

Two Trillion 1101

Chapter 1101: The Hospitable Zhang Family

Listening to the noise outside the door, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but be surprised, and she turned to exchange looks with Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying were also somewhat surprised—they had also recognized the voice.

It was actually Zhang Yudong's voice!

Lin Weiwei walked over to open the door.

Standing outside was indeed Zhang Yudong, wearing a smile. He politely nodded at Lin Weiwei and then looked inside at Bai Xiaosheng, his smile overflowing, "Bai, welcome to Dayou City!"

Upon learning that Bai Xiaosheng was the Senior Affairs Officer of Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region, Zhang Yudong became extremely courteous. Although there wasn't any hierarchy or respect between them, the genuine respect in their mannerisms was unmistakable.

Seeing him, Bai Xiaosheng also smiled, "Zhang! I had forgotten for a moment—your Zhang Family is from here. Please come in!"

Faced with Bai Xiaosheng's invitation, Zhang Yudong nodded with a smile.

Lin Weiwei stepped aside.

Zhang Yudong walked in with a smile, followed by Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng.

Those behind stopped at the door.

Lin Weiwei did not insist on them entering.

Once Zhang Yudong had entered, Bai Xiaosheng invited him to the sofa area.

Zhang Yudong took a seat, with Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng standing obediently behind him.

The Zhang Family was prestigious and had its protocols, but Bai Xiaosheng didn't comment on that.

Accordingly, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying tactfully chose not to sit as well.

It could be seen as behaving in line with local customs, showing some respect to others.

After everyone was seated, Bai Xiaosheng looked at Zhang Yudong and chuckled, "Zhang, you folks are quite well-informed. We barely arrived in Dayou City and you already knew. Could it be that you were surveilling us?"

Bai Xiaosheng's tone was mostly jesting.

However, it indeed felt like too much of a coincidence to have someone show up right after they had settled in!

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to know the reason.

Zhang Yudong laughed, "Surveilling you? We wouldn't dare!"

Then, Zhang Yudong explained, "It's just that my grandfather mentioned, 'Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng may likely visit Dayou City soon.' So, we asked our people to keep an eye out. Dayou City has several star-rated hotels that are owned by our family—it wasn't difficult to keep watch."

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly understood.

He recalled a glimpse at the front desk when checking in, noticing a tinge of peculiarity in the receptionist's expression. He had found it odd then but hadn't delved deeper into analyzing it.

Now, he realized that must have been their reaction.

It definitely was her who subsequently alerted the Zhang Family, prompting Zhang Yudong's swift arrival.

"Old Master Zhang really is thoughtful!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

Zhang Xi was a friend of Master Song Kai and Mr. Xiahou Qi. Those of the older generation, each was clever and astute as any.

Predicting their visit to Dayou City wasn't actually surprising.

"Logically, I should be the one visiting Old Master Zhang," Bai Xiaosheng smiled. "If Old Master Zhang has the time, I should certainly pay a visit."

Hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, Zhang Yudong also smiled, "Bai, you're impressive. You've guessed the purpose of my visit."

Bai Xiaosheng looked intrigued, not understanding why Zhang Yudong would say that.

"I have no other hobbies; I just enjoy organizing parties and wine gatherings," Zhang Yudong explained with a smile. "Although my grandfather is old, he loves to join us youngsters for a drink and a chat. And tonight at eight, I'm holding a wine-tasting party at home. My visit was precisely to invite you."

Afterwards, Zhang Yudong specifically added, "This is also my grandfather's idea."

Inviting him to a wine party?

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment. He had no other plans, Wang Ziyu wouldn't be back at the company until tomorrow, and since Zhang Xi was a friend of Master Song Kai and Mr. Xiahou Qi, it was proper for him to go.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Alright, since you, Zhang, have personally come over and Old Master Zhang has mentioned it, I must show my respect. I'll definitely come."

Zhang Yudong's face brightened, "Great, I'll send a car to pick you up!"

Both parties agreed on the spot, and the arrangement was settled.

Everything went smoothly. Zhang Yudong, in a good mood, warmly chatted with Bai Xiaosheng for a while before standing up to take his leave.

"This hotel belongs to our family and has its unique traits. Bai, please feel at home and enjoy yourselves," Zhang Yudong said before leaving.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile, though he didn't take it to heart.

Perhaps Zhang Yudong was merely thinking about waiving the bill, letting them stay for free.

After Zhang Yudong left, Bai Xiaosheng chatted with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying for a while. Within less than half an hour, someone was knocking on the door.

The three of them were surprised; Lin Weiwei went to open the door and found three beautiful female technicians standing outside, accompanied by many attendants, wheeling in carts with all kinds of essential oil equipment.

"Who are you?"

Seeing this setup, Lin Weiwei was taken aback.

"We're here to provide Thai massages; Mr. Dong arranged it," the leading beauty said with a sweet smile.

Mr. Dong?

Zhang Yudong arranged it?

Lin Weiwei understood. She glanced back at Bai Xiaosheng, her gaze seeking his opinion on what to do next.

"Miss, please don't turn us down. It'll be difficult for us to explain ourselves later," the woman said with a sweet smile. She quickly added, "And just so you know, our massage services are very professional and include you as well."

Lin Weiwei was somewhat tempted.

Actually, relaxing wouldn't hurt.

"Well then, come on in," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, giving his approval.

It would be impolite not to receive what someone had kindly arranged.

Besides, it's all above board.

Lin Weiwei let the group in and then realized that the people coming in the door were even pushing in several specialized massage tables.

The male staff left after unloading, leaving behind the female technicians and employees.

Under their guidance, they showered, changed clothes, and began receiving massages.

The technicians' methods were indeed unique and quite refreshing.

"This Zhang Yudong is quite considerate," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself as he lay on the massage table.

Just as this thought crossed his mind, he heard the female technician, her voice as sultry as a spring breeze, whispering in his ear.

"Mr. Dong also mentioned that if you need any other services, that's possible..."

Bai Xiaosheng stiffened, but didn't raise his head. "No need."

Bai Xiaosheng was really annoyed.

Damn Zhang Yudong, who did he think he was dealing with?

Did he think he was some kind of unscrupulous person...

The thought made him feel uncomfortably itchy...

Damn it!

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself in frustration.

After the massage,

They sent away the technicians, feeling relaxed and refreshed. Just as they sat down to share their experiences, they heard a knock on the door.

The services followed one after the other.

Massages, foot therapy, ear comfort treatments—it was truly an all-in-one pleasure.

Even the hotel manager himself came to present a VIP gold card for free use of the hotel's SPA.

Zhang Yudong had really gone all out.

After a series of services, dinner time brought a head chef, who presented a full set of exquisite Michelin three-star dishes.

There was even live music.

"Zhang Yudong has really outdone himself in his hospitality; he's spared no effort," Bai Xiaosheng noted with deep appreciation.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded in agreement.

While Bai Xiaosheng and his friends were enjoying the services, it was midday in Europe.

A high-level business reception was underway.

The local city mayor was there, along with several major business families; the guests of honor were a group from the East.

Those guests held such distinguished positions that even the mayor went over to toast them personally.

In the crowd, Kevin was surveying the room with a glass of wine in hand.

Finally, he zeroed in on a face, smiled, and made his way through the crowd.

Kevin was about to complete the task Bai Xiaosheng had assigned him!

Passing a message!

Chapter 1102: This Joke, Not So Funny

The business reception, located in a bustling European metropolis, was hosted by a globally renowned conglomerate—the Zhenbei Group. Both the organizers and the guests from across the ocean were, in a sense, "family," all belonging to this world-class financial federation.

In fact, looking at the proportion of attendees, aside from those within the Zhenbei Group's large system, the "external" guests were not many, constituting only about one-third of the total.

Naturally, these individuals were either local celebrities or from esteemed Business Families.

One of the most popular figures present was a man in his fifties with an Asian face, square cheeks, and bright eyes. His name was Xu Yuncong.

People frequently approached him to initiate conversations about cooperation and business deals.

It should be noted that Xu Yuncong was one of the regional managers of the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, overseeing the group's industries across several provinces.

Today's China was developing rapidly and, even amidst a global economic downturn, it was still maintaining robust growth.

Naturally, it was favored by businesspeople from all over the world.

Mr. Xu, faced with a steady stream of networking and conversation, seemed to handle it all with ease.

His elegance and composure were indeed admirable.

After chatting with several business magnates who had just left, Xu Yuncong took a breath before he heard someone calling to him from nearby, "Mr. Xu?"

The voice was speaking perfect Mandarin.

Having spoken English all evening, Xu was a bit tired, so hearing his native language felt somewhat comforting.

Xu smiled as he turned, only to find the person greeting him was a Caucasian.

This man looked amiable and quite young—especially in comparison to the previous individuals with their graying temples; he was much younger.

"You are... Mr. Kelson, President Kevin," Xu said with a smile, pausing briefly before he spoke in Mandarin.

Networking was paramount in the business world.

If one couldn't even remember people, that certainly wouldn't qualify as a competent businessman.

Like many successful people, Xu had a natural talent for facial recognition, and he could remember people distinctly even after one meeting, despite facing "similar-looking" foreigners.

"Mr. Xu remembers me, I'm flattered," Kevin said with a smile, raising his cup.

Xu lifted his cup in response, still smiling, "Mr. Kevin, your Mandarin is very good, which certainly leaves a lasting impression."

Xu was commending Kevin, not Kelson, as a company. In this setting, Kelson was not particularly outstanding in terms of company size, scale, or profitability—it was mediocre at best.

After exchanging pleasantries, Xu expected Kevin to talk about cooperation and development like everyone else.

At the same time, his mind was working fast.

Kelson, a media company—if indeed roped in, would be of how much help to the businesses within his jurisdiction?

Also, whether they could use Kelson to break into this market was something worth considering.

However, after pondering for a bit, Xu concluded that cooperating with Kelson might not be as profitable as partnering with the few companies he had spoken with earlier.

Of course, out of habit, Xu still thought about the potential avenues for cooperation between the two parties.

Diligent and creative thinking was what made a qualified businessperson.

Xu always maintained the good habit of being thoughtful.

However, Kevin, in front of him, smiled and refrained from mentioning any cooperation; instead, he started praising Zhenbei Group's management and the variety of organizational structures they had worldwide, expressing his admiration.

When the conversation turned towards the Greater China Region, Kevin was all praises.

Xu was slightly taken aback. Although he listened patiently with a smile, nodding from time to time, he couldn't help but feel surprised inside.

Was this young president really using this precious opportunity just to flatter Zhenbei Group's organizational structure and exemplary systems?

What was he thinking!

Nearby, many guests wanted to engage with Xu or even just listen in, but faced with the rapid Mandarin, they maintained elegant yet politely distant smiles—though their eyes betrayed a hint of confusion.

After standing around for a short while, failing to understand, they left with smiles, intending to come back later.

Xu listened to Kevin for over ten minutes.

If the conversation had any substantive suggestions, that would be one thing, but listening to these clear and rather unremarkable points was tiresome.

Xu had grown frustrated.

"Mr. Kevin, is this really all you wanted to discuss with me until the reception ends?" Xu asked with a smile, seizing a pause in Kevin's words to interject.

His tone remained polite and was not abrupt, still conveying a level of earnestness—if they were only to talk about this, then they might as well stop!

Kevin responded with a laugh.

The message Bai Xiaosheng wanted him to convey was brief, but the groundwork was essential.

"I've heard that within your organizational structure, there's an interesting regulation, Mr. Xu. Although you're the regional head, managing several provincial industry heads, if three or more of those heads unite, they can request headquarters to investigate the regional head?"

Since they were already discussing organizational structures and management regulations, Kevin's mention of this didn't seem so abrupt.

Xu Yuncong's smile tightened slightly. "Mr. Kevin, you even know about this, which is essentially our internal policy!"

Kevin laughed heartily, "I'm just interested, although it's your group's internal regulation, it is not exactly a secret, right?"

"I'm just thinking, Mr. Xu couldn't possibly ensure that every provincial industry head under him is his own person. Sometimes, even knowing they were planted by someone else, you can't just get rid of them without good cause, to avoid a confrontation, one must be wary."

Kevin's words were somewhat off.

Xu Yuncong's gaze narrowed but the smile remained.

"However, there's a benefit, this person can serve as a link, a bridge for convenient communication with peers, or even for doing some business," Kevin said.

"Mr. Kevin, I have no idea what you're talking about." Xu Yuncong took a half step forward, his voice lower under the guise of a smile, "What exactly are you trying to say? Just get to the point."

Xu Yuncong wanted to get straight to the point.

Kevin smiled, "I think, if through this bridge, a deal is struck with an equal party, using an insignificant subordinate as a pawn to exchange for a great benefit, you would find it quite appealing, wouldn't you?"

Xu Yuncong looked at Kevin.

"For instance, sacrificing someone named Shang Wenshu!" Kevin cut to the chase.

Shang Wenshu!

Xu Yuncong's smile receded, his gaze intense as he stared at Kevin, a hint of sharpness flickering in his eyes.

"Who told you these things, Mr. Kevin?" Xu Yuncong asked in a calm voice, with a grave look in his eyes.

At this point, it was certain that Kevin had an agenda!

"What if I say that I'm friends with Mr. Shang, would you believe me?" Kevin grinned, "When a friend encounters trouble, as a friend, I have to lend a hand and take a look, isn't that what they say about the clarity of a bystander's view?"

"Wow, and when I took a look, it was quite the revelation. I guess you might not like him and have used my friend as a pawn!"

"And then I started thinking, maybe you believe that even if Shang Wenshu leaves, even if his replacement is planted by the opposition, you wouldn't worry, after all, you can always just dismiss them, right?"

"After all, in your regulation system, it takes three provincial industry heads to be a threat to you!"

"But have you ever considered—" Kevin paused dramatically, "aside from the known pawn, they may have planted another hidden piece! Once Shang Wenshu's position is taken, the threat to you becomes very real!"

Xu Yuncong's eyes flashed sharply, his gaze fixed on Kevin.

"You've always thought they're after Shang Wenshu, at most wanting his position."

"But have you ever considered whether, if..."

"What they actually want is your position!"

Xu Yuncong's gaze narrowed, sharp as a knife.

Kevin smiled again, finally revealing the message Bai Xiaosheng had instructed him to convey to Xu Yuncong.

"My friend said, 'Do you think someone like Shang Wenshu is worth such a high price?'"

Xu Yuncong remained silent.

Without speaking, things remained unclear.

Even if suspicions had arisen before, one might have thought it was just overthinking, believing the other party wouldn't really turn against them.

But if those doubts were voiced by a third party, it felt differently.

If everyone else could see Sima Zhao's intentions except oneself, it would be incredibly foolish!

Xu Yuncong looked coldly into Kevin's eyes, staring intently for a full ten seconds.

In his heart, he couldn't help but quickly go over the whole situation again.

The more he thought, the more abnormal it all seemed.

But could this really be something Kevin figured out on his own?

Kevin claimed to be Shang Wenshu's friend, analyzing their corporate internal affairs on behalf of a friend, could an outsider see so clearly?

Or was it Shang Wenshu himself who had analyzed it and had Kevin act as a messenger?

Xu Yuncong pondered for a moment, the stormy look on his face suddenly clearing, replaced by a warm smile.

Xu Yuncong even patted Mr. Kevin's arm, still smiling.

"Mr. Kevin really does consider his friend's situation, that's very good!"

"That friend of yours is also very good!"

"Just that the joke you've just told isn't very funny!"

Chapter 1103: That's All There Is to It!

At the cocktail party, many guests had noticed the changes in Xu Yuncong's expression. They initially thought that Mr. Kelson, Kevin, had said something inappropriate, upsetting Mr. Xu.

Many even considered approaching to inquire about it.

If it was due to Kevin, and it made Xu Yuncong unhappy, they thought of siding with Xu Yuncong, criticizing Kevin for his rudeness.

After all, Mr. Xu was a partner everyone was eagerly hoping to collaborate with.

When it was time to perform, there should be no ambiguity.

Unfortunately, before they could act, they heard Xu Yuncong's hearty laughter and saw him affectionately pat Kevin on the arm, while Kevin also wore a smile. The two conversed happily in Chinese.

The crowd exchanged glances, and ultimately, no one approached.

After laughing, Xu Yuncong suddenly asked Kevin, "Mr. Kevin, did you really speak out just for a friend's sake? Is all of that your own analysis?"

"My sister, who is a famous strategic analyst, the strongest among European female analysts!" Kevin laughed.

"Sister?" This Chinese expression left no one unamused.

"Is it Miss Ariel?" Xu Yuncong laughed and nodded.

He had also heard of that woman before.

"However, for a friend across continents, you truly put effort into finding the opportunity to discuss this with me. That's considerate!" Xu Yuncong seemed to sigh.

Not without probing.

Did you, Kevin, put all this effort into helping a friend?

How noble and loyal!

"Friendship, for people like us, must also be measured against interests." Kevin replied frankly with a smile, "I am intent on expanding into Shangyun Province and had good discussions about collaborating with Mr. Shang. How could I stand by and watch a friend in trouble! Moreover, I found that the issue might threaten you, Mr. Xu."

"If by speaking out, I can alert you, wouldn't our friendship take a step further?" Kevin smiled. "Then, when I collaborate with you, perhaps I could get some preferential treatment."

Xu Yuncong squinted at him, seeming to assess the truth of his words.

After a long pause—

"A businessman, Mr. Kevin truly is a qualified businessman!" Xu Yuncong seemed to exclaim, but then sharply turned the conversation, "What if I say I don't believe what you've told me, and I must also tell you, Shang Wenshu's status will be decided by the headquarters, and I don't intend to intervene personally?"

Talking, Xu Yuncong fixed his gaze into Kevin's eyes.

Kevin shrugged helplessly, the smile still on his face, "Then I can only consider myself unlucky and go look for another collaborator."

"One always must gamble a bit; winning means earning more," Kevin added.

His face was that of a true opportunist, which indeed aligned with Kevin's early career.

"Mr. Kevin really knows how to take things in stride," Xu Yuncong laughed, "So if I say I don't like Shang Wenshu as a person! I don't want him with me, but I do admire you, Mr. Kevin, and am willing to collaborate with you. How about that?"

Kevin's smile brightened. "Mr. Xu is a major figure, and your word is my command. Don't trick me now. With your cooperation, I can only apologize to Mr. Shang!"

"Mr. Kevin, are we not talking about friendship now?" Xu Yuncong teased with a laugh.

"In business, discussing friendship seems rather hypocritical," Kevin responded with a chuckle.

Such natural conversation, yet with such cold content.

"Ha-ha, well said, very well said indeed. Mr. Kevin, no wonder you've become a notable figure in the new media sector in Europe at such a young age. I like this forthrightness."

Then, Xu Yuncong happily continued to chat with Kevin about market prospects and expansion issues, showing great interest. It seemed he completely disregarded the alarming issues Kevin had mentioned earlier, not taking them to heart at all.

Though Kevin knew it was impossible for Xu Yuncong to be entirely unmoved, face-to-face, he could not detect the slightest agitation or anger in him.

Completely "natural."

This Xu Yuncong was indeed an extraordinary figure!

Even Kevin felt compelled to acknowledge this.

The two stood together, chatting for almost twenty minutes.

For a cocktail party, that was quite a lengthy time for a guest of note to engage in one-on-one conversation.

Later, someone interrupted their conversation, giving Kevin a break.

Kevin moved to the nearby bar, ordered a cocktail, and slowly sipped it while keeping an eye on Xu Yuncong.

Xu Yuncong continued to chat with people, laughing heartily and seeming extremely happy.

"Is this guy really just pretending to be calm?" Kevin began to doubt, "or does he not care about those things, not care about Shang Wenshu's life or death. Then... wouldn't Bai Xiaosheng be disappointed?"

Kevin wanted to sneak away a few times, to find a place, to send a message to Bai Xiaosheng.

But in the end, he restrained himself.

Because previously, Bai Xiaosheng had specifically instructed him—

No matter the outcome, he must not leave the party, let alone use his phone to contact anyone!

Kevin eventually held back and simply put down his bag and chatted, laughed, and drank with others.

Over at Xu Yuncong's side, holding a wine glass, occasionally clinking glasses with others, he wore a broad smile and spoke naturally. Even those standing face to face with him didn't realize Xu Yuncong occasionally, through the reflection of his wine glass, stealthily observed someone at the bar—

Kevin.

Seeing Kevin happy, a hint of doubt flickered deep in Xu Yuncong's eyes.

Was Kevin really involved in this matter just for a friend... no, for profit?

Was there no one else behind him!

Also, were those things really analyzed by his sister Ariel?

Could it also be something Shang Wenshu had told him!

Mr. Kelson was far away in Europe, which had nothing to do with his own jurisdiction, nor was it affiliated to the group, there was no reason for him to act as a pawn for anyone!

Moreover, if someone really wanted to send him a message, did they need a foreigner from far away?

Who would be so illogical!

No matter how astute Xu Yuncong was, he couldn't guess whom Kevin was sending messages for, nor did he notice Kevin's unusual behaviors like leaving.

Setting aside whether there was something wrong with Kevin, Xu Yuncong's eyes slightly narrowed.

A few ideas began to float in his mind, "Shen Peishen, I am doing you a favor for your sake. You wouldn't betray me, would you?!"

"Do I really still have your men among my subordinates?!"

"Better to suspect too much than to be wrong, this matter needs caution! Even if it angers you, Shen Peishen... If you really want to move against me, do I still need to show you respect?!"

"Shen Peishen, if you really want to make a move! Shouldn't you weigh whether I, Xu Someone, am a pushover!"

Inside, Xu Yuncong was anything but calm!

The party continued for another hour and a half before finally ending.

After dispersing, Xu Yuncong and Kevin exchanged smiles and greetings, then went their separate ways.

However, once truly alone where no one could see, both of their expressions turned gloomy and heavy.

...

In Gandong Province, Dayou City.

Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions were all set, waiting according to the time Zhang Yudong had given, for the car coming to pick them up, which should arrive soon.

The Zhang Family's party, no matter how private, wouldn't be small in scale.

Zhang Yudong had also disclosed that there would be "exciting scenes" to witness, and Bai Xiaosheng's arrival was quite timely.

Due to the special program, there would be more people, all young, and it would be very lively.

Lin Weiwei had asked whether to bring gifts for the Zhang family patriarch, Zhang Xi.

"There's no need, what could the Zhang family possibly lack? Anything would seem stingy." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Besides, my gift doesn't need to be bought; it should be prepared by them."

Lin Weiwei blinked, then laughed, "Right. Xiaosheng, you've said that Mr. Zhang Xi loves your calligraphy!"

As they were talking, Bai Xiaosheng's phone rang.

"Kevin." Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the caller ID, muttered to himself, "He mentioned, there's another party where he could meet Xu Yuncong, so I let him pass a message for me. If it gets through, great, if not, no big deal. It's nighttime here, it should still be noon there."

Saying this, Bai Xiaosheng answered the call.

"Xiaosheng, the task you assigned me is somewhat completed, but..." Kevin described Xu Yuncong's reaction.

Bai Xiaosheng listened quietly.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Good!"

"That's all that needed to be said!"

Chapter 1104 Qian Haoyu, Huo Yumeng

After speaking with Kevin, it wasn't five minutes before Bai Xiaosheng's room door was knocked.

Lin Weiwei ran to open the door, and standing outside was Liu Beicheng.

His expression was extremely respectful, and two attendants stood behind him.

The two attendants also stood with their hands hanging by their sides, their expressions respectful.

"Miss Lin, we are here to pick up Mr. Bai. Is Mr. Bai available to leave now?" Liu Beicheng smile gently as he asked in a soft voice.

This attitude was a stark contrast to their initial meeting; it was like he was a completely different person.

Before Lin Weiwei could speak, Bai Xiaosheng had already approached, with Lei Ying following behind him.

"Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng said to Liu Beicheng with a polite smile.

"Yes," Liu Beicheng quickly nodded.

Under Liu Beicheng's respectful guidance, the trio of Bai Xiaosheng made their way downstairs.

At the hotel entrance, there were two cars parked, one of which was a custom Rolls-Royce with a license plate consisting of a series of eights.

"This car is used only for picking up the most esteemed guests by the Zhang Family," Liu Beicheng explained specifically.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Today, to say his status rivaled that of Chairman of Zhang Family Group—Zhang Yudong's father, Zhang Tianyu, would not be an exaggeration.

He certainly deserved this level of treatment!

The group got into the cars and headed towards Zhang Family.

Along the way, Liu Beicheng, sitting in the passenger seat, continued to inform Bai Xiaosheng about the details of the banquet.

"Mr. Bai, as soon as you confirmed your attendance, our young master immediately sent out a new batch of invitations and organized a large-scale banquet. The guest list has been carefully selected."

"Old Master Zhang Xi is very happy to know you are coming. However, to give you time to interact with other guests, he has decided to make his appearance later."

"This time, we have also invited a high-profile, distinguished mysterious guest. However, Mr. Dong has asked me not to reveal it, and I hope you will understand."

...

From Liu Beicheng's words, one thing was clear—

Zhang Yudong and the entire Zhang Family held Bai Xiaosheng in the highest regard!

They regarded him as their most distinguished guest!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded, indicating he understood.

As for the "mysterious guest" mentioned by Liu Beicheng, perhaps a business tycoon or a celebrity?

But honestly, Bai Xiaosheng was neither interested nor particularly looking forward to it.

The vehicles drove smoothly, heading straight for Zhang Family Manor...

At this very moment.

On a major road in the opposite direction, two cars, one leading the other, were also heading towards Zhang Family Manor.

Based on the speed and distance, considering the traffic on both routes, the group with Bai Xiaosheng should reach about the same time as them.

One of the cars was a red sports car, loud and aggressive, drawing the eyes of pedestrians all along the way.

The other was a white sports sedan, streamlined and exceedingly beautiful, a custom model following closely.

In the red sports car, both the passenger and those seated in the back occasionally looked toward the driver with a mix of reverence.

The driver was a man clad in designer clothes, exuding equal parts handsomeness and rakish charm, appearing slightly older than Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Yu... Can we, can we slow down a little, just a bit?"

On the driver's seat, a round-faced man forced a smile.

The car's speed was a bit fast, the roads here were also crowded, and this particular driver loved overtaking, usually enjoyed the 'Fast and Furious' movies, and was reportedly the street racing group leader of the supercar club...

Riding in his car was simply a heart-stopping experience.

Especially from the passenger seat, the "visual effect" was outstanding.

Throughout the journey, the round-faced man had prayed to every deity imaginable, old and new, and his hands were tightly clutching the seat belt.

Others raced cars; he was racing his sweat.

"How about it, Zhou Dabin, are you scared?" The man driving looked at the round, chubby face sitting next to him and burst out laughing.

Then he deliberately jerked the steering wheel hard and stepped on the gas.

The car swerved sharply, made an explosive turn, and then shot forward.

Chubby-faced Zhou Dabin, with his plump body twisting due to inertia, turned pale, and his voice turned shrill like a woman's, "Mr. Yu, slow down! Mr. Yu, don't look at me, look ahead!"

The driver ignored Zhou Dabin, instead glanced at the rearview mirror, and spat, "Fatso, don't you believe in Qian Haoyu's driving skills, huh... Damn, that old lady Huo Yumeng's driver isn't bad either, clinging tight all this way."

After speaking, Qian Haoyu added regretfully, "With this road condition, we can only go so fast, or else they wouldn't even see my taillights!"

Zhou Dabin grimaced.

Honestly, he was thankful for the road condition but also scared of it.

"I'm telling you, old Zhou, try a mountain descent with me one day; I promise it will thrill you," Qian Haoyu suggested cheerfully to Zhou Dabin.

Zhou Dabin shook his head like a rattle-drum, "Mr. Yu, you are too kind; I'm afraid my size would weigh you down and hinder your performance!"

Mountain descents?

Qian Haoyu driving?

How many lives do I have to risk joining him?

Qian Haoyu laughed heartily, then his expression turned cold, "Damn it, you fatso, you still don't trust me, huh!"

He then pressed hard on the accelerator.

The red sports car roared and darted off like an arrow.

Zhou Dabin's face turned green, and he screamed in misery, "Mr. Yu, slow down... oh man... I can't take this... slow down... oh man!"

This cry was genuinely embarrassing.

But clearly, the two followers sitting in the back seat weren't in the mood to laugh about him.

They, too, were pale-faced and even clutched each other's hands tightly.

Being Mr. Yu's followers, the pay was good and it was thrilling.

However, the job required high qualifications and a strong heart!

In the white sports car behind, the young and pretty female assistant driving grimaced when she saw the red sports car speed up.

Catching up was possible, but speeding like that was risky.

"Miss, shall we speed up?" the female assistant asked.

Seated in the back, the woman with delicate makeup and elegant manners glanced forward and snorted coldly.

"No need; he can't get far even if he speeds. There are many cars and red lights ahead; let him court death."

After saying that, Miss Yumeng chuckled coldly, "Maybe one day he'll get into an accident, and Qian Haoyu will have to spend half his life in a wheelchair. If his luck is really bad, hmm... it would save society from his menace!"

The driving assistant smiled.

Hearing that they didn't need to catch up, she too breathed a sigh of relief.

"Miss, Mr. Yu, Mr. Dong, and Mr. Zhou Dabin were all your classmates, and it's been a while since you've all gathered. This party is somewhat a reunion. I heard there will be many guests, especially ladies. But you look truly stunning today; your aura surpasses all the other ladies. Surely, Mr. Dong will be captivated by you," the assistant said with a smile.

These words hit right home for Miss Yumeng.

They made her feel all tingly, her eyes becoming seductive.

Regarding Zhang Yudong, she'd liked him for a long time, but sadly, he'd always ignored her affections.

Speaking of which, Zhang Yudong of the Zhang family, Qian Haoyu of the Qian family, Zhou Dabin, and Huo Yumeng of the Huo family weren't just classmates, but also childhood friends.

Besides Zhou Dabin, whose family fortunes had waned, the other three came from highly prominent families with deep interconnections.

Of these three, Qian Haoyu was actually the one Miss Yumeng disliked the most.

His arrogance and wild behavior were one thing, but most importantly, his disrespect for Zhang Yudong was intolerable to Miss Yumeng.

Miss Yumeng's heart churned with past grievances—

"Back when the Zhang family had some business issues and their finances were on the brink, my damned father watched from the sidelines, not lending a timely hand, allowing the Qian family to seize the opportunity. The Zhang family rebounded and prospered, and while my Huo family and the Qian family may not have been inferior back then, we are now nowhere near the Zhang family!"

"The Qian family considers themselves benefactors to the Zhang family and are utterly arrogant before them, with Qian Haoyu being outrageously flamboyant in front of brother Dong! It's absolutely detestable! The Qian family, now, is clearly not on par with my Huo family!"

"I, Huo Yumeng, whether for the sake of my Huo family or for myself, must win over brother Dong!"

"The man I approve of... he has to be mine!"

"Everyone else, even thinking or glancing a little more, is unacceptable!"

Chapter 1105 - 105: Mr. Dong Welcomes

At the next intersection, the red light was brightly shining, and each lane was waiting with six or seven cars—finally, the red sports car stopped too, right at the end of the queue, yet it didn't stay quiet, honking its horn repeatedly as if it were irritable and impatient.

The cars waiting in front were originally annoyed, but as soon as the drivers saw through the rearview mirror that it was a sports car worth millions honking behind them, they immediately backed off.

A mere scratch could, even if not entirely their fault, cost more than they could afford.

Those rich people, untouchable.

The arrogant blare of the horn from the red sports car lasted a good thirty seconds before a white sports car arrived, and only then did it stop.

Between the red and white sports cars, there were a few other cars.

However, these cars, upon seeing the sports cars in front, immediately switched to other lanes.

No one honked back in discontent—all were "politely" making way.

As the saying goes, when encountering luxury cars on the road, it's better to steer clear, lest you scratch them and have to sell your house.

The quality of some drivers depends on whether they are facing a luxury car or a grocery car...

The white sports car, without any hesitation, directly stopped behind the red sports car and even honked to signal.

This time, the red sports car remained silent.

"Get a man to honk at me, see what happens! It's just Huo Yumeng, that old hag, who I can't mess with," Qian Haoyu said to Zhou Dabin next to him, "So savage! Having such a woman in the Huo Family is their family's misfortune!"

Zhou Dabin, still dizzy and frightened from the travel, paled in face and could barely muster a smile as a response.

Actually, during their school days, Huo Yumeng was indeed a completely privileged little princess, pampered and imperious, and she tormented Qian Haoyu terribly.

Back then, the two families were almost equal in power and were even collaborating on business ventures. So, when it came to a little girl bullying a little boy, it was mostly laughed off with a lighthearted attitude and indulgence, which led to a tragic and sacrificial childhood for Qian Haoyu for the sake of the family.

Now, the Huo Family was even wealthier and more powerful than the Qian Family.

Naturally, Qian Haoyu was even more wary.

As the red light turned green, the vehicles moved forward.

While driving the red sports car, Qian Haoyu had something to say.

Not saying it would seem as though he had been suppressed by Huo Yumeng just now, barely daring to speak.

In front of Zhou Dabin, it was even more embarrassing.

So, Qian Haoyu opened his mouth—

"Look, the Huo Family has been quite impressive these past two years, Huo Yumeng's tail is practically pointing to the sky. But no matter how strong the Huo Family is, can they compare to the Zhang Family?"

They'd be lucky to match half. And my Qian Family is the benefactor of the Zhang Family. I, Zhang Yudong, and Zhang Tianyu are classmates, friends, and brothers. When Zhang Yudong sees me, he has to show utmost respect."

"And her, Huo Yumeng, when she sees Zhang Yudong, she's like a flirty cat with her tail in the air. But do you see Zhang Yudong sparing her a glance?"

Upon seeing Qian Haoyu looking at him, Zhou Dabin quickly nodded.

Whether agreeing or not, it was safest to show agreement first.

Otherwise, if Qian Haoyu got upset, things wouldn't go well for him either.

"Liu Beicheng, do you know why Zhang Yudong doesn't like Huo Yumeng? It's me who reminded him, 'Huo Yumeng, that old hag, is not the top choice for a family tomb companion.' After that, look, Zhang Yudong listens to me!"

"Not only does Zhang Yudong listen to me, Zhang Tianyu and Uncle Zhang listen to my dad, and old man Zhang Xi greatly respects my grandfather. All because my Qian Family once saved the Zhang Family. They have to be grateful."

In order to compensate for the loss of face in front of Huo Yumeng, Qian Haoyu once again brought up old stories to boast.

Actually, he mentions them from time to time.

In earlier years, even more so in front of Zhang Yudong.

Now, with the Qian Family having fallen to the lowest among the three families, and the Zhang Family rising like the midday sun, Qian Haoyu had reduced the times he mentioned it in front of Zhang Yudong.

However, he turned to telling Zhou Dabin and others, repeating it time and again.

The Qian Family saved the Zhang Family.

The Qian Family is the benefactor of the Zhang Family.

The Zhang Family people should respect the Qian Family people, and ought to respect the Qian Family people!

Zhou Dabin could say, he had been "brainwashed" with these views over the years.

Actually, Zhou Dabin originally felt that Qian Haoyu speaking so was really a bit excessive. The Zhang Family people, Zhang Yudong wouldn't like to hear this!

A fallout was inevitable!

As a "neutral" party, he should stay away from trouble.

But after so many years of Qian Haoyu saying this, the Zhang Family, Zhang Yudong, whether publicly or privately, responded with calm, never getting angry but instead showing even more appreciation for the Qian Family, even giving them more business considerations recently.

Gradually, the Qian Family's "position was secured" with the Zhang Family.

That's how Zhou Dabin slowly got closer to Qian Haoyu.

After all, approaching Zhang Yudong directly—an individual whose family fortunes are on the decline and whose connections with Zhang Yudong are merely average—Zhou Dabin had little confidence and even risked gradually being forgotten.

But there was a chance with Qian Haoyu.

Qian Haoyu, narcissistic and self-confident, needed an "audience". Zhou Dabin, who had once hailed from a prominent family and was also schoolmates with this group of people, was without a doubt the best candidate, whether it be for teasing or "reminiscing about the old times".

Therefore, the two hit it off immediately.

Every time Qian Haoyu talked about the Qian Family's favors to the Zhang Family and the respect Zhang Yudong had for him, Zhou Dabin kept nodding and smiling, endlessly agreeing, "Yes, Mr. Yu, in every non-formal gathering of the Zhang Family, where only the older generations meet officially, you are always the center of the event, and Mr. Dong respects you the most."

"Even in formal gatherings, when my father attends, Zhang Tianyu and Uncle Zhang respect my father as well," Qian Haoyu emphasized.

"Right, but at ordinary gatherings, when Mr. Dong has the time and you attend, he always personally welcomes you. This time should be no exception."

Qian Haoyu laughed heartily, feeling extremely pleased. "Exactly! Haha, if I show up, Zhang Yudong will definitely come to greet me personally. Who else has such a privilege!"

Huo Yumeng, that's who!

Zhou Dabin muttered to himself quietly, not daring to speak out loud, but maintaining a smile on his face, "Indeed, indeed!"

Inside the white sports sedan, Huo Yumeng was speaking to her personal assistant who was driving, "Xiao Yu, what do you think? If I marry Brother Dong in the future and help manage his business, wouldn't that really boost his status?"

"Definitely," the female assistant nodded briskly.

"Then shouldn't I start protecting my future husband's face now?"

"You should," the assistant replied.

"Good!" Huo Yumeng spoke decisively. "If Qian Haoyu, this clueless fool, dares to act carelessly in front of Brother Dong again, I won't be polite!"

"No one is going to mess with my future husband, neither women nor men!"

Dominant and assertive.

The assistant secretly glanced at her mistress through the rearview mirror.

Her mistress's possessiveness was off the charts, much stronger than that of most men. If this were ancient times, with enough luck, she would be a figure like Empress Wu.

The journey was filled with many cars and traffic lights.

The red sports car and white sports sedan moved in fits and starts, unable to showcase their speed, but eventually, they arrived at Zhang Family Manor.

Entering the manor, the road was brightly lit by street lamps on both sides, making the spacious two-lane roads easy to navigate.

Many cars entered quietly, as everyone had a status to maintain, which necessitated composure.

"Beep beep!"

Unlike the other inconspicuous vehicles, the red sports car "came alive" and began honking without restraint inside the manor to assert its presence.

The cars nearby, seemingly out of fear, promptly made way.

"This idiot! Showing off the worst!" Huo Yumeng peered through the window, furious.

However, she did not notice that a custom Rolls Royce was following behind her car.

Inside was Bai Xiaosheng and others.

Through the window, Lin Weiwei spotted the white sports sedan and brightened up, praising, "Beautiful."

"How about I reward you with one as a year-end bonus?" Bai Xiaosheng joked.

"I'd love that," Lin Weiwei said joyfully.

Liu Beicheng was flabbergasted.

Such a generous boss, even more so than Mr. Dong!

No wonder he is the Zhang Family's most esteemed guest, highly regarded even by Elder Zhang Xi!

I wonder, does Mr. Bai Xiaosheng still need any followers? Maybe I should consider... jumping ship...

Leading the way to the parking lot, Qian Haoyu suddenly spotted a group of people standing in the brightly lit distance, with Zhang Yudong at the forefront, apparently waiting to welcome him.

"See, Da Bin, Zhang Yudong is waiting to greet me! Isn't that thoughtful!" Qian Haoyu exclaimed joyfully.

He pressed the horn even more, the shrill sound drawing noticeable attention.

What Qian Haoyu did not see was Zhang Yudong standing there, noticeably frowning with a gaze as cold as the night.

"Brother Dong actually came to receive Qian Haoyu? Even ran over here?!" Surprised and somewhat displeased, Huo Yumeng watched.

Following closely in the Rolls Royce, Liu Beicheng turned to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

"Mr. Bai, the young master says he wants to welcome you personally!"

"Flattering."

Bai Xiaosheng simply smiled lightly, completely unconcerned.

Chapter 1106: Say hello to him for me!

Zhang Yudong's parking garage was actually a super-sized, sunlit garage. It's a two-story building with a large floor area and expansive glass windows. At night, with the interior lights ablaze, it somewhat resembles a car dealership.

When the Zhang Family people's own cars enter the garage, they would be taken to the second floor by a dedicated elevator.

As for the guests' cars, they would remain on the first floor, where designated persons are responsible for parking them.

Moreover, the staff here would provide services such as car wash, maintenance, and repair in an all-in-one service. There were even dedicated gas stations and charging piles available, and the dozens of employees all wore matching uniforms, very professional.

As soon as the red sports car and the white sports sedan entered the garage, two teams of staff members, led by their respective team leaders, trotted over.

Whether it was Qian Haoyu or Huo Yumeng, both counted as regulars of the Zhang Family, and their license plates were well-known to every staff member.

Facing the young masters' schoolmates and good friends, naturally, they dared not neglect.

"Mr. Qian, you're here!"

"Leave the car to us, same old rules, we will take good care of it for you!"

"Mr. Qian, is there anything else you need to instruct?"

As soon as Qian Haoyu got out of the car, a team leader wearing a cap with the number "two" embroidered on it came up to him with a beaming smile, nodding and bowing.

"Old Wang, you son of a bitch have gotten fatter again. Later, you need to really exert yourself for me; consider it as me helping you lose some weight."

Qian Haoyu laughed heartily, slapping the other person's face firmly.

Zhou Dabin got out of his car and caught sight of this scene, he couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

Mr. Qian was consistent year after year, treating the Zhang Family's employees just as he would his own household servants.

He really didn't see himself as an outsider; he truly acted like he owned the place!

It's really not good!

However, since the Zhang Family people had no objections, he, Zhou Dabin, didn't see the need to go out of his way to remind Qian Haoyu.

Since both parties were content, why should he bother himself unnecessarily?

The white sports sedan also came to a stop.

The car door opened, and the first thing to emerge was a long, pale leg. The high heel shoes that cost thousands cradled a slender and delicate foot, stirring a surge of desire in the onlookers.

Even Qian Haoyu couldn't help but steal a glance, swallowing hard, "Damn, Huo Yumeng, that nasty woman, she takes really good care of herself!"

Over at the white sports sedan, the third maintenance team approached, and the team leader was exceedingly attentive to Huo Yumeng.

Huo Yumeng responded indifferently.

In dealing with the Zhang Family's servants, she was surprisingly consistent with Qian Haoyu, deep down never seeing herself as an outsider, but rather as the master.

However, Huo Yumeng glanced at Old Wang next to her, raised her chin slightly, and said unhurriedly, "Old Wang, bring your men over and maintain my car."

In the Zhang Family's garage, although there was no explicit ranking among the ten teams of workers with the first team dedicated solely to the Zhang family's own cars, to the guests, it seemed the lower the team's number, the more important they appeared.

Considering herself a future Madam, Huo Yumeng had long been discontent with Qian Haoyu and naturally wanted to outdo him.

"Yumeng, this..." Qian Haoyu frowned instantly, then smiled, "That's not quite appropriate."

"I appreciate Old Wang's craftsmanship, is that a problem?" Huo Yumeng rolled her eyes, an expression of not wanting to speak.

Qian Haoyu grew irritated.

However, in front of so many people, he, the great Mr. Qian, couldn't just bicker with a woman.

Besides, Huo Yumeng was not someone easy to provoke...

The impression of being bullied in the past was too profound, and after so many years, Qian Haoyu still hadn't gotten over it.

"All right, all right, I'll let you have it, who makes us old classmates. If you like, just ask Old Wang and his team to serve you," Qian Haoyu said with an air of magnanimity.

After speaking, Qian Haoyu deliberately raised his voice and said to Zhou Dabin, "Later on, when Yudong comes to pick me up, I'll have to mention this to him. Since Old Wang is so skilled that Miss Yumeng admires him, that's his capability. But then he should not stay in the second team all the time. He could also lead other teams. Yudong always listens to me; he will definitely agree. When that time comes, Miss Yumeng won't have to compete with me for people anymore, right?"

Zhou Dabin glanced at Huo Yumeng cautiously and nodded with an awkward smile, quietly agreeing, "Right, right."

Huo Yumeng snorted coldly, not bothering to say more.

In her eyes, Zhou Dabin barely existed.

What difference did being classmates make if their family backgrounds were not equal? There was no reason to converse.

The employees of the Zhang Family nearby naturally dared not say more.

Old Wang's face still smiled, but inwardly he struggled, cursing to himself, "Damn it, who the hell did I provoke!"

...

Just then, that custom Rolls-Royce drove into the garage, passing by everyone. Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng didn't even get a clear look at who was sitting inside before seeing the car stopping on the elevator and ascending.

Huo Yumeng's gaze sharpened, her eyes showing surprise.

The Zhang Family's car is one that isn't easily deployed!

Those who could be worthy of that car were at least on the level of Zhang Yudong's father—Zhang Tianyu!

Who could it be?

Zhang Tianyu?

Zhang Xi?

Or was it the mysterious and distinguished guest mentioned in the invitation?

Huo Yumeng was immensely curious in her heart.

Qian Haoyu also noticed the car, his eyes widening with similar thoughts to Huo Yumeng's.

They received an invitation mentioning a secret honored guest.

Of course, this person was not Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng had heard Liu Beicheng mention it but had no interest whatsoever.

Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng knew more about the situation than Bai Xiaosheng did.

That mysterious guest was female!

Just as Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng were indulging their curiosity, they heard a chorus of uniform cries at the entrance.

Crisp and clear.

"Mr. Dong!"

"Mr. Dong!"

Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng immediately looked over to see Zhang Yudong striding in, followed by a retinue of attendants.

Halfway there, Zhang Yudong raised his hand, and those attendants immediately stopped.

Seeing Zhang Yudong walking towards her, Huo Yumeng's smile bloomed as she gracefully stepped forward to meet him.

"Brother Dong, are you here to pick me up?" Huo Yumeng's eyes shimmered like glistening water.

"Yumeng, I saw your car arriving earlier, and you're no stranger here. It would be too formal for me to pick you up," Zhang Yudong said with a smile.

Huo Yumeng was his classmate, a good friend, and the Huo Family was also one of the Zhang Family's partners.

Zhang Yudong was always gentle and polite to Huo Yumeng.

The words "no stranger" made Huo Yumeng's cheeks flush with a sweet, intoxicated smile.

She even felt that not being picked up by him was exactly right!

"You go ahead and rest in the hall. I'll be there shortly," Zhang Yudong said with a smile, prompting Huo Yumeng to nod repeatedly.

Passing by Huo Yumeng, Zhang Yudong moved inward.

Up ahead were Qian Haoyu and Zhou Dabin.

Qian Haoyu, seeing Huo Yumeng, this "silly woman," still looking delighted despite not being formally greeted, couldn't help but sneer inside. Seeing Zhang Yudong approaching and with so many eyes around, he suddenly felt immensely prestigious, laughing loudly from a distance, conspicuously walking towards Zhang Yudong.

"Old Zhang, why so polite, picking me up at the garage every time. We are all family here; let's not be so formal. The Qian Family and the Zhang Family are one and the same. We brothers shouldn't be strangers, haha." Beneath Qian Haoyu's hearty laughter, he wished he could tell everyone present how the Qian Family saved the Zhang Family in the past.

He also wanted everyone to know the weight he, Qian Haoyu held in the heart of the Zhang Family, greater than Huo Yumeng!

Zhang Yudong chuckled, speaking neither hastily nor slowly, his voice just loud enough for those nearby to hear clearly.

"Mr. Yu, rest assured, I won't be unfamiliar with you. This time, I'm indeed not here to meet you." Zhang Yudong pointed upwards, "The old man's acquaintance, visiting for the first time, I have to greet him."

Having said that, Zhang Yudong gave a faint smile and walked past Qian Haoyu, even nodding to Zhou Dabin with a smile, "Old Zhou is here too."

Zhou Dabin was flabbergasted with honor and nodded quickly.

But Qian Haoyu's smile froze as he watched Zhang Yudong's departing figure and saw many people around looking at him. Huo Yumeng, that old girl, wore a face full of schadenfreude, her eyes alight with mockery.

Qian Haoyu's cheeks burned with embarrassment.

He felt somewhat dissatisfied with Zhang Yudong in his heart, which inadvertently turned into dissatisfaction with the Zhang Family.

How could Zhang Yudong be so tactless!

To speak to him like that in front of so many people!

Had the Zhang Family forgotten that he was the descendant of their benefactor?

Qian Haoyu was annoyed inside, yet his face still beamed with a smile, shouting towards Zhang Yudong's retreating figure, ostensibly for others to hear, "The old man's friend, ah, must be a venerable and esteemed elder, an old gentleman. Dong, when you meet him, be sure to send my regards to the old man!"

Zhang Yudong heard the comment but pretended not to, his lips curling up in a mocking smile, "Heh, an old gentleman!"

Bai Xiaosheng, not yet even thirty, was already an old gentleman?!

Chapter 1107: Love and Hatred Are Irrational

Zhang Yudong had gone upstairs to welcome the prestigious guest, though Qian Haoyu had intended to leave.

Qian Haoyu himself, in his own eyes, was also a "prestigious guest"!

How could he possibly wait here to greet people? Wouldn't that be lowering his own status?

However, Huo Yumeng had no intention of leaving at all.

She was very curious—was the guest arriving as Zhang Yudong had said, a guest of the Zhang family patriarch?

It was rumored that the mystery guest was a young woman?

Being a guest of the Zhang family was one thing.

How could she possibly be a guest of Zhang Tianyu? This guest was not the same as that guest!

How could Zhang Tianyu possibly make the acquaintance of a beautiful young woman!

And not even consider the implications!

What was her background and status?

Huo Yumeng was both curious and somewhat defensive because, in her eyes, Zhang Yudong was her future husband.

To let Zhang Yudong go welcome a young and beautiful woman with potentially distinguished status?

She wasn't reassured!

Huo Yumeng wasn't leaving, and suddenly Qian Haoyu felt that he shouldn't leave either.

This old woman Huo Yumeng was shrewd; if she wanted to take this opportunity to get acquainted with that guest, to expand the Huo Family's connections...

Then he, Qian Haoyu, couldn't miss out!

The Huo Family couldn't have all the good fortune to themselves!

With that thought, Qian Haoyu also decided not to leave.

The two of them waiting there, with Zhou Dabin standing behind Qian Haoyu, also looked curiously in the direction Zhang Yudong had gone.

...

In less than fifteen minutes, a group of people emerged from the elevator area.

Everyone immediately saw Zhang Yudong.

However, Zhang Yudong was merely accompanying, with the real protagonist being a young man with black hair and eyes, who had a friendly smile and, at first glance, seemed unremarkable.

Behind those two, there followed a man and a woman.

The man had a robust frame and a powerful build, walking with a tiger-like stride.

The other woman, from a distance, put Huo Yumeng on alert.

That woman, though not dressed as lavishly as she was, seemed to have even more poise and during her walk, combined elegance with a spirited air, her eyes shining with confidence.

She was not like Huo Yumeng who centered her career around "buy, buy, buy," treating running a company as a mere hobby.

Huo Yumeng was immediately wary of her.

At the end of the group was Liu Beicheng and servants of the Zhang Family.

"How can it be, he is Zhang Tianyu's Uncle Zhang's guest?" Qian Haoyu couldn't believe it, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng from afar, and couldn't help but say to Huo Yumeng beside him.

Seeing with his own eyes, he still didn't believe!

In his view, what virtues and abilities could this young man possess to ride in the Zhang family's Rolls-Royce!

Even he himself didn't qualify, and his dad had only ridden in it once!

"Maybe he didn't come here in that car, that Rolls-Royce might just have happened to come back," Huo Yumeng couldn't help but say, "This person might have taken another car up!"

Huo Yumeng also didn't believe that Bai Xiaosheng qualified to ride in a car that only Zhang Tianyu would be worthy of.

Actually, Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng were both mistaken about one thing.

The "old man" referred to by Zhang Yudong wasn't his father Zhang Tianyu.

It was his grandfather Zhang Xi!

Zhang Tianyu was the chairman of the Zhang Family Group, the helmsman of the Zhang family, but when it came to truly important matters, it was Zhang Xi who had the final say!

Zhang Tianyu just had to listen!

How esteemed that Mr. Zhang Xi was!

Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng couldn't even dare to think, breaking their heads over it, that Bai Xiaosheng could be his honored guest!

The difference in age.

The difference in status.

After all, in the surrounding provinces, the Zhang family ruled as kings!

They didn't even believe that Bai Xiaosheng could really be a guest of Zhang Tianyu.

As the saying goes, limited insight restricts their imagination; if they knew Bai Xiaosheng's standing was on par with Zhang Tianyu, and not mentioned alongside Zhang Xi, it was because the elder Mr. Zhang Xi and Masters Song Kai and Xiahou Qi were old friends.

Bai Xiaosheng willingly took a step back, consenting to observe the protocols of a junior.

...

"Yes, yes, I think your guess is not wrong, it must be so, he took another car up," Qian Haoyu nodded continuously, then frowned again, "But why would Yudong personally go to meet him? Could this person be more honorable than me?"

What he said made Huo Yumeng roll her eyes directly.

"Qian Haoyu, do you really think of yourself as such a prestigious guest?"

"Even so, you've been to the Zhang family back and forth so many times, you're practically a regular guest."

Huo Yumeng didn't spare her sarcasm, "Otherwise, don't come for a year or two, then when you come back, Brother Dong might welcome you like this."

She had wanted to say some things to Qian Haoyu for a long time.

Don't take yourself for more than you are every day, ignorant of your own place!

The Zhang Family people should be thankful, but that's no reason for you Qian Haoyu, for your Qian Family to overestimate yourselves!

"Huo Yumeng, what are you saying!" Qian Haoyu was immediately displeased, but glancing over at Zhang Yudong, who was chatting and laughing with Bai Xiaosheng, his face grew ugly.

Zhang Yudong was doing this on purpose, wasn't he?

Weren't greeters supposed to be women when they talked about welcoming honored guests?

And as for friends of the old master of the Zhang Family, what status does Zhang Tianyu have to stoop so low as to buddy up with this kind of nobody?

The more Qian Haoyu thought about it, the surer he was that Zhang Yudong had done it on purpose!

Was he tired of being so ostentatious?

Now even when I talk to you, your gaze isn't as sincere as it used to be.

Well then, are you trying to embarrass me on purpose?

Zhang Yudong, you, your Zhang Family are a bunch of ungrateful ingrates!

Qian Haoyu cursed inwardly.

He was convinced of his judgment, his eyes filled with barely concealed anger.

Huo Yumeng glanced at him, then sneered, "What, not happy?"

"Your Qian Family helped the Zhangs, but how much have you taken from them in return?"

"Don't tell me it was a little, it was more than tenfold! The Zhangs don't owe you anything!"

Huo Yumeng added insult to injury.

"If you're talking about this time, the status of that young man over there might not surpass you by much, but Brother Dong personally went to greet him, not you, don't you get it..."

"One must be self-aware, you've been reminded enough by others. My dear old classmate!"

Huo Yumeng's mocking fanned the flames.

Anger surged in Qian Haoyu's heart.

However, soon, that anger quickly redirected to another person.

Bai Xiaosheng!

Falling out with the Zhang Family wouldn't bring any benefits...

But this guy, he could vent on!

In full view of everyone, Zhang Yudong received a phone call, then smilingly said something to Bai Xiaosheng next to him and had Liu Beicheng lead the way for Bai Xiaosheng and the others to leave.

This scene, witnessed by Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng, only strengthened their belief that Bai Xiaosheng was nothing special.

Otherwise, why wouldn't Zhang Yudong have personally escorted him to the hall?

What the two of them didn't know was that the call Zhang Yudong received was from his grandfather, Zhang Xi.

Old Master Zhang Xi felt that since Bai Xiaosheng had taken the trouble to come, he wanted Zhang Yudong to go to the manor's wine cellar and bring out a bottle of his treasured red wine.

If Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng knew this, they'd be dumbfounded.

Such hospitality, even the top official of Dayou City might not enjoy!

There were several exits in this hall, and Bai Xiaosheng and his group left through a different side.

Qian Haoyu watched coldly as Bai Xiaosheng and the others left, his gaze was quite unfriendly.

Huo Yumeng, on the other hand, was all smiles, feeling refreshed.

Unfortunately, soon after Bai Xiaosheng and his group left the hall, Lin Weiwei returned and went straight to Zhang Yudong.

Seeing this, Huo Yumeng became alert at the sight of the woman she saw as a threat smiling and talking with Zhang Yudong.

Zhang Yudong was all smiles, looking somewhat radiant, nodding frequently.

He seemed very pleased!

This time, it was Huo Yumeng's turn to suddenly change color.

Upon seeing this, Qian Haoyu chuckled.

"Ha-ha, so it turns out that Yudong's interest in wine was just a pretense!"

"What honored guest, turns out he had his eye on the woman by his side!"

After being humiliated by Huo Yumeng, Qian Haoyu found a chance for revenge.

Huo Yumeng's possessiveness was already through the roof and seeing Zhang Yudong's warm smiles at that woman, her anger rapidly grew, further fueled by Qian Haoyu's taunting. Finally, Huo Yumeng stamped her foot in rage and turned to leave.

"That little slut, daring to seduce Brother Dong without knowing her lowly status!"

"There are too many people here, and for Brother Dong's reputation, I, Huo Yumeng, who has class, will let you off for now!"

"But later, I'll make you lose all your dignity in front of everyone!"

Huo Yumeng ground her teeth, her pretty face frosted over.

Offending a woman is not scary, but offending a possessive one with heavy jealousy is truly terrifying!

While Qian Haoyu took delight in others' misfortune, he noticed the beauty talking with Zhang Yudong and then quickly leaving, alongside the young man that Zhang Yudong had once accompanied.

Upon seeing this, Qian Haoyu's face also darkened.

"So it's like that, Zhang Yudong, you refuse to give me face this time, then I won't give face to your 'honored guest' either!"

Qian Haoyu's expression darkened slightly as he left with Zhou Dabin.

Bai Xiaosheng had no idea that just because Zhang Yudong had received him, he had offended a man.

And just because he had wanted to drink some of the tea praised by Liu Beicheng on the way here, and had asked Lin Weiwei to mention it, he had offended a woman.

The love, hatred, gratitude, and grudges between people are sometimes so unimaginable.

So unreasonable!

Chapter 1108: The Supreme Guest

Liu Beicheng, accompanied by the Zhang Family's attendants and bodyguards, escorted Bai Xiaosheng and the two others straight to the banquet hall.

With over a dozen people bustling around them, this entourage attracted countless gazes along the way.

Bai Xiaosheng actually disliked such a display, feeling as if he were on exhibition, and it made him uncomfortable. He couldn't even freely look around.

So, halfway there, Bai Xiaosheng stopped in his tracks and said to Liu Beicheng, "Assistant Liu, have them stop following; you escorting us will suffice."

"This..." Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng's request, Liu Beicheng hesitated.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was an honored guest; he shouldn't be treated like an ordinary person!

If Mr. Dong found out, he'd be in trouble!

However, Liu Beicheng couldn't just ignore what Mr. Dong had instructed, and he had to listen to what Bai Xiaosheng said.

Suddenly, Liu Beicheng found himself in quite a dilemma.

"If Zhang Yudong asks, just say that I ordered it. It won't cause trouble for you," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, noticing Liu Beicheng's concern.

Seeing how approachable and friendly Bai Xiaosheng was, without a trace of the arrogance and haughtiness that Qian Haoyu and his group exhibited—as if expecting everyone to kneel in welcome—Liu Beicheng admired him even more.

He remembered how terrified he was when he first learned of Bai Xiaosheng's true identity, fearing that he would be in deep trouble and used as a scapegoat, but to his surprise, Bai Xiaosheng didn't hold any grudges against him at all.

This was the magnanimity of a truly powerful figure!

"Alright then." Eventually, Liu Beicheng nodded, instructing the attendants and bodyguards around him, "You all, go ahead!"

Those people nodded respectfully and left in an orderly manner.

In the end, only Liu Beicheng and the four people including Bai Xiaosheng remained.

Qian Haoyu, Huo Yumeng, and Zhou Dabin, who were following from a distance, noticed this "strange" scene under the distant lights as bright as day.

"What's going on? They haven't even reached the hall yet, and the entourage has already dispersed?" Zhou Dabin was the first to notice and remarked in surprise.

"Hmph, looks like our guess was right," Qian Haoyu huffed, "Damn it, that guy is not some honored guest at all! What is Zhang Yudong thinking? Welcoming such a person, is he trying to demean me?!"

This time, Huo Yumeng, unusually, didn't retort but coldly watched from afar, her focus on the most slender figure among the four, with her pearly white teeth biting down secretly.

Need we even ask? Zhang Yudong wasn't just trying to demean Qian Haoyu.

This was clearly a case of the old saying: "The drinker's heart isn't in the cup," he had taken a fancy to that little lady!

Huo Yumeng was seething with indignation.

Being of noble birth and distinguished lineage, to be surpassed by a mere servant was unbearable.

...

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions strolled leisurely through Zhang Family Manor, enjoying the scenery by the lighting, which held its own unique charm.

Little did they know, two bitter souls were still trailing them from a distance.

...

Ten minutes later, a building resembling a castle appeared ahead, seemingly European yet with clear Chinese elements.

The combination of East and West was perfectly embodied in that structure.

It was grand yet not lacking in romance, classicism, or elegance.

"Ah, this is a work of Master Song Kai!" Bai Xiaosheng was quite familiar with this style.

Considering Master Song Kai was an old friend of Zhang Xi's, it wasn't surprising to find a building designed by him in Zhang Xi's home.

Bai Xiaosheng continued to walk, appreciating the design details throughout the building, nodding frequently.

One day, when he truly became the president of Zhenbei Group, he would definitely have Master Song Kai help with the design, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

The group proceeded and entered the hall.

The grand hall was indescribably well-decorated.

Even those with no understanding of design would find it bright and elegant, a visual treat to the eyes.

Great design is not about how skillfully it's appreciated by experts, but how it resonates with those who know nothing about it.

Bai Xiaosheng was filled with admiration.

It wasn't until they entered the hall that they discovered over a hundred guests were already there, mostly young men and women of prestigious background, dressed in expensive attire.

One could say, each was handsomer or more beautiful than the next.

The guests were grouped in threes and fives, holding wine glasses and whispering among themselves, each expanding their circle of friends and connections.

As Bai Xiaosheng and his party entered, they immediately caught the curious glances of some people, perhaps because their faces were unfamiliar, prompting a few extra looks.

But after a quick look, many eyes moved on.

It wasn't surprising even if Liu Beicheng himself greeted them.

Over forty percent of those present had that privilege.

"Mr. Bai, how about I take you to the VIP room to rest for a bit? It's quite noisy here," Liu Beicheng suggested to Bai Xiaosheng in a low voice so others couldn't hear.

This cocktail party was, in fact, held especially for Bai Xiaosheng.

Even the old master Zhang Xi of the Zhang Family regarded Bai Xiaosheng as an honored guest.

It could be said that the weight of all the guests combined might not even measure up to Bai Xiaosheng alone.

Liu Beicheng naturally prioritized Bai Xiaosheng's feelings at all times.

"No need, a cocktail party should have this kind of atmosphere," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Liu Beicheng. "Also, we'll just wander around on our own, no need to follow us."

Upon hearing this, Liu Beicheng quickly offered an ingratiating smile, "You can rest here if you wish, no problem. But please don't send me away. Mr. Dong tasked me to follow you and attend to any needs you might have. How could I possibly abandon my post?"

"Having you follow me makes me feel like I'm being watched by the host, which isn't comfortable at all," Bai Xiaosheng joked.

Liu Beicheng chuckled awkwardly.

"Assistant Liu, Mr. Bai isn't so particular. He likes to be free and easy, something even Master Zhang Xi knows. If you don't follow, no one will blame you," Lin Weiwei said with a smile.

She first brought up Zhang Xi, then relieved Liu Beicheng's concerns, dispelling his embarrassment.

Although Lin Weiwei had never met Zhang Xi, she had heard about him from Bai Xiaosheng and had gathered some understanding of the old man's temperament.

"Well, okay then," Liu Beicheng nodded, then quickly added, "Mr. Bai, should you have any needs, feel free to ask any employee of the Zhang Family. They will follow all your instructions to a tee!"

The security guards, waiters, and Zhang Family servants wandering the cocktail hall had all been shown Bai Xiaosheng's photo in advance.

Old Master Zhang Xi, Mr. Zhang Tianyu, and even young Mr. Zhang Yudong had given the order—

All requests from "Mr. Bai" were to be treated as the highest command!

Even if Bai Xiaosheng wished to light a bonfire in the middle of the hall, they were to immediately, without hesitation, carry it out with conviction!

So, as Bai Xiaosheng and his party entered, the guests might have been indifferent, but the Zhang Family people scattered around identified the "target" at once and communicated the news via earpieces.

One could say that in the eyes of the Zhang Family's staff, amongst all the guests, only Bai Xiaosheng alone possessed supreme status.

Having given his instructions, Liu Beicheng left.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced around and spotting a bar in the distance with a line of uniformed, bright and attractive bartenders, he led Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying towards it.

The bartenders brightened as they saw Bai Xiaosheng approaching, with the females smiling as radiantly as blooming flowers.

But there were no excessive movements or words, from anyone.

Once Bai Xiaosheng and his party reached a spot at the bar, the bartender listened respectfully to their requests and skillfully crafted the cocktails with flair.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng took a cocktail in hand and took a sip, he felt someone come up close beside him.

"Brother, how are you?"

Bai Xiaosheng turned his head to look and jumped in shock.

Next to him, where had this monkey come from!

Chapter 1109 My Name is Jia Dazhuang

Bai Xiaosheng found himself approached by this guy, all gaunt and leathery, with a monkey-like face and a rather tall stature. His smile made things worse, looking almost like a snarling monkey.

That designer suit he wore immediately brought a term to mind—

Crowned monkey.

Bai Xiaosheng was startled at a glance.

Beside him, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were also taken aback, staring at this man with disbelief.

Where did this guy pop out from? Could it be that the Zhang Family doesn't care about appearances when inviting guests...

"Dude, let's get to know each other, I'm Jia Dazhuang!"

The monkey bared his teeth as he smiled—if that could be called a smile—and reached out his hand.

"Heh, nice to meet you." Bai Xiaosheng managed to return the smile politely and shook hands, "My name is Bai Xiaosheng."

"Oh, Brother Bai!" Jia Dazhuang said enthusiastically.

Bai Xiaosheng narrowed his eyes slightly, feeling that this monkey seemed to be older than him...

And that name Jia Dazhuang, it really suited him perfectly!

Pretend, Big, Strong!

One had to say, his parents were quite prescient when naming him.

With that image, he was the spitting image of the classic cinematic character "Captain Jia," and maybe even surpassed the original!

"Miss, what's your name?" Jia Dazhuang grinned at Lin Weiwei.

"I dare not take on that 'Miss,'" Lin Weiwei replied with an extremely reluctant smile and refused the over-enthusiastic handshake Jia Dazhuang offered.

"Miss Lin's so reserved!" Jia Dazhuang chuckled, dead serious, "You deserve it, I'm genuinely born in the nineties."

"Really?" Lin Weiwei was caught off-guard, then nodded and used drinking to conceal her overwhelming urge to snark.

With you in the nineties, the average line must have dropped quite a bit!

When Jia Dazhuang approached, he was polite to Bai Xiaosheng, the leader, but then quickly shifted his attitude.

Bai Xiaosheng once thought he was after Lin Weiwei, but then noticed that when Jia Dazhuang looked at Lei Ying, his eyes shone with a dazzling brilliance.

Bai Xiaosheng was suddenly taken aback, and even more surprised inside.

Good heavens, could this monkey have a...problem with his orientation, liking...a hunky man?!

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't sure.

He was observant, but on the one hand, Jia Dazhuang was too hideous to look at for long without becoming nauseous.

On the other hand, it's not polite nor meaningful to scrutinize a stranger to such an extent.

"Dude, what's your name?" Jia Dazhuang excitedly pointed to Lei Ying, "I've been noticing you since you walked in!"

"Our meeting here, I always feel, that's arranged by heaven—fate!"

Jia Dazhuang chattered with a face full of wonder.

Lei Ying's breath became noticeably rougher.

He had shared the same thought as Bai Xiaosheng—that Jia Dazhuang might be some kind of pervert.

Lei Ying could hardly keep from clenching his fists, which were as big as a clay pot.

Completely oblivious, Jia Dazhuang bared his teeth, attempting to shake hands.

"Forget it, I've got a strong grip, and I wouldn't want to hurt you." Lei Ying declined coldly, with a terse remark through clenched teeth, seized a decorative brass candlestick from the bar, bent the copper stick as thick as two fingers straight, and then straightened it back before placing it down.

All with an air of "Are your little hands this tough?"

Suddenly, not only Jia Dazhuang but even the bartender was agape.

Is this guy even human? What kind of strength is that?

The copper stick, as thick as it was, bent like it was as thin as a wire?

Lei Ying was "intimidating" Jia Dazhuang.

However, the latter's reaction, after snapping out of it, was like someone overcome with joy, the look of "So you're actually that strong, I really like that" on his face.

This guy was definitely a pervert, no doubt about it!

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and even Lei Ying instantly labeled him as such in their minds, with a full 120% certainty.

Thinking of the "good man" wind, the three of them truly felt their hair stand on end, a wave of discomfort washing over them.

"Big, big, big brother." Jia Dazhuang stammered, his eyes sparkling with little stars, full-on worship in his gaze, "Do you take disciples?"

Take disciples?

Lei Ying, who had been on the verge of exploding, paused at this question.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei exchanged glances, somewhat relieved.

At least he's not a pervert.

Then, all three squinted at Jia Dazhuang.

This guy, with eighteen masters in a year?

What did those people teach him, how to somersault and perform?

Seeing the weird looks on their faces, Jia Dazhuang was initially puzzled, then looked at himself and suddenly got it, licking his face with a smile, "Don't be fooled by my lean frame, I've got strength!"

Jia Dazhuang tried to show off his biceps, and as he did, one sleeve drooped down halfway.

...

Bai Xiaosheng held his forehead with his hand, as he couldn't bear to watch anymore.

"Uh, I got this from my dad, just can't put on any weight..." Jia Dazhuang laughed awkwardly.

Facing such a candid person who had come to "seek apprenticeship," Lei Ying, after being earnestly asked once more, was also incredibly candid and replied with just one word.

"Scram."

This Jia Dazhuang, although a guest here, really didn't have much presence or arrogance.

Even when Lei Ying casually cursed at him, he wasn't annoyed and just kept grinning beside them.

Having such a good disposition is a skill in itself.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

While they had been talking for these few minutes, two people walked into the hall outside.

A man and a woman, followed by a group of attendants.

Jia Dazhuang looked up and quietly exclaimed, "Yo, Mr. Dong's two close classmates, Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng, are here together? And behind them, isn't that the down-and-out Zhou Dabin?"

Bai Xiaosheng also glanced over.

He had actually seen them at the car park, just a brief glance though, without committing their names to memory.

Now, Jia Dazhuang had matched the faces to the names.

"Hey, why are they all looking over here?" Jia Dazhuang suddenly froze, "Are they looking at me?"

Jia Dazhuang muttered to himself, "I haven't gotten any handsomer recently!"

His words made Bai Xiaosheng and the other two roll their eyes in unison.

"No, they're looking at you guys! Do you know them?" Jia Dazhuang continued to mutter, his voice shocked, "Oh no, they're looking unkind!"

Bai Xiaosheng saw it now too.

That man named Qian Haoyu and the woman named Huo Yumeng were clearly looking at their group with hostility.

Strange, we don't even know them, do we?

Bai Xiaosheng was curious in his heart, but his gaze turned slightly displeased.

How could they be hostile at first sight, without any provocation? Where's the logic in that?

Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng rolled their eyes coldly and walked off with their entourage.

Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

"OMG, you guys don't have some conflict with those two, do you?" Jia Dazhuang's voice rose before he quickly lowered it and urgently admonished, "You better not! Those two are the favorites of the Qian Family and Huo Family. They're classmates and good friends with Zhang Yudong of the Zhang Family. We can't afford to mess with them! Plus, the Qian Family are benefactors of the Zhang Family, and the Huo Family is even considering a marriage alliance with them. You are on the Zhang Family's territory; you absolutely should not provoke those two!"

Jia Dazhuang looked quite anxious.

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a surprised glance.

They say a person's character reflects their appearance, but that's sometimes not the case.

Handsome men and beautiful women aren't necessarily kind-hearted; those with plain looks can be good-hearted too.

"Thanks for the heads-up, come on, let's have a drink."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Jia Dazhuang, lifting his glass.

Looking at Jia Dazhuang now, Bai Xiaosheng found him much more agreeable.

Just as Jia Dazhuang was about to clink glasses with Bai Xiaosheng for a "cheers," he suddenly seemed to remember something and grabbed Bai Xiaosheng's wrist.

"Don't drink like this!" Jia Dazhuang urged.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him, puzzled.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were also somewhat confused.

"Seeing you three here, is this your first time at a Zhang Family wine tasting?" Jia Dazhuang asked urgently. "Haven't you looked into what makes this tasting different from others?"

What could be so different about a wine tasting?

Bai Xiaosheng was perplexed.

Surely the wine isn't restricted?

Jia Dazhuang explained, "The cocktails are just the beginning. Soon, the Zhang Family will start bringing fine wines for everyone to taste. If you can savor the flavor and describe their qualities, they'll bestow an unopened bottle for you to take home."

"When it comes to the Zhang Family vineyard, they're all treasures!" Jia Dazhuang's eyes gleamed with longing. "All kinds of wines, fruit wines; even those worth hundreds of thousands, a million, are not uncommon!"

"How could you drink so much of these cocktails!"

Having heard Jia Dazhuang's explanation, Bai Xiaosheng had an epiphany and nodded.

So there was another way to it?

Interesting!

Hearing about the bonus, Bai Xiaosheng immediately perked up.

Although with just a word, the Zhang Family would likely offer up top-notch wine, winning it felt different.

Right after Jia Dazhuang finished speaking, someone called out from the entrance, "The first round of wine tasting is about to begin!"

As they spoke, several women in cheongsam, their smiles as blooming as flowers, approached carrying bottles of fine wine.

"Let's go!" Jia Dazhuang excitedly beckoned.

The crowd in the hall almost all approached with smiles.

Bai Xiaosheng and his two friends were even more enthusiastic.

In the distance, Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng kept their eyes on them. These two, usually at odds, now seemed to be forming an alliance.

"The more I look at those three, the more irritating they become; let's publicly embarrass them!"

"That's right, let them lose face! At this kind of event, even if Brother Dong finds out, he definitely won't blame us!"

Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng agreed instantly and strode forward.

Zhou Dabin followed behind, his eyes filled with pity as he looked towards the trio.

Ah, bad luck for you!

Who asked you to unwittingly offend these two?

Even the Zhang Family wouldn't openly embarrass them; they are truly honored guests among guests!

And you, what are you...

Chapter 1110: Don't Understand? That's Unacceptable!

The cheongsam-clad beauties that entered the hall from outside numbered five. Each barely touched up with makeup, yet brimming with vitality; some demure, some charming, some elegant. In an era dominated by plastic surgery, heavy makeup, and photo retouching, where "manufactured" beauty was rampant, the natural allure of these women was truly a breath of fresh air, eliciting sincere admiration.

Each of the five beauties held the same wine in their hands.

Following them, someone wheeled in two trolleys full of wine glasses.

Those in the know were aware that these glasses were authentic Austrian Riedel crystal wine glasses, touted as the "Rolls-Royce of wine glasses," and considered to be the finest, most professional wine vessels.

The Zhang Family wine tasting event was not being held for the first time, and more than ninety percent of the attendees had been here more than once.

At this moment, everyone was quiet, looking on with eager anticipation.

Four of the five bottles of wine were uncorked and poured into decanters, while the fifth was set aside.

That must be the prize, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Jia Dazhuang was beside himself with excitement, describing in a hushed voice to Bai Xiaosheng nonstop.

The wine tasting segment of the Zhang Family event usually consisted of three rounds, sometimes four.

The types of wine were not limited; they could range from red wine to white wine, and even include cocktails.

Each round would feature wines even better than the previous one!

"Bai, do you know a lot about wine?" Jia finished speaking and couldn't help but ask.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered briefly before replying with a smile, "A little."

"Just a little, huh? But don't worry, I have quite the expertise in this area. I'm going to outshine everyone, and when I win, I'll give you a bottle of fine wine as a show of friendship," Jia Dazhuang boasted, patting his chest, and then, with a hint of mischief, added, "But you have to talk to Lei and take me as his disciple!"

When Lei Ying introduced himself earlier, he thought Old Jia wasn't a bad person and his impression had somewhat improved.

Unfortunately, despite Old Jia's good nature, he couldn't resist being a bit cheap. Give an inch and he'd take a mile, immediately wanting to become a disciple upon knowing his status.

Lei Ying simply ignored him.

Unexpectedly, the fellow now sought a roundabout way, making his move via Bai Xiaosheng.

Upon hearing Jia's request, Bai's initial reaction was to refuse.

He didn't want to make any promises on Lei Ying's behalf to avoid putting him in a difficult position.

However, Bai also didn't want to be too direct in his refusal, contemplating a more tactful way to decline.

Before he could, someone nearby let out a snicker, "Old Jia, keep dreaming. You think you can win a bottle of wine? As if we don't exist. There must be at least a hundred here better than you."

Jia Dazhuang was instantly enraged, "So, you're saying I'm bottom of the barrel?"

"No, no, don't get me wrong. What I'm saying is, you're not even in the running," the other person smirked.

Laughter erupted around them.

Jia Dazhuang was so angry his nose seemed crooked, as if he were about to fight.

"Forget it, it's just a wine tasting, no need to get heated," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, patting his shoulder to soothe him.

Jia Dazhuang, who appeared furious just moments before, instantly calmed down at Bai's casual words of reassurance.

"Alright, sure!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Had he really that much influence?

"The guy's still the same—backs down easily and takes the bait when offered," someone chuckled.

Jia Dazhuang pretended not to hear and mumbled, "I won't stoop to your level! Wine tasting is a gentleman's activity, and a gentleman doesn't resort to violence..."

Bai Xiaosheng, "..."

Now he had an even better understanding of Jia Dazhuang.

It seemed that aside from a good heart, the man truly was... good for nothing else.

This was just a small interlude. Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng felt someone's gaze upon him and looked over.

Across the crowd, at the front, stood a man and a woman.

People kept their distance from them, looking on with a hint of awe.

Qian Haoyu and Huo Yumeng, eh!

Their expressions were unfriendly as they looked over with evident coldness and hostility.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed slightly, his gaze also carrying a chill.

Although he didn't know the reason for their hostility, he wasn't one to be easily bullied!

Just then, the most dignified among the five beauties spoke up, "Ladies and gentlemen, the wine has been aerated, please go ahead and taste it. In ten minutes, we ask that you provide your evaluation of this red wine. The person with the best evaluation will receive a full bottle of the same wine."

After a brief pause, the beauty smiled and added, "As always, our professionals will judge your evaluation. The old rules apply—if your description misses the key points entirely, we regret to inform you that you will be disqualified from the next round. However, you will still have the opportunity to taste the next wine."

What the beauty implied was clear—

If you spout nonsense, then sorry, but you'll be keeping quiet in the next round.

"Lady, we all know the drill. If anyone talks rubbish, he'll be the laughingstock of us all. Don't worry!"

"Let's start already, some of us can hardly wait!"

"The fragrance of the wine is in the air, and my thirst for it is growing impatient!"

The crowd was enthusiastic.

The Zhang Family wine tasting was an opportunity to be seen and to make an impression.

Furthermore, making friends over wine was favored; a new friendship from the gathering would be the best outcome, as there wasn't a single ordinary person present.

Hearing the crowd's eager calls, the beautiful woman smiled gently and extended her hand in a "please" gesture, indicating that they could begin.

Staff members carrying trays delivered a cup of fine wine to each attendee.

Every cup contained just a shallow amount, yet it was sufficient.

To taste just enough to leave an aftertaste and anticipate more, without affecting the next round of tasting.

As the wine was served, everyone held the base of their cups, smelled, and sipped the wine, letting the liquid roll over their taste buds.

Many even closed their eyes to savor the flavor, nodding frequently.

Bai Xiaosheng tasted his and also showed a look of appreciation.

Over the past two years, he had attended various wine events and tasted many red wines, going from a complete novice to someone with some understanding. Not only could he discern good from bad, but he was also able to explain a bit about what made them good.

However, to say he could out-comment everyone present was a boast.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng had neither spent much time nor much thought on this.

Of course, if Bai Xiaosheng really wanted to win, it would have been a piece of cake, an easy victory.

With Red Lotus by his side, not to mention analyzing the taste and essence, he could effortlessly detail the components of the wine.

Even more, Red Lotus could simulate the fermentation process of making this wine!

Who else present could do that!

Although the wine was good, it was far from the best that Bai Xiaosheng had tasted, and he didn't have much desire to win it.

Moreover, if he were to start by taking prizes from the first round to the last, it would also be a bit embarrassing.

So, Bai Xiaosheng decided.

This first round, he would abstain.

"Ladies and gentlemen, who would like to give a critique?" the hostess asked with a smile.

"Me!"

A piercing shriek erupted beside Bai Xiaosheng, startling him.

Jia Dazhuang was the first to shout out, raising his rail-thin arm high into the air.

The hostess was taken aback when she saw him, her eyes flickering with a hint of a profound message.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately understood the hostess's implication and was speechless.

Surely the hostess found it both amusing and a little helpless in her heart.

It seemed that Jia had embarrassed himself quite a few times before...

The others had even taken note of him!

"Please, Mr. Jia, give us your thoughts," said the hostess, taking a deep breath to maintain her composure before politely gesturing for him to proceed.

"This wine is great!" exclaimed Jia Dazhuang, and of course, he did not disappoint.

Everyone was stunned for a moment and then burst into laughter.

Undeterred by the others, Jia went on.

"Look at the soup, no, the clear color of the wine, it's the matured color of blush strawberries..."

Jia Dazhuang rambled on with his judgment succinctly and even quoted a couple of lines from classic poems to appear cultured.

The crowd's laughter was filled with cheer.

Bai Xiaosheng simply looked up at the sky.

Seeing that he had amused the crowd, Jia felt quite pleased with himself.

He had even specially looked up some poetry before coming over.

"Mr. Jia."

The hostess finally spoke after some contemplation, her smile showing patience but also sincerity.

"Did I do well?" Jia Dazhuang beamed.

"In the next round, you don't need to participate in the commentary, but you can still taste the wine," the hostess said with a smile.

This proved that not a single comment made by Jia was on point.

Laughter erupted from the two hundred people present.

Jia Dazhuang immediately looked sullen, like the disappointed son of a rich landlord...

Next, others provided their insights, each with their own brilliance, causing many heads to nod in agreement.

But the best commentary came from the last person!

With each point concise and well-articulated, professional wine tasters were nodding in agreement.

That person was Qian Haoyu!

"Mr. Yu's evaluation is nearly perfect, so this 'Zhirun' bottle worth fifty thousand is yours," the hostess said with a smile.

Qian Haoyu's lips curled into a smug smile, not looking at the hostess but staring at Bai Xiaosheng across from him.

"That gentleman!" pointed Qian Haoyu.

Following his gesture, everyone's gaze converged on Bai Xiaosheng, curious.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Qian Haoyu with a calm expression.

"Yes, I'm talking about you!" Qian Haoyu said with a smile that was not at all friendly, "When I arrived, I saw Mr. Dong personally receiving you. So, you must be someone important at this wine tasting. Yet, you remain silent in the first round of tasting. That doesn't seem right."

"Or is it that you don't understand anything about wine, yet came to a wine tasting event?"

"In that case, I must ask, do you even know how to write the words 'lose face'?"