

R Woman 501

Chapter 501: I am the rules

The person can leave, but their life stays.

Those chilling words made both of them shudder and they immediately stiffened, daring not to move.

At that moment,

a 'swish' sounded as an icicle shot past the heads of the two individuals and directly pierced into the door frame ahead, severing someone's hair and leaving it drifting through the air.

The atmosphere was oppressively tense.

Mu Xianxian swallowed nervously as she exchanged glances with Doctor Zhang, both of them seeing terror in each other's eyes.

Then, the two of them shakily turned around.

Doctor Zhang's forehead was already covered in cold sweat, and with a trembling voice, he said, "Nine Ye, what, what do you mean by this?"

"What do I mean? Do I still need to explain it to you? Didn't Mu Xianxian think that it was unnecessary for Nine Madam to rescue her? Since that's the case, let her leave her life behind," Mo Zhixuan gave him a glance, his deep eyes filled with chilling frost, his voice also as deep as it could be.

Every sign was pointing out.

Mo! Big! Master! Is! Angry!

The! Consequences! Are! Severe!

"I, I — Xianxian is young and speaks nonsense, Nine Ye, you are magnanimous, please don't take a child's words to heart..."

This rule about men not hitting women was set by Mo Zhixuan himself. Could it be that today, he would break his own rule? Would he really kill Mu Xianxian?

Doctor Zhang's face turned pale as he thought for a moment and then tried to speak lightly and sparingly.

"Nine Ye, to be honest, I came here today specifically to help you with your troubles. I did not expect that not only would you not appreciate it, but you would also insult me. Had I known it would be like this, I would not have come to this secular world no matter what..."

Doctor Zhang's voice weakened as he spoke, all the while stealthily gauging Mo Zhixuan's expression, fearful that he had said something wrong again.

Indeed, he had come today to help Mo Zhixuan, though with his own ulterior motives, as he had heard that Mo Zhixuan was about to take the highest position in the Superpower World, and furthermore, he had heard that Zheng Chuyi had also come during this extremely yin-filled night.

As long as Zheng Chuyi was present, Mo Zhixuan would surely get through the night safely, which was why he had hastily rushed over.

Just by being present tonight, regardless of whether he had been of any help to Mo Zhixuan, would be equivalent to successfully forging a connection with him, thereby owing Doctor Zhang a favor in the future.

Who would have expected that such an incident would arise?

It wasn't Zheng Chuyi who saved Mo Zhixuan but a person who defied heaven's will.

Had he known this would happen, he would not have gotten involved in this messy affair at any cost.

Now it seems, hoping for Mo Zhixuan to smoothly return to the Superpower World is hopeless.

"So, do you save the person or not?" Mo Zhixuan twirled the ring on his finger, slightly lowering his eyes with an almost imperceptible curve on his lips, his demeanor aloof and detached, seemingly beyond reach.

Such a person, no matter where they were born, would be like a lord who regarded the world as nothing more than playthings.

Chu Jin's wounds, at this moment, could only be healed by Doctor Zhang. Mo Zhixuan was very clear that his own medicines could only alleviate her pain.

"Nine Ye, this, this, this is putting someone in a difficult position, isn't it? It's not that I'm refusing, I truly am powerless..." Doctor Zhang's face showed his difficulty as he continuously wiped the cold sweat from his forehead with his sleeve.

"Alright, it seems that you really do not care for Mu Xianxian's life." As he spoke, Mo Zhixuan's finger moved slightly, and a 'swish'—an icicle flew from his palm, shooting directly towards Mu Xianxian's knee.

With a 'thump,' Mu Xianxian fell to her knees on the ground, letting out a pained moan, "Uncle... save me..."

"Xianxian!"

Doctor Zhang's expression tensed. He had not expected that Mo Zhixuan would actually take action against Mu Xianxian. In that moment, he looked at Mo Zhixuan with righteous indignation and spoke.

"Mo Nine Ye, people in the clan all call you Nine Ye out of respect, thinking of you as a hero both venerable and fearsome. But I hadn't expected that you would be such a faithless person. You established family rules that no man in our clan should bully the old, the weak, the sick, or women. Yet today, you actually attacked a defenseless young woman, violating your own family rules. I wonder, if word of this gets out, how will people in all three realms view you, Mo Nine Ye!"

Doctor Zhang's words were exceedingly righteous, repeatedly invoking the rules to make his case, and subtly pushing Mo Zhixuan into the eye of the storm. A tall man bullying a weak woman - if this were to spread, what sort of societal uproar would it create?

Someone with even slightly weaker mental fortitude would crumble under this pressure.

Unfortunately for him, his opponent was Mo Zhixuan.

"You speak to me of rules?" Mo Zhixuan lifted his gaze to Doctor Zhang, his lips curling into a cold smile. "Do you not know that I am the rules? Mu Xianxian has no respect for her elders, not giving her Ninth Aunt the slightest regard, deeming it unfilial! The Ninth Lady ignored her own safety to save her, but she was ungrateful, not only failing to repay the kindness but even slandering her benefactor, deeming it unkind and unjust. Such a petty person devoid of kindness, justice and filial piety, how can she be called a woman? A person like that is not worth mourning if dead. It's said, 'If the child is not taught, it's the father's fault.' Though you are not Mu Xianxian's father, you have been indulging her all the same. Her transformation into what she is today, you, her senior, cannot be absolved of responsibility!"

By the time he finished speaking, Doctor Zhang felt cold sweat cascade down his spine, even his hair trembling.

Unfortunately, there was not a single word he could refute in what Mo Zhixuan had said.

"Nine Ye, please calm your anger. I spoke out of turn just now and did not mean to offend you or the Ninth Lady. Please, forgive me." Doctor Zhang had no choice but to submit, immediately kneeling before Mo Zhixuan.

Mu Xianxian was frightened out of her wits, crouched on the ground, not even daring to breathe audibly, yet inside she seethed with resentment. How had Chu Jin stepped in such good fortune to win Mo Zhixuan's favor, even becoming her Ninth Aunt!

And to top it all off, Mo Zhixuan had saddled her with the hat of unfilial piety!

What a joke. She, a woman who had come out of the Superpower World, was expected to show filial piety to a commoner?

Wait and see. One day, she would make Chu Jin taste the humiliation she had suffered today.

Ninth Aunt, huh?

One day, that title would belong to her.

Mo Zhixuan's face was cold, and he said nothing, but his entire being emanated an aura of ferocity that sent chills down one's spine.

"Nine Ye, earlier I misdiagnosed the condition. Blinded by ignorance, the Ninth Lady's injury — I can heal it. I will go and treat the Ninth Lady right now and hope that you will spare Xianxian." With shaky steps, Doctor Zhang approached the bed, picked up the medical kit from the table, and took out a white cloth. He placed it on Chu Jin's wrist, and then, through the cloth, began to take her pulse.

At this moment, he couldn't care less about Heavenly Dao — next to his own life, Mu Xianxian's life held more importance. The Zhang family only had Mu Xianxian left as their sole descendant.

As seconds and minutes passed under Mo Zhixuan's supervision, Doctor Zhang carefully treated Chu Jin's injuries, evolving from initial nervousness to utmost proficiency.

After all, he was a doctor, and not just any doctor — he was highly skilled. Though Chu Jin's injuries were severe, Mo Zhixuan's prior treatment with medicine had stabilized her heart meridian, so his current care avoided a lot of unnecessary trouble.

About three hours later, Doctor Zhang pulled out the last silver needle from Chu Jin's temple, slowly exhaling, and respectfully said, "Nine Ye, the lady is now out of danger and should awake shortly."

Mo Zhixuan looked at him, his expression softening slightly, and simply said, "Thank you." He was not unreasonable; since Doctor Zhang had saved Chu Jin, he would treat him with due respect.

"It's what I should do," Doctor Zhang replied, a bit flustered, bowing continuously. Then he asked, "Nine Ye, since the Ninth Lady is much improved, may I and Xianxian take our leave first?"

At this moment, all Doctor Zhang wanted was to distance himself from this place, to get far away from Mo Zhixuan.

Although young, this man always radiated a sense of danger and oppression.

"Xunian," Mo Zhixuan lightly raised his hand and instructed, "Take them down to rest. Before Jin wakes up, these two must not step one foot outside the Mo family."

"Yes," Zhou Xunian nodded lightly and moved towards them, casting a sidelong glance, "Come with me."

Mo Zhixuan's words were clear — he did not trust them. This was, in effect, placing them under house arrest. A shadow of concern passed through Doctor Zhang's eyes, but a glint of light flashed in Mu Xianxian's.

As long as she could stay in the Mo family a minute longer, she was willing, no matter the reason.

Chapter 502: time remains young, the years are peacefully quiet

Doctor Zhang had no idea about the little schemes in Mu Xianxian's heart.

In Doctor Zhang's eyes, Mu Xianxian was still a child, so how could he have anticipated that she would set her sights on Mo Zhixuan?

If he knew that Mu Xianxian had actually set her sights on Mo Zhixuan, he would probably be scared to death.

Such a character, how could someone like Mu Xianxian afford to provoke?

The two followed Zhou Xunian out of the room.

"Brother Xunian, I'm sorry, I didn't mean it earlier, I was just confused and said those words, please, can you forgive me?" Along the way, Mu Xianxian tugged at Zhou Xunian's sleeve, softly pleading with him.

Mu Xianxian was clever, and through today's events, she also realized that the relationship between Zhou Xunian and Mo Zhixuan was extraordinary. If she completely fell out with Zhou Xunian, it wouldn't benefit her at all, so right now, she chose to make the first move and show submissiveness to Zhou Xunian.

Doctor Zhang followed behind, silent.

Zhou Xunian's face was stern, and he remained silent as well. From his expression, it was clear that his anger had not subsided.

It was a very heavy anger.

Seeing that Zhou Xunian did not respond, Mu Xianxian continued, "Brother Xunian, don't be angry, look, you've hit me and I'm hurt like this, can't you forgive me?" By the end, Mu Xianxian started to cry softly.

But Zhou Xunian kept a steady face, deeply angry and not paying any attention to Mu Xianxian.

Doctor Zhang, who could not bear to see his niece wronged, quickly interjected, "Xunian, after all, you are a man, and Xianxian has already admitted her mistake. Why must you keep holding on? The ancients said, 'Who can be without fault?' Especially since Xianxian is still a child. Look, you have hurt Xianxian's face so badly, and she's not holding a grudge, so why can't you let it go? As a man, is your generosity really smaller than a girl's?"

In Doctor Zhang's words, there was irony toward Zhou Xunian, suggesting he lacked the courage of a man, not a real man, without realizing where Mu Xianxian was wrong, and, in fact, he never thought Mu Xianxian was in the wrong.

If it weren't for the pressure of Mo Zhixuan, he would never have risked saving a person who defied the world.

Doctor Zhang continued, "Xianxian has always been spoiled since she was a child, her father and I have never had the heart to lay a hand on her. And today, you did this to her, don't you know that for a girl's family, her appearance is the most important? If the Elder of your family knew about this, do you think he would let you go?"

By the end, his tone was already threatening.

Mu Xianxian also squeezed out a couple of tears, "Brother Xunian, I really realize my mistake, I will never do that again, please forgive me..." She looked incredibly pitiable.

"Fine, Xianxian, don't be sad," Doctor Zhang said, comforting her from behind.

"The person you owe an apology to isn't me," Zhou Xunian suddenly stopped, staring straight at Mu Xianxian, "You owe it to Ninth Sister. I'm just disheartened on her behalf, she actually went out of her way to save a white-eyed wolf like you! Had I known, I never would have let her save you!"

Heaven knows how much Zhou Xunian regretted that foolish decision of his from back then.

Initially, he thought that Mu Xianxian's disrespect toward Chu Jin was just a child's temperament, and it would improve as she matured. However, it turned out that Mu Xianxian was such a person; only today did he see her true colors.

"Brother Xunian, it's not like that..." Mu Xianxian struggled to defend herself.

Zhou Xunian, looking at Mu Xianxian's face, felt nothing but disgust, suddenly raised his eyes to hers and spoke firmly, "Enough, from now on, you'd better just call me by my name. I cannot accept your address as 'brother.'" He had no use for such an ungrateful and disloyal sister.

Mu Xianxian's face changed in an instant, and after hearing Zhou Xunian's words, she knew their fraternal bond was utterly broken.

For the sake of that commoner, Zhou Xunian really dared to say anything!

This feeling... was truly uncomfortable!

Mu Xianxian's eyes flashed with reluctance, but she suppressed it and ran to catch up with Zhou Xunian, "Brother Xunian, I know I was wrong, I really know I was wrong, I won't do it anymore, please, can you forgive me?"

Zhou Xunian had already made up his mind to ignore her, so no matter how much Mu Xianxian begged, he remained utterly silent.

Passing through a long, winding covered walkway, they quickly arrived in front of a chamber. Zhou Xunian, expressionless, pushed open the door, "You two will stay here for the next few days. Food will be brought to you by the servants. If you need anything, just tell them." With that, he turned to leave.

The Mo family was no ordinary place, and Zhou Xunian was not worried that the two would attempt to escape.

On the contrary, they also lacked the ability to escape.

"Wait a moment," Dr. Zhang called to Zhou Xunian's retreating figure.

"What is it?" Zhou Xunian glanced back at him impatiently.

"We," Dr. Zhang rubbed his hands together, "when can Xianxian and I leave this place?"

"Didn't Ninth Brother say," Zhou Xunian replied, "after Ninth Sister-in-Law wakes up, you'll naturally be free to go. Don't worry, the Mo family won't starve you; just stay here comfortably." With these words, Zhou Xunian turned and left.

Mu Xianxian watched his back, her eyes filled with deep resentment.

This Zhou Xunian, how I misjudged him before!

In another room.

After Zhou Xunian, Mu Xianxian, and Dr. Zhang departed, only Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan were left in the room.

The girl lay there quietly, her complexion like jade, lips rosy as if painted, and long, curled lashes casting shadows on her cheeks. She looked peaceful and beautiful; one could hardly tell she had been severely injured.

A beauty like a painting.

These four words couldn't be more fitting to describe her.

Mo Zhixuan just watched her, his deep phoenix eyes reflecting her image. Shallow and faint, yet filled with light, his typically stern eyebrows softened slightly, and the corners of his mouth curled up unconsciously.

When one meets the right person, even the coldest of beings can become warm.

He willingly bent the knee for her.

A lifetime for one person.

With each glance, a marvel; with each step, a descent.

Before I met you, I never knew I had another side.

Suddenly, Mr. Mo reached out, gently touching her eyebrows and eyes, tracing them carefully.

How wonderful it is that time has not grown old, and the years are peaceful. For the rest of my life, I will protect her.

At that very moment, the girl who had been in a deep slumber suddenly opened her eyes. Seeing the man before her, she seemed stunned. Was she dreaming? She blinked, then opened her eyes again, and the scene before her remained unchanged.

Mo Zhixuan rubbed her head gently, seeing her puzzled expression, he asked with a hint of nerves, "You're awake? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

"Daddy Mo, you've finally come back alive, congratulations," Chu Jin suddenly sat up, wrapped her arms around his neck, and wept with joy. Finally, they had moved past this shadowy period.

In that instant, Chu Jin felt she was the happiest person in the world, setting aside all her troubles.

At this moment, besides being Chu Jin, she was no one else.

Mr. Mo was taken aback, then hugged her back, gently patting her on the back, his voice deep as he said, "Mhm, I'm back. I told you, I wouldn't leave you a widow."

In Mr. Mo's eyes, there shimmered warm tones.

Chu Jin, who had been immersed in her own world, broke out of it when she heard Mr. Mo's last sentence. The man before her was getting more skillful in flattering by the day, straying further and further from the cold and abstinent Mr. Mo she had known.

Chu Jin let go of him, stretched out her hand to pat his face, and said with a smile in her eyes, "Daddy Mo, it's shameful for an old bull to graze on young grass."

If anyone were present at this moment, they would have been shocked out of their wits by Chu Jin's action; she was certainly the first person in history to ever dare to pat Mo Zhixuan's face.

Chapter 503:

Daring to pat Mo Zhixuan's face is tantamount to touching a tiger's butt.

It is said that the last woman who dared to get close to him now has grass two meters deep growing over her grave.

Yet, Mo Zhixuan wasn't angry at all. His phoenix eyes were brimming with endless indulgence as he looked at her and slowly spoke, "Those who know me, Jin, also know how I like to 'eat' you."

Whoa! This conversation can't go on like this!

Despite having lived two lifetimes, this was the first time a man had ever flirted with her to this extent.

Love talk came naturally to him, which really didn't seem like something a novice in the matters of the heart would say. Chu Jin raised her eyes to look at him and countered, "Have you said the same thing to Zheng Chuyi before?"

Upon hearing this, Mo Zhixuan immediately put away the smile on his face and said seriously, "No, you are the first person for whom I'm willing to bow, and you'll also be the last."

Chu Jin looked him up and down and slightly raised her eyebrows, then lightly uttered two words, "Really?"

"Of course, I can swear! In this life, I will only be good to Jin alone, love only Jin! If there's half a lie in my words, let me live out my days alone, never to reincarnate!" To prove himself, Mr. Mo immediately raised three fingers and swore to the heavens.

He was very devout.

Perhaps even Mr. Mo had never imagined that one day he would meet a girl named Chu Jin and then have his heart stolen and his affections poured out for her.

In the past, Mr. Mo never took such trivial romantic affections seriously and even considered those who would swear to the heavens over so-called love, risking their own lives as a joke, to be utterly foolish and intolerable.

He never thought that one day he would become one of these commoners himself.

But this feeling wasn't bad at all.

He really liked this feeling.

Chu Jin didn't immediately drown in his oath, instead, she slightly arched her brows and her eyes glinted mischievously before she said, "What's all this 'Jin' talk? If you want me to believe you, call me 'Brother Jin' and let's hear it."

"Brother Jin." Almost without hesitation, Mr. Mo blurted out the words.

If it meant this vexing little demon before him would trust him, he would willingly call her his ancestor, let alone 'Brother Jin.'

Chu Jin dug at her ear, "Say it again, I didn't hear clearly just now."

"Brother Jin," Mo Zhixuan repeated.

"Ah, I still didn't catch it."

Mo Zhixuan helplessly smiled, this time raising his voice a few decibels, and continued, "Brother Jin, how about that, my ancestor, is the voice loud enough now? Did you hear it clearly?"

Chu Jin waved her finger, "Sorry, I still didn't hear..."

Mo Qingyi, who had already walked to the door, heard the commotion inside and silently withdrew her hand that had been about to knock.

My goodness, what had she just heard?

...Is this really the brother I know?

The stern, reticent brother with a face as cold as frost?

Mo Qingyi felt her worldview being refreshed once more. Judging by the sounds, Brother Jin seemed to be fine, so there was no need for her to disturb their romantic time together. Mo Qingyi turned to walk away.

As she reached the corner, she encountered Duanmu Zhe coming up, "Qingyi, have you seen the ninth brother and his wife? Are they all right?"

"It's fine, they're doing well." Inside, they were flirting and teasing each other. How could they not be alright? Mo Qingyi silently grumbled to herself.

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Zhe breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good to hear." Then he added, "Are you hungry? Shall I take you for some food?"

As they walked, Mo Qingyi responded, "I'm not hungry, quite full actually, just had something to eat." Accompanying Mo Qingyi's steps, the air was intermittently filled with the pleasant sound of silver bells.

Although Mo Qingyi had reverted to her normal attire, ever since she accidentally released the spirit of the Moon God, two silver bracelets with bells attached had appeared on her wrists.

And on her ankles, there were also silver bells tied with red string that tinkled crisply and delightfully with each step she took.

Intrigued by her response, Duanmu Zhe asked, "You've eaten already? Didn't you just go see Brother Jiuyou and Sister-in-law? What did you eat?"

Mo Qingyi gave him a glance and dejectedly spat out two words, "Dog food." And it was the kind that caught you off guard, forcefully shoved down your throat—the sort of dog food that's practically illegal, who would come to the rescue of a single dog like her?

Duanmu Zhe was momentarily stunned before catching on and bursting into laughter, casually draping his arm over her shoulder, "Alright, alright, don't be gloomy. Your big brother will take you to have some fun."

A wave of masculine pheromones hit her face, and a blush of abnormal color washed over Mo Qingyi's cheeks, "I'm saying, Duanmu Xiaosi, can you be a little more aware of gender propriety? You're way too casual, those who don't know better might think we really have something going on."

Saying this, she was about to exit Duanmu Zhe's embrace, feeling uncomfortable. Although the two had grown up together, often cuddling as kids, things were obviously different now.

"Gender propriety?" Hearing this, Duanmu Zhe tightened his hold on Mo Qingyi's shoulder, then surveyed her up and down, finally resting his gaze teasingly on her flat chest, "Gender female? You sure about that, that you're a woman?"

How could Mo Qingyi not understand the implication in Duanmu Zhe's eyes? She immediately bristled, "Damn it, Duanmu Xiaosi! Are you looking for trouble? Not beaten for a day, you start peeling off the roof tiles, watch how I torture you today, torture you so bad you won't even recognize your mom!"

With that, she lifted her foot and stomped down hard! Then she ground her heel in!

"Ah!" Duanmu Zhe's scream echoed through the air at once.

Mo Qingyi always had the style of hit-and-run, so now, like the wind, she ran off into the distance.

Duanmu Zhe chased after her, limping and hopping along.

Laughter quickly filled the entire garden.

Mo Qingyi's grandmother and Tong Zhi both shook their heads with a smile as they approached, after all, they were from the Superpower World, and in just a few hours, everyone had already recovered as if nothing had happened, revealing no signs of their previous severe injuries.

"Qingqing, are you bullying Little Zhe again?" Mo Qingyi's grandmother looked at Mo Qingyi with a smile, speaking affectionately. These two kids had always been at odds since they were little; if they ended up together in the future, it would truly make for a fine love story.

"Mom!" Mo Qingyi glanced at her grandmother with some dissatisfaction, "Am I your biological child, or is he? Which eye of yours saw me bullying him? Besides, with my petite frame, I can't beat him! It was clearly him who bullied me first!"

"You, you," Mo Qingyi's grandmother poked Mo Qingyi's forehead, "Do I not know Little Zhe well enough? He's just letting you win, and you think he can't beat you?"

Right at that moment, Duanmu Zhe approached and greeted them politely, "Aunt Mo, Aunt Tong." He was the picture of refinement and grace, the very image of an ideal son-in-law, making Mo Qingyi's grandmother more and more pleased.

Mo Qingyi spared no effort in exposing him, "A refined scoundrel, always putting on an act."

Duanmu Zhe responded with a smile, pulling a handkerchief from his pocket, "Here, wipe off some sweat." As he extended his hand, the black hair tie hidden beneath his cuff was just barely visible.

It appeared to be an item worn by girls to tie their hair.

It seemed to have been used for a while, as the black elastic was somewhat faded.

At a passing glance, a strange sensation flashed through Mo Qingyi's heart. To wear a girl's item on one's wrist, that girl must be very important to him, perhaps even someone he likes?

She really wanted to know, what kind of ethereal beauty had caught the attention of Duanmu Xiaosi.

She must be very pretty, right?

Mo Qingyi lowered her eyelids, concealing the emotions in her eyes, and nonchalantly took the handkerchief to dab away the perspiration on her forehead. For a moment, she forgot to tease Duanmu Zhe; suddenly, she just felt a heaviness in her heart.

"Qingyi, didn't I just tell you to go see how your brother and Jin are doing? Why did you come back so soon? How is it? Is Jin awake yet?" Mrs. Mo suddenly remembered the important matter and asked.

Standing beside her, Tong Zhi also chimed in, "Yeah, Qingyi, are the two of them alright?"

Mo Qingyi abruptly snapped back to reality, smiling as she said, "They're both fine, just fine. You two can stop worrying."

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Mo breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good to hear."

Tong Zhi smiled and said, "Sis, why don't we go check on them ourselves and stop worrying so much? Besides, Zhixuan was able to get through the extremely yin night successfully, all thanks to Jin. We haven't properly thanked Jin yet."

"You're right," Mrs. Mo nodded in agreement with Tong Zhi's suggestion, then turned to Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi, "You two have fun, your Aunt Tong and I will go see how Jin is doing,"

"Okay," Duanmu Zhe replied politely, "Take your time, Aunt Mo and Aunt Tong. I'll take care of Qingyi."

Watching the two leave, Mo Qingyi involuntarily thought of the phrase "5000-watt light bulb" in her mind.

"Well, what are you standing there for?" Duanmu Zhe put an arm around Mo Qingyi's shoulder, "Follow me, I'm taking you to eat something delicious!"

No sooner had Mrs. Mo and Tong Zhi left than Duanmu Zhe reverted back to his nonchalant demeanor.

"Who fancies your treats," Mo Qingyi glanced at him before suddenly realizing that this Duanmu Zhe wasn't too bad-looking at all, with all the right features for the part of a young idol.

Such a pity that this perfect young lad is going to be someone else's.

Today's weather feels so oppressive.

With it, an unsettling heaviness lingered in Mo Qingyi's heart, as if she had lost something important.

Not giving Mo Qingyi a chance to decline, Duanmu Zhe forcibly walked her forward while teasing, "I see you're just being stubborn. Deep down, you desperately want to go, but you still say you don't..."

Just then, Mo Qingyi's phone in her pocket suddenly buzzed.

Mo Qingyi quickly took out her phone. It was a WeChat message. After recognizing the nickname, her previously dimmed eyes lit up again. Waving her phone in front of Duanmu Zhe, she said, "Who has time for your food? Look, my idol has sent me a message. I'm going to my room to chat with my idol. You go eat by yourself."

With her gone, it would be perfect for Duanmu Zhe to call up the goddess in his heart.

Duanmu Zhe's gaze fixed on her phone screen.

The WeChat note was: Male God.

The avatar was a sun rising in the east.

At that moment, Duanmu Zhe almost wished he could smash the phone in Mo Qingyi's hand, but alas, he had no right to do so.

The best he could muster was a forced smile, just like always, "You, stop harassing good young men out there. With your looks, do you think anyone would even glance your way?"

If you're going to cause trouble, cause it with me.

Duanmu Zhe silently uttered these words in his heart.

There were things he had considered telling Mo Qingyi, outright, countless times, but he was afraid, fearful that taking the step might end their friendship.

"Pfft, underestimate me all you want. I was at least the beauty of our class, alright?" Mo Qingyi held her head high, "No more talking. Oh, let me just add one more thing. You're not getting any younger, so while you still have your looks, find yourself a girlfriend. Miss it, and she'll be someone else's girlfriend."

Having said that, she turned and left.

Duanmu Zhe watched her leave, his lips lifting in a bittersweet smile.

He wanted to say something, but sadly, she never gave him the chance.

In the room on the other side.

"I'm hungry, go get me something to eat." Chu Jin pushed Mr. Mo's shoulder, feeling her temperature rise continuously, fearing that something might happen if it kept going like this.

After the Night of Extreme Yin, Mr. Mo's body temperature had returned to that of a normal person.

...

Chu Jin was stunned for a moment before she realized what he meant, her face flushing as she pushed him away, "Go, go, go, be serious. If you have no shame, I still do."

"Ancestor, please do tell, where am I shameless?"

"No, I misspoke, you are not shameless, you are simply faceless. Your face told me months ago that it doesn't need you anymore."

Upon hearing this, Mo Zhixuan leaned in again, "Since you've said that, I might as well live up to this crime you're accusing me of."

Chu Jin's brows twitched convulsively as she scooted further into the bed, "What are you trying to do?"

Standing at the doorway, Mrs. Mo and Tong Zhi, hearing the commotion inside, chose to silently lower their hands, having intended to knock on the door. However, they didn't immediately leave either, instead, they perked up their ears, listening excitedly to the sounds inside, unable to conceal their eagerness.

Gossip was in a woman's nature, even for the women from the Superpower World.

Neither of them had expected that the typically cold and wooden Mo Zhixuan would have such a side to him in private.

A millennium-old iron tree was finally blossoming. It was rare, too rare.

Too excited, Mrs. Mo really was too excited, and then she couldn't control herself, slapping a pillar with a slap that caused a not-so-subtle noise.

At the sound, Chu Jin promptly pushed Mr. Mo off her, who had been lying on top of her, "Someone's outside, get off, I'll go open the door."

Their moment interrupted, Mr. Mo buttoned up his shirt unsatisfactorily, his face showing his frustrated desire. He had known for a while that there were two light bulbs hiding outside but had chosen not to point them out. Little did he expect that these two light bulbs would have the audacity to shine so brightly.

Such a miscalculation!

Knowing they had caused trouble, Tong Zhi and Mrs. Mo immediately scurried away to hide.

Having adjusted her clothing and assured that her attire was in order, Chu Jin walked barefoot toward the door and opened it, only to find that the sun was shining brightly outside and there was no one to be seen.

"Strange," Chu Jin scratched her head, looking around and muttering to herself, "I clearly heard quite a loud noise just now."

"No one's there, you must have heard it wrong," said Mr. Mo as he took her hand, closed the door, and trapped her between the door and himself, looking down at her with dark, deep eyes.

Chu Jin glanced at him, her eyebrows slightly raised, "How could I possibly have heard wrong? There definitely was someone, with such a loud noise, didn't you hear it?"

"No." Mr. Mo's expression remained unchanged, his deep-set phoenix eyes reflecting her entire figure, his low voice carrying an uncontrollable huskiness, enticing to the core.

"Sigh," Chu Jin sighed, shaking her head, "With age, the ears don't work as well. But don't feel inferior, I can understand you." As she spoke, she patted Mr. Mo's shoulder with apparent concern.

For the Nth time, this person was implying he was old.

Actually... he was indeed kind of old.

The harsh reality was undeniable.

Mr. Mo casually caught her hand and placed it over his heart, looking at her seriously, speaking slowly, "You didn't hear wrong, it's my heart that was stirred." Stirred by you.

Chapter 504: it's my honor

It's my heart that's stirring.

The sudden confession caught Chu Jin off guard for a moment.

She looked at Mo Zhixuan, the corners of her mouth lifting slightly to form an arc, with shallow dimples that seemed inviting enough to draw one in.

The two locked eyes, surrounded by the sound of each other's heartbeat.

Beat after beat, each sound resonated in their ears.

The sunlight streamed through the window, bathing them both evenly, a perfect personification of peaceful times.

Mr. Mo gazed at the person before him, the inkiness deep in his eyes, and then reached out to embrace her in his arms, slowly closing his eyes. At that moment, it was as if only the two of them existed in the whole world.

"Jin, I don't care who you were or who you belonged to, but from now on, you can only be mine." His deep voice rang in her ears, and with those words, Mr. Mo held her even tighter, as if he wouldn't rest until he merged her into his very bones and blood.

Hearing this, Chu Jin looked up in surprise. Could it be that he knew something?

She thought that perhaps she ought to find a time to come clean to him about everything.

Before Chu Jin could react further, a moist kiss landed on her eyelid.

This kiss was very light.

The cool touch of his thin lips carried no hint of seduction.

Chu Jin wrapped her arms around him in response and said, "Mhm, then from now on, you also can only be mine. If one day, you dare to betray me, I will personally kill you... and her." At the end of her sentence, her eyes blazed with coldness, and there wasn't a hint of jest in her words.

In the face of love, she could not share.

If such a day indeed came, she would do as she said.

"It won't happen," Mo Zhixuan kissed her hair.

Just then,

'Thump,' the door, which had been closed, was suddenly knocked open by someone.

Along with the 'thump' came an unexpected 'ouch' sound.

Tong Zhi looked at the two people inside the room and then chuckled awkwardly, "Hehe, what a nice day today, I didn't see anything, you two continue, just carry on..." She then turned to leave, not even noticing that she'd dropped her multicolored feather fan on the floor.

Oh god, how embarrassing.

But perhaps it was a good thing that Tong Zhi had come; otherwise, who knows what else might have happened.

Chu Jin immediately pushed Mr. Mo away, her jade-like face flushing slightly as she gently spoke, "Aunt Tong."

Tong Zhi's steps froze for a moment, then she turned, her eyes bright with mirth, "Hehe, what a coincidence, Jin, Zhixuan, you're also here! Uh, I have something to do, I'll be busy now," and without waiting for a reply, she turned her head and seriously added, "By the way, Jin, I really didn't see anything just now. I wasn't trying to eavesdrop, I just happened to be passing by, alright, I'm leaving, you two carry on, don't mind me."

Mo Zhixuan helplessly rubbed his forehead with an unfathomable depth of blackness and depth in his phoenix eyes.

This 5,000-watt light bulb, can your acting get any worse?

After speaking, Tong Zhi, feeling a bit guilty, glanced at the two of them and then hurriedly turned away.

She was annoyed with herself; the door's quality was so poor that she'd been caught red-handed, and she had lost all face!

Oi! Doesn't she have any dignity left?

Just as Mo Zhixuan was about to close the door, his hand touching the knob, Tong Zhi rushed back, "Wait a moment, my dear nephew, I've left my fan here. I'm sorry, actually, you two can just ignore me and treat me as if I'm air. Go inside first; I'll close the door for you later."

"Aunt Tong, I'll walk with you, I'm actually a bit hungry," Chu Jin stepped forward, taking Tong Zhi's arm and smiling as she spoke.

If she continued to stay in the same room with Mo Zhixuan, Aunt Tong and Mrs. Mo would surely misunderstand the situation.

"Er," Tong Zhi stiffened for a moment. She could distinctly feel two icy stares boring into her back. Even if this man was her nephew, she still felt a bit flustered, no joke; if she took Chu Jin away, her nephew might just freeze her to death!

It was supposed to be that after the night of the extreme Yin, Mo Zhixuan would return to normal, but why was there still no change in him at all?

Therefore, Tong Zhi pushed away Chu Jin's hand with a smile and slowly said, "Jin, you've just recovered from a serious injury and shouldn't move around too much. Go back to your room to rest and let Zhixuan take good care of you. I'll have someone send the food over later."

This statement seemed saying more than what was spoken. Without waiting for Chu Jin's reply, Tong Zhi strode off, not forgetting to pull Mrs. Mo along as she rounded the corner.

"Sis, how could you do that? You have no idea how embarrassed I was just now! I am an elder, after all," Tong Zhi said, her face still flushed with embarrassment from the recent events.

Mrs. Mo spoke as if what she did was perfectly reasonable, "It was an emergency at the time. Besides, we can't let the young couple find out that their mother had been listening in, can we? How would that look? If they discovered that, what dignity would I have left?"

"But you shouldn't have pushed me out like that! You don't know, Zhixuan's face turned so dark just now!" Tong Zhi was still feeling frightened at the thought.

"Zhixuan has always been like that since he was a child; it's fine, don't worry," Mrs. Mo sighed and continued, "Thank goodness, heaven has finally seen fit to let me live to this day."

There was finally hope for the Mo family's future.

At these words, Tong Zhi also smiled with relief, "Yes, we've finally reached this day. It's just a shame that my brother-in-law couldn't see all this with his own eyes; if he had, he definitely would've been very happy."

A wistful shadow crossed Mrs. Mo's eyes.

Tong Zhi realized she had spoken out of turn and quickly diverted the topic, saying earnestly, "Sis, on such a good day, we must celebrate properly."

Mrs. Mo nodded in agreement, "I'll go notify the kitchen to prepare right away."

"Hmm, I'll go with you," Tong Zhi said, extending her hand to grasp the old Mrs. Mo's arm.

The two of them walked together toward the direction of the back kitchen.

Elsewhere.

After Tong Zhi left, the small room was suddenly left with only Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin, and the atmosphere seemed to revert to a distance once again.

Mo Zhixuan looked at her with a slightly absent gaze, then smoothly took her hand and led her towards the door, "Let's go."

Chu Jin slightly raised her eyebrows and asked, "Where to?"

Mo Zhixuan lowered his gaze to her and explained, "Aren't you hungry? I'm taking you to eat."

"Oh," Chu Jin nodded slightly, looking extremely obedient. No one could imagine that such a quiet and well-behaved girl possessed such explosive power, capable of killing without a trace.

Mr. Mo led Chu Jin down the corridor all the way to a villa in the front, up to the second floor, and when they reached the door of a room, Chu Jin stopped and asked, "Didn't you say we were going to eat? Why have you brought me here?"

Mr. Mo, while pushing open the door, said, "Go and take a shower in the bathroom first; I've had someone prepare the water and clothes. I'll wait outside for you, so be quick."

Chu Jin lowered her eyes to look at her clothes, which had become wrinkled from the previous scuffle, stained with blood and dirt on the chest, somewhat unsightly. She wondered how Mr. Mo, a man with a penchant for cleanliness, had been able to bear it.

What Chu Jin didn't know was that in the face of love, some could give up their lives, let alone a trivial matter like a penchant for cleanliness.

"Okay, then I'll go take a shower first. You don't have to wait for me if you're busy; I can manage on my own."

"Go ahead," Mr. Mo closed the bathroom door for her and then walked to the window, lighting a cigarette and starting to puff away. The curling smoke gradually blurred his sharp features.

He wasn't originally addicted to smoking, hardly smoking enough to count on one hand in the past, but since meeting her, his smoking had become more frequent, especially in the quiet of the night.

About 30 minutes later, Chu Jin came out of the bathroom.

Mo Zhixuan quickly snuffed out the cigarette in his hand, turned around, and was momentarily dazzled by the sight before him. Under the light, the girl stood there in a goose-yellow cinched-waist dress, her lips red, her teeth white, her features like jade, smiling. In her beguiling peach blossom eyes sparkled fine specks of starlight, as if ready to draw someone in at any moment.

No matter what color she wore, she made it uniquely beautiful.

They say clothes make the person, but with her, it seemed the person made the clothes.

After dinner, Mo Zhixuan took Chu Jin for a turn around the Mo family estate. It was vast, with a back garden, an orchard, and a farm—everything one could wish for. It was the first time Chu Jin was taking such a serious tour of the place.

The afternoon sun was hot, but as they strolled beneath the dense fruit trees, it was rather enjoyable. A breeze wafted through, bringing waves of fruit fragrance.

The day quickly passed, and in the blink of an eye, it was evening again.

The banquet was very grand, with a full table of guests.

Most were from the Superpower World.

Doctor Zhang and Mu Xianxian were also present.

After an afternoon, Mu Xianxian's face had returned to normal, and in fact, appeared even smoother than before, thanks to her Divine Doctor uncle.

Mu Xianxian glimpsed Mo Zhixuan sitting there, her face flushing unnaturally. She instinctively surveyed the surroundings; good, there was no sign of that unpleasant commoner, which meant she was either still unconscious or Mo Zhixuan had kicked her out.

Otherwise, how could Chu Jin, the future mistress of the Mo household, possibly be absent from such an important banquet?

It seemed that Mo Zhixuan wasn't as fond of Chu Jin as she had thought.

She knew that a man as exalted as Mo Zhixuan could never be content to be tied to a commoner.

She just had to try harder, and she believed that one day, Mo Zhixuan would see her virtues.

With this thought, Mu Xianxian, in high spirits, took a seat. She even specifically chose one directly opposite Mo Zhixuan so that by simply looking up, she could see him.

And he could see her just as easily when he looked up.

Tonight, she was determined to make Mo Zhixuan notice her strengths. She had to maintain her best state.

"Doctor Zhang, we owe you a great debt this time. Without you, who knows when our Jin would have woken up," the old Mrs. Mo said, smiling as she stepped forward to thank Doctor Zhang. She was unaware of the earlier incidents and Mu Xianxian's behavior, so her gratitude was sincere.

At these words, Mu Xianxian's heart skipped a beat.

What's happening?

Why did the old Mrs. Mo refer to this commoner so affectionately? And she even personally thanked her uncle just for such a trivial person? This was simply inconceivable!

Could it be that Mo Zhixuan hadn't kicked Chu Jin out yet? Was it all just her conjecture?

Yet, if there was no discord between Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin, why was Chu Jin absent from the banquet?

For a moment, Mu Xianxian's thoughts ran rampant.

Upon hearing this, Doctor Zhang's expression also changed. Unsure of the meaning behind the old Mrs. Mo's words, he quickly stood up to return the gesture, saying with some guilt, "It's all due to Miss Chu's good fortune; I merely lent a helping hand. There's no need for formality, old Mrs. Mo."

If not for Mo Zhixuan's coercion, why would he have intervened to save Chu Jin?

He wasn't sure if the old Mrs. Mo was using this dialogue to humiliate him.

The old Mrs. Mo took Doctor Zhang's words as modesty and continued, "You jest, Doctor Zhang. Regardless, I owe you a favor, and I'll remember it. If there's ever anything the Mo family can help you with, just say the word. As long as it's within our power, I shan't refuse."

At this, Doctor Zhang's face grew even more embarrassed, but Mu Xianxian, with a beaming smile, gracefully interjected, "Old Mrs. Mo, you're making too much of it. My uncle is simply performing his duty as a doctor. Besides, Miss Chu is Nine Ye's fiancée, and Nine Ye is our great hero in the Superpower World. It's my uncle's honor to be able to help a great hero."

Chapter 505: Don't Randomly Acknowledge Relatives

Mu Xianxian's words were exceptionally flattering, bringing joy and laughter to the Mo family's old lady, who repeatedly praised her, "Good child, good child, truly a sweet-talking good child."

The kindness in her eyes was almost overflowing.

As she finished speaking, the old lady seemed to suddenly remember something, and exclaimed with surprise, "The doctor Zhang is your uncle, so you are... Yunzhen's child?"

Zhang Yunzhen and the old lady shared a life-saving camaraderie, and when Zhang Yunzhen was still pregnant with Mu Xianxian, the old lady had already moved her entire family away from the Superpower World. Eighteen years had passed since their parting, and she had never seen Zhang Yunzhen again. Later, when she heard about Zhang Yunzhen again, it was to learn they were forever separated by death.

The old lady had more than once regretted not arranging a get-together with Zhang Yunzhen back then.

Upon hearing this, a shadow briefly crossed Mu Xianxian's face. She slightly lowered her eyelids and said in a choked voice, "Yes, that was my late mother..."

As soon as she finished, a tear fell, her emotions seemingly getting the better of her.

Although Mu Xianxian was young, she was very perceptive. She could tell from the old lady's words that she must have shared a close relationship with her mother; otherwise, the old lady would not have mentioned her mother's name so easily.

Perhaps, she could use this opportunity to get closer to the old lady.

Only by doing so would she have more chances to get close to Mo Zhixuan.

First, she needed to keep the old lady happy and trusting in her. That way, her subsequent plan could unfold even more smoothly.

A scheme targeting the heart was already taking shape in Mu Xianxian's mind.

The old lady reached out to stroke Mu Xianxian's head, consoling her, "Good child, don't be sad. I believe Yunzhen wouldn't want to see you like this in heaven. One must always look forward, not get stuck in the present. In fact, you have many people who love and care for you by your side, like your uncle and your father..." As she spoke, the old lady herself began to choke up.

It is commonly said that there are three great sorrows in life.

Loss of a father in youth, loss of a wife in middle age, loss of a son in old age.

This was indeed a pitiable child. The old lady was always kind-hearted, and moreover, the person before her was the child of an old friend, which made her even more sentimental.

"Yes, old lady, I'm not sad. My mother died for the good of the countless citizens of the Superpower World. Her death was honorable and she is my role model. I just suddenly missed her, that's all. I don't know why but when I saw you, I felt an unusual closeness, as if I saw my mother, and I just couldn't control myself." By the end, Mu Xianxian couldn't hold back any longer and burst into sobs, hugging the old lady with her shoulders shaking, deeply grieved.

Nobody noticed the gleam of triumph flickering in Mu Xianxian's swollen eyes—this old woman was just too easy to deceive.

The old lady sighed, gently patting Mu Xianxian's back, feeling sorry for the child. At such a young age, she was capable of such maturity and propriety, and even uttered such touching words. Surely, her upbringing was excellent. The old lady knew that Yunzhen's child couldn't be anything but good.

Approval flashed in the eyes of the old lady as she said in a hoarse voice, "Good child, today is a joyful day. Let's be happy and not cry anymore. You should eat more later; it won't look nice if you get too thin from crying."

"Yes, I won't cry, old lady, and please don't cry either," Mu Xianxian released the old lady and took out a tissue from her pocket, thoughtfully wiping away her tears.

The old lady immediately returned to a smiley expression, although her eyes still glimmered with tears, "Good, let's both not cry anymore. By the way, child, what's your name?"

Everything was going as she had imagined, Mu Xianxian lifted her head and said to the old lady, "Old lady, my name is Mu Xianxian, 'Xian' as in ethereal beauty. It's the name my mother gave me, hoping I would grow up to be as beautiful as she was. Just call me Xianxian."

Doctor Zhang also slightly raised the corners of his lips; his niece indeed knew how to handle things—she had easily won the old lady's favor.

Indeed, having aligned himself with the great tree that is the Mo family, he would be able to stand firmer in the three realms from now on.

People like Mo Zhixuan, even though they currently lived in the mortal world, would one day return to their rightful place.

In any of the three realms, as long as he wished to go, he would be the revered King.

"A beautiful name," the old Madam Mo looked at Mu Xianxian and nodded in approval, "You have not disappointed Yunzhen's expectations; you bear a striking resemblance to your mother when she was young." Through this face, the old Madam Mo seemed to see an old friend once again, and was transported back to the days when they fought side by side.

Oh, how nostalgic, time flies.

The beauty of the past had turned into a pile of dry bones, and she too was in the twilight of her life.

Seeing the timing was right, Mu Xianxian looked at the old Madam Mo and spoke again, "Old Madam, I have an immodest request, and I hope you can grant it. If you cannot, it's alright, just pretend I never asked."

The old Madam Mo smiled and said, "Speak, as long as it's within my power, I will surely grant it."

Mu Xianxian bit her lip, as if struggling to speak, hesitating, "I... I... Please don't be angry when I say this."

Her pitiable, tearful appearance aroused a protective affection in the old Madam Mo, who, with deep maternal instinct, reached out to touch Mu Xianxian's head and said kindly, "Child, just tell me directly what you request; I promise I won't be angry. Yunzhen and I have been good friends for many years, we've even been to battle together. As long as it's within my capabilities, I will surely grant your request."

Upon hearing this, Mu Xianxian's mouth curved into a radiant smile, "Thank you. Then, I'll speak frankly," she paused for a moment before continuing, "Old Madam, I've been without a mother since childhood, and seeing you is like seeing her. I... Can I stop calling you Old Madam? I want to call you Aunt Mo, just like Brother Nian does, and call Nine Ye 'Nine Brother'."

The old Madam Mo had thought Mu Xianxian would ask for some precious treasure, but to her surprise, the girl merely made such a modest request—a request that hardly counted as one. The old Madam Mo's fondness for Mu Xianxian grew even stronger; she was indeed a good child.

In this way, Yunzhen in heaven would also feel comforted.

The old Madam Mo immediately laughed and said, "Silly child, of course you can, you can call me whatever you want."

"Old Madam, are you serious?" Mu Xianxian broke into gleeful laughter.

The old Madam Mo feigned annoyance, "Hmm? Still calling me Old Madam?"

"Aunt Mo," Mu Xianxian promptly called out sweetly.

"Good child, good child," the old Madam Mo nodded and took Mu Xianxian's hand, sliding a bracelet from her wrist onto Mu Xianxian's, "Xianxian, this will be Aunt Mo's gift to you upon our meeting."

Mu Xianxian hurriedly tried to refuse, "No, Aunt Mo, this is too valuable; I can't accept it."

"Keep it," the old Madam Mo pressed her hand, "If you don't take it, it means you disdain something this old woman has worn."

Mu Xianxian, somewhat frightened, said, "Aunt Mo, you misunderstand; I just think it's too valuable, I don't deserve it."

By their side, Physician Zhang spoke up, "Xianxian, since it's a gift from the old Madam, you should accept it. It's best not to waste her kind intentions."

Now that the old Madam Mo had given Mu Xianxian a bracelet, it signified that she didn't see her as an outsider. To think there would come a day when he could claim kinship with the Mo family, Physician Zhang felt a surge of superiority he had never experienced before.

It turned out that his affection for his niece had not been in vain.

Hearing this, Mu Xianxian looked at Old Lady Mo with some difficulty, "Alright, Aunt Mo, then I'll accept it, thank you. I really like this jade bracelet."

"Good," Old Lady Mo said with a satisfied smile, "That's my good girl. Come, the banquet is about to start, come sit by me. We'll have a nice chat, and I'll introduce you to Aunt Tong."

Mu Xianxian nodded gently, the very picture of gentle and virtuous, "Okay."

Having smoothly followed Old Lady Mo to the seat of honor, Mu Xianxian then asked with concern, "Aunt Mo, the banquet is about to begin, why haven't we seen Miss Chu? Is her injury still alright? Should I send my uncle to check on her again?"

Those who didn't know any better would really think Mu Xianxian was genuinely concerned about Chu Jin. In reality, she was indirectly reminding Old Lady Mo that the banquet was about to begin and Chu Jin had not yet arrived, which was extremely impolite! It was like she didn't take the old lady seriously at all!

Such a person, with no sense of time, was definitely unworthy of being a daughter-in-law of the Mo family.

Unexpectedly, Old Lady Mo wasn't angry at all, but instead smiled and said, "She's in Qingyi's room. The two little girls are being secretive, whispering something, and they won't let anyone in. Let's wait a bit longer, she should be here soon."

Right now, in Old Lady Mo's heart, Chu Jin was the perfect daughter-in-law; she wasn't someone whom others could criticize with a few words. Moreover, Old Lady Mo never thought otherwise. She didn't realize that Mu Xianxian, seemingly innocent, actually harbored such deep schemes.

Hearing this, Mu Xianxian's expression remained the same as she poured a cup of tea for Old Lady Mo, "Aunt Mo, you must be thirsty, have some tea to moisten your throat."

"Now that you mention it, I am quite thirsty," Old Lady Mo said as she picked up the teacup and took a sip.

Next, Mu Xianxian stood up again and placed her hands on Old Lady Mo's shoulders, her voice gentle, "Aunt Mo, you must be tired, let me give you a shoulder massage. I've learned specially, and it's very comforting."

"Don't fuss, it's tiring. Sit down," Old Lady Mo patted her hand, her smile warm, "I appreciate the gesture."

One had to say, Mu Xianxian really did know how to win Old Lady Mo's favor. She was the very image of the perfect daughter, speaking softly and sweetly, beautiful in appearance, with a honeyed tongue, and knew how to make her happy.

"Not tired at all," Mu Xianxian continued while massaging, "Aunt Mo, do you know, my biggest regret has always been that I couldn't fully express filial piety in front of my mother. But fortunately, heaven has allowed me to meet you. Please let me make up for that past regret."

Such a filial child, Mu Xianxian's words really touched Old Lady Mo's heart. She felt both pity and sympathy for her, and in that moment, she wished she could give all her motherly love to Mu Xianxian.

Old Lady Mo, her eyes reddening, said, "Good child, if you have time, you must come to see me more often, and don't forget me in the blink of an eye."

If possible, Old Lady Mo even had the idea of adopting Mu Xianxian as her goddaughter, after all, she had such a deep relationship with Zhang Yunzhen.

Moreover, Zhang Yunzhen herself was a remarkable woman; how could her daughter be any worse?

At that moment, Old Lady Mo really liked Mu Xianxian very much.

Mu Xianxian said sweetly, "Don't worry, I will definitely come to see you often. If it's possible, I truly wish I could stay by your side all my life to take good care of you."

Over here, Mu Xianxian kept the old lady in high spirits.

Meanwhile, Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi were finally arriving, fashionably late.

Who knows what got into Mo Qingyi, suddenly wanting to put on makeup, so she ended up dragging Chu Jin about, dawdling in the room for quite a while.

Before this, Mo Qingyi had never even touched cosmetics.

But tonight, Mo Qingyi was definitely the one who dazzled everyone present.

Clad in a blue dress with a round neckline, she showcased her slender figure; her jet-black and glossy hair cascaded down her back, gently bound with a blue ribbon. Wearing subtle nude makeup and lips touched with taupe lipstick, her naturally captivating cat eyes were meticulously enhanced by slightly upturned eyeliner, making her all the more entralling.

If we describe the pre-makeup Mo Qingyi as carefree, then the post-makeup Mo Qingyi was absolutely ravishing, transforming completely from before.

Chu Jin was still wearing that goose-yellow dress, appearing as if she stepped right out of a painting, her facial features as exquisite as carved jade.

Such a duo walking together caught the unabated gaze of many young men present.

Duanmu Zhe was also stunned for a moment. He had always known that Mo Qingyi was beautiful, but he never expected her to bring him such a surprise. Unwittingly, the girl in his heart had grown up.

Thinking this, Duanmu Zhe's lips curled into a smile, but every time he remembered that the girl he had protected for so many years was now fond of another man, the arc of his smile faded.

This feeling was truly awful.

Seeing the limelight stolen by these two, a dark shade flickered in Mu Xianxian's eyes. How calculating! They must have intentionally arrived late just to attract attention, didn't they?

Is it just because they have good looks? Flaunting themselves shamelessly!

Mu Xianxian suppressed the jealousy bubbling beneath the surface and leaned in to whisper to the elder Mrs. Mo, "Aunt Mo, Miss Chu Jin and Sister Qingyi are truly beautiful. I'm so envious of them; you're truly fortunate to have two such outstanding daughters at once."

Everyone likes to hear praise, and the elder Mrs. Mo was no exception. She immediately said with a beaming smile, "These two children are indeed outstanding. However, Jin is not my daughter; she is Zhixuan's fiancée and will soon be my daughter-in-law." The elder Mrs. Mo was filled with pride as she said this.

Mu Xianxian replied with a smile, "Miss Chu Jin is really lucky to have such a wonderful mother-in-law as you."

The elder Mrs. Mo continued, "No, no, no, it's the Mo family that is lucky to have a good daughter-in-law like Jin. It's my great fortune from a past life to be able to be Jin's mother-in-law."

Considering how things have developed to this day, the elder Mrs. Mo truly adored Chu Jin. Moreover, she knew full well that without Chu Jin, Mo Zhixuan wouldn't have safely made it through the night of extreme yin.

Upon hearing this, Mu Xianxian felt a sour taste rise in her heart, unstoppable, her inner envy festering. She went to great lengths to ingratiate herself with the elder Mrs. Mo, just to see her smile warmly at her. Yet Chu Jin, without doing anything, even arriving late to such a grand banquet, was not reproached but praised, and the elder Mrs. Mo even thought that the Mo family was reaching up by having her as a daughter-in-law.

This old hag, is she senile now? If she wasn't so eager to get close to Mo Zhixuan, she wouldn't bother pleasing a blind old woman like her! At home, even her father never served her.

It was usually her father who treated her as an ancestor to be revered.

Lost in her thoughts, Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi had already approached the elder Mrs. Mo to greet her.

"Auntie."

"Mother."

The elder Mrs. Mo feigned annoyance and said, "The two young misses have finally arrived fashionably late. Oh, let me introduce you, this is Xianxian, she will be your sister from now on." With that, she pulled Mu Xianxian in front of them.

"Hello, big sisters," Mu Xianxian politely greeted.

Mo Qingyi immediately stepped back, "Don't recklessly claim relatives, I don't have a sister like you." She didn't have a good impression of Mu Xianxian, so she didn't leave any face for her right there and then.

Chapter 506: The Attack is on the Heart

Mo Qingyi was forthright and straightforward, with no propensity for beating around the bush. Her emotions, whether happiness or unhappiness, were always visible on her face. She always spoke her mind and, moreover, she had heard about Mu Xianxian's heroic deeds.

This person was quite shameless, actually treating her life-saver like that!

Therefore, Mo Qingyi truly disliked this Mu Xianxian.

Upon hearing this, Mu Xianxian felt a moment of awkwardness, then quickly recovered, a hint of nonchalance appearing at the corners of her mouth, "Sister, could there be some misunderstanding between us?"

The Mo family matriarch also immediately said, "Qingyi, how can you speak like that? Apologize to your sister right now!"

Chu Jin stood to the side, not speaking, merely watching Mu Xianxian with a subtly furrowed brow. She couldn't shake the feeling that there was something different about Mu Xianxian tonight compared to the first time they met.

If Mu Xianxian seemed somewhat childish during their first meeting, then the Mu Xianxian of now had matured a lot in comparison. The frankness in her eyes had vanished, replaced by something else. It was very strange; how could someone change so much in just a few hours?

Mu Xianxian harbored a great deal of hostility towards her last night, so why would she willingly call her "sister" now?

Today's Mu Xianxian was not only well-behaved and sensible, but the hostility in her eyes when she looked at Chu Jin had also become less obvious, hidden well beneath the surface. If one weren't observant enough, it would be completely undetectable.

Now things were getting interesting.

It seemed that Mu Xianxian might be up to something. Life had been rather dull lately, so a bit of spice might not be too bad.

Chu Jin's eyes narrowed slightly, a strong sense of interest apparent in her gaze.

Looking dissatisfied, Mo Qingyi turned to the Mo family matriarch and said somewhat displeased, "I didn't say anything wrong! Mom, my surname is Mo and hers is Mu; what kind of sisters does that make us? Besides, aren't you content with having two close-fitting cotton-padded jackets like Jin and me? Furthermore, she has her own mother, so what's she doing cozying up to you for? The warmth from another family's cotton-padded jackets won't last long, have you forgotten how Zheng Chuyi treated you? Be careful, or you might've brought home another ungrateful wretch."

Mo Qingyi's words were artfully constructed.

She not only mocked Mu Xianxian for harboring ill intentions but also reminded the Mo family matriarch to be wary of her. After all, the Mo family was prominent, and many sought to form ties with them.

Listening to these words, Mu Xianxian's face turned shades of green and white. Mo Qingyi was really too much of an eyesore! So audacious with her words, each sentence piercing and profound, seemingly unafraid to offend her, a truly oblivious commoner!

"Sister, you've misunderstood. It's really not like that... I..." As she spoke, Mu Xianxian's eyes reddened, and she unconsciously grasped the hands of the Mo family matriarch, her body trembling slightly as if choked with emotion, the picture of sadness and grief.

The Mo family matriarch also froze, taking quite some time to come back to her senses. Mo Qingyi's words, "The warmth from another family's cotton-padded jackets won't last," stung her deeply. Indeed, she had treated Zheng Chuyi so well, but what had been the result? Nurturing an ungrateful beast.

Mu Xianxian, sensing the emotional shift in the Mo family matriarch, began crying even more intensely, sobbingly saying, "Sister, you really have misunderstood me. I had no ulterior motives. I've been motherless since childhood, and when I saw Auntie Mo, I felt a closeness to her, so I talked to her a bit more... Sister, if it upsets you, I'll never speak to Auntie Mo again, nor will I visit the Mo family. Rest assured..."

Having said this, Mu Xianxian let go of the Mo family matriarch's wrist, dried her tears, "Auntie Mo, thank you for liking me. I'm sorry to have troubled you; it won't happen again. Also, I should return this to you, for Xianxian is unworthy of it." With those words, she began to remove the jade bracelet from her wrist.

Mu Xianxian, with a pitiful appearance, instantly won over the sympathy of the Mo family matriarch. Indeed, what ill intentions could an eighteen-year-old child harbor? Besides, what could an old woman like her covet? Moreover, this child had been motherless since childhood, it was only natural that she would be envious and yearn for maternal love.

Back then, she and Zhang Yunzhen had such a good relationship. Now, it was only right to be kinder to her bloodline. Besides, given Zhang Yunzhen was such an extraordinary woman, how could her daughter be compared with Zheng Chuyi?

Cao Cao's paranoia had led to his own demise, she didn't want to make decisions she'd regret, nor did she wish to face Zhang Yunzhen after a hundred years with shame when she went underground.

In the past, Zhang Yunzhen and she had shared life-and-death experiences, so she ought to be kinder to Zhang Yunzhen's daughter now.

With this in mind, the Mo family matriarch hurriedly stopped Mu Xianxian from removing her bracelet, "Xianxian, Qingyi has always been this way, she speaks without thinking. Don't be angry, she really means no harm. She's just not familiar with you yet. Give it a few days, and you two will be as close as wearing the same pants."

As these words fell, the Mo family matriarch then looked up at Mo Qingyi and sighed, "Qingyi, Xianxian is the daughter of your mother's old friend. This child has been without a mother since she was young. I hope you can get along well with her and treat her as your own sister. Don't go speaking nonsense and making your sister angry. Do you hear me?"

On one side, Mu Xianxian was still trembling with sobs, her expression showing both grievance and sadness, yet she considerately said, "Aunt Mo, I'm not angry, and I don't blame my sister. Nobody is perfect, and I can't expect everyone to like me. You don't have to blame my sister. I was just reminded of my own mother when I saw how close you are with my sister, that's all."

The biggest flaw of the Mo family matriarch was her excessive kindness, or else the events of the past would have not unfolded as they did. Right now, she felt so sympathetic towards Mu Xianxian that she might not come to her senses for a while; otherwise, she wouldn't have given her favorite bracelet to Mu Xianxian.

Mo Qingyi's gaze shifted away from the bracelet, and a complex expression flickered in her eyes.

Hearing Mu Xianxian's words, the Mo family matriarch felt even more sympathetic towards her. To her, Mo Qingyi had her own protection, but poor Xianxian had no one to guard her. Truly pitiable.

It was indeed hard on this child. In such a situation, she could still be so considerate of Mo Qingyi. If it were anyone else, they wouldn't possibly say such things today. A look of gratification flashed in the Mo family matriarch's eyes as she smilingly said to Mo Qingyi,

"Look how righteous and sensible Xianxian is! Qingyi, you should learn from her. At your age, why are you still acting like a child? You really need to change your temper, do you hear me? Some things must not be recklessly spoken. Today, Xianxian is magnanimous enough not to hold a grudge against you. Had it been someone else, they would have already taken offense."

As she spoke, the Mo family matriarch took out a handkerchief to dab Mu Xianxian's tears, "That's enough, a good child doesn't cry. Yunzhen in heaven would be very happy to see how sensible you are."

At these words, a smug glint flashed in the lowered eyes of Mu Xianxian. Very good, she was one step closer to her plan.

Strategies aimed at winning hearts, attacking the heart—wasn't that the essence? She had already successfully won over the favor and heart of the Mo family matriarch. The more Mo Qingyi targeted her, the more the matriarch would sympathize with her.

After all, the weak and tears were most apt to gain the sympathy and trust of the masses.

Mo Qingyi was speechless. This little white flower was truly nauseating! Always crying! Repeatedly claiming to be motherless—was there any glory in that? Was it acceptable to use being motherless to gain others' sympathy?

Because she was motherless, should the whole world pamper her?

Besides, what was so special about being motherless? There were plenty of unfortunate people in the world! Chu Jin didn't even have a father! Did Chu Jin ever say anything? Had Chu Jin ever sought sympathy for this?

Her mother was really too naive, to be so easily deceived by this little white flower!

Mo Qingyi watched Mu Xianxian about to say something more when Chu Jin gently tapped her hand, stopping her.

Chu Jin lifted her eyes and smiled faintly at Mu Xianxian, "I didn't expect Miss Mu, at such a young age, to be so magnanimous. It's truly admirable. It seems that Zhixuan and Xunian misunderstood you before. Let me apologize to you on their behalf. In the end, you are still a young lady, and those two rough men were not gentle. Miss Mu, is your leg all better now?"

After speaking, Chu Jin shifted her gaze to Mu Xianxian's knee, her eyes showing genuine concern.

Under such circumstances, Mo Qingyi naturally couldn't confront the Mo matriarch head-on. If she kept butting heads with Mu Xianxian, it would only cause the Mo matriarch to dislike her even more. The only option was to slowly reveal Mu Xianxian's true face to the Mo matriarch in another way.

Jin really is Jin—she hit the nail right on the head with just one sentence. Mo Qingyi watched Chu Jin, her eyes brimming with admiration. She wished she could reach Jin's level one day.

No matter what she encountered, she remained so composed.

Mu Xianxian's face turned ugly in an instant. She struggled to squeeze out a small smile, "I'm fine; it was all a misunderstanding. Sister Chu, I'm sorry. It was my fault for speaking carelessly before. I hope Sister Chu isn't upset..."

Mu Xianxian tried to play it down. This Chu Jin was really too easy to handle! Bringing up exactly what shouldn't be mentioned! It sounded like she was praising herself while casually apologizing, but in fact, she was clearly seizing the opportunity to remind the Mo matriarch to be wary of her.

Soft on the outside but tough on the inside!

She had thought Chu Jin would be easy to manipulate, or else she wouldn't have agreed to Zhou Xunian saving her. But unexpectedly, Chu Jin had needles hidden in cotton—seemingly harmless on the surface, yet she was actually very shrewd!

Indeed, if she weren't at all scheming, how could she have become Mo Zhixuan's fiancée? And how could she have won the Mo matriarch's approval? Just wait. Sooner or later, the position of the matriarch in the Mo family would be hers. Uncle had told her, Chu Jin was nothing but a person abandoned by Heavenly Dao. If the Mo matriarch found out about this, would she still let Chu Jin be Mo Zhixuan's fiancée?

Mu Xianxian thought smugly, but none of it showed on her face.

Upon hearing this, the Mo matriarch also frowned slightly, surprised. From what Chu Jin said, had Mo Zhixuan and Zhou Xunian misunderstood Mu Xianxian and attacked her before?

What kind of issue could provoke two grown men to strike a helpless woman?

Mo Zhixuan's temperament was something she, as his mother, understood better than anyone else. He never laid hands on women, and he wasn't foolish enough to strike people without reason—unless someone really did something intolerable that crossed his bottom line.

Moreover, Zhou Xunian was a young man she had watched grow up. He was a gentleman who would smile kindly even at a three-year-old child, let alone hit someone.

That these two men had struck Mu Xianxian meant that there must be some hidden story. It certainly couldn't be explained away with a mere 'misunderstanding'.

Could it be that Mu Xianxian really had a different face behind closed doors?

Could it be that she was really like what Qingyi had said, a second Zheng Chuyi?

The Mo matriarch slightly raised her eyes, inconspicuously sizing up Mu Xianxian, her gaze carrying a hint of scrutiny.

Mu Xianxian maintained a pitiful appearance, one that could easily arouse pity in others. Although the Mo matriarch said nothing, she had already raised her guard slightly against Mu Xianxian.

Still, the Mo matriarch secretly hoped that all of this was indeed just a misunderstanding. After all, Xianxian was the only remaining bloodline of Zhang Yunzhen left in this world.

However, this child is still young. If there really is something lacking, it can be forgiven after all. Having lost her mother from a young age, a child's sensibility is inseparable from a mother's education. As long as she truly repents, it's not a big deal.

Isn't there a saying, "A prodigal who returns is more precious than gold."

Chu Jin looked at Mu Xianxian and continued, "I'm glad Miss Mu is fine. It's all just a misunderstanding, and I have nothing to be angry about."

The Mo family's matriarch grew increasingly curious as to what exactly had happened. She interjected, "What exactly happened? Zhixuan and Xunian, those two kids, how could they resort to violence? Xianxian, tell Auntie Mo, and I will certainly seek justice for you."

As she spoke, the Mo family's matriarch lifted her gaze to Mu Xianxian. Her eyes were still as kind as ever, yet Mu Xianxian clearly saw a layer of scrutiny within them. Had the Mo family's matriarch begun to doubt her?

Mu Xianxian suddenly felt panicked, and what was infuriating was that Mo Qingyi had also suddenly stopped speaking. If only she would speak against her again! That would distract the matriarch's attention. In front of the matriarch, she just needed to maintain a good impression, but unfortunately, Mo Qingyi was as silent as a mute.

She absolutely couldn't let the Mo family's matriarch find out about that matter, or else the image she had worked so hard to create in front of her would be utterly ruined!

Mu Xianxian smiled and slowly began speaking to the matriarch, "It's nothing, it's nothing, Auntie Mo. It was just Zhixuan and Xunian joking around with me. Aren't you already aware of their character? Besides, the family rules of the Superpower World were personally set by Zhixuan himself, how could he possibly lay a hand on me, a frail girl? If they had actually laid hands on me, I wouldn't be standing here talking to you in one piece. Just set your mind at ease."

Mu Xianxian's words were quite articulate, on one hand, indirectly complimenting Mo Zhixuan and Zhou Xunian's character, and on the other hand, reminding the matriarch that these rules about women were established by Mo Zhixuan himself. Now he's openly defying the family rules, which, if spread, would become a laughingstock. How would others view Mo Zhixuan then?

Two men publicly beating a young woman—it's not a good reputation, only serving to tarnish the Mo family's name.

If the Mo family's matriarch had any brains, she wouldn't dwell on this topic but would take the way out that Mu Xianxian had given her!

Mu Xianxian was right in her thoughts and words, but alas, she was too eager for immediate results. She forgot a major aspect of human nature: the more people fear something, the more they tend to avoid it.

The greater her fear, the more it represented her guilt.

Although the Mo family's matriarch had a motherly heart, she wasn't foolish, and she now perceived Mu Xianxian's guilt. It seemed there was indeed a problem.

Suddenly finding herself worn out, the matriarch sighed, "I'm glad it's nothing. Since almost everyone has arrived, let's all sit down. The banquet will be starting soon. Jin must be hungry, right? I specifically had the chef make your favorite spicy crab. Make sure you eat plenty later."

Chu Jin smiled faintly, "Of course, you can rest assured, I'll definitely have an extra serving or two of rice." When she smiled, two shallow dimples appeared at the corners of her mouth, warm and radiant.

Watching her, the matriarch felt her mood lift.

Mu Xianxian bit her lip. Was the Mo family's matriarch giving up on her just like that?

What exactly had she said wrong to upset the matriarch? It was all that low-born's fault, stirring up trouble between her and the matriarch in just a few words. Just wait, one day she'll show that commoner her strength! For now, placating the matriarch was the priority.

Noticing that the matriarch had developed suspicions toward Mu Xianxian, Mo Qingyi was very pleased as she greeted the matriarch with Chu Jin on her arm, "Mom, Jin and I will be sitting over there. Also, I wanted to tell you, after dinner, I might accompany Jin to her place to stay a few days until the college entrance exam results come out, then we'll come back. Don't miss me too much at home, haha."

Chapter 507: Sister Chu, please go ahead!

When Madam Mo heard this, her expression changed slightly. She turned to Chu Jin urgently, "Jin, why are you in such a hurry to leave? Won't you stay for a few more days? Anyway, since you're on summer vacation, just live here from now on. It will also save Zhixuan from running back and forth every day."

She was looking forward to holding a chubby grandson soon, now that the young lady had also graduated from high school.

How could she expect to hold a chubby grandson if they lived apart?

Moreover, Chu Jin was so endearing, what if someone with intentions swept her away? The mere thought made Madam Mo feel uneasy.

"Um, Aunt, I have some other matters to attend to, so I need to return tonight." If she did not get back, her own life would be in jeopardy. She had been neglecting her duties for many days now and had very little Faith Value left to waste.

Madam Mo continued, "What's so important that you must return tonight? Why not stay for the night here, and let Zhixuan and Qingyi take you back tomorrow morning? Look at you, ready to leave as soon as you arrive. Agree to stay with your aunt tonight, and after dinner, keep me company for a good chat."

Desperate to hold her grandchild soon and have Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan take care of formalities, Madam Mo, the mother, was racking her brains.

She used all sorts of methods to make Chu Jin stay.

Unable to refuse the overwhelming hospitality, Chu Jin nodded her head. It was only one night, after all, and it wouldn't delay anything.

Mo Qingyi immediately teased, "Oh my, Mom, you are being too partial. The classic case of forgetting your daughter once you have a daughter-in-law. I'm about to go back with Jin, and you don't even try to keep me..."

Madam Mo stretched out a finger and poked Mo Qingyi's head, smiling, "You little pest, I've long since gotten fed up with you. I can't wait for you to go as far as possible. Who would want to keep you?"

Mu Xianxian, witnessing this scene of motherly and daughterly affection, felt irritated. It was awkward whether to stay or go, especially since it had been Madam Mo who had asked her to sit beside her earlier.

Now, she could only lean in close to Madam Mo again, thinking about how she could continue to win the old lady's favor and how to become the highlight of the event, attracting the attention of Mo Zhixuan and everyone else.

All the attention had been stolen by Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi just now, and she had to find a way to reclaim the spotlight, to show them that there was indeed a difference between the high-born and low-born of the Superpower World!

Otherwise, they would really think she was a pushover!

As everyone took their seats, Mu Xianxian's heart also calmed down. She occasionally looked up at Mo Zhixuan, whose chiseled profile made her heart flutter. Yet when she saw the person sitting beside him, her eyes dimmed.

Why wasn't it her sitting by his side? How wonderful it would be if it were her.

But at present, Mo Zhixuan couldn't see her, and she needed to seize more opportunities for herself.

Mu Xianxian reached out to pour Madam Mo a cup of tea, saying softly, "Aunt Mo, here's some water for you. By the way, are you tired? Would you like me to rub your shoulders?"

"No need," Madam Mo waved her hand, "Once Tongzhi arrives, we will begin the meal."

No sooner had she finished speaking than Tong Zhi walked in from outside. She apologized to everyone, "I'm so sorry, there was a private matter that kept you all waiting."

Everyone expressed that it was no problem.

Tong Zhi then walked over to Madam Mo at a leisurely pace and sat down, not helping but take an extra look at Mu Xianxian seated to Madam Mo's left.

Madam Mo introduced, "Tongzhi, let me introduce you. This is Xianxian, Yunzhen's daughter," and she turned to Mu Xianxian, "This is Tong Auntie, whom I just mentioned to you."

Mu Xianxian immediately greeted Tong Zhi with a beaming smile, "Hello, Auntie Tong, I'm Mu Xianxian. You can just call me Xianxian."

"Yunzhen's daughter?" Tong Zhi evaluated Mu Xianxian up and down, then said, "She truly is a chip off the old block, looks quite promising."

Zhang Yunzhen was someone Tong Zhi knew. Though a woman, she was no less capable than any man.

She was someone worthy of respect.

And this Mu Xianxian did indeed resemble Zhang Yunzhen to some degree.

Hearing this, Mu Xianxian's face turned slightly red as she said, "Thank you, Aunt Tong, for the praise; Xianxian feels unworthy."

Tong Zhi nodded with satisfaction, then leaned forward and sat down.

The elder Mrs. Mo glanced over everyone seated at the table, then picked up her wine cup and stood up. "I am really grateful to everyone for being here today. Without your help, Zhixuan would not have made it through the night of extreme yin so smoothly. This cup of wine, I, an old woman, offer to you all."

Upon hearing this, everyone also stood up with their wine cups, and someone immediately responded, "Madam, you are too polite. Brother Nine's matters are our matters too!"

It must be said that Mo Zhixuan's prestige in the Three Realms was very high; with just a word from him, the Three Realms could change masters instantly.

After a cup of wine was finished, everyone took their seats again.

In the meantime, Mo Zhixuan, bringing Chu Jin with him, went around to toast and express gratitude to everyone, which also served to officially acknowledge Chu Jin's status.

The toasting did not end there, as if premeditated, each person in turn toasted her back.

"Sister-in-law Nine, may you and Brother Nine have a long and everlasting union and bear precious children soon."

"Sister-in-law Nine, I have never admired a woman in my life. You are the only one. I will drink this cup first as a tribute, and you must not leave any behind."

"Sister-in-law Nine, I wish you and Brother Nine happiness and fulfillment."

"..."

The number of similar blessings grew, and Chu Jin slightly frowned, feeling something... quite not right.

It was as if she were at a wedding banquet.

Glass after glass of wine followed.

Perhaps because Mo Zhixuan was too aloof, everyone dared not tease him, but instead took turns teasing Chu Jin, directing all the blessings to her.

In contrast, Mo Zhixuan's side was deserted.

Only Zhou Xunian secretly winked at Mo Zhixuan, sending a message: [Brother Nine, as your brother, this is as much as I can help.]

This was Chu Jin's first time drinking wine since her rebirth. Perhaps because her original self had never touched alcohol, after a few glasses, her face had taken on a flush, her head felt slightly dizzy, and her steps were somewhat unstable.

Mo Zhixuan noticed her unusual condition, stood up, wrapped his left arm around her waist, took the wine cup from her hand with his right, and said to everyone, "Your Sister-in-Law Nine can't hold her liquor. For the next few toasts, let me take her place." Having said that, he drained the cup of wine in one gulp.

Seeing this, everyone burst into laughter, with some even screaming in excitement. There were those who clapped enthusiastically; Brother Nine had indeed changed. Such a celestial being, now bent for a young girl, was simply inconceivable.

Moreover, Brother Nine, a man with severe germophobia, could actually tolerate drinking from a cup that someone else had used.

Love is blind.

No one had imagined that the high and mighty Brother Nine would one day be like this.

Aside from the elder Mrs. Mo and Tong Zhi, most of the people present were young. Young people have one thing in common: they love to play. Immediately, they band together, determined to drink Mo Zhixuan under the table with a relentless intention to get him drunk.

Some even started to incite Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin to drink cross-cupped wine.

Rarely, Mo Zhixuan didn't get angry. Seeing that Mo Zhixuan wasn't angry, the crowd grew bolder, daring to make all sorts of jokes.

The elder Mr. Mo and Tong Zhi both watched the crowd with smiles, eyes filled with satisfaction. This was how a family should be. At last, the Mo family had some lively spirits.

Mu Xianxian watched everyone, the unwillingness in her eyes growing denser. The people of the Superpower World were such disappointments! How degenerate, to actually accept a lowly mundane person as Sister-in-law Nine!

Were these people blind?

Just then, the door to the banquet hall burst open, and an elderly man, travel-stained and weary, stepped in. "Tongzhi, you ran off too quickly! Didn't we agree that you would help me solve this ancient puzzle? How could you sneak off by yourself to enjoy fine food and drink here? You left an old man out in the cold to wait for so long! Doesn't your conscience hurt?"

While speaking, the elder symbolically pounded his chest.

And the crowd, which had been lively before, quieted down at the sight of the elder, all widening their eyes and watching him, afraid of missing anything.

Because the newcomer was the renowned Master of Spirits, whose fame shook the seas and beyond.

This man oversaw one of the most mysterious organizations in the Three Realms, the Eight Seas Organization! Comprised entirely of capable and extraordinary individuals, the organization could reach heaven and earth and achieve anything; its members usually shrouded in secrecy!

Legend had it that Master of Spirits had found the secret to eternal life, and moreover, no one knew his true age. Typically, people only saw him in portraits, yet unexpectedly, today they saw him in the flesh.

Mrs. Mo hurriedly stood up as well, "So it is the esteemed Master of Spirits who graces us with his presence. My apologies, my apologies, we have failed to welcome you from afar, please take a seat."

Master of Spirits gestured dismissively, "We're all ordinary folks here; no need for such flowery formalities. Casual is fine. I won't sit. I'm looking for Tongzhi—she promised to help me solve this

ancient puzzle. How could she go back on her word? Really, it's outrageous, just leaving behind an old man to endure several hours of the chill outside."

Tong Zhi glanced at him, her face expressionless, "This elderly gentleman, it's summer now, thank you."

If it's summer, where does the cold wind come from?

It was clear to see that Master of Spirits was an old man with a youthful spirit.

Chu Jin watched the elder, suddenly feeling a sense of *déjà vu*, as if he had seen him somewhere before. The tipsiness he had felt before sobered up substantially.

Master of Spirits grunted in dissatisfaction, "Tongzhi, you leave an old man like me waiting, and you think that's proper? You clearly agreed to help me with this ancient puzzle; how could you sneak away in the middle of it?"

Mrs. Mo also said, "Tongzhi, how could you do this? Since you've already promised the elder beforehand, you should fulfill your promise. How can you go back on your word like this?"

Tong Zhi sighed, "Sister, I'm truly limited in my abilities. I can't solve the chess puzzle the elder has, but he insisted on hanging onto me, leaving me no choice but to resort to this..."

Tong Zhi was a well-known chess master in the Superpower World; there was no chess puzzle in this world she couldn't solve.

Mrs. Mo's interest was piqued upon hearing this, "Oh? That's quite rare. Is there really a puzzle you can't solve?"

Master of Spirits's eyes lit up at her words, "See, even your sister thinks you're hiding your skills. Are you trying to fool me, an old man? You clearly can solve it. Regardless, I don't care, if you don't help me with this chess game today, I'm not leaving." With that, Master of Spirits sat down huffily near Tong Zhi.

Tong Zhi felt like crying but had no tears; she truly couldn't solve the chess game, yet Master of Spirits wouldn't stop pestering her.

"Elder, I'm not being modest, I really can't solve this ancient puzzle..."

"I don't believe your nonsense!" Master of Spirits turned away haughtily.

"Elder, what puzzle is it? Bring it out for me to see, perhaps, I can help you bear the burden." At this moment, Mu Xianxian, who had been quiet up to this point, suddenly spoke up, her voice sweet and very pleasing to the ear, her smiling face also quite charming.

As soon as she said this, everyone turned their gaze towards her.

"You?" Master of Spirits took a look at Mu Xianxian, a glint flashing in his eyes, "What's a baby doing in this commotion? If Tongzhi can't solve it, you think you can?"

Mu Xianxian stood up, giving a faint smile and softly said to Master of Spirits, "Elder, as the saying goes, one should not judge by appearances; a sea cannot be measured. You shouldn't look down on me because of my youth. How would you know if you don't try? Perhaps, I might succeed, right?"

Mu Xianxian was quite skilled in chess and had solved many famous puzzles before. She was confident in her abilities and recognized the elder. If she could gain Master of Spirits's recognition, her future path would be smoother.

If she could break Master of Spirits's chess puzzle today, surely her reputation would instantly spread throughout the Three Realms.

This was an opportunity to make a name for herself and stand out; naturally, she wouldn't miss it.

A bright light flashed in Master of Spirits's eyes; indeed, a fascinating young lady who dared to make such bold statements before him. Interesting, interesting. Master of Spirits stroked his beard and laughed, "Since you, a baby, have such audacity, let's have you give it a try."

As he spoke, Master of Spirits waved his hand, and the table, which had been full of dishes, became instantly clean. At the same time, a chessboard appeared on the table.

The board displayed the millennium-old endgame.

Chu Jin watched the endgame closely, her eyes narrowing ever so slightly, a deep intrigue flashing through them. Whoever had set up the board must have been a once-in-a-generation genius with real combat experience.

Most of the people present had at least some knowledge of Chinese chess, and at that moment, they all furrowed their brows, pondering how to escape the perilous situation on the board.

Mu Xianxian walked around the table, then suddenly broke into a smile, waved her hand, and declared, "Knight to E3, Cannon to E6, Pawn to F6, Bishop to G5..." The chess pieces on the table continually moved, and the eyes of the audience grew wider with amazement. It was unthinkable—no one expected Mu Xianxian to actually solve the millennium-old endgame!

Yong Lingzi was also taken aback! He hadn't expected a young girl to have such skill.

Mu Xianxian bowed to Yong Lingzi, saying, "Elder, thank you for yielding."

"Not bad, not bad, little girl!" said Yong Lingzi, satisfied as he stroked his beard, changing his address from 'baby doll' earlier to 'little girl' now.

Tong Zhi also looked at Mu Xianxian in astonishment. She hadn't thought the endgame that even she couldn't solve would be so easily resolved by Mu Xianxian.

Mu Xianxian was indeed impressive.

Worthy of being Zhang Yunzhen's daughter.

The old madam of the Mo family nodded her head in approval upon watching Mu Xianxian.

Feeling everyone's gaze, Mu Xianxian stood even taller, a sense of superiority welling up within her. The feeling of being looked up to was truly wonderful!

Yong Lingzi calmed down, and then asked, "Little girl, I have another endgame here that I haven't solved. Would you be interested in giving it a try?"

"I can," Mu Xianxian nodded slightly.

"Good," laughed Yong Lingzi, and at the same time, he pulled out a jade pendant from his bosom and placed it on the table, he went on, "Little girl, if you win this game, this jade pendant is yours."

The crowd gasped upon hearing this!

Because this jade pendant represented Yong Lingzi's token, with it, one could command the Eight Seas Organization to do anything! From heaven to hell! Omnipotent!

In other words, having this jade pendant was akin to inheriting Yong Lingzi's position.

Mu Xianxian looked at the jade pendant, and a determined glint flashed in her eyes.

When it came to chess skills, she had never lost; there was no endgame she couldn't solve!

She hadn't expected such a gain on her visit to the mortal realm—it was quite the surprise.

Today, she would make everyone look at her with new eyes!

Yong Lingzi waved his hand, and another endgame appeared on the table, "Little girl, please."

However, this time Mu Xianxian didn't even glance at the board; instead, she looked toward Chu Jin and said with a slight upwards curve of her lips, "I've long heard that the ladies of the Mo family in every generation are talented and virtuous, unrivaled in chess skills, I wonder if today I might have the honor to learn from Sister Chu?"

As she spoke, Mu Xianxian turned to look at Yong Lingzi and continued, "Elder, if Sister Chu and I break this endgame, the jade pendant will belong to the winner, is that okay?"

What Mu Xianxian said was more than just a challenge—it was a slap in the face. Looking at Chu Jin's manner, one could tell she didn't know the first thing about chess. Today, she wouldn't stop until she had thoroughly trampled this commoner underfoot and had a good taste of sweet vengeance!

She would show that the position of the Mo family's head lady was not for just anyone to sit in.

Upon hearing this, Yong Lingzi also became excited, "Alright, then I, as this old man, shall act as a witness."

Mu Xianxian smiled slightly, turning her gaze back to Chu Jin, her eyes filled with triumph, "Sister Chu, please!"

Chapter 508: Still in the Mood to Play Games

One could say that Mu Xianxian left not a single step for Chu Jin to descend upon, nor a shred of face for her to maintain.

In just a few words, Mu Xianxian brought Chu Jin into everyone's view, regardless of her consent.

Moreover, the words she spoke were incredibly artful.

She said that the matriarchs of the Mo family in every generation were both talented and virtuous, and none could rival them in chess.

Conversely, if Chu Jin indeed lost to her, wouldn't that imply Chu Jin was not fit to be the matriarch of the Mo family?

Therefore, if Chu Jin really lost, it wouldn't just be as simple as losing a chess game.

She now represented the entire Mo family.

If she lost to Mu Xianxian in front of everyone, and word spread, it would tarnish the reputation of the Mo family.

The color drained from the Mo family's old madam's face, not sure what exactly Mu Xianxian was up to! Solve the chess problem by herself if she wanted to; why drag Chu Jin into it as well?

After Mu Xianxian finished speaking, all eyes turned to Chu Jin, filled with curiosity, scrutiny, excitement, and even worry.

People from the Superpower World didn't know much about Chu Jin before, but judging from her performance during the night of extreme Yin, she was indeed worthy of the title "extraordinary woman." Such people were rare, not only in the secular world, but also in the Superpower World.

Chess shouldn't pose much of a difficulty for her, right?

Yet, some expressed concern; after all, no one is perfect. Moreover, the chess arrangement set by Song Shiqin this time seemed even more difficult to solve than the millennium-old one from earlier. Previously, the game was Chinese chess, but now, the game laid out turned out to be Go!

At first glance, it appeared to be a normal chessboard, with black and white pieces split down the middle. The black pieces had taken the initiative, their momentum daunting, aggressively pushing forward as the white pieces retreated in defeat!

It was like two opposing armies in battle, with mysteries hidden at every turn; a retreat meant death, as did moving forward.

If someone unlucky had to pick the white pieces, they would certainly be doomed.

The sight made everyone's hearts beat anxiously.

Among those who understood chess, someone immediately exclaimed, "This is a life-and-death situation in the game, surviving five moves could turn the tide and win the world!"

Mu Xianxian also paused when she saw the game; she had thought that Song Shiqin would lay out Chinese chess again, but to her surprise, he had set up a game of Go.

Fortunately, she had also studied Go, so Mu Xianxian was not unfamiliar with it.

As a true lady is proficient in the six arts, so was Mu Xianxian in all respects, which she took great pride in.

Furthermore, she had once even played against professional Go players.

Therefore, she was certain she would win this game.

However, to win, she must not choose the white pieces; she had to find a way to make Chu Jin choose them, and a gleam sparked in Mu Xianxian's lowered eyes.

Chu Jin, observing the board, her lips curved in a faint, barely perceptible smile. Coincidentally, she had once played this exact life-and-death game against Shi Qin. At that time, Shi Qin had said that for hundreds of years, no one had been able to solve it—until she did.

Chu Jin still remembered the shock in Shi Qin's eyes, as if he had witnessed something incredible.

What was the origin of this chess problem? Who created it? How had it managed to spread to the other three realms?

Moreover, that day she only heard Shi Qin talk about surviving five moves to turn the tide, not about winning the world.

Now that was interesting.

A strong curiosity flashed through Chu Jin's downcast eyes.

As Chu Jin's gaze pondered, Mu Xianxian looked up at her provocatively and said, "Why the silence, Sister Chu? Are you afraid? Or perhaps, you wish to admit defeat?"

In Mu Xianxian's opinion, Chu Jin's demeanor was purely out of cowardice.

Song Shiqin first glanced at Mu Xianxian and then turned to Chu Jin, his eyes bearing a complicated expression.

How should he put it—initially, he had quite admired Mu Xianxian. Despite her young age, she possessed such talent and strategy, even solving a millennium-old chess puzzle. But now, he felt she was a tad too arrogant and slightly impetuous.

Yet, considering her young age and great talent, a bit of pride was inevitable. Given a bit more tempering, this young lady could achieve greatness. After she won this game, he definitely wanted to take her as his disciple. It had been a long time since he had encountered such a brilliant young lady.

In Song Shiqin's heart, he was convinced that Mu Xianxian would win this game, and impressively so.

"Afraid of what?" Chu Jin slightly lifted her gaze, raised her chin, and let the corners of her mouth curl up, "May I ask Miss Mu, how is the character 'afraid' written?"

The white crystal light shone on her face, emitting a luminescent, jade-like glow that made it impossible to look away.

Under the light, the girl, though young, exuded an air of tranquility and orchid-like nobility, majestic as if a banished immortal; an inborn aura of transcendence that was unimitable and irreplaceable.

Song Shiqin's eyes brightened. Before, when Chu Jin was standing there with her head slightly bowed, she seemed nothing more than a little child. How could there be so many prodigies in the world like Mu Xianxian, who could casually solve millennium-old puzzles? Besides, with Mu Xianxian saying so much and Chu Jin not replying a word, she seemed just a person of small means. Thus, Song Shiqin hadn't paid much attention to her.

In other words, he was so intent on taking the prodigious Mu Xianxian as his disciple that he failed to notice anyone else. But now, Chu Jin had thoroughly astounded him; in terms of temperament, appearance, and presence, she surpassed Mu Xianxian by more than just a level.

Indeed, the Mo family's matriarch was remarkable, but her intelligence and strategy remained to be seen. After all, chess reflects life, and life reflects chess.

Mu Xianxian looked at Chu Jin with a smile and said, "Since Sister Chu is not afraid, then please allow me to receive a few pointers. Please." After finishing her sentence, Mu Xianxian even made a 'please' gesture, fully displaying her graceful and gentle side, which earned her the favor of the audience.

Chu Jin slightly curled her lips, and in an extremely light tone, she uttered two words, "Easy to say." Her demeanor was absolutely proud!

Mu Xianxian frowned slightly, wondering what this lowly commoner had to be so proud of. What on earth did she have to be proud of when she was about to completely disgrace the Mo family? Yet she could still smile; commoners will be commoners!

Chu Jin slowly walked up to the chessboard and stopped. She raised her eyes to Mu Xianxian and said in a light tone, "Miss Mu, since you are a guest, you choose the pieces first."

Upon hearing this, Mu Xianxian's lips curved up, and a gleam of light flashed through her eyes. Usually, regardless of the occasion, black and white pieces are decided by a process called "guessing the lead." She really must be a fool for letting herself choose the pieces first. It seemed she truly didn't understand Chinese chess at all, not even knowing about "guessing the lead."

Originally, she had been worrying about how to make Chu Jin voluntarily choose the white pieces, but now it seemed this brainless commoner, even if by some fluke she chose the black pieces, wouldn't be able to beat her.

Disappointment also flickered in the eyes of Yong Lingzi; he had thought that Chu Jin could have brought him some hope, but now it seemed she was merely an outsider who didn't understand the first thing about the game of chess!

And had no respect for it at all.

Having Mu Xianxian play against her was a downright insult to chess!

At this point, Yong Lingzi placed all his hopes on Mu Xianxian; as long as she could solve this chess puzzle, then she would be the person he was looking for.

Mu Xianxian looked at Chu Jin and with a slight curve to her lips said, "If that's the case, then I'll respectfully comply with your decision—I choose the black pieces." With that, Mu Xianxian walked towards the side with the black pieces.

Now that she had already secured the advantage, she might as well not leave Chu Jin any chance at all. Tonight, she would make Chu Jin doubt her very life!

Seeing Mu Xianxian choose the black pieces, everyone wrung their hands in concern for Chu Jin. The white pieces were already showing signs of retreat, and no matter how much they struggled, it seemed impossible to turn the game around. It appeared Chu Jin was bound to lose!

"This isn't fair, why do you get to choose the black pieces?" Mo Qingyi stood up. Although she didn't quite understand the ways of Chinese chess, she knew enough to realize that having the black pieces, which go first, was completely unfair to Brother Jin.

Mo Qingyi walked to Chu Jin's side and continued, "You should decide who gets the black and white pieces by 'guessing the lead'! Not just you wanting the black pieces and getting them."

Mu Xianxian chuckled lightly, looking at Mo Qingyi and said softly, "Sister, don't be agitated, this is a matter between me and Sister Chu. Once a word is spoken, it's like spilt water, which you can't take back. Do you want Sister Chu to be known as a person who goes back on her word?"

Mo Qingyi was momentarily at a loss for words. There was some truth to what Mu Xianxian had said. Since it was Chu Jin who decided to let her choose first, it was already too late to change their minds.

But if they didn't take it back, then all Chu Jin would have left was to lose.

Mo Qingyi looked at Chu Jin with some urgency, "What do we do, Brother Jin?"

"It's okay," Chu Jin was not in the least bit worried and said with a faint smile, "Don't worry, I know what I'm doing."

With that, she even gave Mo Qingyi's hand a gentle pat to reassure her.

Mu Xianxian smiled too, laughing at how Chu Jin was like a pig not fearing the boiling water, still putting on an act of composure at such a time.

Not only was Mo Qingyi concerned, but everyone around was also worrying for Chu Jin, for this matter concerned the reputation of the Mo family. Moreover, tonight, the old master Yong Lingzi was present.

The calmest people in the entire venue were Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin.

The corners of Mo Zhixuan's mouth even held a faint smile as he observed the girl standing there, his deep phoenix eyes revealing an unfathomable darkness.

Even the old lady of the Mo family and Tong Zhi were somewhat nervous.

"Little Zhi, do you think Jin is being too impulsive today?" the old lady of the Mo family asked Tong Zhi worriedly, for even Tong Zhi could not solve this chess puzzle—could Chu Jin really do it?

Although she must have had some confidence to act this way, the old lady of the Mo family just couldn't help but worry.

Tong Zhi consoled, "Sister, don't worry for now, we should have faith in Jin. Look how calm Zhixuan is; we should just watch patiently." Even though that's what she said, she was actually a bit worried herself.

It was then that Yong Lingzi spoke up, "Since the two young ladies have made their decisions, let's begin. The player with the black pieces goes first."

At this point, it seemed there was no room left for turning things around, so everyone's gaze converged on Chu Jin and Mu Xianxian.

Chu Jin and Mu Xianxian each took their seats at the table.

In contrast to Mu Xianxian's earnestness, Chu Jin seemed utterly relaxed and even took out her phone to browse something unclear.

She had already encountered this life-and-death chess puzzle in Song Shiqin's hands, so she was not worried about losing to Mu Xianxian.

Seeing this, Mu Xianxian's lips curled in a mocking smile, and she kindly reminded, "Sister Chu, this is an ancient puzzle, and you won't find a solution on your phone, so don't waste your effort."

No wonder Chu Jin had been so calm from the beginning; was she really pinning her hopes on her phone? How ridiculous; this ancient puzzle had never been solved by anyone throughout history, so how could a solution possibly be found on a phone? She had thought Chu Jin was smarter than this.

At Mu Xianxian's words, the onlookers also showed various expressions of amazement. If that were true, then Chu Jin was quite naive. Not only was she blatantly cheating, but she had also been caught red-handed. And as Mu Xianxian said, one couldn't find a method to solve this ancient puzzle on a phone—otherwise, it wouldn't be called a puzzle.

Everyone craned their necks to glance at Chu Jin's phone screen, only to find that it was on a game page.

A very oppressive game.

Hell's Border.

In the face of such circumstances, she actually had the mind to play a game, truly carefree!

The old lady of the Mo family and Tong Zhi also wore puzzled expressions, wondering what Chu Jin was planning with this mysterious strategy.

Chapter 509: The Splendor of Rivers and Mountains

"Um," Chu Jin slightly curled his lips, lifted his eyes to gaze at Mu Xianxian, and said in a clear voice, "I'm truly sorry to disappoint you. You might not believe it, but this game of chess, I really didn't take it seriously. I just feel that playing against you is far less challenging than this single-player game."

Having said that, she even picked up her phone and waved it in front of Mu Xianxian.

Her demeanor was arrogant.

For someone as proud and conceited as Mu Xianxian, you have to be ten times prouder than her and crush her until she questions her life; otherwise, she will never understand why the flowers are so red.

Mu Xianxian gave a slight smile, and after careful consideration, she moved a black stone to a new position on the board and then said, "When the moon is full, it wanes; when a cup is full, it overflows; when words are too full, they wound. Do you understand this principle, Sister Chu?"

After the black stone moved to this new position, it instantly brought the entire game into a new realm. The situation for the white stones became even more perilous, while for the black stones, if the game continued in this direction, it would only take five moves to turn the tide.

Just this one stone had such an effect, it seemed that Mu Xianxian was not as she appeared. When people looked at her again, they all showed a look of respect in their eyes.

Such a person would surely achieve greatness in the future!

Truly talented individuals are deserving of respect.

With one hand holding her phone, Chu Jin casually picked up a white stone and moved it.

However, when everyone saw where her stone landed, they all showed disappointed expressions.

Not only did her move fail to extricate her from danger, but it actually led her into an even more perilous situation.

It seemed that Chu Jin really didn't understand chess! This was complete nonsense!

A young man on the side couldn't stand it anymore and blurted out, "Sister-in-law, do you even know how to play Go? Why would you move there? With that move, Mu Xianxian is about to win!"

Mu Xianxian smiled softly and said kindly, "Sister Chu, how about this? We won't count the move you just made. I'll give you another chance to make a move."

Upon hearing this, the crowd looked at Mu Xianxian with admiration, and even Songlingsu nodded satisfactorily. Such generosity; Chu Jin had provoked her with words earlier, but not only did she not get angry, she even offered Chu Jin a chance to move again. Such magnanimity was rare!

This was exactly the effect Mu Xianxian wanted, and at that moment, she felt even more smug.

Chu Jin, unhurriedly flipped her phone face down on the table and said indifferently, "No regrets in chess."

"Sister Chu is truly a noble person," Mu Xianxian picked up a black stone and continued, "Since that's the case, I won't hold back." With these words, she placed her black stone on the High Eye point.

In an instant, she brought the white stones on the board to a catch-22 situation- a step back meant death, and so did a step forward.

It was clear that Mu Xianxian had some skill, but it was a pity that she was too eager for quick success. She only saw the victory in front of her and failed to perceive the hidden crisis in the dark.

Watching her step by step fall into the trap she had laid, Chu Jin slightly curled her lips and reached out to push a white stone to another position.

The situation for the white stones became even more dangerous!

The onlookers shook their heads, this game, Chu Jin was bound to lose! She was clearly a complete novice, and yet she managed to act so nonchalantly. The question was how she was going to explain away the grandiose claims she had made earlier.

The onlookers' view of Chu Jin also began to change; not understanding was one thing, but pretending to know was entirely another. Was there something wrong with this sister-in-law's character?

A hint of scorn flashed in Mu Xianxian's eyes as she looked at Chu Jin and spoke softly, "Sister Chu, there's something I'm not sure if I should say."

Chu Jin spoke with a detached tone, "Go ahead."

Mu Xianxian stretched out her hand and moved a black piece again, without lifting her head, she spoke, "I feel that playing chess with someone like you is an insult to my intelligence." Her tone was unabashedly mocking.

Chu Jin's eyebrows lifted slightly as she looked up at Mu Xianxian, her red lips parting slightly, "Oh? Could it be that Miss Mu has forgotten the principle that full moons wane, overflowing water floods, and excessive words wound? However, I indeed quite like your current statement because I also feel that playing against you is an insult to my intelligence."

Her voice was very faint, yet it carried, word for word, into everyone's ears. The crowd all slightly furrowed their brows—what was the occasion? Chu Jin was still boasting impossibilities. Was she beyond help? Would it kill her to admit defeat for once? To be honest for once?

Yong Lingzi also felt that this girl was beyond hope. At such a critical juncture, she still had the leisure to spar verbally with Mu Xianxian. Didn't she know she was about to lose? That she was on the verge of completely tarnishing the Mo family's reputation?

The Mo family's old madam and Tong Zhi were both anxiously sweating palms, yet upon looking at Mo Zhixuan, he remained as calm and composed as ever.

Mu Xianxian's smugness grew. Initially, she took a long time to consider each of her first three moves, but now that she realized Chu Jin truly did not understand the way of chess, she stopped looking at the chessboard altogether, liberating herself. After all, no matter what, she would win.

"Sister Chu's verbal skill is impressive, but as for chess skill, mere words are useless, the most important thing is, having a brain!"

Chu Jin slowly curled her lips into a smile, casually moving a white piece to a new position, "Hmm, Miss Mu is right, a brain is indeed a fine thing, and I hope you could also have one."

Looking at the chessboard again, the situation seemed unchanged, but in reality, it had already been turned on its head!

Mu Xianxian snorted coldly, moving the last piece, "Actions speak louder than words, Miss Chu, you've lost!"

On the chessboard, the white pieces had reached desperate straits, now nothing but a defeated force.

A gasp of astonishment went through the crowd, as Mu Xianxian was too remarkable, having solved one difficult position after another!

Yong Lingzi looked jubilant and began to speak, "Not bad, not bad, the young lady has won, so this Jade Pendant..."

He hadn't finished his sentence when a cold voice interrupted, "Hold on, in life-and-death chess game, victory is determined within five moves, and there is still one white piece left. Elder, isn't it a bit premature to announce the result now?"

Mu Xianxian's black pieces were indeed finished, but there was still one white piece left in her own hand.

To everyone else and Mu Xianxian, it seemed that Chu Jin was merely struggling in vain. She had lost already but still dared not face reality. Could such a person really be worthy of Ninth Brother?

Mu Xianxian, very understandingly said, "Since that is the case, elder, then let's wait for sister Chu."

Yong Lingzi, looking at Chu Jin with contempt, nodded his head nevertheless, "Very well."

Chu Jin looked up slightly, "Let me correct you, you are not waiting for me, but rather complying with the rules of the competition." How Mu Xianxian spoke, it was as if it was her granting an additional opportunity to Chu Jin, this kind of person truly never forgets to assert their presence no matter the situation.

As she spoke, Chu Jin reached out and placed the white piece at the 'Central point' on the board, instantly turning the situation around, topsy-turvy!

The once overbearing black pieces had become a defeated force, whereas the white pieces sentenced to death were now crowned as king!

Upon seeing this, everyone's eyes widened in disbelief. No one had expected the situation to reverse like this with Chu Jin! No wonder she had been so confident all along, she wasn't just boasting after all!

"Miss Mu, thanks for letting me win." Chu Jin then stood up leisurely from her chair, nodding slightly toward Mu Xianxian.

Mu Xianxian, however, was frozen on the spot, staring at the chessboard, her face incredulous! How could this be? The person who had clearly won was her! How could it turn out like this?

This vulgar person, she wasn't supposed to know how to play chess, right? How could she have won against her?

Yong Lingzi was also somewhat shocked as he looked at the chessboard on the table. Only then did he realize that this person had not recklessly put himself in danger earlier because he did not understand chess. Instead, he was laying out a strategy, creating an illusion to blind his opponent! His moves on the chessboard appeared to have no particular pattern, yet in reality, they were pressing closer with each step!

Moreover, not only had he deceived Mu Xianxian, but he had also fooled all of them, the spectators. One can discern one's heart through observing their play.

The young lady before him truly should not be underestimated! She had the air of a great general!

Indeed, as the saying goes, in the fight for supremacy under the heavens, it's all about the strategy!

This was true strategy!

All of Yong Lingzi's unfavorable opinions of Chu Jin vanished in an instant, replaced by deep admiration.

It seemed that Chu Jin was the person he had been looking for.

"This young lady is both brave and strategic; you truly impress this old man," Yong Lingzi said, stroking his beard. He turned to Chu Jin and continued, "If this old man has done anything improper before, I hope the young lady will not take offense."

Chu Jin smiled warmly, "Elder, you take it too seriously." With those words, she walked over to Mo Zhixuan and stood beside him, gently pinching the center of his palm and whispered, "How about it, 'Father Mo', am I not a disappointment?"

The corners of Mo Zhixuan's lips lifted in an almost imperceptible curve. He lowered his head to whisper in Chu Jin's ear, his breath carrying a faint scent of alcohol, somewhat intoxicating, "My person, of course, would not disappoint me."

Tsk tsk tsk! Talk about self-love!

Chu Jin looked at him and shook her head slightly, but as she turned back, her nose accidentally brushed against his thin lips.

Mr. Mo's gaze deepened in an instant.

If it weren't for the wrong time and place, he would certainly... At the thought, he swallowed involuntarily, with a ferocious beast awakening within him.

"Brother Jin, congratulations, you're really amazing!" Mo Qingyi walked over to Chu Jin excitedly. She was genuinely happy, originally thinking that Chu Jin was bound to lose, yet she managed to turn the tide!

"Call her sister-in-law," Mo Zhixuan corrected with a stern face.

Mo Qingyi was still somewhat afraid of her older brother. She immediately corrected herself obediently, "Sister-in-law." In her heart, she silently wondered, with her brother's imposing presence, how was Brother Jin able to hold her ground?

With someone like her brother, who could hardly utter a word after three attempts, didn't Brother Jin find it boring to be with him?

He was old and cold. Other than being a bit handsome, there were hardly any other merits. She really didn't understand what Brother Jin saw in him.

Madame Mo and Tong Zhi were also very delighted. For the Mo family to have such a capable daughter-in-law was truly the result of accumulated virtue from their ancestors.

An outstanding son and an outstanding daughter-in-law, their future children were bound to be even more excellent!

Madame Mo became happier the more she thought about it.

Others came to congratulate Chu Jin too, not only Mo Qingyi. Finally, they had witnessed that this Ninth Sister was not only a fighter but also full of wisdom and strategy, a truly exceptional being!

Compliments followed one after another, falling harshly on Mu Xianxian's ears!

All this glory should have belonged to him. But now, it had been snatched away by someone of common birth—no one would feel good about this!

This person was simply his nemesis, making him lose all face in front of everyone!

No, she must reclaim the glory that belonged to her! She must! How could she easily lose to a commoner when she was the daughter of Zhang Yunzhen!

"Young lady, since you have solved this strategic game, this jade pendant is now yours," intoned Yong Lingsi, passing the jade pendant to Chu Jin with serious demeanor. The emerald-green pendant shimmered with a translucent glow under the light.

Chu Jin noticed that the front of the pendant bore the character 'Phoenix'. Instinctively, she felt sure that the word 'Order' must be inscribed on the back. She couldn't explain why, but the pendant seemed oddly familiar the moment she saw it.

Chu Jin didn't accept the jade pendant but instead declined gracefully, "I apologize, elder, but I can't accept such a precious gift without good reason. Please take it back; I would feel ashamed to accept it!"

This pendant wasn't just a simple ornament. It was vested with a certain responsibility—an object of such importance, of course, she couldn't accept it.

For now, all she wanted was to avenge her past life, to go to university, and to live out her life well with Mo Zhixuan, leading a simpler, happier life to make up for the regrets of her previous lifetime.

Yong Lingsi seemed taken aback by Chu Jin's refusal, squinting his eyes, "Once a word is said, it shouldn't be taken back. Young lady, your ability to solve this strategic game means that you are fated with this pendant, keep it. Otherwise, I won't leave today!"

These words, like needles, pierced deeply into Mu Xianxian's heart. The favor Yong Lingsi had shown her suddenly shifted to another, a feeling that was utterly terrible!

Besides, Chu Jin was truly ruthless, clearly wanting the pendant and yet pretending she didn't! Who knew who she was performing for! Was she intentionally trying to embarrass her?

Chu Jin still refused, "Elder, solving this life-and-death game was nothing but a fluke. I truly can't take the pendant. If you genuinely wish to give it to someone, perhaps give it to someone in need."

"I am quite determined, young lady, if you don't accept it, I really will not leave today!" Saying so, Yong Lingsi sat down on a stool like a child and began to sulk.

"Since the senior has given it to you, you should keep it," Mo Zhixuan took the jade pendant from Yong Lingsi's hand nonchalantly and forced it into Chu Jin's hand, imperiously leaving her no chance to refuse.

"That's more like it, young man, not bad, very promising," exclaimed Yong Lingsi, standing up happily. He raised his hand, intending to pat Mo Zhixuan's shoulder but realizing his height didn't allow it. Going on tiptoes would be too embarrassing, so, with no better option, he sheepishly withdrew his hand.

Mo Zhixuan, always reserved, didn't respond verbally, but gave Yong Lingsi a slight nod of acknowledgment.

Having no choice, Chu Jin accepted the jade pendant and thanked Yong Lingsi, "In that case, thank you very much, senior."

Yong Lingsi waved his hand indifferently, "We're all family, why stand on ceremony? By the way, young lady, what is your name?"

Family?

Chu Jin was taken aback—since when had she become family with Yong Lingsi? The old man played too many tricks, like an old impish child.

Seeing her astonishment, Yong Lingsi continued, "I mean, the fifty-six ethnic groups are all one family, aren't we?" He thought to himself, heh heh, once you become my disciple, won't we be family? Isn't there a saying? A teacher for a day is a father for a lifetime.

The fifty-six ethnic groups are all one family? This explanation was unobjectionable!

Chu Jin reluctantly nodded.

"Right, you haven't told me, what is your name? I can't keep calling you 'young lady', " pursued Yong Lingsi.

Chu Jin smiled lightly, "Senior, my name is Chu Jin, 'Chu' as in Chu River and Han Border, 'Jin' as in splendid rivers and mountains."

Yong Lingsi stroked his beard and laughed, "Chu Jin, haha, what a fine name, what a fine name." The simple two characters concealed an air of elegance.

The more Mu Xianxian listened, the angrier she grew; her face twisted into a snarl. However, she had to suppress the towering rage in her heart and approached Chu Jin with a gentle face, softly saying, "Sister Chu, congratulations, it's my good fortune to be defeated by you."

Chapter 510: If the small tree is not trimmed, then it won't grow straight

Mu Xianxian was someone adept at adapting.

She knew what to say for every occasion.

When to yield, and when to hold her head high.

Now, with Chu Jin having the upper hand, she had to bow her head; she had to show goodwill to Chu Jin.

Hence at this moment, she reverted to her gentle and kind demeanor.

Being flexible, being able to lose gracefully, would win her the favor of others.

Time was on her side, and one day, she would repay Chu Jin for the humiliation suffered today twofold.

Indeed, when Mu Xianxian uttered these words, the look in the eyes of those around her changed again, and they all inwardly sighed, thinking that Mu Xianxian had truly grown up.

The anger in Elder Mo's heart dissipated by more than half. But out of respect for an old friend who had passed away and seeing that Mu Xianxian was willing to correct her mistakes, she thought it right to forgive her.

Mu Xianxian was smart. She knew how to leverage people's influence and understood how to manipulate human nature well. She was aware that under these circumstances, if Chu Jin continued to ignore her or made things difficult for her, Chu Jin would undoubtedly be criticized by everyone. After all, the underdog was always the one who received the most attention. That's why she dared to step forward and say such words to Chu Jin.

Whether Chu Jin entertained her or made things difficult for her, it wasn't a bad thing for Mu Xianxian herself.

After finishing her statement, Mu Xianxian looked up at Chu Jin with gentle spring light and laughter in her eyes, as if she were genuinely happy for Chu Jin's victory in the game of chess.

It must be said that this person's acting was truly superb.

Chu Jin also looked up at her, her smile faint, and in an extremely light tone, she uttered two words, "Thank you."

She neither showed Mu Xianxian disdain nor ignored her.

Towards Mu Xianxian, she felt not the slightest bit of fondness. As someone with a normal sense of right and wrong, no one would probably feel fondness towards such a person, would they?

Upon hearing her response, Mu Xianxian was startled, then with a slight redness to her eyes, she said, "Sister Chu, you don't like me?" Her expression was somewhat aggrieved.

Hearing this, the looks between Chu Jin and Mu Xianxian grew more intriguing to the onlookers.

They recalled the scene of the two playing chess just moments before.

Could it be that besides their chess match, there had been some previous grievance between them? Seeing Mu Xianxian almost ready to cry, it seemed she had suffered no small injustice. However, Jin didn't appear to be the kind of person who would bully others. So, what exactly had transpired between them?

Curiosity among the onlookers was growing. After all, Mu Xianxian was a member of the Superpower World, and her father was the second Elder there. If Mu Xianxian were wronged in the secular world, it would be difficult for them to explain upon returning to the Superpower World.

Moreover, if Mu Xianxian were bullied in the secular world, it would also reflect poorly on the reputation of the Superpower World, especially as today, Zhou Xunian was present.

"My sexual orientation is normal, why should I like you?" Chu Jin replied with a smile, the dimples on her cheeks shallow, and her eyes filled with endless ripples, captivating those who saw them.

She was only seventeen or eighteen years old, yet she exuded an elegant demeanor enriched by time. With red lips and a fair complexion, her charming grace was like that of a beauty stepping out of a painting, a delight to the eyes, instantly brightening a dreary heart.

They say beauty is difficult to capture in painting, yet she was the kind of beauty that radiated from within.

Upon hearing this, Mo Zhixuan's usually stern brows softened considerably. This beauty was going to belong to him.

This answer was brilliant! It not only expressed that she simply didn't like Mu Xianxian, but it also left no room for faultfinding!

Jin's emotional intelligence was truly incomparable, the onlookers silently praised.

Mu Xianxian was stunned too, struggling to maintain her composure. This Chu Jin was really not someone to be trifled with! She could never have dreamed that Chu Jin would say such a thing. It seemed she had no choice but to keep up her act of being pitiable to the end.

Right now, this was her only advantage, and she must play it well.

With a bit more redness in her eyes, Mu Xianxian said, "Sister Chu, you know that's not what I meant. If... if I have offended you before, please be magnanimous and forgive me this once. I apologize to you here," and with that, she bowed slightly towards Chu Jin, demonstrating sincere contrition.

"There's no need for apologies. Since the matter is already in the past, I prefer not to dwell on it. Besides, the one you should be apologizing to isn't me," Chu Jin said, raising her gaze to Mu Xianxian, the smile disappearing from her lips as she straightened up and seriously continued, "The one you owe an apology to, is your conscience."

It was rare for Chu Jin to be so solemn; usually, she was either nonchalant or smiling. But suddenly, her serious demeanor caused a jolt in the hearts of those around her, releasing an aura of authority that was chilling.

Chu Jin had saved Mu Xianxian for the sake of Zhou Xunian's face. When she rescued her, she hadn't expected any repayment, so Mu Xianxian's biting the hand that fed her was not a betrayal of Chu Jin but of her own conscience.

"Boss?" The crowd around them instinctively swallowed their saliva, Sister Nine V5! Sister Nine looked just like Brother Nine used to!

Mu Xianxian had thought that once she spoke these words, everyone would take her side, especially since she had been so compromising! But to her surprise, they were instead casting looks of near-admiration at Chu Jin!

What a mistake! She was the one apologizing, she was the one who had been wronged, and these people weren't seeking justice for her, but were staring at Chu Jin like idiots instead!

She was furious!

But what infuriated her most was Zhou Xunian—he wasn't saying a word to defend her!

Mu Xianxian tried hard to regulate her breathing and said pitifully, "Sister Chu, I really know I was wrong. Please forgive me, considering my young age, can we be good sisters from now on? My mother died early, and I never had a sister, but when I saw you, you were like a sister to me."

Now, she had no choice but to exploit her mother's death to evoke sympathy and manipulate the situation. If Chu Jin dared to refuse her, it meant she lacked compassion, and surely everyone would hate her then!

Chu Jin couldn't stand people like Mu Xianxian who played the pity card. She had clearly done wrong and wasn't repentant! The most contemptible thing was using a deceased person to manipulate others. Wasn't she tired of living in a soap opera every day?

"Miss Mu, can't you let the deceased rest in peace? They are not pawns for you to gain others' sympathy. Also, being young is not an excuse for lacking conscience; even four-year-old Kong Rong knew how to yield the larger pears. Besides, you are 18 years old this year!"

Chu Jin's words were reasonable and intentional, leaving no room for Mu Xianxian's face, cutting through her façade like a sharp sword, revealing the most corrupt side of her beneath to everyone, bloody and raw.

The few who had begun to feel sympathy for Mu Xianxian immediately saw her in a new light. As Chu Jin had said, if Mu Xianxian really had a conscience, she wouldn't have exploited the dead to garner sympathy from others.

Even the Elder Madam Mo's gaze towards Mu Xianxian held a different hue, realizing that Mu Xianxian was not as simple, as kind-hearted, or as filial as she appeared to be.

Doctor Zhang stepped forward, shielding Mu Xianxian, and addressed Chu Jin, "Miss Chu, you've gone too far with your words. My sister died early, and this child is already pitiful enough. Now you're pouring salt on her wounds. After all, Xianxian is just an 18-year-old child who hasn't even had her coming-of-age ceremony. Strictly speaking, she's still a minor. You, poised to be the future matriarch of the Mo family, why bother arguing with a child?"

This was double-edged, suggesting on one hand that Chu Jin was petty to quarrel with a child, lacking the grace expected of a matriarch. On the other hand, he insinuated she was ruthlessly heartless, speaking evilly of an orphaned child. What made her worthy of being the Mo family's matriarch?

Hearing this, Chu Jin slightly furrowed her brows. Clearly, the apple didn't fall far from the tree. It appeared that Mu Xianxian's transformation into her current state wasn't solely her own fault; as a parent, he bore a significant share of the responsibility.

Parents are a child's first teachers! Children learn from what they see their parents do!

Chu Jin lifted her eyes slightly, her demeanor composed. She was not flustered by Physician Zhang's words and said in a cool tone, "I have said before, being young is not an excuse for lacking conscience; having no mother is not a chip to garner sympathy! Moreover, the ancients have said, 'When a child is not taught, it's the father's fault.' Although you are not Miss Mu's father, the reason she has turned out this way today is largely your responsibility! As an elder, you should act like one! Forgive my frankness, but if a sapling is not straightened it will not grow upright. If this continues, Miss Mu is likely to become a crooked tree."

When she finished speaking, laughter erupted from the onlookers. Sister-in-law Jiu's presence was truly formidable; her speech was well articulated. The nearby Yong Lingzi also nodded in approval, "Not bad, not bad, the young lady indeed possesses that person's elegance!"

Physician Zhang's face turned ashen, but, frustratingly, he had no grounds for rebuttal!

The surrounding laughter all fell into Mu Xianxian's ears, her face turned as ugly as a palette of mismatched colors. Her hands were clenched tightly into fists within her sleeves, shaking slightly with anger. She had never suffered such humiliation in her life!

"You!" When had Physician Zhang ever been criticized like this by someone younger? He was shaking with rage and had the urge to beat Chu Jin, yet he dared not lift a hand against her.

Chu Jin's lips curled slightly as she watched him, embodying the attitude of "I just love how you can't stand me but can't do anything about it."

For a moment, Physician Zhang became even more enraged!

And the crowd, none of whom seemed inclined to ease the tension for these two, because Chu Jin was right after all—they always supported justice over relationships.

The Mo family matriarch stepped forward at the right moment, smiling amiably at Physician Zhang, "I apologize, Jin is young and is always straight to the point. Just listen to her and let it go, please don't take it to heart. However, what Jin said isn't completely unreasonable. Children learn by following the examples of adults. We, as elders, should indeed spend more time on the younger ones so that Yunzhen can rest in peace below."

The Mo family matriarch's words on the surface seemed to be mediating for Physician Zhang and Mu Xianxian but were also an implied criticism of Mu Xianxian's lack of education and upbringing. Nevertheless, it was a way for her to give Physician Zhang a way out since she had spoken up. If he continued to be obstinate, he would appear unreasonable.

Therefore, Physician Zhang spoke with a feigned smile, "The elder lady is correct."

"Aunt Mo, Xianxian knows her mistake and will certainly reform from now on," Mu Xianxian followed with a deep bow, a picture of sincerity. Nobody noticed the moment she bowed, her lowered eyes harbored a venomous, ruthless glint.

The Mo family matriarch nodded, "Good, recognizing your fault is what matters. Alright, today's banquet was meant to express gratitude for everyone's help, there's no need to be upset over unrelated matters. Come, come, let's all take a seat."

She efficiently ushered the guests to take their seats and turning to Yong Lingzi, she said, "Elder Yong Lingzi, please take the seat of honor," and gestured for him to proceed.

Yong Lingzi originally intended to say he wanted to sit with Chu Jin, but glancing at Mo Zhixuan beside her, he swallowed those words and seated himself at the place of honor. Mu Xianxian followed suit, remaining in her original seat next to the Mo family matriarch. Now, ingratiating herself with the matriarch was most important. If she could win over Yong Lingzi's favourable gaze in the process, that would be even better.

Unfortunately, throughout the banquet, the Mo family matriarch didn't spare Mu Xianxian another look. As for Yong Lingzi, preoccupied with how to find an excuse to take Chu Jin as his disciple, he had no time to bother with an unrelated person.