xiao Liu to drink!"

Xiao Mo quickly ran over to get the medicine and returned to feed Zhuang Liu, one gulp after another.

Zhuang Liu frowned. He endured the pain and swallowed the medicine bit by bit.

Bai Jing said while doing the acupuncture, "The situation is worse than I thought, but it is too late to stop now. Hold on!"

Zhuang Liu's face had already turned pale. After drinking the medicine, he forced himself to take a deep breath and replied, "I'm fine."

Bai Jing was a little anxious. His plan was risky, to begin with, but only after starting the acupuncture treatment did he realize that even after so many years, the poison was still terrifyingly overbearing.

All these years, Bai Jing had been using medicine to stabilize the poison and slowly expel it from his body. However, the poison was very strange. It seemed to be able to continuously grow in Zhuang Liu's body, continuously feeding on him and accumulating for so long, that it actually made their toxicity even more intense.

Bai Jing felt uneasy, but he didn't dare to stop. He kept trying to guide the poison down.

At this moment, a sound came from the door. Tan Rou walked in, "Uncle Bai, are you there?"

Bai Jing didn't have the time to answer. He was focused on Zhuang Liu's legs.

Tan Rou was here to deliver incense. After she went home, she made some more with different effects. She wanted to bring them over to Bai Jing to see if there were any other areas that needed improvement.

However, the moment she entered the door, she discovered that Bai Jing was in the midst of applying the acupuncture needle.

Tan Rou subconsciously wanted to avoid it. This was a rule. Firstly, she was afraid of disturbing Bai Jing. Secondly, she was afraid of invading other people's privacy.

However, just as Tan Rou was about to turn around and leave, she inadvertently glanced at the person who was receiving the treatment. She remembered that she had actually seen the person before. It was the man she had saved at the medicinal herbs market the other day.

So he knew Uncle Bai as well. What a coincidence.

Because she had seen him before, Tan Rou hesitated for a moment and stayed where she was without moving.

At this moment, Zhuang Liu felt that he had vaguely heard a familiar voice. This voice had appeared in his mind countless times. He had thought that it was because he was suffering so much that he was hallucinating.

Zhuang Liu opened his eyes slightly and saw that Tan Rou was really standing right in front of him! In a moment of panic, he suddenly mustered all his remaining strength to sit up and try to find something to cover his legs.

Zhuang Liu was extremely flustered. He must be in an extremely ugly state right now. He did not want Tan Rou to see him in this state.

Bai Jing shouted, "What are you doing! Messing around! Quickly lie down!"

Xiao Mo hurriedly held Zhuang Liu down, "Third Young Master, don't move!"

With his sudden movement, coupled with the sudden fluctuation in his emotions, the condition of his legs became even worse. Bai Jing's forehead was covered in sweat, and he anxiously shouted, "Not good!"

032 A critical moment

At this moment, Tan Rou also realized the gravity of the situation. She couldn't care so much anymore and quickly walked forward. She lowered her head and started to examine Zhuang Liu's legs.

After taking a few glances, Tan Rou asked with certainty, "Poison?"

Zhuang Liu only felt that his expectations were too high just now. It turned out that there was something worse than not being able to cure it. It was being seen by Tan Rou in such a sorry state.

Zhuang Liu suddenly felt a little hopeless. He slowly turned his head away, wishing he could hide.

Bai Jing was extremely anxious. "Yes, the poison is moving faster now." As he said that, he held a needle and was about to poke it into his leg.

"Don't!" Tan Rou stopped Bai Jing. "Stimulating this acupuncture point can indeed alleviate the pain, but it will also stimulate the sensitive nerves in the legs. He won't be able to take it."

Bai Jing's eyes lit up, "You also know acupuncture?"

Zhuang Liu felt that he was probably beyond saving. Just now, he was afraid that Tan Rou would despise him, but now that he heard her say that, he felt a little happy. She was probably worried about him.

Tan Rou also became serious. It was a critical moment. Saving people was more important. If it was delayed any longer, something bad might happen.

Tan Rou nodded and pointed at the two acupuncture points on Zhuang Liu's leg, "These two points should be fine."

Bai Jing felt as if he had been struck by lightning. That's right, why didn't he notice it!

Bai Jing secretly cursed himself for being useless and old. The more anxious he was, the more mistakes he made. However, he also felt pleasantly surprised. Not only did Tan Rou understand what was going on, but she was also able to point out his mistake. She must be an expert!

Bai Jing didn't waste any time and directly handed the silver needle to Tan Rou. "Little friend, help me stabilize his poison for now. I'll go decoct another medicine."

After saying that, Bai Jing looked at Tan Rou seriously. "You can do it." He believed his own judgment of her. Tan Rou's mastery of acupuncture was far from his.

Tan Rou only hesitated for a moment. After all, this mission was a little too important. However, every doctor had a sense of responsibility. How could they delay saving people just because they were afraid of taking responsibility?

Thinking of this, Tan Rou nodded solemnly and picked up the silver needle, "Uncle Bai, don't worry, I can do it."

With that, Tan Rou began to place the needle. Her movements were gentle but very decisive.

Xiao Mo was so anxious and he wanted to go forward and stop her. He had never heard of Miss Tan Rou's medical skills. This was not a joke. If there was the slightest mistake, wouldn't Third Young Master's life be in danger? Divine Doctor Bai was at fault as well. How could he trust others so easily?

However, Zhuang Liu reached out to stop Xiao Mo and looked at Tan Rou quietly. At this moment, he had already thrown away the awkwardness in his mind. He only looked at the girl squatting in front of him with a serious expression. His heart was calm and he comforted Tan Rou, "Don't be nervous. I believe in you."

For some reason, Zhuang Liu's heart was willing to believe that Tan Rou could do it. She had always been so outstanding. No matter how many difficult problems she faced, in front of her, the problems looked easy. This was the most amazing little girl he had ever met. Since she said she could do it, what reason did he have to not believe her?

Tan Rou took some time to look at Zhuang Liu. This person was really interesting. In this kind of situation, others would probably be scared out of their wits. After all, she had just arrived, and she had already taken the liberty to interfere with his illness.

Tan Rou felt that he was a very interesting person. She did not expect that not only was Zhuang Liu handsome, but his personality also was gentle, and he had such a good temper. The two of them had only met twice and he dared to place his trust in her?

However, Tan Rou still nodded, "Don't worry, I really know what I am doing!"

Little did Tan Rou know that the Zhuang family's Third Young Master was never associated with the words 'gentle' and 'good temper'. No one in the business world dared to look down on him because of Zhuang Liu's body. It was because he was ruthless in his actions and his methods were vicious. He was like a hungry wolf that continuously expanded his business territory.

Xiao Mo sighed helplessly. Third Young Master's condition was completely hopeless. He had even given his life to Miss Tan Rou to play with. This world was too crazy.

Tan Rou quickly sealed the important acupoints to prevent the poison from spreading upwards. Then, she took a small knife and a container from the cabinet beside her. After quickly disinfecting it, she looked at Zhuang Liu. "I'm going to release some poisonous blood. Bear with the pain."

Zhuang Liu nodded silently.

With a flash of silver light, Tan Rou cut a small wound on Zhuang Liu's calf. Immediately, dark red blood flowed out from the small wound.

Tan Rou looked at the dark blood and frowned. "This poison has been around for many years, but it's still so toxic."

Zhuang Liu did not feel much pain because the pain was nothing to him, "I was poisoned when I was young. It has been more than ten years. It's all thanks to Uncle Bai that I'm still alive."

## 004 Budding brilliance

The door was opened and four or five people walked in with Tan Jing like how stars surrounded the moon. They were trying to prove the “evidence” that they had seen.

Tan Rou knew that Tan Jing had curated a flawless plan. Besides, what was the point of coming alone? Of course, she had arranged an opportunity to let more people find out about it and attracted a crowd over.

Tan Jing opened the door and she was stunned. How could it be? The chaotic scene she had hoped for did not happen. Tan Rou was even sitting on the bed with her clothes on. Where is Zhou Zheng?

The good show fell through. Tan Jing’s face gradually showed a trace of distortion.

Tan Rou quietly admired their faces for a while. After enjoying the spoils, she taunted, “Why? Is there something you need me for?”

“Tan Rou! You! Did you secretly bring a man up here?!” The crowd made their first move.

Some of them even started to walk around the room, trying to find him. “Yes, we’ve all heard about it. Where did you hide him? Come out at once!”

Tan Rou smiled, “Are you all drunk? What man? Tan Jing, if I remember correctly you were the one who personally helped me up. Shouldn’t you know?”

Tan Jing immediately panicked, she squeezed out a smile. “That’s right, Xiao Rou. So you’re not drunk after all. I was worried about you so I helped you up the stairs. Why didn’t you say so earlier? I thought you weren’t feeling well, I even put in a lot of effort to carry you up. My hands are still sore.”

Sore? She was lying through her teeth. She didn’t even let herself touch her.

Tan Rou wasn’t in a hurry to expose her because her real goal wasn’t to dispel Tan Jing’s petty lies. Getting into the nitty-gritty details would be to fall straight into Tan Jing’s playbook.

Tan Rou questioned directly, “So you’re saying that I pretended to be drunk, but took the opportunity to hook up with a man here? Let’s not bother if that is true or not first. Tan Jing, upon hearing it your first reaction is to bring so many people up with you. Were you deliberately trying to embarrass me?”

Tan Jing quickly denied, "How could I? I was worried about you. After all, it was Zhou Zheng who came to your room. A bastard like him... Where is he?"

Tan Rou sneered, "You also know that he is a bastard. Then, how can you be so sure that he will be in my room?"

Tan Jing knew that she couldn't win the argument, she quickly pretended to compromise, "Xiao Rou, don't be angry. We were all worried that you might be taken advantage of. Since you are not, that's great. You can say whatever you want about me. I won't hold it against you."

The crowd tried to defend their claims. "Tan Rou, someone clearly saw Zhou Zheng enter your room with their own eyes. How dare you still deny it?"

Tan Rou was not angry, she still replied indifferently, "That's right. Today is the Tan family's ball. The guest list was carefully curated. I don't know what kind of situation would allow someone like Zhou Zheng to sneak in. And even after being spotted, he was allowed to just enter my room? If that were the case, then wouldn't it make a fool out of the Tan family's security guards and all the people downstairs?"

Tan Jing gritted her teeth secretly. Her exquisite nails were about to break. Damn it. She had clearly planned it so thoroughly. This Tan Rou had always had a pig's brain. How did she dodge such a well-thought-out plan and how did she suddenly become so eloquent today.

Tan Rou took the opportunity to continue, "Don't you all know how important reputation is to a girl? Today, you guys actually believed in a rumor and even followed Tan Jing here. Were all of you trying to catch me in bed?"

Tan Jing was done. If this situation continued, it would be of no benefit to her and she was in a hurry to end it, "Xiao Rou, I'm sorry. We'll go down at once. You can continue to rest and no one will mention a word about it. I was careless and it almost ruined your reputation."

After saying that, she called everyone out.

Tan Rou smiled gently and did not ask them to stay any longer. This war is going to be a prolonged one. It is pointless to be harp on what happened today.

After everyone left, Tan Jing pretended to wipe her tears and instructed Wei Ling in a raised tone so that everyone could hear her. "Ling Ling, I'm still worried. Zhou Zheng might still be hiding in the house. What if Xiao Rou was really duped by him and did something stupid? Help me. If you see or hear anything, we have to come and save Xiao Rou."

The crowd's hearts ache in sympathy for Tan Jing. Just now, Tan Rou pretended to be calm and suggested that it was Tan Jing who deliberately lured them to expose her. However, a righteous person is not afraid of slander. After what had happened, Tan Jing is still thinking for her, how could such a kind person have such sinister intentions?

Tan Jing smiled miserably. "Xiao Rou... She still doesn't like me very much. But maybe in the future, she will understand me."

#### 005. Tan Jing gets the stick

Inside the room, Tan Rou was listening to the faint voices outside and carefully plotting her next steps.

However, no matter what she did, she would still have to deal with whatever came her way. After all, Tan Jing's disgusting tricks were endless. It is better for her to be on guard at all times.

Next, it was time to go downstairs and have a good chat with others. The ball held by the Tan family was very formal. Initially, it was probably because Tan Jing wanted to blow up the scandal of her private meeting. Naturally, the more people there were, the higher the status they were, the better. With one move, Tan Jing could ruin her name in the entire circle.

Then... That woman, the woman whom she truly admired in her previous life, the woman whose affection she longed for, the woman who she used to call mother. Naturally, she would also be at the ball to accompany her beloved daughter.

In her previous life, she foolishly lied to herself. Perhaps her adoptive mother would reserve the last bit of affection for her, but the truth hit her hard in the face. She and Tan Jing were the true mother and daughter duo, even their vicious hearts ran from the same lineage.

What else does she have to look forward to?

That kind of person deserves to rot in the mud with her own daughter. Tan Rou no longer bothered to get into her good books because she finally understood who her family was and who needs her protection.

With that thought, Tan Rou let out a relieved smile. She went downstairs, ready to see what kind of tricks Tan Jing had planned for her. She was not going to let it slide this time.

Downstairs, the ball was still going smoothly. The hall was filled with conversation, people wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to network with powerful people. These are instances where the freshest gossip within the circle was inevitably shared.

Some of the gossipers did not care that they were in the Tan family. They started to discuss in a low voice, "Have you heard? The adopted daughter of the Tan family came back today too."

"I saw her just now. Aiyo, if it were me, I wouldn't have the cheek to come back. Their biological daughter has already been found yet she still clings to the Tan family. Isn't she being shameless?"

"That's right! Blood ties are such powerful bonds. It's not something that can be replaced by an adopted daughter. I heard that she's quite a worrisome problem to the family. The Tan family has a business empire. What if they leave it to her?"

"Worrisome problem? I haven't heard about that. Tell me about it..."

Tan Rou, who happened to be coming down the stairs, shook her head helplessly. She didn't have the mood to justify herself against other people's claims about her. She just lamented about how gossips in the gathering of celebrities and wealthy families were no different from gossip amongst countryside bumpkins.

Tan Rou passed by without a shred of emotion on her face. She even gave them a polite nod. The people who were gossiping about her shut their mouths awkwardly and quickly changed the topic.

On the other side, Wei Ling followed Tan Rou downstairs and came to Tan Jing's side. She shook her head, indicating that she didn't notice anything unusual.

Tan Jing frowned. The more she thought about it, the more she felt that something was amiss. Something must have gone wrong and it happened so suddenly. Initially, she only thought of Tan Rou as an idiot without a brain but everything that happened tonight made her suspicious, could it be that she had underestimated her enemy? But she still did not want to believe it. It must be just Tan Rou's luck. She would just have to find another opportunity to deal with her next time.

Just as she was thinking about it, Wei Ling cried out in a small voice, "Jing Jing! Look! Zhou Zheng is there!"

Tan Jing was stunned. The uneasiness in her heart grew by the moment.

Sure enough, Zhou Zheng was walking over from not far away. His face was wounded, which made his face look even more ferocious and repulsive.

Tan Rou, who was observing from the side, was also a little surprised. She didn't hit his face just now. What happened? She couldn't help but tense up again. Could it be that she had been careless and there was still a follow-up to their conspiracy?

Zhou Zheng was dressed like a hooligan and his face was covered with injuries. Wherever he passed by, people would avoid him. He seemed so out of place for this occasion. He walked straight toward Tan Jing.

“Pa!”

“Ah! Jing Jing!”

Wei Ling cried out in fear. Tan Jing covered her face. She never expected Zhou Zheng to slap her at such an event!

She screamed, “Are you crazy! How did you get in here? Someone get him out of here!”

At that moment, she was infuriated and nervous. Zhou Zheng’s reaction was abnormal. She has to get him out of here before he starts spouting any nonsense!

Miraculously, no one appeared. The people in the hall looked at each other and whispered about what had just happened. They did not dare to go forward. Only a few people came to check on her for the Tan family’s sake.

Tan Jing did not know if she was angry out of embarrassment or if she was fired up from being beaten so badly. Her face was red and she shouted in anger.

Zhou Zheng did not care about her, he continued slapping her on the face. “B\*tch! It was you who tricked me into drugging Tan Rou! You even told me to sneak into her room and sleep with her. Then when I failed, you turned around and betrayed me. You even got someone to beat me up. You played me and so today I’m going to beat you up!”

Tan Jing screamed in pain after being beaten up. However, she was more afraid of what he was saying. “You’re spouting nonsense! Why are you slandering me? !”

There were so many people present and there was no way she could explain herself out of that!

Tan Rou, who was not far away, was also a little surprised. She did not expect this to happen. This was actually such an unexpected surprise. This was really a dog-eat-dog situation.

As Zhou Zheng finished speaking, the entire hall blew up. Everyone was stunned. They never expected there to be so much going on in the background. Some gossipy people even moved closer. After all, this could be considered a scandal for the Tan family.

Even though the people around Tan Jing were anxious to help, they couldn’t hold Zhou Zheng back.

Tan Rou sipped on a mouthful of champagne with glee. This was a really good show.

006 Collapse of the facade

The farce in the hall continued.

The head mistress of the Tan family, who was also Tan Rou's foster mother, Chen Yi, ran over anxiously and shouted, "Where are the security guards? Why are we still keeping you guys on the payroll?!"

Only after Chen Yi's outcry did a team of security guards appear. They panted heavily as if they had ran a long distance.

Zhou Zheng was quickly pulled away and pinned to the ground.

In actual fact, he was extremely afraid deep down inside. After all, the Tan family was thriving. No one in the right mind would dare to jinx themselves on such an occasion. However, lady luck really wasn't on his side tonight. He originally thought that he would be able to land a big score tonight. Instead, he was first beaten up by that woman and ended up fainting in the back garden. He was then beaten and awoken by a group of people whose faces he could not see clearly. They then threatened him to come clean about his plans in the hall if not death awaited him.

If he did not make a scene, he would be beaten to death for sure. He could only take his chances by creating a scene. Zhou Zheng couldn't care much anymore.

However, there is no way that he would go down alone. Tan Jing, that b\*tch was the one who bribed him with money. How can he be the only one who was unlucky?

Zhou Zheng continued to shout, "B\*tch! You secretly brought me in through the back door. You told me to drug Tan Rou, rape her and then wait for you to catch us in bed. In the end, you fooled me! I have evidence in my hands. I will never let you off!"

Tan Jing could not bear to listen any longer. She dare not imagine what everyone would have to say about her. She hid in Chen Yi's arms and cried, "Sob, sob, sob. Mommy, I didn't, I really didn't..."

Seeing her daughter, Chen Yi was heartbroken and she hugged her daughter while shouting at the security guards, "A bunch of good-for-nothings! Hurry up and drag him away! Call the police! Call the police immediately!"

Zhou Zheng was dragged off while he cursed away. The buzz in the hall continued.

"This little girl usually looks well behaved and demure. How could someone like her come up with such an idea?"

"I don't think it's a baseless claim. Which one of us didn't come in with an invitation? How could that hooligan have sneaked into the ball without any inside help?"

"That's right. Didn't you hear the commotion just now? She even brought a crowd with her to catch them on the bed. In the end, not only did she not catch anyone in bed, she got beaten up so badly by the hooligan. Aiyo, what the hell is this!"

"Well, she was raised in a poor family after all. She must have gotten the cunning little tricks from them. Look at her trying to hide her true self..."

Tan Jing hid in Chen Yi's arms. She gritted her teeth so hard that they were about to shatter. No! How could they say that about her?! She is the real heiress of the Tan family, not a poor girl from the streets!

Chen Yi looked at her daughter who was crying so hard and she could not hold it in anymore. However, she is still the head mistress of the family after all. Her sharp eyes swept across the few women who were still whispering, she picked out Tan Rou from the crowd. "Tell me, was this all your doing?"

Tan Rou looked at Chen Yi who was glaring at her angrily. She could not help but want to laugh. Look at this pair of biological mother and daughter, she just returned not long ago and already they are full of love.

"Auntie Chen, I should call you that, right? Even if you feel sorry for your daughter, you can't just accuse someone without any evidence, right?"

Tan Rou pouted her lips at the accusation. "Everyone heard him just now. He made it clear that it was Tan Jing who tried to set me up. How would I know why they turned against each other? You should ask your own daughter about this. I'm the victim here."

Chen Yi was eager to protect Tan Jing's image, so she didn't care how Tan Rou defended herself.

"You unfilial daughter, you are not a child of my Tan family! You have always caused me trouble and disobeyed me. I even tried my best and exhausted all means to send you to study abroad but you ended up getting expelled. Is there anything despicable that you can't do? You still want to accuse Jing Jing!"

Hearing Chen Yi mentioning the past, Tan Rou's smile gradually turned cold. "Auntie Chen, I don't need to remind you, right? It was you who said that my presence made you upset and hence you sent me to school thousands of miles away just so that you would never have to see me again. You said you tried your best? Indeed, you really did put in a lot of effort."

When Tan Rou thought of how she treated herself, the more she didn't want to show any mercy. "As for being expelled from school, have you ever bothered to find out why?"

Haven't you heard of the saying 'It is the parent's responsibility to educate their child'? Are you blaming Uncle Tan? You have never fulfilled your responsibility as a mother. You deemed me as a failure the moment I returned to the country. Did you even give me a chance to explain myself? Don't worry, I don't want to be the daughter of the Tan family anyway."

Chen Yi was rendered speechless by the questioning. She really did not know what had happened to Tan Rou abroad because she has never cared about her.

Tan Rou was angry and she could not allow Chen Yi to slander her again. Since she accused her of being expelled from school in front of the guests, she had to retaliate by pointing out that Chen Yi, her adoptive mother, had failed in her duties. Hadn't she always cultivated the image of a loving mother?

### 007 Returning Home

How did she pull through all these years? She should let everyone be a judge of it. Was it because she was unfilial and hence unworthy of being loved? Or did they not treat her as a human being from the get go.

She did not want to waste anymore time arguing with her as for why she had dropped out of school. In that moment, Chen Yi was like a crazy cow protecting her calf.

Tan Rou sighed, "I shouldn't have come today. Fortunately, I dodged a bullet. Otherwise, who knows if I can leave the Tan family alive or not."

After her plea, she pretended to leave in a desolate manner.

Once Tan Rou left, what she just said was naturally on everyone's minds. That's right, they had always heard that the Tan family had an adopted daughter, but they had only seen her a few times in the past two years. If they really loved her, how could they bear to let her study abroad for such a long time and not see her? How would they not even know the reason why their child had dropped out of school?

The crowd felt that their decision to attend the ball was a right one. The behind the scenes in the Tan family was too interesting to pass up on.

Little did they know that hidden away in a corner, a man in a wheelchair grinned with an air of mischief on his face and gestured for his assistant to push him away.

Walking out of the Tan family's door, Tan Rou took a deep breath and let out a smile of relief.

Looking up, she saw that the moon was bright and the stars were sparse. Even the slight breeze which caressed her ears was particularly soothing.

The Tan family was indeed a treacherous place. She always had no choice but to guard against the trap set up by the mother and daughter duo the second she arrives.

Now that she had finally left, she truly felt the joy of being reborn. How wonderful. This world was supposed to be beautiful but she always failed to appreciate it.

Tan Rou was not far from the door and quietly enjoyed a rare moment of peace. She gradually relaxed from her earlier state of fighting wits and courage. A faint smile unconsciously hung on her lips.

Unlike the previous sneer on her face, this smile was finally fitting for her age but at the same time, it also had an aura that was somewhat different from that of an average person.

On the other side, Zhuang Liu, who was pushed out on his wheelchair, was mesmerized by this scene. "It's been a long time... since I have seen her smile like this. She's beautiful."

Zhuang Liu motioned for his assistant to stop moving forward. At that moment, all he wanted was for her to keep smiling and stay happy. He smiled contentedly as well. It was enough as long as she could be happy. He can take care of everything else.

Tan Rou composed herself and left. It was time for her to go home.

Zhuang Liu looked at Tan Rou's back and although he felt a little reluctant to let her go, he knew that it was not the right time yet.

He turned his head to the side and instructed his assistant, "Spread the news. Just say that the Zhuang family's Third Young Master's old illness is acting up again and he doesn't have long to live."

The assistant was so scared as he rushed to make a call. "Third Young Master, wait a moment. I'll contact the doctor right away!"

Zhuang Liu stopped him helplessly. "I'm fine, I just want you to spread the news."

The assistant said, "But this kind of news does not reflect well on the Zhuang family..."

Zhuang Liu managed a slight grin. In the past, because she was the daughter of the Tan family, he had spent a lot of effort fixing an arranged marriage with the Tan family.

Now that she is no longer in the Tan family, she naturally does not need to keep to this arranged marriage.

The assistant was still worried. "Third Young Master, there are too many families, like the Tan family, that will take advantage of the situation. If they hear of this news and take the opportunity to stir up trouble, what should we do?"

Zhuang Liu nodded. "Just do as you are told. I am purposely baiting them to stir up trouble. As the saying goes 'When the water is clear, there will be no fish'. On the surface, it looks calm but in reality, it is full of schemes. Let them stir up this wave and the more muddled the water is, the easier it will be to expose the problem."

The assistant nodded silently.

On the other side, Tan Rou finally returned to her biological family.

This was a somewhat remote and dilapidated small house, where the few members of the Tao family had always lived. Although it was dilapidated, it was very warm and cozy under the diligent care of Mother Tao.

As soon as she entered, Tan Rou saw Mother Tao busily preparing dinner.

Mother Tao's age was about the same as Chen Yi's. Although she did not have branded goods all over her body like Chen Yi, she still gave off a faint elegant aura.

Even though she was only wearing normal clothes that were obviously aged, in Tan Rou's eyes, Mother Tao was 10,000 times more beautiful than Chen Yi. She was so loving, and it was the feeling of motherly love that Tan Rou yearned for the most.

"Mom." Tan Rou used the title subconsciously and it was much sooner than she had imagined.

Mother Tao was still holding the freshly washed vegetables in her hand. She was stunned when she heard the voice and didn't know what to do.

After a long while, she finally reacted and excitedly replied, "Hey! Rou Rou, did you just call out for me?"

Tan Rou looked at her mother who was so uneasy just because she called her mom. She was filled with guilt thinking about how deep she must have hurt her in the past.

008 Family

Tan Rou's eyes swelled up, behaving childlike in front of her mother. In this instance, she vented all her pent-up grievances and resentments while she yearned for her mother's comfort.

"Mom, it's me, Mom, Mom..."

Mother Tao was extremely heartbroken at the sight of her child in tears. She hurriedly put aside the vegetables. She wiped her hands on the apron and she went up and gently hugged Tan Rou. "Hey, I'm here... You must have suffered, haven't you? Didn't you already return to the Tan Family?"

Tan Rou embraced her mother while inhaling the faint scent on Mother Tao's body, which is irreplaceable by any luxurious perfume.

"Mom, I did not go back to the Tan family, I just went for a visit. This is my home. I'm finally home now."

"Rou Rou... Did you suffer there?" Mother Tao asked cautiously as her daughter was acting out of character.

Previously, her daughter's living conditions were good and she was unable to accept any less when she suddenly returned. She kept insisting that the Tan family was her home. Recently, she was also elated when she learned that she was attending the ball. Why the sudden change in her attitude after the visit?

Something must have happened but she didn't dare to ask. Her daughter's attitude has always been poor.

However, at this moment, Mother Tao couldn't care too much. Despite past happenings, she felt both gratified and sad when her daughter whom she had lost for so many years, hugged her.

In order not to anger Rou Rou, they never asked about the Tan family's matters. But if her daughter were bullied, she would seek justice for her daughter.

"Oh, the young missy is back?"

Tan Rou lifted her head from her mother's embrace and saw her brother, Tao Zheng, walking out of the bedroom.

Tao Zheng heard her voice and came out. However, just as he finished speaking, he saw Tan Rou and Mother Tao embracing with tears in their eyes. He stood rooted to the ground and the mocking expression on his face froze.

"What are you doing? Are you up to something bad again?"

Tan Rou looked at her brother's face and felt a wave of excitement in her heart. Even though his words were harsh, her brother truly loved her. In the previous life, no matter how overboard she was he had never left her side.

"Brother!"

Tan Rou released Mother Tao and walked toward Tao Zheng, gently hugging him.

“Damn it! What are you doing!” Tao Zheng was so scared that he trembled. He flared his arms as if he had seen a ghost, and he did not dare to touch Tan Rou. He leaned back and exclaimed, “Are you possessed? Didn’t you say that my body is dirty? Did you take the opportunity to place insects on me!”

Tan Rou was also momentarily agitated. Releasing him, she blushed and apologized, “Brother, it was my fault in the past, please don’t be angry with me.”

Tao Zheng looked at Tan Rou with his mouth agape as if he was a mute. “You... you...”

Mother Tao playfully chided, “All right! It’s a good thing that your sister is willing to come home. Stop taking shots at her!”

Despite what she said, she still probed Tan Rou, “Then... Rou Rou, you haven’t eaten yet, right? I’m making dinner. Do you want to eat?”

Tao Zheng finally calmed down, but he still felt awkward. “Mom, don’t look for trouble. When has she ever eaten our family’s cooking? She’s had enough of delicacies. How could she be interested in such a common meal?”

Despite his comment, he still stole a glance at Tan Rou, awaiting her reaction.

Mother Tao was about to leak a disappointed expression when she heard Tan Rou answering firmly, “I want to eat. Thank you, Mom.”

Mother Tao smiled. “Silly child, what are you thanking me for? Wait for me. I’ll start preparing right away!” Afterward, she sprang into action.

“Let me warn you, you better not pull off some silly tricks on them again. That day when you came back, Dad and Mom prepared a whole feast for you. Not only were you ungrateful, you even threw the food on the floor and still said the food didn’t interest you. You had no idea how heartbroken they were. It’s your business if you want to come back. But if you upset them after giving them hope, I wouldn’t hesitate to denounce you as my sister and beat you up.” He feigned his fists at her after finishing.

Tan Rou smiled bitterly. Her change was too drastic. It was normal for them to not believe her. She would rather have her brother in her previous life beat her up. Why did she commit so many wrongdoings? If only she realized her mistakes earlier.

009 The encounter

“Brother, I promise never to do it again. I will prove it with my actions.”

Tao Zheng looked at Tan Rou warily and ordered coldly as he walked off. "Then eat more. You are as thin as a monkey!"

Tan Rou burst into laughter. How come she never notice in the past that her brother was a little prideful?

Mother Tao's meal was ready in no time. It was a few simple home-cooked dishes with an extra dish of braised prawns.

It was intentionally placed in front of Tan Rou and Mother Tao purposefully nudged the plate closer to her while saying, "Rou Rou, eat this. This is mom's specialty!"

Tao Zheng complained, "Mom! You're biased. Am I still your biological son or not?!" When he said that, he winked at her. Tan Rou knew that he was deliberately trying to tease Mother Tao. He was afraid that she would not appreciate her kindness.

Tan Rou smiled sweetly, "You've tasted mother's cooking for so many years. I am the one who is at a disadvantage. In the future, I'll eat more to make up for what I have missed out on!"

With that said, she began to gobble down the food.

Tao Zheng did not expect Tan Rou to say that. He even left the chopsticks in his mouth as he looked at Tan Rou incredulously. It was very comical.

Tan Rou savored every bite. This was the taste of home. Everything was as surreal as a dream.

Mother Tao nudged Father Tao, who had just returned home, and whispered, "Look, I told you our daughter has changed right?"

Father Tao was also a little confused. "What's going on?"

Mother Tao patted him lightly, "This is a good thing. Our daughter has matured. Our family is finally reunited!"

Father Tao smiled and nodded, "Yes, it's a good thing. Let's eat, let's eat!"

After dinner, Tan Rou returned to her room. She had been busy all day and was dead beat.

Father Tao and Mother Tao were still discussing what had happened today, "I suspect that our child has been bullied. We shouldn't vex her any further. We have to take good care of her."

"Yes, I'll go buy some expensive herbs tomorrow and make her a good tonic."

Tao Zheng listened on the side and smiled. Although he still didn't believe that Tan Rou had changed so quickly, after seeing how happy his parents were, should he give her a chance?

The following day, Tan Rou got up early and prepared to go out.

Mother Tao asked in surprise, "Rou Rou why are you up so early? Don't you usually sleep in? Did mom wake you up?"

Tan Rou shook her head. "No, Mom. I want to go out for a walk. Just take it as I'm going for an exercise. You don't have to worry about me. I'm leaving."

"Okay, take care of yourself," Mother Tao replied.

Ever since Rou Rou came back last night, she has been exceptionally obedient and sensible. Mother Tao originally thought that it was just a spur of the moment but when she saw that her daughter was still so obedient this morning, she was reassured that there was nothing to worry about.

After leaving the house, Tan Rou went straight to the local herbs market. The collection of herbs here was far more complete and they were also much more professional.

Moreover, there were also quite a few good spice shops. These are all things that Tan Rou needs right now.

She didn't know if she was overthinking things or not but she felt that there was a faint gaze staring at her. Her intuition was particularly strong but there were tons of people coming and going in the market and it was hard to pinpoint what was wrong. Tan Rou didn't dare to let her guard down. She was ready to head home once she got what she needed.

However, when she passed by the entrance of an alley, a man immediately caught her attention.

Unlike the rowdy environment around her, the man was dressed in white. He sat alone in a wheelchair, and he was a stark contrast to the world around him. He sat there alone expressionlessly, and his eyes were slightly drooping down. His lips were slightly pursed, and he sat there without saying anything. That made people want to get close to him but at the same time, they were afraid of disturbing him.

The eyes of the people around him were all glued to him, but no one dared to approach him. He was a head-turner. It was as if they were looking at a painting that should not be there.

Tan Rou watched from not far away. The man had an extraordinary charisma. He was no ordinary person, but it was not difficult to see that his state of health was not very

good. He had a weak and sickly look on his face. But why was he alone in this place when his body was clearly not well?

That was just a passing thought in Tan Rou's mind and she did not intend to meddle in other people's business. Her current situation was also very complicated. Just as she was about to pass him, the man who was originally looking down and looked like he was thinking about something suddenly raised his head and their eyes met.

In that instant, Tan Rou's feet were rooted to the ground. He was really too handsome to ignore.

010 Hero saves the day

When the originally cold and indifferent gaze met Tan Rou's eyes, it turned into a very friendly and smiley expression. Coupled with his current situation, Tan Rou could even see the pitiful look on his face. It was as if he was a stray dog waiting for its master to come back.

Tan Rou was at loss. Originally, she could have pretended not to see him, but the frail-looking handsome guy who was alone seemed to be in trouble and she just couldn't just ignore him.

While Tan Rou was hesitating, Zhuang Liu was still waiting alone at the entrance of the alley. Behind him, a strong man was pushing a wheelbarrow which was carrying several large bags of goods. The goods were piled really high and it was impossible to see the path in front of him clearly. He was shouting as he moved forward. "Come, come, make way, make way!"

The surrounding people quickly took the initiative to make way for him. The warm-hearted crowd also shouted at Zhuang Liu to warn him, "Young man, don't stay there! It's dangerous, quickly move off."

Tan Rou saw that the man had lowered his head and was attempting to turn the wheelchair, but it seemed to have malfunctioned. He frowned slightly and tried a few more times, but the wheelchair did not move an inch.

The shouting grew louder and louder. Seeing that the wheelbarrow was slowly approaching the man, Tan Rou did not hesitate anymore. She stepped forward and pushed the wheelchair hard. She pushed Zhuang Liu away from the alley entrance and she stopped at the side which was relatively quiet.

Tan Rou lowered her body slightly and tried her best to be at eye level with the man, "Are you alone? That's too dangerous."

Zhuang Liu smiled lightly. "My friend and I got lost, and it so happened that my wheelchair malfunctioned at the same time. This wheelchair is faulty, sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad. I have to thank you for helping me."

Tan Rou heard him speak. His voice was gentle and clear. His pace was neither fast nor slow, and she couldn't help but sigh. As expected, handsome men's voices were all so pleasant to listen to.

Tan Rou waved her hand. "It's nothing. Do you need me to help you contact your friend?"

Zhuang Liu's eyes were filled with joy. He nodded politely, "I also have to trouble you to lend me your phone. We parted so suddenly and my phone is still with him. I can't contact him."

Tan Rou nodded and passed the phone to Zhuang Liu.

Zhuang Liu lowered his head and typed something before returning the phone to Tan Rou promptly, "I have sent my general location to my friend. Thank you very much. My surname is Zhuang. Thanks for your help today. If you need anything in the future, you can call me. I owe you one." As he said that, Zhuang Liu smiled gently, almost as though being indebted to her was a really joyous thing.

Tan Rou took the phone back and didn't think too much about it. "It's really nothing. I'm still in a hurry. This place should be safer. It's good that your friend can come to pick you up. I'll take my leave first."

Hearing that the handsome guy had contacted his good friend to pick him up, Tan Rou felt at ease. She was in a hurry to go home and couldn't delay any longer.

Zhuang Liu didn't pester her to stay. He only smiled politely as he watched Tan Rou slowly fade into the horizon. Originally, he was just testing her to see if she still remembered him. Although the result wasn't satisfactory and she had forgotten about him, it didn't matter, they have a whole future ahead of them. With today's encounter, their progress in the future would be very smooth.

His assistant, Xiao Mo, poked his head out from the corner of the wall. "Third Young Master, I was near you the whole time I dare not go far. Did you succeed in selling yourself?"

Zhuang Liu rolled his eyes at him. After leaving Tan Rou, he returned to his cold and indifferent self.

Xiao Mo scratched his head. "I was just worried about you..." then, he pushed Zhuang Liu away from the market.

Zhuang Liu pondered and asked casually, "What's going on in the Tan Family?"

"The Tan family heard that your health... They're clamoring to see Madam Zhuang and Grandma Zhuang. They've already informed them to come over. They said that they have something to discuss."

Zhuang Liu nodded. That was good.

In the Tan family's mansion, Grandma Zhuang and Madame Zhuang had been invited over from Haicheng. Upon arrival, they heard ridiculous news.

"You want to break off the engagement?" Madam Zhuang, Shen Qing, did not react visibly.

Logically speaking, although the Zhuang family's influence was not strong here, they are still one of the top aristocratic families in Haicheng. Even if their influence here is not strong, the Tan family's status is still far superior.

Back then, it was the Tan family's old master who came to propose the marriage with the help of a little friendship from the previous generation. And the third brat at home insisted on getting married. Although the family was not very satisfied with the in-laws, they gave in in the end.

Now, it is the Tan family who wants to break off the engagement? It was a little ludicrous.

#### 011 Annulment of the Engagement

"Madam Zhuang, let's speak openly. There's no need to pretend anymore. Back then, our old man insisted on going to your house to make an engagement. It wasn't appropriate for us to say anything. However, I don't need to say much about your son's situation and there's absolutely no need to drag our child into the water. Jing Jing is still young. I plan to keep her by my side for a few more years and then properly choose a husband for her. Third Young Master Zhuang's health... Our family is really scared and can't afford to serve him." Chen Yi pulled Tan Jing to sit by her side as she said sarcastically.

Shen Qing was so angry that she almost couldn't sit still. Her son's health had always been a sore spot in her heart. This person spoke with total disregard for her feelings the moment she opened her mouth. She did not spare any thought for herself at all. Even though her third son had already informed her in advance, she was still extremely angry.

Grandma Zhuang, who was beside her, tugged at her calmly, "Are you sure you've thought this through? The Zhuang family's marriage is not something that can be called off on a whim."

Chen Yi laughed coldly. "Of course. The Tan family is not a charity. Not only is your Third Young Master crippled, but he's also still sickly. I've just reunited with my precious daughter. If I were to allow her to marry your son and she ends up a widow, who would understand my pain?"

Even though Tan Jing pretended to smile reservedly, her eyes revealed her ridicule towards Shen Qing and Grandma Zhuang.

Chen Yi continued, "Don't blame our family for being cruel. Let's break off the engagement quickly and not ruin my daughter's future. For the sake of our relationship, I will recommend a few good doctors to you. Even though it probably won't make a difference, you should still try no matter what."

Shen Qing was shaking, but she calmed down shortly after. She exchanged a glance with Grandma Zhuang. They had a plan.

"Okay, in that case, this marriage will be annulled. "But you must remember that the marriage is not child's play. Since the union between our families has been annulled, our families will no longer have any affiliation. Don't expect any favors from us anymore. Don't regret it either."

Tan Jing could not help but ask, "What do I have to regret?"

Naturally, she would want to marry someone outstanding. He must be the noblest and the best candidate possible. How could she be entangled with a person who was about to die from an illness?

The Zhuang family's Third Young Master's illness was getting more and more serious. It was said that it is an old illness that could not be cured. Everyone in the aristocrat circle knew about it. They had already heard that someone wanted to take advantage of the chaos and was preparing to hostile takeover their company at a low price.

Previously, he was just a sickly man who was struggling to keep the company afloat. Nobody knew if he was just a good-for-nothing disguised as a capable man. Asking her to marry him and help him take care of his family after he died of illness? That is ludicrous.

"Aunty, we will not regret it. We also hope that you will keep to your word. From now on, our two families will have nothing to do with each other."

Shen Qing and Grandma Zhuang had nothing more to say to the mother and daughter. They just nodded politely and prepared to leave.

Back in the car, Shen Qing panted angrily. "Who do they think they are? I am the Zhuang Family's Madame, and they still dare to look down on me?"

Grandma Zhuang smiled. "Even when I am the Zhuang family's old lady, they did not welcome me! What do you have to be angry about? If you ask me, this is a good thing."

Shen Qing thought about it and realized that it was also true. When the engagement was set, they were also in a dilemma. The Tan family had always had a poor reputation. However, her third son was so determined to get engaged. As a mother, she did not want to put her child in a difficult position and hence had always supported his decision.

It was hard for the Zhuang family to call off the engagement because they were of a higher status, it would have been inappropriate to break off the engagement on their own accord. If that happened, people would instead say that they were snobbish and looked down on the Tan family, which was why they wanted to get rid of them and go back on their words.

Now, the Tan family thought that something had happened to her third son and had taken the initiative to break off the engagement. Firstly, it would not damage the reputation of the Zhuang family. When the cat is finally out of the bag, people would only say that the Tan family was adding salt to the wound. Secondly, it was indeed a good thing to take this opportunity to get rid of the union with this evil family.

However, Shen Qing was still feeling aggrieved. She cursed in a low voice, "I don't know what that third little brat is up to. He insisted on spreading the news. I'll teach him a lesson when I see him!"

Grandma Zhuang shook her head, "Allow your children to live their own lives. As long as the third little brat's health is stable, nothing else matters. You should also advise him to not worry too much about other things and end up aggravating his illness."

Shen Qing nodded in agreement. Her third son, this child was good in every way. He never let anyone worry about him. His health, on the contrary, was a worry for the entire family!

012 Bad Company

The Zhuang family's marriage was henceforth annulled.

As for Tan Rou, ever since she returned home, she has been staying in her room to make spices.

During her previous visit home, she had already realized that although Mother Tao's body seemed fine on the exterior, she was deficient in Qi and blood. To make matters worse, it was during this period that Tan Jing returned to the Tan family without any hesitation and Tan Rou had been kicking up a ruckus at home. As a result, Mother Tao's liver deteriorated and her body even more so.

Tan Rou was never watchful of her mother's health before, but now that she is determined to protect her family, it goes without saying that she has to nurse Mother Tao back to health.

These incenses can calm her nerves as they were mixed with numerous Chinese medicinal herbs that are beneficial to her. Tan Rou was finally done making the spices after preparing for ages.

Tan Rou took a box of herbal pills and walked out of the room to look for Mother Tao.

"Mom, I made this for you. Burn one daily and it will improve your sleep and appetite!"

Mother Tao, who was pleasantly surprised, accepted the gift. Her daughter's care and concern were unexpected. It doesn't matter what the gift was, she would still appreciate and cherish it. "Rou Rou is so well behaved. I will always treasure and never forget this moment."

Tao Zheng was in slight disdain, "Mom, why don't you ask what it is? This is an unlicensed product, right? I am warning you to not use it."

Tan Rou stood by silently, grinning ear to ear at Tao Zheng and it made him uncomfortable.

"What's wrong? Can't I give my opinion?"

Mother Tao glared at Tao Zheng. "Stop with your nonsense! Don't you bully your sister again!"

Tao Zheng pursed his lips and did not speak any further.

Mother Tao happily brought the pills back to her room, leaving only Tan Rou and Tao Zheng in the living room.

"Brother, I can tell you are in a bad mood now. Do you want me to make some pills for you to calm down?"

Tan Rou teased him.

Tao Zheng was infuriated at her mockery. "I think you want to secretly poison me to death! I do not need your pills!"

Tan Rou smiled gently, her elder brother was really cute.

The harmonious atmosphere was disrupted by a phone call. Tan Rou looked at the caller's name and smiled once again.

It's Zhou Wu. If he had not taken the initiative to call, she would have almost forgotten about him.

Tan Rou already had a rough idea in her mind of what the call was about. She tapped on her phone and answered the call. "Hello?"

The other end of the line was very noisy. Zhou Wu shouted loudly, "Tan Rou, the usual place, come quickly!"

"What usual place? I don't understand. I'm not coming."

"What's wrong with you? It's that casino! Come quickly, my luck is especially good today, I'll definitely win. Come over and I'll bring you around!"

Tan Rou heard the noise from the other end and could already imagine how chaotic the casino was. Zhou Wu was a friend of bad influence. He came from a poor family and had a lot of bad habits.

He frequently drank and gambled. The usual place he mentioned should be the casino he frequented. In the past, Tan Rou was manipulated by him, she had no idea how many times he had tricked her into going there. He would always lie about winning money and when Tan Rou arrives, she would be coerced into settling his gambling debts.

Despite feeling taken advantage of, Tan Rou couldn't leave him behind whenever he cries for help. Tan Rou's family background was impressive and she had a likable personality. She also loved helping her friends, so much so that even if she had to bite the bullet, she would still help him pay off his debts.

What if she looked away? It wasn't the first time that Tan Rou heard him criticizing her behind her back for being a dull and a rich simpleton.

"Since your luck is good, I hope you win big. It's best that you win back the gambling debt that I settled for you previously. I'm also short of money recently."

Zhou Wu did not expect tricking Tan Rou will be tough this time and so he changed the topic.

"Xiao Rou, we haven't seen each other for quite a long time. Do you not treat me as a friend anymore? You definitely have money, right? Don't be modest. Hurry up and come. I'm waiting for you!"

Tan Rou sneered, knowing he is waiting for her to pay off his debts again.

Tan Rou didn't waste any more time and told him firmly, "We'll talk about it later. Have fun." She hung up the phone and turned it off. It does not matter to her whether he wins or loses.

Tao Zheng taunted her from a corner. "Yo, you're breaking up with your good friend? I thought someone has always loved hanging out with shady people. You may be playing it cool now but in a blink of an eye you would give in and rescue him, right?"

Tan Rou wasn't offended. "Brother, I'm not going to help him. I'm still waiting to have dinner at home. I'll return to my room first."

Tao Zheng watched Tan Rou calmly return to her room, she did not throw a feat demanding money to go out with her friends like before. He pursed his lips suspiciously. "Has she really changed?"

### 013 The heiress of Tan family

On the other side, Zhou Wu heard the call being hung up and didn't think too much about it. He thought that Tan Rou was preparing to come over.

He grinned and shouted loudly, "Come, come, come. Let's play again. I don't believe my luck tonight will be so bad!"

The people beside him laughed disdainfully at him. "How many rounds have you lost? You should first pay up the money you owe before playing!"

Zhou Wu said proudly, "How long have I been playing here? Haven't you heard? Miss Tan is my friend. I will be able to pay up no matter how much I lose! She will be here soon. What are you talking about? Hurry up and start!"

That person was skeptical. He indeed did hear about a Miss Tan before. He had also been next to him on the phone just now, so it was somewhat believable.

Thus, everyone gathered together and played one round after another.

In the blink of an eye, the sky became darker and darker, and Zhou Wu's expression became worse and worse.

For some reason, his luck today was getting worse and worse. He lost more and more, and Tan Rou was still not coming. The uneasiness in his heart started to grow.

The people in the casino refused to let him play anymore. "Zhou Wu, you already owe several hundred thousand. Is that friend of yours not coming? You should know the rules here. I don't need to say much, right?"

Zhou Wu's face was livid. He was still stubborn, "She will be here soon. One more round and I will definitely turn the tables."

The people in the casino sneered. They had seen many gamblers like this, but most of them never returned from this.

"Bro we are not making things difficult for you. If you want to play, we will allow you to play for as long as you like. As long as your friend comes and settles the debt, you can play however more rounds you like."

Zhou Wu picked up the phone and called Tan Rou again, but the call was never picked up. Hearing the recorded tone from the phone, he almost couldn't catch his breath.

This idiot, did she really fool me?

After calling a few times in a row, Zhou Wu's face became darker and darker. The people in the casino had roughly guessed it. They put away their smiling faces and with a blink of an eye, more than ten burly thugs surrounded them and they stared at Zhou Wu fiercely.

Zhou Wu broke out in a cold sweat. He couldn't argue anymore, "Brother, don't be like this. Let's discuss this. My friend is really rich! Her name is Tan Rou, the eldest daughter of the Tan family. She will help me settle the debt."

"Ha!" The people in the casino laughed loudly, "Brother, are you kidding me? Tan Rou is no longer the heiress of the Tan family. Haven't you seen the news? The real eldest daughter of the Tan family is called Tan Jing! And she definitely isn't your good friend!"

Zhou Wu was stunned on the spot and shouted angrily, "That's impossible! She was the one who gave me the money last time! She's really rich!"

The casino staff took a baseball bat, he weighed it in his hand and said, "You're addicted to gambling and don't watch the news. The Tan family found their long-lost daughter and it made the front page of the news. I know all about it. Didn't your friend, who is called Tan Rou, tell you about it? Or did you know all about it and still tried to cheat me?!"

A dull thud hit the table, scaring Zhou Wu until his legs went soft. "That b\*tch, it was that b\*tch who lied to me. I really didn't know."

"So you have no money? You should have said so earlier. If you have no money, then we have another way for that..." the thugs of the casino walked forward with a sinister smile and surrounded Zhou Wu.

When Zhou Wu saw this, he was almost scared to death, he quickly knelt down and begged for mercy. "Brothers! Don't! Give me another chance, I will definitely get the

money! Even if you beat me to death, I won't be able to return the money. But I have a way, you have to believe me one more time!"

Early in the morning, Tan Rou woke up feeling really refreshed. She sat in front of the table and ate the breakfast that Mother Tao had meticulously prepared.

"Rou Rou, I used the incense that you gave me. I slept really well last night. Thank you, my good daughter."

When Tan Rou heard this, she felt really happy, "Mom, I'll make more for you when you run out."

The family was very harmonious. It was rare that Tao Zheng did not mock Tan Rou.

Father Tao instructed, "Rou Rou has been back for quite some time. Ah Zheng, when you have time, take your sister out for a walk. Don't stay at home all the time."

Tao Zheng subconsciously retorted, "She is alive and well. Why does she need me to bring her out?"

Mother Tao patted Tao Zheng lightly. "You brat. What's wrong with spending more time with your sister? Be obedient!"

Tao Zheng curled his lips. "Then hurry up and eat. If you're late, I won't wait for You!"

014 You are the fool

Tan Rou narrowed her eyes and smiled. She nodded her head obediently.

As the saying goes, 'Those who hate to see each other will surely meet'. Tan Rou and Tao Zheng had just finished their meal and walked out of their house. They had just arrived at a large plain field and were planning to cut through to get to the park when they bumped into Zhou Wu.

Zhou Wu's expression was ferocious as he glared fiercely at Tan Rou. Behind him were a few brawny men. They were the thugs from the casino.

Zhou Wu pointed at Tan Rou. "How dare you lie to me! Why didn't you come last night!"

He turned around and said to the thugs, "I found her! It's her! She has money!"

Tao Zheng saw that something was wrong and stood in front of Tan Rou. "Who are you people?" Although he had not truly acknowledged Tan Rou, she was still his biological sister. She was also very obedient the past few days, he could not let her be bullied by outsiders.

One of the thugs walked forward with a wooden bat in his hand. He said arrogantly, "We are looking for that little girl. Little girl, your friend owes us a huge gambling debt. He brought us here to look for you. Will you settle it?"

Tan Rou enjoyed her brother's protection. She hid behind Tao Zheng and only revealed her small head. "Big brother, I don't have any money. He lied to you."

Zhou Wu shouted angrily, "You did it on purpose. Why didn't you tell me you were chased out by the Tan family last night? Even if you're not the heiress of the Tan family anymore, you still have a lot of money from the past. How dare you say you don't have any money?"

Tan Rou said aggrievedly, "You said it yourself. I was chased out by the Tan family. How could I have any money left? Moreover, shouldn't the debtor be responsible for his own debts? Zhou Wu owes you money. It has nothing to do with me."

The thug impatiently waved the bat in his hand. "Cut the crap! I don't care about what is going on in your lives. I just want money! If you can't take it out today, none of you are walking away!" There was nothing unreasonable about it. If they couldn't pay up then they would beat them up. There would always be someone who didn't want to be beaten up and would step up to pay the money.

Clearly, he also thought that Tan Rou was a little girl who was easy to bully. He thought that he could scare her into paying up.

When Tao Zheng heard that, he was so angry that he gritted his teeth. "Tan Rou, take a good look at the kind of friends you are making."

Zhou Wu thought that Tan Rou was afraid when she saw the thugs, so he had some confidence. "What kind of bullsh\*t friend are you talking about? I bothered hanging out with you because I took pity on you. I'm asking you to pay the bill because I'm giving you face. I didn't think that you would dare to fool me like this."

Tan Rou nodded. "Big brother is right. It's my fault."

She turned around and smiled at Zhou Wu. "Make a fool out of you? You are right. You are the fool here!"

The thug saw that Tan Rou was being stubborn and there was a man who was protecting her. He raised the wooden stick in his hand and wanted to teach them a lesson.

Tao Zheng subconsciously wanted to shield Tan Rou, but before anyone could react, Tan Rou reached out to stop the wooden stick and struck the thug's shoulder with her other hand.

The thug cried out in pain and loosened his grip. The wooden stick was snatched by Tan Rou.

Tao Zheng was a little surprised. His sister seemed to be quite good at fighting?

The other thugs screamed and charged forward, but they were all knocked to the ground by Tan Rou and she fought her way to Zhou Wu.

Zhou Wu stared at Tan Rou as if he had seen a ghost. "You! Are you still the same Tan Rou!"

In the past, when they had been fooling around together, they often got into fights as well but Tan Rou had never lifted a finger before. She was a delicate young lady. He had never thought that she would have such skills?

Tan Rou hit Zhou Wu with her stick. As she hit him, she said, "That's right. I'm no longer the Tan Rou of the past. Did you just realize that?"

Zhou Wu cried out in pain, "Ah! You b\*tch, stop it!"

Tan Rou picked a sweet spot, making him feel pain but not fatal. "Stop it? Didn't you come to me? You even brought people here. Do you still think I'll obediently settle your debt for you?"

With a swift move, she was about to hit Zhou Wu again. The wooden stick cut through the air and even let out a frightening sound. Zhou Wu hugged himself and shriveled up on the ground in fear.

With a "Pa" sound, the wooden stick broke. Zhou Wu lay on the ground in pain and his face turned pale.

Tan Rou tossed away the broken wooden stick in her hand and snorted, "Don't ever come looking for me again!"

Zhou Wu raised his ferocious face, "I want to call the police! You beat me up so badly. Just you wait to pay up and go to jail!"

015 Call the police

When the thugs heard this, they ignored the pain in their bodies and bellowed, "Are you stupid? ! Why did you call the police? !"

Zhou Wu's eyes were red from the beating. All he wanted to do was to take revenge on Tan Rou. His mind was blank. He couldn't care less.

The thugs struggled and quickly ran away. They were not in a legal trade, to begin with. If they called the police, they might be the ones who would go to jail instead!

Tan Rou did not expect Zhou Wu to be so stupid. She laughed out loud, "Are you sure?"

Tao Zheng was a little hesitant. Tan Rou's appearance just now had frightened him. He did not expect such a weak little girl to have such prowess. It's amazing to think that she didn't beat him up all this while. It seems that she still treated him quite well after all...

However, it was Tan Rou who had hit someone. If they really wanted to call the police, the police would not let Tan Rou off easily.

"That... How about..."

Before Tao Zheng could finish his sentence, Tan Rou gave him a reassuring look. "It's alright, brother. Since he said so, then let's call the police!"

The police arrived very quickly. Tan Rou and Tao Zheng stood obediently at the side. Zhou Wu stood on the other side with a fierce expression. The police looked around for a bit but did not understand what was going on. He asked, "Who called the police? You reported a fight?"

Tao Zheng gestured, "It was me."

He stood there firmly. There was not a single injury on his body, but his eyes were a little evasive. As for Tan Rou, she was a young lady standing there, she did not look like someone who was looking for trouble.

The police looked at Zhou Wu. "You fought?"

Zhou Wu felt a mouthful of blood in his throat. He gritted his teeth, "Officer, I'm a victim. She hit me."

He pointed at Tan Rou fiercely.

The officer looked at Tan Rou in confusion. He could not believe that this young lady was the one who had hit him. However, he still nodded and said, "If that's the case, then follow me back to the station for investigation."

When they arrived back at the police station, the officer started to mediate as usual. "Tell me, why did you hit him?"

Tan Rou said timidly, "Officer, we didn't hit anyone. He even brought people along with him to hit me and my brother."

Zhou Wu immediately jumped up. "How dare you lie to the police! I can barely stand up after being beaten up by you!"

The police officer frowned. "Ok, you guys speak one at a time." He looked at Zhou Wu and felt a little unhappy. This man was infamous for being a jerk. He had heard from his colleagues before that they had dealt with a few of his fights in the past, "I'll ask you about your side of the story later. Don't be anxious."

Tan Rou stood there obediently. She looked like a model student. She recounted how Zhou Wu had threatened her to go to the casino to settle his gambling debts last night, and how he had brought thugs to force her to settle the debt for him earlier today.

The policeman looked at Zhou Wu sternly, "Don't you know that gambling is illegal? ! You even started a fight and extorted money!"

Zhou Wu refused to admit it, "What evidence do you have to back up her recount? You can't just listen to her side of the story. I just happened to bump into her and she gave me a beating!"

The casino had always been well hidden, and the thugs from the casino were long gone. Before coming to the police station, he had already thought it through. As long as he refused to admit it and insisted that it was Tan Rou who had beaten him up, it would be fine. After all, there was evidence.

"Officer, I have evidence. I want to examine my injuries!"

Tao Zheng, who was at the side, was just about to open his mouth to defend Tan Rou. Tan Rou patted him reassuringly, then she said, "Officer, there are no surveillance cameras at the scene of the incident. Let's give him the benefit of doubt and examine the injuries. Otherwise, he would never back down with his accusations. But when he mentioned evidence just now, I remembered."

Tan Rou took out her cell phone. "He called me last night. I was extremely scared. He used to threaten and intimidate me in the past, so I recorded the conversation in advance. Listen."

The phone played the conversation between Zhou Wu and Tan Rou last night.

The police officer looked at Zhou Wu. "What else do you have to say this time?"

Zhou Wu's face was ashen. He didn't think that this fool would be so cunning and set him up. But even so, he couldn't let her off easily.

"I request a medical examination. She really did hit me!"

“Alright, I agree to your request and give you a medical examination. But in the meantime, while waiting for the hospital’s test report to come out, you have to give me a good explanation! Where is the casino? How much gambling capital is involved, explain everything clearly!”

Tan Rou stood to the side with a faint smile, not panicking in the slightest.

#### 016 Medical Examination

By now, Tao Zheng really understood. His sister was really different from before. How could this be an idea that a wilful little girl could come up with and not panic at all?

He secretly poked Tan Rou, “Hey, do you still have a backup plan? Are you really going to let them conduct the medical examination?”

Tan Rou nodded, “Don’t worry, brother. I know what I’m doing.”

The police brought Zhou Wu to the hospital alone to check his injuries. When they came back, they continued to question the details of the casino.

Father Tao and Mother Tao did not see the two children return home. They were still wondering where they had gone to play. When they received a call from Tao Zheng, they rushed to the police station.

“Rou Rou! Are you hurt? Ah Zheng! Weren’t you suppose to protect your sister?”  
Mother Tao looked at the two children, afraid that they were being bullied.

“Ah Zheng, didn’t I tell you to bring your sister around? How did you guys end up at the police station?”

“Brother, why did you tell Mom and Dad?”

Tao Zheng was feeling as if his head was going to explode, “Stop! Mom, we’re not hurt. Dad, this was really an accident. And you, Tan Rou, mom, and dad called to ask. We won’t be back anytime soon and I couldn’t lie to them either!”

Tan Rou pursed her lips. She didn’t want her parents to worry about her. Such a small matter could be quickly settled.

The family stayed at the police station, waiting for the results of the medical examination. Tao Zheng and Tan Rou briefly explained the matter to their parents.

“This is too much!” Tao Zheng’s parents were furious.

Tao Zheng had thought that his parents would be really angry this time. After all, they had fought and even entered the police station. However, he did not expect that their love for Tan Rou was limitless.

“This is too much. This person is actually bullying my daughter!”

“Xiao Rou, don’t be afraid. Does your hand hurt? Mommy is here. I will protect you.”

Tao Zheng saw that his parents did not care about the fact that Tan Rou had used a stick to beat down a few men. Instead, they were checking the severity of the injuries on her and were still feeling sorry for Tan Rou’s hand. He was speechless.

‘Dad, Mom, your daughter is tough as a nail!’

‘I was also shocked, why isn’t anyone here to feel sorry for me? !’

Tao Zheng leaned against the wall without any feelings. This morning has had a huge impact on him.

Tan Rou looked at her parents’ worried and angry expressions and felt satisfied. It was great that they cared about her and trusted her unconditionally.

On the other side of the house, Tan Jing received a phone call. “What? Jia Jia, are you sure?”

On the other end of the phone, Li Jia replied in a low voice, “Sister Jing, I followed your instructions to keep an eye on the Tao family. I saw your foster parents go to the police station with my own eyes just now. It seems that Tan Rou is in trouble!”

Tan Jing was a little excited. Tan Rou had been arrested and brought back to the police station. This was a good opportunity for her. Recently, she had not been able to find anything wrong with her. How could let up such a golden opportunity?

Tan Jing secretly calculated in her heart. Ever since Tan Rou returned to the Tao family, she had not been willing to accept them as family members. Naturally, Tan Jing also had a hand in that. What right did she have to go back and still receive the love of her biological parents? Everything should belong to herself.

This time, her adoptive parents would probably be disgusted with Tan Rou. She must be there to add fuel to the fire!

At the police station, the police completed the preliminary interrogation of Zhou Wu. The crime of illegal gambling was basically confirmed.

“Little girl, don’t be afraid. How many times has this happened?”

The police saw that Tan Rou who was very young and obediently stayed by her parents' side. She did not seem like a bad child, so they asked her gently.

"Many times. After I just returned to China, I met him once by chance. At that time, I wasn't mature yet. I was half coaxed and half coerced by him. He cheated me of a lot of money. Every time when we went to drink at the bar, he would always spend tens of thousands. There were no limits to his gambling. If I wanted to go home, he would threaten me. Now I know that this is wrong. I don't want to be cheated by him anymore."

The policeman nodded. "It's good that you now know that this is wrong. He broke the law. You were lucky to be able to get out of it in time. You didn't sink deeper and deeper with him."

Mother Tao's heart ached when she heard this, "My dear daughter, I don't blame you for what had happened in the past. You were still young and gullible, but not anymore."

Tan Rou nodded. In the past, she had suffered because she wanted to save face. She hadn't been valued by the Tan family, which had triggered her inferiority complex. Although she felt sorry for the money, her ego was boosted every time when they were asking her for money. Naturally, she would never do it again in the future.

At this moment, a cry of surprise came from behind him. "Ah! You're really here."

017 Competing for favor

Everyone turned around and saw that it was Tan Jing who had found her way here.

"Dad, mom, brother, you're all here. Xiao Rou, what's going on? Did you really hit someone?" Tan Jing pretended to be particularly surprised as she walked over.

"How did you know?" Tao Zheng asked in an unfriendly tone. Ever since Tan Jing found out that she was the biological daughter of the Tan family, she ignored the love that her family had for her for more than ten years and left without any hesitation. She broke the family's heart and never came back ever since.

"I missed you guys and wanted to go home. I didn't expect to hear that Rou Rou had fought and come to the police station. I was so scared that I rushed over to look for you guys... Rou Rou, how can you be so immature? Mom and dad must have been so worried for you. Why are you still fighting and causing trouble like before?"

Tan Rou sighed helplessly. This white lotus was really commendable. This kind of enthusiasm to smear her name was too zealous, and she could be insulting her while still putting up a pitiful persona every time.

"What a coincidence? It's been so long since you last came back, right? Which wind blew you back today? Could it be that someone tipped you off?"

Tan Rou didn't make a move, but it didn't mean that she didn't know what was going on. Two days ago, she had noticed that one of Tan Jing's lackeys, Li Jia, always appeared near her home, but Tan Rou didn't expose her.

Sometimes, by presenting herself as prey, it would be easier to lure out the enemy. And as expected, someone took the bait.

Tan Jing's thoughts were very easy to guess. She wanted to take advantage of Tan Rou's mistake and further smear her in front of their parents, causing them to be completely disappointed in Tan Rou and further reminiscence the days with Tan Jing.

Tan Rou shook her head. Tan Jing was celebrating her victory a little too early. She wanted to make use of her parents' feelings. This was something she couldn't tolerate. Competing for affection? Things won't go her way.

"Mom, I don't want to see her." Tan Rou held Mother Tao's hand and said aggrievedly.

Tan Jing did not expect that Tan Rou had become so close to her family. She was a little flustered and quickly said, "Rou Rou, do you really hate me that much? But I miss mom too. I came here because I was worried about you guys."

Mother Tao held Tan Rou's hand tightly and turned to look at Tan Jing coldly, "I haven't forgotten what you said the day you left home. You've already returned to the Tan family, so you don't have to call me mom anymore."

Tan Jing cried as soon as she said it. "Mom, don't you want me anymore? Dad, are you angry with me too?"

After all, she was the child they had taken care of for so many years. Even though Father Tao and Mother Tao were disappointed in her actions, they could not bear to see her cry like this.

Tan Rou didn't want to see her continue using her parents' feelings. "Mom, didn't you keep asking me what kind of grievances I suffered at the Tan family's house that day? That day, it was Tan Jing. She tried to get a hooligan to drug me and rape me. She even brought people to catch us in bed and ruin my reputation. That hooligan admitted it himself. Instead of standing up for me, Auntie Chen even retorted that I framed Tan Jing. I really don't want to see them again."

"What?" Mother Tao looked at Tan Jing in shock. Their daughter had always been a little manipulative and materialistic. However, she did not expect that she would become so vicious. She is still so young yet she came up with such a dirty trick to harm Rou Rou.

Father Tao's face turned red with anger. "Tan Jing, I'm completely disappointed in you. You're already a member of the Tan family. Don't come looking for us again!"

After listening to her, Tao Zheng finally understood Tan Rou's abnormal behavior over the past few days. The little girl might have really come to her senses after experiencing such a traumatic thing.

Her previous foster mother had sided with Tan Jing and hurt her heart. That was why she had made up her mind to return to this family.

Thinking about this, Tao Zheng gradually forgave his sister.

As for Tan Jing, Tao Zheng roughly knew of her thoughts. Ever since she had said those harsh words and returned to the Tan family without looking back, he never took her for his sister anymore.

Tan Jing did not expect the Tao family to trust Tan Rou so much. After listening to Tan Rou's side of the story, they did not even bother to listen to her explanation and their attitude towards her had completely deteriorated. She was angry and anxious, and she cried even harder.

She did not know that everyone had seen the changes in Tan Rou over the past few days. They did not suspect that she would lie to the family at all. They were only filled with heartache. No wonder the child had changed so much.

Tao Zheng frowned impatiently, "Go back to your home and cry. There's nothing wrong with our family. You don't have to worry."

018 Injury report

Tan Jing did not expect the Tao family to treat her like this. She did not expect Tan Rou to wise up in just a few days and turn the tables on her.

Tan Jing thought to herself not only did the drugging incident not turn out well. Furthermore, she was sold out by that damn hooligan Zhou Zheng. It was a complete disgrace. She did not dare to go out these few days for fear of hearing the gossip outside.

Now, the Tao family has also found out what she did. Indeed, she had done it too hastily. She had no way to explain herself, so she could only divert their attention and wait for things to blow over.

Tan Jing squeezed her tears. "Xiao Rou, no matter what you say about me and how you accuse me, I will not argue with you. But you can't hurt yourself. I know that dad and mom don't like me anymore, but I still hope that they can be happy."

Tan Jing couldn't wait to reiterate the fight that she got into, "I've long heard that you always hung out with gangsters and caused trouble every few days, and this time you even landed yourself into the police station."

After she said that, she quickly looked at the police officer, "Officer, who was beaten up? Is it serious? Xiao Rou won't end up in jail, right?"

The police officer was confused. However, it was their family's matter, and he did not want to get involved.

He was still a little confused after hearing Tan Jing's question. The police had not even arrived at a conclusion yet. The young lady, on the other hand, had already put the other young lady in the position of the perpetrator, "The results of the medical examination will be out soon. So far, nothing conclusive has been found. The person concerned is still fine inside."

Tan Jing was a little disappointed. She thought that the matter would blow up, but since a medical examination was conducted, she could always find something to use against Tan Rou. "Xiao Rou, what should we do? You're still a student. If you end up with a criminal record, what can you do in the future?"

Tan Rou sneered, "You don't have to worry about that. You, on the other hand, can't wait to become a judge and hand me a sentence. The policeman hasn't even said anything yet. Why are you in such a hurry?"

Mother Tao held Tan Rou's hand tightly and looked at Tan Jing. "If you don't know anything, then don't sprout nonsense here. Hurry up and go back home."

After saying that, Mother Tao turned around to comfort Tan Rou, "Don't be afraid, daughter. I believe in you."

Tan Rou nodded. She knew that no matter how much Tan Jing said, it was just an ugly person causing trouble. She would have to eat her own words in just a while. When she beat up those people, she used a little trick. She focused on hitting the flesh. With the delicate use of force, there wouldn't be any serious injuries like fractures, and the beat marks wouldn't show up so quickly either.

Sure enough, the police had just received the medical report from the hospital. They signaled everyone to enter the room and showed the medical report in front of Zhou Wu and the others.

When Tan Jing saw Zhou Wu, she understood. She had met him through Tan Rou before, but they never had much interaction. However, this person's lackey had contacted her two days ago, asking her for money.

Tan Jing had another plan in mind. In the past, this Zhou Wu and Tan Rou had been together, so he must have had a lot of dirt on Tan Rou. Now that things had turned out this way, he must hate her to death. So why not rope him over and use him to her advantage? Even if it did not yield anything, she would be content as long as she could snatch something from Tan Rou.

Thus, Tan Jing wanted to reveal her identity without making it too obvious, “How are your injuries? Xiao Rou, don’t be afraid. Although you have left the Tan family, I will help you. I can ask mom to get the Tan family to hire the best lawyer for you. But, is this your friend? I think I have met him before. Why did you beat him up?”

Zhou Wu also saw Tan Jing. At that moment, he immediately understood what was going on. A few days ago, that brat Wang Tian had just found out about a big news and wanted to introduce him to someone. However, his focus was dead set on the casino, he had already gambled until his eyes turned red. If only he had known that the new heiress of the Tan family was this little girl, then in the future, wouldn’t he have found another money bucket to leech on?

The two of them looked at each other, each with their own ulterior motives and they hit off instantly.

The police officer shook his head. “The injury report is out. There are no obvious injuries, so it’s impossible to determine the severity of the injury.”

“What! That’s impossible!” Zhou Wu was still immersed in the fantasy of finding a new money bucket to leech on when he heard the news that made him break down.

He continued to shout, “I refuse to accept it! How could I not know if I was beaten or not! I felt like my bones were about to break. Did you guys tamper with the results to protect this b\*tch? I want to redo the examination!”

019 Let’s not meet again

Tan Jing frowned secretly after hearing that.

‘What a fool. Why didn’t he fake some injuries before calling the police? If he had made it worse, he would have been able to convict Tan Rou right away.’

Zhou Wu was not as smart as Tan Jing thought. He did not purposely injure himself to frame Tan Rou. He really felt that he was about to be beaten to death by Tan Rou. The injury examination was his last trump card.

The police officer shouted, “Behave yourself! The whole process was conducted by us. How could it be fake! Are you questioning the fairness of our law enforcement?”

Zhou Wu was still unconvinced and wanted to make a scene again. Tan Jing turned her back and stared at him sternly. Zhou Wu was rooted to the spot.

Damn it, the two daughters of the Tan family. One of them had tricked him and beat him up. The other one did not seem to be a simpleton either. He was a man, and he had completely forgotten what he wanted to say after being stared at by her.

Tan Jing knew that it would be difficult for her to make a fuss over this matter. She didn't know what tricks Tan Rou had used, but there was no trace of injury. Or was it really just a cheap shot by Zhou Wu who was desperate?

There was no way to verify this. Since she couldn't frame Tan Rou anymore, she might as well save it and save some face in front of the Tao family.

Tan Jing timidly said, "I told you, Xiao Rou would never do such a thing. There must be some misunderstanding. This person is really too despicable but you guys were such good friends in the past after all. Now that things have turned out this way, it won't be good for your reputation if it gets out. Why don't we settle it in private?"

Father Tao pondered for a moment and looked at Tan Rou, "Child, tell me, what do you want? If you feel wronged and want him to pay the price, then we will support you. We will pursue the case all the way. You don't have to be afraid."

Tan Rou looked at Tan Jing's 180-degree change in attitude. This was the second-best option. She wanted to create a facade of being sensible and understanding.

If she did not let go of this matter, it would seem like she was making a big fuss out of nothing. Indeed, there was no need to make a fuss about this matter. Zhou Wu's gambling incident was not something that could be easily erased.

He can not escape the consequences that are waiting for him. She did not know if Tan Jing would help him this time?

Tan Rou shook her head, "Since the results of the medical examination are here and the matter is resolved, I won't be holding on to it anymore. I have no other requests. I have no evidence that he cheated my money in the past. I deserve that. I only hope that his evil deeds this time will be taken seriously and that he will not do anything illegal in the future."

The policeman nodded. "Of course. We have already followed up on the casino. We will do a thorough investigation."

Mother Tao bowed politely to the policeman, "Thank you for your hard work, police officer. We will take the two children back first."

The Tao family of four turned around and left. Zhou Wu slammed the table in exasperation. "How can she leave so easily?!"

Tan Jing turned around and stared at Zhou Wu. She shook her head secretly, indicating for him to calm down. Then, she turned around and chased after him.

"Mom! Wait for me!" Tan Jing shouted.

Mother Tao turned around. "I told you, you don't have to call me mom anymore."

Tan Jing's eyes were teary and red. "I know I'm wrong. Don't be so cruel."

Father Tao sighed heavily. "It's not that we're cruel. It's you who is too cruel. There is no point in saying anything else. From now on, we will go on our separate paths. All our teachings these years were in vain after all."

Mother Tao also nodded and agreed with her husband's words. "In the past, I thought that I raised a good daughter. From a young age, although you were occasionally willful, you were still generally obedient. We have always let you have your way and loved you."

"You have changed so much. It makes me feel that I have been blind. We have been together for more than a decade. Even a kitten or a dog would have developed feelings by now. I have also thought things through and wish you a happy return to the home that you have always dreamed of."

"But I never expected that there was no limit to your wilfulness. You even pretended to be obedient in the past. In actual fact, you simply have no limits. We've completely given up on you. You're not worthy of calling me mom anymore. We don't have a daughter like you who is so evil. We don't have to see each other anymore."

Father Tao patted Mother Tao's back and comforted her, "Don't be sad for people who aren't worth it."

Mother Tao nodded and looked at Tan Rou lovingly. She was satisfied as long as she still had her.

Tao Zheng did not say a word because he felt that he had nothing more to say to his ex-sister. His previous bad attitude towards Tan Rou was because he was once so welcoming towards her but was despised instead. As for Tan Jing, he never had expectations for her to begin with so then how could he be disappointed? He shook his head and said, "Take care of yourself."

020 Cleaning up the mess

Tan Jing bit her lips tightly and looked at the happy family of four in front of her. She was so angry that she was about to explode. She death-starred at Tan Rou.

'Tan Rou, it's all your fault! You were the one who stole the status as missy of the Tan family from me for more than ten years. How could you still enjoy the love and care of your biological family after coming back?'

'

Just now, you even deliberately said what happened two days ago to make the Tao family completely despise me. I will not let this go. You owe me everything. You owe me everything! You guys do not want to acknowledge me? Do you guys think Tan Rou is good? Sooner or later, all of you will regret it. I will make all of you pay the price!

Tan Rou looked at Tan Jing's somewhat ferocious expression with interest. She could not help but laugh. She had just started to retaliate, and she already could not stand it?

There would be many days like this in the future.

Tan Rou patted Mother Tao's hand to comfort her and told Tan Jing, "I advise you to stop playing tricks. How nice of you to say that you want to come home and have a look? But in actual fact, someone must have tipped you off and you couldn't wait to come and enjoy the show. Sorry to disappoint you."

Tan Jing's heart skipped a beat. Tan Rou was really different from before. In the past, she was always at her mercy. But now, she had to admit that she had underestimated her enemy. She was no longer that idiot, she seemed to be able to see through every move of hers.

But of course, she could not admit it, "What did you say? I don't understand."

Tan Rou did not care if she admitted it or not, "It's okay if you don't understand. I'm just telling you that if your friend can't find her way home and likes to wander around, I don't mind talking to her. However, no guarantees about what she may end up telling me."

Tan Jing gritted her teeth. This vicious woman still dared to threaten her.

In a distance, a scrawny man ran over anxiously. Tan Rou knew him. He was one of Zhou Wu's sidekicks, Wang Tian. When these people gathered together, there would always be a good show. Next, it would be up to Tan Jing to help Zhou Wu clean up the mess.

However, she was not interested in getting involved with them anymore. She pulled Mother Tao along and the whole family headed home without looking back.

Tan Rou stayed where she was and watched them leave. She secretly swore that she would definitely take revenge and destroy Tan Rou's reputation!

Wang Tian was surprised to find that Tan Jing was also there. "Sister Jing? Why are you here? What a coincidence!"

Tan Jing turned around and saw Wang Tian. She knew that he must have heard about Zhou Wu's accident and rushed over. She nodded. "Let's go in and take a look. Your boss is in trouble."

Wang Tian chuckled, "Sister Jing, you're really resourceful. You even know about this. Our boss comes to the police station every two to three days. It's a common occurrence. Sister Jing since you are around this time, you must help us."

These words made Tan Jing very happy. She needed a group of people with brains who were loyal to her and not like Zhou Zheng, who screwed things up and still drag her down with him.

After entering the police station, Zhou Wu still felt a little aggrieved, "Why did you do that just now? You let that b\*tch off so easily. Don't tell me that you have given up on dealing with her. I can tell. Moreover, if you had really given up, you wouldn't have come back, right?"

Seeing that Tan Jing had indeed come back, Zhou Wu felt a little more confident. As long as he had something that she needed, she might help him.

Tan Jing snorted coldly, "You're really smart but you're using your smarts at the wrong place. Since you're so good at reading the situation, why can't you see that the situation just now didn't benefit you at all? The injury report is right there. What else is there to say?"

Zhou Wu cursed under his breath. "To hell with the report!"

Tan Jing asked, "Did she really hit you? If she did, then why didn't the medical report show that you were injured?"

If he was really injured, she would naturally be able to make a big fuss and make that wretched woman, Tan Rou, suffer. However, without actual evidence, how could the police believe that Tan Rou beat up a man who was twice her size?

Zhou Wu said, "It's absolutely true! God knows how she did it."

Tan Jing could tell from his expression that he was not lying, and there was no need for that. It was not a glorious thing for a man to be beaten up by a woman and call the police.

"Alright, I'll let it go this time. Don't be so impulsive in the future. Listen to my instructions." Tan Jing was also tired. Not only did she not gain anything from this trip, the Tao family even despised her for her actions. She was in a terrible mood.

"Hehe, I always knew that b\*tch Tan Rou was unreliable. It seems that Miss Tan is indeed reliable. Don't worry. From now on, I, Zhou Wu, and my brother, Wang Tian, will follow you. We will follow Miss Tan's lead. However, right now, my finances are a little tight..."

021 The shameless Tan Rou

Zhou Wu was an adaptable man. He immediately changed his attitude and tried to curry favor with Tan Jing with a smile. It was good that the casino was exposed. He probably didn't have to pay off his gambling debts. At most, he would just go to jail for a few days, but he still had to get some benefits.

Tan Jing also knew that these people were all heartless crooks. They would change sides whenever it benefitted them. After she returned to the Tan family, she received lots of cash gifts. Chen Yi also gave her a lot of pocket money, however, when she thought about how she was going to give this money to these people cheaply, her heart ached. She reluctantly took out her phone and transferred the money, "Alright, keep this for the time being."

Zhou Wu looked at the money and pursed his lips. This missy was really stingy. This bit of money was barely enough for him to gamble once, but he did not say anything. He was going to slowly milk her.

Tan Jing was not happy either. She grew up leading a hard life and had always placed great importance on money. She turned around and was about to leave.

Wang Tian called out to her, "Hey! Sister Jing, what about my boss?"

"What do we do? The police station is not owned by the Tan family. Do you think you can leave just because you want to? You were too impulsive in the first place. Just stay in there for a few days and learn your lesson."

Tan Jing was a little impatient. It was all Tan Rou's fault. She had used some tricks to walk out scot-free. Now, she had to face this mess in order to win over these two people.

The more she thought about it, the angrier she got. Tan Jing left without looking back.

Tan Jing felt that she had been a little unlucky these few days. Not only did she fail to one up on Tan Rou, but her reputation was also destroyed and she even lost the favor of the Tao family.

All of this was Tan Rou's fault. Everything she had should be hers. If she was unhappy, how could Tan Rou live comfortably?

In fact, she was still very attached to the Tao family's love for her. It was just that she did not manage to resist the temptation from the Tan family. But this was also human nature. What right did they have to criticize her? Was it comfortable for Tan Rou to leave the Tan family? Who would want to lead a hard life?

Tan Jing not only wanted the power of the Tan family, but also the love and affection of the Tao family! Only she can abandon them, how could they do it to her instead?

The more she thought about it, the more she was unwilling to resign to fate. Tan Jing felt that she had to go to the Tan family to make up for it. However, Tan Rou was there and she was a great obstacle. If she acted like she was unwilling, then Mother Tao really wouldn't forgive her.

She took out her phone and called Li Jia, "Help me with something. The Tao family should have gone back. Think of a way to get Tan Rou out of the house. I have to go back to the Tao house. Let me know if anything happens!" Hearing Li Jia's promise, Tan Jing was slightly relieved.

Then, she got ready to go to the mall to pick up some expensive gifts.

Li Jia hung up the phone. The task gave her a headache. In order to please Tan Jing, she had been sent by her to secretly observe the Tao family. She did not dare to leave the whole time, but how should she get rid of Tan Rou? Just as she was thinking, she saw the Tao family members walking over, happily chatting and laughing away.

Li Jia stood awkwardly at where she was. She did not know what to do. Tan Rou also saw her.

Tan Rou thought about it. Since she had already hinted to Tan Jing that she knew of Li Jia's presence, she might as well get rid of her. She signaled to the Tao family members, "That seems to be someone I know. She must be looking for me. I'll come home after I settle things with her."

Mother Tao smiled and nodded. "Okay. Remember to come home early for dinner." The rest of the family went back first.

Tao Zheng was still a little worried, "Are you alright? Who is that?"

Tan Rou smiled. "Brother, are you worried about me? I'm just a little girl. What danger can I be in?"

Tao Zheng felt made fun of, "Who's worried about you? You're overthinking things! "On second thought, she was right. He had seen Tan Rou's skills with his own eyes. So many men could not even hurt her. His worries were redundant, he turned around and entered the house.

Li Jia did not expect things to go so smoothly. Tan Rou stayed behind alone. She even looked like she was in a good mood with a smile on her face.

However, her smile vanished the second the Tan family entered the house. She questioned Li Jia in a very imposing manner, "Why did Tan Jing send you here?"

Li Jia was dumbfounded. How did she know?

She stammered, "What... I don't know. Have you forgotten? We met at the ball before. I came here this time to ask you for a favor. I'm a little too embarrassed to ask. Can we find a place to have a good chat about it?"

Tan Rou took notice of her flustered expression and evasive gaze. She knew that Tan Jing must be up to something. Tan Jing did not rest even for a moment.

Tan Rou used her height advantage to force Li Jia to back up to a wall, she felt cornered, "Since you've met me before, you must have heard that I'm not to be trifled with, right? You must have been the one who told Tan Jing about the incident at the police station. Do you know why the police were involved? Can a little girl like you take a beating better than Zhou Wu?"

022 Burning bridges

Li Jia was shocked by the look on Tan Rou's face. For some reason, Tan Rou was even scarier than before. Li Jia didn't dare to stay any longer, she inched to the side bit by bit, "I'm fine, I'm fine. I should get going." Then, she scampered away.

Tan Rou sneered. The person that Tan Jing found was so easy to scare off? She wanted to see what tricks she had up her sleeves. She turned around and went home.

Not long after, Tan Jing came over with a gift. She piled the gifts at the door and knocked loudly. "Mom! It's me. I'm back!"

Inside the house, Mother Tao frowned in annoyance, "Why is she here?"

Tao Zheng sighed in exasperation. "Why didn't I notice in the past that she was so shameless?"

The knocks on the door did not stop. It was as if the knocking on the door would not stop if she was left unanswered. "Open the door quickly. I really realized my mistake. I want to come home!"

The neighbor next door opened the door. "Oh my, it's Xiao Jing. What brings you back? Didn't you return to your biological family?"

Tan Jing pretended to be reserved and nodded. "Yes, Auntie Liu. I missed them. I brought along gifts."

The neighbor looked at the gift. "Oh, I heard that your biological mother is very rich. The gifts don't look cheap. You're so sensible. You even came back to check on them."

Tao Zheng, who was in the house, could not stand listening to her anymore. He opened the door and clarified, "Auntie Liu, don't listen to her nonsense. Our family has already disowned her. Whether her family has money or not has nothing to do with us!"

To her surprise, there was someone home, which means that they did not answer the door on purpose. What was going on? However, she did not say anything. She just nodded politely and returned to her home.

Tan Jing was somewhat unhappy. If Tao Zheng did not open the door, she would have continued talking to Auntie Liu. It would be best if everyone thought that she was not an ingrate. She wanted to show the others that she even came back to visit with so many gifts and was very filial.

Tao Zheng said bluntly, "We have already made ourselves clear. Why are you still here? In the past, you were so afraid that getting involved with us would delay your return to the Tan family. So what is wrong with you today, why are you acting like you're possessed by a ghost today?"

Mother Tao did not want to show her face. She coldly said, "You're not welcome here." As she was done speaking, she was ready to return to her room.

Tan Jing hurriedly picked up the gifts and rushed into the house. "Mom! This is the tonic I bought for you! It was very expensive. And I got a branded watch for Dad. His colleagues will be so envious of him if he wears it at work. Brother, this latest mobile phone is for you!"

After saying that, she saw Tan Rou. Why was she still there? What did Li Jia Do?

Tao shook her head. "I don't need any tonic. Rou Rou has been nursing me back to health. I'm better than ever. Your Uncle Tao is just an ordinary salaryman. He doesn't need such luxurious products. Instead, it will attract unwanted attention. Take it back."

Tao Zheng was even more disdainful. "I don't need the latest model of mobile phone either. The one I'm using now is working fine. You don't have to worry about it."

Tan Jing held the gifts awkwardly. She didn't expect her family to not appreciate her kindness at all. She never truly cared for them before and naturally, she didn't know what to buy at all. She just blindly picked the expensive ones thinking that they had never seen them before and would definitely be pleasantly surprised. Tan Rou was also there. These luxurious goods were nothing to her. Tan Rou was probably laughing at her in her mind. The more she thought about it, the more Tan Jing felt hatred in her heart.

Tan Rou smiled,. "The sun has risen from the west. I still remember the day when I found out about our real identities. Before I could react, you ran to the Tan family excitedly. You hugged Chen Yi and cried out for her. I even thought that you must have been a child suffering from vagrancy. You have already abandoned this family at that very moment. However today, you refused to leave?"

Tan Jing blushed in embarrassment. At that time, she was so excited as if she had won the lottery. She had been staying with this poor family for a long time. Of course, she was excited to return to the Tan family.

Mother Tao also recalled that scene Tan Rou was talking about and sighed helplessly.

Tan Jing quibbled loudly, "No, mother! At that time, I was just overwhelmed with joy... No, not joy. I just thought that if I could return to the Tan family and be rich, I would definitely return to repay you guys. Look, now I can buy you anything!"

Mother Tao had never felt so tired before, "Don't you understand? We never needed any expensive gifts. No matter how rich you are, it has nothing to do with us. You should leave quickly!"

Tao Zheng was also in a difficult position. Although he did not treat her as his biological sister anymore, he was a gentleman. He could not force her out if she insisted on staying here, what more can he do?

023 Stop with the act

Tan Rou took out her phone calmly, "What a touching scene. I must record it and send it to my friends in the past and show them that the daughter of the Tan family actually thinks that way. She sacrificed herself to return to the Tan family just to get money to support the family. Shouldn't someone give you a top ten filial child award for sacrificing yourself?"

Tan Rou deliberately paused for a moment. "I just don't know if Auntie Chen will still think that you're filial if this video is sent to her."

Tan Jing quickly covered her face, "Tan Rou, what are you doing? ! Stop it! You're deliberately trying to get me in trouble!"

Tan Rou smiled. "Tan Jing, don't be too greedy. I advise you to obediently return to the Tan family and be the heiress of the Tan family. Don't come looking for trouble again. Otherwise, I have plenty of ways to deal with you."

Tan Jing glared at Tan Rou fiercely, "You finally admit that you deliberately harmed me?"

Tan Rou shook her head. "I never once took the initiative to provoke you and you don't have to pretend to be my good friend anymore. Haven't you harmed me enough behind my back? I only have one thing to say. If you still have any tricks up your sleeve then just come at me, I have a clear conscience."

Tan Jing did not dare to let Chen Yi find out that she had contacted the Tao family behind her back, she had to leave. "Mom, brother, you have to believe me. Tan Rou has evil intentions. I will never harm you guys!" With that said, she walked out reluctantly.

The moment she left, Tao Zheng took out the gift she had brought and threw it at the door. He said, "Don't be such a hypocrite." With that, he slammed the door shut.

Tan Jing gritted her teeth and left in a sorry state with the gifts in her hand, leaving the Tao family behind. They were originally in a good mood, but after Tan Jing's disturbance, there was an air of unsavoriness.

However, Tan Jing's action did remind Tan Rou that she had been home for some time and had not given any gifts to her family.

It was time to make some preparations.

Now that she has left the Tan family, Tan Rou had to think of ways to earn money on her own so that her family could live a better life.

With this thought in mind, Tan Rou greeted Mother Tao and the rest before returning to her room.

She bought a whole plethora of herbs the last time when she was shopping for Mother Tao. After giving some to Mother Tao, there was still a lot left. She had to hurry up and make more spice pills.

When she thought about how she could display her skills and rely on her own abilities to help her family, Tan Rou smiled happily. This sense of steadiness and self-reliance made her all the more eager to give it a try.

On the other hand, Zhuang Liu had been paying attention to Tan Rou's movements and was ready to protect her at any time.

Zhuang Liu asked, "Have you found out about the fiasco in the police station?"

His assistant, Xiao Mo, nodded. "Miss Tan Rou has already returned home safely. There weren't any injuries on Zhou Wu, but I secretly contacted the people from the casino."

Zhuang Liu tilted his head. "Oh? What did they say?"

Xiao Mo said, "The thugs present said that Miss Tan Rou really did give them a beating. They couldn't even retaliate. Zhou Wu was indeed beaten up badly."

Then, he suddenly recalled something and smiled faintly. He continued, "They are now hiding from the police themselves. However, they also said that if they managed to escape, they would definitely not let Zhou Wu off."

Zhuang Liu revealed a faint smile, "I know. She has always been so smart. She would not let herself be in danger."

Xiao Mo watched from the side and could not help but sigh. Third Young Master's health has always been poor. He had been sick for many years and had suffered a lot. Because of this, he was always cold and aloof. However, Miss Tan Rou seemed to be an exception, every time he mentioned her, Third Young Master's mood always seem to improve. He had to pay more attention to her.

Immediately after, Xiao Mo recalled another matter, "I don't know how Zhou Wu managed to contact the Tan family's newly returned daughter, Tan Jing, while he was in the police station. Tan Jing transferred a sum of money to him, but there was no follow-up."

Zhuang Liu thought for a while and said, "She's a daughter who just got reunited. She must have some money now but she won't be able to stir up any big waves for the time being. As for Zhou Wu, you keep an eye on him personally. Don't let him escape so easily."

Xiao Mo nodded. He understood this. The third Young Master cared so much about Miss Tan Rou. If Zhou Wu wanted to harm her, Third Young Master would definitely not let him off easily.

Zhuang Liu reminded, "Aren't the people from the casino looking for him? When necessary, give them some hope. Use them to take care of Zhou Wu first. Afterward, you can give them up to the police and clean up their lair."

Zhuang Liu naturally wouldn't let Zhou Wu off easily. Even if he went to jail, he would be out within a couple of days. It would be better to let the people from the casino have their revenge on him. They would surely have many ways to deal with him.

As for the casino, they had no idea who they were dealing with. Since they troubled Tan Rou, he might as well be a concerned citizen and help the police out for once.

Xiao Mo held back his laughter. Third Young Master was still as scheming as ever. He nodded and left to carry out Zhuang Liu's instructions.

024 Godly doctor

"Wait." Zhuang Liu stopped Xiao Mo.

Xiao Mo quickly asked again, "What's the matter, Third Young Master? Do you have any other orders for me?"

Zhuang Liu pondered for a moment before finally making up his mind, "Go and contact Uncle Bai."

Xiao Mo was nervous, "Are you feeling unwell again? I'll look for him now!"

The Uncle Bai that Zhuang Liu was talking about was the famous godly doctor, Bai Jing. Bai Jing's medical skills were superb, and his true identity was a mystery. His medical skills were one of a kind, and his use of acupuncture needles was god-like.

However, he never revealed himself easily, and his principle of saving people was very unique as well. He couldn't be bothered to save those who could be saved by other doctors, and he disdained saving those that did evil. He also refused to save those who kept bugging him, but most of the time, it depended on his mood or if he felt that they were fated.

These mysterious rumors coupled with his temperamental personality and his erratic whereabouts made him seem particularly mysterious.

It was rumored that his medical skills were already at the peak of perfection. Even if one is already near the gates of Hell, as long as he made a move, he would be able to turn the tide. As a result, the reputation of the godly doctor grew larger and larger, and countless people coveted his medical skills.

Countless people were willing to give up all their fortunes just to seek an audience with him, but not many might not end up being able to see him in person.

Zhuang Liu was poisoned as a kid, and it looked like he was going to die soon. The Zhuang family had searched for famous doctors worldwide, but they had all failed.

However, by chance, they met Bai Jing. Bai Jing was very interested in the poison in Zhuang Liu. Such a lethal and uncommon poison made even a godly doctor like him unable to do anything about it. It was incredibly challenging.

Bai Jing could not find a better way, for the time being, so he could only temporarily suppress the poison. Zhuang Liu's life was saved, but the poison has always been in him. It slowly started to accumulate in his legs. From then on, Zhuang Liu never stood up again.

An accident happened in Bai Jing's godly doctor career.

The more capable a person was, the more they could not accept failure. Zhuang Liu's illness had stimulated Bai Jing's exploration of medical theories. He talked about the

boundless sea of knowledge. If he did not solve Zhuang Liu's problem, he would never claim to be a godly doctor of his generation.

Zhuang Liu had once thought of giving up, but Bai Jing comforted him, "You have extraordinary talent, and you are definitely not a short-lived person. Our meeting was fate. If Hades wants to take you in, he would have to ask me first."

Occasionally, Bai Jing would also crack jokes to encourage Zhuang Liu, "Do you think that your life and death have no implications? My reputation is at stake here. If I can't cure you, how can I continue practicing medicine? So live on."

Thus, Zhuang Liu and Bai Jing tried countless methods and suffered together. Bai Jing's beard grew whiter and whiter by the year, and he did not give up. Their bond was no longer an ordinary doctor-patient relationship, but a life-and-death friendship.

Divine Doctor Bai, who used to skip between towns began to settle down and started to stay in the city where Zhuang Liu was. Under normal circumstances, Bai Jing would experiment with new treatment methods on his own. When there was progress, he would inform Zhuang Liu to go over and test it out, and occasionally, he would go out to source precious herbs.

Recently, Zhuang Liu's condition had been relatively stable. It had been a long time since he had gone to look for Bai Jing. This time, Zhuang Liu took the initiative to ask to see Bai Jing, which really scared Xiao Mo. He was afraid that Zhuang Liu's condition had worsened.

Zhuang Liu shook his head. "I'm fine. It's just that Uncle Bai mentioned a method last time. He said that it might be effective, but it would be a little risky. He asked me to think about it for a few more days. Now, I've made up my mind."

Xiao Mo was still worried, "Third Young Master, let's not take the risk. Let's wait a little longer. There will definitely be a better method!"

Zhuang Liu touched the wheelchair beneath him, "If it were in the past, I wouldn't be in a hurry. I've sat on this thing for so many years and I've gotten used to it. But now, I can't..."

In the past, it was as if he was walking alone in the dark. He had no direction, but others did not know that for someone like him, once he discovered the light in the darkness, he would definitely chase after it with all his might. As long as the light was there, he had the will to keep living on.

Zhuang Liu's eyes revealed a strong sense of determination, "I finally found her again. There's no more time. In my current state, I can't protect anyone. No matter what method I use, I have to try something!"

Xiao Mo's face was bitter. He had gone mad. Who was that woman? She actually made Third Young Master risk his life just so that he can stand up and protect her.

Xiao Mo did not dare to disobey his wishes. He agreed and left.

Zhuang Liu was left alone on the spot. He muttered to himself, "Wait for me a little longer."

## 025 Selling medicine

Tan Rou rushed as much as she could and finally finished making the remaining herbs and spices. She carefully packed them neatly in her bag and went out to find a Chinese medicine clinic to inquire about the market price of the herbs.

Tan Rou went to the vicinity of the medicinal herbs market she went to the last time. Usually, there would be a few large Chinese medicine clinics around such markets because it was convenient to purchase the medicinal herbs.

Sure enough, Tan Rou saw a shop with a big and grand entrance.

As soon as Tan Rou walked in, an enthusiastic apprentice came forward to welcome her. "Hello, are you feeling unwell? Today, Doctor Wang's schedule is already full. I can schedule other doctors for you."

When Tan Rou heard that, it was only morning, and he was already fully booked for the day. She thought to herself this Doctor Wang must be really good, so she cooperation in mind, "I am not here for a consultation. I just want to have a chat with the doctors here."

The apprentice was a little puzzled. "You are not here for a consultation? Then there's no other way. Our doctors are very busy. You have to pay a registration fee before entering."

Tan Rou asked, "Then how much is the registration fee?"

The apprentice smiled, "Five hundred Yuan."

"What?" Tan Rou was very surprised. That was daylight robbery. If one could really get a good Chinese medicine practitioner to treat them, the value would naturally be immeasurable. However, the registration fee alone was five hundred Yuan. Isn't that asking for a little too much?

The apprentice sized up Tan Rou and felt that she probably didn't have any money. His attitude became a little perfunctory, "Oh, this is how we do things here. Usually, even if you are willing to pay more you might not get a consult with our doctors. Business is just that good."

Tan Rou frowned. She wasn't very happy. The words of this apprentice made her feel a little uncomfortable. Opening a clinic was different from other businesses. One shouldn't measure how good the business of a clinic was.

Seeing that Tan Rou neither paid nor left, the apprentice started to get impatient. "If you have nothing else to do, don't stand at the door and block the way."

At this moment, an elderly man came out with a teapot, "What is the ruckus about?"

The apprentice bowed respectfully, "Divine Doctor Wang, this lady does not want to register for treatment. She only said that she wants to see you. I was just talking to her."

Tan Rou also sized up this so-called Divine Doctor Wang. She couldn't tell if he was really that capable or not.

Divine Doctor Wang smiled, "Young lady, What do you want?"

Tan Rou nodded politely and said, "I wanted to discuss a collaboration with you. I made this medicine myself. You can take a look. I would like to sell it in your clinic."

When Tan Rou said this, Doctor Wang's friendly expression immediately changed. "Nonsense! Chinese medicine is not something that can be casually made for people to eat. Moreover, you are proposing to sell your medicine in my clinic. Is our own medicine there for decoration? We still have to sell yours?"

Tan Rou explained, "No, every medicine is different in its contents and dosage. Every tweak to the medicine also brings about a difference in its effects. I am not trying to steal your business. These are mostly supplementary medicinal herbs. You can take a look and then make a decision."

There was a lot to know in the realm of Chinese medicine, and every Chinese medicine practitioner had different habits of using the medicine. Therefore, there was no such thing as damaging one's reputation or stealing their business. It was just a matter of who can more accurately identify the root of the problem and come up with prescriptions that better target the problem.

Divine Doctor Wang looked at Tan Rou with disdain. "Our clinic has to hire several workers to grind medicine every day. There are many people who want a prescription. If we do as you say, we don't need to do business anymore. You should leave!"

The apprentice also came over and pulled Tan Rou away. "Go, go, go, go, go to another place to sell!"

Obviously, they thought that Tan Rou was a salesman who did not know the trade and only wanted to make money.

Tan Rou sidestepped the apprentice's hand, "Since we have different opinions and can't work together, I will take my leave. There's no need for you to chase me away."

Walking to the entrance, Tan Rou thought for a moment, then she turned around. "However, I still advise you to make money ethically. Don't put the cart before the horse and insult the reputation of traditional Chinese medicine. I hope that one day there is no suffering in this world. I would rather have the medicine shelf start collecting dust. You should stay true to yourself and only then you are living up to the expectations of your patients who have so much faith in you."

Divine Doctor Wang was used to being praised by others every he went. He was so angry that he was stunned when he was suddenly lectured by a little girl.

The apprentice also shouted in exasperation, "Don't cause trouble here! Who dares to use the medicine you are trying to sell? Just wait for it to rot in your hands!"

026 Genius

"Who said it can't be used?" A powerful voice came from behind Tan Rou.

Tan Rou turned around and saw that there was another Chinese medicine clinic across the street. It was very small and seemed very bare. It was located diagonally across the big clinic, so it paled in comparison and was very difficult for people to notice it.

However, at this moment, when she looked at it, it did have an antique flavor and seemed to have character.

At this moment, there was an energetic old man standing at the door. He was stroking his white beard and had a smile on his face. He looked like a sage.

The old man said, "I would like to see. Although this lady is young, her attitude towards the medical practice is much better than those half-baked Chinese medicine practitioners."

The old man looked at Tan Rou kindly, "Young Lady, based on what you said just now, I am willing to take a look at your medicine."

How could Divine Doctor Wang not know that this person was referring to him? However, the clinic opposite him was a little strange. There was clearly no business, but occasionally, there would be some high-ranking officials and dignitaries rejected at his doorstep. They were unmoved by him no matter how much he tried to promote himself.

Divine Doctor Wang was not sure what kind of methods the old man had, so he did not dare to provoke him easily. He held back his anger and signaled his apprentice to stop bothering her. Then, he turned around and returned to his room.

Tan Rou walked toward the old man and smiled gratefully, "Thank you." No matter what, the old man agreed with her point of view and was willing to give her medicine a try. This made Tan Rou feel that her insistence was right.

The old man called out to Tan Rou, "Come in, let's have a chat. Let me see what medicine you have made."

The two walked into the clinic. Tan Rou was surprised to find that although it did not look like much on the outside, there was another world inside the clinic.

It was obvious that all the mahogany furniture was expensive, especially the bookcase. It was filled with a wall full of medical books. It was a magnificent sight. On the other side, there was another wall of drawers filled with medicine. The air was filled with a faint medicinal fragrance. It smelled great.

Tan Rou immediately fell in love with this place. Her eyes were sparkling. Her intuition told her that this old man wasn't simple. He might be her benefactor.

The old man led Tan Rou to the tea table and told her to sit down. He poured her a cup of hot tea, then he said, "Little girl, I think we are fated, and what you said just now made me very happy. There are not many doctors with the same attitude as you nowadays. Moreover, you are still young. This is very good."

The old man seemed kind and looked at Tan Rou with a smile. "My surname is Bai. May I know how to address you?"

Tan Rou replied politely, "Hello, Grandpa Bai. My name is Tan Rou."

The old man, or more accurately, Bai Jing, hurriedly waved his hand. "Hey! "Don't call me grandpa. I'm still in my prime. It's all that brat's fault. He made me worry for him until I was several years older. I see that the two of you are about the same age. You should call me Uncle Bai just like him."

Tan Rou burst into laughter. Just a moment ago, he was still a sage-like person. Now, he looked like an old mischievous child, but that him seem a lot more approachable.

Tan Rou naturally agreed. "Alright, Uncle Bai. Take a look at my herbs and medicinal pills. Are they of any use to you?"

Tan Rou took out the things that she had prepared from her bag and handed them to Bai Jing.

Seeing that Bai Jing was not perfunctory and did not look down on her at all, instead, he was seriously studying her pills, Tan Rou was very happy. This meant that she had received the respect of this senior.

Bai Jing carefully studied it for a moment and became more and more excited.

He originally did not have many expectations for her pills. After all, the girl was not old and definitely did not have enough experience. He originally planned to give her a few good pointers to aid her on her path of learning. However, he did not expect that not only was there no mistake at all, but the number of ingredients used was simply immaculate!

Bai Jing could be said to be a medical junkie. As long as it was something that he was interested in and had never seen before, he would always have extremely high enthusiasm and would not hesitate to pay any price.

At this moment, he realized that Tan Rou's herbs and medicinal pills were not simple. In fact, they were even more refined than some family secret medicine that had been passed down from a lineage of famous doctors. He didn't care much and directly crushed a small bit with his hand, he sent it into his mouth and tasted it carefully.

"Hey! Uncle Bai!" Tan Rou wanted to stop him, it wasn't that she was unwilling to let him try. Indeed, doctors often needed to try some medicine on their own, but the two of them had just met for the first time, and Uncle Bai had already eaten the medicine that she had made. This made Tan Rou panic a little.

Bai Jing carefully tasted the ingredients Tan Rou used and was overjoyed. "Wonderful! The usage of each herb was wonderful!" After saying that, he actually laughed out loud.

When Tan Rou heard this, it made her really proud of herself. She was actually very confident in her own skills but facing uncle Bai whom she had already treated as a respectable senior. Receiving his praise made her very happy.

Bai Jing repeatedly praised, "I really picked up a treasure! Little friend, I didn't expect you to have such high attainments in refining incense and medicine at such a young age. You're a genius!"

Tan Rou was a little shy from being praised. "There are still many shortcomings. I am still working on improving myself."

## 027 Friendship

Bai Jing nodded his head in approval, "It's good that you are accomplished. However, it's your humility that is valuable. Unfortunately, refining incense and making medicine isn't my forte. Your current mastery of it is already very high, so it's very difficult for me to give you any more useful pointers."

Tan Rou shook her head, "Uncle Bai, don't say that."

Bai Jing waved his hand indifferently. "What's the big deal? If I can't teach you, then I should admit it. I can't just pretend to be able to guide you and then waste your time. However, even though I can't teach you, I have a lot of medical books on this aspect."

Bai Jing pointed at the wall of books. "When you're free, you can come and study them. We can also have discussions on medicine, I'm sure we will have a great friendship."

Tan Rou was pleasantly surprised. She had noticed the wall of medical books the moment she stepped foot in the clinic. She was thirsty for knowledge and was very envious but she didn't know how to ask. Now that Uncle Bai had taken the initiative to invite her, it was really great.

Bai Jing's eyes looked even more compassionate, "How many of these things do you have with you? I want them all!"

Tan Rou shook her head. "I didn't make too many. They're all here."

Bai Jing thought for a moment and said, "That's fine too. Sell these to me first. I'll offer you a price of ten thousand per portion. If you're free, make more and bring them over. I'll take them all."

Tan Rou was a little surprised. "Ten thousand?"

Bai Jing asked, "Do you think it's low? These herbs and medicinal pills are indeed rare. I won't make money from you. I'll only help you sell them to the people who need them."

Tan Rou shook her head repeatedly. "No, no, the cost of these herbs and medicinal pills are actually not high. I didn't think that they could fetch such a high price."

Bai Jing smiled understandingly, "The cost is not expensive, but your skills are. Ten thousand, you're worth it!"

Hearing Uncle Bai say so, Tan Rou smiled happily and nodded in agreement. When she went home, she wanted to improve on her own skills so that she could draw out the maximum potential of the herbs.

This time, Tan Rou brought a total of twenty portions, and Bai Jing accepted them all.

Bai Jing was on with the times and wanted to add Tan Rou's contact information to transfer the money to her. Two hundred thousand was transferred to the account in an instant.

Tan Rou looked at the balance curiously. This was earned through her own hard work. This was a greater sense of achievement than ever.

Bai Jing smiled and said, "Although my clinic isn't big, I'm very rich. You just have to focus on making the medicinal pills. I'll be your reseller."

Tan Rou nodded. She was even more motivated now!

After leaving the clinic, Tan Rou went to pick out a lot of gifts and returned home.

As she passed by the alley, she saw her neighbor Auntie Liu holding onto Tao Zheng and chatting about family matters.

Auntie Liu patted Tao Zheng and asked, "Ah Zheng, your sister has returned to the Tan family. Is she loaded now? Why did you chase her out that day?"

Tao Zheng explained helplessly, "Auntie Liu, she's no longer my sister. Every family has something they are unwilling to touch on. Since she chose to return, then she has nothing to do with us anymore."

Auntie Liu pouted exaggeratedly. "Aiyo, I've watched the two of you grow up. What misunderstanding can be so deep that it can't be resolved? What a huge mess it has turned into. I saw Xiao Jing come back with so many gifts the other day. Although she is now rich, she didn't forget about you guys."

As she spoke, Tan Rou walked over and stood beside Tao Zheng.

Tan Rou greeted him. "Brother, I'm back."

Then, she looked politely at Auntie Liu. "Hello, Auntie Liu. I'm Tan Rou."

Auntie Liu thought of what she had just said. She didn't know if Tan Rou had heard it, but she felt a little embarrassed. "You're Ah Zheng's biological sister. Good, you guys look so alike!"

Tao Zheng frowned. He looked at Tan Rou carrying so many bags in her hands and thought that she was spending money recklessly again. However, he did not want to embarrass Tan Rou in front of the neighbors. He said, "Go home quickly."

Unexpectedly, Auntie Liu spoke first. "Xiao Rou, Auntie Liu has been your family's neighbor for many years. Pardon me for being nosy. You may have been used to leading a good life in the past, so it is only normal that you spend money recklessly. However, it is not easy for your parents. You have to learn to be sensible."

Tao Zheng's expression turned even worse. This Tan Rou had only been obedient for two days, and she was already spending money recklessly. She was even seen by their neighbors. Isn't she embarrassing them?

Tan Rou nodded obediently. "I know, Auntie Liu. I bought these with my own money. I didn't spend the family's money."

Auntie Liu was a little suspicious. She could tell that the things this girl bought were not cheap. How could she earn so much money at such a young age? However, she did not mean any harm. She smiled politely and left.

Tao Zheng dragged Tao Rou back home and could not help but ask, "Tell me the truth. Where did you get the money?"

028 Warm little cardigan

After returning home, Tao Zheng calmed down a little, but he still felt a little uneasy. In the past, Tan Rou was a spendthrift. When she had just returned from the Tan family, she still retained her old spending habits, she quickly squandered whatever money she had left from before.

Without money, she still had to go out and socialize with those scoundrels. She even helped them pay the bill. Often, when she returned home, she would throw a tantrum and force her parents to fork out money for her.

The Tao family's life had always been plain and simple. However, Tan Rou was heartless as she tried a plethora of ways to trick her parents into raising money for her.

Tao Zheng thought that Tan Rou had relapsed into her old habits, so he was both angry and anxious.

On one hand, Tao Zheng had witnessed Tan Rou's change over the past few days. He had gradually let go of his prejudice and wanted to accept her again. He felt that she had matured and would not be unreasonable anymore.

On the other hand, Tao Zheng loved his sister very much. When he thought of Tan Rou's high quality of life in the past, it was difficult for her to go from extravagance to frugality. As long as she did not waste money, it was understandable. He might have to give her more time.

He could only blame himself for not having the ability to improve his family's standard of living.

Tao Zheng sighed, after thinking for a while, he said, "Although I did not treat you well in the past, I have seen the changes in you over the past few days. Since you called me brother and we are now a family, I have to take care of you. Where did you get the money to buy these things? You asked for money from mom and dad again?"

Mother Tao heard the noise outside and pushed the door open. "What's wrong? Ah Zheng, don't quarrel with your sister!"

Tao Zheng frowned helplessly. "Mom, we didn't quarrel. I feel that since we're a family, you can't continue to pamper her without restraint! Did you give her money again?"

Mother Tao frowned in confusion, "No. Rou Rou didn't ask me for money."

Mother Tao saw the item in Tan Rou's hand and understood what had happened. "Xiao Rou, where did you get the money? Did you... Ask your adoptive mother again? If you need money, I have it. Tell me."

Mother Tao felt a little sad. She knew that Tan Rou had already been disappointed in her adoptive family. If her daughter had gone to Chen Yi because she didn't have the money, she would feel especially bad.

Tan Rou was touched when she heard Tao Zheng's words. Sometimes, the sternness of a family member was better proof of their love than them pampering her.

Only family members would be genuinely worried that they had taken the wrong path. They would not be like Chen Yi in the past, who would just transfer her money occasionally as if she was completing a mission and couldn't be bothered about her life.

Hearing that Mother Tao had misunderstood, she quickly explained, "Mom! That's not it. Didn't I make some herbs and medicinal pills for you a few days ago? Didn't you also say that you feel much better after using them?"

Mother Tao nodded. "Yes, I really feel that my body has been exceptionally comfortable recently. I also sleep very soundly at night."

Tan Rou smiled. "So I made use of the rest of the ingredients and sold the finished product to the clinic. Look at this transaction history. This is money I earned myself."

Mother Tao and Tao Zheng looked at the 200,000 yuan transfer on their phones in surprise. It really came from a clinic called He Shou Tang.

Tao Zheng's mouth was agape, "That thing of yours can fetch such a high price?"

Tan Rou nodded, "We've already agreed on a partnership. I can bring my finished products and sell them there in the future."

Tan Rou stepped forward and held Mother Tao's hand. "Mom, brother, you guys don't have to worry. Since I've left them, I will definitely never ask for money from them again."

Mother Tao was extremely gratified, "Xiao Rou, I always knew that you were a good child."

Tan Rou smiled obediently. "Mother, I won't spend money recklessly anymore. Since we are a family, we are on the same boat through thick and thin. Don't worry, your daughter can also earn money. I will be there in the future!"

Mother Tao was so touched that she started to tear. Everyone said that having a daughter was like wearing a warm little cardigan. Her worries and disappointment from before had been completely wiped away by Tan Rou's words. She has reunited with such an obedient and caring daughter. What more could she ask for?

Tao Zheng was also feeling guilty and sad at the side. His sister was really sensible. "Brother didn't know better. I was wrong to suspect you just now. Just you wait. I will earn money too. When the time comes, I will spend it all on you."

Tan Rou smiled slyly. "Brother, how do you plan to earn money?"

Tao Zheng stammered. He really did not have much abilities. Even Tan Rou started making money while he still had to rely on his family. Thinking of this, he realized that he simply did not have the right to lecture Tan Rou anymore.

029 Family photo

But Tan Rou knew that Tao Zheng was not incompetent.

In her previous life, Tao Zheng's biggest dream was to be an exceptional photographer.

His entries also won awards, and he was known as a rising star in the photography industry.

Unfortunately, in his previous life, such a rising star was made a fool of by fate and was used by Tan Rou. The Tao family has also been torn apart because of her.

The mess in his life and family gradually made Tao Zheng lose the desire to dream. The last time Tan Rou saw Tao Zheng in her previous life, he was exhausted and had become a walking corpse.

Thinking of this, Tan Rou felt particularly upset. Tao Zheng's life should have been successful and bright, but he ruined it.

Tan Rou quickly took out a set of the latest professional camera from the pile of gifts and handed it to Tao Zheng, "I'm kidding brother. This is for you!"

Tao Zheng was so happy that he was at a loss when he saw the camera. "Oh my god! Am I dreaming?"

Tao Zheng wiped his hands on his clothes before carefully taking the camera. He held it in his hands and instantly fell in love with it. "How did you know?"

Previously, when Tan Jing came back with gifts and gifted him the latest model of mobile phone, Tao Zheng was really not interested.

Photography was his biggest dream. He poured all his energy into it and did not care about any other material goods. Even in his dreams, his room was filled with a plethora of HD lenses.

But Tao Zheng had never shared his dream before. Photography was too expensive to get into. Every lens was so expensive. Tao Zheng did not want his parents to tirelessly just to support his dream. He just saved money bit by bit and persevered with his dream.

Looking at the camera in his hands was like a dream come true, Tao Zheng was extremely excited.

Tan Rou saw that her brother loved it and was very satisfied, "I'm your sister. Of course, I would know."

Tao Zheng hugged the camera tightly and smiled at Tan Rou proudly. "This investment is the best you will ever make. I will definitely produce the best work. When the time comes, I will invite you to my photography exhibition as a Thank-you Guest!"

Tan Rou smiled. "Alright, I will wait for you then. You will definitely succeed."

Mother Tao looked at the two children with gratification, and her heart softened.

Tan Rou was back, and she was still so sensible. The family was finally complete.

However, Mother Tao still said with some regret, "It would be great if your big brother and fourth brother were here too. They haven't seen Xiao Rou before."

Tan Rou knew that she still had an older brother who was already working and a younger brother who was studying outside. However, in her previous life, she rarely interacted with the two of them, it seemed that the place where they worked and studied was more strictly managed and did not allow them to leave easily.

Tan Rou also looked forward to meeting the two family members as soon as possible. She hugged Mother Tao and comforted her, "Mom, there's no rush. I am not going anywhere."

Not long after, Father Tao also returned home.

Tan Rou gave Mother Tao a set of high-grade skincare products while Father Tao received tea leaves.

Father Tao was so happy that he even couldn't close his mouth. He said that he would invite his friends over tomorrow to taste the top-grade tea his daughter gave him. His friends would definitely be envious.

The family used Tao Zheng's new camera to take the first family photo. Although it was short of two family members, it was still very heartwarming.

In the photo, Tao Zheng's parents were sitting on chairs with smiles on their faces. Tan Rou was hugging their necks intimately behind them. Tao Zheng was also standing beside Tan Rou with a smile on his face. The family was very happy.

Tan Rou looked at the photo on the camera. The more she looked at it, the more she liked it. She instructed Tao Zheng to develop the photo as soon as possible. Then, she impatiently took a photo with her phone and shared it on social media platforms.

Looking at such a beautiful photo, Tan Rou became even more determined. Tan Jing would definitely not let the matter rest. She did not know when she would up to her tricks again. She could not let her guard down.

Tan Rou understood that no matter what, she had to be strong to protect her family. Otherwise, she would implicate her family and make them pay for her mistakes.

How could such a good family end up in such a tragic end in her previous life?

Yet, villains like Tan Jing and Chen Yi could enjoy the adoration of others as they pleased. Could it be that a good person didn't get a good return, while the scourge would always get the last laugh?

The more Tan Jing wanted to destroy Tan Rou and the Tao family, the more Tan Rou had to make sure that she and her family lived a glorious life.

On the other side, Tan Jing had suffered a setback at the Tao family home and had been sulking at home. She couldn't figure out what had gone wrong.

At this time, a message notification came from Tan Jing's phone. When she turned on her phone, she saw the family photo that Tan Rou had posted on the social media platform.

030 I've made up my mind

Tan Jing was always looking out for opportunities to embarrass Tan Rou, she had favorited Tan Rou's social media account and paid special attention to it. She wanted to know about Tan Rou's movements immediately.

However, Tan Jing had never felt so enraged before. She threw her phone fiercely and smashed it into pieces.

Tan Jing gritted her teeth and cursed, "Tan Rou! You b\*tch, why do you keep stealing my things! You deserve to die! I'll make you pay for this!"

Zhuang Liu had already prepared the car early in the morning and arrived at He Shou Tang where Bai Jing was.

The moment Xiao Mo pushed Zhuang Liu into the room, they were greeted by Bai Jing, frowning. He was holding a medical book in one hand and brewing medicine in the other. He was still muttering, "This medicine is too strong, I'm afraid it won't work..."

Zhuang Liu was actually very grateful to Bai Jing. In the span of so many years, he and his family had almost given up several times. However, Bai Jing had firmly promised that he would cure him.

Saying this would undoubtedly put a lot of pressure on him. God knew how much effort this little old man had secretly put in.

Whatever the reason was, be it his dedication to his medical skills or his concern for his reputation, Zhuang Liu will always be sincerely grateful to Bai Jing. If it wasn't for him, he would have died a long time ago, not to mention, that he would have never met Tan Rou.

Bai Jing was too focused. He raised his head and asked, "Oh, you're here so early?"

Zhuang Liu nodded. "I couldn't sleep, so I came over."

Bai Jing was puzzled. "You usually either refuse or say that you're fine when I ask you to come over. Why are you so enthusiastic today?"

Zhuang Liu giggled. "It's not that I'm stubborn. I know my own body well."

Bai Jing sighed. "I'm really sorry to have dragged this out for so long. About the method I told you before, I actually wasn't sure of it myself. When Xiao Mo told me about your decision, even I was shocked."

The poison was present for too long. If one was not careful, it would explode. In a few hours, the poison would travel through Zhuang Liu's entire body and poison him to death.

Therefore, they did not dare to experiment recklessly. They only adopted other conservative methods to delay it.

However, if this continues, Zhuang Liu's legs would lose their function sooner or later. He would never be able to stand up again.

Bai Jing riffled through the medical books and came up with the last resort. It was to use acupuncture to urge the poison to flow down again. Since blood in the human body is constantly circulating, the slightest negligence would cause the poison to flow into the heart. Any attempts at reversing this situation would be powerless.

Zhuang Liu's expression also turned somewhat solemn. How could he not know that he was taking a huge risk? However, he was too eager to stand up again, for Tan Rou and for himself.

He could not help but think of a young girl's animated voice. "If I can't live a dazzling life, then wouldn't my life be in vain!"

Zhuang Liu thought to himself, '

That's right. If I can't get better and protect the person I love, I can only stay in bed and drink medicine every day to prolong my life. What fun would that be?'

'Even if I fail, how much worse can it be compared to my current situation?'

Zhuang Liu looked sombrely at Bai Jing. "Uncle Bai, I want to stand up and I can only rely on you!"

Bai Jing was silent for a long time before he sighed heavily. "Are you very sure about this?"

Xiao Mo looked at Bai Jing worriedly. "Is it dangerous?"

Bai Jing nodded. "From now onwards, every attempt will definitely be accompanied by risks."

Xiao Mo wanted to say something but hesitated.

Zhuang Liu motioned for Xiao Mo to stop talking and looked at Bai Jing. "I have something that I must achieve. No matter what price I need to pay, I have thought it through."

Bai Jing put down the medical book and looked at Zhuang Liu sternly. "Since you believe in me and are willing to entrust your life to me, then no matter what, I will do my best to fight for you!"

Zhuang Liu smiled. "Of course, I trust you the most. If you can't do it, then I might as well wait to die."

Bai Jing glared at him. "Don't spout nonsense! Don't mention die lightly!"

Bai Jing led Zhuang Liu to the acupuncture table and began to prepare for the acupuncture. His mood seemed to brighten up having thought of something. He said, "Two days ago, I met a girl. She was an expert at making medicinal pills. You could say that it's fate. You so happen to be in time for it."

Zhuang Liu was a little surprised to hear this. Bai Jing relies on his superb medical skills. His arrogance stopped him from easily praising others. For him to acclaim that she was an expert, she must be very powerful.

Bai Jing lit up a set of spices, "When I apply the needles later, avoid having intense emotions. That will speed up the flow of blood. This incense can help you focus and calm your mind. You just need to relax a little."

### 031 Nervous

Wisps of smoke drifted out, and the faint fragrance carried the smell of Chinese medicine. Zhuang Liu took a deep breath and miraculously felt that his entire body seemed to have been opened up by the soft fragrance.

Zhuang Liu slightly narrowed his eyes, feeling a rare sense of relaxation, and actually felt a little sleepy.

Xiao Mo also felt that it was very magical, "Is this fragrance really so magical? The third Young Master hasn't been resting well because he was overly worried. It's been a long time since he's relaxed."

Seeing Zhuang Liu's satisfied expression, Xiao Mo had already thought of bringing more incenses back from Bai Jing's place in a while. Third Young Master could finally sleep well.

Bai Jing felt honored, "Of course. That young friend is a rare genius. An ordinary person would feel relaxed just by smelling this fragrance. It has the effect of cultivating one's body and mind. But for someone like Xiao Liu who is overly worried and has been in a deficit for a long time, it is especially nourishing."

Zhuang Liu simply closed his eyes and immersed himself in the fragrance. He agreed and said, "It is indeed good. No wonder you value it so much."

Bai Jing slowly squatted down and rolled up Zhuang Liu's trousers, "Then shall I begin?"

Xiao Mo who was aside nervously squeezed his hands.

Zhuang Liu slowly nodded. "Let's begin."

Just as he said that Bai Jing picked up the acupuncture needles and smoothly poked them into Zhuang Liu's legs. His speed was unbelievably fast.

Zhuang Liu's legs were especially thin because he had been sitting in a wheelchair all year round. Moreover, because the toxins had been accumulating for a long time, his legs were faintly purplish-green. Now that his legs are filled with silver acupuncture needles, they looked even scarier.

As Bai Jing moved the silver needles bit by bit according to the direction of his acupuncture points, beads of sweat gradually began to appear on Zhuang Liu's forehead.

Bai Jing was highly focused. He did not even dare to blink his eyes. Soon, his body was also drenched in sweat.

Time passed bit by bit. Xiao Mo was so nervous that he did not even dare to breathe. He stared intently at Bai Jing's rapidly moving hands.

Bai Jing anxiously shouted, "Xiao Mo, go get the medicine that I just brewed and give it to Xiao Liu to drink!"

Xiao Mo quickly ran over to get the medicine and returned to feed Zhuang Liu, one gulp after another.

Zhuang Liu frowned. He endured the pain and swallowed the medicine bit by bit.

Bai Jing said while doing the acupuncture, "The situation is worse than I thought, but it is too late to stop now. Hold on!"

Zhuang Liu's face had already turned pale. After drinking the medicine, he forced himself to take a deep breath and replied, "I'm fine."

Bai Jing was a little anxious. His plan was risky, to begin with, but only after starting the acupuncture treatment did he realize that even after so many years, the poison was still terrifyingly overbearing.

All these years, Bai Jing had been using medicine to stabilize the poison and slowly expel it from his body. However, the poison was very strange. It seemed to be able to continuously grow in Zhuang Liu's body, continuously feeding on him and accumulating for so long, that it actually made their toxicity even more intense.

Bai Jing felt uneasy, but he didn't dare to stop. He kept trying to guide the poison down.

At this moment, a sound came from the door. Tan Rou walked in, "Uncle Bai, are you there?"

Bai Jing didn't have the time to answer. He was focused on Zhuang Liu's legs.

Tan Rou was here to deliver incense. After she went home, she made some more with different effects. She wanted to bring them over to Bai Jing to see if there were any other areas that needed improvement.

However, the moment she entered the door, she discovered that Bai Jing was in the midst of applying the acupuncture needle.

Tan Rou subconsciously wanted to avoid it. This was a rule. Firstly, she was afraid of disturbing Bai Jing. Secondly, she was afraid of invading other people's privacy.

However, just as Tan Rou was about to turn around and leave, she inadvertently glanced at the person who was receiving the treatment. She remembered that she had actually seen the person before. It was the man she had saved at the medicinal herbs market the other day.

So he knew Uncle Bai as well. What a coincidence.

Because she had seen him before, Tan Rou hesitated for a moment and stayed where she was without moving.

At this moment, Zhuang Liu felt that he had vaguely heard a familiar voice. This voice had appeared in his mind countless times. He had thought that it was because he was suffering so much that he was hallucinating.

Zhuang Liu opened his eyes slightly and saw that Tan Rou was really standing right in front of him! In a moment of panic, he suddenly mustered all his remaining strength to sit up and try to find something to cover his legs.

Zhuang Liu was extremely flustered. He must be in an extremely ugly state right now. He did not want Tan Rou to see him in this state.

Bai Jing shouted, "What are you doing! Messing around! Quickly lie down!"

Xiao Mo hurriedly held Zhuang Liu down, "Third Young Master, don't move!"

With his sudden movement, coupled with the sudden fluctuation in his emotions, the condition of his legs became even worse. Bai Jing's forehead was covered in sweat, and he anxiously shouted, "Not good!"

032 A critical moment

At this moment, Tan Rou also realized the gravity of the situation. She couldn't care so much anymore and quickly walked forward. She lowered her head and started to examine Zhuang Liu's legs.

After taking a few glances, Tan Rou asked with certainty, "Poison?"

Zhuang Liu only felt that his expectations were too high just now. It turned out that there was something worse than not being able to cure it. It was being seen by Tan Rou in such a sorry state.

Zhuang Liu suddenly felt a little hopeless. He slowly turned his head away, wishing he could hide.

Bai Jing was extremely anxious. "Yes, the poison is moving faster now." As he said that, he held a needle and was about to poke it into his leg.

"Don't!" Tan Rou stopped Bai Jing. "Stimulating this acupuncture point can indeed alleviate the pain, but it will also stimulate the sensitive nerves in the legs. He won't be able to take it."

Bai Jing's eyes lit up, "You also know acupuncture?"

Zhuang Liu felt that he was probably beyond saving. Just now, he was afraid that Tan Rou would despise him, but now that he heard her say that, he felt a little happy. She was probably worried about him.

Tan Rou also became serious. It was a critical moment. Saving people was more important. If it was delayed any longer, something bad might happen.

Tan Rou nodded and pointed at the two acupuncture points on Zhuang Liu's leg, "These two points should be fine."

Bai Jing felt as if he had been struck by lightning. That's right, why didn't he notice it!

Bai Jing secretly cursed himself for being useless and old. The more anxious he was, the more mistakes he made. However, he also felt pleasantly surprised. Not only did Tan Rou understand what was going on, but she was also able to point out his mistake. She must be an expert!

Bai Jing didn't waste any time and directly handed the silver needle to Tan Rou. "Little friend, help me stabilize his poison for now. I'll go decoct another medicine."

After saying that, Bai Jing looked at Tan Rou seriously. "You can do it." He believed his own judgment of her. Tan Rou's mastery of acupuncture was far from his.

Tan Rou only hesitated for a moment. After all, this mission was a little too important. However, every doctor had a sense of responsibility. How could they delay saving people just because they were afraid of taking responsibility?

Thinking of this, Tan Rou nodded solemnly and picked up the silver needle, "Uncle Bai, don't worry, I can do it."

With that, Tan Rou began to place the needle. Her movements were gentle but very decisive.

Xiao Mo was so anxious and he wanted to go forward and stop her. He had never heard of Miss Tan Rou's medical skills. This was not a joke. If there was the slightest mistake, wouldn't Third Young Master's life be in danger? Divine Doctor Bai was at fault as well. How could he trust others so easily?

However, Zhuang Liu reached out to stop Xiao Mo and looked at Tan Rou quietly. At this moment, he had already thrown away the awkwardness in his mind. He only looked at the girl squatting in front of him with a serious expression. His heart was calm and he comforted Tan Rou, "Don't be nervous. I believe in you."

For some reason, Zhuang Liu's heart was willing to believe that Tan Rou could do it. She had always been so outstanding. No matter how many difficult problems she faced, in front of her, the problems looked easy. This was the most amazing little girl he had ever met. Since she said she could do it, what reason did he have to not believe her?

Tan Rou took some time to look at Zhuang Liu. This person was really interesting. In this kind of situation, others would probably be scared out of their wits. After all, she had just arrived, and she had already taken the liberty to interfere with his illness.

Tan Rou felt that he was a very interesting person. She did not expect that not only was Zhuang Liu handsome, but his personality also was gentle, and he had such a good temper. The two of them had only met twice and he dared to place his trust in her?

However, Tan Rou still nodded, "Don't worry, I really know what I am doing!"

Little did Tan Rou know that the Zhuang family's Third Young Master was never associated with the words 'gentle' and 'good temper'. No one in the business world dared to look down on him because of Zhuang Liu's body. It was because he was ruthless in his actions and his methods were vicious. He was like a hungry wolf that continuously expanded his business territory.

Xiao Mo sighed helplessly. Third Young Master's condition was completely hopeless. He had even given his life to Miss Tan Rou to play with. This world was too crazy.

Tan Rou quickly sealed the important acupoints to prevent the poison from spreading upwards. Then, she took a small knife and a container from the cabinet beside her. After quickly disinfecting it, she looked at Zhuang Liu. "I'm going to release some poisonous blood. Bear with the pain."

Zhuang Liu nodded silently.

With a flash of silver light, Tan Rou cut a small wound on Zhuang Liu's calf. Immediately, dark red blood flowed out from the small wound.

Tan Rou looked at the dark blood and frowned. "This poison has been around for many years, but it's still so toxic."

Zhuang Liu did not feel much pain because the pain was nothing to him, "I was poisoned when I was young. It has been more than ten years. It's all thanks to Uncle Bai that I'm still alive."