

Powerful 391

Chapter 391: Beixinqiao, Dragon-locking Well

"Oh! Right, I acquired a piece of land. That land is in the old district, which was planned for relocation and redevelopment. Many people were bidding for it, and I managed to pull some strings and almost invested my entire fortune into it."

"To me, this is a gamble. I'm hoping to make a big profit once the housing is built! But, just when the relocation started, there was a problem."

"There's a well over there, with lots of iron chains inside. Initially, I thought of making it a unique feature of the community."

"However, those iron chains were really ruining the aesthetics, so I decided to have them pulled out and replaced with something prettier. Turns out, it would've been better not to pull them because as soon as we did, there was trouble."

At this point, Wang Quan seemed to see something frightening, shivered instinctively, and broke into a cold sweat on his forehead.

"Continue, why did you stop halfway?"

Zhou Hanyu, who was enjoying the story, said discontentedly.

This mischievous Miss Zhou Er herself was always curious about all sorts of strange and bizarre things.

"As soon as those chains were pulled up, the well started making strange noises, and a strong fishy smell emerged, with yellow water bubbling up non-stop."

"Seeing this, the workers were too scared to move. Forget about pulling up the chains; even other construction work was completely halted."

"The construction site stopping work? This is killing me, isn't it? I had no choice but to think about finding someone to fill it up."

"But, whenever soil was poured inside, no matter how much, it disappeared without a trace. There's really no way out; I could only halt the work and consider other options."

"After coming back home, I kept dreaming every night of a black dragon wanting to eat me. It told me if I dared to mess with the well, it would devour me."

"This dream went on for several days, so I went to see Master Fan Si. He also checked out the well and pointed me in your direction for help."

Upon hearing Wang Quan's words, Yang Yan frowned.

He then took another deep look at Wang Quan.

Odd, there doesn't seem to be anything ghostly clinging to him!

So, pondering for a moment, Yang Yan finally said:

"I understand. I'll help you with this. However, I have something to attend to tomorrow, so I can only get to your site the day after. Let's discuss details after I check it out then!"

Hearing Yang Yan agree, Wang Quan was overjoyed.

He stood up and deeply bowed to Yang Yan, gratefully saying:

"Mr. Yang, as long as you can help me resolve this, I'll pay whatever amount. Now, I don't want to develop that place anymore; I just want a good night's sleep in peace. Whoever wants to bother with it, let them go!"

Yang Yan chuckled lightly, turned his hand, and handed something to Wang Quan:

"Here! Take this, and as long as you wear it at night, you'll have a good sleep. As for your construction site's trouble, I'll help with that too. However, it'll have to wait until the day after tomorrow."

Wang Quan looked at the item in his hand, surprised to find it was a milky white jade pendant.

Although it wasn't as exquisite as the one he had before, it gave him a sense of comfort when held in his hand.

He tightly clasped it in his palm and bowed to Yang Yan once more:

"Thank you, Mr. Yang, shall I send someone to pick you up the day after tomorrow?"

Yang Yan gently nodded:

"Hmm! That's fine, but it's best to come around one o'clock in the afternoon; going too early or too late will make it hard to see clearly."

Wang Quan naturally had no objections and promptly said:

"Alright, Mr. Yang, we'll meet again at one o'clock the day after tomorrow. I won't trouble you anymore; I'll take my leave."

After he finished speaking, Wang Quan stood up and walked out.

"Is his matter troublesome?"

Zhou Hanyun looked at Yang Yan with some concern and asked.

Zhou Hanyu couldn't help but ask:

"Is what he's saying true? I just feel his story is unreliable!"

"If he's really seeing ghosts, how could it be like this? He seems fine; maybe he's just scaring himself!"

Yang Yan chuckled softly:

"That situation isn't caused by ghosts. If I'm not mistaken, the bald guy is probably being conned."

"Regardless of who's conning him, that's not our business. We'll deal with his matter after tomorrow's banquet, just to repay a favor."

Hearing Yang Yan say this, Zhou Hanyu couldn't help but frown, teasingly asking:

"What's the deal? You seem to know what's happening over there?"

Yang Yan had no intention of hiding it and nodded, saying:

"Yes, I know a bit about it. Actually, this matter is quite famous, and you should have heard of it too. But I'm not sure whether that guy knows."

"Or perhaps he does know but assumes it's just a common rumor and didn't take it seriously. Now that there's trouble, he's desperate."

Zhou Hanyu raised her eyebrow:

"So, that guy actually has secrets!"

Yang Yan smiled indifferently:

"That's just human nature; nothing much to fuss about!"

"Is he talking about the Dragon-locking Well at Beixinqiao?"

Zhou Hanyun said hesitantly.

"Ah! I just said it sounded so familiar; it really is the legendary Dragon-locking Well? But does the well actually exist? Is there truly a black dragon trapped down there..."

Zhou Hanyu looked at Yang Yan in shock, couldn't help but widen her eyes.

"Hmm! You've seen the Vermilion Bird and Black Tortoise, so of course, the legendary Black Dragon is real. Moreover, it's currently the only dragon with a precisely known location."

"Poor Wang Quan, to have obtained development rights for that land! Digging on the dragon's head? Haha, really seems like he has a death wish!"

Yang Yan chuckled and said.

"What's the story behind that Dragon-locking Well? Who trapped the black dragon there?"

Zhou Hanyun asked, puzzled.

"Yeah, hurry up and tell us! I thought it was all exaggeration, didn't expect there really is a black dragon below."

Zhou Hanyu said excitedly.

Yang Yan chuckled and slowly replied:

"Here's how it goes! Under Beixinqiao, there's a legend of a Sea Eye. But this is pure nonsense."

"It's true there's a Dragon Vein beneath the Imperial Capital, but no Sea Eye."

"Legend has it there's a temple beside the bridge, with a well inside, locking a Xingyuan Dragon, and Beixinqiao was built to suppress the dragon within the Sea Eye."

"As for the place's name, there's a story behind it too..."

At this point, Yang Yan deliberately paused.

Zhou Hanyun was fine, just looking at him with anticipation.

But Miss Zhou Er was impatient.

She clearly knew the subsequent story but wanted to hear it from Yang Yan's mouth.

So she glared at him fiercely, urging him to continue quickly.

Chapter 392: The Imperial Capital Is Nice, but It Doesn't Feel Like Home

Yang Yan smiled helplessly and continued his story:

"Legend has it that the dragon is an old dragon from Bitter Sea Youzhou, and it's always considered the Imperial Capital its territory."

"Later, after King Yan built the Imperial Capital City, it couldn't stay anymore. It wanted to cause a flood in the Imperial Capital to drive King Yan and his people away so it could continue to rule the area."

"But King Yan, Zhu Di, wasn't easy to deal with either. Just when the flood was about to reach the Jinluan Hall, he summoned Liu Bowen."

"Who is Liu Bowen? He's like a guy who uses the restroom with the door open, claiming he can predict five hundred years into the past and future. Naturally, he figured out that it was this old dragon causing trouble."

"Having found the root of the problem, he sent Master Yao to give the dragon some trouble. There's a saying that Master Yao was actually the Subduing Dragon Arhat in human form, just the right person to deal with this old dragon."

"When the old dragon heard Master Yao was coming to catch it, it quickly oiled its heels and ran away. After dodging here and there, it ended up near Beixinqiao, where Master Yao trapped it."

"Realizing it couldn't escape, the old dragon begged Master Yao for mercy, claiming it was only flooding in revenge because King Yan took over its home, and it wasn't targeting Master Yao specifically. It pleaded for a chance."

"The result was that Liu Bowen and Master Yao tricked the dragon, telling it to guard the Sea Eye, promising they would build a bridge over its head, and when that bridge grew old, it could come out."

"These two cunning guys didn't build a bridge but instead designated a place called Beixinqiao, and that dragon has been trapped there ever since."

"Just like that? Just because it's not the right bridge, it's been suppressed all these years without freedom?"

Zhou Hanyun said with some difficulty understanding.

Yang Yan explained:

"Yes! That's how the legend goes. But actually, the dragon occupied an underground Dragon Vein of the Imperial Capital for cultivation."

"Below that well is a vast underground river leading to one of the origins of Huaxia, the Yellow River, and it's considered a prime cultivation spot."

"Trying to dig on that dragon's head is just asking for trouble. It's even scarier than digging on Tai Sui's head. That old dragon has been holding a grudge for hundreds of years."

Zhou Hanyu pouted and said:

"Tsk... such a good story, and you ruined it just by telling it. So boring! I'm off to sleep!"

She said this while stretching with a big yawn.

"Ignore her. This girl stayed online all night last night and got up early today; she's probably been sleepy for a while."

Zhou Hanyun watched Zhou Hanyu leave and said with a smile.

Yang Yan also smiled lightly and then asked:

"Anything else? If not, I guess I'll go rest too. I'm really tired. If that bald guy hadn't come, I probably would've fallen asleep already."

Zhou Hanyun gently shook her head:

"Nothing else, you should go rest! Those three girls went wild last night too and went to sleep right after dinner today."

Suddenly, she seemed to remember something:

"Oh, right, I've already found a tutor for Dawn, and they'll probably be here in a couple of days."

Yang Yan nodded and smiled:

"Got it. You can make decisions about these household matters. You don't need to consult me about these things. I trust your judgment."

At some point, Yang Yan and Zhou Hanyun had developed this kind of mutual understanding.

One handles internal affairs, the other external affairs.

Although Zhou Hanyun mainly deals with things outside, many crucial matters still rely on Yang Yan.

They're not married, but this division of duties is as good as being a couple.

The night passed without words.

The next morning, Zhou Hanyun woke Yang Yan up, saying that preparations for attending a banquet had to be made now, which left Yang Yan completely puzzled.

What time is it?

And they already need to prepare for a banquet?

Is it really necessary?

"No choice, the old folks are all up early. And they're eager."

Zhou Hanyun smiled awkwardly.

"I can understand!"

Yang Yan yawned and nodded:

"After all, they haven't seen each other for decades. Unexpectedly having to meet now, it's understandable they'd be excited."

With that said, he went straight to wash his face in the bathroom and then changed into some decent casual clothes.

"This outfit looks pretty good on you!"

Zhou Hanyun said, looking at Yang Yan with satisfaction.

"Is there really no problem with what I'm wearing?"

Yang Yan asked suspiciously.

Saying this, he couldn't help but glance at himself in the mirror.

"Absolutely fine! Not just for a gathering like this, but even going on a blind date wouldn't be an issue."

Zhou Hanyun said with a smile.

"Really no problem, huh? Then let's get going!"

Finishing, Yang Yan headed straight out the door.

"Hanyu, we're leaving now; the three girls at home will be your responsibility."

Zhou Hanyun told Zhou Hanyu, who looked pensive, and quickly turned to follow Yang Yan out.

"Where are they holding the banquet? Can't tell, those old folks may be getting on in years, but they're keeping up with the trends."

Yang Yan said while walking alongside Zhou Hanyun.

"At the Times Hotel. Though I've heard it was arranged by someone else."

Zhou Hanyun said.

The Imperial Capital in winter has a distinctive beauty.

The perfect fusion of history and modernity is vividly manifested here.

Seeing the thick snow on both sides of the street, feeling the crunch underfoot, and having a beauty by one's side, this feeling is indescribably pleasant.

At the alley entrance, there are almost always taxis or unlicensed cars parked 24/7.

It's quite close to the People's Square, making it easy to attract customers.

They hopped into a car, told the driver their destination, and set off.

Watching the hustle and bustle of the streets, Zhou Hanyun sighed:

"The Imperial Capital is nice, but it still doesn't feel like home!"

"What's the matter? Why bring that up all of a sudden?"

Yang Yan asked, puzzled.

"Nothing, just having this thought suddenly. It feels like a cage here, so uncomfortable."

Zhou Hanyun smiled wryly and continued to watch the passing scenery in silence.

The taxi driver couldn't help but chime in:

"The lady is right! The Imperial Capital is nice, but it doesn't feel like home!"

"Take a look, so many drifters come to the Imperial Capital every year, how many actually stick it out?"

"Even if they do manage to stay, they eventually return home. The competition is fierce, and the pressure is immense."

Apparently, Zhou Hanyun's words touched a weak spot in the driver's heart, and he spoke with feeling.

"Alright, let's not talk about that. May I ask what you two do? The Times Hotel is one of the best hotels in the Imperial Capital. I've heard it costs millions just to host a banquet there."

The taxi driver said with a smile.

"Not much, just drifting along. So, is that hotel really that famous?"

Yang Yan asked nonchalantly.

Chapter 393: A Hongmen Banquet

"It's not just famous!" The taxi driver gently shook his head, "The capital is so big with so many hotels, and Times ranks in the top three. You tell me, is it famous or not?"

"Oh...really? Then I'm really uninformed."

Indeed, all taxi drivers are very talkative, and the journey was spent in intermittent conversation between Yang Yan and him.

Arriving at the hotel entrance, after paying the fare, Yang Yan and Zhou Hanyun walked in.

They had already contacted Mr. Zhou before they came.

As soon as they entered the hotel, a staff member immediately came up to inquire about Yang Yan and Zhou Hanyun.

When they found out that they were here for the banquet today, they enthusiastically led the two to the VIP room.

At this time, Mr. Zhou had already been waiting here for quite some time.

"Grandpa!"

Seeing Mr. Zhou, Zhou Hanyun immediately walked up quickly, hooked his arm, and sweetly called out.

"Haha! Good, good, you two have arrived. Rushing over to the capital like this, how's it going? Did you face any setbacks?"

Mr. Zhou looked at Zhou Hanyun and Yang Yan and asked.

"Not at all! We just bought a house here, and many things are still in the initial stages, haven't really gotten into the work phase yet. But, after the New Year, it should be more or less sorted out."

Zhou Hanyun said with a smile.

"That's true, with this guy around, how could we let our Hanyun face setbacks!"

Mr. Zhou looked at Yang Yan, saying very satisfied.

"Um...sir, you flatter me too much, I might get proud!"

Yang Yan said with a smile.

"Alright, sit down! Why stand around?"

Mr. Zhou said with a cheerful smile, seeming in high spirits.

Once the two found a place to sit, Yang Yan began to look around.

The environment here, how to say, is indeed very good.

Moreover, it fully provides sufficient private space for the guests.

If there are any requests, just press the call button on the table, and staff will come in to serve you.

Furthermore, the surroundings are neither ostentatious nor elegant.

In short, it is an ordinary kind of plainness, giving a home-like feeling.

In a place like the capital, especially in a star-rated hotel, such a feeling is indeed rare.

No wonder the taxi driver praised this place so highly just now.

Indeed it lives up to its reputation.

"Grandpa, why did you think of holding a banquet?"

Zhou Hanyun seized an opportunity and couldn't help asking the question lingering in her mind.

"I don't know either! I just heard that someone set up a meeting for us old friends. As for who exactly it is, I don't know."

Mr. Zhou replied.

"Don't know who it is?"

Upon hearing Mr. Zhou's words, Zhou Hanyun couldn't help but frown.

This indeed sounds fishy.

Because usually in such events, the initiator of the banquet wouldn't have a reason to hide their identity.

"No idea! But I guess there's no ill intent? After all, I made some calls, and many old friends are coming."

Speaking of this, Mr. Zhou had a look of anticipation.

This is quite understandable.

When people get old, you never know if you'll be around next year after this one, that's up to fate.

Especially for someone like Mr. Zhou, having a chance to see old friends is something you wish for and naturally wouldn't refuse.

"Alright, enough of that, come play a game of chess with me. When you're not in East Sea City, I can't even find an opponent to play chess with! Ah! To quote you young folks, life is truly as lonely as snow!"

Mr. Zhou put on a look of a lonely master, sighing as he spoke.

Seeing Mr. Zhou's expression, Yang Yan couldn't help but twitch his face.

Lonely as snow, he says?

If it were anything else, forget it, but with the way you play chess, last time I ate all your pieces and you still played rashly and stubbornly, did you forget?

Of course, bellyaching aside, one must know how to selectively forget such things.

No choice, he's an elder, after all!

Someone said before that the elderly and kids are alike, needing to be coaxed.

Moreover, in a public setting, you have to give Mr. Zhou some face.

Of course, you can't disappoint him either.

So, Yang Yan proactively called the staff to bring over a chess set, and the two began battling on the chessboard.

"Bro, everything's ready. That Zhou Hanyun has already arrived, surely there's going to be a good show tonight."

In another room in the hotel, Li Faction said expectantly to Li Zheng, who was sitting upright on the sofa sipping red wine.

"Heh, tonight's show is bound to be exciting."

Next to him, Li Zheng downed his glass of red wine, smiling meaningfully.

In the distance, in a standalone villa, a serene-looking woman gazed at Mo Ya, parted her lips slightly, and said slowly:

"Elder Mo, is that Yang Yan you mentioned really that extraordinary?"

Mo Ya nodded, saying very earnestly:

"Miss, I'm sure Mo Di has already told you about that day. I can only say, he displayed strength beyond what we described."

"Really?" A ripple passed through the woman's originally calm eyes, "Have you figured out his whereabouts? The Ming Ghost Scroll is the Mo Family's exclusive secret and must be retrieved quickly."

"We have figured it out." Mo Ya nodded, "He will attend a banquet tonight, and nearly all of the city's reputable families have been invited. Our Mo Family is no exception."

"Invited all the reputable families? The host is someone from the Hidden World? What's the purpose?"

The woman slightly knitted her brows and asked suspiciously.

"It's the Li Family's boy." Mo Ya smiled and explained, "His family isn't exactly from the Hidden World. However, due to having someone in the high echelons of Huaxia, they do know about the existence of the Hidden World."

"As for the purpose, it's actually closely related to this Moonlight Emperor we just mentioned. You could say, this is a Hongmen Banquet, targeting him."

When Mo Ya said this, he couldn't help but laugh.

However, the smile on his face was full of mockery.

"Oh? Someone's actually targeting the Moonlight Emperor, isn't that the same as courting death?"

The woman said curiously.

Mo Ya no longer kept it a secret and directly told the woman about Li Zheng and Zhou Hanyun.

"Really? Does Moonlight know?"

The woman also couldn't help laughing.

In her view, Li Zheng's approach was practically courting death.

Moreover, if he gets himself killed, whatever, but if he accidentally provokes Yang Yan, it could mean annihilation for his entire family.

"Moonlight probably doesn't know. After all, this is a matter of the present world, and he has no connections here in the capital."

Mo Ya said.

"Understood, pass the word, get ready, I want to attend tonight's banquet too."

the woman said with a smile.

Mo Ya nodded, turned around, and went out to prepare.

Chapter 394: This Is Yang Yan, My Boyfriend

"Checkmate."

Mr. Zhou picked up the piece and placed it down, grinning as he said:

"Kid, you're not doing so well today! How many games has it been, and you've been losing this whole time. It's no fun!"

Yang Yan glanced at the chessboard and then chuckled lightly:

"I'm done for; you're really sharp today, old man!"

With that, he began to pick up the pieces from the board.

"Alright, enough with the flattery. Those guys should be here by now, let's go and meet them."

"Thinking back to those days when we fought side by side on the battlefield, I really do feel a bit nostalgic!"

Mr. Zhou sighed as he spoke.

Yang Yan and Zhou Hanyun exchanged a smile without saying much.

Old folks, it's inevitable for them to reminisce about the past.

Moreover, those days of war and glory are indeed worth remembering.

For his age, Mr. Zhou is still quite sprightly, able to walk without any assistance.

Considering he's already ninety, having such a robust body is truly remarkable.

This side of the guest room is different from other places; it leans more towards a homely environment, everything arranged very cozily.

And besides, they're all separate rooms, with great privacy.

Of course, there's also a large reception hall here.

At this moment, Yang Yan and the others were heading there.

Mr. Zhou, accompanied slowly by the two on either side, began recounting his history once again to Yang Yan and Zhou Hanyun.

"Sigh! I'm getting old; inevitably, I talk a bit more. You two must be tired of listening, right?"

Zhou Hanyun quickly said:

"What are you talking about! Grandpa, how could we possibly be tired of listening?"

Mr. Zhou smiled, and just as he was about to say more, Yang Yan gently reminded him:

"We've arrived, old man."

"Arrived? Time flies by so quickly!"

Mr. Zhou looked at him with a profound gaze, his words holding a double meaning.

Yang Yan chuckled awkwardly and hurried to open the door for him.

Inside, six or seven elderly people were already seated.

And beside each elder, there were several younger ones attending to them.

Seeing Mr. Zhou enter, they all showed excited expressions.

"Old friends, have you all been well these past few years?"

Mr. Zhou opened the conversation.

"Good, of course, good! Even as the one who seems to be doing the worst, I feel very fortunate; they surely are even better. It's just us old stubborn ones troubling the country."

Another elder seated in a wheelchair responded excitedly.

Just after speaking, he had a violent coughing fit, and the girl with glasses beside him gently patted his back to ease his breathing.

"Grandpa, speak slowly, don't get too worked up. The doctor said your emotions shouldn't fluctuate too much given your health."

The elder regulated his breath and nodded cheerfully:

"Alright, alright; I'm old now, not as capable as before, speaking just a few words and it leads to this."

"Thinking back to my youth, back then, even carrying a machine gun across dozens of miles of mountain road was no problem at all."

At this moment, another elder jokingly remarked:

"You, seeing Old Zhou here, get this excited! When the old chief arrives, don't actually pass out from excitement!"

Just as the elders began exchanging pleasantries and jokes, even bickering, more people entered from outside the door.

The new arrivals were also old men well into their twilight years.

However, some came in wheelchairs, some with walking sticks.

They too were accompanied by young people in their twenties or thirties.

"Old chief, you're here!"

Mr. Zhou hastily got up to greet one of the entering elders.

"What chief? There are no chiefs here today. Old friends, have you been well these days? I missed you all!"

The spirited elder glanced around the room, revealing some emotion in his voice.

Hearing his words, everyone responded excitedly, speaking with the elder.

The elders reminisced there about their days of blood, fire, and passion while the young attendees stood idly aside.

"Alright, we're about to chat up here, you youngsters should go out and mingle by yourselves. We don't need you here."

The old chief commanded almost, observing the bored young ones.

Hearing the elder's words, the older ones briefly instructed their young companions, then let them find a spot to acquaint themselves and connect.

The older generation hoped not only for their generation but also the younger generation to communicate and continue their camaraderie.

After being ushered out by the elders, the youngsters found themselves wide-eyed and slack-jawed.

"Let's go, I'll take everyone to the lounge over there for a sit." One young man observed the awkward scene and suggested with a smile.

Everyone promptly followed suit and silently trailed the man to a nearby lounge.

Noticing some of them gazing in surprise at the lounge, he seemed to swell with a sense of satisfaction.

"Uh, find a seat, and I'll have someone bring some tea over."

Spotting Zhou Hanyun, his eyes lit up, and he spoke with a facade of generosity.

After settling down with Zhou Hanyun, Yang Yan discreetly glanced around.

Judging by attire and demeanor, it was clear not everyone present was making a big splash in life.

After briefly leaving, the young man who led them came back shortly.

Accompanying him were several staff members, carrying teapots.

Once everyone had been served a cup of tea, the staff placed the teapots down and exited.

"Brothers and sisters, let me introduce myself first. I'm Xu Jie from Guang Province, involved in trade, running some trade companies. I hope you all can offer me some guidance!"

This self-proclaimed Xu Jie, seemingly accustomed to such settings, spoke with poise and ease.

"I'm Zhang Yu, living in Fu Province and working at the national tax bureau. This is my wife; we hope to make connections with you all as well!"

After Xu Jie's introduction, another person spoke up seamlessly.

Hearing Zhang Yu mention he worked at the national tax bureau in Fu Province, Xu Jie's eyes brightened, and he intentionally took a seat beside him.

What followed was naturally the time for everyone to introduce themselves.

There were quite a few people here, at least twenty, with doctors, teachers, and even some running small businesses.

Some were even farmers, working the land at home.

"I'm Zhou Hanyun, running small businesses in East Sea City. This one..."

Zhou Hanyun paused briefly before confidently continuing:

"This is my boyfriend, named Yang Yan, and we're both currently starting a business in the Imperial Capital."

Chapter 395: Mindset of the Little People

Hearing Zhou Hanyun's self-introduction, Xu Jie's eyes flickered for a moment, then he smiled and looked at the other pair of young men and women and said:

"How should I address the two of you?"

"My name is Cheng Baoguo, and this is my sister Cheng Xueyan. We are both serving in the military now."

The young man said succinctly.

"I see! You both have truly inherited the elegance of the older generation!"

Xu Jie complimented with a smile.

After speaking, he turned his head and started chatting with Zhang Yu.

"That guy is really interesting!"

Yang Yan glanced at Xu Jie and exclaimed meaningfully.

"What's so interesting?"

Zhou Hanyun asked puzzled.

"That guy, he had the most intriguing expressions when he was listening to others introduce themselves. Tsk tsk! His inner thoughts must be quite colorful!"

Yang Yan said with a smile.

Just as Zhou Hanyun was about to say something, a man named Yang Yong beside Yang Yan nudged him lightly and whispered:

"Hey, brother, how do you pour this tea? Don't laugh at me, it's my first time in a setting like this, and I'm a bit nervous. When I'm nervous, I feel like drinking water, but no matter how I try, I can't pour any water out."

Hearing Yang Yong's words, Yang Yan smiled kindly, then picked up the teapot and poured him more than half a cup:

"Just press here, otherwise, there's something inside holding it back, and water won't come out."

Yang Yan remembered that this man named Yang Yong had just introduced himself as a farmer, working in the fields at home.

"Thank you, brother." Yang Yong said awkwardly, "I really didn't want to come today, but the old man insisted, and I couldn't refuse, so here I am."

"You know, the old man in my family is over ninety, yet he still wants to venture out. What's he after? At home, he has trouble even walking."

"But recently, when he heard he could see his old comrades, he could actually stand and walk on his own. What's with people, really?"

Once he said this, a bespectacled woman nearby also chimed in:

"Yes, mine too. Normally, he can't speak loudly; if he does, he just coughs. But when we were about to leave, I saw him not cough at all over there."

Yang Yan remembered her from earlier when they entered, she was the one standing behind the elderly man in a wheelchair.

"Maybe they're just excited to see old comrades again!"

Zhou Hanyun said with a smile.

"Yeah! As long as it makes him happy, I don't mind doing anything."

Yang Yong, who was previously full of complaints, smiled honestly.

The group didn't deliberately lower their voices, so their conversation was naturally heard by everyone present.

Especially Xu Jie, who showed obvious disdain on his face.

"Zhang, if you ever need anything in Guang Province, just come to me. No promises about elsewhere, but in Guang Province, your brother's word still carries some weight."

Xu Jie patted his chest, speaking heartily.

He even deliberately raised his voice, seemingly wanting to attract others' attention.

"Alright! I often go on business trips to Guang Province, so next time I'm there, I'll definitely look for Xu."

Zhang Yu said with a smile.

"So, Sun, you're a high school teacher at Seventeenth Middle School, right? I was wondering what kind of paperwork is needed for enrollment there?"

Zhou Hanyun asked the bespectacled woman.

During the introductions earlier, she said she was a teacher at Seventeenth Middle School.

Seventeenth Middle School happens to be right next to the courtyard.

The New Year is coming soon, and after it's over, Dawn should start school.

Since I ran into a teacher from Seventeenth Middle School, it's best to ask what paperwork is needed and how it could be arranged without having to seek out people myself.

"Studying in the Imperial Capital isn't easy. Especially since Seventeenth Middle School is one of the top-ranked schools, it's even harder. To get into Seventeenth Middle School, you have to buy a house nearby!"

Sun Jing said with a smile.

"I see! If you buy a house, what other paperwork would be needed then?"

Zhou Hanyun asked again.

"Sweetie, school district houses here in the Imperial Capital aren't cheap you know!"

I don't know when Xu Jie had already come over, speaking sincerely.

"Sun, if you buy a house here, do you have to relocate your household registration?"

Zhou Hanyun glanced at Xu Jie, gave a polite smile, and then turned her head to ask Sun Jing.

Xu Jie felt a little annoyed as Zhou Hanyun ignored him.

He evaluated earlier, and no one here seemed to be doing better than him; he believed he should be the core of this group.

Now, being so disregarded by a great beauty like Zhou Hanyun deeply hurt his pride.

"I'm not too sure about this either. Let me ask around for you when I go back!"

After saying this, an eager Sun Jing gave Zhou Hanyun her phone number.

"So, Hanyun, what kind of business are you doing over in East Sea City? I'm in trade, maybe we could have some business exchanges."

Xu Jie looked at Zhou Hanyun, full of expectation, and asked.

As for Yang Yan on the side, he utterly ignored him.

"I only procure goods domestically, no need to trouble you, Xu."

Zhou Hanyun obviously understood what Xu Jie was up to. Although she was somewhat annoyed inside, she maintained her politeness on the surface.

"Just domestic procurement? All the more reason to come to me, Xu. In any field within the country, your brother Xu here still has some connections."

Xu Jie said with gusto.

"Really? Xu, we have lots of agricultural products over there. Could you help us find a place to sell them?"

Yang Yong interrupted hopefully while looking at Xu Jie.

"Agricultural products? Ha ha!"

Xu Jie sneered, then poured himself a cup of tea and drank.

"Xu, can you do it?"

Yang Yong asked Xu Jie again.

"Brother, it's not that I'm saying this, but those things just don't make money!"

Xu Jie lightly shook his head, speaking leisurely.

"Xu, we don't expect to make big money, just enough to earn some is fine. After all, those were grown with everyone's hard work for a whole year. It'd be a shame if they went to waste."

Yang Yong quickly said.

"Brother, genuinely it's not that this elder brother doesn't want to help you, but even your brother Xu needs to eat!"

"Those agricultural products are not easy to preserve. If we bring them out and then can't sell them, it would be a huge loss for your brother Xu!"

"Besides, your brother Xu is in trade, mainly targeting overseas markets. As for agricultural products, Xu isn't familiar with that! So, brother, I'm really unable to help!"

Xu Jie looked at Yang Yong, appearing helpless.

"Oh, I see. I'm sorry, Xu, I didn't know."

Yang Yong apologized sincerely and then personally poured Xu Jie a cup of water.

Seeing Yang Yong's timid demeanor, Xu Jie laughed scornfully.

He always looked down on such country bumpkins.

Under usual circumstances, he wouldn't even bother talking to him.

Chapter 396: Looks Matter When It Comes to Being a Freeloader

"You, if you don't want to help, just say so. Why beat around the bush?"

Cheng Baoguo couldn't stand it anymore and muttered under his breath.

"Cheng, what's that supposed to mean? What do you mean I don't want to help him! Those agricultural products are hard to store and hard to sell. If I help him and end up losing money, who do I go to? You?"

Xu Jie looked coldly at Cheng Baoguo, retorting with dissatisfaction.

"You..."

Cheng Baoguo looked at Xu Jie's ugly face, so angered that he couldn't speak.

If it were any normal time, he'd be the type to resort to fists rather than words.

But on an occasion like today, he still had to consider the feelings of the family elder.

"Tch! It's not like I'm saying anything new, but I really look down on you soldiers. You sit around not fighting wars but happily consuming the taxes we pay, just like parasites."

Xu Jie said casually to Cheng Baoguo.

People are such peculiar creatures. Once someone thinks they are the best in the group, they can't help but become a bit full of themselves.

When that pride inflates, they speak without thinking and without regard for how others might take it.

"Um... Brother Xu, Cheng, both of you stop quarreling. The elders are here! If anything unpleasant happens, it won't be good."

Yang Yong quickly stood up to persuade the two as they seemed ready to argue.

Hearing Yang Yong's words, Yang Yan glanced appreciatively at his relative.

Someone's success is secondary; what really matters is their character.

After all, success might be fleeting, but character defines a lifetime.

For now, Yang Yan thought this Yang Yong had a good character.

As for Xu Jie, a simple "heh" sufficed; even commenting on him felt like a waste of time.

Xu Jie snorted coldly, then returned to Zhang Yu's side, sitting down heavily.

"Brother, Grandpa is here today. It's best not to cause trouble or else Grandpa will be very upset. Going home, Dad will also make it hard for you."

Cheng Xueyan tugged Cheng Baoguo's arm, whispering a reminder.

"I know. Otherwise, I'd have sorted out this snobbish trader long ago."

Cheng Baoguo huffed angrily.

"That guy should be Yang Yan, right?"

Cheng Xueyan quickly glanced at Yang Yan, softly inquiring.

"Yeah! That's him. According to the military records, in Huaxia, the first person not to offend is him."

Hearing Cheng Xueyan's words, Cheng Baoguo also instinctively glanced at Yang Yan.

"Doesn't seem like it, though? That Zhou Hanyun is his girlfriend, right? Can he really endure her being teased like that?"

Cheng Xueyan looked at Zhou Hanyun again, frowning unconsciously.

"That, I don't know. Though the guy is really annoying, it's not enough to deal with him severely! He probably just doesn't care from the start, so he can't be bothered to respond."

Cheng Baoguo smiled as he said.

"Hanyun, sister, I'm not saying anything new, but investing here in the Imperial Capital is very risky. One slight mistake, and you'd want to jump off a building from the loss."

After a moment of silence, Xu Jie seemed reluctant to lose his presence and loudly reminded Zhou Hanyun.

"Mhm! Got it, thank you for the reminder, Brother Xu. I'll be careful."

Zhou Hanyun responded with a smile.

Seeing the polite smile on Zhou Hanyun's face, Xu Jie felt increasingly displeased inside.

She always had this expression when speaking to him, yet she addressed Yang Yan with such warmth.

If Yang Yan was truly excellent, that would be one thing. But apart from a slightly good-looking face, his social status was far inferior to his, making it hard for him to tolerate.

"I wonder how the talk is going with the elders. If anything happens to the elderly folks, what should be done?"

Zhou Hanyun looked at Yang Yan, expressing a bit of concern.

"It's fine. They've weathered countless storms, surviving on the battlefield, so what would a gathering like this amount to? Don't worry, nothing will happen."

Yang Yan smiled reassuringly.

"This brother's name is Yang Yan, right? How do you find the Imperial Capital these days? Isn't the entrepreneurial environment obviously much better than other places?"

"It's not like I'm saying anything new, but as young people, we should venture out more. When I was your age, I had already started my second company."

Seeing Yang Yan and Zhou Hanyun whispering intimately again, Xu Jie couldn't help but interrupt them.

"This place? It's okay! As for entrepreneurship, I've never been very attentive to it. Hanyun handles those things quite well. I just support her in other aspects."

Yang Yan smiled lightly as he spoke.

"Hey! Why doesn't this young man have any ambition? Letting a woman struggle outside while you're contentedly eating off her at home, isn't it bad?"

Xu Jie, watching Yang Yan, said with a smile.

He finally found an opportunity to step on Yang Yan.

"Not at all! I don't find anything bad about it. The thing with living off someone else always depends on looks."

"For instance, I can comfortably live off someone, whereas Brother Xu has to toil in entrepreneurship, facing wind and rain, sun and storm, even fear and worry. Honestly, I don't envy Brother Xu at all!"

Yang Yan deliberately provoked the malicious Xu Jie with his words.

"I knew it; this guy is no pushover."

Cheng Baoguo murmured, wearing a schadenfreude smile.

He was eager for that self-righteous Xu Jie to keep provoking Yang Yan.

"What do you mean by that?"

Xu Jie asked with some anger.

"What else could it mean? Just the literal meaning! He's saying you're ugly and can't even manage to live off someone if you wanted."

Beside them, a woman who was evidently displeased with Xu Jie couldn't help but chime in sarcastically.

"I remember your name is Zhao Meng, right? What's your deal?"

Xu Jie looked coldly at Zhao Meng, asking indignantly.

Zhao Meng wasn't particularly striking, but not unattractive either.

She exuded a youthful vigor that made her pleasant to see.

Zhao Meng sneered as she said:

"No reason, really, just bothered by you constantly flaunting your superiority."

"Today, everyone came to accompany the elders. Otherwise, I guess nobody would willingly come over."

"You, of all people, have been causing trouble ever since you got here, even ranking people when introducing ourselves."

"Do you really think you're the most outstanding here? It's time to wake up!"

Yang Yan couldn't help but laugh, sighing:

"Tsk ts! This sister is quite the sharp tongue, really doesn't spare any face at all!"

Hearing Yang Yan's words, Sun Jing beside him let out a laugh.

Chapter 397: Face-Slapping

"What's wrong, Sun? Did I say something wrong?"

Yang Yan said, feeling a bit awkward.

Sun Jing gently shook her head and sighed:

"It's just that guy is too much, so blatantly snobbish. No one would like such a person wherever he goes."

"Not to mention, quite a few people here are naturally quite proud, and many are doing much better than that guy."

"If it weren't for the sake of the old folks at home, I bet many wouldn't let him continue his performance here!"

"What? Sun, do you know that Zhao Meng?"

Yang Yan turned to Sun Jing, smiling as he asked.

"Yeah! Her family and mine have been close since childhood. It's already hard enough for her to behave today. That Xu Jie just had to provoke her; I bet she disliked him from the start!"

Sun Jing said, somewhat gleefully.

Yang Yan was a bit surprised, not expecting this very quiet Sun to have such a playful side.

"You..."

Xu Jie was left speechless by Zhao Meng, not knowing what to say for a moment.

"What? You better be honest and low-key, and stop looking down on people. If it weren't for the old folks, do you think anyone would want to waste time with someone as disgraceful as you?"

Zhao Meng said, displeased, not giving Xu Jie any face.

"Being young is great, full of energy."

Yang Yan remarked with a bit of longing as he watched Zhao Meng still confronting Xu Jie.

"Hmph! If it weren't for the old folks, do you think you'd have the chance to sit with me?"

"You should know that I'm quite busy, earning hundreds of thousands a month. You've probably never made that much money, have you?"

Xu Jie said angrily, looking at Zhao Meng.

"Haha! What a joke, really a joke! Just hundreds of thousands a month and you're all puffed up like that!"

"Not to mention, how much you earn is your business, we're not here to curry favor with you to beg for a living. Talking about money, you say I've never earned that much? I might just scare you if I say it."

Zhao Meng glanced disdainfully at Xu Jie, then continued:

"Never mind, let's not talk about others first, just those two soldiers you look down on, it's just that they couldn't be bothered with you, or you'd be completely finished."

Xu Jie exploded like a cat whose tail was stepped on.

"I'd be completely finished? Do you think they would dare to kill me!"

Zhao Meng chuckled:

"No need to kill you, but someone like you in business might not stand up to scrutiny! Even legitimate business, if people are constantly watching, must be unpleasant!"

"What do you mean? They're just two smelly soldiers, what could they do!"

Xu Jie seemed to realize something, speaking a bit harshly.

"Haha! You're not from the Imperial Capital, so it's not your fault if you don't know. Both siblings are important members in the State Security Bureau, quite powerful ones."

"I don't know if you've heard of the State Security Bureau, but it's the top department concerning national security. If they want to mess with you a bit, I bet your hundreds of thousands a month won't be enough to handle it!"

At this point, Zhao Meng couldn't help but laugh gleefully.

Xu Jie opened his mouth, unable to say a word.

He only looked a bit fearfully at the Cheng siblings, his eyes shifting uncertainly.

"Don't worry, they won't trouble you; you don't have that kind of worth. As for the various things you got Yang Yong into, you're far more accomplished than you think."

"Don't you watch financial news? He's a major grain grower in the northeast! He originally wanted to mentor you, and you tried to fool him?"

"And you called him a freeloader? Haha, I don't know what he does, but I saw and recognized that watch on his wrist."

"That's a Patek Philippe 5959P, and it seems to be a rare version among that model. Let's just consider it the regular version for now!"

"Do you, earning hundreds of thousands a month, know how much that watch costs? At least a few million. Would someone who can afford that be a freeloader?"

"As for the Zhou Beauty you've been trying to chat up, she used to be in real estate and overseas trade, kind of your peer! But now, she's the most famous jeweler in East Sea, with over a billion in sales on her first day."

"She not only has strong ties with the world-renowned jewelry designer Christina, but also collaborates with Flower Cyan Porcelain domestically. I don't know where you got the courage to engage in business with her."

"As for me, haha... I haven't started any business yet, but I don't know if you've heard of Zhao's Car Company, it's my family's, registered in my name."

"When I graduate, I'll fully take over the company. I don't know if that's considered starting a business."

Hearing Zhao Meng say she's the heir of Zhao's Car Company, not just others, even Zhou Hanyun gave her a second look.

And Xu Jie, who was beside them, was already dumbfounded, unable to utter a word.

"Honestly, I just wanted the old folks to have a good time, how did I run into someone like you."

After finishing, Zhao Meng got up and walked toward the door.

But before leaving, she glanced at Yang Yan meaningfully, giving him a beautiful smile.

"Enough, let's go too. I'm a bit worried about grandfather's health, don't want him getting so excited that something happens!"

After saying this, Zhou Hanyun also stood up and headed outside.

"Let's go, we should check in too; there's another banquet to attend, don't know if the old folks can handle it."

Sun Jing also stood up and said.

"Um, Sun, could you please ask about the procedures to get into Seventeenth Middle School?"

"The house we just bought is right next to Seventeenth Middle School, in the courtyard, but the girl doesn't have any paperwork or school records."

Zhou Hanyun was still quite concerned about Dawn's schooling.

"Courtyard? That place isn't cheap! I heard a courtyard was for sale there recently, I wanted to ask about it, but I never had the time."

"Later, when I finally had time, I heard the courtyard was sold. Were you two the lucky ones?"

Yang Yong asked Yang Yan smiling, standing nearby.

"I don't know the price; the courtyard was a gift from the Feng Family, didn't cost anything."

Yang Yan explained.

Hearing this, Yang Yong was a bit stunned, then raised his thumbs, genuinely praising:

"Brother, you're impressive! Something worth over a billion, imagine how much grain it would take to match that! Brother, I admire you!"

Chapter 398: Don't Worry, I've Got Everything Covered

Hearing the conversation between Yang Yan and others, Xu Jie now regrets so much that he wishes he could punch himself.

He had never thought that these people would have such formidable backgrounds, one more influential than the other.

Especially after hearing someone gifting a courtyard house in the Imperial Capital to Yang Yan, he regretted his previous actions even more, wishing desperately he could give himself a hard slap.

Not to mention buying a house, which in itself is a sky-high price, but the other party just gave it to him. Who exactly is this young man named Yang Yan?

And what kind of terrifying background does he have?

"I'll go and ask about the school for you! If there's a house bought here, it shouldn't be a big problem."

"As for other materials, if it's not possible, I'll help you find someone to ask."

Sun Jing said with a warm smile.

Zhou Hanyun gratefully said:

"Then I'll trouble you, Sun. We'll first go to see how the elders are doing, and when we have time another day, we can get together for a meal and talk about the rest!"

When the group of people arrived at the elders' place, they happened to meet them coming out.

Those in wheelchairs were being pushed out by those who were more mobile.

Seeing this scene, the younger ones hurriedly ran over, wanting to take over.

"You don't need to worry, we'll push them over."

The speaker was Mr. Zhou.

Among this group of people, his words still carried a lot of weight.

"How was it? Your interactions with other young ones."

An elderly man asked his grandson beside him.

"Not bad, nothing major."

The young man questioned was clearly prepared, and he replied with a smile.

"Since there's nothing major, keep in touch often in the future. Don't hang around all day long with that group of bad friends."

"And stop messing around with that luxury car club, isn't that just nonsense? You are all descendants of soldiers, the hardworking and simple style must still be maintained."

The old man couldn't help but scold.

"Got it, Grandpa, I will keep in touch more with these brothers and sisters when I get back."

The young man immediately said.

"That's good, that's good! We are all people who are half-buried already. Who knows when Marx will call us."

"Now, the only hope we have is for you young ones to connect well with each other, so that after we old folks pass, these relationships that we've formed won't just disappear."

"As for your parents, those who are money-minded, we can't rely on them, we can only look to you. Ahem!"

The old man said earnestly to his grandson beside him.

"Don't worry, Grandpa, we won't let these relationships scatter."

Hearing the old man's cough, the young man quickly aided his breathing and then promised.

Those who could come along were basically the closest people around the elders.

They now wanted to pass on these relationships to the next generation, so that the families could become lifelong friends and support each other to go further.

"Grandpa, is your health alright? You haven't moved around like this in a long time."

Zhou Hanyun looked at the spirited Mr. Zhou beside her, and said with concern.

"What could be wrong! It's been a long time since I was this happy. We old guys have agreed that we're all planning to wait for the end here in the Imperial Capital. You two will handle this matter."

Mr. Zhou looked at Yang Yan with a beaming smile.

"Uh..."

Hearing the old man's sudden words, Yang Yan was first slightly stunned, then nodded and said:

"Alright, I will arrange for this."

Beside them, an elderly man, slightly hunched but stubbornly holding himself upright, couldn't help but jokingly scold:

"You old guy, can't we just find a nursing home? Why are you troubling the kids with this?"

Mr. Zhou raised his eyebrows and pointed at Yang Yan, saying:

"Humph! This little guy wants to marry my family's pearl, and if he can't even handle this, how can we trust him to marry her?"

This was the first time Mr. Zhou mentioned this in front of Zhou Hanyun and Yang Yan.

Hearing this, Zhou Hanyun's face turned red all of a sudden.

As for Yang Yan, at this moment, he was calm and composed, not showing any sign of embarrassment.

"Don't worry, Grandpa. I will handle this perfectly."

At this moment, Yang Yan stopped calling Mr. Zhou by his title, directly switching to call him Grandpa.

"You rascal!"

Seeing Yang Yan's demeanor, Mr. Zhou couldn't help feeling a burst of comfort.

"Actually, there's one person who hasn't come today!"

Another elderly man beside them said.

"Yes, that guy is obviously in the Imperial Capital, and today's event was also caused by a younger member of his family, yet he didn't show up? What's going on!"

Another elder also said with confusion.

"Hehe! You guys have been talking for a while, and I still don't know who initiated today's gathering?"

Mr. Zhou asked with a smile.

"Who else could it be, it's the young one from Li Guohua's Li Family! He said we hadn't met for too long, so he arranged this gathering."

The first elder directly answered his question.

"The young one from Li Guohua's family? You mean Li Zheng?"

Mr. Zhou frowned slightly.

Not only him, but Zhou Hanyun also frowned.

Whenever it was about Li Zheng, she inherently felt a nameless repulsion.

Even though it was clearly stated at Mr. Zhou's birthday banquet last time, she wouldn't believe that guy would easily let things go.

With a woman's sixth sense, she even felt that this gathering might be targeting her and Yang Yan.

"Don't worry, I've got everything."

Yang Yan lightly patted Zhou Hanyun's shoulder and said reassuringly.

"Mm!"

Seeing the calmness in Yang Yan's eyes, Zhou Hanyun nodded lightly, no longer as worried.

"Is everything ready?"

At the hotel rooftop, Li Zheng coldly asked Li Faction.

"Everything is ready! Not only here, but also over on Zhou Hanyun's sister's side, I've arranged everything."

Li Faction said with a sinister smile.

"As long as you're ready. After I succeed on my side, you can do whatever you want with her sister. But remember, until I succeed, there must be no movement on your side."

"Otherwise, if you ruin my plan, you know what the consequences will be."

Li Zheng looked at Li Faction with a cold stare and spoke in a chilling tone.

Actually speaking, Li Zheng and Li Faction are not brothers by the same mother.

Li Faction's mother was married into the family after Li Zheng's mother passed away.

Moreover, the death of Li Zheng's mother was somewhat suspicious back then, but no solid evidence was ever found, and it ended without conclusion.

Thus, over the years, Li Zheng's father has always favored Li Zheng, the eldest son.

Of course, this also had to do with Li Zheng's capabilities.

After all, he excelled in academics, career, and scheming much more than Li Faction.

Moreover, since their father was rarely home, the household was basically run by Li Zheng, so even though Li Faction had his mother's support, he was always wary of his brother, never daring to act rashly.

Chapter 399: Engagement Ceremony?

Downstairs, on the third floor, was an exceptionally luxurious banquet hall.

It was seven in the evening, and the banquet had already begun.

The Li Family had operated in the Imperial Capital for many years, with deep roots and flourishing branches, and was considered a powerful family.

As a result, almost everyone invited by the Li Family had arrived.

Even if an important figure couldn't personally attend, a younger member of the family would be sent to participate.

Upon entering the banquet hall, it was already bustling with people and very lively.

When this group of elders saw that the hall was filled with young people, they glanced at each other and then told their juniors beside them:

"You all go have fun! We old folks won't interfere with your enjoyment. Besides, it's too noisy here, so we'll head to the lounge to chat instead."

Hearing their elders' words, everyone chuckled.

This kind of occasion was indeed not very suitable for the elderly.

So, they didn't say much and instead escorted their elders back to the lounge.

"You two should also go have fun! Remember to mingle and build relationships with others."

Mr. Zhou looked at Zhou Hanyun and Yang Yan, and said eagerly.

Zhou Hanyun and Yang Yan both nodded with smiles, then turned and walked outside.

"Sigh! What do you think the old man means when he keeps asking us to build relationships with the juniors of other families?"

Yang Yan asked Zhou Hanyun with a bitter smile.

"What else could it mean! Old folks, you know, they feel they've aged and hope we youngsters can connect like they did!"

Zhou Hanyun said matter-of-factly.

However, there was always a lingering gloom in her eyes.

Yang Yan chuckled bitterly:

"Uh...it's not that easy! Their bonds were forged on the battlefield. Those who carried guns together formed ironclad bonds."

"For us youngsters, unless we've played together since childhood, who would feel anything? Depending on one gathering, I think it's very difficult."

"Doesn't matter." Zhou Hanyun shrugged and said, "As long as Grandpa is happy!"

"As long as you're happy, it doesn't matter much to me. But if I encounter another idiot like Xu Jie, I won't show any mercy."

Yang Yan clasped his hands behind his head and said solemnly.

"What did he do? Isn't he just a bit materialistic? I think that's forgivable. In this materialistic world, there are plenty like him; it's nothing unusual."

Zhou Hanyun said with a smile.

"Pfft! He can be materialistic all he wants; that's none of my business, but if he dares to flirt with my woman, that's something neither uncle nor aunt can tolerate."

Yang Yan put on a fierce look and said through gritted teeth.

"Haha! You're something else; he was just talking. Did you really take him seriously? Besides, who said I'm your woman!"

After saying that, Zhou Hanyun ran off immediately.

"Hey! Stop, don't run. Clarify this; even Master Zhou doesn't oppose us, so why be shy."

"What is it? You're not willing? It's hard to find a man as outstanding as me. Zhou Hanyun, I told you to stop!"

Yang Yan stomped his foot hard, looking at Zhou Hanyun's disappearing figure, and hurriedly chased after her.

Returning to the banquet, Yang Yan caught up to Zhou Hanyun, still wanting to question her about denying being his woman.

"Stop fooling around. There are so many people here; let's talk about this at home."

Zhou Hanyun, unwilling to continue this nonsense in public, hurriedly said with a flushed face.

"What's the difference where we talk? We don't know these people here. Once the old man says to leave, we'll leave."

Yang Yan said.

"You're something else; what did Grandpa tell you! Do you want to brush him off? Aren't you afraid he'll drag you into another dozen chess games?"

Zhou Hanyun looked at Yang Yan teasingly, somewhat gloating.

Upon hearing Zhou Hanyun's words, Yang Yan's brow twitched as well.

Compared to playing chess with Master Zhou, he preferred staying here.

At least here, if he didn't actively seek people out for small talk, others wouldn't bother him.

Just as Yang Yan was about to say something else, the lights in the center of the hall suddenly changed.

"Tsk tsk! The main character is about to arrive today. Let's hope he's smart and doesn't cause trouble, otherwise, I won't be polite."

Yang Yan watched the person slowly approaching from a distance and said with a cold smile.

Zhou Hanyun also saw Li Zheng coming out.

Honestly, she was still somewhat afraid to see Li Zheng.

After all, whenever she saw this guy, she remembered those unhappy past events.

"Thank you all for coming today to witness my engagement ceremony."

Li Zheng said with a smile, then bowed slightly to the audience.

"Oh? An engagement ceremony? Is today's banquet really Master Li's engagement ceremony? How come we didn't hear about it?"

Someone in the audience deliberately asked loudly.

"Not notifying everyone in advance was my mistake. However, I also wanted to give everyone a surprise."

Li Zheng said with a smile.

"Master Li, you really gave us a big surprise! Now the Diamond Li the Fifth of the Imperial Capital is about to bid farewell to being single."

Someone in the audience joked.

It was apparent that this person had a good relationship with Li Zheng.

Otherwise, even with good intentions, others wouldn't dare or wouldn't talk to him like this.

"Haha! Mr. Wang, what are you talking about? Even if I get married, Mr. Wang can still come to play with me! Just refrain from going to any unruly places then."

Li Zheng said to the man joking with him.

"Alright, stop joking around. We still don't know who today's other main character is, do we? Master Li, stop keeping us in suspense and introduce her now, won't you?"

Someone shouted loudly.

Everyone else chimed in, urging Li Zheng to quickly introduce his fiancée to everyone.

"Haha! Introducing her is a must. But please allow me to build some suspense first. Before introducing my fiancée, let's formally introduce some of the other main characters here today!"

Li Zheng said with a smile.

Hearing Li Zheng's words piqued the audience's interest even more.

While they were all still watching Li Zheng intently, an elder fully dressed in a military uniform came up behind him, with medals adorning his chest.

When the audience saw the elder approaching, they were all taken aback.

"Am I seeing things, or did that person actually come in person?"

Someone asked incredulously, looking at his friend beside him.

"No mistake, it's him! It seems Li Zheng is unquestionably the next heir of the Li Family!"

His friend beside him said, equally astonished.

"Grandfather, thank you for making this trip."

Li Zheng spoke respectfully to the elder.

Chapter 400: Despicable! Thank You!

"Haha! Not hard at all! Seeing you and the Zhou Family's girl get engaged today makes me genuinely happy. Although her father isn't much, this girl is quite good and will be your capable wife. I'm very satisfied with this granddaughter-in-law."

The old man said with a smile.

"Tonight is going to be interesting. The girl Li Dongguo mentioned is Zhou Hanyun, right?"

In the banquet hall, a girl who looked very quiet said to the old man beside her.

"Hmm! It should be. But I don't understand, what's Li Dongguo playing at? He must know that the girl from the Zhou Family has already rejected his grandson, right?"

"And yet, without getting Zhou Hanyun's permission, they dare to do this? What are they relying on?"

Mo Ya looked intently at the old man on stage, frowned, and said.

"It doesn't matter what they're relying on. If they want to marry Zhou Hanyun, they must go through Moonlight. But will Moonlight let go? Hmph! The Li Family is walking towards their own doom!"

The girl's smile grew even brighter.

"I also don't understand what they're thinking."

Mo Ya lightly shook his head.

Yang Yan heard Li Zheng's words on stage, and the killing intent in his heart was almost uncontrollable.

"Who's that old man anyway? Is he powerful?"

Yang Yan squinted his eyes and gently asked Zhou Hanyun.

"His name is Li Dongguo, holding a high position of power, with administrative level matters secondary, but he controls a secret force, the greatest asset of the Li Family."

Zhou Hanyun's face didn't look good either at the moment.

Hearing her words, Yang Yan gently nodded and then fell into silence, lost in thought.

"What's wrong? What are you thinking about?"

Zhou Hanyun gently furrowed her brow and asked softly.

"How should I put it? I'm now wondering if I wiped out the Li Family here, what would Huaxia's attitude be."

Yang Yan said lightly.

Though she hadn't been with Yang Yan for long, Zhou Hanyun truly understood him.

She knew Yang Yan wasn't just saying it for show.

This time, he genuinely intended to kill.

"Hey! Don't act recklessly! After all, that man is the top of Huaxia's power circle. If you act recklessly, who knows what the consequences might be!"

Zhou Hanyun looked at Yang Yan anxiously, desperately trying to persuade him.

At the same time, she also reached out to firmly grasp Yang Yan's hand, fearing he might do something earth-shattering in a moment of impulse.

"Don't worry, I'm not that irrational. I'm just considering the aftermath of eliminating him. I won't do it unless necessary."

Yang Yan smiled, giving Zhou Hanyun a reassuring look.

"Yes! It's best not to kill if we can avoid it. Otherwise, I always feel strange. But don't worry; no matter what tricks Li Zheng uses, I won't compromise."

Zhou Hanyun said firmly.

Hearing Zhou Hanyun's words, Yang Yan couldn't help but smile.

Then, he coldly watched Li Zheng, wanting to know what this guy would do next.

Just when Yang Yan was waiting for Li Zheng to make a move, Zhou Hanyun's phone suddenly rang.

She hesitated for a moment but still took out her phone.

After glancing at the unfamiliar number on the screen, she pressed the answer button:

"Hello, who is this?"

"You're Zhou Hanyun, right? If you don't want anything to happen to your grandfather, you'd better walk to the side now and find a place where no one is around to take this call."

"And don't tell anyone around you! I'm in the banquet hall right now, watching very closely!"

A playful male voice came from the phone.

Upon hearing the other party's words, Zhou Hanyun's pupils shrank sharply, then she turned to glance at Yang Yan.

However, Yang Yan's gaze was fixed on Li Zheng, seemingly not noticing her at all, so she bit her lip, got up, and walked to the side, coldly saying:

"Who are you? What do you want?!"

"Who am I? Haha, you might not know who I am now, but in a few days, you'll call me brother-in-law."

The voice on the phone grew even more arrogant.

"Who exactly are you? What have you done to my grandfather?"

Zhou Hanyun whispered angrily.

"Haha, didn't I already say? I'm part of the Li Faction, Li Zheng is my brother, and as for your grandfather, I assume you've heard of a place called the Hidden World?"

"Just recently, we've used black magic on your grandfather. If we wish, he could die of a heart attack immediately."

"I suppose you don't want your grandfather to die like this, right? As for what happens next, I think you know what to do?"

"Remember my words, don't tell that Yang Yan, then tell him you're going backstage."

"If you don't go, you know the consequences. You'd better behave, or your grandfather will die."

"Trust me, even if your grandfather dies, people will think it's due to old age. And remember, I'm in the banquet hall, watching you very closely!"

The man from Li Faction finished speaking and then hung up the phone.

After the call ended, Zhou Hanyun looked around coldly.

Soon, she saw a young man raise a glass towards her.

"Despicable!"

Zhou Hanyun mouthed silently while looking at the man.

"Thank you!"

This was the man's response.

Zhou Hanyun knew that since this man claiming to be part of the Li Faction had mentioned the Hidden World, he naturally wasn't lying.

If she didn't follow the other party's instructions, her grandfather might really die today.

Moreover, no one could find any evidence afterward.

"What's wrong?"

Yang Yan looked at Zhou Hanyun and gently asked.

He noticed that Zhou Hanyun's expression was somewhat off.

"Nothing much, just feeling a bit unwell."

Zhou Hanyun glanced at Yang Yan and then said.

"Are you really okay? You don't look too well!"

Yang Yan asked with concern.

"I'm fine, really."

Zhou Hanyun forced a smile, not wanting to reveal anything to Yang Yan.

Seeing Zhou Hanyun's expression, Yang Yan couldn't help but furrow his brows.

However, he didn't say much but turned his head to look at Li Zheng on stage with an even colder gaze.

"I'm going backstage to touch up my makeup."

Zhou Hanyun said, biting her lip.

When Yang Yan heard Zhou Hanyun's words, he was taken aback for a moment, then turned to look at her:

"Do you need me to go with you?"

"No, I'll be right back."

Just as Zhou Hanyun was about to say more, Li Faction deliberately walked past them.

Seeing Li Faction coming over, Zhou Hanyun's face paled, ignoring Yang Yan, and hurriedly headed backstage.