

Rebirth Of The Urban Immortal Cultivator

Chapter 131: Doesn't Recognize Mount Tai

Chapter 131: Doesn't Recognize Mount Tai

"Ziqin, is he the Mr. Chen you mentioned to me who had cured grandpa?"

Wei Zifang asked in a deep voice.

"Indeed." Wei, Ziqin nodded.

"Although he was able to cure grandpa at such a young age, that doesn't mean that he has the right to look down on us." Wei Zifang shook his head. He had seen many talented young people with incredible skills, and none of their lives met a good end. He needs to be humble."

Despite his incredible medical skills, his fortune was still at the mercy of the Wei family.

Yin Wanqin's face softened a little; however, she still couldn't get over what had happened.

"In addition, he has another identity." Wei Ziqin added. "In Chu Zhou City, he is called Master Chen."

"Master Chen? The Master Chen of Jiang Bei?"

Yin Wanqin exclaimed incredulously.

As the owner of an Equestrian Club, she watched as countless guests come and go and leaving many information and news behind. Therefore, she had heard many times people talking about this Master Chen.

However, she found it difficult to make the connection between the ordinary looking Chen Fan and the famous Master Chen.

"Master Chen of the Jiang Bei region?" Wei Zifang was taken aback by the name.

He had never imagined that Chen Fan was someone who had as much clout as Tang Yuanqin. Worse, he was at least ten years younger than him.

However, the revelation didn't rein in his conceit.

“Humph! Even if he is Master Chen, the Wei family is not going to be afraid of him.” Wei Zifang sneered.

As the son of the most powerful family in the Jiang Nan Province, Wei Zifang had all the rights to feel proud of himself and not take Chen Fan seriously.

“Indeed.” Yin Wanqin replied after she finally gathered herself.

However, powerful Master Chen was, he would not be able to rival the Wei Family of the North Bank.

“I wish that’s all to it. But why do you think even grandpa wanted to apologize to him personally?” Wei Ziqin heaved a sigh. “You might not have heard of this news: he was recently invited by the military to fill the role of the head sergeant of the Cang Dragon unit.”

“Head sergeant of the Cang Dragon? What is that?” Yin Wanqin was confused.

What position could have given the boy so much prestige and power that even the old man had to bend over backwards to please him?

She had stayed abroad for the most part of her life, and therefore, she was clueless of the situation in China. Although the news shocked Wei Zifang as he had heard of the name of the Cang Dragon unit, he was not sure what the title “Head Sergeant” meant.

“The head sergeant of the Cang Dragon was as high as one could get in the law enforcement units. It belongs to the rank of generals.” Wei Ziqin paused a second to let her words set in. “If he accepted the offer and performed his duty, in three years, he would be promoted to the rank of general.”

“Be a general in three years?”

Hearing this revelation, even Wei Zifang who had worked in government and rubbed shoulders with some of the highest-ranking officials was shocked.

“He looks no more than seventeen years old, and even in three years, he would be at most twenty. Yet, you said he would have been a general by then?”

Yin Wanqin covered her mouth to suppress a gasp with her eyes wide open in surprise.

However clueless she was in terms of the military ranking, she knew that generals were of the highest rank since it was the case in nearly all counties.

To be a general in a country as big as China was, in particular, not a small feat. Being a general at the age of twenty would garner much more respect than being a billionaire.

“How is that possible? Even the youngest general in China is in his forties.”

Wei Zifang tried to hold back his disbelief and asked.

“He is exceptional, and his talents are unknown to many.” Wei Ziqin said lightly.

Wei Zifang gasped.

The more one knew about the military system in China; the more surprised one would be after hearing the news. Being a general in the law enforcement unit wielded even more authority than that of an ordinary unit.

“So we were looking at a twenty-year-old general!” Wei Zifang gasped, the pride in his voice had evaporated.

His Second Uncle was already in his forties when he finally reached the same level. Even without becoming the general rank, Chen Fan would have secured as much power and authority as his father had. Plus, he was so young, and only god would know what the future had in store for him.

Even though he was from the Wei Family of the North Bank, he conceded that he would have to put away his pride before such a mighty power.

Even the collective might of the entire Wei family would not give him the courage to offend such a powerful young man.

“I can’t even believe what I am going to tell you, but here it is: he refused the offer.” Wei Ziqin shook her head with a wry smile.

“He refused?”

Both Wei Zifang and Yin Wanqin could only stare.

The conversation about Chen Fan turned out to be a rollercoaster ride to the two. A sixteen years old boy was not only a skillful doctor, the famous Master Chen but also was offered the position of the Head Sergeant. Worse yet, he refused the offer!

The position was of general rank; people would fight to the death over the job.

“The Wei family had affronted him because of Ziqin; therefore, he is still on the fence.” Wei Ziqin heaved a sigh. “My father said the military is sending four delegates to talk to him personally. I bet those delegates were of the same rank as my father.”

Wei Zifang was utterly speechless.

How was this possible, and who the heck was this boy?

Wei Zifang's family heritage, Yin Wanqin's attractive look and her club all seemed like a joke in front of Chen Fan's attainment.

"Compared to him; I seemed to have achieved nothing, even in my thirties. What right do I have to be so proud."

Wei Zifang heaved a long sigh.

Yin, Wanqin nodded. She could not fathom how an ordinary looking boy could turn out to be a candidate for a general position; a diamond in the rough.

He had the right to be cold and aloof like all other powerful figures were.

"Brother Zifang, Sister Wanqin." Wei Ziqin paused a second and then said: "If you can befriend him, I think you should be able to contribute to grandpa's cause."

"Really?"

Yin Wanqin asked with surprise as hope also gleamed in Wei Zifang's eyes.

Wei Zifang and Yin Wanqin were classmates at the university when they fell in love. Yin Wanqin was from a middle-class family and was deemed unworthy to be Wei Zifang's girlfriend in the eyes of his parents. The old man also stayed out of business and remained indifferent to both sides. In the end, Yin Wanqin left China and stayed at Y country for many years before she finally returned to China. With the financial support from Wei Zifang, she opened up the Zi Yun Club.

Most guests who came to Zi Yun were here under the influence of Wei Zifang.

"Of course! We need his favor and support, but his run-ins with Zipin had ruined our chance of mending the relationship. Even the old man wanted to apologize to him personally. If you can gain Mr.Chen's support and help the old man, grandpa would definitely stand on your side in terms of your marriage."

"Sounds like a plan to me!"

Wei Zifang held Yin Wanqin's expectant gaze and agreed as he gritted his teeth.

What was pride before the love of his life? He would befriend Master Chen even if he had to kneel.

When Wei Zifang returned the stable, they could no longer find Chen Fan.

Soon they saw Chen An and his sister accompanied by their cousin Chen Xu. Wei Zifang came up to them and asked with a smile: "Chen An, where is your other cousin?"

Chen An was surprised by Wei Zifang's warm smile, plus, the son of the Wei family never called him Chen An, instead, he always addressed him as Xiao Chen in a patronizing manner.

Feeling pleasantly surprised, he replied: "Young Lord Wei, my cousin had already left."

Chen An paused a second and then asked cautiously: "I want to apologize for his actions earlier. He is from a little county in Jiang Bei and didn't know better. "

"He is an uncouth little shit. Lack of discipline, I say," Chen Xu hissed.

Chen Ning and Chen An quickly agreed with their cousin.

Wei Zifang furrowed his brows and felt he had miscalculated the relationship between Chen An and his cousin. He always liked the young man and wanted to take him under his wing to become one of his assistants in the future.

However, it occurred to him that Chen An was oblivious of Chen Fan's real identity; worse, he seemed to dislike his powerful cousin.

"Mr. Chen is not on good terms with his cousins." Wei Zifang shook his head and lamented in his mind. He hoped that Chen An could have introduced him to Chen Fan, but the turn of events made him keep his plan to himself.

As he thought so, the warm smile on his face evaporated.

He made up his mind to keep a distance with Chen Fan's cousins, in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings.

Yin Wanqin stood beside her boyfriend and was amused by Chen An's remarks.

"What a fool. He has eyes but doesn't recognize Mount Tai."

Chapter 132: You Don't Deserve My Apology

Chapter 132: You Don't Deserve My Apology

Chen Fan sat in the silver-grey Lamborghini Gallardo with the windows down. In the driver's seat was a drop dead gorgeous, the sight had attracted many attentions.

An Ya asked abruptly as she drove the vehicle.

"Xiao Fan, how did you make Chen Xu's horse stop?"

"It's just a little trick." Chen Fan shrugged. "I am the famous and revered Master Chen of Jiang Bei. I can pick a star out of the sky with ease much less control a horse."

"Brother Chen Fan is at it again... Pick a star out of the sky? Do you think you are an immortal?" Chen Guoguo asked sarcastically.

"That's nothing. Your big cousin used to travel through the universe and completely destroyed an entire galaxy. " Chen Fan said readily.

He was not lying. The perfected immortals who had reached the Dao Reunion could catch the moon and steal the stars or outright swallow the sun. The cultivators who reached Tribulation Transcendence possessed even more terrifying power than that of Dao Reunion. To them, the stars were nothing but marbles in their pocket.

However, neither An Ya nor Chen Guoguo believed him. They both rolled their eyes at Chen Fan, thinking he was bluffing again.

Although An Ya didn't get her answer, she decided not to press on. He was always a very understanding sister to Chen Fan and knew that her little brother like to keep some secrets of his own.

"Ah, right, Sister An, I forgot to tell you that this car belongs to you now." Chen Fan said lightly. "Chen Xu had just got this car, so it's in mint condition. The color and interior deco looked feminine. I think it's better suited for you. You will need one when you go to work."

"Uh? You are not going to return it back to Chen Xu?" An Ya asked incredulously.

"Why should I? Chen Xu wanted a race, and he lost it. Could he be shameless enough as to ask for it back from me?" Chen Fan sneered.

An Ya didn't agree with Chen Fan since she knew the true colors of her Second Uncle's family much better than Chen Fan. However, seeing Chen Fan had already made up his mind; she kept her concern unspoken.

They drove the race car around the Jin City and didn't return the East Mountain mansion until it was dark outside.

By then, the mansion was lit up by lights from inside. The adults of the family had gathered in the living room.

Chen Gexin kept a somber face and wasn't pleased to see Chen Fan. However, Wang Xiaoyun nodded at Chen Fan with a great measure of approval.

"Dad, mom, grandpa." Chen Fan greeted them.

“Hi.”

Chen Huaian nodded and looked hesitant. He was not sure where to begin.

The Second Auntie spoke first. She piled a large smile on her face and then said: “Xiao Fan, did you enjoy the ride in your cousin’s Lamborghini? Since you had fun, it’s time to give it back to your cousin.”

Chen Fan looked over toward second auntie and saw an embarrassed Chen Xu hiding behind his mother. Chen Fan cracked a smile and then said: “Cousin had lost this car to me in a race. Is he going to regret his words?”

Second Auntie pulled a taut face and managed to say: “Your cousin was just... joking with you. It’s all just a joke.”

“A joke?” Chen Fan shook his head. “I wasn’t joking even if he was. If I had lost, my mother would buy a Porsche 911 and give it to him, wouldn’t you mom?”

Wang Xiaoyun was going to reply, but Chen Gexin tugged her elbow, willing her to keep quiet.

“You... You cheated!” Chen Xu shouted.

“Oh? How so? Can you tell me how I could have done that?” Chen Fan asked curiously.

Chen Xu was suddenly at a loss for words.

Even a professional coach such as Paul had no clue how Chen Fan had done that much less an amateur such as him.

“What’s the big deal? It’s just a race. Do you really need that car?” Chen Fan’s Great Uncle announced annoyed.

“But...”

Chen Xu was becoming anxious. He begged his father countless times in order for him to buy the car for him. He hadn’t even shown it to his friends yet, and he had to give it away. Chen Xu moaned the promise of his great loss in his mind.

Although Chen Qianxin was in charge of a large corporation, he was not the sole owner of the company. The most amount of money Chen Qianxin could get out of his company was just a few dozen million.

The Great Uncle was one of the main arbitrators of the family dispute, and since he had taken Chen Fan’s side, the Second Uncle knew he should keep quiet now.

Sensing the matter had been settled, Chen Fan walked toward his seat and was going to sit down. Suddenly, he heard Chen Ning speak up.

“Grandpa, dad, can you guess who we met at the club?”

“Who?”

The question piqued all the adults’ interest. Even Second Auntie who was still trying to overcome her anger, looked towards Chen Ning.

Chen Ning announced: “Wei Zifang!”

“Wei Zifang?”

Everyone was shocked by the revelation. Chen Zhenxin furrowed his brows and asked: “Is that Xiao Wei from the Wei family?”

“Indeed.” Chen Ning nodded.

“What’s the big deal with him?” One Auntie asked.

“He is more than just a big deal.” Chen Zhenxin heaved a sigh. “He is of similar age as Chen An, but he had already been promoted one rank higher than my son. Rumor had it that he will be promoted once again soon. He is very popular among the big wigs.”

Everyone was astonished by what they heard. Even Chen Huaian’s face showed a hint of surprise.

Chen An was one of the elites among people of his generation. However, Wei Zifang seemed to be even more capable than Chen An. There had to be more than what meets the eye about that young man.

One of Chen Fan’s uncles suddenly realized something, so he shouted: “His last name is Wei, could it be that this boy was from the Boss Wei’s family?”

“What Boss Wei?” Another uncle asked confusedly.

“He is my boss’s boss’s boss. The real boss!”

Everyone gasped.

“A child from the Wei family?” Fourth, Uncle lamented.

The Wei’s were a super-rich family and ranked in the top five wealthiest families in the province. Even the richest man in Jin City couldn’t compare with the Wei’s in terms of

financial power. It made so much more sense after knowing that Wei Zifang was the son of the Wei family's figurehead.

"That's right. The Zi Yun Club was owned by Wei Zifang's girlfriend. My brother joined the club and practiced horse riding in order to befriend Wei Zifang." Chen Ning said.

The adults in the room nodded in approval, and Chen Zhenxin looked to his son with a supportive and proud glance.

The so-called "Guanxi" was crucial to success in China. Even a man of mediocre talent could become powerful if he had strong connections with the right person.

To befriend a young and talented man such as Wei Zifang would be beneficial for the rest of Chen An's life.

"However, someone had ruined my brother's plan." Chen Ning said vehemently.

She looked to Chen Fan with an angry glare. "The girlfriend of Young Lord Wei asked Chen Fan how he won the race, Chen Fan acted like an arrogant fool and left with the question unanswered. Young Lord Wei looked pissed, and ever since then, he refused to speak a word to my brother."

"Xiao An, did Xiao Ning speak the truth?" Chen Zhenxin asked heavily.

"Yes." Chen An nodded as disappointment flickered in his eye. "Young Lord Wei's attitude toward me took a 180 turn after the conversation. I wagered that I might have done something wrong."

Despite him blaming himself, everyone knew the real reason for the change of Wei Zifang's attitude was Chen Fan's arrogance.

Chen Zhenxin's face turned black, and his wife was so angry that her hands started to tremble.

That was Wei Zifang! The most renowned and influential person in Hu Dong Province. Yet, because of Chen Fan, Chen An had missed the chance of forging a relationship with him.

Second Auntie gloated at their loss and nearly screamed: "Look at your son, look what has he done!

"Even though my son Xiao Xu spent a lot of time on useless things, he never got in the way of serious business such as this."

Chen Gexin's face was tight, and he remained silent. He knew the importance of befriending Wei Zifang to his son. He could be his son's benefactor, a protector that could safeguard him along with his career.

Wang Xiaoyun was the only person who remained calm. As a descendant of the Wang Family, she barely considered Wei Zifang a big deal.

"I have told you many times, only Xiao An, Xiao Ning, and Xiao Xu are good kids." Grandma suddenly put in. "Chen Fan, give the car keys back to your cousin, and apologize to Xiao An now!"

"Yes, apologize!" Second Auntie agreed.

"Xiao Fan, apologize now." Another uncle urged.

Seeing the demanding glares of all adults in the room, and the gloomy look on Great Uncle, no one stood up for Chen Fan this time.

Even Chen Huaian hesitated to intervene. In the end, he heaved a sigh of resignation and kept his silence.

"Xiao Fan, this is really your fault. My Lamborghini is nothing; you can have it if you want. But you might have just ruined our big cousin's future. A few million yuan and a car couldn't compare."

Chen Xu heaved a sigh and pretended to lament the loss of Chen An.

The adults looked at the young man; some were laughing at him; some were angry. Chen Gexin felt furious at his son and also disappointed. Even Wang Xiaoyun was not sure how to protect her son this time; after all, Chen Fan had made the mistake in the first place. An Ya stood closely with Chen Fan and looked at her little brother concernedly.

It was as if the entire family had turned on Chen Fan.

To everyone's surprise, Chen Fan lifted his chin and sneered at the people who demanded an apology.

"You want me to say sorry? What makes you think you deserve it?"

Chapter 133: Annual Family Clan Gathering

Chapter 133: Annual Family Clan Gathering

“What did you say?”

Chen Xu tightened face as he was shocked by Chen Fan’s sudden burst of anger.

The room became pin drop silent. The adults were rendered speechless by what they heard. They had been used to castigating their children for their mistakes and never once had their children talk back.

“Chen Fan, respect your elders!” Great Uncle Chen Zhenxin pulled a taut face and rebutted hotly.

“Great Uncle. You are my elder, and therefore, I respect you.” Chen Fan linked his hands behind his back and said with a smile.

“I am your nephew, and my father is your brother, so yes, theoretically you are my blood kin. But are you doing what blood kin are supposed to do? What if Wei Zifang wanted you to sever ties with me? Are you going to disown your nephew?”

Chen Fan’s remarks didn’t sit well with Chen Zhenxin, Great Uncle’s face crumpled right away. Chen Fan’s Great Auntie hurried to her husband’s aid.

“That’s not what we meant.”

“Well what do you mean?” Chen Fan snorted. “Wei Zifang could be the benefactor that you tried so hard to gain, but count me out of your shameful ingratiating act. Why should I apologize to you because I didn’t want to talk to him?”

“Can you please explain why?”

Hearing Chen Fan’s sharp words, Chen Ning and Chen An both were both speechless.

They had never thought that the usually meek Chen Fan had such courage to refute his elders in such a confrontational way.

Chen Ning felt anger and regret seething inside of him, she was angry at Chen Fan for disrespecting the elders and making things much more difficult than it should be; meanwhile, she regretted ever spilling the beans about what had happened at the horse riding club since it had led her parents to this embarrassing confrontation with Chen Fan.

There were many things that should remain unspoken, such as shamelessly seeking connections with the rich and the powerful at the expense of one’s relatives dignity.

“Good. Very good!” Great Uncle’s hands trembled in anger. He looked over Chen Fan and glared at his brother. “Brother, I never imagined that you would have such an uncouth and unruly son.”

Many elders of the family looked toward Chen Fan's father. They outright ignored the boy and only sought justice with the parents.

Chen Fan stood still; he was confident that his parents would be on his side.

His father was a man of virtue and hated the sycophants that cozied up to the rich and powerful for selfish needs. If he couldn't uphold his moral bearing, he would have become another lapdog of the Wang family.

Lo and behold, despite Chen Gexin's troubled look, he lowered his voice and defended his son. "Brother, I agree that Xiao Fan was disrespectful to the elders, but I also see his sense. Xiao An needs to focus on working hard and work his own way up to the top, instead of using connections and shortcuts. Even if he were able to befriend one or two influential people, their help could only go so far. "

"How dare you!"

Chen Zhenxin felt his heart was going to burst out of his chest.

What kind of relatives are they, no wonder they were still piss poor and looked down upon by the other family members.

"That's enough!" The old man slammed the table and growled: "We are all blood kin, are you waiting for outsiders to laugh at us?"

Seeing the dispute had riled up the old man, everyone became quiet.

Most of the third generation dared not even take a breath much less utter a word. Chen Fan, however, was the only young person who stood confidently with his chin up.

The old man gave Chen Fan a long glance and then said slowly: "Gexin was right. Although building a network of friends was important, improving personal skills and abilities should be the priority. The rich and powerful wouldn't need as much effort to make connections with others, wouldn't they?"

"That being said, the fault was on Xiao Fan as well. They are your elders, and you need to show respect."

"Yes, grandpa." Chen Fan bowed slightly.

Although he didn't fully agree with the old man, he respected him unconditionally.

The Great Uncle snorted and said nothing. He glared at Chen Fan's family with a great measure of displeasure.

After the gathering was over, Chen Fan and his family in an unprecedented moment were allowed to stay in the mansion for the night. The old man's overly lenient attitude toward his third son rubbed against the jealous grains of the other two sons.

"Humph! Who the hell does he think he is? "Second, Uncle cursed under his breath as soon as he was through the exit.

"Let it be. The gathering is near; we will kick back and watch as they make themselves into walking laughing stocks." Great Auntie said.

Hearing her words, everyone flashed a gloating smile on their face. The annual gathering would be the time that reality taught their young brother and his family a lesson.

Although Great Uncle didn't speak a word, the promise of seeing his younger brother's embarrassment brought a smile onto his face.

"My brother, you always insisted that the personal connection is not important. I can't wait to see how you will fare during this years family gathering."

The next day morning, Chen Fan went to the East Mountain park first thing in the morning.

Ever since he returned home, he found less and less time to spend on cultivation. Therefore, he decided to make time by waking up a bit earlier in the morning.

When he arrived at the park, there had already been many elderly people exercising and practicing Tai Qi.

He found an empty area and started to practice the fist forms. He curved both arms and rested them in front of him as if he was hugging a tree. His form was steady and unshakable like a pillar in the dragon temple that supported the sky. Then he started moving. His movement was smooth like silk and the connection between each move was seamless. The forms infused the energy about Chen Fan with a grand and nearly boundless quality.

"Xiao Fan, what are you practicing? Why have I never seen that before?"

An old man came over to Chen Fan and asked incredulously.

"Grandpa." Chen Fan paused and then gathered himself. "This is called True Martial Thirty-Six Forms. A grand master taught it to me. I can teach you if you'd like to learn."

"There is no need. I am in my seventies, so Tai Chi is good enough for me." Chen Huaian waved a hand and said: "Come walk with me, will you?"

The two of them walked along the lake shore.

Chen Huaian said heavily: "Xiao Fan, you know that although your uncle could have handled things better than he had, his intentions were good.

"Your father had been stubborn for his entire life and failed to understand the importance of blending in.

"In the Dream of the Red Mansion, there is a famous sentence; it goes like this: 'A grasp of mundane affairs is genuine knowledge; Understanding of worldly wisdom is true learning.' It is always righteous to uphold moral standards, But sometimes, it is wise to accept the ugliness of reality and learn to work around it."

The old man generously offered his life lesson to his grandson.

He had lived a rough and tumble life that eventually led him to Jin City. There he planted his roots and made a fortune for himself. His achievement should have been a good foundation for his sons to develop further. However, the fall out between Chan Fan's father with the Wang family had halted the growth of the family power. Even so, the old man never complained once to his youngest son.

"Both your Great and Second Uncles are of mediocre talents. Your father, on the other hand, was very talented but was as stubborn as an ass. Of all the third generation youngsters, only Chen An is capable of handling himself. However, he is too materialistic, and... selfish for lack of better words." Chen Huaian said as he heaved a sigh.

"After I leave the world, I bet the family will quickly crumble in their hands."

"Grandpa, you are going to live a long life. Don't say things like that." Chen Fan put in.

"Hehe, I know better than anyone about my health."

Chen Huaian shook his head and then turned over to Chen Fan.

"Xiao Fan, you are my favorite."

"You have what it takes to become a good leader; you just need good guidance. What you need is a big set back in your life. That should shake things up for you and force you out of your comfort zone, and release your potential."

Chen Fan was stunned by the old man's words. He had never thought that the old man had such high expectations of him.

"Even in my last life, my grandpa believed in me too. However, I was not able to pull myself together until I was 30 years old after having tasted riches, poverty, and

everything in between. After I embarked on the journey of cultivation, I worked day and night, hoping I could right the wrongs in my life.”

With that thought in mind, he said firmly: “Grandpa, be rest assured, I won’t let our family fall apart.”

“Good, very good!” Chen Huaian nodded pleasedly.

A final content satisfaction gleamed in the old man’s eyes.

The spring festival had been torture. Although everyone pretended to get along well, they could feel that Chen Fan’s family and the rest of the two families were drifting apart. No one came to hang out with Chen Fan, and even Chen Guoguo was grounded by her parents.

Chen Fan didn’t mind the others ignoring him. He spent most of his time with the old man, strolling in the park and exercising with him. It was fun to Chen Fan just the same.

Soon, the new year’s eve was over, and the entire Chen family clan was to gather at the old family estate in the countryside.

The annual gathering of the Chen Family clan was about to draw back its curtain.

Chapter 134: Start The Gathering

The Chen family estate is located at the outskirts of Jin City, and it was called the Chen’s Village.

Although it was labeled as a village, it had been modernized a long time ago. Nowadays every family lived in bungalows or two-story houses with beautiful lawns and white picket fences, making it look like a small community of the developed world. Most of the young people living in this village work at The Chens Group.

Every year after the Spring Festival, all branches of the Chen family would gather here to reflect on last year’s work and to plan next years tasks. Nonetheless, the gathering was also a cesspool for things from braggings to conceit and anything in between.

Inside the main courtyard, a table full of food was set up before the group arrived.

“Is that Chen Xiao?”

Chen Ning and Chen An had been the center of everyone’s attention until a ghostly looking young man walked into the courtyard, instantly stealing the attention of all the young men and women.

His appearance even caught the attention of many adults who sat inside the meeting hall.

“Chen Xiao of the Jin City! He was the most outstanding young member of the Chen family.”

Many people exclaimed at his arrival. Even Chen Fan started to furrow his brows in curiosity.

The Chen family is not an extremely prolific family in Jin City and it never produced anyone super-rich. However, Chen Xiao was the exception. He was born from an offshoot of the main branches of the Chen family, and therefore lacked the proper support of the clan. However, what he lacked in support, he made up for it in courageousness. In the end, his ability was noticed by the richest man in Jiang Nan province: Tang Yuanqin and the latter became his benefactor. From then on, the young man became one of the most influential people in Jin City.

He ran a construction company and owned over hundreds of millions of assets. Even Chen An paled in comparison with him.

Lo and behold, Chen Xiao walked past the teenagers, and into the meeting hall where the important members of the clans were at. He picked a seat that was closer to the head of the table than Chen An was and sat down.

Based on the Chen Family clan's rules, only the elder generations or those who had proved themselves worthy could have a seat in the main hall and could partake in the discussion with the grown-ups. To be able to attend the meeting in the main hall meant a coming of age to the young members of the Chen family.

Of all the members of the Chen family, only Chen Ning, Chen Ning, and Chen Xiao were able to sit inside the main hall before they reached thirty.

“Xiao Fan, if you would like to sit in those seats, you need to get into at least the Jin City University. Or, if your dad got promoted and secured a position in Jin City.”

Chen Xu noticed Chen Fan's long glance toward the meeting hall, so he said with a sneer.

“I can attend even the national congress meetings if I want, much less a family gathering. “Chen Fan said lightly.

“Humph. Keep bluffing. I can't wait to see you embarrass yourself in front of our guests. “Chen Xu shorted.

Hearing his words, An Ya felt concern rise in side of her.

The Chen family clan gathering was an important event for the family members to garner respect from fellow clansman. Therefore, many family members invited prestigious guests to attend the meeting, turning the event into a showdown of each family's social connections.

Over the past few years, the Old Man and Great Uncle Chen Zhenxin were able to bring in the largest number of reputable guests.

The old man started his career with nothing. Although he was retired, many of his former subordinates now sat on powerful positions. As for Chen Zhenxin, his high rank in the government meant many sycophants or lobbyists wanted to cozy up to him, and there was no better opportunity to do so than the family clan gathering.

Chen Fan's family was a completely different story. Chen Gexin worked at the bottom level of the government in a small county, and most of Wang Xiaoyun's connections were located in Yan Jin or Zhong Hai. Worse, none of her family members at Yan Jin would attend this gathering since her fallout with her family. Her company had just started up in Zhong Hai, and therefore she knew no one who would be willing to travel to Jin City for this event.

"That's enough."

Chen Ning said with furrowed brows.

Although she disliked Chen Fan, she and An Ya were tight friends, so much so that she even gave up her privilege of sitting in the main hall just to sit with An Ya.

"This is what you are counting on to embarrass me?" Chen Fan laughed. "Even if my family invited no one, so what? As long as I sit here, no guest would outshine my importance."

"You are so full of yourself!"

Chen Xu, along with many other third generation relatives, looked to Chen Fan as if he was a nut job.

If he were as rich and powerful as Chen Xiao, they might listen to Chen Xiao's claims and take it with a grain of salt. However, since he was no more important than a seventeen-year-old high school boy, they outright disregarded his words as nonsense.

"Hehe, very well. Let's wait and see."

Chen Xu sneered again.

Meanwhile, inside the main hall, many elders of the Chen family and the second generations were having a discussion.

The oldest man was Chen Fan's great-great uncle. He was in his nineties and sat at the head of the table; below him was Chen Huaian's grandpa and a few of Chen Huaian's brothers.

Further down the table were Chen Fan's uncles and his father.

Chen Zhenxin had put on his bureaucrat mask and listened aloofly to the discussions around him.

He knew that the Chen family relied on him, and if he were to be promoted to a higher position, the fame of the Chen Family clan would also reach new heights.

"Brother, I think everyone is here."

Chen Qianxin swept the sweat off his forehead and managed a smile.

Just a moment ago, he was embattled by castigations from other members of the Chen Family for his ill-management of the company. If not for the support of his elder brother, he would have lost his CEO position at The Chens Group a while ago.

"Almost." Chen Zhenxin nodded.

Chen Zhenxin glanced at his younger brother and his wife; as he expected, neither one of them looked very happy.

Every year around this time, while other families were busy greeting visitors who came to pay tribute, only a couple of visitors would even so much as to acknowledge the two. Chen Fan's parents were humans after all, and they were also bound by earthly sentiments such as vanity. Seeing they were practically ignored, disappointment and embarrassment started to creep onto their faces.

Suddenly, someone shouted from outside the courtyard.

"CEO of the Reed Construction Group, Mr. Li is here!"

A few men and women filed through the entrance, and the leader of the group was dressed in expensive business suits.

"I bet the seventh uncle invited him." Chen Fan murmured.

Lo and behold, the oldest son of the seventh uncle, stood up immediately and walked over to the businessman.

"Wow, Mr. Li, thank you so much for coming all the way!"

“It is my honor to be invited to your family gathering. Plus, I didn’t get a chance to wish you a happy new year before you left.”

“Thank you, thank you! Come on in.”

Chen Fan’s uncle smiled broadly as he led Mr. Li into the main hall. Most people inside the hall stood up at the sight of such prestigious guests, save for Chen Zhenxin and a few other leaders of the clan.

As soon as Mr. Li entered the hall, he saluted the family leaders and said: “Greetings Elder Chen, Big Brother Chen. My name is Li Youcai. On behalf of the Reed group, I wish you a happy new year.”

“Thank you, Mr. Li.”

Chen Zhenxin nodded aloofly. This multi-millionaire had barely caught his attention.

Mr. Li didn’t mind the cold tone of Chen Zhenxin. He plastered on a toady smile. It was a rare chance for him to meet someone as high up as Chen Zhenxin. Thanks to the invitation, he got the opportunity to rub shoulders with him.

Many other guests arrived soon after Mr. Li.

“Boss Zhang from Wu Zhou Minerals”

“Qian Fuhao from the Jin City, Dinhu District.”

“CEO Mr. Jiang of the Imperial Entertainment.”

“Boss Xu from Jiang Zhou City.”

Some guests were invited by Chen Fan’s second uncle; some were by Chen Xiao. However, the old man’s former subordinates and Chen Zhenxin’s coworkers make up the bulk of the guests.

The most prestigious guest was a billionaire from Hai Zhou. His arrival even caught the old man’s attention, and Chen Zhenxin walked to the entrance and received him personally.

The businessman’s last name was Yang. Although he was not a government official, he controlled most of the resources in his local city. His appearance had even taken Chen Zhenxin by surprise.

Guests kept on pouring in for the entire morning. Most families were surrounded by their guests.

Even some of the in-laws were accompanied by their guests; however, seats around Chen Fan's parents remained empty, making them feel increasingly self-conscious.

Wang Xiaoyun finally regretted. He wagered that he should have at least invited her business partners. Looking around them, not only they had turned into laughing stocks in the eyes of Chen Fan's Great Uncle and Second Uncle, but also that of other family members.

"What about now, Xiao Fan. Do you still think connections are overrated?"

Chen An walked over to Chen Fan and asked.

By then, most of the guests had arrived, and he figured that it was about time to teach Chen Fan a life lesson.

"didn't you hear him, brother An? Our cousin claimed that he is the most important person here, and could trump any guest you bring. I think he fancies himself to be the prince of the mighty Wang family." Chen Xu said sarcastically.

Chen Fan furrowed his brows; he hated people mentioning the Wang family in front of him.

Even as he was going to rebut, a voice came from the outside.

"CEO of the Yans Textile Group from Chu Zhou City, Boss Yan is here!"

Even as the announcer announced the name, he was taken aback by the appearance of anyone from the Chu Zhou City.

Chu Zhou City was located in Jiang Bei region; far away from Jin City. However, the guest's name was familiar to everyone in the main hall. Everyone had heard of the Yan Group; it was a multi-billion yuan company. However, no one knew who invited the owner?

"Maybe he is here for me."

Chen Fan's Second Uncle said as he hurried to the door.

Everyone watched as a chubby middle-aged man walked into the courtyard. His beady eyes scanned the courtyard left and right before he scurried toward Chen Fan's table while outright ignoring Chen Qianxin, who was coming at him.

"Master... Mr. Chen. I finally found you!"

To everyone's surprise, Chen Fan looked up at the chubby man and said with knotted brows: "You are... Xiao Yan?"

Chapter 135: One After Another

Chapter 135: One After Another

The guest was Boss Yan, who Chen Fan had encountered when he first met Third Lord Wei and Master Wu. Ever since Boss Yan witnessed the power of Chen Fan's lightning wielding ability, he was utterly enthralled by Chen Fan's power. He had helped Chen Fan a great deal by offering numerous precious materials while the latter constructed the Misty Mountain Array.

Boss Yan was called Yan Shigao. He often called himself Xiao Yan or Fatty Yan and refused to be called Boss Yan while he was in front of Chen Fan.

"Yes, it is me. Master... Mr. Chen." Boss Yan smiled unctuously turning his eyes into two slits.

"Why are you here?" Chen Fan asked curiously.

He was not surprised that Fatty Yan could have traced his footsteps to his family estate. The Chens were a reputable family in the Jin City, and therefore, as soon as he revealed his identity, anyone could have deduced that he was from the Chen family of the Jin City.

"I came here to wish you a happy new year." Boss Yan said with a smile.

Chen Fan's fame had surged in the Jiang Bei region. Since sales of the Yun Wu Spirit Water were solely under his direction, many people wanted to get on his good side. Fatty Yan was a smart man, and he had been planning this visit a while ago and wished to be the first person to show up to wish Chen Fan a happy new year.

By then, Second Uncle had finally reached Chen Fan's table. He shouted: "Boss Yan, Boss Yan! Wait for me."

When Second Uncle arrive at the table, he gave Chen Fan a disdainful look before he turned over to Yan Shigao and said: "Boss Yan, come with me to the main hall. These tables are for youngsters. You are our honored guest and deserve a better seat."

To his surprise, the previously amiable Fatty Yan straightened his back and put on his usual overbearing look. He gave Chen Qianxin a sidelong glance and grunted.

"Who the hell are you? Didn't you see that I am speaking with Mr. Chen?"

Second Uncle was taken by surprise by the reply. He paused a second and then said: "I am the CEO of The Chens Group. Didn't you come here to see me?"

"Humph!" Fatty Yan nodded haughtily without sparing Chen Qianxin a glance. He lowered his body and asked Chen Fan with a smile: "Mr. Chen, do you think I should pay tribute to your grandpa and father?"

"Yea, yea. Go now." Chen Fan waved a hand impatiently.

Fatty Yan spun around and scurried past Second Uncle toward the main hall.

Second Uncle was left dumbfounded. The corner of his eyes twitched in a fit of anger. The other youngsters at the table were also shocked by the development.

"That fat man is here for Chen Fan?" More than one people felt the rug was pulled from under them.

"The Yans Group was not any smaller than The Chens Group. Why was Boss Yan giving Chen Fan so much respect?" Chen Xu and Chen Ning asked the same question in their minds.

Chen An furrowed his brows and wagered that the guest had nothing to do with Wang Xiaoyun. After all, Jin Xiu Group was a real estate company, and the Yans Group was a textile firm, it was unlikely that the two would know each other.

By then, even the adults sitting in the main hall felt something was amiss.

"Did Boss Yan came here for Chen Fan?" An Auntie of Chen Fan asked curiously.

"Could it be one of the third brother's friends? He is from Chu Zhou City close to third brother." Fourth Uncle asked confusedly.

Everyone looked toward Chen Gexin in unison.

Chen Gexin was not any less confused than the others at the table. He was a middle-class man from a remote county, yet, Yan Shigao was a renowned billionaire in the big city. He knew of Yan Shigao since he had met him many times at public events, but he didn't think that Yan Shigao should have known him.

"If he really is Third Lord Chen's friend, we all had to reevaluate Third Lord Chen's resourcefulness. It might appear that he didn't waste his life in the small county after all."

Some people calculated in their mind.

The Yans Group were a reputable firm in the Chu Zhou City. There were less than three people at the table whose wealth had exceeded Yan Shigao. His name could be heard across the entire Hu Dong Province.

However, what happened next shocked everyone.

As soon as Boss Yan entered the main hall, he walked past Great Uncle and everyone else and straight to Chen Gexin. He bent double when he was close and bowed deeply.

“Mr. Chen and Mrs. Chen, I, Xiao Yan, wish you a happy new year.”

Everyone watched in surprise as a billionaire bowed to Chen Gexin and his wife as a child would to his elders.

The development caught Chen Fan’s parents off guard. Chen Gexin hurried to grab Boss Yan and helped him to stand up. “Boss Yan, you are a much more respectable gentleman than me. Oh, you.”

“No, no, no... Compared to you and Mrs Chen, I am nothing.” Yan Shigao shook his head vigorously.

He fished out a delicate gift box from his bag and handed it over to Wang Xiaoyun with both hands. He announced that it was a small new years gift for Mrs. Chen. Being put on the spot, Wang Xiaoyun had to accept the gift despite the confusion.

“Well, I have wished you a happy new year, and my business here is done. I shall not disturb your family reunion any longer and take my leave right now.”

Despite everyone at the table insisting Yan Shigao stay for the banquet, Yan Shigao left the room.

Even after Yan Shigao was gone, people were still dumbfounded by the sudden development. What was going on? They felt that Yan Shigao was not a powerful magnate at all; instead, he looked more like a contractor trying to build a client relationship.

Chen Fan nodded pleasedly.

He appreciated that Fatty Yan was smart enough to take his leave as soon as he dropped off the gift. It was just enough time to leave a good impression for Chen Fan’s parents without getting on Chen Fan’s nerves.

“Are you sure he really is that Boss Yan from Chu Zhou City? Why does he look like a hired actor?”

Second Auntie murmured to her husband.

Although she tried to speak quietly, everyone in the main hall heard her remark.

Chen Gexin pulled a taut face while Wang Xiaoyun snorted. "Gexin had worked near Chu Zhou City for two decades. It's impossible not to recognize him."

"What kind of boss acts like him? It seemed that he thinks Third Brother is the tycoon, not the other way around." Second Auntie refuted.

"That's enough." Chen Zhenxin announced somberly.

Even Great Uncle had many questions. Chen Gexin was the only person who had met Yan Shigao before, so he saw where the suspicion were coming from. However, even if the guest was a hired actor, it was not the right time to find out the truth.

"Xiaoyun, what did Boss Yan give you? Let's see." Fourth Auntie asked.

Everyone looked at Wang Xiaoyun expectantly.

Doubts suddenly sprouted in Wang Xiaoyun's mind. She had never met Yan Shigao either, but she believed her husband's judgment. However, what if Boss Yan was up to something else and gave a poor gift to make her a laughing stock?

"Indeed, Xiaoyun. He is a billionaire; we all want to see what kind of gift he could afford." Second Auntie chimed in.

Seeing the conversation had caught more and more people's interest, Wang Xiaoyun knew she had to oblige.

"Fine, so be it." Wang Xiaoyun gritted her teeth and opened the box.

Inside the delicate gift box was a pair of semi-transparent jadeite bracelets wrapped in gold foil.

The bracelets were green in color and were unmarred by imperfections. Wang Xiaoyun gently lifted the two bracelets and clanked them together, making them sing a musical note. She then raised the bracelet to look at them against the sunlight; it was perfect emerald green.

"These bracelets..."

Everyone at the table were upper-class elites and knew the ins and out of jewelry very well. Seeing the supreme quality of the bracelets, many gasped.

"It's a pair of authentic semi-transparent green jadeite bracelet of the highest grade. It's worth over ten millions at least." Boss Li from the Reed group exclaimed.

"More than that. It is devoid of any imperfections. I say it would cost at least twenty million." Another tycoon put in.

"Hold on. I remember now! This was the pair that got auctioned off at Christie's. a few weeks ago. It was called Spring in a Mansion." One of the guests who happened to be a jeweler exclaimed.

"This pair of Spring in a Mansion was in the display case of Lao Fengxiang Jewelers for centuries. It had fetched over fifty million HK yuan. Rumor had it that the buyer was a tycoon from Jiang Bei.

"The green of spring filled the mansion with crisp musical notes. That was the meaning behind its name."

"Spring in a Mansion!"

"Fifty Million HK yuan!"

"Tycoon from Jiang Bei!"

Surprise was written all over everyone's face. Who would have thought a small gift would be worth ten Ferraris. Such wealth, and such generosity!

By then, no one doubted that the guest really was Boss Yan since no one else could have afforded such a gift.

However, another question quickly rose inside of everyone's mind. Fifty million was not a small number, even for Yan Shigao. Why would he purchase such an expensive gift for Wang Xiaoyun?

Second Auntie and Fourth Auntie's eyes were green with envy.

Pretty Jewelries were the soft spot of every woman. Second Auntie unconsciously pulled her sleeve over her wrist to cover up her own bracelet that was worth only seventy thousand yuan.

"Gexin, we need to return it." Wang Xiaoyun turned to Chen Gexin and said.

Chen Gexin shook his head with an expression that read: "not now." Later, when the gathering was over, he would visit Boss Yan in person to find out why would he gave such an expensive gift.

Chen Gexin was also confused why Boss Yan didn't come to see him first; instead, he stopped by Chen Fan's table for a while. Could it be that he was here for Chen Fan?

The thought amused Chen Gexin. He shook his head and disregarded the possibility. He knew his son better than anyone else.

The rest of the guests all acted as everyone expected. Second Uncle heaved a sigh and was convinced that Boss Yan was a rare exception.

Sensing the flow of guests were about to stop, Chen Xu regained some confidence, and he said with a smug smile:

“Xiao Fan, not bad! Your family finally scored a guest. A huge improvement from last year.”

Everyone could tell the contempt in his words.

Chen An furrowed his brows. Although Boss Yan was the only one who came, he was more influential than most of the guests of other families.

“I might have underestimated my Uncle Gexin.”

Chen An thought to himself. Despite the appearance of Yan Shigao, Chen An was confident that he and his father's positions were unchallenged.

Even as he thought so, the doorman announced another guest.

“Zhen Jiulin, Owner of the Zhen De Group from Chu Zhou City, arrives!”

Chapter 136: Gathering of Tycoons

“Who is Boss Zhen?”

“The one who owns the Zhen De Group?”

“Zhen Jiulin of Chu Zhou City? Old Man Zhen! Why is he here?”

Before the youngsters outside the main hall realized what was going on, the adults sitting inside were agitated by the announcement. Compared to Yan Shigao whose influence only exerted out as far as the Chu Zhou City, Zhen Jiulin was a household name in the entire province. No doubt he was on the list of top fifty wealthiest men in the Hu Dong Province.

If not because of the Wan Rong Group who happened to reside in the same city, he might as well be the richest person in Chu Zhou City. No wonder his nickname was Half-City since he literally owned half of the city's properties.

Surrounded by his companions, Zhen Jiulin walked into the courtyard. The old man was wearing traditional Chinese dress and by the look of his silver hair, he ought to be in his seventies. However, he was as energetic as a young man.

“He is indeed Zhen Jiulin! I can’t remember anyone in our family having any connection with him.”

Chen An was surprised by the appearance of a tycoon from Jiang Bei in his family clan’s gathering.

Chen Ning felt a nagging suspicion that this old man came here for Chen Fan just as the other strange guest from Chu Zhou City.

“Old Man Zhen, welcome! What brings you here?”

Second Uncle hurried to greet the old man at the door.

No one who attended the gathering could rival the wealth and power of Zhen Jiulin, therefore, Fourth Uncle, Fourth Auntie, and many other guests trailed behind Second Uncle to meet the old man.

The only people who remained in their seats were Chen Zhenxin, Billionaire Yang, Chen Xiao and a few other elders of the family.

“Hello, Boss Chen.” Zhen Jiulin nodded.

Both Zhen Jiulin and Chen Qianxin managed large considerations in the province and therefore they had met each other during business conferences. However, unlike Second Uncle, Zhen Jiulin made his fortune from a humble beginning and eventually achieved greatness. He was much more respectable than Chen Qianxin, who simply inherited wealth from family.

“I am here to wish Mr. Chen a happy new year.” Zhen Jiulin said in a deep and earnest voice.

“Mr. Chen?” Chen Zhenxin was confused. “But which one? Are you talking about my brother Chen Zhenxin?”

In Chen Qianxin’s mind, Chen Huaian and Chen Zhenxin were the only two who command enough prestige to attract the attention of Old Man Zhen. However, Chen Huaian was already retired so it had to be Chen Zhenxin.

Inside the main hall, Chen Zhenxin started to get ready to meet the guest.

As he gathered himself, it occurred to him that the old man might have been here to give him a heads up about some of Zhen De Group’s project proposals. After all, at Chen Zhenxin’s level, it was not uncommon to have powerful men seeking a favor from him.

"It's true that our Big Brother is going to get promoted. Look! Even the billionaires from the Jiang Bei want to visit him." Fourth Auntie said jealously.

Hearing Fourth Auntie's words, Boss Yang congratulated Chen Zhenxin. "I have heard of Old Man Zhen's name and know he is a force to be reckoned with. He never easily visits anyone in person unless he believes it was worth his time."

"You think too highly of me." Chen Zhenxin said with a calm expression and a fake humbleness.

Meanwhile, a smug smile already bloomed on Great Auntie's face.

Wang Xiaoyun's eyes were filled with envy. She looked to her own husband and felt frustrated. Chen Gexin was a righteous man, but he was too stubborn upholding his values going against his own good. If he knew when to bend the knee, he would have already reached a much higher level in the government.

"Brother Chen An's family is going to take off!" Chen Xu exclaimed enviously.

Seeing someone who possessed much more respect than the Chen Family as a whole had come to visit Great Uncle, Chen Xu suddenly felt that gap between his family and that of Chen An was nearly unbridgeable.

Chen An said nothing, but the light in his eyes betrayed the rising pride in him.

However, Chen Ning felt increasing uneasy by the second.

"I recall that fatty Yan called Chen Fan , Mr. Chen as well."

She looked to Chen Fan and saw that the boy was sipping on a bowl of soup and wasn't paying any attention to what was going on around him.

"Could I be wrong?"

Even as Chen Ning lowered her guard ever so slightly, she watched as the old man shook his head and said:

"I am not here for your older brother. I am here for Mr. Chen Fan."

"Who? Chen Fan?"

Chen Qianxin's smile froze on his face and so did the others. Chen Xu gaped in surprise while Chen An dropped his chopsticks in shock.

Chen Ning bemoaned her premonition in her mind, she wished she had been wrong.

Many rich and powerful guests murmured to each other as they heard the old man's announcement.

"Who is Chen Fan? I have never heard of such a person in the Chen family."

"Could it be Old Man Chen's distant cousin? It make sense since Old Man Chen and Zhen Jiulin were of similar age."

A kid put in sheepishly: "Chen Fan is my third brother, he is in high school."

"Get out of here. Why would Zhen Jiulin the Half-city travel all the way from Chu Zhou City to Jin City just to wish a happy new year to a high school kid?" Many guests outright disregarded the kid's comment.

However, what they saw after made their jaw dropped.

They watched as Zhen Jiulin pushed people away as he made his way to Chen Fan's table. He then saluted respectfully and said: "Mr. Chen, Jiulin is here to wish you a happy new year."

Despite the silver in his hair, Zhen Jiulin talked to Chen Fan as a student would to his teacher.

"Oh, you made it."

Chen Fan nodded without any sense of surprise.

The moment he saw Yan Shigao, Chen Fan knew that the other tycoons wouldn't leave him alone today.

"I wager that I won't be able to hide my cover for too long." Chen Fan lamented in his mind.

However, he didn't mind his cover to be blown at this moment. His parents had suffered enough humiliation at the hands of their family, and it was about time to make them pay. Plus, what's the harm in revealing his real identity anyways. He was already planning to tell everything to grandpa since the old man's days seemed to be numbered.

"Grab a seat."

"Yes."

Zhen Jiulin sat down as he was told.

Chen Xu sprang out of his seat, to make room for the old man. All the while, his incredulous glare didn't leave Chen Fan for a second.

“What the heck is going on? Am I dreaming?”

The old man was supposed to be here to see Great Uncle, why is he talking only to Chen Fan?

Chen Qianxin was clueless of what’s happening as well. He asked incredulously: ‘Mr. Zhen, are you here for my... nephew?’

“Of course. Mr. Chen is venerated all over Jiang Bei. What’s wrong with paying him tribute during the spring festival?” Zhen Jiulin answered readily.

“Him? Mr. Chen? Venerated?”

Second Uncle looked to Chen Fan and tried as hard as he could to find anything extraordinary about this boy; he failed while conceding that the boy’s face was still as annoying to look at as it always had been.

He never believed that Chen Fan could achieve anything. He was not alone in his lack of confidence in Chen Fan; everyone in his family, save the old man felt the same as he did. They watched Chen Fan grow up and knew that Chen Fan was no more than a spoiled brat.

“Xiao Fan, what is going on?” An Ya was dumbfounded.

Although she was not familiar with Boss Yan who came earlier, Zhen Jiulin was a household name. An Ya had seen him many times on TV. Why would such an influential person have anything to do with her no account brother?

“Mr. Chen is my savior, my benefactor. I, Zhen Jiulin will forever remember his help.” Zhen Jiulin said somberly.

Zhen Jiulin’s remark answered less questions than it caused. What did he mean by savior? Chen Fan was just a high school student, how could he save a multi-billionaire?

Everyone was suddenly at a loss for words. Little did they know that ever since Zhen Jiulin witnessed Chen Fan’s Dharma Power, he was utterly enthralled by the young master. Later, Chen Fan gave him a Dharma Artifact and Spirit Water which greatly improved the old man’s deteriorating health. Ever since he started to use the Spirit Water, he felt as energetic as a youth. There was no gift more valuable than youth itself.

By then, everyone in the main hall looked back and forth between Chen Zhenxin and Chen Fan with muddled expressions on their faces.

Boss Yang wished he could take back his miss-placed congratulation, but he resorted to keeping quiet.

Chen Zhenxin managed to keep calm, however, the questions in his mind started to fester like a wound.

“How was the third brother’s family connected to Zhen Jiulin? By the look of it, Zhen Jiulin wasn’t even here for Chen Gexin, he was here for his son. This is outright madness. What would make a tycoon bow to a high school kid?”

Chen Gexin and Wang Xiaoyun’s hearts were also filled with surprise and questions.

Chen Fan was their son, and they knew better than anyone about his ability, yet, they were not any less clueless of what was going on than the others.

“Zhen Jiulin has gone crazy. Why would he pay so much attention to a high school kid instead of the leaders of the family?” Great Auntie announced indignantly.

She was not as patient as her husband, by then, her face was already flushed red with anger.

“Maybe he really is here just for Xiao Fan.” Grandpa said slowly.

Chen Huaian always had a nagging feeling that his grandson’s seemingly outrageous claims were not entirely unfounded. He wagered that today would be the moment of truth.

“He is here for Chen Fan? For that little shit? ” Great Auntie guffawed.

She was not alone in his disbelief, since even Chen Fan’s parents found it hard to grapple with reality.

However, before Great Auntie could say any more, the door man’s announcement drifted in again.

“Boss of the Chu Zhou City Tian Hao Entertainment, Zhou Tianhao arrives.”

“CEO of Hua Sheng Realestate from Qin Shui city, Liu Guodong arrives.”

“Yuan Gang Group from the Tian He City, Han Tianshen arrives.”

“Owner of the Dong Wan Group of the Hai Zhou City, Xu Ao arrives!”

The crowd boiled over after hearing the names of the last guest, Boss Yang sprang out of his seat and shouted: “Why did Xu Ao come here?”

Chapter 137: Half Of Jiang Bei’s Wealth

Chapter 137: Half Of Jiang Bei's Wealth

Xu Ao of Hai Dong! That was such a powerful name!

Before the rise of Master Chen, he was the head of all tycoons in Jiang Bei. Even without his strong backing from his in-law, his power could have rivaled Tang Yuanqin at the other side of the province.

Even a billionaire such as Boss Yang dared not to compare himself with such a mighty figure.

People in the courtyard as well as in the main hall boiled over once they heard Xu Ao's name. Even Chen Zhenxin was taken by surprise and hurried to the door. By then, only Grandpa and Great-Great Uncles still remained in their chairs, everyone else stood up to welcome Xu Ao.

"Xu Ao?"

Chen Xiao's eyes lit up and the smug smile on his face evaporated. He worked for Tang Yuanqin and therefore knew his boss's rival, Xu Ao, very well.

In a few seconds, a large group of people strode through the entrance to the courtyard.

All of them carried overbearing demeanors; one would only need to look into their eyes to see the shadows of their illustrative achievements. The leader of the pack was a scholarly looking middle-aged man. Without knowing who he was, people might as well have mistaken him as a professor.

"That really is Xu Ao!"

Boss Yang could no longer remain in his chair, so he hurried to greet the visitor.

"Brother Xu, why are you here?"

Boss Yang beamed from side to side.

"It's new year, I am here to pay tribute to Mr. Chen and wish him a happy new year." Xu Ao said readily.

Having heard the word Mr Chen for the third time, everyone knew right away that he was here for Chen Fan instead of Chen Zhenxin. So people looked to Chen Fan with great interest.

Chen An was so shocked by the development that he spilled half of the drink in his cup. Chen Xu on the other hand was stunned again. His ego was dealt such a heavy blow that he felt the sky had fallen onto his head.

Chen Ning was rendered speechless.

Yan Shigao, Zhen Jiulin, Xu Ao...

So many multi-billionaires came to visit Chen Fan. Why? Was Chen Fan really the cousin she used to know?

She watched as Xu Ao saluted to Chen Fan and then walked into the main hall.

"Great Lord Chen, Lord Chen and Boss Chen."

Xu Ao greeted all the important people in the room. As the top dog of the entire region, he carried himself with great measure of confidence and assuredness. Even Chen Zhenxin with his bureaucratic demeanor seemed to command less authority than him.

"You are welcome, Boss Xu. You came all the way from Hai Zhou and we feel terrible for not rolling out the red carpet for you ahead of time."

In the end, Chen Huaian managed to break the silence and replied with an even tone.

"Haha. It's Mr. Chen's family gathering, of course I had to come and pay tribute." Xu Ao laughed out loud and then turned toward Chen Gexin and Wang Xiaoyun. He bowed deeply.

"Mr. and Mrs Chen. I wish you a happy new year."

"Long live the Chens!"

The group of tycoons that accompanied Xu Ao bowed toward the Chen Family and announced in unison like a group of disciplined trade members

They possessed such overwhelming and over the top manner that they outright scared many people in the mansion. A pin drop silence fell over the entire estate as no one dared to speak a word. Since the Jin City was not part of Jiang Bei region, not a lot of people in the estate knew Zhou Tianhao or Baldy Liu. However, their greasy pudgy faces and dangerous looking beady eyes were tell tale signs of their dominating positions in Jaing Bei.

Chen Zhenxin managed to appear calm on the surface, however, veins popped on the back of his hand as he clutched the armrest even tighter to overcome the strong emotions.

Xu Ao only greeted him with a perfunctory wave, however, he bowed deeply and wholeheartedly at Chen Fan's parents as if he was their child. The differential treatment was too conspicuous

Standing before the renowned successful businessman, Chen Fan's parents hurried to stand up from their chairs. Wang Xiaoyun urged: "Boss Xu, there is no need for such unduly respect. We have only met after all."

"Haha. Mrs Chen, don't be a stranger. We might have just met you, but everyone in Jiang Bei knows and respects your strapping son." Xu Ao cracked a smile and then shook his head.

"Chen Fan?"

Everyone was stunned.

Although everyone had expected it from him, they still couldn't believe what they heard as the words tumbled out from Xu Ao's mouth.

Chen Fan was just an ordinary teenager. How was he able to spur so many rich and powerful men from Jiang Bei to pay tribute to him?

"Are you sure you have the right person? Chen Fan is a delinquent teen brat..." Chen Fan's Second Auntie uttered without much thought.

"Lady, be careful now." Xu Ao's face hardened.

Baldy Liu who stood behind him said threateningly: "If you try to throw that out there while you are in Jiang Bei, you would definitely get hurt."

Although no one knew who Baldy Liu was, his menacing face screamed loudly of his illicit methods. Second Auntie had never experienced such vile threats before and she quietly lowered her head.

"Boss Xu, tell your subordinates to stop scaring my wife."

"Mr. Chen was venerated by everyone in Jiang Bei. Those who disrespected him were disrespecting me." Xu Ao said haughtily, not giving in.

No one in their right mind would dare to openly disrespect Xu Ao. However powerful the Chen Family was, its power was a far cry compared to Xu Ao, much less the combined might of all the top dogs that accompanied him.

"Uncle Chen, Auntie Wang, I wish you both a happy new year."

A young girl wearing white parka and a wool toque emerged from behind Xu Ao. She was tall and attractive, the smile on her face made her look prettier than ever.

"I wish you two one great year, that you be forever together as two, a happy family of three, a joyous four seasons, the showering of the five blessings, to hit on all six, to be

in seventh heaven, to have fortune bestowed onto you by the eight ball, to always be on cloud nine, and to always be a perfect ten.”

The girl’s musical voice echoed in the hall and her cute and innocent eyes instantly grew on Wang Xiaoyun.

Wang Xiaoyun came over to her and held her hand.

“Hello, Miss, what is your name? Do I know you?”

“My name is Xu Rongfei and Xu Ao is my father.” Xu Rongfei blushed. “Chen Fan and I are classmates. ”

“Auntie Wang, this is a gift I bought for you using my allowance. Please accept it.” Xu Rongfei produced a small gift box from her purse.

Wang Xiaoyun accepted the gift and opened the box under the girl’s expectant gaze.

In the box was an exquisitely made watch from Chanel. Wang Xiaoyun knew that this watch would cost at least a few hundred thousand. Wang Xiaoyun gave Xu Rongfei a knowing glance and accepted the gift with a smile.

Seeing this subtle exchange, some guests in the main hall had finally got a handle on the situation.

“Chen Fan is dating Xu Ao’s daughter!”

“It makes so much more sense now. No wonder Yan Shigao and Zhen Jiulin would come here to visit him. They are here because of Chen Fan’s connection with Xu Ao.”

“Hey, do you think Xu Ao is here to arrange a marriage for her daughter. ”

Someone said with a snicker.

Although Chen Fan and Xu Rongfei were only seventeen, it was not uncommon to see young men and women getting engaged at this age. Some families arranged a marriage for their children as early as grade ten.

Everyone from the Chen family looked to Chen Gexin and his wife.

Chen Gexin’s face looked troubled. He was a man of conservative values, and never had he thought that his son would start dating while in high school. On the other hand, Wang Xiaoyun wore a pleasant smile. She was happy for her son to have found such an attractive girlfriend.

Great Auntie and Second Auntie’s eyes were filled with envy.

Why Chen Fan? What was so good about Chen Fan that such an attractive girl from powerful family would fall for him?

Grandpa and Chen Zhenxin's minds were still filled with unanswered questions. Even if Chen Fan was indeed dating Xu Ao's daughter, that wouldn't explain Xu Ao and the other magnates' seemingly unduly respect toward Chen Fan.

"Plus, he said Chen Fan was venerated across Jiang Bei. What does that mean?"

Chen Zhenxin mulled over the questions but failed to find an answer.

What was so special about his nephew? Why could he have earned the absolute respect of Xu Ao?

However, his thought was quickly disrupted by more and more commotion outside of the courtyard.

"Kai Long's Boss Hu arrives, Wan Xiang's Boss Ru arrives, Qin Bei's Boss Zhang..."

As more and more tycoons of the Jiang Bei region filed in, people noticed that none of them owned less than a hundred million yuan. Among them were three CEOs of public firms, and two of the richest men in the city.

They did the exact same thing as soon as they showed up: they walked over to Chen Fan and bowed, and then proceed to the main hall and greeted Chen Gexin and Wang Xiaoyun.

In less than ten minutes, over half of the tycoons in the entire Jiang Bei region showed up in the Chen Family estate.

Everyone's eyes were on the boy who sat in the courtyard with a great measure of levity. Many gazes were filled with complicated feelings: shock, doubt, envy, disbelief and anger. However, Chen Fan didn't care to pay attention to anyone's feelings.

He sat steadily in his chair like he always had, and wore a calm and placid expression. It was as if the arrival of these powerful magnates didn't perturb him the slightest.

Chen Xu studied his cousin, and felt Chen Fan looked the same yet very unfamiliar.

Suddenly, he realized what Chen Fan meant by "the most important person in the gathering."

Chen An lowered his head and sipped a cup of tea. As he tried to steady his trembling hand, he bemoaned in his mind: "What ever! Regardless of how many rich men you could invite, you are still nothing but a high school kid; and your father is still useless."

“This is the Chen Family, and our family name was built on hard earned respect and influence. Money and external help can only go so far. I am still the most capable one out of all of us, and my father and I are the only hope of the Chen Family.”

Resolution flickered in his eyes as he thought.

Chapter 138: So Many Luxury Cars!

Chen Zhenxin sat in the middle of the main hall; although the situation was on the brink of spiraling out of control more than a few times, he was able to hold back his urge to get involved each time that happened.

He simply didn't want to acknowledge his nephew's newly revealed power. He still remembered Chen Fan's disdainful expression when he said that he denounced his request for an apology.

“I am an elder of the family, the backbone of the Chen Family of the Jin City. I will not be bested by a high school student.”

With that thought in mind, he refrained from standing up to receive any of the prestigious guests from Jiang Bei, instead, he simply nodded at them to acknowledge their attendance.

“Boss Lu from Wan Xiang Group. Boss Zhang from Jiu Din Group, Xu Ao from Dong Wan Group...”

These three were CEOs of public firms. There were only over a few dozen public firms in the entire Hu Dong Province.

Luckily for Chen Zhenxin, they were in the Jin City, the provincial capital where Chen Zhenxin's influence ran deep and far. Therefore, his home advantage had lent him the courage to sit still in his chair and didn't have to be alerted by the appearance of multiple tycoons.

“Ah! Boss Zhang, nice to see you here!”

“Nice to meet you Boss Xu!”

“Please, here, grab a seat Boss Lu.”

Chen Zhenxin was an influential figure in his home province and therefore he could afford to be aloof before Jiang Bei's magnates, the same could not be said about his younger brother. Chen Zhenxin moved about from the courtyard to the main hall to receive the guests. Every guest managed a company that was no smaller than The

Chens Group, if not bigger. A lot of them ranked much higher in the top manager list of the Hu Dong Province's business guild.

If he left them with a bad impression, he would never be able to survive in the field of business.

That being said, he also had helpers. Fourth Uncle, Fourth Auntie, and the in-laws all plastered on welcoming smiles and greeted the guests with him.

However, these tycoons barely spared them a glance. Once they were through the entrance, their routine was the same: they would bow to Chen Fan, and then to Chen Gexin and Wang Xiaoyun to offer their gifts. These multi-billionaire's gifts were also getting increasingly more expensive.

Vacheron Constantin's watch; Bugatti Veyron; a mansion by the creek that ran through Jin City, an estate in a foreign country, they just kept pouring in.

By then, Chen Gexin was dumbfounded and so was Wang Xiaoyun. They simply stood there speechless and dared not to accept any of these outrageously expensive gifts.

Xu Rongfei stood beside Wang Xiuaoyun and helped the couple deal with the tycoons as a daughter-in-law would. She accepted each and every gift from the tycoons and gave them a sweet smile. Most people who came to pay tribute to Chen Fan knew that she was Xu Ao's daughter, and some were even aware of the intimate relationship between her and Chen Fan.

"Xiao Fei, why do you accept these gifts? It's too much. I will have to return them back anyways."

Even though Wang Xiaoyun was from a prominent family and a self-made multi-millionaire, she was scared by the amount of wealth offered freely to her.

The combined worth of these gifts was in the hundreds of millions, enough to create another Jin Xiu Group.

"That's alright, auntie. These gifts were their appreciation for Brother Chen Fan. Don't worry, go ahead and take them." Xu Rongfei said cheerfully.

"Xiao Fei, can you please tell me the truth? What happened to Chen Fan?" Wang Xiaoyun seized a break in the flow of guests and asked while holding Xu Rongfei's arm.

She was concerned that if Chen Fan had misused her less-than-amicable relationship with the Wang Family.

The Wang family of Yan Jin was one of the top families in China. If Chen Fan so much as hinted his connection with the Wang family, all the rich men and women would flock

to him to pay tribute. However, neither Wang Xiaoyun nor Chen Gexin wanted anything to do with the Wang family, otherwise, they would have stayed in Yan Jin and became an elite.

“Um.. My dad forbids me to say anything about it.” Xu Rongfei stuck the tip of her tongue out and said sheepishly.

“Auntie Wang, I can only tell you that Brother Chen Fan is super bad-ass. He is the most powerful man in Jiang Bei, not even Sheng Ronghua, the richest man of Jiang Bei could rival his position.”

“Sheng Ronghua?” Wang Xiaoyun gasped.

Sheng Ronghua was a household name in the Hu Dong province. He used to be number thirty on the Hurun Wealth List. His real estate company, the Wan Rong Real estate even had a branch in Zhong Hai and was Wang Xiaoyun’s main competitor. Having dealt with Sheng Ronghua for many years, Wang Xiaoyun knew his methods and clout every well.

Her company was nothing but child’s play before the mighty Wan Rong Group.

However, never had she thought that her son would have already surpassed the main competitor that she had tried so hard to catch up with and failed.

“That’s impossible! Xiao Fan is not even eighteen, he is a high school student!”

Wang Xiaoyun could not wrap her mind around the situation.

However powerful Chen Fan was, even if he was a genius, a prodigy, he would not be able to make a few billion dollars in less than half a year. She had never heard of any unimaginable feat such as what her son had pulled off.

“Could it be that he opened an IT firm?”

Nearly all the startup unicorns that could earn over a billion dollar revenue in less than half a year were IT-related firms.

“No, Chen Fan is much smarter than those nerds.” Xu Rongfei covered her mouth and giggled.

She remembered that when her father said that Master Chen had turned ordinary water into a billion dollar industry, she was shocked. She worked so hard at the production sets for an entire year and was only getting paid a million yuan. She had spent all that money on the Channel watch she gave to Wang Xiaoyun.

Chen Fan could just sit home, kick back and wait for billions of yuan fell onto his lap. That was unheard of and amazing!

Quickly, Wang Xiaoyun's doubt turned into shock and surprise.

At the entrance of the Chens Village, on a tall hill...

An old man sat on a rock and was surrounded by many kids.

This old man's skin was wizened and weather-beaten. He was wearing an old army uniform and was drawing smoke from a tobacco pipe.

The kids around him know him as Old Bone Chen. Rumors had it that he used to work in the city and eventually became the chauffeur for a powerful man. However, due to one reason or the other, Old Bone Chen returned home and worked at The Chens Group as Chen Huaian's chauffeur.

When the old man retired and came back to his family village, so too did Old Bone Chen.

Old Bone Chen's children were all working in the city and spent little time with him. Therefore, he mostly hung out with the kids of the village.

Everyone knew that Old Bone Chen had a brilliant party trick. He remembered all the tycoons and their rides by rote. One only needed to tell him the car and the license plate, Old Bone Chen could fill out the rest of the information about the owner: name, age, wealth and status.

Old Bone Chen's trick worked every time and was fun for the kids. Therefore, during the Chen family's annual gathering, a group of kids would carry him to the top of the hill and ask him to perform his trick by looking down at the vehicles parked in the parking lot.

"Those days, I drove for the richest man in the city. It was good times. Most businessmen didn't dare to ignore me when they saw me."

Old Bone Chen bragged about his past wistfully.

"You are bragging again, Old Bone Chen. The richest man in the city had at least a few billion yuan of wealth. If you drove for him, how could you be so poor?"

A bypasser jested.

Old Bone Chen stuck his neck out and murmured indignantly: "You don't know anything! I ... I got into trouble, and therefore had to quit."

Such conversations happened almost every day, and if anyone pressed him about what kind of trouble he was in, Old Bone Chen would usually become quiet all the sudden.

“Looks like the Chen family is doing better every year!”

“Just look at that! Their cars are becoming better and more expensive each year. Two years ago, everyone was driving Audis if not a Volkswagen Passat, now there are Mercedes, BMW, Cadillac, and even Lincoln.”

Old Bone Chen exclaimed.

“Old Bone Chen, look there, the logo is two letter R’s and the plate reads J88888. What car is that?”

A kid shouted at the old man.

“That’s Rolls-Royce. It costs five million each. The Rolls-Royce company makes plane engines and so making a car is a walk in the park.”

Old Bone Chen drew some smoke from the pipe and murmured: “Interesting... Why are there so many powerful tycoons from Jiang Bei this year?”

“Maybe Lord Chen is going to get promoted and therefore even the businessmen from Jiang Bei would have to come and pay tribute?”

Old Bone Chen mulled over the question.

Suddenly, a kid shouted at him.

“Old Bone Chen, there is an old and beat up looking Audi A6. Must be a less important person, lame.”

“But why is the license plate 00001? There is a parking pass on the dashboard as well. Old Bone Chen, Who is that?”

Old Bone Chen didn’t reply, so the kid turned around to look at his wizened face.

Old Bone Chen was frozen in place. He moved the pipe away from his lips and murmured: “Audi A6, 00001, parking pass... That’s Wei Fu’s car!”

Chapter 139: Elderly Man Wei Arrives

“Chen Fan, who the hell are you?”

Chen Ning could no longer hold back the frustration and finally uttered the question that had been festering inside of her.

As one of the most outstanding members of the Chen Family, pride would not allow her to let others threaten her position.

She had always been the straight-A student and attended the best schools from primary school to University. She was admitted into the HF's business school program and once she graduated, she would be highly sought after by Wall Street companies. It would be easy for her to make a seven-figure income a year.

What really made her stand out was her exceptional beauty. As a talented and beautiful girl with a solid family background, she was the dream girl of many rich young men from Jin City all the way to Wu Zhou.

There was no doubt that she would be praised as a goddess in the future.

However, then and there, Chen Ning felt she was a nobody before Chen Fan. It occurred to her that the only thing that supported her remaining confidence was her better academic achievements.

"Mr. Chen, I am Xiao Dong."

"Mr. Chen, I am Old Wu from Hai Zhou."

"Nice to see you again, Mr. Chen. "

Chen Xu watched as tycoons whom his father had to plaster on the ingratiating smile for, spoke to Chen Fan with the uttermost respect and admiration. Chen Xu found it harder to maintain the smile on his face by the second.

"Why? He was just a useless highschool kid. Why are you guys bending over backwards for him?"

"Was it because of the Wang family?"

Among those who knew Chen Fan's family background, many thought the same thing.

Great Auntie and Second Auntie murmured to themselves: "That's shameful! You claimed that you won't live at the mercy of the Wang family, yet your son used the Wang family name to attract attention all the same."

"If the Wang family figures it out, I wager you that your name will be outright eliminated from the family tree."

Chen Gexin stood quietly and he could hear all those humiliating comments. His face turned bleak.

Meanwhile, after having received Xu Rongfei's reassurance, Wang Xiaoyun gained more confidence in her son.

"But what could Xiao Fan have done to attract the attention of Xu Ao?"

"Brother Huaian! Your grandson is quite a successful young lad!" Chen Fan's Seventh Great Uncle exclaimed.

"I had no clue about this. Why is he so popular among magnates from Jiang Bei?" Chen Huaian said confusedly, however, his voice was laced with joy and pride.

"Great uncle, what could these tycoons do for the Chen Family anyways? Uncle Zhengxin is still our backbone as long as we live in Jin City. "

Chen Xiao said lightly with a menacing look on his face.

"True that! Zhenxin is the backbone of our family." Seventh Great Uncle nodded. "And his little boy too, Chen An! He is the hope of our family. I bet that he is going to outdo even his father and grandfather."

Hearing Seventh Great Uncle's words, the old man remained silent.

Chen Zhenxin took his father's reticence as acquiescence, which made his overwrought face soften a little.

The Seventh Great Uncle was right. He alone carried the weight of the Chen Family of the Jin City. As long as he remained in his position, the Chen family could weather any kind of storm. Even if The Chen Group went bankrupt, the Chen family would quickly rebuild its wealth under his protection.

"Chen Fan, I don't know what you have done, neither do I understand your popularity among the tycoons.

"However, you have to understand this: the fortunes of a family clan always depend on personal prowess. However many connections you have, without personal capability, you are still useless to the clan.

"At the end of the day, you and your father both made the same mistake: being weak."

With that thought in mind, Chen Zhenxin shook his head and regained his confidence. The aloof bureaucratic look returned to his face.

“Bring Xiao Fan to me. I have questions for him about these guests.” Chen Zhenxin sat steadily in his chair and ordered.

“Yes.” Husband of one of Chen Fan’s aunts, i.e. Chen Fan’s Gufu replied readily and hurried to fetch Chen Fan.

Chen Zhenxin was not the only one who had questions, as the minds of nearly everyone in the main hall were filled with them.

“Hey Chen Fan, your Great Uncle wants to talk to you.” Gufu walked over to Chen Fan and commanded.

Zhen Jiulin and the other tycoons who sat beside Chen Fan furrowed their brows after hearing the condescending tone. Who did he think he was and how dare he speak to Master Chen so disrespectfully?

Chen Fan sat still, he rubbed one finger over the rim of the teacup and said calmly: “Ask him to come to see me if he wishes to speak.”

“How dare you? He is your elder!” Gufu was a direct and simple man.

He rounded his eyes in anger and thought that his nephew would succumb to his rage.

“Hehe.” Chen Fan kept quiet.

“You are such a rebellious little shit!” A fit of anger shot through Gufu’s body. Chen Zhenxin was his main benefactor in his career and he could not stand seeing a boy talk so disrespectfully about Chen Zhenxin.

Gufu shot an arm out and was about to yank Chen Fan out of his chair.

Chen Fan narrowed his eyes as a cold and deadly light glinted in them.

Chen An interrupted before things got out of control. “Gufu, we are all one family. Let’s talk it through.”

Hearing Chen An speak, Gufu pulled his arm back. However, animosity burned belligerently inside his eyes as he gazed at Chen Fan.

“Chen Fan, my father is your elder and the main breadwinner of the family. If he wants to talk to you, you should go to him.” Chen An spoke firmly.

“If you are really capable and can support the family better than my father could, then yes, he would come out and see you.

“However, you are just a high school student, what makes you think that my dad would have to come to you instead?”

Hearing Chen An’s words, Chen Xu slapped his thigh and put in coldly: “Exactly! Chen Fan, why don’t you tell us what you are really capable of in front of all these tycoons you have invited.”

“I would love to hear—”

Before Chen Xu could finish, a wave of commotion drifted into the courtyard from outside.

A boy shoved his way through the crowd and announced: “The Elderly Man Wei! Elderly Man Wei is here!”

“What?”

“I have never heard of that name in Hu Dong Province, who is that?”

Many guests asked each other in confusion.

Zhen Jiulin and his companions looked to each other knowingly. Their eyes were filled with surprise and shock.

“Could it be THAT Elderly Man Wei?”

“He is called Wei Fu.”

The boy announced.

“Wei Fu? The Wei Family of the North Bank?”

After a few moments of surprised silence, the crowd boiled over.

“Elderly Man Wei is here?”

“Elderly Man Wei is here!”

The guests and hosts alike murmured to each other expectantly. The Elderly Man Wei was a legend in Hu Dong Province. Not only was he himself one of the last surviving tycoons of the past generation, but his sons and daughters were also exceptionally capable.

The guests in the main hall were taken aback by the news at first, but quickly, one after another, they stood up to receive the honorable guest. Even grandpa felt the urge to stand up.

“Elderly Man Wei.. why is he here?”

Chen Zhenxin asked himself incredulously.

Chen Fan's Gufu nearly jumped up after hearing the announcement. The Elderly Man Wei was the father of his boss's boss's boss's boss's boss. One good or bad word from Elderly Man Wei could have determined the rest of his life.

“Quick! Zhenxin! Greet Mr. Wei!”

Chen Huaian urged.

“Yes, father.”

Chen Gexin could no longer hold on to his mask, and scurried out of the main hall toward the entrance, many of his family members trailed behind, including Chen Gexin and Wang Xiaoyun.

“That's Elderly Man Wei from the Wei family? What an honorable guest! I never thought I would live to see him in person! ”

Third Great Uncle exclaimed.

“I wager he is here to see Huaian.”

Seventh Great Uncle looked toward Chen Huaian enviously.

He was the most reputable member of the family, and therefore, the Elderly Man Wei could come here only for him.

The new development had made everyone quickly forget about Chen Fan and his guests. A boy and his business companions could not compare with the mighty Elderly Man Wei. The lord of the Wei family and the father of the powerful Wei Changsong.

“I doubt he is here for me.”

Chen Huaian said with furrowed brows.

He never met Elderly Man Wei before, and even during the peak of his career, Elderly Man Wei was at least a couple ranks higher than him. Why would such a powerful figure visit him when he was already retired.

“Could it be Chen Fan again?”

Chen Huaian felt a nagging suspicious rise in his mind.

By then, Chen Zhenxin had reached the entrance. He watched as a stately looking old man walked into the Chen family's courtyard while accompanied by an attractive young couple.

"Young Lord Wei, Lady Wei!"

Chen An stood up and exclaimed.

The pair of teenagers were Wei Ziqin and Wei Zifang he met at the Zi Yun Club.

"That is Elderly Man Wei! No doubt about it! I have seen his pictures."

"The young man next to him must be Wei Zifang! His father is unimaginably powerful, so I have heard."

"Impressive, IMPRESSIVE! The entire family was a breeding ground for successful figures. No wonder the Wei Family of the North Bank was so famous."

People murmured to each other, their eyes were filled with envy and marvel.

"Welcome, Lord Wei! If we knew you were coming, we would have rolled out the red carpet for you."

Chen Zhenxin plastered on a humble smile and said.

Wei Fu linked his hands behind his back and didn't even spare him a glance. The old man scanned the courtyard and his gaze finally rested at a table.

Under many surprised eyes, he walked over to Chen Fan and saluted. "Mr. Chen. I am here to apologize to you in person."

"Uncle Chen!"

Chen An could not believe his eyes nor his ears. He watched as the cold and distant Young Lord Wei took a knee before Chen Fan and called Chen Fan in a low and obedient voice.

The room suddenly became pin-drop quiet.

Everyone's gaze was on the boy who lolled in his chair with a great measure of levity. Great Uncle was frozen in place, turning into a statue.

Second Auntie rounded her eyes, shock and disbelief were written all over her face.

Chen An's teacup slipped out of his hand and shattered on the ground. However, the boy didn't seem to have noticed it at all.

Gufu was so fear stricken, that he collapsed to the ground, unable to get up.

Chen Gexin and Wang Xiaoyun were also dumbfounded by development. Their eyes were filled with disbelief.

Chen Ning slowly shut her eyes and finally conceded her misjudgment of Chen Fan. The former little-shit had turned out to be unimaginably powerful.

“Is this your true colors, Chen Fan?”

Everyone waited for Chen Fan’s reply for a few cautious moments. To most people, it was the longest few moments in their lives.

Chen Fan put down the cup and nodded and said: “Thank you, Mr. Wei. No harm is done.”

Under everyone’s astonished watch, the legendary Elderly Man Wei heaved a sigh of relief and straightened his back. He knew that Chen Fan had forgiven the Wei family, and was willing to restart a relationship with them.

“Changgen, this is the most dad can do for you.”

Elderly Man Wei lamented in his mind.

Chapter 140: The Real Top Dogs

“Lord Wei, what’s the meaning of this?”

Chen Zhenxin managed to ask.

Lord Wei didn’t pay any attention to him, instead, he looked to Chen Gexin and his wife knowingly. Then he exclaimed: “You two have such an outstanding son! In time, he will achieve unprecedented greatness.”

When Zhen Jiulin and Xu Ao told him the same thing, Chen Gexin didn’t take their words seriously.

However, after they heard them again from Elderly Man Wei, they had to come to terms with reality.

“Did my son really achieve some great deeds unbeknownst to me? So much so that even the Elderly Man Wei thought he was praiseworthy?”

Chen Gexin finally conceded that he had to re-evaluate his son. It occurred to him that his son had suddenly risen to power in these short six months.

“Lord Wei, why didn’t you tell us that you would be here?”

Chen Huaian walked over to Elderly Man Wei and asked with a welcoming smile.

It was evident to him that Chen Zhenxin could no longer handle the situation, and it was his time to shine.

“Ah-Ha! It’s young brother Chen!” Elderly Man Wei nodded slightly.

He was older and more respectable than Chen Huaian; to call him a young brother was an extremely polite thing from someone so influential.

Lo and behold, Chen Huaian was startled by the Elderly Man Wei’s friendly gesture. He shot a hot glance at Chen Zhenxin and hurried to bow before Elderly Man Wei. “Lord Wei, please join us at the main hall. ”

“There is no need. I am here to apologize to Mr. Chen and I will leave as soon as I share a couple more cups of tea with him.”

Elderly Man Wei shook his head and said.

Chen Huaian gave his grandson a long look and then nodded. “Very well, I will accompany you two as well.”

Seeing Chen Huaian sit down beside Elderly Man Wei in the courtyard, everyone filed out of the main hall to join him.

Chen Ning and Chen An stood up from their seats as soon as they noticed that even Wei Zifang had stood behind Elderly Man Wei. By then, there were only An Ya, Elderly Man Wei and Chen Huaian sitting at the table with Chen Fan.

Chen Fan dragged his parents to the seats beside him. The couple looked at their son as many strong yet contradicting emotions roiled inside of them: surprise, confusion, and shock. However, doubt was not among those emotions.

“Second Auntie, this is Wei Zifang right here.”

Chen Fan pointed to Wei Zifang and said. “Why don’t you ask him if he had given your son the cold shoulder because of me?”

“No... of course, not...” Second Auntie answered with a fake smile.

Of course, she would not ask Elderly Man Wei’s grandson: the son of ChairMan Wei.

“Great Uncle. I asked you earlier why should I apologize since it was you who wanted to befriend Wei Zifang. Do you remember that?”

“If so, can you answer that question please?”

Chen Fan looked right into Chen Zhenxin’s eyes.

Everyone watched as Chen Zhenxin’s face turned pale and embarrassment crawled into every hard wrinkle. After a few moments, he finally swallowed down his pride and answered: “Yes. It was my fault. I apologize.”

Chen Zhenxin was a proud person and it was about as bad as killing him to make him apologize to a youngster.

Chen An lowered his head and clenched his fists, He felt Chen Fan might as well have ruined the rest of his life.

The embarrassment didn’t make Chen Fan even consider going soft on them.

When Chen Zhenxin chided his father for his lack of resourcefulness, he never thought about his younger brother’s feelings?

When Chen Fan finally stopped talking, Elderly Man Wei spoke up: “Young Brother Chen, you have eyes, but how could you fail to see the true dragon right before you? ”

Chen Huaian could no longer hold back his curiosity, so he asked: “Why do you say so, brother? Would you please shed some light on the situation? Since when was my household become worthy of the Wei family’s attention?”

“Hum...” Words suddenly caught in Elderly Man Wei throat as he hesitated.

Chen Fan’s cover had not been fully blown yet, and Elderly Man Wei would not want to become the one to do that in public. In addition, Chen Fan’s attainment was already so great that it might not be easily taken in by ordinary people such as his family. He was not only a Transcendent Master but also going to be the Head Sergeant of the Cang Dragon Unit if he wished.

Chen Fan’s family knew nothing about martial arts and would know nothing about Transcendent Masters. The Head Sergeant of the Cang Dragon was also a top secret, and therefore, the old man decided to keep his words unspoken.

Seeing Elderly Man Wei hesitated, doubt and questions started to sprout in everyone’s minds.

Many members of the Chen family wondered if Elderly Man Wei vied to use Chen Fan's connection with his mother's side of the family to establish a connection with the mighty family of Wang.

Even as Elderly Man Wei continued his pause, a wave of commotion drifted into the courtyard.

"What's the ruckus about?"

Chen Huaian asked annoyingly.

Everyone watched as a man wearing gold-rimmed glasses stormed into the courtyard and announced hastily:

"Chen Zhenxin, Qin Hua is going to arrive soon, come out and receive him."

"Secretary Zhang?"

Chen Zhenxin was taken aback when he saw the visitor, it was the administrative assistant of his boss.

That meant Chen Zhenxin's boss was here as well! The thought gave Chen Huaian a rush of elation. He turned to his father and said: "Dad, my supervisor is here. I will greet him right now."

Without waiting for a reply, Chen Zhenxin rushed toward the entrance and was through the gate in a blink.

Chen Huaian's face tightened slightly as the development took him by surprise. "Qin Hua is here too?"

"What? Qin Hua is Chen Zhenxin's boss?"

"What is he doing here?"

"I heard that Qin Hua used to be Elderly Man Chen's subordinate. I wager he is here to visit the old man for old time sake."

The crowd boiled over.

Compared to Elderly Man Wei, whose influence seemed distant and insubstantial in the Jin City, Qin Hua's clout could be felt everywhere in the Jin City. Everyone in Jin City had heard of his name.

Therefore, nearly everyone, host and the guests alike hurried to the entrance to greet the honorable guest.

Although Elderly Man Wei was not any less influential than Qin Hua, he had already retired. Meanwhile, not only did Qin Hua have a more immediate impact on the Chen family, but it had also been difficult to get an audience with him of late. The Chen family could not pass up the opportunity of leaving a good impression during his rare visit.

Walking among the large crowd, a red face stately-looking man strode into the courtyard.

“Mr. Chen. I am here to see you.”

He took a few large strides and closed in onto Chen Huaian and pumped his hand vigorously. A couple of journalists hurried to snatch a few photos.

Secretary Zhang stood at the side and explained: “We were on our way to Din Hu district to attend to some business, and we suddenly thought of coming to visit Lord Chen by taking a slight detour.”

“Thank you for still remembering me. I really appreciate it!”

Chen Huaian said proudly. Although Qin Hua used to be his subordinate, his was a higher rank officer in the government while Chen Huaian was just a retired public servant. His old subordinates thoughtful visit warmed his heart.

“Haha. Every time I see Zhenxin right beside me, I think of you, old boss.” Qin Hua laughed out loud.

Chen Zhenxin stood respectfully beside Qin Hua and let pride crawl onto his face.

Then, Qin Hua pretended that he had just noticed Elderly Man Wei as he exclaimed: “Lord Wei is here as well! Ha! looks like our detour was worthwhile.”

Thanks to his title in the government, Qin Hua was more powerful than most tycoons in the province and so was his influence. Therefore, even though he stood before the mighty Elderly Man Wei, he was unfazed by the powerful presence.

Elderly Man Wei nodded in reply.

Seeing Elderly Man Wei’s distant attitude, Qin Hua quickly switched his attention elsewhere.

“Boss, allow me to introduce you to my son, Chen An. He just got a promotion.” Chen Zhenxin hurried to announce.

“What a strapping young lad!” Qin Hua patted Chen An’s shoulder. “Keep at it, maybe you can come help me out one day.”

“Yes, Uncle Qin.”

Qin Hua’s words breathed new life into Chen An. The boy held his chin up as confidence surged inside of him.

“Xiao Qin. This is my grandson Chen Fan.” Chen Huaian put in.

“Oh? What does your grandson do?”

Seeing Chen Fan sat still in his chair and didn’t even spare him a glance, displeasure flickered in his eyes.

“My nephew is still in high school, and his father works at Chu Zhou City and Si Shui County.” Chen Zhenxin answered.

“I see.”

Qin Hua nodded perfunctorily.

Chen Zhenxin then diverted the topic from Chen Fan to other family members. Qin Hua didn’t remove his aloof mask until he was introduced to Chen Zhenxin and his son.

Chen Huaian heaved a sigh in his mind. It was evident that his old subordinate wasn’t a big fan of Chen Fan.

The attention that Qin Hua had garnered didn’t sit well with Xu Ao and other tycoons of Jiang Bei, however, they didn’t protest. After all, Qin Hua was the top dog in the Jin City, and they were all on his turf. They conceded that even if Tang Yuanqin arrived here personally, he would have to show some respect to Qin Hua.

“Chen Fan, now you will finally understand why the Chen family can only rely on me and my father.”

Seeing Qin Hua had become the center of everyone’s attention, Chen An gave Chen Fan a glance that was filled with contempt.

“You have the support of the Wei family, but so what? The Wei family does not control the Jin City.”

Wei Zifang’s face was riddled with embarrassment. However, he was of the younger generation, and therefore he didn’t speak a word. Chen Fan sat still in his chair nonchalantly. It was as if he had mentally removed himself from what’s happening around him.

Meanwhile, at the top of the hill near the entrance of the Chen village...

Seeing fewer and fewer guests had arrived, the kids went home, except for one. The little boy sat beside Old Bone Chen and looked down at the highway.

“Old Bone Chen, did you really used to be the chauffeur for the richest man?”

The kid asked while chewing a piece of gum.

“Of course! He is the richest man and he owns many public firms.” Old Bone Chen glared at the kid. “You would never imagine how respectful people were when they spoke to me. Even the lesser tycoons would call me Brother Chen and I would reply back as their equals.

“That old man who had just gone in was of ordinary wealth. Back then, I wouldn’t even look at him if I saw him on the street.”

Old Bone Chen lamented.

The child didn’t buy his story. “You are lying again. My dad said you are just an ordinary driver. And you got fired by an ordinary businessman.”

“Bull crap! Don’t let me see your father, I will give him a knuckle sandwich for saying that!”

Old Bone Chen wagged his fist in the air, pretending he was going to hit the child.

The boy ran away with a string of laughter. He ran to the lookout spot and looked down. Suddenly, he shouted.

“Old Bone Chen, there is a strange car coming.”

“There are so many people in it!”

“Wait! The license plate is a string of 0. Who is this person?”

The boy asked curiously.

Suddenly, he heard a thud.

The boy looked back and noticed that Old Bone Chen’s had dropped his tobacco pipe and his shaking body was frozen in place. The old man murmured in trembling voice:

“The... the real top dog has finally arrived!”

