

R Woman 661

Chapter 661: Unrestrained Love of Freedom

"Chief Mo, I am the person in charge," said the female boss, stepping forward with a respectful attitude as a cold sweat broke out on her forehead.

She had previously received other high-ranking officers from the Superpower World, but none had exerted such an oppressive force on her.

He hardly needed to do anything; just standing there evoked fear in people.

No wonder he was the infamous young executioner who ravaged cities.

Merely his presence alone was incomparable to others.

Such a person was born to be a king.

"Is this dress a product sold by your shop?" Mo Zhixuan's assistant handed the dress over to the female boss.

The female boss took the dress, glanced at it, and said very respectfully, "Yes, it's sold by our store. Chief Mo, may I ask if there's any problem?"

This particular dress was the unique creation of an elderly artist, one of a kind in the entire Superpower World, so the female boss recognized it almost at a glance.

But hadn't the dress been sold to that haughty Miss Chu from the Chu Family?

Why is it now... in the hands of Chief Mo?

With this thought.

The female boss's brow twitched.

She suddenly remembered that last night Miss Chu claimed to be Mo Zhixuan's fiancée...

Could it be... Mo Zhixuan had come to seek justice for his fiancée?

The female boss had no time to ponder further as the deep voice sounded again.

Mo Zhixuan spoke slowly, "How many people tried on this dress before last night?"

Based on the fragrance on the dress, it seemed to have been tried on just last night.

The female boss narrowed her eyes slightly.

It seemed her guess was correct; Mo Zhixuan had come to seek justice for Miss Chu.

Unexpectedly, Mo Zhixuan, who appeared wise and valiant, also couldn't distinguish right from wrong and could lose his temper all for the sake of a lady.

The female boss was brewing her words in her heart, then she said.

"Chief Mo, this dress is not for sale, and not many people have tried it on, apart from... your fiancée, there was only one other young lady who did."

"Fiancée?" Mo Zhixuan looked at the female boss, confusion flickering in his eyes, "You mean, the person who bought this dress?"

The female boss nodded respectfully, "Yes, that Miss Chu claimed to be your fiancée."

Mo Zhixuan slightly raised his hand, and his assistant, understanding immediately, took out a tablet computer, retrieved a seven-inch photo from the database, and presented it to the female boss, "Is the Miss Chu you mentioned this person?"

The tablet displayed a seven-inch photo of Luo Yu.

The female boss looked at it, nodded, and said, "Yes, that's her."

The assistant put away the tablet and looked at the female boss, "Her name is Luo Yu, the adopted daughter of the Chu lady, and has no relation to Chief Mo, let alone being his fiancée. Do you understand?"

Upon hearing this.

A shock flickered through the female boss's eyes, but she quickly grasped the situation.

She knew Mo Zhixuan's taste wouldn't be that poor.

That Luo Yu was clearly not a genuine young miss of any standing, looking down on people, with all the air of pettiness. She had been wondering, as Madame Chu seemed so noble and elegant, how she could have a daughter like that, but it turned out she was merely Madame Chu's adopted daughter.

"Understood."

Mo Zhixuan sat down on the sofa, crossing his legs, and looked toward the female boss, "You just mentioned that apart from Luo Yu, someone else tried on this dress, correct?"

"Yes," the female boss nodded, recalling the scene from the previous night, "Originally, that lady intended to buy the dress, but in the end, she gave it to Miss Luo, and... that lady also claimed to be the young mistress of the Chu Family."

At those words, Mo Zhixuan's pupils slightly contracted, and he stood up right away, suppressing the excitement in his heart, "Tell me the details of the entire process, and remember, don't miss a single word."

"Of course."

The female boss recounted the entire sequence of events from the previous night, without omitting a single detail.

The more Mo Zhixuan listened, the brighter the look in his eyes.

Based on the female boss's description.

Indeed.

It was her style of doing things.

It was his Jin.

His Jin.

Had returned.

Mo Zhixuan felt a wild joy inside, but his face remained utterly calm.

As soon as the female boss finished speaking, Mo Zhixuan strode out the door, took out his sunglasses from his pocket, put them on, and stepped into the car.

The assistant followed closely behind.

Mo Zhixuan, sitting in the front seat, said with a cool tone, "Immediately pull up all of last night's surveillance videos for this area and the check-in information from all the major inns."

If she had returned, she would surely have checked into an inn.

Yet, Mo Zhixuan couldn't fathom one thing; if she had already returned, why hadn't she come to find him?

And why not return to the Chu Family?

What exactly was the hidden story here?

"Yes." The assistant nodded, immediately picked up the tablet, and began to tap rapidly on the screen with their fingers.

A string after string of codes appeared on the screen.

Meanwhile, elsewhere.

Inside a silver caregiver's car, Bai Ruyu was sitting in the back seat, reviewing the information the assistant had gathered.

It was about Chu Jin.

The information was very detailed.

It clearly recorded everything that had happened to Chu Jin in the secular world.

Including what happened on the day of her grand wedding with Mo Zhixuan.

"A reincarnation of the empress," Bai Ruyu stroked his chin, a glint of excitement passing through his eyes, "quite interesting."

No wonder he could always see a different kind of temperament from Chu Jin, unlike that of ordinary women.

As it turned out.

She was the Empress Phoenix, huh?

The Empress Phoenix, of course different from other women.

However, what puzzled Bai Ruyu was.

Chu Jin had clearly died a year ago, yet now, she had reappeared in the Superpower World.

And alone, at that.

Mo Zhixuan, now the head of the Superpower World, had no need to have Chu Jin continue divining for a living.

The woman of the Superpower World's leader was now showing her face in the streets and alleys.

This also did not match Mo Zhixuan's way of doing things.

Unless.

Mo Zhixuan had no idea about this.

After all, Chu Jin had already died a year ago.

Mo Zhixuan did not know Chu Jin was alive again, and Chu Jin, for her part, did not remember Mo Zhixuan.

This led to the situation where, although they lived in the same city, they had yet to meet and had gone their separate ways.

That must be the case.

Bai Ruyu narrowed his eyes slightly.

While Mo Zhixuan had not yet found Chu Jin, perhaps he could use this opportunity to make Chu Jin completely forget Mo Zhixuan.

With this thought, Bai Ruyu turned to the young man beside him and spoke, "Bro, keep an eye on Mo Zhixuan's movements for me right away."

"Okay," the young man did not ask any more questions, just habitually pushed his glasses up, his tone slightly faint.

Bai Ruyu continued to look through the information the assistant had gathered.

Suddenly, the young man seemed to find something on his tablet, and looked up at Bai Ruyu, "Old Bai, I found that Mo Zhixuan's assistant is searching the check-in information of all the hostels, including Yifeng's."

Yifeng is the hostel where Chu Jin currently resides.

To outsiders, the hostel seems to be owned by a charming young widow, but in truth, Bai Ruyu is the real owner behind the scenes.

The current madam, in reality, is one of Bai Ruyu's subordinates.

In fact, the hostel serves as a covert contact point, a front to mislead others.

Bai Ruyu narrowed his eyes slightly and then said, "Erase Chu Jin's check-in information, and put mine in instead."

"Alright, oh, by the way," the young man's fingers continued to tap chaotically on the screen, "they seem to be also pulling up all the surveillance footage near the hostel."

"Erase her figure," Bai Ruyu commanded calmly.

As long as Chu Jin's figure was erased, then for the time being, Mo Zhixuan would not be able to find Chu Jin.

Any opportunity he could grasp at this point was worth it.

After all, who made Chu Jin, who had lost her memory, meet him first?

Perhaps this was an opportunity given to him by heaven itself.

Bai Ruyu certainly would not let this chance slip away lightly.

"You got it, consider it done," the young man adjusted his glasses, in his eyes, hidden behind the lenses, a wise golden light sparkled.

He knew that the "her" Bai Ruyu referred to was naturally Chu Jin.

This young man was Bai Ruyu's sworn brother, one with whom he had been through life and death.

His name was Xiao Jinnian.

Having followed Bai Ruyu for so long, no one understood him better than Xiao Jinnian.

As for Bai Ruyu himself.

A typical playboy.

Beautiful girls, whether from the Superpower World, the secular world, or from the other two worlds, he had nearly touched them all.

Bai Ruyu's prowess was profound.

Walking through a sea of flowers, yet not a leaf clung to him.

Countless beauties had fallen head over heels for Bai Ruyu.

However,

this little girl named Chu Jin seemed to be the most striking beauty Bai Ruyu had ever flirted with.

And the most special one.

Such a beauty.

If I had the strength, I'd also like to take her back and hide her away, not letting anyone else see her.

But to Xiao Jinnian, beauties could only be appreciated from a distance.

At this thought,

Xiao Jinnian's gaze shifted toward Bai Ruyu, his lips curving into a faint smile.

He knew.

That Bai Ruyu, who'd always sauntered through fields of flowers, was likely to fall for Chu Jin, this orchid among blooms.

The competition was Mo Zhixuan.

Tsk tsk tsk.

Now there would be a good show to watch.

The smile on Xiao Jinnian's lips grew more pronounced.

"Bro," Xiao Jinnian wrapped his arm around Bai Ruyu's neck, half smiling and said, "tell me, how should you thank me for the great help I've given you? Maybe... with your body?"

The only one who could erase surveillance traces under Mo Zhixuan's watchful eyes, besides Xiao Jinnian, was no one.

"My good bro, why the thanks?" Bai Ruyu hit Xiao Jinnian's shoulder, mimicking his way of speaking, he said, "As long as you don't mind, I can offer myself."

"Buzz off, brat! Even real brothers settle accounts clearly, so what's this good bro nonsense? Off with the body-offering, you can't even have sons. However, the beauty you brought back this time is so pretty, how about I borrow her for a couple of days once things are settled?" Xiao Jinnian joked.

"Absolutely not!" Bai Ruyu immediately sat up straight and pointed at Xiao Jinnian, saying, "Xiao Jinnian, oh Xiao Jinnian, you always look so honest and sincere, but I didn't expect this from you, Xiao Jinnian!"

"Why not?" Xiao Jinnian countered indifferently, still with a smile on his lips, he said, "After all, Mo Zhixuan has already had her, one more person wouldn't make a difference."

The lens hid the look in Xiao Jinnian's eyes, making it impossible for anyone to see whether he was joking or serious.

His words also carried a reminder.

Xiao Jinnian was reminding Bai Ruyu that Chu Jin was no longer a virgin.

After being engaged to Mo Zhixuan for so many years, it was impossible that nothing had happened.

However, it seemed Bai Ruyu did not catch the meaning of his words.

Or perhaps, he simply didn't care about it.

That was rather unexpected.

Xiao Jinnian narrowed his eyes slightly, a gleam flickered in their depths.

"Buzz off, buzz off, buzz off!" Bai Ruyu pushed Xiao Jinnian away, "If I can't be her first man, I must be her last, Xiao Jinnian, I'm warning you, if you dare to have designs on her, I'll make sure you regret it! And by then, don't blame me for not caring about brotherly love."

The last sentence was said with a cold and fierce tone that made it clear Bai Ruyu wasn't joking.

Apparently, Bai Ruyu had truly set his heart on Chu Jin this time.

Xiao Jinnian adjusted his glasses, the transparent lenses reflecting a chilling light in the sunlight.

Bai Ruyu had mild mysophobia; previously he'd never pursued a woman who was already taken, especially one who had been 'picked'.

Now, because of Chu Jin, he had even forgotten about his own mysophobia.

A glimmer of darkness flitted through Xiao Jinnian's eyes but vanished quickly, so fast that Bai Ruyu didn't catch it.

"Alright, alright, why so stingy?" Xiao Jinnian casually patted Bai Ruyu's head, "Can't even take a joke? And there's the so-called good bro! With someone like me, what kind of woman can't I find? Why would I fight with you over a flower that's been picked? You think everyone's like you, with such a strong taste."

"There're some things you just don't joke about," Bai Ruyu retorted, giving Xiao Jinnian's head a knock, "Who jokes about this kind of thing?"

Two grown men, patting each other's heads, yet there was nothing incongruous about the scene, which was unexpectedly charming.

Xiao Jinnian gave in and let Bai Ruyu mess up his hair.

Like a bird's nest.

After all, they were good brothers, weren't they?

Among good brothers, there had to be one with a generous heart, who could be forgiving.

"By the way," Bai Ruyu looked at Xiao Jinnian, slightly squinting, a twinkle in his eyes, "Old Xiao, I mean, all these years you haven't found a woman, and have stayed single—is it because... that thing... isn't working?"

Over the years, Bai Ruyu had had one companion after another, but Xiao Jinnian had never had a girlfriend, always a single dog.

One couldn't help but wonder.

As he spoke, Bai Ruyu even reached a hand towards Xiao Jinnian's lower body.

Xiao Jinnian immediately grabbed Bai Ruyu's hand, his eyes, dark beneath the lenses, he said sternly, "Stop messing around!"

"Haha," Bai Ruyu burst into laughter, "What's up Old Xiao, are you really not up to it?"

"Buzz off!" Xiao Jinnian brushed away Bai Ruyu's hand.

This was a matter of male pride; he certainly couldn't concede.

Of course, whether he was really 'up to it' was something only a certain person could determine after a trial.

"Old Xiao, don't be so petty," Bai Ruyu said with a teasing grin, "It's just a joke, why so sensitive? Even if it's really not working, as your bro, I wouldn't laugh at you..."

Even as Bai Ruyu claimed he wouldn't laugh at Xiao Jinnian, his whole body was bent over in laughter.

Xiao Jinnian looked down, regarding Bai Ruyu as if viewing a fool.

From his angle, he could perfectly see Bai Ruyu's slender, fair neck and her clear, translucent earlobes. Although Bai Ruyu was a man, his skin was even better than a woman's, smoother too.

Just like rich, silky white chocolate.

It's one thing for a man to be good-looking, but to have such good skin too.

It's really...

Xiao Jinnian's gaze deepened, harboring a somewhat dark feeling, like a profound ancient well.

"Is it that funny?" Xiao Jinnian followed up, pushing his glasses.

In less than a moment, Xiao Jinnian's expression returned to normal, and one couldn't help but marvel at his deep self-control.

Just like... a sly fox.

"No more laughing, no more laughing," Bai Ruyu sat up straight and looked towards Xiao Jinnian, continuing, "By the way, what's in your pocket? I think I felt something hard just now."

Moreover, the size seemed rather large.

That big.

Holy shit!

Could it be...

Shock flickered in Bai Ruyu's eyes.

Damn it!

What on earth did Xiao Jinnian eat to grow up?

To actually be bigger than his own!

Xiao Jinnian maintained his composure, adjusted his glasses, and said nonchalantly, "Just a cell phone."

"Oh," Bai Ruyu sighed in relief, "So it's a cell phone. I thought it might have been..."

"You thought it was what?" Xiao Jinnian looked up at Bai Ruyu, a hint of a smile at the corner of his mouth, raising his eyebrows as he asked, "Hmm?"

The inflection in his voice was slightly raised, enticingly so.

Bai Ruyu was momentarily stunned.

In that instant, he suddenly felt that Xiao Jinnian was incredibly handsome, radiating a unique charm.

Straight! Straight! Straight!

He's straight!

Bai Ruyu kept reminding himself in his heart. He gave a dry laugh, then said, "I also thought it was a cellphone... "

"Right," Bai Ruyu didn't finish his sentence before Xiao Jinnian interrupted, "It won't be easy to make Chu Jin completely forget Mo Zhixuan. Mo Zhixuan is decisive in his killing and his methods are very cold. If you don't take any measures, sooner or later he will find Chu Jin, and then all your efforts will have been in vain."

Xiao Jinnian went on, "With your abilities, I'm afraid you can't stop two people who are truly in love, right?"

He and Bai Ruyu were, after all, brothers. Xiao Jinnian didn't want Bai Ruyu to engage in any futile efforts.

Nor did Xiao Jinnian want Bai Ruyu to unwillingly make preparations for Mo Zhixuan.

"Old Xiao, do you have a better idea?" Having been brothers for so many years, Bai Ruyu immediately grasped the meaning behind Xiao Jinnian's words.

Xiao Jinnian pushed his glasses, a flash of wisdom sparkling in his eyes, "In a week, it will be the Blossom Festival. Find a way to make Chu Jin accept your flower and then go to the Moon Temple to get it certified. By then, even if Mo Zhixuan comes, he can do nothing. After all, in the Superpower World, Chu Jin is not his wife."

At the Blossom Festival, once a woman accepts a man's flower and it's certified by the Moon Temple, they are legally husband and wife from then on.

No matter how powerful Mo Zhixuan is, he can't take someone else's wife.

To snatch someone's wife is the act of a rogue and a thug.

Unless Mo Zhixuan doesn't want to stay in the Superpower World any longer.

Moreover, there's a rule in the Superpower World: once a couple is married, there's no such thing as divorce.

No matter what happens after marriage, divorce is impossible.

That's why the young men and women here are extremely cautious about marriage, generally not marrying without thorough understanding of each other.

Some people even date for a lifetime without getting married.

So, as long as Bai Ruyu finds a way to make Chu Jin accept his flower, turning the raw rice into cooked rice, even if Mo Zhixuan arrives, it would be too late for him to do anything.

Of course.

Xiao Jinnian said such a thing for his own ulterior motive.

Marriage, for Bai Ruyu, is both a shackle and a prison. The reason he has been single for so many years is that he doesn't want to be fettered.

He's unruly and loves freedom.

Because once you wear this shackle, there's no key to unlock it.

Relying on Bai Ruyu's fear of marriage, by saying such words, he would certainly give up on Chu Jin.

After all, there are so many beauties out there.

How can he be willing to pick just one?

But who knew.

Bai Ruyu didn't immediately oppose Xiao Jinnian's words, instead, he said with a smile,

"Okay, Old Xiao, you're really clever," Bai Ruyu hooked around Xiao Jinnian's neck, with a brotherly look, "With your smarts, how come you just can't find a girl, huh?"

Hearing this, a flicker of darkness seemed to pass through Xiao Jinnian's eyes but quickly disappeared. With a composed smile and a casual tone, he said, "Bro, have you really decided, to give up all your female confidantes and step onto the path of matrimonial bliss?"

Chapter 662: Identical Clay Figures

"Hmm, I've made up my mind," Bai Ruyu nodded lightly, with a serious expression, "One has to get over this hurdle in life, and besides, the Bai family is counting on me to carry on the lineage!"

Xiao Jinnian withdrew his gaze, nodded slightly, "Carrying on the lineage is indeed a major matter, so... in your eyes, is Chu Jin just a tool for that purpose?"

"Of course not!" Bai Ruyu sat up straight, "What nonsense are you spouting! How could she be a tool!"

"Then what is she?" Xiao Jinnian continued to ask.

"She is..." Bai Ruyu squinted his eyes, her image appearing in his mind, "Ah! You wouldn't understand even if I explained it to you, this lone wolf. Anyway, she's different in my heart, she's special. So special that whenever I think of her, I feel immensely happy, like I just want to laugh. Maybe, probably, possibly, it seems like, this is love..."

By the time he got to the last sentence, Bai Ruyu couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Xiao Jinnian glanced at him, his eyebrows slightly raised, adjusting his glasses as he casually said, "Oh, so every time I think of you, I also feel extremely happy and feel like laughing. Does that mean this is also love?"

Bai Ruyu looked at Xiao Jinnian with a speechless expression, "Heh... that joke isn't funny at all."

"Heh." Xiao Jinnian turned his head back and gave Bai Ruyu a cold laugh in return.

"Oh right, Old Xiao," Bai Ruyu continued, "I'm about to get married soon, when are you going to bring me a sister-in-law home?"

Xiao Jinnian was two years older than Bai Ruyu, and when being serious, Bai Ruyu would address him as "Brother Xiao."

Xiao Jinnian gave him a glance and said indifferently, "I'm not as casual as you are."

Bai Ruyu couldn't be bothered to argue with him and continued, "Seriously, Old Xiao, tell me, what if Chu Jin refuses to accept my flowers?"

At the moment, figuring out how to get Chu Jin to accept his flowers was the real issue.

After all, Chu Jin didn't seem to have a good impression of him right now.

Bai Ruyu was at least self-aware of that fact.

"Then lie," Xiao Jinnian looked back at him, pushing his glasses as he said, "Haven't you always had endless tricks up your sleeve for charming young ladies? Do you still need me to teach you?"

"That's true." Bai Ruyu stroked his chin, contemplating deeply, quickly sifting through 'The Ultimate Guide to Chasing Girls' in his mind.

Deceiving her to return was indeed a good strategy.

Feelings, after all, could be cultivated over time.

Bai Ruyu's smile became more and more apparent.

Xiao Jinnian didn't speak further. Behind the lenses that hid his eyes, they seemed calm yet a storm surged beneath. The hand holding the steering wheel was already tense with veins popping and knuckles whitening.

As if he could crush the steering wheel at any moment.

Unfortunately, Bai Ruyu, sitting in the passenger seat, was so engrossed in 'The Ultimate Guide to Chasing Girls' that he didn't notice this detail.

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Meanwhile.

Mo Zhixuan was still sitting in that black car, eyes glancing towards his assistant with a faintly cold voice, "How is it? Did you find anything?"

The assistant laid down the tablet, looking regretfully at Mo Zhixuan, shaking his head slightly while speaking softly, "No, nothing."

He had checked the registration information of all the inns, but there was no sign of Chu Jin.

He had also reviewed surveillance footage from every corner of the streets, but there was no trace of her.

The assistant had followed Mo Zhixuan from the ordinary world to the Superpower World, aware of Chu Jin's existence, and had witnessed the love between them.

Over the past year.

He was searching for news of Chu Jin nearly every day.

Yet every time, Mo Zhixuan was left extremely disappointed.

Despite repeated disappointments, Mo Zhixuan's enthusiasm remained unshaken.

That person.

It was as if she had truly disappeared.

It's just that Mo Zhixuan never believed it to be the truth.

"How can this be?" Mo Zhixuan pressed his fist against his lips, taking a deep sigh, "Look again thoroughly."

In his seemingly calm voice, there was actually a chilling edge.

No one could understand the feeling of seeing hope only to immediately be met with disappointment.

"Sir, please give up. I've checked several times, but I just haven't seen any traces of your wife. It's possible that it's just a coincidence, and that she... she never came back."

It was far too hasty to conclude that Chu Jin had returned just based on a piece of clothing and a few words from the clothing store owner.

The assistant had wanted to check the store's surveillance footage, but, coincidentally, the cameras had been broken that day.

"No, it can't be," Mo Zhixuan who was always as stable as Mount Tai, lost his composure at that moment, "It can't just be a coincidence. Jin must have come back, she must have."

The scent on her, he could not be mistaken; it was a scent that penetrated deep into his marrow.

In the past, how many deep nights there were when that fragrance accompanied him to sleep.

Mo Zhixuan put on his sunglasses, opened the car door, and got out.

All around, the traffic was bustling and people were on the move, but she was nowhere to be seen.

Mo Zhixuan stood amidst the crowd, watching passersby as his emotions suddenly collapsed, "Jin!"

He shouted into the crowd.

Unfortunately, no one responded to him.

This was the first time in a year that his emotions had burst forth.

His low voice was tinged with a desolate air.

The assistant followed behind him, sighed deeply and wanted to comfort him, but there were no words to start with.

"Clay figurines, clay figurines, get your clay figurines here, beautiful and affordable, from a shop that's been around for a hundred years..." A vendor pushing a cart selling clay figurines passed by Mo Zhixuan.

"Would you two young men like to buy a figurine?" The vendor approached Mo Zhixuan and the assistant, paused for a moment, and asked.

"Thank you, we don't need any," the assistant politely declined.

"No worries," the vendor continued pushing his cart, continuing his cry, "Clay figurines, get your clay figurines here..."

"Grandpa, wait for us, we want to buy a figurine, we want to buy the pretty sister..." Behind them, a group of children caught up.

The vendor immediately stopped; six children in all, each bought the same figurine.

The clay figurine was exquisitely crafted with distinctive features; it depicted a young girl about eighteen or nineteen years old. She was wearing a well-fitting dress, with her long hair draped over her shoulders, dimples lightly gracing her smiling cheeks, and she looked so flawless that it was impossible to find any imperfection, as if she was a banished fairy from the heavens.

It was hard to believe that such exquisite beauty could exist in real life.

"This sister is so pretty..."

"Mine is prettier than yours."

"Hmph, all of yours are not as pretty as mine."

"Nonsense! It's clearly mine that's the prettiest!"

"Little Ming, Little Hua, Little Li, Little Yun, stop arguing. They're all the same sister, so our sister is equally beautiful."

The children continued their discussion as they walked along.

Mo Zhixuan also walked on, remembering how she always loved children. Thus, when he heard the voices of the kids, he couldn't help but look back at them more than once.

This glance was enough for him to see the clay figurines in the children's hands.

Mo Zhixuan's vision was always excellent, and upon seeing this, he was completely stunned and his steps froze on the spot.

That figurine...

Was it an illusion?

Noticing Mo Zhixuan's abnormal reaction, the assistant stopped and followed his gaze.

The assistant's vision was not as exceptional as Mo Zhixuan's, so he didn't see anything unusual.

"Sir..." the assistant began, attempting to catch his attention.

It was this voice that brought Mo Zhixuan back to his senses, and he started walking toward the children.

His pace seemed slow, but in reality, each step carried a breeze.

In the blink of an eye, Mo Zhixuan reached the group of children.

Yes.

He hadn't seen incorrectly.

This dough figurine was modeled after Jin.

Mo Zhixuan was overwhelmed with excitement, grabbed one of the children by the hand, crouched down, took off his glasses, and looked up at the child, trying his best to make his expression a few degrees gentler as he lowered his voice and asked, "Child, tell me, where did you get this dough figurine from?"

The assistant hurried over and was shocked when he saw the dough figurine in the child's hands.

No wonder Mo Zhixuan had just lost his composure.

After all these years, it was only when it involved Chu Jin that he would lose control like this.

Everyone has a weakness.

And Mo Zhixuan's weakness was precisely Chu Jin.

"Over there," the child pointed into the distance, "from that grandfather over there."

The vendor's shouts were no longer audible, and his figure had disappeared into the crowd.

"Thank you." Mo Zhixuan let go of the child's hand, stood up, and quickly ran in the direction where the vendor had vanished.

The vendor leisurely sold his dough figurines, pausing along the way, so his pace was not very fast.

In two minutes, Mo Zhixuan had caught up to him, "Old man, could you please wait a moment?"

The vendor stopped his cart and looked at Mo Zhixuan with a smile, "Young man, would you like to buy a dough figurine?"

"Yes," Mo Zhixuan pointed to the vendor's stall, "I'll take all of these."

Upon hearing this.

The vendor was stunned.

In his many years of setting up a stall, he had never encountered such a generous and impetuous customer.

This young man, he couldn't be joking, could he?

To take them all, that would cost so much money, and the day had only just begun. Of his entire cart of dough figurines, he had only sold a few.

Normally, it would take several days to sell all the dough figurines in his cart.

However, before the vendor could even react, the assistant had already pulled out a stack of banknotes and handed them to the vendor, "Old man, is this enough?"

The vendor snapped back to reality and hurriedly said, "That's too much, too much, half would be enough."

"Running a small business is not easy either, please keep it all," the assistant insisted as he stuffed the money into the vendor's hand.

Unable to refuse the assistant, the vendor happily accepted the money.

"Old man, have you ever seen this young girl?" Mo Zhixuan picked up a dough figurine, passed it to the vendor, and asked.

The vendor remembered the model for the dough figurine very clearly.

It was this girl who had made his otherwise unremarkable dough figurine business flourish, and even allowed him to use the money earned to cure his wife's illness.

Therefore, the vendor had a very deep impression of this girl and considered her his lucky charm.

His only regret now was that he hadn't kept the girl's name and contact information at the time. Now, wanting to repay this girl, he couldn't find her.

"Yes," the vendor nodded eagerly, "just a few days ago, I met the girl, or else I wouldn't have been able to make such beautiful dough figurines. But, I think the girl didn't look local, why, do you two know her?"

Everything around him became a backdrop, and Mo Zhixuan could only hear the vendor's voice in his ears.

Alive.

She was still alive, it wasn't all just his illusion.

It wasn't coincidence either.

Not only was she alive.

She was also living under the same sky as him.

Mo Zhixuan's eyes reddened almost instantly, he took a deep breath, and his whole body trembled slightly.

"I am her husband, and we got separated due to some issues," Mo Zhixuan restrained the thrill in his heart and spoke with a strained voice, "Uncle, do you remember which direction she went in?"

"I can't remember the details clearly," the uncle scratched his head, "I was at my stall on Ancient City Street, and I think she seemed to be heading east. Yes, there was also a young man with her..."

As he spoke, the uncle glanced at Mo Zhixuan and added, "Well, that man was probably a bit younger than you. I remember your wife calling him something like Big Brother, Cheap Big Brother, or Line Big Brother..."

A young man.

Younger than himself.

Listening to the uncle's description, a sense of crisis faintly rose in Mo Zhixuan's heart.

But now, Mo Zhixuan had no time for jealousy.

He just wanted to see her as soon as possible.

The uncle touched his head and thought for a long time, but in the end, he couldn't remember exactly which Big Brother it was.

"Alright, I got it, thank you, uncle. Here's my contact information; if you see her again, please make sure to contact me," Mo Zhixuan pulled out a card from his pocket and handed it to the uncle.

"Okay," the uncle nodded, "Young man, you can rest assured, as long as I see her, I will definitely inform you. Both of you are good people."

"Thank you," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly and turned to walk towards Ancient City Street.

The assistant had loaded all the dough figures from the uncle's cart into the space bag and quickly followed Mo Zhixuan's pace.

Ancient City Street is the busiest street in the Superpower World.

Yet, holding that dough figure, Mo Zhixuan went from the head to the tail of the street, asking many people, but still couldn't find any clues about her.

Although both breathing the same air of one city, they couldn't meet or embrace each other. No one could understand this pain.

Looking at the dough figure in his hand, his emotions were hidden behind the sunglasses.

His Jin was still so beautiful, but she seemed to have lost weight.

Indeed, lost weight.

A hot tear slid down from beneath the sunglasses, falling directly onto the dough figure, onto the shallow dimples.

The assistant followed behind him, wanting to say something, but couldn't find the words.

"Xun En," after a moment, Mo Zhixuan lowered his eyes to the assistant, "Issue the order, from now on, lock down the entire city. Everyone can enter, but no one can leave! Spare no effort to find my wife."

"Sir, that must not be done," the assistant said calmly, "Such a mobilization to find your wife will inevitably become known throughout the city. When that happens, it will surely increase the danger for your wife. Since you have only recently secured this position, such actions are not good for you or for your wife. Please consider this carefully."

Actually, what the assistant said made a lot of sense.

Li Xunen has always been a calm and wise person; otherwise, he wouldn't have been with Mo Zhixuan for such a long time.

As the head of the Superpower World, it wasn't difficult for Mo Zhixuan to find someone within the realm of special abilities.

But, the higher you are, the colder it gets.

There were too many dangers lurking around.

The more commotion there was, the more people would know about Chu Jin, and the more dangerous her situation would become.

Even with Mo Zhixuan's strength, he could not fend off the unknown hidden dangers.

Moreover, since Chu Jin had already experienced a brush with death once, Mo Zhixuan couldn't let her face any danger again.

"Then what do you suggest I do?" Mo Zhixuan asked, looking sideways at Li Xunen.

Being in the highest position in the Superpower World, yet unable to use his ability to search for someone.

No one could understand this bitterness.

Li Xunen continued.

"Sir, as long as we're sure the madam is in the Superpower World, you don't have to worry too much. We'll get there slowly, and one day we'll find the madam. In any case, we shouldn't make a commotion about this. The more people know, the more danger she faces."

"But..." Mo Zhixuan frowned, "But I can't wait."

Ever since he knew Chu Jin was also in the Superpower World, Mo Zhixuan had been eager to see her.

He couldn't wait even a minute longer.

"You must wait," Li Xunen looked at Mo Zhixuan, then continued, "For your wife's sake, you must keep waiting. You've waited a whole year; do these few more days really matter that much to you?"

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Mo Zhixuan clutched the clay doll tightly, his voice, tinged with a shiver despite its coolness, "The Superpower World is so vast; if we don't mobilize any troops, what do you think is the way we could find her?"

The Superpower World was no smaller than the secular one; finding a person there through individual effort alone was like searching for a needle in a haystack, utterly impractical.

The most crucial point was that Jin was accompanied by that young man.

Mo Zhixuan felt his position was being threatened.

Li Xunen, of course, understood the meaning behind Mo Zhixuan's words and continued.

"Sir, why don't we ask the Great National Division? Since he has foretold that madam would appear in the Superpower World within a year, he must certainly be able to predict where she'll show up next. Searching blindly like this isn't the way."

Hearing this, Mo Zhixuan patted Li Xunen's shoulder, "You stay here to search for Jin; I will go to Zi Qi. Remember to contact me immediately if there's any news."

Li Xunen nodded respectfully, "Yes, sir. Rest assured."

"Hmm, thank you for your hard work." Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, and as he finished speaking, a black car pulled up beside him.

Mo Zhixuan leaned into the car, and soon the black vehicle disappeared among the traffic.

Li Xunen took a hat from his space and put it on, then started weaving through the streets and alleys.

The black sedan soon stopped in front of a heavily guarded building.

The guards at the door were all armed with real guns and live ammunition.

After getting out of the car, Mo Zhixuan quickly walked inside.

Just then, Zi Qi also came out from the door.

"Your Excellency." Zi Qi was initially startled to see Mo Zhixuan, then greeted him proactively, "I actually have something to discuss with you, and didn't expect you to come over just now."

Mo Zhixuan looked at Zi Qi and slowly removed his sunglasses, "I also have something to tell you."

"Let's talk inside, then." Zi Qi turned around and gestured "please" with his hand.

In the study.

"Zi Qi, Jin is back." Mo Zhixuan handed the clay doll to Zi Qi.

Zi Qi took the clay doll, his eyes welled up with warmth as he called out softly, "Brother Jin..."

"Where is she then? Why didn't she come back with you?" Zi Qi anxiously looked towards the door, hoping to glimpse her figure.

Brother Jin.

Why would Zi Qi call her "Brother Jin"?

Moreover, seeing Zi Qi's reaction, he obviously cared a great deal about Chu Jin.

What exactly was the relationship between these two?

When Mo Zhixuan was in the secular world, he had never seen this Zi Qi before.

Mo Zhixuan's brow furrowed slightly; Zi Qi was a bit dark-skinned, but he was also a handsome young man—and most importantly, young.

In the past, Mo Zhixuan never gave much thought to the relationship between Zi Qi and Chu Jin; he only considered Zi Qi a Fantasy Master who could help him find Chu Jin. It was only today that Mo Zhixuan realized that Zi Qi and Chu Jin had a past connection.

With this thought, a sense of crisis ignited within Mo Zhixuan's heart.

After so long without seeing her, could Jin have already forgotten him?

Could she have fallen in love with someone else?

If she still remembered him, why hadn't she come to find him?

For a moment, Mo Zhixuan felt an aching bitterness inside.

"What is the exact relationship between you and Jin?" Mo Zhixuan looked up at Zi Qi, his deep phoenix eyes full of scrutiny.

Zi Qi's heart skipped a beat, then he answered promptly, "Brother Jin and I are best friends, we've been through life and death together. Your Excellency can rest assured, you are the most important person in Brother Jin's life, and no one can shake your position in her heart."

At these words, Mo Zhixuan's expression softened somewhat as he said, "It's true that Jin has returned. This doll was modeled after her, but I haven't seen her myself. With so many people in the Superpower World, finding her is like looking for a needle in the ocean. I came to ask if you have any idea where Jin might appear next."

Upon hearing this, Zi Qi nodded thoughtfully.

"What I wanted to talk to you about is the same matter. Either Brother Jin has returned to the secular world by now, or she will appear at the upcoming Flower Conference. If you seize the opportunity, you will find her."

"Is that true?" Mo Zhixuan narrowed his eyes slightly.

"It's true." Zi Qi's face bore sincere earnestness.

Mo Zhixuan then asked, "How long until the Flower Conference?"

Zi Qi thought for a moment, then replied, "One week."

One week.

Then he could use this week to return to the secular world once more.

If he couldn't find Chu Jin there, he would come back for the Flower Conference.

By then, he would surely find Chu Jin.

With this thought.

Mo Zhixuan's heart gave a fierce thump, and then, without betraying any emotion, he said, "Let's keep this between us for now, don't tell anyone, including the Chu Family. Just you and I know."

He had already tasted disappointment; he didn't want others to taste it too.

He wanted to be certain of finding Jin and truly hold her in his arms before announcing it to the world.

She was his wife, Mo Zhixuan's wife.

"Okay," Zi Qi nodded in understanding, "I get it."

**

Night had long since fallen.

The light emanating from the Luminous Pearl enveloped the interior of Superpower World, casting a faint glow.

Chu Jin closed her stall and returned to the inn, with Little Grey following behind her.

When she passed by the fried chicken shop, Chu Jin bought fried chicken and beer to take back to the inn, planning to eat with some steamed buns. Holding the chicken in hand, she inadvertently caused Little Grey to drool uncontrollably.

The night had grown deep.

Because there had been many customers coming for fortune-telling today, Chu Jin had closed her stall quite late.

As she walked along a less crowded street, a sedan swiftly drove past her.

Chu Jin walked at a leisurely pace, and soon her slender figure disappeared around the corner.

Just when she did, a man also emerged from behind the plane tree nearby, looking around and scratching his head, he muttered with some confusion, "What's going on? She was just here."

Right then, a figure slowly stepped out from the corner.

Backlit, it was difficult to clearly see her face; the breeze moved her skirt and carried waves of fragrance with it.

Like a plum in its delicacy, like an orchid in its elegance.

"I'm right here," she said as she approached the man, her tone clear and melodious.

The man was instantly flustered—he had always been following Chu Jin from afar. His disguise technique was so proficient that his footsteps made almost no sound, so much so that he didn't even smoke a cigarette.

So, how had she discovered him?

The man hadn't snapped back to reality when Chu Jin continued.

"Go back and tell Jian Yi, if he wants to know something, he might as well just ask me directly. What kind of man follows a defenseless woman in secret?"

Those few brief words turned the man's face crimson with embarrassment.

Indeed.

Chu Jin was just a defenseless woman, and he, a dignified man, and even a soldier at that, had been secretly stalking her—such behavior was indeed quite contemptible.

"Miss Chu, this... this might be a misunderstanding, our commander is just concerned for your safety, it's why he assigned me to provide close-protection, there's no other intention," the man instinctively attempted to defend Jian Yi in a low voice.

But his voice was indeed soft.

In front of Chu Jin, he hardly dared to speak up.

The sense of oppression he felt from Chu Jin was even greater than that from Jian Yi.

She was just a young girl—how could she command such a mighty presence?

Maybe it was the deep night playing tricks on him.

In the end, the man swallowed hard before continuing, "Miss Chu, please believe me... this is really a misunderstanding, our commander, he really means well."

Chu Jin's lips curled into a slight smile, "Whether it's a misunderstanding or not, Jian Yi knows full well. You don't need to explain. Hurry back and remember to pass my message to Jian Yi."

Only a fool would believe that Jian Yi had sent someone to protect her.

However, this man was also working for Jian Yi, and he couldn't help himself.

Therefore, Chu Jin didn't want to make things difficult for him.

"Yes, sir!" he instinctively saluted her and then turned and left.

After saluting, the man was baffled.

Why had he saluted her?

It must have been her aura.

Whenever the man looked at Chu Jin, he felt as if he were looking up to a high-ranking leader.

Watching the man's figure fade into the night, Chu Jin finally withdrew her gaze.

Just as Chu Jin turned around, the sedan that had already passed by her made a U-turn and came back.

The car door opened, and a woman stepped out from inside.

She looked at Chu Jin's figure, a smug curve forming at the corner of her mouth.

What a coincidence.

Running into Chu Jin here was like enemies on a narrow road.

Since they had met, she might as well enjoy watching how the drama unfolded.

This person was none other than Luo Yu.

Luo Yu had bribed ten old men to corner Chu Jin; at the moment, she was feeling quite smug about it.

Everything was going according to plan.

Those ten old men were waiting for her at the entrance of the alley up ahead.

Luo Yu had paid to make sure everything was in place; tonight, no one would pass by here, and no one would come to her rescue. Soon, Chu Jin would have no one to turn to for help, unable to call to heaven or earth.

Ten men.

Heh.

It should be quite an "enjoyable" experience for that little wench.

Luo Yu followed Chu Jin from a safe distance, and then stopped behind a large banyan tree.

She was afraid Chu Jin might detect her presence; it would be better to appear after Chu Jin cried out, wouldn't it?

Actually, Chu Jin had long been aware that she had picked up a tail, and that person was none other than Luo Yu, with whom she had a dispute in the clothing store the other day. However, she had not yet pointed it out.

She was curious to see what exactly Luo Yu was up to.

When she was just a few meters from the alley, Chu Jin's ears twitched slightly, allowing her to clearly pick up the sounds coming from the alley.

"Why hasn't that chick shown up yet?"

"Don't rush, women always walk slowly."

"Do you guys know? That little woman is so pretty, and she must be exhilarating below, remember to let me go first later."

"If it really comes to it, bros can take turns."

"I wonder what grudge Miss Chu of the Chu Family has against her, to actually let us mess with such a beautiful chick, haha, I really can't bring myself to do it."

"Probably jealous that she's prettier than her."

Then came a round of sleazy laughter, and the words they uttered were too obscene to bear.

Chu Jin's lips curved into a slight smirk, she probably knew something by now.

The audacity of Miss Chu of the Chu Family, daring to set her sights on her.

Judging from the noise, there should be no less than ten people.

It looks like they're planning to let her die here?

Chu Jin slightly lifted her gaze, looking in the direction of the alley's entrance, then placed the bag on Little Grey's back, shoved her hands in her pockets, and started walking inside.

Step by step, she walked.

The moonlight fell evenly upon her, stretching her silhouette long.

Luo Yu peered out quietly from behind a tree, her eyes full of venomous ruthlessness.

Hehe.

Little slut.

This time, you're truly doomed.

"Boss, she's coming, she's coming." As Chu Jin approached step by step, one of the old men tossed away his cigarette butt, squinting into the distance.

The rest of them perked up, eyes glinting with a rapacious light.

They had all seen a photo of Chu Jin before.

Damn, she's a true beauty.

To get to sleep with a woman like this in one's life, even dying would be without regrets.

"Stop right there!"

Just as Chu Jin walked into the alley, a few old men surrounded her, staring at her with naked desire, their pants almost all bulging fiercely.

"Girl, you need to satisfy us bros today, only then can you leave, otherwise..."

Sleazy laughter immediately filled the air.

"Blind your dog eyes!" Chu Jin lifted her gaze slightly, instantly unleashing a powerful aura, and said coldly, "Even I dare you to stop, it looks like you think your lives are too long!"

The legs of a few old men turned soft, they rubbed their eyes, looking at Chu Jin, but now, instead of Chu Jin, they saw Luo Yu.

Realizing this, the whole group of old men 'thudded' to their knees, "Miss Chu, spare our lives, Miss Chu, spare our lives, we didn't recognize Tai Shan and mistook you for that chick."

"Forget it, forget it," Chu Jin waved her hand, "get up, by the way, how are you progressing with the task I gave you?"

The old men climbed up from the ground, one of them said, "That girl hasn't come yet, but she should be here soon."

Chu Jin nodded, "Alright, I got it, I'll go check up front, you guys stay on guard here."

"Yes, yes," the old men nodded consecutively.

After Chu Jin left, they raised their hands to wipe the cold sweat from their foreheads.

Truly worthy of being Miss Chu of the Chu Family, that presence of hers is simply incomparable to ordinary people.

Chu Jin stopped by a corner of the wall.

Luo Yu, hiding behind a banyan tree and seeing no movement here, couldn't help but step out from behind the tree, walking towards the alley.

Could it be that these rough old men directly killed her?

If she was killed, how could she still play?

She must not have been killed! With that in mind, Luo Yu hastened her steps toward this way.

Luo Yu had just reached the entrance to the alley.

Chu Jin delivered a hand chop, striking precisely on the back of Luo Yu's neck.

Luo Yu's vision darkened, and she fainted on the spot.

Chu Jin slightly raised an eyebrow, reaching out to catch Luo Yu, casually dragging her into the alley by her hand.

The group of old men saw Chu Jin coming over and immediately surrounded her, "Miss Chu, do you need help?"

"No need," Chu Jin lightly lifted her left hand, tossing Luo Yu to the ground, her tone clear and melodious, "I brought the person for you, you know what to do, remember, be gentle, don't kill her."

Upon finishing, Chu Jin turned and left.

No matter the time or place, Chu Jin always adhered to the attitude of "I don't provoke others unless provoked, but if someone provokes me, I will repay it tenfold."

If Luo Yu had provoked her, then she would not let her off easily.

Hearing this, the group of old men all bent down to look at the ground, all of them eager and swallowing hard.

Their demeanors indicated that they couldn't wait to thoroughly ravage the Luo Yu on the ground.

Before turning around, Chu Jin kindly set up a barrier at the entrance of the alley.

People from the outside world could neither hear the sounds from here nor see what was happening.

These ten old men, since they were attracted by Luo Yu herself, then let her enjoy it on her own.

As Chu Jin's figure vanished into the night, the group of old men eagerly stripped off their clothes, unleashing their sinful desires as they pounced on Luo Yu, who lay on the ground.

"Rip."

The sound of fabric tearing resonated through the air.

In no time, Luo Yu's clothes were shredded off her body, exposing her snow-white skin under the moonlight, shimmering with endless allure.

The air was filled with the sound of swallowing.

"Damn, I can't hold back anymore!" A middle-aged man cried out as he pressed himself onto Luo Yu.

The others followed suit, mirroring his actions.

Luo Yu awoke to their rough handling, her body aching everywhere, feeling countless wrinkled hands groping her.

"Ah!" Luo Yu screamed in horror as she realized what was happening.

Disgusting.

Utterly disgusting.

Some of these men were 60—70 years old, their bodies emanating a nauseating smell.

Some even had faces covered with age spots.

Luo Yu wanted to scream again, but her mouth was quickly stuffed with something.

She could only whimper softly.

She tried to struggle, but her limbs were pinned down firmly by the men.

Panic, helplessness, disgust, despair—they overwhelmed her all at once.

Their obscene language filled her ears.

Luo Yu's expression was numb.

This must be a nightmare, right?

Wasn't this meant to be a gift for that little bitch? How could this be happening to her? What on earth was going on?

"Mmmph..." Luo Yu could only keep writhing.

These men, like wolves starved for long, were exceedingly brutal. Soon, Luo Yu's body was covered in bruises.

On the ground, a long trail of blood flowed.

Luo Yu was numb with pain.

She is the young miss of the Chu Family! Why should she go through this?

After such an ordeal, how could she face anyone in the future!

It must be that little bitch's doing!

It had to be her!

She would make sure that girl paid with her life, make her taste all the humiliation she had endured, in full measure!

However, it was far from over.

The ten men, despite their age, were still vigorously energetic.

Luo Yu lay on the ground, broken like a doll, her eyes lifeless, as if she could expire at any moment.

"Brothers, be careful. Didn't you hear what Miss Chu said? We can't kill her."

"Don't worry, she's not that easy to kill."

"Hurry up, there are three more brothers waiting their turn."

The night was still long.

Elsewhere.

After returning, Chu Jin curled up on the sofa, watching TV while eating fried chicken.

On the TV, the couple was also enjoying fried chicken and beer.

Seeing this, Chu Jin casually grabbed a can of beer, pulled the tab, took a sip, then furrowed her brow and poured the rest into Little Grey's bowl. '

The beer didn't taste as good as she had imagined.

Little Grey, being an omnivorous fox, finished the beer in the bowl within two minutes.

Just then.

There was a knock at the door.

Chu Jin walked over to open it, and it was the landlady of the inn.

"Landlady, what brings you here?" asked Chu Jin with a smile brimming with warmth.

The landlady walked in, speaking as she did.

"I came to check on you, and by the way, I have something for you. It's not easy for a young girl to be on her own outside, so if you need anything, make sure to tell me right away. Don't be shy with me."

With that, she placed a gift box on the coffee table.

Curious, Chu Jin followed and asked, "Landlady, what is this?"

The landlady looked at Chu Jin and smiled gently, "Open it and see."

Chu Jin nodded slightly, reached out, and opened the gift box, revealing a very delicate mask inside. Twin lotuses were intricately painted by a national master, surrounded by rhinestones and gold thread, shining under the light as if the lotus flowers came to life, stunningly beautiful.

"Landlady, how can I accept such a valuable gift from you?" Chu Jin pushed the gift box forward a bit.

The mask was clearly expensive, and without a good reason, Chu Jin couldn't accept something so valuable from someone.

Chapter 664: the current situation in the secular world

"It's not just for you," the innkeeper said with a smile, "The Hundred Flowers Conference is just around the corner, isn't it? This is a gift from our inn to our new and regular customers. Don't be fooled by the mask's appearance; it's actually not worth much money. You can rest assured and accept it without any burden on your conscience."

Seeing that Chu Jin still looked unconvinced, the innkeeper grabbed Chu Jin's wrist, led her outside, and pointed to a pile of boxed gifts, "Look, these are prepared for our other customers. We just haven't had the chance to deliver them yet."

With that, the innkeeper opened one of the gift boxes, and sure enough, it contained a beautifully extravagant mask.

It seemed the innkeeper was telling the truth.

This was indeed the gift they had prepared for their customers.

After all, the Hundred Flowers Conference is a major festival that happens only once in a decade. It's normal for merchants to engage in such festival marketing to attract more customers.

Chu Jin felt relieved and said with a smile, "Then, thank you, innkeeper."

The innkeeper waved her hand and said with a smile, "Don't mention it, don't mention it. Just remember to patronize our inn more in the future. Oh, and Miss Chu, remember to wear this mask on the day of the Hundred Flowers Conference as a form of promotion for our inn. You see, is that okay?"

These days, Chu Jin often heard passersby talking about the Hundred Flowers Conference.

So, she had a basic understanding of it.

Originally, she had planned to join the hustle and bustle of the Hundred Flowers Conference anyway.

Now that she had a ready-made mask, she didn't need to spend money to buy one. Why not?

"That'll be fine," Chu Jin nodded slightly.

"Then thank you, Miss Chu," the innkeeper said with a beaming gaze, then continued, "Miss Chu, I'll go deliver gifts to other customers now, I won't disturb you any longer."

"Alright, take care." Watching the innkeeper knock on the door of the room opposite hers, Chu Jin closed her door.

On her side, the innkeeper looked somewhat distressed at the pile of gift boxes.

So many masks, how long would it take to deliver them all?

And each mask was worth a fortune; it seemed like the boss really invested heavily this time.

Chu Jin returned to her room and after watching TV for a while, she went back into her space to meditate and recuperate.

Finally, night passed.

The east was now tinged with the pale light of dawn, and the red sun peeked out its edges, painting the surrounding clouds red.

In an alleyway.

Luo Yu lay amidst a pile of trash, slowly opening her eyes.

Her body was covered with wounds, large and small. Except for her face, there was scarcely an inch of unmarked flesh on her.

If it weren't for her background in ancient martial arts, she might have long since passed on.

The humiliating scene from the previous night replayed before her eyes.

Her pure body had been violated by ten lowly men. Just thinking about it made Luo Yu feel nauseous, as if she wanted to vomit up even her intestines.

As the sun rose higher and more people began to fill the streets, although Luo Yu hid in an alley, she might still be discovered.

Trembling, Luo Yu stood up, picked up her torn clothes, wrapped them around herself, found a shortcut, and limped toward the direction of the Chu Family.

By now, Zhao Yan probably hadn't woken up yet, and Chu Xiu should still be at school and not yet home.

She couldn't let anyone see her in such a sorry state.

Otherwise, forget about marrying Mo Zhixuan, she might not even manage to stay in the Chu Family.

Once she got back, she would definitely hire some assassins to rip those ten old gangsters to pieces!

Luo Yu couldn't enter the Chu Family's front door in her current state.

Luckily, she was very familiar with the Chu Family and knew there was a dog hole in the backyard.

Now, her only option was to crawl back through that dog hole.

Facing the dog hole, Luo Yu gritted her teeth and eventually crawled through it with great humiliation.

Everything was as she expected.

Zhao Yan hadn't woken up yet. Luo Yu quietly slipped upstairs, locked her bedroom door behind her, then entered the bathroom and turned on the shower. She let the hot water wash over her body, trying to cleanse away the traces.

But as soon as she closed her eyes, the scenes from the previous night flooded her mind, and she felt a wave of nausea, quickly leaning over the toilet to retch.

She knew.

She couldn't wait any longer because this incident could be exposed at any moment.

After all, she had ordered those ten men to take photos.

In this world, there are no walls that don't leak.

Luo Yu must marry Mo Zhixuan now.

However, listening to Boss Mo's wife, it seemed she was reluctant to let Mo Zhixuan marry her so soon. It looked like Luo Yu would have to figure out another way.

Luo Yu leaned over the toilet, her eyes flashing with a glint of determination.

What Luo Yu didn't know was that her every move was being observed by the one-eyed gardener in the garden.

The one-eyed gardener had even secretly installed a hidden camera in the bathroom.

At this moment, he was watching the screen with eyes gleaming wickedly, thrilled by the excitement.

Who would have thought?

The lady, who seemed so proper on the surface, led such a dissolute private life.

Looking at her now, it seemed she had been well pleasured by a man last night, hadn't she?

After a short while.

The servants' quarters echoed with the panting breaths of the one-eyed gardener.

The Mo family.

Mo Zhixuan had a few words with Boss Mo's wife before returning to the mundane world.

To not disappoint Boss Mo's wife, he only mentioned he was going for a look and did not bring up Chu Jin.

Seeing this, Boss Mo's wife didn't mention Chu Jin either but simply said to come back early.

Watching Mo Zhixuan's departing figure, Boss Mo's wife sighed deeply.

Alas.

It seemed that Mo Zhixuan still hadn't given up on searching for Chu Jin.

Even if.

He never mentioned Chu Jin in front of her, she knew he had never been able to forget Chu Jin.

Chu Jin's place in his heart was irreplaceable by anyone.

**

The mundane world.

Mo Zhixuan had not returned for a long time, and in order not to attract attention, he specifically used a disguise technique to hide his full head of silver hair.

Even so.

People still noticed him.

After all, he was the head of the Mo family, and also the husband of the National Goddess.

Staying low-profile was impossible.

The National Goddess was already well-known throughout China mainland.

"Is that Boss Mo? Could you please wait a moment?" Three young girls ran up behind Mo Zhixuan.

"Hello," Mo Zhixuan responded politely, keeping a safe distance from them.

"It really is Boss Mo!" The girl was extremely excited, "But, why are you alone? Where is our goddess? Why isn't she with you?"

The goddess had been absent from the public eye for too long, hence her excitement.

According to international conventions, where there was Mo Zhixuan, there would naturally be the goddess.

A subtle and obscure dark light flashed through the depths of Mo Zhixuan's eyes, then he slowly opened his mouth, "Jin has other things to be busy with, so, she's not with me."

"When will our goddess update her microblog then? We really miss her," the girl continued to ask, with a spark of excitement in her eyes, thinking that after Boss Mo returned, he would surely convey her words, and they could immediately see the goddess update her microblog.

Even if they couldn't see the goddess, it would be great to see her update her microblog.

A year ago, three days after Chu Jin married Mo Zhixuan, she announced on her microblog that she was taking a two-year break from writing.

Afterward, Chu Jin never again showed up on her microblog.

Not a single post was made.

The same was true for Mo Zhixuan.

Both of them seemed to have vanished without a trace.

However, over the past year, the National Goddess's popularity not only persisted but increased, trending numerous times.

The video of their wedding day went viral across the entire network.

Looking at the hopeful young girls, Mo Zhixuan continued to speak, his tone gradually becoming slower, "I might have to disappoint you, mobile phones have radiation, so she probably won't update her microblog for a while."

Mobile phones have radiation?

Can't update microblog?

A glimmer of awareness flickered in the eyes of the three young girls, vaguely impressive.

As Mo Zhixuan turned to leave, the three girls spoke up again, "Boss Mo, can we take a photo with you?"

Being so handsome as Boss Mo, a photo with him would definitely trend.

"I'm sorry," Mo Zhixuan politely declined, "If I were to take a photo with you, Jin might misunderstand."

The three girls showed understanding, their hearts pounding with more excitement. The goddess was truly lucky to have married such a good husband.

Thus, that evening.

"National Goddess Suspected Pregnant" appeared as a trending search on microblog.

Mo Zhixuan first arrived at Huagui Park.

Here, no one had lived for over a year, but it still retained its original appearance, with not a speck of dust on the clean floor.

The arrival of someone.

A fluffy thing fell from the sky.

"Jin..." The word 'brother' hadn't even come out before it got stuck in his throat. White Tiger walked up to Mo Zhixuan, its eyes clearly showing disappointment, "Mr. Mo, you're back."

"Yes." Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly.

"You..." White Tiger hesitated before speaking, "Did you find Jin?"

During the year Chu Jin had been missing, White Tiger had been living in the villa in Huagui Park, waiting for her return.

It was, after all, only a White Tiger.

But it was like a housekeeper, cleaning the villa thoroughly every day.

Ensuring the villa was always as clean as it was in the beginning.

Every day, it hoped Chu Jin would return.

Unfortunately, it was disappointed every day.

It could have taken the opportunity to run away and regain its freedom, yet it remained steadfast here.

Mo Zhixuan looked at White Tiger, his deep eyes filled with unfathomable gloom, and slowly shook his head, his voice coming out very slowly, "No."

"It's okay," White Tiger tried hard to muster a smile, "Mr. Mo, I believe Jin will come back."

"Yes," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "I believe so too."

"White Tiger, come back to Superpower World with me. Jin might appear there, this place... is too desolate." Mo Zhixuan glanced at the vast living room, a bare expanse that could echo back a louder voice.

It was hard to imagine the desolation of living alone in such a large villa.

"I'm not afraid," White Tiger seemed to understand the meaning in Mo Zhixuan's eyes, smiling softly, "I'm just a cat after all."

"Are you really okay with it?" Mo Zhixuan pulled out a cigarette and lit it, slowly exhaling a beautiful ring of smoke.

"Really, it's okay. I'm used to it," White Tiger groomed its paws gracefully, "I want to stay here and not go anywhere else. Otherwise, when Jin comes back and finds I'm not here, she'll be angry."

Mo Zhixuan sighed and said nothing more, turning to head upstairs.

In her bedroom, the air still seemed to carry her scent.

Thanks to White Tiger's meticulous care, the bedroom remained as it was when she left, with strands of her hair still lingering on the hairbrush on the dressing table.

The green plants on the balcony continued to thrive.

Only the white hanging chair was missing the figure that used to rest there.

The red Xi character on the balcony had slightly faded.

Mo Zhixuan, looking at all this, didn't know why his eyes reddened, and tears slowly blurred his vision.

He walked over to the bed, took off his shoes, and lay down on the bed with great caution.

Her distinct scent lingered on the bedding.

Mo Zhixuan clutched the bedclothes and breathed greedily; it felt as if she was still by his side. Before long, Mo Zhixuan drifted into sleep, his previously furrowed brow gradually relaxing.

Ever since Chu Jin disappeared, Mo Zhixuan had not slept soundly. Every time he closed his eyes, the scene that appeared was her collapsing beside the Konghou.

The ancient Konghou was stained with her blood.

Bright red blood.

It stained her clothes and also stained his heart.

Chapter 665: No Skeleton

But at this moment, Mo Zhixuan lay on her bed, a rare event for him, and was sleeping very soundly.

He slept for two hours before slowly opening his eyes.

After waking up, Mo Zhixuan didn't stay much longer in the villa, instead, he went to theking.

It was a company created single-handedly by Chu Jin, her life's work, so even when Mo Zhixuan had left the secular world, he never gave up on theking.

The current person in charge of the company was still Qin Zhenglin.

In just one short year, Qin Zhenglin had developed theking into one of the top ten companies in the world. His only regret was that Chu Jin was not there to witness this grand occasion.

Even though Mo Zhixuan never told him where Chu Jin had gone, he could feel that her situation was not good, otherwise, she wouldn't have been out of sight for an entire year.

She didn't answer her phone, and she never came online on QQ or WeChat.

The Chu Jin of the past, albeit also rarely seen, never had such a problem.

At least, she would reply on QQ and WeChat.

"Mr. Mo, please head upstairs," Qin Zhenglin said respectfully, welcoming Mo Zhixuan to go upstairs.

"Mm, how's the company doing recently?" Mo Zhixuan asked in a low voice, his tone unhurried.

Standing six feet and three inches tall, with long legs, he towered over Qin Zhenglin, his authoritative presence causing the company employees to look back again and again.

Wherever he went, Mo Zhixuan was always the center of attention.

In fact, the reason why the company had developed so well, aside from Qin Zhenglin's own efforts, was also inseparable from Mo Zhixuan's support.

With the shelter of Mo Group, even without Chu Jin, no one dared to provoke them.

Qin Zhenglin pressed the elevator button ahead of Mo Zhixuan, "Very good, you don't need to worry."

"That's good," Mo Zhixuan nodded slowly, "if there are any emergencies, you can contact Mo Group at any time, they will provide assistance immediately."

"Yes, I know, Mr. Mo," Qin Zhenglin continued, "By the way, Mr. Mo, I haven't seen Jin for so long, may I ask... where exactly is she?"

In fact, Qin Zhenglin had wanted to ask this question for a long time, but had always held back.

Mo Zhixuan glanced at him, his expression unchanged, "She's at home, you don't need to worry."

Right then, the elevator door opened, and Qin Zhenglin respectfully held the door open, letting Mo Zhixuan exit first.

"Alright, I understand, then I will keep waiting at theking for her return."

In Qin Zhenglin's heart, Chu Jin would always be his Jin. If Chu Jin never came back, he would wait at theking for her return for the rest of his life.

"Hmm," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "She will be back."

They talked while walking towards the office.

"Mr. Mo, please take a seat," Qin Zhenglin pulled out an executive, swivel chair, while he himself stood beside Mo Zhixuan.

Mo Zhixuan leaned forward to sit in the main seat and picked up the financial reports and planning proposals from the desk to review them.

He and Chu Jin shared a common trait, being very serious when looking at such documents, lips tightly pressed, pen in hand, and if they found anything unreasonable, they would correct it immediately.

Moreover, the corrected content was always incredibly sensible, bringing enlightenment.

Over the past year, Mo Zhixuan visited theking every two months or so.

Chu Jin had never formally handed over the company for Mo Zhixuan to manage, but strangely, Qin Zhenglin did not resist Mo Zhixuan's leadership and was thoroughly convinced by him.

About half an hour later, Mo Zhixuan finished correcting all the documents.

Qin Zhenglin considered his words, hesitated, and then spoke, "Mr. Mo... Can you tell me if something happened to Jin? Why hasn't she come to the company?"

He was still worried about Chu Jin.

A whole year had gone by, and apart from that Weibo post, there was nearly no news from Chu Jin.

"No," Mo Zhixuan raised his head from a heap of documents, his deep phoenix eyes revealing no emotion, "How could someone as capable as her encounter trouble? She hasn't come to the company because she doesn't have the time. Don't overthink it, focus on running the company well, and wait for Jin's return."

Qin Zhenglin trusted Mo Zhixuan's character, hesitated for a moment, and then affirmed decisively, "Alright, I trust you."

Mo Zhixuan stood up, patted Qin Zhenglin's shoulder, and spoke slowly, "Keep up the hard work, who knows... maybe Jin will come with me next time."

At those words, a spark of hope flared in Qin Zhenglin's eyes as he looked up at Mo Zhixuan, "Mr. Mo, are you serious?"

Mo Zhixuan did not respond, a faint smile flickering at the corner of his mouth, then he turned and left the office.

Qin Zhenglin immediately got up to see him off.

Upon leaving the king, Mo Zhixuan put on his sunglasses and walked through the bustling streets, deliberately concealing his appearance, so not many people noticed him.

The city hadn't changed much from a year ago.

The pace of the pedestrians was still in a hurry.

Music emanated from the shops on both sides of the road.

"Waiting until the autumn leaves finally turn golden, waiting until the hair turns quietly gray, we agreed to meet at the old place..."

Listening to this familiar voice, Mo Zhixuan involuntarily stopped in his tracks.

Although he didn't know the name of this song, he knew it was sung by Jin's favorite male singer.

Mo Zhixuan had listened to all of the singer's albums, but he had never heard this song.

Apparently, it was his new song.

After a brief pause, Mo Zhixuan then continued moving forward.

On a giant screen atop a skyscraper, a news broadcast was playing, the young female anchor's face radiant with a standard yet warm smile.

"Today marks the fourth anniversary of the literary world's queen, 'The Return of the Past's,' entrance into writing. Over the past four years, her debut masterpiece has created a miracle in the literary world by selling over a hundred billion copies..."

And then there was the cover image of "Blooms like Brocade", the live broadcast of the signing event that year.

The person on the screen, dressed in white with black pants, had clear and handsome features, every frown and smile so captivating.

The scene shifted, switching over to a young female anchor.

"Actually, I am also a fan of 'The Return of the Past.' 'The Return of the Past' has fulfilled all my imaginations of a goddess. I believe everyone here, like me, has gone through low points and periods of confusion. In those gray days, it was the words of 'The Return of the Past' that brought hope and color to my life..."

The anchor spoke slowly, her voice nearly choking with emotion. Her voice was so infectious that even passersby standing under the large screen had reddened eyes.

Unknowingly, more and more people gathered below the big screen, none of them speaking, just looking up at the screen with rapt attention.

As the news drew to a close, the anchor said with a passionate voice, "It's the first year since 'The Return of the Past' has stopped writing, we look forward to the goddess's return to the literary world, to go international, and to create further glories!"

Although Chu Jin had been out of the public eye for more than a year, not a single person had forgotten her.

She still shone like a ray of light, illuminating the way forward for people.

No matter how long, she still lived in people's hearts.

Even after the news ended, the crowd below the screen had yet to disperse.

Mo Zhixuan slowly walked out of the crowd and went to Capital University.

It was yet another graduation season.

The campus was bustling, filled with students in their gowns, their faces brimming with youthful, lively smiles.

Mo Zhixuan walked slowly, and in a trance, amidst these students, he saw her figure again.

A year ago today, she was just like these students, dressed in a gown, weaving through the crowd.

Moving from the school uniform to a wedding dress was a very romantic thing.

But Mo Zhixuan never imagined that this romantic event would eventually turn into a matter of despair.

If he had foreseen such consequences,

he would never have been in such a hurry to marry her.

It could be said that the word 'wedding' had left a deep shadow in Mo Zhixuan's heart.

Mo Zhixuan walked slowly through the campus.

Before, it was always her accompanying him.

But today, he was alone.

Without realizing it, Mo Zhixuan approached the bulletin board.

On the board, Chu Jin's seven-inch photo was still posted.

Next to the photo was Chu Jin's personal information and the various awards she had won during her four years at university.

Someone had even left a handwritten note beside it.

[After Chu Jin, there's no more campus belle.]

Many students were gathered around the bulletin board.

"My idol!"

"Gosh! Is she even human? Not only is she beautiful, but her literary talent is incredible too."

"Chu Jin senior is simply my life goal!"

"Do you know? I've been a fan of Sister Gu Ren since high school. It was because of her that I got into Capital University."

"Me too, me too, I also tried to get closer to Capital University because of the goddess."

"So my goddess really graduated from Capital University, huh."

"Even a passport photo is this pretty, truly unmatched!"

"Little Blue, take a photo for me here, and make sure to include the goddess's picture too," a girl who had just graduated from high school handed her phone to her friend.

"Okay," the friend took the phone and struck a professional photography pose, "Look at the camera, one, two, three, cheese."

Chu Jin's popularity at Capital University had never waned; indeed, she had created too many miracles at Capital University.

Although a Chinese literature student, she had won numerous awards in the medical department.

Despite being a literary writer, she had established her own company with her prowess, creating wonders in the history of technology.

Although just a naïve girl, she became the well-known National Goddess.

Although regarded as a worthless heiress for eighteen years, she became the master predictor, Chu the Master.

...

Mo Zhixuan stood aside, watching these students, his eyes gradually warming.

Until suddenly, a gentle female voice came from behind, breaking his reverie, "Mr. Mo?"

Mo Zhixuan turned back, looking at the girl in front of him, pondered for a moment, and then spoke, "Yin... Wu?"

"Yes, it's me," Yin Wu nodded, "Why are you here, Mr. Mo? Is Jin with you? Did she come with you?"

After graduating from university, Yin Wu did not leave but stayed to pursue her master's degree.

Soon, she would be in her second year.

Mo Zhixuan, holding a high and influential position and having only met her a few times, Yin Wu didn't expect he would remember her name.

What Yin Wu didn't know was that Mo Zhixuan remembered everything about Chu Jin very clearly.

Hearing this, Mo Zhixuan replied calmly, "Just passing by, and stopped by to have a look. Jin didn't come with me."

"Oh," Yin Wu nodded thoughtfully, then asked, "I haven't seen Jin for such a long time. Is she doing well recently?"

Mo Zhixuan replied tersely, "Quite well."

"That's good," Yin Wu continued, "By the way, Mr. Mo, our dorm is having a reunion gathering at the end of next month. If Jin has time, please do me a favor and let her know to come if she can."

Since graduating, Chu Jin had lost contact with them, and her WeChat and QQ had never been active.

In the WeChat group of four, it was still lively every night, sharing or complaining about the day's events, but Chu Jin was the only one missing.

Even on Weibo, Chu Jin had not logged in anymore.

No one knew where Chu Jin had gone.

"Mm." Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly.

After saying goodbye to Yin Wu, Mo Zhixuan walked towards the direction of the Mo family's home.

While passing a crossroads,

Mo Zhixuan spotted a familiar fortune-telling stall.

The stall owner was a very young girl.

About 14 or 15 years old.

With a ponytail and wearing the uniform of South Bridge No.2 Middle School, she emanated youthfulness.

With delicate features, fair skin, and big, deer-like, expressive eyes, she was beautiful and eye-catching, about 1.6 meters tall, like a two-dimensional anime girl brought to life.

This was,

the little Lolita, Mo Pengpeng.

Years had passed, and the little Lolita had grown into a distinctive young girl.

"Excuse me, are you Master Chu?" an elderly person came up to ask.

In Capital City, everyone knew about Master Chu who was divinely articulate in fortune-telling.

Moreover, it was at this crossroads that Master Chu had become famous.

The little Lolita smiled slightly, "Grandma, I am not Master Chu, but Master Chu is my mentor and also the closest person to me in this world. Whatever you want to ask, you can ask me directly."

"Great," the elderly person said with a beaming smile, "If you are Master Chu's disciple, I can rest easy. I want to inquire about the fortune of my household."

"Sure, please wait a moment," the little Lolita began to shuffle the cards swiftly as she spoke.

The Tarot cards in her hands seemed to come to life, changing into various patterns.

It was the same technique.

You could vaguely see Chu Jin's shadow in her.

The little Lolita was commemorating Chu Jin in her special way.

She believed that one day, Brother Jin would appear here and see how outstanding she had become.

She wanted Brother Jin to see that she could stand on her own now.

Even if everyone believed that Chu Jin was no more in this world,

the little Lolita never believed it.

She knew Brother Jin must still be alive; Brother Jin couldn't possibly bear to leave someone as adorable as her.

Hidden behind the camphor tree, Mo Zhixuan watched for a while, feeling his eyes grow warmer and warmer, and eventually, he left the place.

Almost everywhere he went, he could see Chu Jin's shadow.

The Mo home.

It was the old butler who received Mo Zhixuan.

This was the first time Mo Zhixuan had stepped into the Mo home in the past year.

Before,

he never had the courage to come here.

Because Chu Jin had been buried here.

Seeing Mo Zhixuan return, the old butler was very excited, "Young Master Nine, you are back."

"Uncle Wang." Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly.

Uncle Wang smiled, ushering Mo Zhixuan into the house, "Young Master Nine, how have the old Madam, Madam Tong, and the Miss been recently?"

Mo Zhixuan took out a cigarette from his pocket and lit it, "They are all very well, Uncle Wang, don't worry."

Since Chu Jin's departure, Mo Zhixuan seemed to have developed an even greater addiction to smoking; smoking became the solace for his spirit.

Only with it, could he numb himself and stop thinking about her.

"Then..." Uncle Wang hesitated for a moment before asking, "Is there any news about Mrs. Nine?"

Uncle Wang knew he shouldn't ask, which would only make Mo Zhixuan more upset.

But his health was deteriorating, and he feared that one day his legs would fail him and he would miss the good news.

He didn't want to leave this world with regrets.

"Yes," Mo Zhixuan nodded lightly, "Uncle Wang, take good care of your health. Next time, I'll come back with Jin to see you."

"Young Master Nine!" Uncle Wang looked at Mo Zhixuan excitedly, "Are you serious? Is there really news of Mrs. Nine?"

Mo Zhixuan slowly exhaled a ring of smoke, "Yes."

Uncle Wang still felt as if he were in a dream, somewhat at a loss.

He was happy for Mo Zhixuan and happy for the Mo family.

He just knew that Lady Nine, being so kind and perfectly matched with the young master, wouldn't have fallen so early.

After chatting with Uncle Wang for a while, Mo Zhixuan went to the back garden.

The solitary grave was still there.

The tombstone read, "Tomb of my wife, Chu Jin."

There was a bouquet of fresh flowers placed in front of the tombstone; apparently, someone had visited her before him.

To come to the Mo family's house without making a sound.

It could have been Mo Qianjue or Xuanyuan Shangchen.

However, by now, who had visited no longer mattered.

Mo Zhixuan stood in front of the tombstone, slowly took off his sunglasses, and peered into the deep phoenix eyes that revealed no particular emotion.

Suddenly, Zi Qi's words echoed in his mind, and Mo Zhixuan conjured a shovel from thin air, bowed before the tomb, and started digging through the dirt, shovel by shovel.

Mo Zhixuan dug for a long time, creating a deep pit in the ground, yet he still couldn't find the ice coffin he had personally buried a year ago.

Nor did he find any human remains.

Instead.

The deeper he dug, the moister the soil became, and if one listened closely, the resounding sound of a river's rapid flow could be clearly heard.

Could this be?

An underground river?

Mo Zhixuan frowned slightly, grabbing a handful of soil to sniff lightly at his nose.

Indeed.

This was an underground river, and by the sound of the rushing water, it was flowing toward the east.

The Superpower World was to the east.

Mo Zhixuan had lived here for nearly twenty years, and this was the first time he discovered that there was an underground river beneath the old Mo family estate.

It must have been a fortuitous coincidence that the ice coffin drifted away with the river's current.

At this moment, Mo Zhixuan no longer had any doubts about Zi Qi's words.

Since she couldn't be found in the secular world, she would definitely appear at the Hundred Flowers Festival.

With that thought, Mo Zhixuan leaped from the pit to the ground and refilled the dug-up soil back into the hole.

With a gentle wave of his hand, the grave was immediately restored to its original state, as if it had never been touched.

**

Superpower World.

As the day of the Hundred Flowers Festival approached, the streets became increasingly lively.

In recent days, the price of flowers had been soaring.

Scenic flowers could be seen everywhere along the roads.

The people of the Superpower World had a high level of civility and strong awareness of environmental protection; even though flowers were expensive in the shops, they would not casually pick the ones on the roadside.

"Little Jinjin, you definitely haven't had lunch yet, look what I've prepared for you?" Bai Ruyu suddenly appeared behind Chu Jin, placing the lunch box on her table.

It was lunchtime, and there weren't many customers for divination, so Chu Jin was fairly free.

She was casually watching TV with her legs crossed.

Sitting with crossed legs wasn't considered a very elegant posture, but somehow, when Chu Jin did it, it gave off a different kind of beauty, pleasing to the eyes.

"Scaring me half to death, do you know that?" Chu Jin looked at Bai Ruyu and slightly raised her eyebrows.

Bai Ruyu touched his face, "How could someone as pretty as me scare you to death? Little Jinjin, you really have a sense of humor."

"Heh." Chu Jin scoffed coldly.

Although Bai Ruyu wasn't bad looking, to describe him as "pretty" would certainly be inappropriate—he was at best passable.

Compared to the man deeply etched in her memory, he was far from it.

Although Chu Jin had always been unable to see the true face of the person from the depths of her memory clearly.

But she felt, he must be much better looking than this Bai Ruyu.

"Little Jinjin, come and eat, see the meal I've personally prepared for you." Saying so, Bai Ruyu lifted the lid of the lunchbox, and instantly, an enticing fragrance wafted out.

Little Grey excitedly stood up from the ground.

It smelled damn amazing.

"Thanks, but take it back," Chu Jin said softly as she glanced upwards, her tone nonchalant, "I've already eaten."

Offering unwarranted help often indicates ulterior motives, which was a concept Chu Jin understood well.

It was a meal prepared by Bai Ruyu's own hands.

The significance was too great.

She simply couldn't accept it.

Although Chu Jin had lost her memory, she wasn't foolish; she knew that when a man offers gifts to a woman, it's seldom as simple as wanting to be friends.

Chapter 666: A Big Gift

"Have you really had your meal already?" Bai Ruyu asked skeptically.

"Really," Chu Jin played with the Tarot cards in her hand, nodding slightly.

With a look of disappointment, Bai Ruyu said, "Then I'll come over earlier tomorrow."

"No need," Chu Jin's eyes rose indifferently, tactfully declining, "I don't like eating food cooked by men."

Bai Ruyu looked at her in shock, "For real, Jinjin, you have such a strange quirk?"

"Mmm," Chu Jin nodded, seriously saying, "Of course it's true, it might be hereditary."

"That's really too bad," Bai Ruyu set out the food from the lunchbox, leaning in to sit opposite Chu Jin, "such delicious food, looks like I'm the only one who'll enjoy it."

With that, he picked up his chopsticks and started to eat with gusto.

The aroma became even more intense, the numbing spice of fish, the freshness of shrimp, the crispy chicken, the sweet greens, along with Bai Ruyu's exaggerated eating manner, were enough to make one's mouth water.

Little Grey on the floor was about to drool.

Bai Ruyu was actually quite sly; he planned to tempt Chu Jin with delicious food on the spot. He didn't believe that in the face of good food and beauty, Chu Jin could hold back.

And just as he imagined, from the moment he started eating, Chu Jin's gaze had never left him.

She must have been tempted, after all, no one can resist good food.

A smile tugged at the corner of Bai Ruyu's mouth.

"Jinjin, looking at your longing face, do you want some? Come on, call me a good brother, and I'll give you a bite," Bai Ruyu said while eating a shrimp and looking towards Chu Jin.

"Thanks, but I really don't want any," Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

Although she loved food, her willpower was incredibly strong, and she would never covet food that wasn't hers.

After watching her for a while, Bai Ruyu reproached, "Jinjin, don't lie to me, if you didn't want to eat, why would you keep staring? Such a hypocrite."

"Come on, call me a good brother, and this chicken leg is yours," Bai Ruyu said as he dangled a chicken leg in front of Chu Jin, smiling smugly.

Chu Jin gave him a look, saying somewhat helplessly, "I just wanted to remind you, could you not smack your lips when you eat? It's really quite impolite."

Bai Ruyu: "... " Could you at least save some face for this handsome young man?

While Bai Ruyu wasn't paying attention, Little Grey swiftly jumped onto the table, grabbed a roasted chicken, and ran off.

Having gained no advantage at Chu Jin's, Bai Ruyu walked away disheartened.

"Hold on," Chu Jin called out to Bai Ruyu's retreating figure.

"What is it?" Bai Ruyu turned around, his eyes, which had dimmed, now flickering with light, "Jinjin, do you have something to say to me?"

"Mmm," Chu Jin nodded slightly, "come here."

Bai Ruyu immediately scampered over, "Jinjin, have you changed your mind? Do you want someone to stay and keep you company?"

Chu Jin looked him up and down and pointed at the lunchbox and half-eaten food on the table, "Please take your things with you, thank you."

Bai Ruyu's ardor was extinguished by a bucket of cold water as he let out a flat "Oh."

Then he picked up the lunchbox and walked away, sulking like a wronged little wife.

Chu Jin watched his back, laughing softly.

Actually, sometimes Bai Ruyu was quite adorable.

Bai Ruyu walked slowly until he reached a nanny car and stopped, kicked the car door fiercely, then opened it and sat inside.

Xiao Jinnian was in the back seat. Seeing Bai Ruyu come in, he said to the driver, "Lao Jiang, let's drive."

"Alright," a sweet female voice answered from the driver's seat.

"Don't be sad," Xiao Jinnian took the lunchbox from Bai Ruyu's hand, smiling gently, "if she despises you for smacking your lips, I don't."

"Scram!" Bai Ruyu glanced at him, "but I despise you. Can you give birth to sons?"

Hearing this, a dark light seemed to flash in Xiao Jinnian's eyes.

But it was hidden behind the thin lenses.

Xiao Jinnian lifted the lid off the lunchbox, looking at the untouched food with a bit of pity, "Ah, you didn't even take a bite? What a waste of my one hour's time."

With that, he reached for a half-eaten shrimp and put it in his mouth, showing no aversion; it had been bitten by someone else.

Yes, all the food was prepared by Xiao Jinnian, having nothing to do with Bai Ruyu.

In front of Xiao Jinnian, Bai Ruyu was almost useless.

Apart from eating, he couldn't do anything.

But Xiao Jinnian was different.

He was a fine man who could manage both the living room and the kitchen, didn't smoke, drink, or gamble. A truly good man.

"Lao Xiao, I'm really hit hard!" Bai Ruyu hugged Xiao Jinnian's neck, complaining, "Am I that bad? Does she really look down on me that much?"

Bai Ruyu would stroll freely among a sea of flowers.

But this time, he had been defeated by the flower that was Chu Jin.

This caused Bai Ruyu to question his own charm and looks profoundly.

There was no reason for Chu Jin not to fancy his good looks!

Xiao Jinnian patted Bai Ruyu's shoulder, consoling, "It's okay, it's okay. There are no bridges in the world that can't be crossed, nor roads that can't be traveled. Trust me, one day, you will truly have her."

"Really?" Bai Ruyu looked at Xiao Jinnian with a pitiful expression.

Xiao Jinnian couldn't stand to see Bai Ruyu like this; it felt like facing a small wronged wife, and no matter how tough his heart was, it softened instantly in front of him.

"Of course," Xiao Jinnian nodded firmly, "when have I ever lied to you?"

"Exactly," Bai Ruyu leaned despondently against the back of the seat, "Lao Xiao, we are the true love..."

At this, Xiao Jinnian raised his hand, adjusting his glasses, about to say something, but then he heard Bai Ruyu continue, "Lao Xiao, if there's a next life, I'll still want to be your good brother!"

Xiao Jinnian: "... Scram! I don't care to be your good brother.

The Chu Family.

Zhao Yan had fallen sick again these past few days and even coughed up blood, needing Luo Yu's constant company. Whenever Luo Yu left for even a moment, she would become anxious and restless, insisting on seeing Luo Yu.

The look in her eyes suggested she feared Luo Yu would flee at any moment.

Having no other choice, Luo Yu could only notify Mo Zhixuan, asking him to come check on Zhao Yan.

After all, Mo Zhixuan cared for Zhao Yan as though she were his own mother, and he would definitely be very anxious whenever he heard that anything had happened to her.

Indeed, after Luo Yu sent word to Mo Zhixuan, he arrived in a flurry, his expression one of deep concern.

"Brother Mo, you're here." Upon seeing Mo Zhixuan, Luo Yu hurriedly stood up from beside the bed.

To take care of Zhao Yan, she hadn't slept well for two days, her appearance somewhat haggard; her skin was pale, her figure thin - a pitiful sight. As she stood up, her body swayed, as if she might collapse at any moment.

Fragile to an extreme.

Yet Mo Zhixuan seemed to ignore Luo Yu entirely, walking straight to the bedside to look at Zhao Yan, "Mom, are you all right?"

Seeing this, Luo Yu's expression darkened a bit. What was Mo Zhixuan's deal?

Why was he suddenly ignoring her?

He had been so warm to her just the other day!

How had he changed so completely now?

Seeing her state, he didn't even bother to check on her?

Could it be that Mo Zhixuan had found out something?

Though she was puzzled, Luo Yu still remained composed, a faint smile on her lips as she followed behind Mo Zhixuan.

"Mom is fine," Zhao Yan said in an extremely weak voice, "Don't be alarmed by Jin's exaggeration. It's just an old ailment; a bit of medicine and I'll be fine. You didn't need to come all this way; go back..." Before she could finish, Zhao Yan began to cough violently, fresh blood seeping from the corner of her mouth.

"Cough gently," Mo Zhixuan soothed as he patted Zhao Yan's back. He pulled a handkerchief from his pocket and carefully wiped the blood from the corner of her mouth, a trace of worry flickering through his deep eyes.

Zhao Yan's condition seemed to be getting worse.

"Mom, drink your medicine first," Luo Yu brought over a bowl of the dark medicinal concoction.

"I'll do it." Mo Zhixuan took the bowl and personally fed the medicine to Zhao Yan.

After Mo Zhixuan helped Zhao Yan drink her medicine, Luo Yu took the porcelain bowl and took the opportunity to pour a glass of water for Mo Zhixuan, "Brother Mo, have some water."

Mo Zhixuan took the glass, sipped lightly, his Adam's apple moving sensuously as he casually placed the glass on the table beside him.

Seeing that Mo Zhixuan had taken a drink, Luo Yu finally relaxed, a calculating glint flashing in her eyes.

"Right, Brother Mo," Luo Yu said nonchalantly as she looked at Mo Zhixuan, continuing, "Mom hasn't taken her Western medicine yet. I'm going to wipe her down, could you fetch it from my room? I don't trust anyone else to get it."

Mo Zhixuan stood up and after glancing at Zhao Yan, he nodded to Luo Yu.

"Thank you, Brother Mo." The moment Mo Zhixuan turned around, a clear look of triumph flashed in Luo Yu's eyes.

As Mo Zhixuan made his way upstairs, he was well aware of what Luo Yu had slipped into the water she'd given him.

This Luo Yu, really was quite foolish.

Did she think that a bit of medicine would allow her to control him?

Ridiculous.

Isn't Luo Yu crazily craving for a man? Then why not indulge her for once?

His agreement to go upstairs with Luo Yu was merely to play along.

Mo Zhixuan pushed open the door to Luo Yu's room.

At the same time, a loud "bang" came from inside the room.

A naked man rolled off Luo Yu's bed.

This person was the one-eyed gardener, who harbored boundless fantasies about Luo Yu.

The one-eyed gardener, in his forties, had never married due to his ugly appearance and having only one eye.

For all these years, he had been alone.

Knowing that Luo Yu needed to take care of Zhao Yan day and night, the one-eyed gardener secretly hid in Luo Yu's room, stripped off his clothes, lay on Luo Yu's bed, fantasizing about her exquisite body.

The bedding was stuffed with Luo Yu's personal clothing.

The one-eyed gardener hadn't expected anyone to come in at this time, so he was so frightened that he fell off the bed, closed his eyes, and passed out.

When Mo Zhixuan entered, he didn't expect Luo Yu to have prepared such a big present for him; it saved him the trouble of finding another man. The sleazy one-eyed gardener in front of him was just the right match for Luo Yu.

Mo Zhixuan looked at the one-eyed gardener with disgust, lightly raised his hand, and the gardener instantly flew back to the bed. The blanket neatly covered him, as if nothing had happened.

Just as Mo Zhixuan was about to leave, he suddenly seemed to remember something and plucked a steel-armored fly from the air.

The steel-armored fly immediately flew towards the bed, bit the one-eyed gardener's face, then settled on the curtains, staring fixedly at the bed.

After ensuring all was in order, Mo Zhixuan turned and went downstairs.

As he descended, Luo Yu, flushed with springtime thoughts, was heading upstairs. Strangely, she passed by Mo Zhixuan as if she had not seen him.

Luo Yu, anxious and agitated, pushed open the door to her room, her voice sultry, "Brother Mo..."

She had fed Mo Zhixuan a potent aphrodisiac, a banned drug in the Ancient Martial Arts World, which Luo Yu had gone to great lengths to obtain.

It was said that no matter how powerful one was, they could not resist the effects of this drug; once taken, they would be consumed by lust and lose all reasoning.

Moreover, there was no antidote, only the act of lovemaking could resolve it.

No doubt, Mo Zhixuan must be impatient by now, right?

True to her expectations, just as Luo Yu entered the bedroom, she found a man lying on the bed.

Without a second thought, it must be Mo Zhixuan.

Luo Yu's eyes gleamed as she looked at the man on the bed, her heart throbbing with excitement, her body already overwhelmed.

Like a starved wolf spotting its prey, she pounced on the man on the bed, "Brother Mo, Brother Mo..."

The man in the bed also cooperated vigorously with her actions.

The air was pervaded with a feeble, nauseating odor.

But the two on the bed were reveling in it, rolling in ecstasy, as sounds of ambiguous moaning drifted from the room.

Chapter 667: Hundred Flowers Conference, lovers must not be separated

When Mo Zhixuan went downstairs, he happened to run into Chu Xiu coming in from outside. Seeing Mo Zhixuan, Chu Xiu expressed surprise, "Brother-in-law, when did you get here?"

"Mom's feeling a bit unwell; I just arrived," Mo Zhixuan said, his expression unchanging.

Chu Xiu immediately became very anxious, "Auntie is feeling unwell? How is she now? Have you called a doctor?"

"The doctor will be here soon; come with me to take a look," Mo Zhixuan said, glancing sideways slightly.

"Okay," Chu Xiu nodded and followed behind Mo Zhixuan.

By the time they got there, the butler had already brought the doctor in. She was a female doctor, around 40 years old, looking very gentle.

"Your Excellency, young master Chu." The doctor seemed somewhat constrained upon seeing Mo Zhixuan and Chu Xiu.

Mo Zhixuan spoke slowly, "Doctor Lin, there's no need to be formal; attending to my mother is the priority."

"Alright," the doctor immediately set down her medical box, sat by the bed, checked Zhao Yan's pulse, and then shone a flashlight into Zhao Yan's eyes.

The expression on her face was not at all good.

Seeing this, Chu Xiu asked urgently, "Doctor Lin, how is my auntie? Is she alright?"

Doctor Lin sighed and slightly furrowed her brow, "Madam's condition is very bad. You must be careful not to let her suffer any shocks, otherwise..."

The rest of her words went unsaid.

"I'll write you a prescription. Remember to give the medication to madam on time, and it would be best to have her rechecked at the hospital every two weeks," Doctor Lin said as she pulled out a piece of paper and started writing vigorously.

"Thank you very much," Mo Zhixuan accepted the prescription from Doctor Lin and thanked her politely.

Doctor Lin replied somewhat flustered, "Your Excellency, you're too courteous. It's all part of my job. If there's nothing else, I will take my leave."

"Hmm," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "Butler Chu, please see Doctor Lin out."

"Of course," the butler immediately stepped forward, gesturing with a "this way, please" motion, "Doctor Lin, please follow me."

Zhao Yan on the bed was in a state of deep sleep.

Chu Xiu wrung out a wet towel and placed it on Zhao Yan's forehead, speaking with a touch of confusion, "Where is sister Luo Yu? Where did she go?"

Luo Yu was a child with great filial piety; at this time in the past, it was always Luo Yu who took care of Zhao Yan.

How come today, Luo Yu was nowhere to be seen?

"She might have gone upstairs to rest," Mo Zhixuan spoke in a light tone.

Chu Xiu nodded thoughtfully, "Ah, then maybe sister Luo Yu is just too tired."

So far, Chu Xiu had a rather good impression of Luo Yu.

Mo Zhixuan didn't say anything more, stepping outside. He took a cigarette from his pocket, lit it up, and the thin smoke billowed from his lips, creating an indescribable sense of allure.

There were only five days left until the Hundred Flowers Conference, yet he felt these five days were harder to endure than five centuries.

The next morning, when Luo Yu woke up again, the sky was already bright.

The scene from the previous night still played before Luo Yu's eyes – the man's robustness, his vigorous physique, all unleashed upon her to the fullest. Last night, he and she finally became one.

At this thought, Luo Yu's cheeks turned a blushing red, her lips curving into a slight smile.

"Brother Mo," she turned over in bed, but the space beside her was already empty.

There was no sign of Mo Zhixuan to be seen, and in the air lingered a faint odor of grass and earth.

What was this strange smell?

Was it coming from Mo Zhixuan?

She wouldn't have thought that someone as handsome as Mo Zhixuan would have such an unpleasant scent.

Luo Yu frowned slightly but did not ponder it deeply.

Initially, Luo Yu had planned to cling to Mo Zhixuan when she woke up, insisting that he acknowledge their relationship. However, to her surprise, Mo Zhixuan had already slipped away.

If not for the marks that still remained on her body, Luo Yu would almost believe that last night's incident was a hallucination.

But it didn't matter. Even if Mo Zhixuan had left, he still had to take responsibility for her.

Luo Yu narrowed her eyes slightly, a triumphant glint flashing through them as her hand gently caressed her belly.

To smooth her path to becoming the matriarch of the Mo family, Luo Yu had deliberately taken a medicine that made conception easier.

The success rate was one hundred percent.

With the Mo family's heir in her womb, she didn't believe Mo Zhixuan could ignore his responsibility towards her!

Moreover, Madam Mo was already of considerable age; she was probably yearning to hold a great-grandson, wasn't she?

There was no doubt in Luo Yu's mind that the child she was carrying was a boy.

With that thought, the curve of Luo Yu's lips grew more pronounced.

It was truly wonderful, she could finally become the rightful mistress of the Mo family.

From now on, she would be the most distinguished woman among all three realms.

Luo Yu endured the pain on her body and took a bath; by the time she came downstairs, Chu Xiu was already sitting in the dining room eating.

"Good morning, Sister Luo Yu," Chu Xiu took the initiative to greet Luo Yu.

"Good morning," Luo Yu replied with a slight smile, glancing around with the corner of her eye and asked with some surprise, "Xiu, why are you alone? Where's Zhixuan?"

Zhixuan?

Chu Xiu's brow furrowed slightly.

Compared to the title "Brother Mo", "Zhixuan" felt ten times more intimate.

What was Luo Yu trying to do?

Could it be...

That she was still after Mo Zhixuan?

If that was indeed the case, then Luo Yu was truly lacking in self-awareness.

Chu Xiu's frown was subtle as she responded, "My brother-in-law has already gone back."

"Gone back?" Luo Yu sounded surprised, "When did Zhixuan leave?"

This man was really too heartless—once his pants were back on, he didn't recognize anyone!

Luckily, she was well-prepared!

Otherwise, she would have suffered this loss for nothing.

After having his way with her, he wanted to discard her just like that? Did he think it would be that easy?

Chu Xiu slowly peeled the egg in her hand and continued, "He left not long ago. Why? Do you need my brother-in-law for something?"

Chu Xiu made a point of emphasizing the words "my brother-in-law."

But Luo Yu, as if not catching the undercurrent in Chu Xiu's words, slowly smiled, her voice soft, "It's nothing important, I was just asking casually."

"Miss, please enjoy your meal," chimed in a servant, placing Luo Yu's breakfast on the table with great respect.

Luo Yu assumed the air of a young lady and glanced carelessly at the servant. When she saw the food on the table, she said with dissatisfaction, "How many times have I told you, I don't like to eat cooked caviar. Take it away, make it again! If there's a next time, you're fired!"

Her haughty demeanor made it seem like she was the true mistress of the house.

"I'm sorry, Miss, I'll take it away right now," the servant immediately apologized, taking the breakfast away.

Chu Xiu took a bite of her sandwich without hurry, her tone calm but firm, "If you don't like it, just ask for a replacement. Why throw such a tantrum over nothing?"

Chu Xiu's tone may have sounded even-tempered, but in fact, she was clearly displeased. After some thought, it seemed Luo Yu had never really understood her place.

The young lady?

He remembered that the Chu family's servants used to call Luo Yu "Miss Luo."

The servants wouldn't change how they address someone on their own initiative.

Obviously, this must have been Luo Yu's own doing.

He had thought Luo Yu was compliant.

He had not expected her ambition to be so great, to the point of delusionally aspiring to be the Chu family's young lady without considering her own weight.

In an instant, Chu Xiu's regard for Luo Yu halved.

Luo Yu was feeling rather smug inside and failed to catch the meaning in Chu Xiu's words, continuing to speak, "How can a servant not remember things? Xiu, being too kind isn't good, if you're too gentle, those servants will eventually walk all over you. They never truly understand who's the master and who's the servant."

Was Luo Yu getting a little too carried away?

Chu Xiu's brows furrowed slightly, remembering that Luo Yu had not always been like this.

The servant brought a new breakfast, and Luo Yu was finally satisfied. She then said, "Xiu, why didn't you ask Zhixuan to have breakfast with you? You worked him so hard last night."

Her words carried a hint of innuendo, and Chu Xiu looked up slightly, "Sister Luo Yu, what do you mean by that?"

Luo Yu smiled gently, her voice soft, "It's exactly as it sounds. Xiu, you're still young, it's normal not to understand, now go ahead and eat, you still have to go to school."

"I'm full," Chu Xiu stood up and took a napkin to wipe her mouth, "I'm going to see my aunt."

"Sure, go ahead," Luo Yu replied without looking up.

After Chu Xiu left, the spacious dining room was left with only Luo Yu, who ate slowly and gracefully, her lips constantly curved in a self-satisfied smile.

She could feel a new life sprouting in her belly.

After eating, Luo Yu went to the back garden to relax her mind.

A woman trying to conceive must maintain a good mood; only then will the baby be healthy when born.

After all, the child she was carrying was the Mo family's heir.

The scenery in the back garden was beautiful, and the air was very fresh. Several gardeners were pruning the branches, and upon seeing Luo Yu, they all respectfully said, "Good day, Miss."

When Luo Yu walked by a gardener, she frowned in disgust. So ugly, truly disgusting. How could the Chu Family hire such a person? It was simply an eyesore.

Luo Yu covered her nose with a handkerchief, carefully avoiding the gardener, but failed to notice a round stone at her feet. She staggered, stepped on the stone unexpectedly, slipped, and hurtled toward a large rock on the rockery.

"Miss Luo, be careful!" It was too late to warn her, but the gardener who had been trimming branches rushed over in a flash and encircled Luo Yu's waist, pulling off a "hero saving the beauty."

A putrid smell of a garlic-laden breath unbrushed hit her full in the face. Luo Yu was disgusted beyond words. When she opened her eyes and saw the one-eyed gardener's face, she was horrified and quickly pushed him away, "Get lost! Disgusting creature, who allowed you to touch me!"

"Sorry! Sorry! This humble one didn't mean to offend." The one-eyed gardener immediately bent over to apologize, his attitude submissive, but inwardly he thought, so what if Luo Yu is a high and mighty young miss of a noble family?

Just last night, she had still been slept by this disgusting thing!

"I said get lost!" Luo Yu bellowed. Just the thought that this revolting gardener had just held her made her skin crawl with layer upon layer of goosebumps.

Disgusting! This gardener was even more nauseating than those ten middle-aged men she had encountered the other night.

The one-eyed gardener gave Luo Yu a glance and then left the range of her sight.

"Disgusting! Absolutely reeks!" Luo Yu's face twisted in revulsion, and she no longer had any desire to stroll in the garden, leaving hurriedly.

As soon as she reached her bedroom, Luo Yu changed her clothes, throwing the ones she had worn directly into the trash, including her undergarments.

Before long, the one-eyed gardener took a bag of garbage from the trash house.

Whatever was thrown out of Luo Yu's room, he would carefully collect and keep.

He liked Luo Yu very much, to the point of a near obsession.

Luo Yu still paid a lot of attention to Zhao Yan, and after changing her clothes, she went to Zhao Yan's room.

Chu Xiu was sitting by the bed wiping Zhao Yan's face.

"Xiu, you can go attend to your duties. Leave Mother to me," Luo Yu took over the towel from Chu Xiu's hand and carefully wiped Zhao Yan's cheek.

Seeing Luo Yu so attentive and tender, Chu Xiu felt much of her pent-up frustration vanish in an instant.

Even if there were some issues with Luo Yu's character, she was truly good to Zhao Yan. If it had not been for Luo Yu, Zhao Yan might have already turned into a pile of bones by now, Zhao Yan could not do without Luo Yu at all.

Chu Xiu looked up at Luo Yu and said, "Sister Luo Yu, I'll leave Aunt here to you, I need to get going."

"Of course," Luo Yu nodded gently, a tender smile on her face—such a stark contrast to her appearance earlier that morning—she looked at Chu Xiu, and spoke softly, "Take care on your way, study hard, don't worry about home, Mother is safe with me."

"Alright, goodbye Sister Luo Yu," Chu Xiu said politely as she bid farewell.

"Goodbye." Chu Xiu rose to send her off.

Watching Chu Xiu's receding figure, Luo Yu's lips curled into a satisfied smirk, her hands gently resting on her abdomen.

Four days had passed in the blink of an eye.

There was a lively and harmonious atmosphere throughout the Superpower World.

Young and old, everyone wore new clothes on this day, dressed in their best attire. They stepped on the morning dew to buy a bouquet of fresh flowers from the flower shops in preparation for the evening's Hundred Flowers Conference.

Because of the Hundred Flowers Conference, Chu Jin didn't set up her fortune-telling stall. Instead, she slept in the inn for the entire day, only leaving with Little Grey in the evening.

As she went through the lobby of the inn, the innkeeper greeted her warmly, "Miss Chu, heading out?"

"Yes, I'm planning to join the fun at the Hundred Flowers Conference. Would you like to come with me?" Chu Jin asked with a light smile.

The innkeeper looked up at the clock on the wall and replied, "I might have to wait a little longer, you go ahead."

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Then I'll take my leave."

"Yes, Miss Chu, take care on your way," the innkeeper watched Chu Jin walk away and then immediately picked up the microphone on the bar and dialed a number, "Hello, Mr. Bai, Miss Chu has left. Yes, she's holding that hibiscus mask in her hand."

"All right... goodbye."

Dusk had fallen.

The Hundred Flowers Conference was gradually getting underway. The streets of Ancient City Street were lined on both sides with various colored lanterns and fresh flowers.

The air was filled with the fragrant scent of flowers, blissfully intoxicating.

The whole nation celebrated, people all left their homes to stroll the streets and enjoy the flowers.

Apart from the crowds in the streets, there were also quaint sightseeing horse carriages, with young ladies from rich families sitting atop horses to view the scenery.

All the people walking, regardless of gender, age, donned a mask.

Masks of all shapes and colors, but predominantly floral designs.

The Lotus represents aloofness.

Amongst them, the lotus mask was the most popular, followed by the plum blossom and chrysanthemum.

Seeing this, Chu Jin also picked up her mask and put it on.

The mask was shaped like a hibiscus, with lifelike petals, and when worn on her face, only her sparkling peach blossom eyes and a pair of cherry blossom-like lips were visible.

Lips painted as red as if they had been dipped in blood, perfectly complementing the red plum blossoms at her waist.

Today, she was dressed in a white cotton dress made by hand by Mother Lin, with the hem reaching her ankles. A proud, snow-braving red plum blossom was embroidered at the waist, accentuating her already slender waistline, now appearing even more delicate.

A light breeze stirred her silky hair into disarray, and her dress fluttered.

She looked as flawless as an exiled fairy descending from the moon.

The hibiscus mask could hide her face, but not the innate grace she carried.

People passing by couldn't help but glance her way.

In fact, quite a few young men jumped down from their touring carriages, removed their masks, knelt on one knee, and offered fresh flowers to her.

But Chu Jin politely declined them all.

After all, her sole purpose at the Hundred Flowers Conference was to join in the fun.

"Hey, little Jin Jin," a silver-haired man wearing a mask approached, "what a coincidence, I didn't expect to see you here. This must be what they call fate..."

As he spoke, he reached out to put his hand on Chu Jin's shoulder but was nimbly dodged by her.

This person was Bai Ruyu, and the man by his side was Xiao Jinnian.

Bai Ruyu missed his mark but wasn't embarrassed. Instead, he casually draped his arm over Xiao Jinnian's shoulder and burst into a hearty laugh, contagiously cheerful.

Even a faint smile appeared on Xiao Jinnian's lips.

"It is quite the coincidence," Chu Jin said with a slight curl of her lips, touching the mask on her face, "sigh, even like this, you can still recognize me?"

"Of course," Bai Ruyu puffed out his chest, quite haughtily, "Not to brag, but I'd recognize you even if you turned to ash."

"Get lost!" Chu Jin kicked him. "You're the one who should turn to ash."

After spending a few days together, Chu Jin had revised her opinion of Bai Ruyu. They interacted very naturally, as if they were old friends who had known each other for years.

Bai Ruyu then said, "Oh right, little Jin Jin, let me introduce you. This is my good buddy Xiao Jinnian. Just call him Old Xiao."

"Hello, Xiao Jinnian," Xiao Jinnian extended his hand towards Chu Jin.

Xiao Jinnian was dressed in a handmade white suit, his face concealed by a devil mask that appeared rather ferocious, but his voice was very gentle, smooth as if flowing from jade. It wasn't hard to guess that underneath the mask, a handsome set of features must be hidden.

Chu Jin gently shook Xiao Jinnian's hand, smiling as she said, "Mr. Xiao, hello, I am Chu Jin."

Xiao Jinnian nodded slightly, offering Chu Jin a very polite smile.

Bai Ruyu went on, "Little Jin Jin, it's not lively to stroll through the flower conference alone. Why don't you join us? We're quite familiar with this place and can show you around. You know, this Hundred Flowers Conference only happens once every ten years, it's a rare opportunity."

A red rose was tucked into the pocket of Bai Ruyu's shirt.

Like Chu Jin, Xiao Jinnian hadn't brought any flowers.

"Sure," Chu Jin nodded lightly. She did not refuse the kind invitation or any social interaction – more so since she already considered Bai Ruyu a friend.

"Let's head over there," Bai Ruyu said, arm still around Xiao Jinnian's shoulders while pointing somewhere not too far away.

The crowd ahead was bustling and lively.

"Let's go," Chu Jin nodded lightly.

As the trio walked, Bai Ruyu chatted incessantly, introducing Chu Jin to the customs of the Superpower World and the traditions of the Hundred Flowers Conference.

Chu Jin listened intently, and Bai Ruyu spoke earnestly.

From behind, their silhouettes surprisingly matched quite well together.

Xiao Jinnian followed behind the two and suddenly felt very dejected.

He felt...

His presence was somewhat superfluous.

Did Bai Ruyu genuinely like Chu Jin?

Not really.

He was just momentarily intrigued because a woman like Chu Jin was one in ten thousand.

Then, did Chu Jin like Bai Ruyu?

Of course not.

Her behavior made it clear that she only saw Bai Ruyu as a casual friend.

Besides, she already had someone she deeply loved.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan were the actual couple.

He couldn't bring himself to aid in splitting up a pair of lovers. That would bring divine retribution.

Glimmers of light flickered in Xiao Jinnian's eyes before he quickened his pace, saying to the two ahead, "You two go ahead, I'll take a look around there, and we'll meet up later at Rouge Tower."

Bai Ruyu obviously understood Xiao Jinnian's intent; he was creating an opportunity for him and Chu Jin.

Truly a good brother.

Bai Ruyu waved him off, "Go on then, we'll meet at Rouge Tower later."

Chapter 668: Pregnant

"Okay," Xiao Jinnian nodded and then headed in the opposite direction.

At the same time, Mo Zhixuan also left the Mo family compound. He came alone, without even bringing his assistant, Li Xunen.

The Hundred Flowers Conference was bustling with activity.

To avoid unnecessary chaos, Mo Zhixuan also bought a mask to wear.

A very ordinary white jade mask with some intricate floral patterns carved into it, chosen by commoners, was worn by Mo Zhixuan with an air of nobility and distinction.

Strangers on the road are like jade, and the gentleman is beyond compare.

Mo Zhixuan seemed to be strolling casually, yet his gaze continuously darted through the crowd, searching for that familiar figure.

"Mr. Mo," suddenly, a warm, deep male voice rang out from behind him, penetrating the boisterous noise around them, yet Mo Zhixuan heard it distinctly.

Mo Zhixuan stopped in his tracks and looked back, only to see a young man in a white suit wearing a Devil Mask approaching.

The newcomer was none other than Xiao Jinnian.

Actually, Xiao Jinnian had never met Mo Zhixuan before, but even within the crowd, he recognized Mo Zhixuan instantly.

A person may disguise himself in many ways, but his presence always remains the same.

"Who are you?" Mo Zhixuan asked as he looked at the newcomer, speaking slowly.

Xiao Jinnian gave a slight smile, "Mr. Mo, you're here to find Chu Jin, aren't you?"

Mo Zhixuan narrowed his eyes slightly, a clear chill flashing through them, "Do you know where she is?"

Previously, the vendor who sold masks mentioned that Chu Jin was accompanied by a young man. Could it be this very person in front of him?

For a moment, Mo Zhixuan was full of hostility towards Xiao Jinnian.

All young men who deliberately approach Jin are up to no good.

"Mr. Mo," Xiao Jinnian looked at Mo Zhixuan and continued, "Rest assured, we are friends, not foes. There's a Rouge Tower ahead with good food; I recommend you try it out."

With those words, Xiao Jinnian turned and left, melting into the crowd and quickly vanishing from sight.

The message was clear, and if Mo Zhixuan still couldn't understand, then one could only say that he and Chu Jin were fated to be apart.

Mo Zhixuan looked ahead, his eyes slightly narrowed, as he caught a faint scent coming from Xiao Jinnian.

But, he couldn't be sure how much of what Xiao Jinnian said could be trusted.

What if it was a ruse to lure the tiger away from the mountain?

At that moment, Mo Zhixuan hesitated, undecided.

If he didn't go, he would be worried.

And if he did go, he would be even more worried.

Chu Jin and Bai Ruyu walked and browsed along the way.

Bai Ruyu was a food lover, and it didn't take long for her to fill her hands with various snacks.

"The most beautiful woman has arrived!"

Someone shouted in the crowd, and with that cry, petals began to flutter down from the sky.

Mu Xianxian sat on a palanquin, looking down at the crowd from her high position.

"Miss Xianxian, please look this way."

"Look over here."

The crowd surged as everyone hoped to catch the first beauty's eye, but unfortunately, Mu Xianxian remained haughty, chin lifted, hardly deigning to spare a glance at these people.

The various colorful lanterns were quite beautiful. Mu Xianxian turned her head to look behind her, over the layers of lanterns and the surrounding crowd, her attention was involuntarily drawn to the woman wearing a hibiscus mask.

She stood next to a young man, with a row of lanterns behind her. Despite the busy, bustling surroundings, there was a sense of stillness about her that seemed too vast for her age.

As though everything around her had simply become a backdrop.

She didn't chase after the palanquin like others, but stood there quietly, admiring an orchid under the evenly cast lantern light, which gave her a halo-like glow, making her seem cool and solitary.

She gazed at the flowers, while the man beside her was lowering his gaze to look at her.

When Mu Xianxian saw the man's silver hair, she became utterly unsettled.

Could it be...

Mo Zhixuan?

If he was Mo Zhixuan, then who was the woman by his side?

Her figure and temperament.

Didn't seem like Luo Yu.

But rather a bit like... Chu Jin.

And not just a bit, but very much so.

At that thought, Mu Xianxian felt a twinge between her brows; she had never considered Luo Yu a threat because she knew that neither Mo Zhixuan nor the old Madam Mo would ever acknowledge Luo Yu.

Luo Yu was merely a substitute.

But Chu Jin was different.

Chu Jin was the wife Mo Zhixuan had officially married in the secular world.

Not only did Mo Zhixuan hold her in his heart,

even the usually reticent old Madam Mo had acknowledged her.

Therefore, Mu Xianxian's true rival had always been Chu Jin.

"Stop," Mu Xianxian said softly, lifting her hand.

The step carrier came to a halt.

Mu Xianxian picked up the hem of her dress and walked towards the two individuals; the onlooking crowd parted ways for her.

True beauties are only to be admired from a distance.

Thus, no one approached to disturb Mu Xianxian, and soon the crowds dispersed.

As the saying goes, beauty comes with distance; their admiration should not become a trouble for the first beauty's outing.

People from the Superpower World are very rational.

"Zhixuan brother, Zhixuan brother," Mu Xianxian walked towards Chu Jin and Bai Ruyu with measured steps, her tone sweet.

Mu Xianxian did not wear a mask but instead donned a sheer veil that made her delicate cheeks partially visible.

Bai Ruyu looked bewildered at Mu Xianxian approaching her.

Among the tens of millions of flowers she had picked, there didn't seem to be this one, right?

Bai Ruyu was afraid that Mu Xianxian had come to collect a debt of affection.

"Miss, you seem to have mistaken me for someone else," said Bai Ruyu, nonchalantly taking a step back in the face of Mu Xianxian's unrestrained enthusiasm.

It wasn't until Mu Xianxian had approached that she realized she had mistaken the man with silver hair—it wasn't Mo Zhixuan.

For one, the height was not right.

Second, the aura was off.

Third, his right index finger didn't bear a ring.

Fourth, his voice was also different.

"I'm sorry, I mistook you for someone else," Mu Xianxian apologized sincerely to Bai Ruyu.

Used to mingling among the elite society, having seen grand events, and making acquaintances with many wealthy young masters, Mu Xianxian knew that even if this person was not Mo Zhixuan, his status couldn't be simple either.

Moreover, this woman by his side, the more she looked, the more she looked like Chu Jin.

No matter how a person changes, her temperament always remains the same.

In the past, in the presence of Chu Jin, she always felt an inferiority complex.

Now, although she couldn't see the real features of this woman, she felt a strange sense of inferiority kindle in her heart, as if she were somehow lesser.

This feeling was very unpleasant.

Bai Ruyu seemed not very interested in Mu Xianxian, the number one beauty, and said casually, "It's nothing."

Mu Xianxian kept looking at the person beside Bai Ruyu.

Strangely, that person's gaze did not avoid hers, but boldly met Mu Xianxian's scrutiny. Her peach blossom eyes sparkled brilliantly, exceptionally bright under the lights, glittering dazzlingly.

Was it Chu Jin?

Mu Xianxian narrowed her eyes.

Aside from Chu Jin, no one dared to meet her gaze so brazenly.

But, if it was Chu Jin, why didn't she react at all upon seeing her?

If it wasn't Chu Jin, why did she give her this strange feeling?

For a moment, Mu Xianxian was filled with myriad thoughts.

"Little Jin Jin, there are tastier things that way, let's head over there," Bai Ruyu, without giving Mu Xianxian another glance, led Chu Jin in another direction.

Just as Chu Jin turned around.

Mu Xianxian's pupils suddenly contracted!

Because on her left wrist, Mu Xianxian saw a blood-red Blood Jade Bracelet.

Mu Xianxian staggered back several steps, her mouth covered in shock.

Seeing this, she could almost confirm that this woman was Chu Jin!

It was Chu Jin!

Chu Jin was still alive.

She was actually still alive.

If she was still alive, why didn't she look for Mo Zhixuan? Why didn't she return to the Chu Family? Instead, why was she walking with another man?

Could it be?

She...

Had amnesia?

Judging by the situation just now, Chu Jin seemed not to remember her either.

Otherwise, with Chu Jin's personality, she wouldn't have been indifferent upon seeing her.

Was it amnesia? Mu Xianxian narrowed her eyes slightly, a glint flashing in their depths.

It seemed that Mo Zhixuan didn't know Chu Jin had returned yet.

Why not take this opportunity to make Chu Jin disappear from this world forever?

Only in this way, could she possibly have no more worries for the future.

Thinking this, Mu Xianxian slowly calmed down.

"Isn't that Xianxian? Why aren't you riding in a sedan chair today?" Suddenly, a gentle female voice came from behind.

The voice was gentle, but if one listened closely, they would find that this gentle voice carried a hint of mockery.

Luo Yu always disliked Mu Xianxian's ostentatious nature.

Wasn't she just the number one beauty?

A hollow title, that was all.

And yet Mu Xianxian always acted so arrogantly, making such a big show even for stepping outside, as if she were a fairy descending from the heavens.

Mu Xianxian steadied her spirits, turned around, and then saw Luo Yu, dressed to the nines, not even wearing a mask.

At the Hundred Flowers Conference, only those who were pregnant did not wear masks.

Could it be?

This Luo Yu... is pregnant?

An unmarried woman, actually daring so blatantly to declare that she's with child.

Unless.

It's the child of someone with a very high status and identity, worth showing off for her.

Although Mu Xianxian was thinking this, she still greeted them very politely, "Aunt Yuan, Miss Luo."

"Xianxian," Zhao Yan responded with a smile.

With her arm around Luo Yu's, Zhao Yan saw Mu Xianxian and just gave a simple smile, without saying much. Mu Xianxian could clearly feel that Zhao Yan seemed not to like her as much as before.

It must be Luo Yu stirring up trouble about her in front of Zhao Yan again!

Otherwise, Zhao Yan would not be so indifferent to her.

This Luo Yu really is cunning!

Actually whispering behind her back!

Such people are truly disgusting.

There's Chu Jin yet to be dealt with in front, and now there's a Luo Yu at the back!

It really confirms the saying, "Wolves in front, tigers behind."

Mu Xianxian clenched her teeth tightly, her complexion looking very unsightly.

"Xianxian, I see you look so pale, are you feeling unwell?" Luo Yu asked with great concern.

"It's nothing," Mu Xianxian touched her cheek with her hand, then hesitantly asked, "You... are pregnant?"

Luo Yu covered her mouth with a light laugh, very proudly said, "Oh my, you've found out. Recently, I have been feeling somewhat uncomfortable, it seems... I am indeed."

Really pregnant!?

Mu Xianxian frowned inconspicuously, then smiled and said, "Having a baby out of wedlock is not a good reputation, Miss Luo had better keep it down, lest outsiders hear and even involve Aunt Yuan. And, such a shameless act, if it were someone else, they would have been too ashamed to show their face already. But why do I feel that Miss Luo seems very proud of herself?"

This Luo Yu really is shameless!

Not knowing whose bastard she's carrying in her belly, yet acting so proud.

Looking at her, it's as though she can't wait to announce to the whole world that she's pregnant.

Luo Yu wasn't angry; on the contrary, her smile grew more pronounced, "Xianxian, don't be sour just because you can't eat grapes. Just ask around in the Superpower World, who doesn't know that Miss Chu of the Chu Family is the fiancée of the leader of the Superpower World, the future Mrs. Mo the Ninth? This can't be considered having a baby out of wedlock." With that, Luo Yu raised her hand to stroke her belly, a look of pride on her face.

She was carrying Mo Zhixuan's seed, so now she had no worries whatsoever.

And what was Mu Xianxian?

So what if she was the number one beauty?

She was still trampled beneath her feet.

She was to be the future Mrs. Mo the Ninth.

And she was the genuine Mrs. Mo the Ninth.

"You've said it yourself, it's Miss Chu of the Chu Family, Chu Jin," Mu Xianxian said with a face full of sarcasm, "Miss Luo, haven't you stayed in the Chu Family for a few days and forgotten your own surname? Luo Yu, I advise you to have some self-awareness and not make a fool of yourself here."

Luo Yu's surname is Luo.

The Chu Family's Miss' surname is Chu.

At best, Luo Yu resembles Chu Jin by a fraction, and yet she deludes herself with thoughts of taking Chu Jin's place and marrying Mo Zhixuan?

Wishful thinking.

How could Luo Yu be so shameless?

"What my surname is isn't important. What matters is the surname of the child in my belly," Luo Yu puffed out her very flat stomach proudly, "Mu Xianxian, I advise you to keep your voice down. Otherwise, if you frighten the child in my belly, I won't let you off lightly."

Chapter 669: Finally Meet

Mu Xianxian finally understood!

Every word Luo Yu said implied that the child in her belly belonged to Mo Zhixuan.

How could that be possible?

Mo Zhixuan wasn't blind; why would he get together with someone like Luo Yu?

But if the child wasn't Mo Zhixuan's, Luo Yu wouldn't be able to stand so tall and proud!

Unless she had indeed been intimate with Mo Zhixuan.

There must have been some trickery from Luo Yu, otherwise, how could Mo Zhixuan fancy a cheap person like her!

Even if Mo Zhixuan and the old Madam of the Mo family didn't like Luo Yu, they would surely accept her for the sake of the child.

Mo Zhixuan was already of age, and the child in Luo Yu's womb was the legitimate great-grandson of the Mo family; perhaps, Luo Yu really could ascend to the position of the ninth wife because of this child.

If Luo Yu was pregnant, then she, Jin, wouldn't stand a chance in competing with her!

The more Mu Xianxian thought about it, the more panicked she became.

She absolutely couldn't allow someone as petty as Luo Yu to take the position of the ninth wife. Chu Jin might be brazen and self-righteous, not the type to stab you in the back.

But what about Luo Yu?

Petty and malicious, if she became the ninth wife, there would be no way out for Jin.

Therefore, Mu Xianxian would rather have Chu Jin take that seat than let a petty person like Luo Yu get her way.

Perhaps by taking Zhao Yan to find Chu Jin now, she could even clear her image in Chu Jin's heart.

She knew Chu Jin was the kind of person who would repay both grudges and kindness.

It might be better to use this opportunity to make Chu Jin owe her a favor.

Thinking this way, Mu Xianxian gradually calmed down. She leaned in slightly and whispered to Luo Yu, "Ms. Luo, a substitute will always be just a substitute. You should never dream of becoming a phoenix and rise to the branches. Let me tell you the truth, your good days are over. The real Chu Family's young miss has already returned. You're just a laughingstock!"

Before Luo Yu could react, Mu Xianxian lifted her eyes to Zhao Yan.

"Aunt Yuan, you should see clearly now that the person beside you is not the real Chu Jin, nor is she your daughter. Her name is Luo Yu. Right, I just saw the real Sister Jin come back, and I will take you to her now."

With that, Mu Xianxian grabbed Zhao Yan's wrist and headed into the crowd.

She knew that once Chu Jin was found, Zhao Yan would come to her senses, and Luo Yu's beautiful dream would shatter completely.

Chu Jin shouldn't have gone far; she must be nearby.

Luo Yu stood rooted to the spot for a few seconds, then finally came to her senses.

What did Mu Xianxian just say?

She said Chu Jin has returned?

The real Chu Family's young miss?

How could that be possible? Wasn't Chu Jin long dead? How could she suddenly come back to life?

No, she wouldn't allow anyone to take what belonged to her.

Zhao Yan was her mother.

She was the true young miss of the Chu Family!

Chu Jin would never take everything away from her.

Luo Yu turned and ran towards Mu Xianxian, grabbing Zhao Yan's wrist forcefully, "Mom, don't listen to her nonsense, I am your daughter," and then Luo Yu turned her gaze back to Mu Xianxian, "Mu Xianxian, stop spreading wild rumors here! The doctor said my mom can't take any more shocks! If something happens to her today, I'll make you pay with your life!"

No sooner had Luo Yu finished speaking than Zhao Yan began to cough violently, her complexion instantly turning pale, and coughed up a large amount of blood.

"Mom! Swallow the medicine quickly." Luo Yu hurriedly pulled out the white pills from her pocket.

Mu Xianxian panicked as well; if something were really to happen to Zhao Yan, Mo Zhixuan certainly wouldn't let her off.

"Aunt Yuan, are you alright? I didn't do it on purpose." Mu Xianxian brought out her handkerchief to wipe the blood from Zhao Yan's mouth.

"Get lost!" Luo Yu pushed Mu Xianxian away hard, "Your hypocrisy isn't needed!"

Luo Yu's push was so forceful that Mu Xianxian nearly lost her balance and fell.

"Mom, let's go." Luo Yu rolled her eyes at Mu Xianxian, a venomous look flashing through her eyes, then turned and left with Zhao Yan.

Mu Xianxian watched Luo Yu's retreating figure and shouted angrily.

"Luo Yu! You won't be smug for long! Just wait, I will find Chu Jin soon! I will bring her back to the Chu Family, only she is the true young miss of the Chu Family, and you are nothing but a shameless substitute!"

Luo Yu's footsteps seemed to stiffen for a moment, and then she straightened her back even more!

So what if Chu Jin has returned?

She was already Mo Zhixuan's!

She was not afraid of that Chu Jin!

After Luo Yu had left, Mu Xianxian didn't even wait for a carriage, instead entering the crowd to look for Chu Jin's figure.

She had to find Chu Jin!

She had to bring Chu Jin back to the Mo family.

Over here.

Chu Jin and Bai Ruyu were walking on the other side of the Hundred Flowers Conference, with Little Grey trailing behind them.

In front, a crowd of people was bustling around a Western-style restaurant, engaged in lively discussions.

The name of the restaurant was Rouge Tower.

Chu Jin had originally thought Rouge Tower dealt with cosmetics, only to discover that it was in fact a Western-style restaurant.

"Damn! What kind of riddle is this! It's so hard to guess!"

"There really is no such thing as a free lunch in this world."

"I told you it's a riddle, how could it be easy to solve? Forget it! I'll just pay for a meal instead."

Nowadays, competition is fierce in every industry, and Rouge Tower was no exception, luring customers with the gimmick that anyone who could solve all their riddles could dine for free at the restaurant.

Participants needed to step up to the platform, answer the questions in front of everyone, without seeking help or using their phones.

Fifty-eight questions in total, consisting of object riddles, word riddles, and idiomatic riddles.

There were many spectators on the scene, but not a single person had been able to answer them all correctly.

A group huddled at the entrance of Rouge Tower, whispering amongst themselves.

Chu Jin, holding Little Grey's leash, pushed through the layers of people.

When she reached the entrance of Rouge Tower, she stared thoughtfully at the riddles displayed on the platform and softly muttered, "So stupid."

Her voice was not too loud, just enough for the surrounding people to overhear.

The crowd turned curious glances toward the source of the voice, but upon seeing it was just a young girl, they burst into snickering laughter.

The contestant standing to one side heard someone make such a bold claim.

He immediately spoke out in a mocking tone, "Judging by this lady's confidence, it seems she has all the answers. Why not try your hand at the first riddle then?"

The contestant was a high-caliber student from the Superpower World with extensive knowledge, but the riddles posed by Rouge Tower were insanely challenging! They encompassed a wide range of subjects, far beyond simply having a good education.

Experience was also required.

Chu Jin stepped forward slowly and spoke softly, "Lament to the heavens with frequent sobs, to no avail: Bitter hemp/Solomon's seal."

"Seldom being matched by the vast sea: Shoal."

"A crescent moon hooked upon the western chamber: Grain."

"Shallow talk: Dried tangerine peel."

"..."

Her voice was extremely clear and melodious, like the gentle breeze of April or a burbling stream, flowing softly through everyone's hearts, bringing a sense of tranquility and delight.

Her beauty aside, even her voice alone could intoxicate and bewitch people.

The commotion grew larger, even drawing the attention of the customers in the upstairs private rooms.

A sharp and striking silhouette became excited upon hearing the voice and rose from the sofa, approaching the window, and looking down. Under the illumination of the lights, his full head of silver hair reflected a chilling glint.

Upon clearly seeing the figure down below, Mo Zhixuan didn't even bother to grab his suit jacket as he dashed downstairs.

It was Chu Jin.

It was his Chu Jin.

What that stranger had said was indeed true; she had appeared here.

Mo Zhixuan was now immensely relieved that he had chosen to believe the stranger's words.

If he had not come to Rouge Tower, he might have missed Chu Jin.

Mo Zhixuan was ecstatic and, in his haste to go downstairs, he even bumped into a waiter.

Chu Jin answered each subsequent question correctly, and the eyes of the onlookers brightened more and more.

When the final question was answered, thunderous applause erupted from around her.

Everyone marveled, truly the Superpower World was full of talented individuals.

Bai Ruyu looked at Chu Jin with fervent admiration. "Little Jinjin, you really are amazing!"

"Of course," Chu Jin said, her lips curving into a slight smile, "Did you think Jin-ge is just for show?"

"Congratulations, miss, for solving all the riddles," the owner of Rouge Tower stepped out, "We have prepared a fine Western meal for you. Please, come inside."

The owner of Rouge Tower truly hadn't expected anyone to solve all 58 riddles.

Among these riddles, most were related to traditional Chinese medicine, and with Western medicine being dominant, there were hardly any young people who knew the names of traditional herbs.

Unexpectedly, the one who emerged victorious in the challenge was a young girl who appeared very youthful.

To answer so many questions about herbs correctly, she must have a deep understanding of ancient medicine.

"Thank you, but I have already eaten. I wouldn't want to waste food, so perhaps you can offer it to other people here who haven't dined yet," Chu Jin politely declined and then left with Little Grey.

While strolling through the Hundred Flowers Conference, Chu Jin and Bai Ruyu bought many snacks, and now she really couldn't eat another bite.

A person sated with food and drink truly finds it hard to take interest in more.

Xiao Jinnian hasn't arrived yet, so why not look around elsewhere?

With the Hundred Flowers Conference happening only once a decade, Chu Jin didn't want to waste time on 'eating.'

"Little Jinjin, wait for me," Bai Ruyu called, hurrying to catch up with Chu Jin.

Chu Jin stopped, slightly turning her head and teasingly said, "What's the matter? You walk as slowly as a woman."

"Little Jinjin, I need to use the restroom over there. Can you hold this flower for me?" Bai Ruyu was unconcerned, pulling out an exquisitely beautiful rose from her pocket and handing it to Chu Jin.

Not far away, there was a public restroom.

Chu Jin knew what it meant for a woman to accept a man's flower at the Hundred Flowers Conference, so she did not reach out to accept it and said in a light tone, "You take it in yourself, it won't get in your way anyway."

"No," Bai Ruyu frowned slightly, "It's too stinky in there! Little Jin Jin, don't worry, I don't mean anything else, I just want you to hold it for me, really, I swear."

As he spoke, Bai Ruyu raised three fingers and swore to the sky.

Having said that he would deceive Chu Jin, Bai Ruyu acted very sincerely without revealing any flaws.

His acting skills were so exquisite that it seemed like he really just wanted Chu Jin to hold the flower for him.

"Little Jin Jin, don't you trust my character?" Bai Ruyu continued, "The restroom reeks to death, and I've still got to use the flower to chase girls, can you help me out here?"

As long as Chu Jin accepted his flower.

Then, she would be his, Bai Ruyu's, person in the future.

Bai Ruyu thought it all out very well.

Chu Jin hesitated as she looked at the fresh flower before her. Normally, it was very common to help out a friend, but today was the Hundred Flowers Conference, and it was necessary to guard against deceit. What if Bai Ruyu tricked her?

But on the other hand, she had known Bai Ruyu for some time now, and this person, aside from taking small advantages verbally, was generally quite gentlemanly in his behavior. He wouldn't be so shameless, would he?

It's just holding something for a moment after all. And the smell in the public restroom was indeed quite offensive.

"Alright, alright," Chu Jin raised her eyelids slightly, "hand it over."

A flash of light quickly passed through the depths of Bai Ruyu's eyes, and he hurriedly handed over the rose.

Chu Jin gently lifted her hand, and just as her fingers were about 0.01 meters away from the leaves, a deep male voice suddenly appeared in the air.

It was very magnetic and carried a cold edge.

"Jin."

It was a very familiar voice. Chu Jin's hand froze in mid-air as she turned towards the source of the sound.

She saw a figure as sharp as a sculpture made of jade walking towards her against the light, his features hidden under the lights, giving him a layer of thin veil, making him seem somewhat mysterious and hazy.

He had a very strong presence like a sovereign looking down upon the world, and with every step, he brought a chilling wind.

Everything around him turned into an illusion, as if all the other people ceased to exist.

He stood alone, against the might of thousands.

Even without seeing his face, it was clear he was a very powerful man.

More strangely, this figure gave her a very familiar feeling.

Gradually, they began to overlap with the man in her dreams,

Whether it was his presence or his figure, they were exactly the same.

Chu Jin stood stunned on the spot, her delicate peach-blossom eyes filled only with that figure.

He walked slowly, getting closer and closer to Chu Jin, his delicate facial features like carved sculptures gradually becoming visible under the light.

Below the silver hair were slightly pursed thin lips, a sharp nose, and his phoenix eyes, slightly upturned, were brimming with a cold gleam. His exquisite features and the chilling aura about him were so gripping that even in the heat of summer, one could feel a chill throughout their body.

However, at this moment, the man's cold phoenix eyes were filled with warmth as he stared intently at her, step by step approaching her.

In the world, all sounds fell silent.

In each other's eyes, it seemed there was only the other left.

"Jin," Mo Zhixuan walked up to Chu Jin and pulled her into his arms, "I've finally found you."

A faint smell of tobacco and mint wafted into Chu Jin's nostrils, and the sound echoing in her ears was his heartbeat.

By all means,

she should resist the embrace of a strange man.

But at that moment, she couldn't resist. The man was very strong, as if trying to meld her into his body to be satisfied, Chu Jin could feel his entire frame trembling slightly.

As if he was somewhat unable to control his emotions.

"Hey! What are you doing! Let her go!" Bai Ruyu's eyebrows twitched, reaching out to pull Mo Zhixuan away.

"Scram!" Mo Zhixuan lifted his gaze ever so slightly, a powerful oppressiveness bursting from him, creating a massive wave of light that struck Bai Ruyu, throwing him to the ground, spitting out blood.

"Sir, have we met somewhere before?" After a moment, Chu Jin gently pushed Mo Zhixuan away, asking softly.

It was too familiar!

The feeling he gave was really too familiar.

Whether it was his full head of silver hair or his powerful presence, he was just like the man from her dreams.

Chu Jin looked at him, overwhelmed with thoughts.

She felt that she knew the man before her.

But she couldn't remember where she had seen him before, and her mind drew a blank when it came to his memory.

"You don't recognize me?" Mo Zhixuan looked at her, his deep phoenix eyes filled with disbelief.

Chu Jin looked at him, shook her head, "I don't, who are you?"

Mo Zhixuan didn't answer her directly but took a deep breath and pulled her back into his embrace.

No wonder she had been in the Superpower World for so long and hadn't come to find him or returned to the Chu Family.

She had lost her memory.

How much suffering had his Jin endured?

Mo Zhixuan held her tightly, resting his chin on her shoulder as the liquid in his eyes uncontrollably spilled over, instantly dampening her shoulder.

"You're crying," Chu Jin said, her body stiff, her voice laced with uncertainty.

"No," Mo Zhixuan's voice was hoarse as he spoke. He wouldn't cry.

"Stop crying," Chu Jin raised her hand, gently patting his back, comforting him, "Men should not shed tears lightly."

At her words, Mo Zhixuan hugged her even tighter, and he even nibbled lightly on her earlobe, causing her to shiver.

"Don't do this," Chu Jin felt somewhat breathless from his intense embrace, and tentatively asked, "There should not be intimate contact between men and women, is what we're doing... not quite right?"

In her dreams.

This silver-haired man was deeply in love with someone else.

And this silver hair had turned white for that woman.

He loved that woman in red so much, so why was he now holding her like this?

Although she was not resistant to his embrace.

Doing so, however, seemed somewhat inappropriate.

After a long while, Mo Zhixuan finally let her go.

Chu Jin stepped back half a step, lifted her eyes slightly, and asked, "What's your name? Did we know each other before?"

"Chu Jin! Don't pay attention to him, you didn't know this person at all before, he's just a fraudster, come with me!" Bai Ruyu, scrambling off the ground, with no time to wipe the blood at the corner of his mouth, threw a Magic Artifact at Mo Zhixuan and grabbed Chu Jin's wrist, running in the opposite direction.

Chu Jin was abruptly pulled away by Bai Ruyu.

Mo Zhixuan quickly dodged the Magic Artifact, and in the blink of an eye, he appeared in front of them, blocking their path.

"Let go of her!" Mo Zhixuan looked at Bai Ruyu with a cold stare, his deep, phoenix eyes filled with a chilling intent to kill.

At that moment, he looked as if he wanted to tear Bai Ruyu to shreds immediately.

"I won't let go!" Bai Ruyu took up his Magic Artifact, readying himself for defense and attack.

"Jin," Mo Zhixuan lowered his gaze towards Chu Jin again, and the coldness in his eyes dissipated completely. In a softer voice, he said, "Come here."

His low voice was so tender it seemed like water could be wrung from it.

It was a difference between heaven and earth compared to just moments before.

Only when facing Chu Jin would he show such expression; to others, he always wore the same icy facade.

There was even a rumor in the Superpower World.

The newly appointed leader has facial paralysis.

Hearing his voice, Chu Jin walked towards Mo Zhixuan as if she were bewitched, her feet moving involuntarily.

Mo Zhixuan watched her, the icy look on his face softening further.

"Don't go over there!" Bai Ruyu tightened his grip on Chu Jin's wrist, pulling her back, "He's no good person! Chu Jin, don't be fooled by him!"

With those words, Bai Ruyu coughed lightly, coughing up blood.

Just now, Bai Ruyu had been seriously injured by Mo Zhixuan.

Chu Jin looked at Mo Zhixuan and then glanced at Bai Ruyu before standing still, no longer moving forward.

To her.

Bai Ruyu was not a bad person, Chu Jin had already considered him a friend, and yet, he had hurt her friend. If Mo Zhixuan truly knew her, then he should not have harmed Bai Ruyu.

Although Mo Zhixuan gave her a very familiar feeling, she could not remember who exactly he was.

She couldn't be sure if he was a good person or a bad one.

In her dreams, he clearly adored another woman, and just now, he had been so intimately close to her.

Could it be that she and the woman in her dreams had fallen for the same man, and then he chose the one from the dreams, leaving her heartbroken and leading to her suicidal plunge into the river? Yet, she didn't die, but was saved by Uncle Wu and Aunt Lin, causing her amnesia? Combining the Korean dramas she had watched in the last few days, Chu Jin pieced together various melodramatic scenarios in her mind.

Who was he exactly! What was their relationship before?

Chu Jin stared at Mo Zhixuan, feeling as if dust-covered memories in her head were about to burst forth, her head pounding with pain as if about to explode, nearly bringing her to the brink of collapse.

"Who exactly are you?" Chu Jin, despite her headache, asked, her voice trembling.

With one hand pressed to her temple, the other was still held by Bai Ruyu.

Right now, Chu Jin was only concerned about who the man before her was, momentarily forgetting that her wrist was still grasped by Bai Ruyu and their close proximity, in a somewhat ambiguous stance.

Seeing their interlocked hands, a sarcastic smile crossed Mo Zhixuan's lips.

"Ha ha, who am I? Chu Jin, you actually ask me who I am?" Mo Zhixuan said, laughing, "Indeed, who am I? Even you don't remember who I am, who else will remember me then?"

His voice, too, was tinged with desolation.

There was a hint of self-mockery in his voice.

Mo Zhixuan turned his gaze back to Chu Jin's face and then spoke, his voice beginning to grow hoarse, as if his emotions were on the verge of collapse.

In his deep, phoenix-like eyes, there was an endless abyss of black.

Dark and heavy.

"I've been searching for you for an entire year, 365 days and nights, 8760 hours, 525600 minutes, 31536000 seconds, but what about you? You have forgotten me. I have imagined countless scenarios of our reunion, but never once did I anticipate this one. Chu Jin, do you think my heart doesn't ache?"

Chapter 670: you're not the only single one in the world

"Do you think my heart doesn't hurt?"

What kind of desperate person would utter such words?

Listening to his words, Chu Jin only felt her heart suddenly sink, heavy, struggling to breathe, her eyes warming up as if something was about to fall.

As he finished speaking, Mo Zhixuan slowly undid the buttons of his white shirt, took off the shirt, and threw it to the ground.

Pointing at the area over his heart, he looked at Chu Jin and spoke slowly, "Once, a fool moved into this place and even wrote her name here by her own hand. She said she would always love me, until death do us part, but now, this fool doesn't remember me. Tell me, isn't that ironic?"

Under the light,

On his chest,

Close to his heart, were the neatly inked characters.

Chu Jin.

Written in a flowing and unrestrained style.

Chu Jin recognized it as her own handwriting.

How close must two people be for one to write their name on the other's body?

Back in the secular world, Chu Jin had carelessly written her name on his chest.

But to her astonishment, Mo Zhixuan had turned those casual characters into a tattoo.

Actually, Mo Zhixuan had also written his name on her chest back then.

Unfortunately,

She had forgotten it all.

Suddenly, countless fragments of memory violently smashed into Chu Jin's mind.

Her head felt as if it was about to explode.

The memories were fragmented; piecing them together was not easy.

Chu Jin stood in place, her complexion pale, fine sweat beading on her snowy forehead.

Dizzy and disoriented, it seemed as if there was a spinning top in her head, constantly turning, unable to stop.

"Chu Jin," Mo Zhixuan raised his phoenix eyes slightly, a faint smile appearing on his lips as he looked at their clasped hands and spoke softly, "I wish you happiness."

After he finished, Mo Zhixuan bent down to pick up the white shirt, slipping it back on and calmly fastening each button. The diamond cufflinks reflected a cold light under the lamp. Then, in Chu Jin's gaze, he turned and left, his lonely figure carrying boundless desolation and sadness.

Seeing Mo Zhixuan's retreating figure, Bai Ruyu breathed a sigh of relief, not expecting Mo Zhixuan to give up so easily.

It seemed to him that Mo Zhixuan didn't love Chu Jin as much as he imagined.

He simply did not understand Chu Jin.

A man who gives up so easily doesn't deserve Chu Jin.

Bai Ruyu smiled faintly; from now on, Chu Jin would be his alone.

Chu Jin watched his figure, watched as he stepped farther away from her, her heart almost too pained to breathe, as if she had lost the most precious thing in her life.

Hot tears uncontrollably rolled down from her eyes.

At this moment, her mind was blank.

She just wanted to keep him.

"Little Jinjin, let's go too. This man is a lunatic. Let's find Xiao Jinnian and not bother with him! Let's go!"
Bai Ruyu seized the opportunity to grab Chu Jin's wrist and walked in the opposite direction.

Bai Ruyu's strength was great, pulling Chu Jin around instantly.

At his words, Mo Zhixuan's step seemed to stiffen, but he kept moving forward determinedly, his deep-set phoenix eyes filled with restraint, his thin lips almost pressed into a line, barely discernible.

A fierce aura burst from his body, causing the passing pedestrians to keep a wide birth, not daring to look straight at him.

His hands were also clenched tightly.

The knuckles were already turning white.

His entire body trembled lightly, as if ready to explode at any moment.

He refused to believe that his Jin had forgotten him.

He refused to believe that his Jin would leave him behind.

He refused to believe that his Jin didn't want him!

"Let go of me!" Chu Jin suddenly snapped back to reality, and with a fling of her arm, using a sudden burst of strength, she tossed Bai Ruyu, who landed on the side of the road, clutching his chest, coughing up blood again.

In Bai Ruyu's eyes was an expression of disbelief.

How could Chu Jin suddenly push him away when she clearly had no memory of Mo Zhixuan!

Why!

Bai Ruyu, feeling very reluctant, pounded the ground.

He was so close to success, Chu Jin was about to accept his flowers! It was all Mo Zhixuan's fault for showing up at such a critical time!

He hated that he wasn't strong enough and could only be beaten.

"Are you okay?" Xiao Jinnian emerged from the side, helping Bai Ruyu up, his eyes full of concern. He immediately took out a pill and fed it to Bai Ruyu.

Bai Ruyu's face was devoid of any expression.

As Chu Jin stood there, watching that upright figure about to leave her sight, she picked up her feet and hurried after him.

She had an instinct that if she did not chase him now, she would regret it for the rest of her life.

In the midst of her running, a streak of light flashed, severing the white ribbon tied at the back of Chu Jin's head. With the ribbon snapped, the mask on her face also slid off, exposing her delicate jade-like features to the air.

The hibiscus mask fell to the ground and immediately broke in half.

Creating a crisp sound.

Chu Jin ran swiftly, her skirt billowing in the wind, her flowing black hair falling onto her jade-like cheeks, the contrast of black and white stunningly breathtaking, captivating.

Mo Zhixuan's steps still did not stop; he continued to walk forward resolutely.

"I'm sorry, don't leave me." She ran up to him, arms around his lean waist, her face pressed against his back, her voice hoarse as she spoke, her hot tears instantly dampening his shirt.

The words came out almost without thinking.

Although she couldn't remember who he was, subconsciously, Chu Jin did not want the man in front of her to leave.

Because in the instant he turned away, a feeling of near-despairing sorrow swept through her entire body.

That feeling was like losing the most important thing in the whole world.

At this moment, Chu Jin couldn't care less about the woman in her dream.

All she wanted was to keep him.

By any means necessary.

Mo Zhixuan slightly curled his lips, he knew, he had bet correctly.

His Jin couldn't live without him.

Mo Zhixuan halted his step, turned slightly, and gently lifted her chin, his domineering kiss fell without delay.

It felt urgent.

Heaven knows, he had longed to do this.

Gentle, affectionate, lingering.

The figures of the two embracing seemed to be perfectly matched lovers descended from the heavens.

Even as he truly held her in his embrace, Mo Zhixuan still felt an incredible sense of unreality.

Mo Zhixuan didn't even close his eyes.

He was afraid, afraid that if he closed his eyes and then opened them again, he would find this was all just a dream.

He couldn't handle that kind of blow anymore.

He couldn't bear that kind of yearning anymore.

Bai Ruyu watched the two kissing, turned around with a heavy heart, and walked away, his silhouette immensely sorrowful.

For the first time.

He was pushed away by a woman.

For the first time.

He failed to win the woman he liked.

How pathetic.

Suddenly, he felt like life had lost its purpose.

"Old Bai, don't be sad," Xiao Jinnian came over and patted Bai Ruyu's shoulder, "Why pine over one flower when there are so many in the world? Besides, this one's already taken."

Bai Ruyu said nothing, walking aimlessly as if his soul had departed.

He thought that tonight he would win his beauty, but unexpectedly, he ended up helping others achieve their perfect moment.

"Old Bai, seriously? You're this heartbroken over a woman?" Xiao Jinnian adjusted his glasses and continued, "You're not the only single dog in this world! Look at me, I've been single for many years!"

Xiao Jinnian had never seen Bai Ruyu like this before.

He knew that Bai Ruyu was truly heartbroken this time.

He suddenly regretted the decision he had made.

But in this world, there is no such thing as Regret Medicine.

"Please don't compare yourself to me!" Bai Ruyu glanced up, angrily tore off the mask from his face, and said, "We are not the same! You don't have someone you like, which is why you're a single dog. I... I do have someone I like, and I had to watch them fall into someone else's arms. Do you have it as bad as me? Do you understand the sorrow of unrequited love? You don't!"

"Who says I don't understand? Who says I've never been in love?" Xiao Jinnian looked earnestly down at Bai Ruyu, "Many years ago, I fell in love with a fool, but unfortunately, that fool didn't love me and only saw me as a friend. In fact, there are many ways to love someone. It's not just about possession; sometimes, silently protecting them is also a form of love, and being able to see them happy is even more so. Is it not good to see her happy?"

Xiao Jinnian spoke seriously, with a very steady tone.

Bai Ruyu was stunned. He had never heard Xiao Jinnian speak of his personal matters, nor did he ever imagine that Xiao Jinnian's heart harbored someone. Bai Ruyu had always thought of Xiao Jinnian as an emotionless block of wood.

But to his surprise, Xiao Jinnian turned out to be a passionate lover, loving so greatly and deeply, content to see her happiness was enough!

What kind of reasoning is this?

Love is giving, not possessing.

Many people understand this phrase, but very few can truly act on it.

Compared to Xiao Jinnian, he seemed to fall short.

"Xiao Jinnian, are you dumb? If you like her, just go for her!" Bai Ruyu patted Xiao Jinnian on the head, temporarily forgetting his own heartache, then asked, "Have you ever confessed to her?"

"No," Xiao Jinnian shook his head slightly.

"Why not?" Bai Ruyu was surprised, "If you haven't confessed, how do you know she doesn't love you? Are you really that foolish?"

Xiao Jinnian looked down, a faint smile tugging at his lips, "I don't need to confess to know she doesn't love me. She just sees me as a good friend."

"How do you know that?" Bai Ruyu asked, curiosity sparkling in his eyes.

"Because..." Xiao Jinnian lowered his gaze towards Bai Ruyu, speaking slowly, "There's no trace of me in her eyes."

Bai Ruyu didn't notice that as Xiao Jinnian spoke those words, his pupils reflected only Bai Ruyu's own figure.

Warm and tender.

"Now that you say it, you seem worse off than me. At least I confessed," Bai Ruyu put his arm around Xiao Jinnian's shoulder, "While you haven't even confessed yet, your first love was strangled in the cradle... what a pity."

"That's why," Xiao Jinnian arched an eyebrow lightly, "I haven't even cried, so what are you crying for? Shameful! A great big man, crying over a taken woman, I feel embarrassed for you."

"I can't be bothered with you." Bai Ruyu gave Xiao Jinnian a dismissive look, and curiously asked, "By the way, do I know the person you like?"

Xiao Jinnian adjusted his glasses and slowly uttered three words, "You do."

At those words, Bai Ruyu immediately perked up, casting aside his heartache and asked eagerly, "Who is it, who is it? Tell me, and I'll go confess for you."

"I can't tell you." Xiao Jinnian smiled softly.

"Then let me guess," Bai Ruyu said, excitement written all over his face, "Is it Lin Xia?"

"It's not."

"Is it Cai Lan?"

"It's not."

"Lin Piaopiao?"

"It's not."

"..."

Bai Ruyu continued to guess a long list of names.

Xiao Jinnian calmly shook his head to all of them.