

R Woman 151

Chapter 151: Divination

Chu Jin also stretched out her hands to cup the little girl's cheeks, "Of course, we are lifelong buddies!"

The little loli blinked, "Jin bro, actually being half a lifetime's buddies is more like it."

"Why?" Chu Jin didn't understand.

The little loli stared at Chu Jin with wide eyes, that look was as if she was looking at someone with a mental disability.

"You're such a silly Jin bro!" The little loli reached out her hand and tapped Chu Jin's forehead as if it were the most natural thing in the world, "Because you still have to be my mommy..."

Chu Jin: "..."

Why did this child cling to her and refuse to let go?

Did her dad know about this?

Mo Qianjue eavesdropped on the entire conversation between the pair.

He had not expected Chu Jin to say such things, nor had he expected the dynamics between the two of them to be like this.

On several occasions, their dialogue almost made him laugh.

He had originally thought that the little loli was skipping school because she was led astray by Chu Jin.

Now, it seemed he had been judging others by his own narrow standards.

He saw no traces of deliberate ingratiating in Chu Jin's eyes, and her interactions with the little loli were very natural, without a hint of disguise.

From their interactions, it was clear that theirs was a pure friendship that transcended age.

Moreover, Chu Jin gave him a very comfortable feeling from the inside out, and she also seemed very familiar to him.

It felt as though he had seen her somewhere before.

But when he tried hard to remember, his mind was a complete blank.

And there was some pain.

It was as though he was failing to grasp something important.

Mo Qianjue pressed his temples and decided to observe for a while longer.

Perhaps this person was just very good at hiding their true self.

Moreover, the more he looked at Chu Jin's features, the more he felt a vague sense of familiarity.

"Who are you, really?" Mo Qianjue murmured as he watched the busy, slender figure.

Chu Jin had been encamped at this crossroads for a long time, and her fortune-telling was extremely accurate.

Word spread from one to ten, ten to a hundred, so gradually she gained some fame.

Every afternoon, there would be a few fortune-seekers who had heard about her.

There were also some local residents.

"Young lady, are you that Master Chu?" A middle-aged woman stood in front of Chu Jin with a smile.

The middle-aged woman was dressed in finely made silk clothing, with golden, gleaming chains on her ears and neck.

It looked like she came from a wealthy family.

Mo Qianjue frowned slightly. So, was she actually a fraudster and swindler?

The good impression he had of Chu Jin was gradually vanishing.

She was young; how did she come to be involved in such... things?

"Yes, yes," the little loli hurriedly nodded, huffing and puffing as she climbed onto the small stool next to Chu Jin, lifted her little head proudly, and said, "Auntie, my Jin bro is Master Chu, she's super amazing."

"Oh my, Master Chu, I've finally found you," the middle-aged woman said excitedly as she took Chu Jin's hand.

She had heard that Master Chu was a young girl but never imagined that in person she would look so young.

It was indeed true that appearances can be deceiving, and the sea's depth unfathomable.

"Master Chu, you must save my son," the middle-aged woman's eyes reddened instantly as she clutched Chu Jin's hand and refused to let go for a long time.

She had heard that Master Chu's divination was incredibly accurate and was sure he could help find her son.

"Please, don't be hasty, take your time to talk," Chu Jin helped the middle-aged woman sit down on a chair and calmed her emotions.

Only then did he say, "What has happened to your son?"

At the mention of her sorrow, the middle-aged woman's tears flowed again as she cried and said, "My son has gone missing! He hasn't been home for two days, Master Chu, you must help me, they say you have vast magical powers, you must be able to find my son."

Chu Jin slightly frowned, a person gone missing?

Shouldn't this be reported to the police?

"Did you report to the police?" Chu Jin asked.

Upon hearing this, a peculiar glint crossed Mo Qianjue's eyes, realizing this charlatan did have some morals.

At least he could remind the victim to report to the police.

"I reported it, I did," the middle-aged woman nodded, "but the police wouldn't take the case,"

At this point, the woman became indignant as she said, "They claim to be public servants! Benefiting from the people yet failing to serve, knowing only how to eat without working, they won't even look for my son when he's gone..."

It was truly a tale to wrench the heart and draw tears.

The sight made the little lolita's eyes turn red too, as she reached for a tissue, stood on her tiptoes, and gently wiped away the tears on the middle-aged woman's face, consoling, "Auntie, don't be sad, Brother Jin will definitely help you find your big brother."

With an issue like a missing person at stake, the police wouldn't take the case?

That doesn't make sense, right?

Chu Jin thought so but seeing how distressed the middle-aged woman was, he didn't voice his thoughts and instead continued, "If that's the case, then let me divine for you. But I still suggest that you report to the police, a missing person must be handled by the authorities."

"Yes, yes, yes." Hearing Chu Jin say this, the middle-aged woman saw a light and hope, "Master Chu, then please, trouble yourself for my sake."

"By the way," the middle-aged woman paused before continuing, "Master Chu, how do you charge for your services?"

As Chu Jin shuffled the cards, he replied, "One thousand yuan per divination."

"Okay, no problem. Then, Master Chu, let's make it quick, shall we? I'm afraid if we're any later, my son might never see me again," the woman said.

Because she was inquiring about his whereabouts.

Chu Jin simply set up a Universal-type spread of cards.

"Please draw one card."

The middle-aged woman rubbed her hands nervously and uncertainly said, "I have long heard that Master Chu's divination methods are unlike anyone else's, and indeed, it is true. But can these ordinary cards really divine where my son is?"

Before Chu Jin could speak, a crisp child's voice immediately rang out in the air, "Auntie, rest assured, my brother Jin is really using legitimate Tarot cards, fair to both young and old, no charge if it's ineffective."

Chu Jin nodded in agreement, "Exactly."

"This child is so cute," the middle-aged woman reached out and stroked the little lolita's head, then turned to Chu Jin, "Is she your sister?"

Chu Jin said with a smile, "Yes, she's my little sister at home."

Mo Qianjue's lips twitched from where he was hidden.

He certainly didn't have such a big daughter!

Letting go of her doubts, the middle-aged woman carefully chose one from the pile of Tarot cards.

Reversed: Two of Cups.

On the card, a man and a woman faced each other, each holding a cup in their hands.

They held their cups at the same height, symbolizing equal trust.

The sky was very clear, and behind them stood a house amidst the trees.

The middle-aged woman was asking about her son's whereabouts, yet the card did not show any trace of offspring between her and her husband.

Chu Jin looked at the card and slowly began, "You and your husband have been married for twenty years, both of you have strived for twenty years, starting from scratch. Until now, you have amassed considerable wealth, but unfortunately, because you've both been so busy with your careers, you haven't been able to have even a single child..."

Chapter 152: Familiarity

Hearing this, Mo Qianjue's lips curled up in a smile.

It seemed that the girl's skills in deception were not very sophisticated. The woman clearly said she had been looking for her missing son for over a decade, yet she insisted the woman had no children.

Wasn't she ruining her own reputation?

This young lady really was adorably foolish.

Just as Mo Qianjue was about to turn away, he heard the middle-aged woman's astonished voice, "Oh, Master Chu, you're truly amazing! How could you even predict that? No wonder everyone says you're gifted, it seems I really didn't come to the wrong place today."

Mo Qianjue stopped in his tracks, the mocking look in his eyes slowly fading away.

The little lolita also looked at the middle-aged woman with bewilderment.

This aunty must be a fool, her words did not line up at all.

Chu Jin raised an eyebrow slightly and continued, "Your son, is actually... a dog?"

The middle-aged woman nodded her head hastily, "Yes, yes, yes! Master Chu, you're absolutely right. My son is a purebred Husky."

Chu Jin: "..." It turned out that getting lost was something only a Two Ha could manage.

Didn't the internet say that if a Two Ha lost its way it could go to the police station to report itself?

Was that all just for show?

About hyping up Two Has?

Mo Qianjue hadn't expected the situation to take such a turn.

He also hadn't anticipated that a young girl could give him such a shock.

He had thought she was just a street con artist, but it turned out she really had some abilities.

Hearing the middle-aged woman's words, the little lolita was completely astounded!

Hey, wait!

She had just called a dog 'big brother'?!

Her own silly bread at home had never been given such treatment, and now it had been squandered on a stupid dog that couldn't even find its way home!

Seeing that Chu Jin didn't speak, the middle-aged woman's expression changed and she said anxiously, "Master Chu, you wouldn't also give up on him because my son is a dog, would you? I beg of you, you must help me find my son, I'll give you ten thousand yuan!"

"You don't need to worry, all things in this world are equal, every life comes into this world with its own mission to complete, rest assured, I will not discriminate against it because of species."

All things in this world are equal?

Mo Qianjue's expression changed slightly, a bright light flashing in his beautiful phoenix eyes.

The corners of his lips also unconsciously rose a few more degrees.

Chu Jin continued, "Moreover, a deal was made for a thousand and I will not take a penny more from you."

The middle-aged woman immediately asked, "So where is my son now? Is he hungry? Is he cold? Has he lost weight?"

At that moment, the little lolita somberly interjected, "Aunty, I think what you should be most worried about right now is whether your son has turned into a plate of braised dog meat and ended up as someone's side dish for drinks."

Upon hearing this, the middle-aged woman's expression changed, wailing, "Oh no, my son, if anything happens to you, mom won't want to live either..."

"Peng Ge, no mischief!" Chu Jin reached out to pinch the little lolita's nose.

"Aunty, rest assured, your son is fine," Chu Jin turned to look at the middle-aged woman.

"Really? Then where is my son now?" the middle-aged woman asked, looking up in joy.

Chu Jin glanced at the Tarot cards and continued, "You keep walking along this road, go straight until the next intersection and turn, then walk straight on. You will see a snack street ahead of you. Find the Lanzhou noodle shop there; your son has been taken in by the owner of the shop."

"Okay," the middle-aged woman said, hastily wiping away the tears on her face, "Really? I know that snack street, I will go find my son right now."

After saying that, she counted out ten banknotes from her wallet, "Master Chu, here, this is your payment."

At the same time, a notification from the system rang in Chu Jin's mind, "Ding! 2% Faith Value harvested!"

Chu Jin smiled as she accepted the money the middle-aged woman handed over, "Thank you."

After saying goodbye to Chu Jin, the middle-aged woman headed in the direction Chu Jin had indicated.

Chu Jin watched her departing figure, her pupils slightly contracting, "Auntie, wait a moment."

The middle-aged woman stopped in her tracks subconsciously, "Master, is there anything else?"

Chu Jin placed the Tarot cards on the table, stepped forward to the middle-aged woman, and gently brushed off her shoulders with her hand, "It's nothing, Auntie. It's just that there was some dust on your shoulders."

Whether it was an illusion or not, as Chu Jin brushed her, the middle-aged woman felt a considerable relief, as if her shoulders suddenly became much lighter.

It felt as if Master Chu was not brushing away any dust but knocking off the massive weight that was pressing down on her shoulders.

Chu Jin then said, "After you find your son, Auntie, try to get home early and do not linger near the water at all costs."

Seeing the serious look on Chu Jin's face, the middle-aged woman nodded earnestly, "Got it, Master Chu. I understand."

At this moment, Mo Qianjue could no longer simply describe his expression as shocked.

He had not expected such a young girl to possess such profound skills.

Even more impressive was her ability to maintain her kindness and hold on to her original intentions.

She did not become arrogant due to her own abilities.

The middle-aged woman just now had been marked by a water ghost. Had she come within half a step of the water, she would have drowned.

Not only did Chu Jin discreetly remove the mark from the woman's shoulders, but she also made no mention of her life-saving action.

Human life, after all, is much more valuable than that of a dog's.

Who exactly is she?

Now, Mo Qianjue was even more curious.

Why did she give off an inexplicable sense of familiarity to him?

It looked like he would have to observe her more, Mo Qianjue thought to himself as he leapt up gracefully, turning into a silhouette and alighting onto the high branches of a plane tree.

He lay half-reclined on a branch, one hand supporting his head, the other resting casually on his waist.

Squinting slightly, he looked down at the large and small figures below the tree.

He appeared indolent yet enchanting.

Those features, more stunning than a woman's by threefold, would amaze anyone who saw them.

Paired with his languid posture, he was devastatingly beautiful.

A new customer had come to the simple stall under the tree.

A middle-aged scavenger dressed in tattered clothes.

Mo Qianjue had originally thought Chu Jin would refuse the scavenger, but to his surprise, he heard the girl's clear voice, "Uncle, please have a seat. Is there something you would like to ask?"

Chapter 153: Pessimistic

"No, no," the middle-aged man looked at Chu Jin somewhat uneasily, "I'm dirty, and I'm afraid I'll make your chair dirty if I sit down."

He hadn't had a proper bath in several days, and he had only mustered the courage to come for a divination after scraping together some money.

The middle-aged man was acutely aware of his own circumstances; he knew he was dirty and smelly, so he tried not to trouble others as much as possible.

When he encountered those who were well-dressed and glamorous, he would subconsciously avoid them, and over time, this led to a feeling of inferiority.

Although he felt inferior, he hadn't forgotten his true self.

"Please sit down," Chu Jin, helping the man's arm, wanted him to sit down, but he was reluctant.

He quickly withdrew his arm, "Master, I'm dirty..."

"Uncle, you have to sit down for divination; otherwise, it won't work. Besides, my chair isn't clean anyhow, unless you think my chair is beneath you," Chu Jin feigned anger.

Upon hearing Chu Jin's words, the middle-aged man carefully sat down on the chair.

He felt both panic-stricken and anxious.

Chu Jin tried to alleviate the man's nervousness and looked up to ask, "Uncle, there's no need to be nervous. What would you like to find out today?"

"I, I, I," the middle-aged man's lips trembled, "I don't even know what I want to find out..."

He had gradually lost hope in life, he didn't even know where he was supposed to go next.

It seemed as if society no longer had a place for him.

His future was bleak.

In the first half of his life, he lived brilliantly, every day immersed in luxury, with many people revolving around him.

But later, when his wealth had dissipated, all those who used to cluster around him drifted away.

The only one that stayed was an old dog that had accompanied him for years.

Regrettably, not long ago, the dog passed away too.

Before it died, he hadn't even managed to feed it a bit of meat.

Such a foolish dog, even when he had fallen on hard times, it still foolishly followed behind him.

He couldn't chase it away no matter how he tried.

He thought about dying too, but something within him refused to give up.

Chu Jin lifted his eyes to look at him, "How about I predict your future fortunes for you?"

"Fortunes?" the middle-aged man let out a bitter laugh, "What kind of fortune could someone like me possibly have?"

He didn't even know where his future lay.

Chu Jin pulled out two bottles of mineral water from his backpack, handed one to the middle-aged man, and gave another to the little girl.

Then he continued.

"You can't say that, life is full of variety. Everyone's life experiences are different. It's only after you've weathered great storms that you grow. No one's life is smooth sailing. Even Zhu Yuanzhang, the founding emperor of the Ming dynasty, lived as a beggar during the most destitute time of his life. Nobody can tell what the future holds. Your life is only half over; there's still a long way to go," he said.

The little girl unscrewed the water bottle to take a sip, her chin propped in her hands, and stared at Chu Jin with a look of fascination.

Gosh, what Jin said makes so much sense.

But the smell from this uncle is so unpleasant; she wondered how Jin could bear it.

Mo Qianjue, perched in the tree, also squinted his eyes, reaching out to block the sunlight streaming through the leaves.

Encouraged by Chu Jin's words, the middle-aged man tugged at the corner of his mouth and smiled, "Is that so?"

This was the first time someone had spoken to him like this since he had become a scavenger.

And it was the first time in a long while that he had directly conversed with someone.

Before, he could only talk to the old dog that followed him.

After the dog left, he became completely mute.

Chu Jin unscrewed the mineral water bottle the little lolita had opened and took a sip, "Of course, I see that your sky palace is full, and your facial features are well-defined. As long as you work hard, you will certainly make a comeback one day."

"Then... could you please read my fortune? I apologize for the trouble, master." The middle-aged man carefully opened the bottle of mineral water Chu Jin had handed him, took a gentle sip, and licked his somewhat dry lips, "Thank you for the water, master."

Mo Qianjue's interest was piqued higher up in the tree. He really wanted to see, what would the little girl do next?

Looking at the scavenger, he must be unable to afford the fee, right?

Moreover, this scavenger has closed his heart and has already lost faith in humanity.

How would she unravel his inner knot?

Chu Jin smiled, "You're welcome, now please choose a card."

For the matter of fortune, she still laid out the Universal-type spread.

The middle-aged man wiped his hands on his sleeve before carefully selecting a card.

Upright: The Ace of Pentacles.

The Ace of Pentacles represents a beginning, it might be a brand-new start, or the beginning of a new situation within a certain state.

There's a flourishing courtyard at the bottom of the card, surrounded by a fence to avoid the cold wind, with a path extending beyond the courtyard, leading to distant hills.

Two meanings from one card.

One is hope, the other, belonging.

Looking at the card, Chu Jin slightly squinted and said, "You were once a highly successful and wealthy person. It's a pity that later on, some changes occurred that led to your family breaking apart and friends becoming distant. However, every cloud has a silver lining. If it weren't for this change, you might never have seen the true faces of those with ulterior motives around you."

Having long heard of Master Chu's prophetic skill, the middle-aged man did not show much surprise on his face upon hearing this.

Not a ripple crossed that sallow face.

He just gave a bitter laugh, "Master, you're right, all those so-called family and friends are complete bullshit!"

Back then, he thought he had everything—a host of friends, family, a wife, a son.

In the end, he realized all he had was money.

Once the money was gone, his wife could remarry, his son could take another surname!

He was just a joke.

He was a complete failure.

"Well, you can't really say that, uncle. With that one sweep, you've killed quite a few people," Chu Jin smiled.

The middle-aged man looked up, slightly puzzled, "Master, what do you mean by that?"

Chu Jin continued.

"I can tell from your accent that you're not from Capital City, right? You haven't been back to your hometown for a long time, have you? And you don't have any siblings; you're an only child, aren't you?"

Ever since his business failed and his family fell apart, he had never returned to his hometown. It wasn't that he didn't want to, but that he was too ashamed to.

In the past, he would drive fancy cars back to the village and donate money to help them build bridges and roads.

Everyone said he had made something of himself and hadn't forgotten his roots despite his wealth.

Now, having become a needy scavenger, he had nothing to donate to them anymore.

He believed that no one would remember him anymore.

Once a person has no money, they lose everything.

The middle-aged man nodded, "Yes, my hometown is in a small village in Southern Hunan. It's very beautiful and quiet there. It's just that... I have nothing now, and I can't go back."

As he said this, his voice gradually became hoarse, and his eyes dimmed bit by bit.

"Uncle, you're too pessimistic," Chu Jin frowned slightly, "Your thinking is too extreme. Actually, not everyone in this world is bad, and not everyone has abandoned you."

The middle-aged man looked at her, not understanding, "Master, are you joking? I've already lost my wife and son, and even my best friends have left me. And you say not everyone has abandoned me?"

Chapter 154: Wake-up Call

Chu Jin smiled faintly, her jade-white fingertips touched the bottom of the "Ace of Pentacles" card, and her red lips parted slightly, "For example, the people here."

At the same time, Chu Jin took out the energy crystal from her backpack, and under the sunlight, the transparent Crystal Ball emitted a strange light.

Seeing the Crystal Ball, Mo Qianjue's pupils shrank, and his lazy posture disappeared in an instant as he shot up and sat on a branch.

A pair of phoenix eyes stared intently at the Crystal Ball, darkness swirling in the depths of their gaze.

An energy crystal actually appeared in the world...

The middle-aged man stared at the Tarot card, rubbing his eyes in disbelief.

After making sure it wasn't an illusion, he widened his eyes and focused intently on the card.

To others, that Tarot card might just be a lifeless object, but to him, it revealed the homeland he yearned for in his dreams.

In an ordinary peasant's small courtyard.

"Wang Dama, what are you busy with?" A peasant woman pushed the gate open and walked into the yard with a smile, carrying a heavy load of cooking oil and rice in her hands.

In the courtyard, an old person with white hair knelt on the ground, peeling corn,

Seeing the visitor, she immediately stood up, "Director, you've come."

The old lady looked to be over seventy, hunched over with a face full of wrinkles, appearing extremely old.

Time had left too many marks on her body, moving anyone who saw her.

The middle-aged man's eyes reddened instantly upon seeing this scene, and he called out with a throat choked with emotion, "Mother..."

This "Mother" was laden with too much feeling.

It was a pity that the person on the card couldn't hear it at all.

"Wang Dama, I brought some rice and cooking oil and other daily necessities for you," the director said, carrying the items into the house.

"And us." The wooden door was opened again, and a group of simple villagers came in, some carrying a pumpkin, some vegetables, and some rice in their hands.

In any case, not a single person came empty-handed.

"Thank you all for your kindness, but I can't accept these things," the elder said gratefully, "Chunsheng's father and I can still work, so I can't take your things. I deeply appreciate your good intentions," she said, bowing deeply to the villagers.

"Wang Dama, we've all heard about Chunsheng's situation. Don't worry; he will be fine. He's such a good person; he will definitely get through this difficult time. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have survived till today..." As she spoke, the woman began to cry.

"Exactly, if it weren't for Chunsheng, our village wouldn't be what it is today. When he had money, he didn't forget our village. Now that he's in trouble, we cannot forget him! Wang Dama, please accept our token of appreciation."

"Wang Dama, on the days when Chunsheng isn't by your side, consider me your son. I will take care of you two elders for Chunsheng! Until the day Chunsheng returns."

With the man's words, the villagers behind him started to shout out as well.

"Right! From now on, we are all your sons!"

"We will wait with you for Chunsheng to come back."

The atmosphere was infectiously moving, with almost everyone's eyes tearing up.

The honest villagers, who only ever knelt to heaven and earth, were now kneeling for the first time before an old person in her twilight years.

"Mother!" A unified shout broke out, completely overwhelming the old lady's emotions. She burst into tears, tears streaming down her face, and she was about to kneel down in gratitude, "Thank you... thank you..."

A thousand words ultimately condensed into a single thank you.

True affection exists in the world.

The scene gradually faded, and the Tarot card turned back into a regular Tarot card.

But the person standing in front of the Tarot card was already in tears, heartbroken.

He didn't realize that there were so many people in this world waiting for him to return.

At that moment, he was filled with both regret and relief.

Regret that he hadn't returned sooner, causing his elderly mother such worry and even troubling the villagers with concern.

Relief that he truly hadn't been abandoned by the entire world.

There was once a saying,

While parents are alive, there is a path forward in life.

When parents pass away, one is only left with the journey home.

Now, he deeply understood the true meaning of those words. He had to seize the opportunity to make amends while he still could, striving to live a life without regrets.

"Uncle, don't cry, wipe your tears," the little lolita tugged at the middle-aged man's clothes, stood on tiptoe, and handed a tissue to the middle-aged man.

Even though the uncle was a bit dirty, he was crying so sadly that the little lolita still kindly offered him a tissue.

The middle-aged man took the tissue and roughly wiped his face, thanking the little lolita with a hoarse voice.

He couldn't wait any longer, the middle-aged man suddenly lifted his head, "Master, thank you for your timely awakening. I'm preparing to go home now."

Chu Jin smiled, "It's good that uncle has figured it out. In fact, what in life can't be overcome?"

"Master, this is for your divination fee." Saying this, he took out a red plastic bag from his pocket containing some fifty-cent, one-yuan banknotes and coins.

Chu Jin looked at the money, her eyes slightly red, and for a moment, she forgot to speak.

At the same time, the sound of the system's notification rang in her mind, "Ding! You have gained 5% Faith Value!"

Seeing her reaction, the middle-aged man immediately explained, "Master, don't worry, this money didn't come from anything improper. It's all from selling recyclables. If you think it's not enough, leave me your card number, and once I'm back in the countryside, I'll find a way to transfer more to you."

Chu Jin looked up and accepted the money from the middle-aged man, "It's enough, it's enough."

Seeing the girl accept the money from the scavenger, a flash of displeasure crossed Mo Qianjue's eyes.

However, before the displeasure in Mo Qianjue's eyes completely faded, the girl's voice rang out again, "Uncle, wait a moment."

She called out to the middle-aged man who was about to turn and leave.

The middle-aged man turned back, puzzled, wondering if the master had realized the money was not sufficient and was about to give him her card number.

"Uncle, I've taken your money," Chu Jin took out all the cash from her backpack and handed it to the middle-aged man, "This five thousand yuan is my investment in your startup capital. After you've successfully started your business back home, remember to pay me back double. My surname is Chu, and I'm here doing readings every day."

"Master Chu, you've already helped me a lot. I can't accept this money!" the middle-aged man looked at Chu Jin gratefully. Even though he desperately needed the money, he couldn't accept it without any reason.

"Take it," Chu Jin insisted, pushing the money into the middle-aged man's hands, "This money isn't just a giveaway; consider it a loan from me. When you make it big, just remember to pay me back, that's all."

Teardrops that the middle-aged man had been holding back surged forth once more, overwhelmed with emotion.

It turns out the world really is filled with sunshine.

"Thank you, Master Chu!" The middle-aged man bowed deeply to Chu Jin, "I will remember your kindness in my heart."

Mo Qianjue, perched in the tree, watched the delicate figure below with a leisurely gaze.

The tranquility in his narrowed phoenix eyes was increasingly disturbed.

The sense of familiarity she brought to him also grew stronger.

Whether it was her voice, her silhouette, or the distinctive, noble aura she exuded, impossible to ignore.

Where, exactly, had they met before?

Time passed quickly; there were constantly people coming for readings and just as many leaving.

Some left joyfully, while others departed with faces full of sorrow.

Mo Qianjue slowly figured out Chu Jin's approach to giving readings; she seemed to charge based on the person's appearance.

Elegantly dressed wealthy individuals were charged two thousand per reading.

Those in average attire, the petit bourgeoisie, were charged a thousand.

Modestly dressed middle-class individuals were charged five hundred.

There were also some laborers from the lower classes, who were only charged fifty.

And some elderly people were almost not charged at all.

For scavengers like the one just now, she even paid out of her own pocket.

The sky was growing darker, and the streetlights were gradually coming on. Chu Jin was ready to pack up her stall.

But the little lolita beside her showed no signs of wanting to go home.

"Bao Bao, you should take the bread and go home now," Chu Jin crouched down and pinched the little lolita's cheeks, reminding her.

"I don't want to go home," the little lolita clung to Chu Jin's neck, her big eyes fluttering with a pleading expression, "Jin Ge, I want to go home with you."

With her lips pouting and her big eyes shimmering, her soft and adorable look was hard to refuse.

"That won't do," Chu Jin shook her head, "Your daddy will worry. Hurry and take the bread and go home, okay? Good babies have to be obedient."

Chapter 155: Night Market

"Jin Bro, I haven't been to your house yet, can I stay at your place for a night?" the little Lolita swayed Chu Jin's head, cooing, "Let me go home with you, tomorrow is Saturday anyway, no school, Jin Bro, just say yes..."

Up in the tree, Mo Qianjue: "..."

He had originally thought it was Chu Jin who was hanging around the little Lolita and leading her on, but it turned out that it had always been his own daughter who wouldn't let the other girl go.

And she even had the nerve to invite herself over to their home.

"What about your daddy then? He'd be so worried not seeing you!" Chu Jin reached out and playfully scraped the little Lolita's nose, "Hurry back home, and don't let daddy worry."

The little Lolita had a sudden idea, "Jin Bro, does it mean that as long as my daddy agrees, I can go home with you?"

Chu Jin nodded, "Yeah, sure, as long as your daddy agrees, Jin Bro will take you home."

"Alright!" The little Lolita cheered happily, "Jin Bro, lend me your phone, I need to call my daddy."

Chu Jin silently took out a white mobile phone and handed it to the little Lolita, secretly marveling, the kid's IQ is really high, not only can she talk the talk, but she can also remember such a long string of phone numbers.

"Jin Bro, what's the password?"

Since the last time he lost his phone, Chu Jin had set a password for his new one.

"895623."

Soon, Mo Qianjue's phone in his pocket started ringing, and since the distance was quite far, there was no need to worry that the two people under the tree would hear his voice.

Having had some bias against Chu Jin, his opinion had gradually changed after an afternoon of getting to know him.

Even, he had started to appreciate him from the bottom of his heart.

So, when he received a call from the little Lolita, Mo Qianjue agreed without hesitation, and even instructed her to be good and not cause any trouble.

The little Lolita was so happy she could jump for joy; she had not expected her daddy to agree to her request so easily.

Initially, she had just thought about quietly saving Jin Bro's phone number.

This was an unexpectedly pleasant surprise.

The little Lolita also mimicked Mo Qianjue's tone of voice and instructed.

"Daddy, I love you, then I'll go home with Jin Bro, you stay well at home, don't be naughty and make a fuss, and don't miss me, okay."

Mo Qianjue watched the jubilant figure below the tree.

His deep eyes were pitch black, as if, it was time to find a mother for the little Lolita.

The child, she really lacked maternal love.

Which led to her calling anyone she met "mommy."

"Jin Bro, then let's go home," the little Lolita said excitedly, pulling Chu Jin's hand forward after packing up the stall.

She could finally fulfill her wish of going to Jin Bro's home.

Yes, the plan to abduct Jin Bro was successfully advanced another step!

"Let's go," Chu Jin also took the little Lolita's hand, "First, let's go eat, then we'll go to the shopping mall to buy you a set of clothes to change into."

In this hot summer, surely a bath at night is necessary.

"Star, what do you want to eat? Today Jin Bro is treating," Chu Jin continued asking.

Upon hearing the word 'eat,' the little Lolita's mouth started watering, her eyes sparkling, "Jin Bro, I want to eat spicy crayfish, spicy rabbit heads, and sour and spicy pig's trotters..."

Chu Jin nodded, "Okay, Jin Bro will satisfy you, but you can't eat too much spicy food; it'll cause a sore throat. You're just a kid, why do you have such a heavy taste?"

Hmm, her taste was quite similar to his.

It seems they really were meant to be.

"Jin Bro, I love spicy crayfish the most, I like all the spicy foods, it's just that daddy doesn't let me eat too much at home. Today I have to eat to my heart's content!"

"Okay okay, let's hurry," the two of them, a little hand in a big hand and vice versa, walked towards the nearby food street.

Bread trailed leisurely behind them.

The scene looked exceedingly harmonious.

After their figures had disappeared from sight, Mo Qianjue jumped down from the tree.

His clothes fluttering in the wind, as if walking across snow.

On his way back, Mo Qianjue attracted the screams of boys and girls alike, turning heads; at first, people thought a film crew was shooting a scene.

They mistook him for some top-tier celebrity, with some young girls shyly approaching him for an autograph.

Mo Qianjue felt a headache coming on as he touched his forehead, thinking that he probably should have obscured his appearance a bit.

Facing the adulation of the young girls, Zhao Yiling's figure suddenly came to Mo Qianjue's mind—truly, where there is no comparison, there is no harm.

Zhao Yiling was oblivious to her own beauty.

Yet these people treated her like a celestial being, each one eager to throw themselves at her.

With this in mind, Mo Qianjue's vision once again conjured up the image of Chu Jin. If she stood in front of that girl, would she be as lovesick as the girls before her?

Decide to marry no one but him in this life?

Meanwhile, the trio—a tall, a short, and a dog—had stopped in front of a distinctive lobster restaurant.

Since pets were not allowed inside, the two found a spot to sit outside.

Because the business was booming, tables and chairs were also set up outside.

No sooner had they taken their seats than a waiter approached, "Hello, what would you two like to eat?"

Together, they looked at a menu. Fortunately, all the dishes the little loli had mentioned earlier were available, "Large portion of spicy crayfish, spicy rabbit heads, sour and spicy pig's feet, and some stir-fried vegetables. Then tomato and egg soup. Brother Peng, what drink would you like?"

The little loli's gaze lingered on the ice cream in the drinks section. Chu Jin saw her intention and nipped her dream in the bud.

"Brother Peng, eating ice cream while eating spicy food will give you diarrhea."

Upon hearing this, the waiter curiously glanced at the two, finding their way of addressing each other... strange.

"Okay, then," puffed the little loli, "Just strawberry juice."

Chu Jin closed the menu, "Two strawberry juices as well, thank you. That will be all."

"Alright, please wait for a moment."

"Wait, please," Chu Jin called after the waiter as she turned to leave.

The waiter immediately stopped, turned around, "Do you need anything else?"

"Just a moment," and then she turned to the little loli, "Brother Peng, what kind of bread would you like?"

The bread under the table immediately let out a cooperative whine.

Bread: You two foolish humans have finally thought of me. Bread's heart is bitter, but bread does not speak.

Only then did the waiter realize there was a big dog under the table, startling her into stepping back.

"Don't worry, sister, our Bread doesn't bite," the little loli immediately explained with a raised gaze.

"Well, Brother Jin, let's get Bread twenty chicken legs first, then cut ten pounds of well-done beef."

The waiter beside them: "..."

Who said it doesn't bite!

That appetite is almost on par with a tiger's!

Thinking this, the waiter silently stepped back a few paces.

The business was extremely good. As soon as their dishes were served, the previously empty tables around them were now full.

Inside and outside the restaurant, there was not a single empty seat.

On a summer evening, with spicy crayfish, cold drinks, a cool breeze, dear friends, and a big dog, life was truly pleasant.

Bread was enjoying the feast under the table, while the tall and the short were relishing their food above.

The scene looked harmoniously normal.

As soon as the spicy crayfish was served, the little loli immediately put on her disposable gloves, her dewy eyes almost sparkling with stars.

Chu Jin quietly swallowed the offer to help her peel the shrimp.

Clearly, she had underestimated the little loli's combat skills. By the time she had peeled her first shrimp, the little loli had already silently finished three.

"Wow, so spicy, so exhilarating!" While fanning herself with one hand, the little loli continued to stuff her mouth with spicy rabbit heads.

Her small face was flushed and hot, speckles of sweat appeared on her forehead, and her face was smeared with some red chili oil.

Chu Jin looked at her amusedly, "Eat slower, no one's competing with you."

As she spoke, she wiped her face with a napkin.

"Brother Jin, there's also dirt on your face," the little loli pulled out a napkin and wiped Chu Jin's face. It would have been fine had she not wiped, but that one wipe turned a drop of chili oil on the corner of his lip into a long streak.

His fair and jade-like cheek was marred by this red streak, ruining its inherent beauty.

It looked rather comical, yet it also had a distinct grace.

"Alright, alright," the little loli carelessly tossed the napkin aside without looking up, "Brother Jin, let's eat the shrimp."

On the other side of the night market.

"Big Brother, we rarely come out, let's go eat something?"

Chapter 156: Just call me Peng Ge is fine

A young man and woman walked together along the alley lined with various food shops.

The man had a tall figure, bronze skin, and angular facial features that were extremely sharp, with a heroic bearing. His features were handsome, with starry brows and piercing eyes, and he had a high recognition factor, projecting a tough and rugged image.

The woman was petite and exquisitely delicate, with a beauty that seemed to glow like the moon. Her skin was fair, and she wore a purple dress that highlighted her graceful demeanor.

They were clearly two people with different styles, but upon closer inspection, it became apparent that there was a certain resemblance between them.

"I came here on military duty," the man glanced at the woman beside him and reminded her in a low voice.

"What military duty!" The woman rolled her eyes at the man, "That's not as important as eating. There's a lobster restaurant ahead that's really good. Let's go there."

Having said this, she grabbed the man's wrist and ran toward the bustling lobster restaurant, "Song Shiqin, let's hurry, that place is really popular, and if we're late, there won't be any seats left."

The man shook his head helplessly, but he could only jog to keep up.

Women really are the most troublesome creatures, needing makeup when they go out, and food when they shop.

Indeed, by the time the two arrived at the lobster restaurant, the waiter informed them that the place was full and they would need to queue.

The man was on military duty and naturally needed to conceal his identity, unable to flaunt his status overtly.

"It doesn't matter if there's no room inside, we can sit outside and eat," the woman said nonchalantly.

"I'm sorry, madam, but the outside is also full," the waiter apologized.

"So what do we do?" the woman asked in frustration, "We're in a hurry and definitely can't waste time queuing and waiting for others to finish their meals."

"If you're in a rush, why don't you see which table has fewer customers and consider combining tables?" the waiter suggested.

"Okay, okay, that works. Let's go outside and have a look," the woman said happily as she pulled the man and headed outside.

"Song Shiqin, I see that there are only two people seated at that four-person table over there, why don't we combine tables with them?"

The man frowned slightly as he looked around at the noisy environment, "Do you have to eat lobster from this restaurant?"

A little noise isn't really a problem.

The key issue was that there were actually people casually picking their feet while eating crayfish.

The man's face was gradually turning darker.

"Song Shiqin, I know you don't like interacting with strangers, but just this once, please?" the woman pleaded, shaking his arm, "The lobster here is really super delicious, trust me."

The man pursed his lips and didn't speak, exuding an aura of implicit authority that didn't quite fit in with the noisy crowd.

The woman pointed at one of the tables among the many diners and said, "Song Shiqin, I'm begging you, just this one time, look, it's over there..."

The man glanced subconsciously in that direction, his pupils constricted slightly, and a spark of light flashed in his deep eyes.

"Let's go," said the man who had originally intended to leave, suddenly changing his decision and walking in that direction.

The woman followed him ecstatically. Ah, Song Shiqin was too easy-going today.

"Song Shiqin, I tell you, once you've eaten the lobster from this place, you'll want to eat it a second time," she promised.

Meanwhile, Chu Jin was dealing with the second portion of spicy crayfish served by the waiter along with the little girl, Linglong.

Red crayfish shells had already piled up beside them.

The server glanced at the two people eating heartily and was a bit amazed.

The appetites of the pair, one big and one small, were quite astonishing.

"Excuse me, may we join your table?" Suddenly, a pleasant female voice rang in his ear.

Chu Jin subconsciously looked up and saw a young woman in her twenties. Although she sported a neat bob cut, she had a lovely air about her, with striking features, and the purple dress she wore suited her complexion well.

Her eyes were curved in a friendly manner, making her appear approachable.

"Hello," Chu Jin smiled back at the woman.

It was then that he noticed the man beside her—Song Shiqin, a military general he had recently collaborated with.

It was unexpected to find the prominent general so down-to-earth, dining here.

Just as he wondered whether to greet Song Shiqin, the general spoke, "Miss Chu, I trust you've been well."

Chu Jin was not surprised that he knew her surname and raised her brows slightly, "Mr. Song, I trust you've been well, too."

"Oh, so you two know each other!" Seeing them interact, the woman immediately pulled out a chair and sat down, "Since we're all friends here, I won't stand on ceremony."

Saying that, she picked up a crayfish and quickly peeled it, starting to eat without any hesitation.

Song Shiqin smiled apologetically at Chu Jin, "This is my sister, Song Yu. She's always been a bit brash, I hope Miss Chu won't mind."

Wow.

This was the first time her brother had ever formally introduced her to anyone; this sister must be someone special.

Song Yu lightly lifted her eyes and subtly glanced back and forth between the two.

When she got back, she definitely had to tell her dad and grandpa the good news that the eternal bachelor had finally seen the light and knew how to flirt with girls.

This was indeed great news.

On the side, Little Ling also felt a deep sense of crisis for her daddy.

What's with this weird uncle?

Hey! Don't they know Chu Jin is hers?

Poor daddy, he hasn't even made his move, and there are already several rivals.

No, she must safeguard Chu Jin!

When it's time to act, she must act.

Alas, for a father who's not up to snuff, her heart was really burdened.

Little Ling raised her head, her gaze traveling several times between Chu Jin and Song Shiqin, and she plotted in her heart.

"Mr. Song, please don't stand on ceremony, have a seat," Chu Jin said, pointing to a chair nearby.

After they sat down, Chu Jin called the waiter over and added a few dishes.

"Beauty, what's your name, and how did you meet my brother?" While peeling crawfish, Song Yu asked.

Chu Jin slightly raised her eyes, "My name is Chu Jin, Chu of Chu River and Han Border, Jin of a beautiful landscape."

"That's a really nice name, then can I call you Jin Jin from now on?" Song Yu looked up, excited.

This was the first girl who had contact with her brother; she must be reserved, treat her nicely, and not scare her away.

"Sister," Chu Jin was about to speak when Little Ling's voice filled the air, "Sister, you can't call my mommy Jin Jin, okay? Everyone who knows her calls her Big Bro Jin, so you should too."

Chu Jin: "..." She responded with a smile that was awkward yet polite.

This child really didn't forget to bring up this topic no matter where she went.

Little Ling lifted her cute little head, her round eyes staring unblinkingly at Song Yu.

Her chubby little face was smeared with some red oil, making her look soft and cute, irresistible to bite.

Song Yu's heart was about to melt, just as she was about to reach out and lovingly pinch Little Ling, she suddenly realized something and stared at her with widened eyes, "You, you, you... what did you just call her?!"

Mommy!?

She didn't hear that wrong, did she!?

Hey! She wouldn't have thought Chu Jin, looking so young, could have such a big kid, right?

Was there a chance for her brother?

Song Shiqin was also surprised. Based on the information he found, Chu Jin was just 18 years old that year.

And this Little Ling looked at least 6 or 7 years old.

Calling her mommy?!

Is that really appropriate?

"Call her mommy?" Little Ling seemed quite pleased with Song Shiqin and Song Yu's reactions.

How dare you even think of hitting on Big Bro Jin? Don't you know she's been booked by me?

Song Yu first pointed to Little Ling and then to Chu Jin, "You call her mommy? That can't be right!"

"There's no mistake, oh," Little Ling slid off the stool with a swish and climbed onto Chu Jin's lap, pursing her shiny little lips and planting a kiss on Chu Jin's face, "Big Bro Jin is going to be my mommy!"

A luminous mark instantly appeared on that pale, jade-like cheek.

"Sorry about that, the kid is a bit naughty," Chu Jin said with a smile to Song Shiqin and Song Yu, "This is a little sister from my family."

"Hey, no problem at all," Song Yu waved her hand nonchalantly. She thought so, Chu Jin looked so young, how could she have such a big child?

"Hmph," Little Ling pouted discontentedly and challenged Song Yu, "Just wait, Big Bro Jin will become my mommy sooner or later."

Now, she and Big Bro Jin were good buddies!

"Hahaha," Song Yu was amused by Little Ling's antics, "Such a cute kid, what's your name, and how old are you this year?"

"My name is Peng Ge, and I'm six years old," as she spoke, Little Ling's eyes swiftly flickered, "Sister, you don't have to call me brother, just Peng Ge is fine."

Chu Jin: Hey! What to do if I want to laugh?

This little rascal had even learned to draw inferences, and to keep herself from laughing, Chu Jin quickly peeled a shrimp and put it in her mouth.

"Peng Ge?" Song Yu believed it without a doubt and praised, "What a nice name, really nice, who named you?"

Chapter 157: Disgust

The little Lolita slid off Chu Jin's body, huffed and puffed up onto the chair, grabbed a shrimp without lifting her head, and said, "My future mommy gave me the name."

If she didn't get off Jin's body soon, there probably wouldn't be any crayfish left for her. This sister seemed soft and frail, but she was unexpectedly strong in battle!

The four of them sat together, chatting and laughing, the atmosphere was quite harmonious.

But most of the time, it was the little Lolita and Song Yu conversing, with Chu Jin occasionally joining in.

Every so often, Song Shiqin would glance at her, and under the dim yellow light, the girl's features appeared somewhat hazy.

Like most of the diners, her face also had a bit of grease on it, but it didn't affect her overall facial features, instead, it added a different kind of charm.

Chu Jin was probably the most unique girl Song Shiqin had ever seen.

Unlike the noble ladies he had met before, she was brave and graceful, agile, sharp-tongued, courageous and resourceful, and her ability to take action was not inferior to that of a man.

Also, this was the first time someone didn't care about his gaze and gorged herself in front of him, without the slightest concern for her image.

Maybe it was because he had seen too many noble ladies putting on airs, but Song Shiqin found this real Chu Jin even more captivating.

"You guys go ahead and eat, I'm going to the washroom," Song Shiqin greeted everyone and then headed inside the crayfish restaurant.

Song Yu naturally knew what Song Shiqin was thinking, "Go ahead, men are such a hassle."

The meal lasted for about two hours. When Chu Jin went to the service counter to settle the bill, she was told that a gentleman had already paid for it.

Chu Jin understood. It must have been Song Shiqin who paid while he went to the washroom.

She wouldn't have thought that a military man like him could be so thoughtful.

However, she didn't have much of a relationship with him, and it felt quite awkward to mooch off a meal from him out of the blue.

Moreover, the price of the meal was a bit... high.

Chu Jin used Alipay to exchange some cash with the waiter.

By the time she got to the table, everyone was getting ready to leave, "Mr. Song, this is for today's meal,"

Chu Jin handed the money to Song Shiqin.

But Song Shiqin made no move to take it, simply smiling, "Miss Chu, you are too polite. It's just a meal, I can afford it."

"That's right," Song Yu chimed in, "Jin Jin, just keep the money. My brother won't take it. It's fate that we all could sit down and eat together..."

Hearing them say so, if she insisted further, it would seem a little pretentious, "In that case, thank you for your hospitality, Mr. Song."

Song Shiqin lowered his gaze at the girl before him, "You're welcome. If Miss Chu really feels bad about it, you can return the favor next time."

"Alright," Chu Jin smiled slightly, "If there's a chance, I will definitely treat Mr. Song and Miss Song to a meal."

Hey, wait! At this rate, are the two of them going to watch a movie together next?

No way, no way, she must not let this happen. The little Lolita tugged at Chu Jin's hand and cooed, "Jin, let's hurry home, Pengpeng is so sleepy."

"Okay," Chu Jin reached out and rubbed the little Lolita's head, then looked up at Song Shiqin and Song Yu, "Excuse me, I need to go now, goodbye."

Song Shiqin nodded slightly, "Go ahead, oh," he paused, then added, "Your smartphone is still with me, I'll send it over when I'm free."

Song Shiqin's mention made Chu Jin almost forget about it, "Okay, then I'll trouble Mr. Song."

After all, she had lost her phone while helping him catch Dick, so it was only right for him to deliver it.

After saying this, she left with the little Lolita, followed by a huge dog.

Watching the two leave, Song Yu squinted her beautiful eyes, "Third brother, what's your relationship with Jin Jin?"

Sometimes Song Shiqin was really envious of the friendship between girls. Song Yu had only known Chu Jin for a few hours, and she could affectionately call her 'Jin Jin.'

But he had known Chu Jin for several days now and was still stuck with formalities like 'Mr.' and 'Miss.'

"Nothing much, just ordinary friends," Song Shiqin said in a low tone, his voice as calm as ever, revealing no fluctuations.

Song Yu raised her eyebrows, "Like I'd believe that!"

If there was nothing much between them, could he just casually take another girl's smartphone?

She was not that easy to fool!

However, judging from the way things went, Chu Jin really didn't seem to have any feelings for her brother.

So her brother was the only one hot-headed about this?

Faced with Song Yu's questioning, Song Shiqin replied indifferently with six words, "Think what you want."

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Chu Jin took the little girl to the children's clothing store, bought her a set of pajamas, then a skirt, and a suit.

By the time they returned to the Zhao family villa, it was already past eight in the evening.

As they approached the entrance, they encountered Zhao Yiling coming towards them.

"Little sister is back," Zhao Yiling greeted proactively, her mood evidently quite good.

"Yes, back," Chu Jin responded indifferently and, leading the little girl and Pengpeng, headed inside the house.

The sky outside was growing dark.

Once inside, Zhao Yiling saw the little girl and Pengpeng by Chu Jin's side and her face paled in shock, retreating several steps, "What are those!? How can you bring such a messy bunch of things home!"

Messy bunch of things?

This aunt really doesn't know how to speak, the little girl pouted, but considering she was Jin's sister, she'd forgive her.

"Sister, I'm not a thing, my name is Pengpeng, I'm Jin's good buddy," she said, then pointed to Pengpeng, "This is Pengpeng."

Pengpeng immediately barked and wagged its tail at Zhao Yiling.

The friend of a friend is a friend, Jin is such a good person; she believed his sister couldn't be too bad.

"Sister, what's your name?" the little girl took a couple of steps towards Zhao Yiling and extended her chubby little hand, "Jin's sister is also my sister, let's shake hands."

Looking at the little girl's extended hand, Zhao Yiling frowned slightly, glanced at the little girl, and with a hand covering her nose and pointing at her, said with disgust, "Don't come any closer! You're filthy! Smells like cooking oil, trying to fumigate me to death?"

She had just had a SPA that afternoon!

And she certainly had no time to shake hands with a child, especially one so dirty.

Who knows where this kid came from, probably some poor, dirty backstreet.

The little girl's hand froze in mid-air, looking at Zhao Yiling somewhat confused and hurt.

She didn't like this sister at all; she was nothing like Jin, so they definitely weren't born of the same mother.

Chu Jin stepped forward, took the little girl's hand, and met Zhao Yiling's gaze, "Pengpeng is my guest, cousin, don't scare her."

The little girl instinctively gripped Chu Jin's hand tighter, yes, Jin was the best.

Zhao Yiling huffed, "Birds of a feather flock together."

Trash will be trash, always mingling with these lowlives.

"And this dog? Is it also your guest?" Zhao Yiling continued, "Little sister, I see you're getting more audacious by the day, daring to bring anything home. The Zhao family is not some kind of shelter where any cat or dog can enter. Do you even know how many germs are on that dog, how many diseases it might carry? What if it bites someone?"

"Pengpeng won't bite anyone; it's very well-behaved," the little girl couldn't help but retort.

"Well-behaved?" Zhao Yiling glanced disdainfully at the little girl and said, full of loathing, "Have you not heard the saying, 'A dog can't change its habit of eating poop,' and you too, stay away from me, who knows how many germs are on you!"

She simply didn't deserve to stand next to her, coming out of the slums!

She was utterly degrading her own value!

The little girl was about to explode with anger!

This woman was really too mean!

It was bad enough to say she was dirty, but to falsely accuse Pengpeng of eating poop!

Their Pengpeng hadn't even found a wife yet!

Pengpeng whimpered pitifully and nudged Chu Jin's waist with its head.

Chu Jin knew that Zhao Yiling was not a good person, but she didn't expect her to be so snobbish.

To be able to say such hurtful words in the face of such an adorable little girl and a cute large dog was beyond her expectations.

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "Cousin, rest assured, I won't let it bite you. I will take them to their room now, good night."

With that, Chu Jin held the little girl's hand and headed upstairs.

Chapter 158: Falling into Water

Meanwhile, on the other side.

A middle-aged woman, dressed in splendid attire, was leading a husky towards the residential area opposite them.

The night was deep, and the dim streetlights cast a long shadow of the woman and her dog.

"Son, you can't run off like this again," the middle-aged woman said as she walked, looking down at the husky beside her, "Mommy's been so worried these past few days. If it weren't for Master Chu, I might never have seen you again in my lifetime."

The husky didn't seem to understand, merely letting out a low 'woof' in response.

She led the husky into the residential compound.

The woman and her dog walked on without incident.

However, when they reached a fork in the road within the complex, the middle-aged woman halted, hesitant about which path to take underfoot.

Both paths would lead her to the building where she lived.

One of the paths was a shortcut, about 5—6 minutes by foot to her home.

The other was a route leading to a newly developed Phase Two building project. It was not only a significant detour to her home, but also eerily quiet due to the recent development, with few people around.

On any normal day, she would have chosen the shortcut without hesitation.

But today, she hesitated because, the shortcut would take her past an artificial lake.

Chu Jin had told her not to linger by the water today.

While she was still undecided, Two Ha suddenly wrestled free from the leash, running crazily towards the shortcut like an arrow released from its bow.

Completely wild!

The middle-aged woman's face turned pale as she shouted urgently, "Son, come back!"

The husky, as if it hadn't heard her, continued to run onward.

As the husky ran further and further away, the middle-aged woman couldn't worry about anything else and hastily chased after it, she had already lost her "son" once and couldn't afford to lose him a second time!

The husky ran frantically, as unresponsive to its owner's calls as though something in the darkness was beckoning it.

The darkness grew denser, and as the middle-aged woman chased after the husky, she failed to notice that there was not another soul on the riverside path.

A chilling wind whipped around, causing the willow trees to sway back and forth.

As it ran, the husky's pace started to slow.

It even looked back at the middle-aged woman.

Seeing the husky had stopped, the middle-aged woman also slowed down and, bending over with hands on her knees, she gasped heavily. The intense running had her heart pounding relentlessly, "Son...slow down! You're tiring Mommy out!"

The middle-aged woman failed to notice the sharp teeth Two Ha revealed towards her, now eerily resembling a cold, mocking grin.

It was disconcerting and sent shivers down one's spine!

By the time the middle-aged woman caught her breath and straightened up, the husky that had been by the roadside had vanished without a trace.

The middle-aged woman, now alarmed, started calling out loudly, "Son! Son! Don't scare Mommy! Son!"

Just then.

A 'splash' sound echoed, signaling something falling into the water.

At the same time, ripples began to spread across the previously still surface of the artificial lake, as the husky struggled frantically by the shore, its silhouette eerily glistening in the moonlight against the water.

"Son!" Realizing her beloved dog had fallen into the lake, the middle-aged woman was near tears as she ran towards the lake.

At this point, she could no longer concern herself with anything else. Her mind went blank with only one thought: to rescue the husky from the water.

She was beyond rational thought.

"Son..." The middle-aged woman reached the river bank in one breath and reached out to grab the husky's tail that was visible above the water.

Just as her hand was about to touch the husky's tail, something bizarre happened.

The husky, which had been thrashing about, suddenly stopped struggling, and the tail that had been visible above the water vanished instantly.

The surface of the lake returned to calm, as if nothing had happened—the eeriness was indescribable!

The middle-aged woman turned pale, Chu Jin's words echoing in her ears. Just as she thought to pull back her hand and flee from the water's edge,

She found herself rooted to the spot, unable to move!

At the same time, an invisible hand seized her wrist with a vice-like grip, immediately leaving five red marks!

'Splash,' the middle-aged woman fell headfirst into the lake!

In truth, the artificial lake was not deep, only about a meter. Yet, after the middle-aged woman fell in, she found herself utterly unable to stand, as if five or six hands were simultaneously pressing down on her legs, on her body!

This forced her to flail desperately in the water, with cold lake water pouring relentlessly into her ears, nose, and throat!

"Hey, brother, did you hear any noise?" On the other side of the lake, two security guards, one plump and the other thin, were patrolling with flashlights in hand.

"What noise?" The plump security guard asked, somewhat perplexed.

The thin security guard's expression tightened, and he moved his ear slightly, "Someone has fallen into the water!"

Having said that, he quickly ran towards the artificial lake.

The plump guard followed reluctantly, muttering discontentedly, "Making a fuss over nothing, always looking for trouble!"

**

The Zhao family.

Zhao Yiling watched Chu Jin's retreating figure as she ascended the stairs, her gaze falling on the red Blood Jade Bracelet on her wrist, her features slowly twisting.

Her beautiful eyes turned cold.

"Chu, who was that sister just now? I don't like her at all," the little loli complained to Chu Jin as soon as she entered the room.

"She's my cousin, don't worry, she wouldn't dare to bully you with me around. Just ignore her," Chu Jin consoled her, rubbing the little loli's head.

He knew that the little loli had been somewhat shaken tonight.

Such an adorable loli, facing rejection and disdain for the first time, surely felt upset.

"Hmph! Anyway, I just don't like her!" The little loli pouted, expressing her dissatisfaction.

The bread sitting on the floor whined in agreement, as if echoing the little loli's sentiment.

"Right!" Chu Jin mimicked the little loli's sentiment, "We don't like her!"

"I like Chu the most!" The little loli wrapped her arms around Chu Jin's neck, thinking to herself, Ah, if only Chu were her mommy!

It's a shame her daddy was so inept, he couldn't even woo a girl!

Chu Jin handed his phone to the little loli, "I'm going to run your bathwater, you play with the phone for a bit."

"Okay."

Once Chu Jin had entered the bathroom, the little loli immediately rolled around in bed a couple of times, excited at the prospect of sharing a bed with Chu tonight.

So, by the time Chu Jin had finished running the bathwater and came out, the little loli was already fast asleep on the bed.

Bread lay under the bed, its head resting on its chubby paws, with a pair of black, shiny eyes rolling around, the expression one of helplessness and cuteness.

Chu Jin shook his head helplessly and gently picked up the little loli. As he reached to unbutton her clothes, the little loli's eyes suddenly snapped open, her hands instinctively grabbing Chu Jin's, her voice full of wariness, "Chu, what are you trying to do?"

Chu Jin was a bit stunned, "To undress you for a bath."

Upon hearing this, the little loli's face quickly blushed red, and she said, somewhat shyly, "No, no, I can do it myself..."

Having had no mother since she was little and with Mo Qianjue being of a different gender, the little loli had to do many things on her own.

Things like dressing, bathing, and undressing, she'd been handling herself since she was three years old.

If she were to stand naked before Chu, she'd still feel embarrassed.

"Oh, our Peng is feeling shy now!" Chu Jin teased, pinching her cheek, "You silly girl! What's there to be shy about? I had a cousin who was 8 years old and still needed her mom to bathe her."

"But I don't have a mommy," the little loli said, tilting her cute little head to look at Chu Jin, her large eyes misting up.

Chu Jin's heart gave a painful clench.

Indeed, such a young child without a mother was bound to be more mature than other children.

"Chu, why don't you be my mommy instead? I really like you. I've never seen what my mommy looks like, and daddy never talks about her, but I think, my mommy should look just like you, you are my mommy."

The little loli waited with her big, hopeful, dewy eyes fixed on Chu Jin.

Chu Jin ruffled her hair, "Let's go, it's time to bathe. Didn't we agree you'd be a good boy?"

Little loli: Another failure. At this rate, when will I successfully bring Chu home?

Time flew by quickly.

By the time the two had finished bathing, it was already past ten at night.

A big and a small figure cuddled together in bed, their breathing shallow, as they enjoyed a night of sweet dreams.

Since the next day was Saturday, Chu Jin exceptionally indulged in sleeping in, not getting up until nine in the morning before taking the little loli to freshen up.

When they came downstairs, Zhao Yiling was preparing to leave, dressed up to the nines, seemingly ready for an important meeting.

"Mom, I'll be going then. Enjoy your meal," said Zhao Yiling, downing the glass of milk handed to her by a servant in one gulp.

Li Ruyu caught sight of Chu Jin descending the stairs and said, "Alright, Ling, make sure you have a good chat with President Mo from Jun Ao's company, and remember, invite him to our house for a visit tomorrow, understood?"

Chapter 159: Leave room for maneuver

"That little slut has latched onto the Shang family, hasn't she?"

Her Ling'er is not bad either, Jun Ao may be a notch below the Shang family, but it is also a well-known group in China mainland.

What's more important is that her Ling'er is the lifesaver of the president of Jun Ao Group.

Just on that point, she can't compare to Ling'er at all.

Could that little slut even invite the president of the Shang family to her home as a guest?

I bet the Shang family decided to invest in Chu Group out of respect for that short-lived ghost, Chu Liyan!

Her Ling'er's got real talent!

"I know, Mom, don't worry, President Mo and I have a life-saving bond, and he has long said he wanted to visit our home, it was me who stopped him from coming," said Zhao Yiling as she raised her eyes to glance at Chu Jin, then continued, "Well, I'll be going now, see you later, little sister."

Chu Jin's lips curled slightly, ignoring her provocation, and said indifferently, "See you."

President Mo of Jun Ao?

If she remembered correctly, Jun Ao ranked third in the business standings on China mainland.

This Zhao Yiling's got some capability indeed.

With the little girl and bread in tow, Chu Jin directly passed through the living room and left the Zhao family villa.

Li Ruyu's face looked somewhat displeased.

This little slut's guts are really getting bigger by the day, not only daring to bring all kinds of improper things back to the villa, but now, when she sees me, it's like she doesn't see me at all, not even bothering to greet me!

She's become increasingly unruly!

Forget it, forget it, she's going into the coffin soon anyway! I won't stoop to her level!

With the little girl and bread, Chu Jin walked towards a breakfast shop she frequented.

The little girl took a bite of the meat bun and was filled with happiness, "Jin bro, these buns are really delicious."

The bread at her side also whined in agreement.

Chu Jin thought: This silly child can't possibly be eating meat buns for the first time, can she?

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Elsewhere, at the Mo family.

Zheng Chuyi sat in the living room waiting for Mo Zhixuan to return. It had been several days since she last saw him, ever since the day he used Bone Eroding Water to solidify the Blood Jade Bracelet, she hadn't seen him since.

Considering the days, the bloodlust of the Blood Jade Bracelet should have been cleansed by now, and he should be back.

She was still waiting for him to give her the Blood Jade Bracelet.

Thinking this, suddenly there was a noise at the door, footsteps!

Zheng Chuyi's heart pounded, she lifted her hand to adjust her hair, then lowered her gaze to check her bosom.

Today, she was wearing a low-cut red dress, her chest heaving mightily, revealing a tantalizing cleavage.

The footsteps got closer, and Zheng Chuyi's excitement grew.

"Zhixuan," Zheng Chuyi looked up with a smile, which then froze on her lips, and the brightness in her eyes gradually dimmed as she turned to the newcomer with some disappointment, "Oh, it's Qingyi who's back."

"It's me," Mo Qingyi picked up an apple from the coffee table, nibbling on it as she spoke, "What? Were you waiting for my brother?"

Zheng Chuyi smiled sweetly, speaking softly, "I haven't seen Zhixuan for days. Qingyi, do you know where he went?"

"Who knows," Mo Qingyi said, seemingly nonchalant, "He might have gone to find his fiancée, huh. What's the use of dressing like that? My brother still doesn't fancy you!"

Tsk tsk tsk!

Wearing a low-cut dress? Thinking of seducing her brother with her beauty?

What a pipe dream.

Mo Qingyi had always been at odds with Zheng Chuyi, so whenever she got the chance, she loved to torment her.

This had become one of her daily interests at the Mo family.

Zheng Chuyi knew that Mo Qingyi was intentionally targeting her.

But, so what?

As long as Mo Zhixuan's heart had room for her, that was enough. Once she became the mistress of the Mo family, she would definitely marry off Mo Qingyi, this lowly secular person, far away, so that she could never get close to the Mo family again!

"Qingyi, what you're saying isn't right," Zheng Chuyi's lips curled into a smile. "I knew your brother before you were even born. We grew up together like childhood sweethearts, and I hope you can let go of your prejudices against me sooner rather than later. Otherwise, it would put Zhixuan in a difficult position between us."

"If my brother likes you so much, why would he be engaged to someone else?" Mo Qingyi raised an eyebrow. "Do you know that what you're doing now is shameful? This is called interfering in someone else's relationship, being the third party."

Zheng Chuyi's hand hidden in her sleeve tightened, and deep anger flashed across her face, yet she dared not show it.

Last time, the old lady of the Mo family had made it clear to her that if she caused any trouble, she might really not be able to stay at the Mo family any longer.

For Mo Zhixuan, she just had to endure!

If this were in the Superpower World, someone like Mo Qingyi, a lowly secular person, would have died hundreds of times over!

How dare a mere secular person speak to her like this!

"Qingyi, after all, we are going to be family," Zheng Chuyi affectionately took Mo Qingyi's hand. "It's not good to be too absolute in what you say. Haven't you heard the saying? Leave some leeway, so you'll have room to meet in the future."

"Speak if you want to speak, but don't touch!" Mo Qingyi drew her hand back with some disgust, raising an eyebrow. "Oh, I'm really sorry, but I just like to be very definitive. You want to become part of the family? Heh, wait and see if you'll have that chance in your next life."

Zheng Chuyi's face turned pale with anger. She had thought that if she lowered her stance, this secular person would slowly accept her.

She had not expected to be treated with such disrespect!

When had she ever had to speak humbly to someone from the secular world?

Had this been in the past, such a mere secular person wouldn't even be qualified to carry her shoes.

She hadn't expected that, here, she would have to endure the insolence of a secular person!

Once she secured her position as the head mistress of the Mo family, she was determined to claim back today's humiliation, with interest.

"What are you glaring at me for!" Mo Qingyi glared back at her. "What I say is the truth, just think about it — you dress up and flutter around my brother every day, has he even given you an extra glance?"

Zheng Chuyi clenched her fists in humiliation!

Since this secular person was being so ungrateful, there was no need for her to continue pretending.

"What does a lowly secular person like you understand!" A cold chill flashed in Zheng Chuyi's beautiful eyes, and her stunning features twisted slightly. "One day, you will regret what you said today!"

With that, she flung her sleeves and strode out the door.

Since Mo Zhixuan wasn't coming back, she had to go to him herself.

Lowly secular person!?

Mo Qingyi narrowed her eyes as she watched Zheng Chuyi's retreating figure. Calling her a lowly secular person, who did she think she was?

Zheng Chuyi, this fairy, was still hopelessly throwing herself at her brother!

Her mother really made a mistake by keeping such a woman at the Mo family!

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Leaving the breakfast shop.

The little girl happily patted her belly. "Wow, I'm so full, Jin, the buns here are so delicious."

Just then.

Chu Jin's phone suddenly rang, showing a string of unfamiliar incoming call numbers.

Chu Jin hesitated for a moment, then slid to answer. A sweet female voice immediately came through, "Hello, is this Miss Chu?"

"Hello, I am."

"Miss Chu, hello. I am Ai Na, the special assistant to President Mo of Jun Ao Group. The reason I'm calling is to discuss with you. Does Chu Group, under your name, have any intention of selling? We at Jun Ao can offer you..."

Ai Na hadn't finished her sentence when she was interrupted by Chu Jin, "I'm sorry, I'm not selling Chu Group."

Chapter 160: Threat

In the past few days, she had received countless calls from Jun Ao, from self-claimed managers to vice presidents, and now even a special assistant had joined the fray.

Their sole purpose was one: to acquire the Chu Family business.

Chu Jin couldn't figure it out; Jun Ao was such a massive corporation - why did they take an interest in the Chu Family? What kind of trickery was behind all this?

"Miss Chu, please don't be hasty in rejecting us," Ai Na paused before continuing, "Our President Mo is willing to purchase the Chu Family at a high price and is willing to offer five times its actual value. Are you sure you don't want to consider it?"

Five times the actual value of the Chu Family?

That was an astronomical figure.

Jun Ao was willing to pay such a significant amount to acquire the Chu Family - what could their ulterior motive be?

Chu Jin slightly narrowed her eyes and then said, "Miss Ai Na, I appreciate your company's kind offer, but I must make it clear that the Chu Family is my father's life's work. Even if your company were to offer ten times the price, I would not sell it. Please stop calling me in the future."

Ai Na chuckled lightly, "Miss Chu, don't speak too absolutely. As I understand it, you have just started your senior year of high school, and it is a crucial time for your studies. Even though the Shang family has already bought shares in your company, I believe the future does not look that bright for you. Oh, by the way,"

Ai Na paused again, then continued, "I heard that Miss Chu is currently preparing to bid for the JK collaboration, right?"

Chu Jin naturally sensed the implicit threat in Ai Na's words. She pursed her lips and remained silent.

Ai Na pursed her lips into a smile, "I forgot to mention, Miss Chu, the head of JK is an old friend of our President Mo..."

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "Miss Ai Na, are you threatening me?"

Ai Na picked up a glass of red wine from the office desk and swirled it lightly, "Not really a threat. You people from Hua Nation value civility before force, right? Since Miss Chu is not receptive, I have no choice but to employ this last resort."

"Furthermore," Ai Na continued, "the Chu Family is currently in a growth phase. If we at Jun Ao wanted to bankrupt the Chu Family, there are truly many ways to do so. Miss Chu, if you do not want to waste all your efforts, I suggest you think carefully about what I've said today while I still have enough patience."

It was true that Chu Family was in a period of development, and even when it was rising rapidly, with Mo Qianjue's methods, making a company disappear was very simple.

If Chu Jin had any sense at all, she would understand the consequences of this matter.

Standing in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, Ai Na's confident gaze shone with self-assurance.

As she waited for Chu Jin to compromise, a clear voice reached her ears.

"I hate being threatened the most. Miss Ai Na, since it has come to this, I believe there is no need for us to continue this conversation. Goodbye."

As soon as she finished speaking, Chu Jin hung up the phone, her clear peach blossom eyes flashing with complex emotions.

In her previous life, the Shen Group had collaborated with JK, and Jun Ao had not interfered with the matter.

In this life, would Jun Ao really join the bidding for JK just to acquire the Chu Family?

What exactly was Jun Ao up to, and why were they so set on acquiring the Chu Family?

What was the hidden agenda behind all this?

On the other side, Ai Na looked at the hung-up call with a slightly annoyed expression, the brightness in her eyes dimming bit by bit. She had thought that after talking to such extents, Chu Jin would surely compromise.

But she turned out to be unyielding.

They say that people from Hua Nation are cunning and crafty, with deep schemes; indeed, it seemed true.

It was really surprising how someone so elusive could have been portrayed as a useless person before!

'Knock, knock, knock' – In the midst of Ai Na's irritation, a series of knocks came from outside the door.

"Come in."

"Sister Ai Na," dressed in a white uniform, Ai Lin came in, "The Chief asked you to see him."

Seeing that it was Ai Lin, Ai Na let go of her facade, massaged her temples somewhat wearily, and said in a tired voice, "Understood. I'll be right there."

Seeing Ai Na like this, Ai Lin asked with some concern, "What's wrong, don't you feel well?"

Ai Lin had worked with Ai Na for many years, both as Mo Qianjue's competent special assistants, but this was the first time Ai Lin saw Ai Na with such an expression.

"It's nothing." Ai Na smiled at Ai Lin, "By the way, did the Chief say what he needs me for?"

Ai Lin shook her head, "I don't know, but the Chief doesn't look too well. Be careful when you talk to him."

"Okay, I got it. I'll head over now." After speaking, she put down the documents in her hand and walked out of the office.

At the top-floor office.

"Chief, you wanted to see me." Ai Na stood respectfully in front of Mo Qianjue's desk.

Mo Qianjue tapped his fingers on the desk, his expression dark as he spoke, "Have you obtained the contract for the acquisition of Chu Family's business?"

This afternoon he was supposed to meet with Zhao Yiling.

He had intended to surprise Zhao Yiling today by bringing the contract for Chu Family.

Unexpectedly, several days had passed without any movement on the matter; was it really that difficult to acquire an obscure small group!

Ai Na's complexion changed, and she quickly bowed her head, "It is my incompetence. Please, Chief, punish me!"

She had never anticipated that acquiring Chu Family would be so thorny.

And she had never expected Chu Jin to be so difficult to deal with.

Everything had been beyond her expectations.

"Ai Na," Mo Qianjue lifted his gaze to look at her, the depth in his eyes unreadable, his beautiful lips parting slightly, "How many years have you been following me?"

Ai Na's complexion changed, and she spoke with a hint of panic, "Thirteen years."

"Good," Mo Qianjue smiled, but his eyes lacked any warmth, "Thirteen years and you can't even handle such a small matter. What use do I have for you? Is acquiring Chu Family that difficult? Haven't I said that you can offer the condition they ask for, even if it costs 10 billion, you must take down Chu Family?"

"Ai Na, you have disappointed me greatly!"

Ai Na's face drained of color, "Chief, I didn't expect the Chu family's daughter to be so tough! Please, Chief, punish me!"

"The Chu family's daughter?" Mo Qianjue narrowed his eyes slightly, "Could it be she has extraordinary abilities that we don't know of? Ai Na, don't forget, you are one of my most capable special assistants. Are you telling me that you are less capable than a teenage girl?"

Ai Na kept her head down, saying nothing.

As a failure, she had no right to defend herself.

"Enough," Mo Qianjue furrowed his brows and waved his hand dismissively, "You don't need to follow up on this matter. Return to Lawless City."

Return to Lawless City?

Ai Na's mind went blank, but she had no choice but to follow Mo Qianjue's order, "Yes, I understand!"

Having said that, she backed out of the office.

This time, she had truly disappointed Mo Qianjue.

"Ai Na sis, what happened? Why did you become so pale after just one visit to the Chief's office?" Ai Lin asked nervously.

Ai Na forced a smile, and recounted what had happened to Ai Lin.

Ai Lin's face showed disbelief, "You mean?... The Chu family's daughter? The notorious good-for-nothing?"

The accomplished business elite Ai Na had been defeated by a legend known for her uselessness!

That was just too exaggerated!

Ai Na nodded with a bitter smile, "Even you find it hard to believe, right? That Chu family's daughter is nothing like what our research indicated. To my knowledge, she also played a part in the Dick case that Song Shiqin was handling, and moreover, she was quite helpful to Song Shiqin."

The conversation with Chu Jin echoed in Ai Na's ears, and she continued, "This Chu Jin, she's definitely not as simple as we imagined."

Ai Lin's expression also turned grim. Something was gradually surfacing in her mind. She swallowed hard, trying to steady her voice, "Are you saying that the Chu family's eldest daughter... is not actually a wastrel... "

Ai Na glanced outside the window, "If she were a wastrel, then we would all be fools."

'Bang,' the realization in Ai Lin's head completely collapsed.

Still, she tried to calm herself down. After all, it was she who was tasked by the Chief with the search for the lifesaver.

It was she who told the Chief that the Chu family's daughter was a fool.

It was she who assured with confidence that the Chu family's daughter was incapable of saving the Chief.

Now, it seemed that the Chu family's daughter was anything but what they had thought!

What should she do!?

If because of her misjudgment the Chief had misidentified his lifesaver, the consequences...

She couldn't possibly bear them.

Ai Na was only being sent back to Lawless City for failing to complete her task.

Ai Lin suddenly looked up, "Ai Na sis, is the Chief meeting Miss Zhao this afternoon?"