

R Woman 121

Chapter 121:

Mo Qianjue pinched her cheek, "Hmm? You say, Daddy is all ears."

The little lass also reached out and pinched Mo Qianjue's face, the two staring at each other, "Pengpeng's demand is that the mommy found by Daddy must be Jin! I only want Jin to be my mommy."

"Jin?" Mo Qianjue frowned slightly, "Who's that?"

"Jin is Jin! Anyway, I only want Jin to be my mommy! No one else will do!" The little girl's eyes whirled, "Daddy, I'm telling you, Jin is not like those sisters around you. She smells good, and she can even play with Tarot cards! And she's even more awesome than Sister Little Blue!"

"Not only did she predict my birth date, she also knows the origin of my name, and, she even foresaw that I live with Daddy usually! Daddy, don't you think that Jin is very impressive?"

By the time she finished speaking, a look of admiration and fervor shone in the little girl's eyes.

Jin is definitely the coolest Jin she has ever met.

Listening to the little lass's account.

Mo Qianjue's eyes gradually darkened; the person clearly had a premeditated intention to approach Pengpeng.

What was their true purpose?

They had investigated Pengpeng so thoroughly. All of Pengpeng's information was encrypted, and even the people of Lawless City couldn't find a trace of it.

How could someone in the secular world know so much so easily?

Mo Qianjue narrowed his eyes; he just remembered that the Jin mentioned by Pengpeng was the person who sent her the Confusing Grain Tree branch.

How could an ordinary person possibly possess a branch of the Confusing Grain Tree?

Seeing Mo Qianjue remain silent, his expression growing more solemn and his brows knit deeper.

The little girl shook Mo Qianjue's arm, "Daddy? Do you agree or not to let Jin be my mommy?"

"Pengpeng," Mo Qianjue held the little girl's shoulders with both hands, looking into her eyes seriously, "Not everyone can be your mom."

"Some people come with dubious intentions and are not upright. You should avoid associating with such people in the future, and you're not allowed to go look for her again, understand?"

Not just anyone can covet the supreme position of the Mo family's matriarch, and he must nip this potential issue in the bud.

"Hmph!" The little girl turned her head away unhappily, her mouth pouting high, "Bad Daddy! My Jin is not what you say! My Jin is great!"

"You don't want Jin to be my mommy, but Jin doesn't care to marry you anyway! My Jin said she already has that fiancé, ah no! Fiancé! You think everyone wants to marry you, stinky Daddy!"

She had originally thought Daddy would side with her, but didn't expect Daddy to look down on Jin!

It was clearly Jin who disapproved of Daddy first!

No, she must find a way to bring Jin home. Didn't they say on TV that familiarity breeds fondness, and affection is something that is cultivated over time?

In any case, she only wants Jin to be her mommy!

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At South Bridge No.2 Middle School, Class 10.

When Chu Jin arrived, Miao Xinran was already having breakfast.

Seeing Chu Jin approaching, she immediately passed over the prepared steamed buns, "Jin, Xu's steamed buns, I saved them especially for you."

Chu Jin didn't stand on ceremony and took a couple of bites. "They taste good."

"Of course!" Miao Xinran raised her eyebrows, "I queued for 30 minutes just to buy them."

"This is a special product brought by my dad from his hometown; it's really delicious. The both of you should try it." Lin Xiao, sitting in front of Chu Jin, turned around and placed a box of handmade osmanthus cakes in front of them.

Osmanthus cake, a specialty of Hangzhou.

Lin Xiao's hometown was Hangzhou.

"Thanks, Lin Xiao. I love osmanthus cake," Miao Xinran couldn't wait to open the osmanthus cake, and a soft, fragrant scent wafted out immediately.

Chu Jin also pinched a piece and put it in her mouth, the scent of osmanthus spreading in her mouth.

Sweet but not cloying, melting upon entering the mouth, and very refreshing.

"Thanks, it tastes good."

Zi from the Purple Thunder space was almost drooling, with stars in her eyes, "Jin, don't eat it all up! Save one for me."

Lin Xiao smiled awkwardly, "Glad you two like it."

Actually, the change in Chu Jin these past days had been witnessed by everyone in Class 10, including herself.

The old Chu Jin was humble and weak, always walking with her head down, looking lifeless.

The present Chu Jin was confident and cheerful, with every frown and smile attracting attention. Lin Xiao had noticed that male students from neighboring classes passed by the window at least a dozen times a day.

Each time, their gaze lingered on Chu Jin.

The old Chu Jin used to skip classes every other day to play games, and when she was in a good mood and came to class, she would either sleep on the desk or read manga.

Now, Chu Jin not only attended every class but was also very serious about it, even during breaks she was busy reviewing.

Occasionally being questioned by teachers in class, her answers were perfect and well-organized.

She no longer handed in blank test papers.

Her mock exam results were getting higher each time.

To this point, her scores had already made it into the top 10 of her class.

Most importantly, Chu Jin had not become arrogant or condescending due to her transformation.

Instead, she was humble and polite, without any hint of a top student's airs, always smiling at everyone she saw.

If they weren't all in the same classroom, one could think they weren't the same person!

So, everyone was guessing that Chu Jin had been hiding her abilities all along, biding her time.

Initially, people in the class were worried that having Chu Jin participate in the school's English speech competition was dragging down Class 10. Now, it seemed that letting Chu Jin take part in the competition was the wisest choice.

She had a good image, a good temperament, and a very infectious voice. They believed she would definitely achieve good results in the competition.

"I also have something delicious," Miao Xinran took out a box of chocolates from under the desk and pushed it into Lin Xiao's hands, "This is brought by my brother from abroad. Have a taste."

Lin Xiao accepted with a blush, "Thank you."

Chapter 122: The Worst Class

"You're welcome," Miao Xinran said as she ate the osmanthus cake, "This osmanthus cake is really good. You can't find such authentic ones in Capital City anymore. Hey, Lin Xiao, is your hometown Hangzhou?"

Osmanthus cake, such a delicate pastry—only the gentle women born in the watery regions of the south could make it.

Lin Xiao nodded, "Yes, my hometown is Hangzhou. What about you? Are you a local from Capital City?"

Capital City is vast, being the capital of China mainland, so almost everyone comes from all over the country.

True locals are very rare.

Despite having been classmates for so long, this was the first time Lin Xiao had spoken so much with Miao Xinran.

In the past, although Miao Xinran was a top student, because she slept in class and played video games, everyone kept their distance from her.

Fearing they might be influenced by her carelessness.

So they rarely interacted with her.

However, Miao Xinran was gradually shedding her bad habits, and over time, Lin Xiao found that, in fact, Miao Xinran was quite easy to get along with.

"I'm from Huizhou, but I've been to Hangzhou once. It's very beautiful, a land of fish and rice, with distinct seasons. It's a wonderful place."

"Huizhou?" Lin Xiao's deskmate, Zhou XueXue, turned around excitedly at this, "I'm from Huizhou too!"

Meeting someone from the same hometown in the vast Capital City was quite a fate.

"You're also from Huizhou?" Miao Xinran also seemed surprised, clearly not expecting to meet a fellow townspeople.

"Yes, yes, yes," Zhou XueXue nodded hastily, "Fate! Let's shake hands."

The two hugged each other excitedly, sharing the feeling of encountering old acquaintances in a foreign land.

"You earthlings are all liars!" Zi suddenly blurted out this sentence.

Chu Jin raised an eyebrow, "Earthlings cheated you out of sunflower seeds?"

Zi placed her iPad on the stone table, "I've been delving into your earth culture these past few days and came across a saying that goes 'Fellow townsmen meeting fellow townsmen, tears in both their eyes,' but look, those two are laughing like fools, with not a hint of sadness!"

Chu Jin: "..."

"By the way, Jin, where are you originally from?" Miao Xinran suddenly realized that despite having hung out with Jin for so long, she still didn't know her family origins.

Chu Jin swallowed the last piece of osmanthus cake, "I'm from Capital City."

Miao Xinran gave her a once-over, squinting her eyes, "That's not right, Capital City people don't look like you..."

Look at those slender arms and legs. Who from Capital City looks like that?

Chu Jin gave her a disdainful look, and said with a mock scold, "Hasn't your teacher ever taught you not to judge a book by its cover? Your brother Jin here is a true man!"

"Chatter, chatter, chatter! Fuss, fuss, fuss!" While they were laughing and joking, the class teacher's voice suddenly broke into the air, "Our class is the loudest in the entire teaching building! Look at class 9 and class 11 next door! You are the worst group I have ever taught! We are in our senior year, not the juniors! Have you finished your Five Three? Have reviewed mathematics?"

The air suddenly went quiet as everyone listened to the teacher's admonishment.

"The college entrance exam is the last competition in life that doesn't look at your face or rely on your parents! Look, even Chu Jin, who loved studying the least, has changed. What excuse do the rest of you have to not work hard, to not strive?"

The suddenly mentioned student, Chu Jin, thought: So, was she being praised?

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Elsewhere, at the Shang family residence.

"Dad, this is the information on the Chu Family girl you asked me to prepare. Take a look." Shang Kangsheng lay back on a rocking chair, squinting his eyes as he reached out to receive the documents handed to him by Shang Zhi.

"How come I hear that all the major financial news outlets have been broadcasting news about Chu's bankruptcy these last few days?" Shang Kangsheng didn't open the file; instead, he set it aside and continued to ask.

Shang Zhi knew his father had some old ties with Chu Liyan and without further thought, he told him everything he knew.

"So, Su Qiangda has completely terminated his contract with Chu's?"

Shang Zhi nodded, "Yes, not only that, but he also took away a large number of old shareholders from Chu's. Now, Chu's is facing a capital shortfall and desertion by its people. I fear it won't last many days."

"Ungrateful cur!" Shang Zhi slammed the table, "Without old Chu, Su Qiangda would have died of starvation on the streets long ago! And now, he repays kindness with malice without any consideration for past relationships!"

Although businessmen value profits, they must also value righteousness!

Su Qiangda's actions were indeed despicable!

"What about the young Chu? Any news from her side?" Shang Kangsheng steadied his emotions and asked.

Shang Zhi knew a bit about what Chu Jin said last time at Chu's.

But in Shang Zhi's view, it was all nonsense. Not to mention Chu Jin had been useless for eighteen years; even if she were normal, how could she possibly revive Chu's by herself, being just a woman? Shang Zhi chuckled, "The young Miss Chu claimed she wants to secure a cooperation deal with JK and lead the remaining shareholders to revitalize Chu's. Is this not ludicrous? As if a little girl like her could secure a deal with JK. Even if Chu's had no internal problems and was not lacking funds, JK would not have considered Chu's. The young people these days think a little ability makes them invincible, but in the end, they are just too impetuous, immature."

Sighing at the end, Shang Zhi shook his head.

Chapter 123: Sending Charcoal in Snowy Weather

Listening to Shang Zhi's words, a gleam of sharpness flashed through Shang Kangsheng's slightly narrowed eyes.

He stood up straight from the rocking chair, "Good! Well done, little girl! Full of ambition!"

He always knew that little girl wasn't an ordinary one!

"Dad? What do you mean?" Shang Zhi was somewhat taken aback.

Wasn't the old man known for despising young people who were impetuous and brash?

Why was he suddenly praising her?

Could it be that he's getting senile?

"Zhi'er, take my card and visit Chu Group," Shang Kangsheng excitedly took a black card from the table, "I want to invest in Chu Group."

"Dad, you..." Shang Zhi could hardly believe his ears.

The old man said he wanted to invest in Chu Group?

Was this a joke?

With Chu Group's current situation, even another hundred million would be like throwing money into the water.

"Dad, I know you had some dealings with Mr. Chu before, but the deceased has passed away. You've already helped the Chu family a lot when they were on the decline. There's no need to throw more money into it now, and even our family can't afford to waste money like this."

"What do you know?" Shang Kangsheng swung his cane and struck Shang Zhi with it, "If I tell you to go, just go. Don't waste time arguing with your father!"

"Dad!" Shang Zhi was still reluctant. If the old man was becoming senile, he couldn't afford to be foolish along with him.

"That Miss Chu, you know what she's like..."

Shang Zhi couldn't finish his sentence before Shang Kangsheng hit him again with the cane, "I've eaten more salt than you've eaten rice! I know what kind of person the little girl from the Chu family is better than you do. Just you watch, one day that little girl will surprise all of you!"

Shang Zhi snorted coldly, "Her? Dad, are you kidding me?"

If the Miss Chu was capable of achieving anything, then it would truly be a case of the Yangtze River flowing backward.

He would rather believe that red rain could fall from the sky than believe that Miss Chu could amount to anything.

Over the years, there have been widespread rumors about Miss Chu.

Surely the old man hasn't become senile enough to say such foolish things.

"You're not going, huh?" Shang Kangsheng angrily snatched the black card from Shang Zhi's hand, "I'll go myself!"

"Wait, wait, wait," seeing that his father was truly angry, Shang Zhi quickly tried to appease him with a smile, "Dad, don't be angry, I'll go right now, immediately."

Shang Kangsheng's expression finally softened, "Go quickly!"

"Alright, I'm on it."

As he reached the door, Shang Zhi sighed, "It's easy to add flowers to brocade, but rare to send coal in snow. There are really not many kind-hearted fools like you left. I just hope that Miss Chu isn't ungrateful..."

Shang Kangsheng threw his cane towards Shang Zhi's retreating figure, "You fool, what nonsense are you spouting?"

Outside the door, Shang Zhi wailed, "Dad, I'm your own son..."

Shang Kangsheng grunted, "Even those not of my blood wouldn't be treated as well as you are!"

His judgment of people was not wrong, and he believed that Chu Jin would bring him a miracle.

With hands clasped behind his back, Shang Kangsheng gazed into the distance, his eyes alight with sagacious foresight.

After a while, he beckoned.

The butler approached immediately, "Master, what may I assist you with?"

"How is the matter in Flower City progressing?" Shang Kangsheng remained focused on the horizon, his expression grave.

"Master," the butler bowed slightly, "as you predicted, our people in Flower City have located the young lady and are currently collecting blood samples for a DNA comparison. The results should be available in a week; there's no need to worry."

Shang Kangsheng chuckled bitterly, "How can I not worry? It's been 20 years, and the thought that Lin Lan is still out there prevents me from resting easy. I hope it's really her this time; don't disappoint me again."

"Only when Lin Lan is found will I be able to rest peacefully..."

"Master," the butler glanced at Shang Kangsheng, "don't talk like that, you're still strong and healthy. You're sure to live a long life."

Shang Kangsheng coughed lightly and patted the butler on the shoulder, "Old friend, I know my body well. If not for worrying about Lin Lan, I should have been a dead man by now..."

The butler sighed softly, his eyes moistening.

He had been with the Shang family for many years, witnessing firsthand the rises and falls, from decay to prosperity.

There's no better phrase than 'through thick and thin.'

"Master, rest assured, this time we will definitely find Miss Lin Lan."

Shang Kangsheng breathed out slowly, "I hope so."

He hoped Flower City would bring him a miracle.

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The news of Shang Kangsheng investing in Chu Group spread quickly, and in a few days, it was published by major financial newspapers.

Chu Jin was also surprised. She did not expect Shang Kangsheng to provide help at such a time.

When she received the call from the director of Chu Group, she almost couldn't believe her ears.

That's the Shang family.

Even though Shang Kangsheng had given her a card, promising that she could seek his help if she was in trouble, she had never actually considered seeking aid from Shang Kangsheng.

At this moment, she was sitting in a small pavilion in the park, playing chess with Shang Kangsheng.

Chapter 124: Chess Game She held the white pieces, while Shang Kangsheng held the black ones.

A crowd of elder gentlemen and ladies also surrounded them, watching the game.

"Ah, that's wrong, that's wrong! Old Man Shang, you've made a mistake here. You should have played this way," an old man with white beard shifted a black piece on the board to a different spot.

"You're the one who's wrong!" Shang Kangsheng slapped away the old man's hand and moved the black piece back to its original place, "Old Song, haven't you heard that it is not gentlemanly to comment during a game of Go? Honestly, aren't you afraid of being laughed at?"

Song Yuan, somewhat annoyed, said, "Look at you, such a stubborn old man! I was kindly reminding you, and you don't even appreciate it."

Listening to their conversation, Chu Jin giggled, "Grandpa Shang, are you sure you want to place your piece there? There's still time to regret it, you know."

"Of course!" Would he really take that Old Song's advice?

How embarrassing that would be.

In fact, as soon as Shang Kangsheng finished saying this, he regretted it.

He looked at the board and knew that the situation was not in his favor.

The game was originally close, only half a point determining the victory, and it all depended on this last move. Unexpectedly, he had been fooled by this young girl's disguise technique, and she had gradually turned the tables. Now the thought of turning the game around seemed difficult.

Chu Jin calmly placed her final piece down, "Grandpa Shang, I thank you for the game."

"Ha ha ha, Old Shang, you've lost, haven't you? I told you not to move there!" Song Yuan said gleefully.

"Hmph! Would I have lost if you hadn't been meddling?" Shang Kangsheng threw a tantrum, scrambling the board with his hand, "This game doesn't count. Miss Jin, let's play another round."

"Hey, Old Shang, how can you be so dishonest? It's my turn now, move aside." Song Yuan pulled Shang Kangsheng away and sat down himself, smiling, "Miss Jin, let's start our game."

Shang Kangsheng sat sulkily to one side, "Miss Jin, don't be polite to him!"

Chu Jin straightened her back and organized the pieces, "Please make your move, Grandpa Song."

"Alright," Song Yuan picked up a black piece and slowly placed it at the top left star point.

Chu Jin also took a white piece between her index and middle fingers, and placed it next to the black one.

When she played, her expression was serious, using the most standard Go gestures.

The game proceeded with each player taking their turn, and soon the board was half-filled with black and white pieces. The situation grew more intense, and some sweat began to appear on Song Yuan's forehead.

Every move was carefully considered—it was the first time in his life he felt he had met his match.

Chu Jin still had that calm demeanor, patiently picking up another white piece to follow.

The elderly spectators surrounding them clucked in amazement, "This girl's Go playing isn't half bad. She's been able to compete with Old Song for so long. And look, the game seems to have reached a draw, but in fact, Old Song is already at a disadvantage..."

Shang Kangsheng laughed heartily, "Ha ha ha, well done Miss Jin. That's the way to do it. Wipe him out completely."

The atmosphere grew even tenser.

The two players caused upheaval on the board, shifting the tides of the game.

Sweat continued to increase on Song Yuan's brow.

The outcome of the game was about to be decided by a single captured piece.

Chu Jin's fingers, holding a piece, paused for a moment, then changed direction, "Grandpa Song, I lose."

Shang Kangsheng watched the unfolding scene in disbelief, a look of regret flashing in his eyes, "Such a good game, how could it be lost."

Song Yuan looked up in surprise. He had never even considered he might win and had been preparing for defeat all along.

Clearly, he had underestimated Chu Jin's skills from the start.

And he never expected that a teenage girl could be so formidable.

Clearly, the young girl lost on purpose so as not to hurt his pride.

Song Yuan, with a glint of admiration in his eyes, chuckled, "It should be me losing, Grandpa Song. Miss Jin, why are you indulging me just like my son does? I must have him come and play a proper game with you sometime. I can guarantee you that he's more skilled than I am."

Shang Kangsheng mocked without mercy, "Oh, come on! You're always boasting about your son, Third Young Master Song, yet he always loses to me!"

"You think he's really losing to you? He's letting you win!"

"Do I need him to let me win? Even without it, I can still defeat him utterly!"

"Old Man Shang, at your age, how can you still be so shameless?"

"..."

Neither old man was willing to give in.

They argued until their faces were red and their voices loud.

As the evening drew to a close, Chu Jin walked with Shang Kangsheng out of the park, "Grandpa Shang, thank you."

Shang Kangsheng was naturally aware of the meaning behind her words, "Girl, what are you thanking me for? I didn't invest in Chu Corporation because of you. I'm making an investment. Don't think that because I'm old, I'm blind. I have long-term vision, knowing that Chu Corporation won't just topple over so easily. At the end of the year, don't forget to give me my dividends. And, I love lively events. I must attend the company's annual meeting as the largest shareholder."

Chu Jin's smile was full of promise, "Rest assured, when the time comes, I'll make sure you're full of profits and pride."

The silhouettes of the young and the old slowly disappeared into the sunset.

Chapter 125: Blood Jade Bracelet

Mo family.

In a mysterious stone house.

White candles burned on the walls of the stone house, where the light was dim.

A tall and straight silhouette could vaguely be seen standing in front of the stone house, towering and graceful, with sharp and exquisite features hidden in the dim light, exuding an aura of dominance that could not be ignored.

In front of him was a pool of water that was boiling, more a bath than a mere pool.

Around the bath were nine stone-carved jade dragons, each spouting columns of light blue water from their mouths.

At a glance, the water in the bath was also light blue, bubbling and issuing a mist of cold air, giving off an eerie atmosphere.

This was Bone Eroding Water, also known as the water from hell, capable of reducing any object, living or dead, to nonexistence upon contact.

Yet the man showed no fear of this water, slowly shedding his clothing and stepping up the stone stairs through the mist.

He leaned against the jade platform, half submerged in the water, his robust chest evoking wild thoughts, eyes slightly closed as if recently awakened, his face not as sharp as usual but filled with languor.

And a touch of thin coolness.

The cold in the bath gradually boiled, and the ascending mist, like a light veil, made his jade-like features even more indistinct.

As if he were a person from beyond this world.

After an indeterminate time, the man stood up from the bath, naked from the waist up, and with a splash, brought up droplets of water.

The mist of cold air grew thicker, obscuring the allure of the pool.

When the cold mist had dissipated, the man was completely dressed again, returned to his usual forbearing and aloof appearance.

Suddenly, as if remembering something, he took out a Blood Jade Bracelet from his pocket.

Even in such dim light, the Blood Jade Bracelet still emitted a dazzling red glow.

Looking at the bracelet lying in the palm of his hand, the man's lips curved slightly. In the next second, his fingers clenched, slowly squeezing until drops of fresh red blood trickled down between them.

In just a few seconds, the blood had already spilled onto the ground.

The air was filled with a strong smell of blood.

When he reopened his palm, the Blood Jade Bracelet had vanished, leaving only a pool of blood in his hand.

Mo Zhixuan took out a handkerchief from his pocket and carefully wiped the blood from his palm.

"What's going on?" Zheng Chuyi frowned, her fingers on the strings of her zither stopping abruptly, and she looked up at the sky. The once clear blue sky was now gradually tinged with a layer of blood.

Like a fiery cloud.

The Mo family's matriarch also felt a jolt in her brow as she sat in the meditation room. With a 'clatter,' the Buddha Beads in her hand scattered on the floor.

Not bothering with the beads, she hurried out of the meditation room, also looking up at the sky, her eyebrows locking together in concern.

"Aunt Mo, has something happened to Zhixuan?" Zheng Chuyi rushed to the meditation room at the first opportunity.

"I don't know, but by the looks of it, he must have touched the Bone Eroding Water," said the old matriarch, her face ashen.

Why would he deal with Bone Eroding Water all of a sudden, unless...?

At this thought, the matriarch's brow twitched, and she strode out, supporting Zheng Chuyi.

"Bone Eroding Water?" Zheng Chuyi frowned slightly and asked softly, "Aunt Mo, has the Blood Jade Bracelet been lost?"

The matriarch did not conceal anything, saying directly, "It hasn't been lost. I gave it to Zhixuan's yet-to-be-married wife a while ago."

Hearing this, anger flared on Zheng Chuyi's face. "Aunt Mo, how could you give such an important thing to an outsider?"

The matriarch understood the underlying meaning in Zheng Chuyi's words, but simply said, "A daughter-in-law of the Mo family cannot be considered an outsider."

Zheng Chuyi lowered her eyelashes. Although she was displeased, she said nothing more, and quickened her pace, supporting the matriarch towards the stone house.

In times like these, there was no point in arguing with the matriarch and making herself disliked.

Just as they reached the entrance of the stone house, Mo Zhixuan emerged from within.

Unlike usual, he wore a clean white shirt, hands in his pockets, coming against the light. His sharp and exquisite features gradually became visible in the sunlight, dazzling onlookers.

As if he were a celestial being, he walked towards them, each step seeming to fall upon Zheng Chuyi's heart.

'Tap-tap-tap' With each step, Zheng Chuyi's heart tightened, drawing her into an unintentional, sinking enchantment.

"Xuan'er, are you all right?" the matriarch hurried forward, her expression filled with concern.

"I'm fine," Mo Zhixuan spoke softly, his lips parting lightly.

Upon closer inspection, his skin was noticeably paler than usual.

A faint smell of blood lingered about him.

The matriarch naturally noticed the abnormality on Mo Zhixuan's body and continued, "I just saw an unusual phenomenon, the sky stained with blood. Tell me the truth, did you touch the Bone Eroding Water?"

Upon hearing this, Zheng Chuyi quickly regained her senses from his astonishing beauty and asked softly, "Yes, Zhixuan, I noticed it too. Are you alright now?"

What she cared about most was why Mo Zhixuan had dealt with the Bone Eroding Water for no reason.

Mo Zhixuan did not even glance at Zheng Chuyi but looked at the matriarch and nodded slightly, "Yes, I have."

His voice remained as deep and cold as ever.

Chapter 126: Price

"Child," the old Madam Mo glanced at Mo Zhixuan, "Why did you touch it for no reason? Tell me, is our family's Blood Jade Bracelet now with you?"

Mo Zhixuan did not conceal the truth, "I used the Bone Eroding Water to destroy the Blood Jade Bracelet to let a new Blood Jade Bracelet emerge."

Hearing this, a hint of joy colored Zheng Chuyi's face.

Her heart also skipped a beat.

"You, you, you!" Old Madam Mo's face filled with even deeper fury, "For no reason, why would you destroy it?"

The so-called Blood Jade Bracelet was truly made of condensed blood, rich with Spiritual Energy, of first-class quality. However, before the Blood Jade Bracelet could be formed, the blood donor's body had to undergo purification with the Bone Eroding Water. Only then could a Blood Jade Bracelet with even stronger Spiritual Energy be made. Once it encountered the destined person, it could exchange blood for blood, life for life!

But the formation of the Blood Jade Bracelet required not only the cost of fresh blood but also a ten-year sacrifice of one's cultivation level. That's why the Mo family regarded the Blood Jade Bracelet as a family heirloom.

Mo Zhixuan spoke coolly, "Because it was tainted with impure qi."

How could something tainted with such impurity be fitting for someone as lovely as her?

Upon hearing this, Zheng Chuyi's joy deepened.

Just before, Old Madam Mo had mentioned giving the Blood Jade Bracelet to that common man, but Mo Zhixuan destroyed it because he loathed the impure qi it had absorbed.

Was Mo Zhixuan doing all this for her?

Because the Blood Jade Bracelet had already been worn by a common man, did Mo Zhixuan feel that such an item was no longer suitable for him? So was he reconstituting a new one for her?

Yes, it must be so.

She had said it, how could Mo Zhixuan possibly fancy such a mere commoner?

All that he had done was to capture her attention.

Is it not said in the mortal realm, to feign retreat as a strategy to capture the enemy?

Perhaps, Mo Zhixuan was practicing this strategy on her.

"Absurdity!" Old Madam Mo was both anxious and heartbroken, "Do you not realize it will not only cost you ten years of your cultivation, but also, the Bone Eroding Water could cause you irreparable harm! And you activated it before the Night of Extreme Yin... What if when the day comes..."

Mo Zhixuan responded indifferently, "Mother, you need not worry. A mere ten years, I do not even take it to heart."

Zheng Chuyi's heart nearly leapt out of her chest.

She had not expected that Mo Zhixuan would go to such lengths for her, willingly sacrificing ten years of his cultivation.

It seemed making the decision to come to this mortal world was the right choice after all.

Otherwise, how could she witness the depth of Mo Zhixuan's affections for her?

"Alas!" Old Madam Mo heaved a deep sigh, "Forget it, I can manage you no longer. Just be mindful and measure yourself."

"Um," Zheng Chuyi managed to still the fluttering in her heart, lifting her eyes to Mo Zhixuan, "Zhixuan, you really didn't need to go to such lengths for me..."

Zheng Chuyi's words had not yet finished when Mo Zhixuan hurriedly interrupted, "Mother, I have matters to attend to. I must leave now."

Throughout the exchange, he ignored Zheng Chuyi completely, not sparing her even a glance.

"Zhi..." Watching the retreating figure, Zheng Chuyi could only swallow the rest of her words.

He clearly still cherished her, so why wouldn't he outright look at her even once?

Was he still angry with her?

Regardless, he had sacrificed ten years of his cultivation for her. Given that, she decided not to hold this small matter against him.

After all, love always requires one person to take the initiative.

Zheng Chuyi's cunning schemes didn't escape Old Madam Mo's clear sight. She coldly withdrew her arm and spoke in a detached tone, "If you still want to stay with the Mo family, then behave yourself. Do not daydream about impossible things; some things are forever out of your reach."

With that, she turned and left with large strides.

Zheng Chuyi watched Old Madam Mo's departing figure, her exquisite features twisted with coldness in her eyes.

Despite treating Old Madam Mo as if she were her own mother, she had not anticipated such repayment.

Just then, a servant came looking for Zheng Chuyi, "Miss Zheng, there is a Mr. Jiang outside wishing to see you."

Hearing the footsteps behind her, Zheng Chuyi immediately returned to her usual dignified and gentle demeanor, turning around, she said softly, "Very well, I am aware. Thank you for your efforts."

Jiang Mubai had come?

What was he here for?

With an expression of puzzlement, Zheng Chuyi walked toward the front hall.

It was apparent that Jiang Mubai had been there for a while, standing with his hands behind his back in the guest pavilion, his silhouette tinged with solitude.

"Mubai," Zheng Chuyi called softly.

At the sound of the familiar voice, Jiang Mubai turned abruptly, astonishment sparkling in his eyes, "Chuyi, you're here."

Even though he had known Zheng Chuyi for many years, every sight of her still took his breath away.

Zheng Chuyi nodded slightly, "Mubai, how did you know I was here?"

Jiang Mubai smiled, his gaze filled with deep affection and focus, "Chuyi, no one understands you more than I do in this world."

Zheng Chuyi was well aware of the implication behind Jiang Mubai's words but merely smiled without responding.

Jiang Mubai continued, "Chuyi, have they been treating you well? Have they made you feel wronged? And Jiuge, why didn't he come out with you?"

Chapter 127: Solution

Hearing this, Zheng Chuyi's expression dimmed, "No, I'm fine. Zhixuan got busy."

The touch of sadness in the depths of Zheng Chuyi's eyes didn't escape Jiang Mubai.

"You're lying to me!" Jiang Mubai's gaze tightened as he directly grabbed Zheng Chuyi's hand, "Chuyi, you must have suffered some kind of grievance here. Did Ninth Brother bully you?"

"No," Zheng Chuyi's eyes became moist, "Zhixuan treats me really well, you're overthinking it, I just miss home because I've been away from the Superpower World for too long."

The more she said this, the more Jiang Mubai felt she must have suffered some unbearable grievance.

Zheng Chuyi's kind nature made her unwilling to bicker with others, but he couldn't do the same. He had to find out what unfair treatment Zheng Chuyi had experienced at the Mo family.

He couldn't bear to see Zheng Chuyi slighted even a little.

"Chuyi, I'm sorry you've been aggrieved."

Zheng Chuyi shook her head, "I'm not aggrieved. As long as I can be with Zhixuan, I'm willing to do anything."

Jiang Mubai's heart felt a sudden pang of pain, and a smile without any hint of happiness formed on his lips, "Yeah, Chuyi, you will definitely be happy."

He had to quickly get rid of all the obstacles under Zheng Chuyi's feet.

To let her live a stable life as soon as possible.

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Meanwhile, Su Qiangda never expected not to receive news of Chu family's bankruptcy but instead to hear about the Shang family investing in Chu family.

This news was like a bolt from the blue, leaving him unable to move for half a day.

"What should I do!" Su Qiangda paced back and forth in his office, "Why on earth did Shang Kangsheng decide to invest!"

The Shang family was a major corporation, even higher ranked than Jun Ao Group.

Could it be that his decision this time was truly a mistake?

Was he really going to be defeated by a failure?

The key issue was, how was he going to explain this to Jun Ao when he had confidently promised Ai Na that he could make Chu family beg on their knees for Jun Ao to acquire them?

He had thought that he could break away from the Chu family this time and establish his own enterprise with the help of Jun Ao.

Now although he had successfully left the Chu family, would Jun Ao continue to provide funding for him?

Just then, a 'knock knock knock' was heard at the door.

Su Qiangda straightened his collar and sat down in the boss chair, "Come in."

The secretary entered, carrying a professional smile, "Mr. Su, Miss Ai Na from Jun Ao Group asked you to stop by."

It was precisely what he dreaded most, Su Qiangda waved his hand irritably, "I know."

After the secretary left, Su Qiangda stood up, his expression sour, "Tsk! What's she but a mere assistant? Just a dog under Jun Ao, putting on such airs!"

No matter how you look at it, I'm a group president. How can I let an assistant summon and dismiss me at will?

It was really irritating!

Unhappy as he was, he still had to go. He couldn't afford to offend either Jun Ao or Ai Na.

This was a time when he had to steer the ship with the utmost caution.

Su Qiangda hurried downstairs.

Driving towards the direction of Jun Ao.

Hunched over, with a forced smile on his face, Su Qiangda cautiously made his way into Ai Na's office, "Miss Ai Na, did you need to see me for something?"

"It's nothing too big," Ai Na slowly lifted her head from a pile of documents, her expression somewhat cold, "I just want to know when Mr. Su plans to bankrupt the Chu family?"

"Miss Ai Na," Su Qiangda recited the prepared justifications, "You might not be aware, but my plan had already succeeded perfectly. Then, out of nowhere, the Shang family appeared. You also know what kind of group the Shang family is—even someone as capable as I can't compete with them..."

"Enough, I don't want to hear any excuses!" Ai Na interrupted Su Qiangda coldly, "I only want to see results! Mr. Su, since you've taken the money, you should do the work. But now what is this? You've taken the money, accepted the benefits, but where are the results? Are you telling me you're also powerless?"

Mo Qianjue had been pushing for progress on this matter these past few days!

If it wasn't handled well, Mo Qianjue would definitely be completely disappointed in her.

A glint of shrewdness flashed in Su Qiangda's eyes, he said obsequiously, "Miss Ai Na, don't be angry, I still have a solution."

"Speak!" Ai Na said succinctly.

"Isn't the Chu family bidding for the JK collaboration project? As long as we successfully get the JK collaboration project and cut off Chu family's retreat, I think Chu family won't be able to jump around anymore. At that time, they'll be at our mercy."

As he spoke the last sentence, a bright light flashed through Su Qiangda's eyes.

If Jun Ao helped him obtain the collaboration with JK, then even without Jun Ao's assistance, he could still hold his ground in Capital City.

"Heh," Ai Na scoffed, "Mr. Su, you have quite the calculations. Helping you get the JK collaboration project? You really have some nerve!"

Ai Na could see right through Su Qiangda's little ploys and pointed to the door, "Mr. Su, our cooperation ends here. Please leave!"

Chapter 128: Withdraw

Su Qiangda felt an icy chill in his chest, somewhat unwilling to let the easy pickings slip through his fingers like this, and now that he had exited Chu Group, where could he possibly go at this time.

Once he had cut ties with Jun Ao and set up his own little company, he feared there wouldn't be many good days left for him.

At that time, he would become the laughingstock.

How could he let a useless person witness his embarrassment, especially when he had made such bold claims on the day he left Chu Group.

Thinking of this, he felt a surge of alarm and said anxiously.

"Don't, don't, don't, Miss Ai Na, let's talk this through, I still have a way, I can definitely ensure the smooth acquisition of Chu Group!"

Ai Na's attitude was very firm as she said coldly, "Please leave!"

With a low plea, Su Qiangda said, "Miss Ai Na, please give me one more chance, I promise I won't disappoint you this time..."

Ai Na was no longer looking at Su Qiangda, sitting down in her chair, she began to bury her head in handling documents, turning a deaf ear to Su Qiangda's begging words.

A person who could even betray his own benefactor, who once saved his life, what great things could he accomplish!

From the beginning, she should never have sought out Su Qiangda, a phony gentleman with a facade of respectability.

"Please give me one more chance..."

Before Su Qiangda could finish his sentence, he was forcibly escorted out by two burly security guards.

"Miss Ai Na..."

The voice of Su Qiangda gradually faded away outside the door.

Ai Na massaged her temples with a bit of a headache. She hadn't expected this matter to be so thorny; perhaps she had underestimated the tactics of the Chu family's daughter from the beginning.

How could a worthless person possibly obtain the help of the Shang family when Chu Group was in disrupted leadership and lacking funds?

Mo Qianjue sat coldly in his office, tapping the desk with his fingers, "Go call Ai Na over to me."

"Yes, Chief!"

He had never failed to get what he wanted, and it was surprising to think that acquiring a mere Chu Group had wasted so much of his time.

In a few days, he was planning to visit the Zhao family. At that time, he would present Chu Group as a meeting gift to Zhao Yiling.

Mo Qianjue, with a frosty expression, looked toward Ai Na and said harshly, "What's going on here? Why have I not yet seen the contract for the acquisition of Chu Group?"

"Chief, this matter is indeed my fault!" Ai Na's head was bowed, "Initially, my subordinate thought that the departure of a group of old shareholders from Chu Group would create a funding gap, leading to bankruptcy. I didn't expect the sudden intervention of the Shang family, and I underestimated the Chu family's daughter from the start."

"Chu family's daughter?" Mo Qianjue's eyes narrowed slightly, "Didn't you say that the Chu Jin heiress was a well-known good-for-nothing?"

"This..." Ai Na's face turned rather unsightly, "Chief, there may have been an error in our investigation. Now that Chu Group has the support of the Shang family, the acquisition has become even more difficult."

Mo Qianjue was naturally aware that acquiring a company was not easy; as long as the shareholder holding the most shares refused to sell, others could not forcibly take over.

"Have you seen the Chu family's daughter?" Mo Qianjue's expression softened somewhat.

"I've contacted her several times, and her stance is very firm; no matter the amount of money, she refuses to sell."

"Is that so?" Mo Qianjue's lips curved into a dangerously charming arc, "I've never seen anyone who doesn't love money. We can increase the funding to 500 million yuan, and if she's still not satisfied, we'll go up to a billion yuan!"

Ai Na was momentarily stunned before standing up straight, "Yes, I understand, Chief!"

A billion yuan, for just a shell group, is it really worth it?

**

It was the afternoon.

At the same crossroads, when Chu Jin arrived, there was already a person and a dog waiting for her.

"Jin-ge!" The little girl happily greeted Chu Jin upon seeing her, hugging Chu Jin's trouser leg and said with a childish lisp, "Jin-ge, you're finally here! Bread and I have been waiting for a long time, we thought you weren't coming."

Bread, on the other hand, pounced with a whump, placing its forepaws on Chu Jin's shoulders and sticking out its pink tongue to lick her face all over.

Chu Jin was nearly overwhelmed by the enthusiastic welcome from the girl and her dog.

With Bread's weight on her, she almost suffocated.

"Stinky Bread!" The little girl grabbed Bread's fluffy tail, "You better get down, don't take advantage of Jin-ge!"

Was Jin-ge's face something Bread could kiss at will?

Successfully pulling Bread off Chu Jin, the little girl spread her arms wide, her big sparkling eyes batting, and said with a milky voice, "Jin-ge, hug."

Looking so cute and soft, she was simply irresistible. Chu Jin's heart melted.

She lifted the little girl into her arms.

Ah, quite heavy, no wonder she is so adorable.

The little girl wrapped her chubby hands around Chu Jin's neck, rubbed her plump hand against Chu Jin's cheek, and then planted a loud kiss on her face.

After kissing, she even shot a defiant look at Bread.

Did you see that?

That look seemed to say: Jin-ge is now marked by me, and from now on, only I can kiss him! Do you think you, a silly dog, can just kiss him as you please?

Bread whimpered and lowered its doggy head in a somewhat disheartened manner.

Chapter 129: Exhausted by Concern

Chu Jin was amused to laughter by the interactions between the person and the dog.

She leaned in and also planted a kiss on the chubby little cheek of the little girl.

"Mmm, Pengpeng's little face really smells good."

The little girl turned her head and pointed to the other cheek, softly saying, "Jin, this little face smells even better."

Chu Jin graciously kissed her on the other little cheek as well.

After the kiss, the little girl immediately flashed a mischievous smile, "Jin, actually I forgot to wash my face this morning..."

She would never tell Jin that her daddy had also kissed her little cheek at noon, and it seemed like daddy kissed her at the same spot as Jin.

Is this what they call an indirect kiss on TV?

Oh, the things she does for her daddy's happiness.

It's a pity her daddy still doesn't get it. With things going like this, when will Jin become her mommy?

Does she really have to wait for Jin to get married and then divorced?

"Pengpeng, you're so naughty," Chu Jin reached out and tapped the little girl's forehead.

"Jin, I really like you!" The little girl smacked another kiss onto Chu Jin's face.

After messing around for a while, Chu Jin began to set up her stall, and soon greeted her first customer of the day.

An old grandma with white hair, wearing traditional Chinese buttoned attire, carrying a blue ancient-style bundle on her shoulder.

She had a somewhat time-worn, lonely appearance.

Her wrinkled eyes had seen the ravages of the years.

Her expression was very kind.

"Hello, grandma," the little girl, being very sensible, went up to her, pulled out a chair, and half-helped the old grandma, saying, "Grandma, please have a seat."

Seeing such a cute child, the old grandma's face, previously etched with worries, eased into a smile as she said, "What a good child. How old are you this year?"

The little girl lifted her adorable little head and crisply said, "Grandma, my name is Pengpeng, and I'm six years old this year."

The old grandma patted the little girl's head and praised her, "Good child, good child."

"Grandma, you can ask Jin any questions; she's really amazing," the little girl said as she pulled up a stool and sat next to Chu Jin.

"Alright, alright." Although she didn't know if anyone could answer her question, she had to try it all the same.

Chu Jin nodded politely at the old grandma, "Elder, what would you like to know about?"

The elderly lady tremblingly took out a piece of black cloth from her pocket.

She then unfolded it layer by layer, revealing a small wooden box to view.

The old lady opened the box, carefully took out a ruby pendant, which under the sunlight, emitted an antique yet mysterious glow.

If one looked closely, they would also notice a faint spiritual energy swirling around the ruby.

It was clear that this was no ordinary pendant.

The little girl's big eyes stared intensely, "Wow, it's so beautiful."

Even though she was born into privilege and had seen countless treasures, she was still captivated by the ruby pendant before her.

The old lady's rough, wrinkled fingers stood in stark contrast to the red gem.

Chu Jin hadn't expected such a plainly dressed elder to produce such a valuable pendant.

However, by the look of the old woman, this pendant seemed to be something very important to her.

Something beyond price.

The old grandma placed the ruby pendant on the table and then looked up at Chu Jin.

A flash of surprise crossed her eyes.

This young girl wasn't only beautiful with charming features and a fair complexion but also had an elegant demeanor, embodying a sense of nobility.

Moreover, upon seeing her ruby pendant, her eyes showed appreciation and nothing else.

Unlike the other Jianghu shamans she had encountered, who would display strong greed in their eyes at the sight of the ruby, wanting to claim it for themselves, and doing nothing to hide it.

They really thought she was too old to see their dirty intentions.

Only this young girl was different; her eyes were clear and unclouded, untainted by worldly concerns.

Hopefully, she could bring some surprises.

The old grandma pushed the ruby pendant a bit closer to Chu Jin and said,

"Young lady, I'd like you to help me see whether the owner of this pendant is still alive, and if so, where she might be now?"

Her voice was somewhat hoarse and murky.

Chu Jin nodded, "Alright, please wait a moment."

She then quickly started shuffling the cards, looking down.

Considering the presence of the little girl, Chu Jin's shuffling was more complex and rapid, somewhat dizzying.

The little girl immediately clapped enthusiastically in encouragement.

Chu Jin was again arranging the 'Sacred Triangle' card spread.

This spread was mainly used to predict 'past, present, and future.'

"Elder, please draw three cards one by one."

Chapter 130: Divination

The old granny nodded, then tremblingly drew the first card with her right hand.

Reversed: the High Priestess.

The High Priestess, legend has it, is the messenger of the moon, devout, silent yet revealing alertness and wisdom, symbolizing intelligence and intuition.

On the card face, the High Priestess sat high on her throne, with an exceedingly vibrant fruit pattern behind her and two pillars, one black and one white, flanking her.

The letter 'B' was marked on the black pillar, and the letter 'J' on the faded one.

These represented black and white, day and night.

Teetering between justice and evil to taste the meaning of life, to perceive the vicissitudes of humanity.

Chu Jin glanced briefly, her red lips slightly parting, "You come from another direction, the owner of this pendant must be your daughter, whom you chose to leave behind due to differences in stance, ascending to that unattainable position, regrettably afterward, as day and night reversed and situations became tumultuous, you were schemed against by a villain, and had no choice but to leave your home, drifting for many years, always leading a life of unsettled wanderings."

Chu Jin's voice was faint, yet every word echoed deeply in the old granny's mind.

Clearly, Chu Jin's interpretation was beyond her expectations.

She never imagined that Chu Jin could know so much from just one card.

If it wasn't for her yearning for power, harboring thoughts she shouldn't have, how would she have ended up in such a plight today?

Thinking back to the past, she couldn't help but weep, choking up, "It's my fault, I've wronged her, this is retribution..."

Seeing the old granny like this, Chu Jin's nose also felt sour, gently holding the old granny's hand, "Don't be like this, what's past is past, we need to live in the present."

The little girl, also very understanding, drew a tissue, tiptoed up, and wiped the tears from the granny's face, cooing, "Be good, granny, don't cry. Teacher says if you cry too much, you won't grow taller..."

"I'm not crying, granny's not crying anymore." The old granny reached out to pat the little girl's head, then drew the second card.

When she drew the second card, she wasn't as decisive as when she drew the first, hesitating for a long time.

The second card, upright: Two of Wands.

On the card face, a person dressed in lordly attire stood atop a high wall, overlooking their vast dominion, gazing into the distant sea.

In their right hand, they held a spherical object, and their left hand supported a staff.

The character on the card appeared to be silently studying the sphere, as if calculating something. It was clear that this person harbored deep stratagems, dissatisfied with the status quo.

"Don't worry, your daughter is living well, but," Chu Jin said, narrowing her eyes slightly, looking at the Two of Wands, a hint of confusion flashing in her eyes.

"But what?" the old granny asked somewhat anxiously, "How is my daughter now?"

Seeing the old granny's nervous state, Chu Jin smiled reassuringly, "It's alright, I just saw from the card that your daughter seems to be living in a different spatial dimension from you."

Moreover, her daughter is quite dissatisfied with her current situation.

A single thought can make one a Buddha or a demon.

A mere thought away, and she might find herself in one of two different circumstances.

She may need someone to show her the right path, she must not continue to dwell on the past, unable to foresee the future.

Of course, these were things Chu Jin naturally could not tell the old granny.

However, the old granny did not seem surprised to hear the phrase "spatial dimension," not finding the term unfamiliar at all.

She breathed a sigh of relief, "As long as she's alright, that's good."

The old granny then turned over the third card.

Upright: the Five of Coins.

On the card face, in a world of ice and snow, two beggars trudged forward, limping and hunched, their clothes tattered.

They passed a church but paid it no mind, pressing on their way.

Looking at the card, Chu Jin appeared somewhat solemn and said nothing.

"How is it, master, will I be able to see my daughter within my lifetime?" the old granny asked urgently.

Chu Jin snapped out of her contemplation of the card, nodding, "You will see her, if you just keep searching to the east, you will meet your daughter soon, it's just..."

The old granny tensed, then asked, "Just what?"

It's just that her daughter is too proud and may not recognize her.

Instead, she might see her as a hindrance, a drag, trying in every way to dissociate from her.

Pitiful indeed is a parent's heart; this old granny's thoughts are all for her daughter, never knowing that her daughter had long since forgotten her completely.

Chu Jin smiled, skillfully avoiding the heavy topic, "It's nothing, old lady, your daughter is living very well, actually, you don't have to be fixated on finding her and recognizing each other. Sometimes, being a bystander is much better than being a participant, and it also allows you to see more than what the participant can see."