

Y Master 251

Chapter 251: [Anticipation, Pursuit!]

Several days later, a red Range Rover traveled along the Sichuan-Tibet Line and arrived at the foot of Spirit Mountain, located in the middle of the route. Chu Ji, dressed in sportswear, jumped out of the car and entered into Spirit Mountain alone.

"Awoo~"

When Chu Ji broke through Chu Xuanji's Enchanting Soul Array and penetrated deep into Spirit Mountain, a wolf's howl suddenly echoed through the forest. The sound carried no aggression, only a mournful wail that was heavy with longing.

Whoosh!

Chu Ji immediately looked towards the source of the sound and saw, atop a distant peak, Little Wolf with its black fur crouched on a rock, gazing down the path leading up the mountain.

In the sunlight, its figure cast a long shadow, looking very lonely.

"Little Wolf!"

Seeing this, Chu Ji knew that Little Wolf was waiting for its master, Ye Fan, and felt somewhat touched. Moved, she shouted towards Little Wolf.

"Awooo~"

Little Wolf, which had been transformed by various Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures by Ye Fan since it was young, not only had physical functions far beyond those of a normal wolf, but its intelligence was also far superior to that of ordinary animals.

Upon hearing Chu Ji's call, it turned its wolf head to look, then ran down from the peak with evident joy, rushing towards Chu Ji.

A moment later, Little Wolf ran to Chu Ji's side, looking up at her pitifully, as if trying to convey something.

"Missing Xiao Fan?" Chu Ji asked with a bitter smile.

"Wu wu..."

Little Wolf didn't understand Chu Ji's words, but since Chu Xuanji had always referred to Ye Fan as Xiao Fan, it knew that was the name of its master. It then stretched out its wolf paw, hugged Chu Ji's snow-white jade legs, and cuddled and howled pitifully. It looked so pathetic that it seemed to beg Chu Ji: Why hasn't my master come back?

"This little guy is really in touch with human emotions."

Moved by the cross-species bond between Little Wolf and Ye Fan, Chu Ji couldn't help but smile and bend down, presenting her ample curves to Little Wolf's eyes. She gently stroked the shiny black fur on Little Wolf's head and said, "This time when I leave, I'll take you to him!"

Without reaction, Little Wolf couldn't understand Chu Ji's words and simply continued to howl mournfully.

"Let's go, don't play cute and pitiful anymore, follow me to see your master!" Realizing her attempt to communicate with Little Wolf was foolish, Chu Ji sighed and, with a spring from the ground, sped towards the depths of the jungle.

"Awooo~"

Little Wolf let out a howl and quickly followed behind her, moving much faster than when Ye Fan had descended the mountain before.

Hmm?

"It's been several months since I've seen this little guy, how did he get so fast?"

Noticing the change in Little Wolf, Chu Ji was startled but didn't dwell on it. Instead, she hurried towards the wooden houses deep within Spirit Mountain.

In front of the houses, Chu Xuanji was lying on a wicker chair with an old book in his hands, his eyes slightly squinted. If not for the occasional page turning, one might have mistaken him for being asleep.

"Master!"

Seeing this, Chu Ji approached with a bitter smile to pay her respects.

"Why have you come back?" Chu Xuanji unusually set aside the ancient book and looked at Chu Ji.

"I came back to see how you were," Chu Ji said with a tone of deep respect towards Chu Xuanji, a respect that was ingrained in her very bones, unlike her manner with Ye Fan.

"Speak seriously," Chu Xuanji said sternly.

"Can't one miss you?"

Chu Ji stepped forward, hugging Chu Xuanji's arm and acting coquettishly like a little girl. When she realized that Chu Xuanji was completely unresponsive to her act, her face as taut as bodybuilder shorts, she let go of his arm and said irritably: "I've come back to report the progress of your precious disciple to you."

Chu Xuanji silently waited for Chu Ji to continue.

"The medicine furnace you brought to Yanjing last time, I've already delivered it to Dong Hai for him. Besides that, he also asked me to collect medicinal ingredients and Essence Stones. Due to the shortage of time, the amount of Essence Stones I could gather is very limited. I plan to check out auctions around the world to see if I can procure a large quantity of Essence Stones," Chu Ji reported.

Chu Xuanji's brow furrowed slightly, a hint of self-reproach flashing across his features silently.

"Heaven, when about to place a great responsibility on a man, always first tests his resolve, exhausts his muscles and bones, starves his body and skin, depletes his body, and confuses his actions. By stirring up his heart and tempering his nature, this serves to enhance abilities he could not previously fathom—this was said by Mengzi, and you often taught me the same when I was a child,"

Noticing the self-reproach on Chu Xuanji's face, Chu Ji couldn't help but say: "So you don't need to feel guilty about not providing Xiao Fan with cultivation supplies. Moreover, you originally left him two High-level Magical Artifacts, it's just that..."

Breaking off mid-sentence, Chu Ji noticed that Chu Xuanji's brows were tightly knitted and anger flashed in his eyes. She prudently stopped and changed the subject: "Speaking of which, Ye Wenhao's wife went to look for Xiao Fan."

"He's not hurt, is he?"

Chu Xuanji's pupils suddenly dilated. A father knows his son best, and although he wasn't Ye Fan's biological father, having raised Ye Fan from a young age, he understood Ye Fan in ways that others could not. He knew this event would impact Ye Fan.

"Qin Yan, that bitch, not only insulted Xiao Fan by calling him a bastard, but she also told Xiao Fan about his senior sister's grief-stricken return to Yanjing and subsequent suicide by jumping off a cliff, nearly causing Xiao Fan to lose his mind."

Chu Ji reported truthfully and added when she saw the concern rising on Chu Xuanji's face: "But you don't have to worry. I was there at the time, and I immediately pulled him back from the edge of losing his sanity. He's alright now."

"Did you tell him the truth?" Chu Xuanji asked with a frown.

"No."

Chu Ji sighed, "I almost told him the truth of the matter, but after seeing he regained his composure, I decided not to."

"That's good, it's not time yet," Chu Xuanji said, quietly relieved.

"After that incident, Bai Luo from Bai Family had the disciple Duanmu of Ghost Sect to try to assassinate Xiao Fan, but Xiao Fan killed him in retaliation," Chu Ji added.

"Ghost Sect," Chu Xuanji's brows furrowed tighter, a murderous intent suddenly flashing in his eyes.

"Please rest assured, the Yanhuang Organization is already aware of this matter, and I believe they will deter the Ghost Sect from acting rashly in the future."

Noticing the intent to kill in Chu Xuanji's eyes, Chu Ji gave a bitter smile. In her opinion, if anything adverse were to happen to Ye Fan, Chu Xuanji would certainly destroy the Ghost Sect's standing in the Huaxia Martial Arts World!

It had to be said that Chu Ji understood Chu Xuanji pretty well. As her voice fell, the murderous intent in Chu Xuanji's eyes disappeared, and his tightly furrowed brows gradually relaxed. "What was Ye Wenhao's reaction?" he asked.

"Ye Wenhao went to the Dong hai to find that wretch Qin Yan, slapped her, and wanted a divorce. Later, Ye Yuanshan intervened and persuaded Ye Wenhao, making him give up the idea of divorce."

Thinking of what Ye Wenhao had said, Chu Ji replied, "According to Ye Wenhao, not only did Ye Yuanshan agree to let Xiao Fan return to the Ye Family, but he also made a promise that Xiao Fan could use all of the Ye Family's resources at will!"

"Heh, Ye Yuanshan is playing a fine game," scoffed Chu Xuanji.

"Nevertheless, Xiao Fan did not agree," Chu Ji added.

Chu Xuanji showed no reaction to this outcome, as if he had expected it all along.

"By the way, a disciple of the Ghost Sect, Duanmu, had a Mid-level Magic Artifact, the Ghostly Gourd, which now has fallen into Xiao Fan's hands. Next, he can speed up his cultivation by setting up the 'Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array' with that Mid-level Magic Artifact."

Chu Ji thought of something else and said, "I believe it won't be long before he catches up with those so-called geniuses."

"Because of that emotional scar, his start may have been slower than some, but that same scar will unleash potential unlike anything seen before."

Hearing this, Chu Xuanji stood up and gazed into the distant sky, his eyes filled with expectation, "The Qing bang competition is almost here..."

Whoosh!

Startled upon hearing Chu Xuanji mention the Qing bang competition, the color drained from Chu Ji's face, and an uncontrollable excitement emerged on her charming visage.

After her excitement subsided, the anticipation on her face was even greater than that of Chu Xuanji!

She was eager for Ye Fan to quickly catch up with and surpass those so-called geniuses and to wipe the floor with them before the Qing bang competition!

Especially the successor of a Supreme Strongman who had deep-seated grievances with Chu Xuanji!

She was more eager for Ye Fan to become a Supreme Strongman as soon as possible, completing Chu Xuanji's dragon-slaying gambit!

Ye Fan was unaware of all these events.

Meanwhile, as Chu Ji returned to Spirit Mountain to meet with Chu Xuanji, Pan Jueming drove a Mercedes-Benz van into Ao Xiang Villa, heading straight for the villa in the very center of the complex.

This villa had become the residence of Ye Fan—several days ago, Ye Fan had moved out of the Tan Palace Villa with Su Yuxin, Su Liuli, and Situ Ruoshui, and taken up residence in Ao Xiang Villa.

As the Mercedes-Benz van traveled on the villa's roads, Pan Jueming couldn't help but cast his gaze towards the eight towering trees inside the villa complex.

The eight towering trees were acquired by Pan Jueming for a hefty sum at Ye Fan's request, had been delivered to Ao Xiang Villa the previous day, and were planted precisely where Ye Fan had specified.

Being unfamiliar with Qimen Dunjia, Pan Jueming couldn't tell that the eight towering trees were arranged according to the positions of eight stars in the Nine Stars of Qimen Dunjia; he only vaguely sensed their mysteriousness.

Shaking his head, Pan Jueming didn't ponder the purpose behind Ye Fan's actions and instructed one of the bodyguards, "When we reach Mr. Ye's residence, inform the others to be careful when moving the Jade stone, don't bump or scratch it, or else don't blame me for being heartless!"

"Understood, boss!" the bodyguard responded immediately.

"Mr. Ye, the Jade stone you requested has arrived. Please inspect it to see if it meets your requirements."

Ten minutes later, Pan Jueming, directing the bodyguards as they carried the Jade stone into the villa's grand hall where Ye Fan was staying, bowed and reported.

"Good," said Ye Fan.

His consciousness stirred, and telekinesis surged forth, sweeping over the Jade stone nearly one square meter in size. Afterwards, he nodded and said, "You may place the Jade stone in that designated spot in the courtyard."

"Yes, Mr. Ye!"

Several members of the Dong hai Gang immediately carried out the order.

Fighting back his curiosity, Pan Jueming dared not ask any further questions.

"I had you find the towering trees and Jade stone because I want to utilize them to set up the 'Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array,' where this piece of Jade stone will serve as the main Array Eye. Of course, it also requires continuously channeling Essence Qi extracted from Essence Stones into the Jade stone to ensure the Formation operates," Ye Fan explained.

"Once the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array is operational, the Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth will continuously converge above the villa, making cultivation here extraordinarily more effective," he further elaborated.

"So that's how it is!" Pan Jueming exclaimed, enlightened, a look of anticipation then crossing his face—his residence was also in Ao Xiang Villa, and if the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array was successfully set up, he would also benefit.

Ye Fan smiled but did not tell Pan Jueming that what he had described was merely a simplified version of the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array. The real Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array would center around the Ghostly Gourd in his possession, with an array summoning Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi that would far surpass the former.

The reason Ye Fan had made up a simplified version of the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array was that he could not always leave the Ghostly Gourd in the courtyard as the main Array Eye but needed to carry it with him.

After all, the Mid-level Magic Artifact Ghostly Gourd had several functions, and using it solely as an Array Eye to set up an array would truly be a waste of its potential!

"Once the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array is established, and with the assistance of the Crimson Golden Crown, I wonder how fast the cultivation speed can reach?"

Ye Fan's heart filled with even more anticipation!

Chapter 252: [Formation Great Success, Changing Destiny!]

Perhaps due to immense anticipation for the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array that aided in cultivation, once Dong Hai Gang's subordinates had placed the jade stone, Ye Fan approached the jade with a medicine furnace and essence stone in hand.

"Mr. Ye, I will not disturb you while you set up the array." Although Pan Jueming was eager to witness Ye Fan laying out the formation, he feared disturbing him and decided to leave.

Jueming, just watch from the side."

Ye Fan said, "Martial Arts and Magic, although different fields, have some commonalities, so observing this could benefit your cultivation."

"Alright."

Upon hearing this, Pan Jueming nodded gratefully and then retreated ten meters away.

Seeing this, Ye Fan took a deep breath and slowly placed the medicine furnace on top of the jade stone.

The medicine furnace was all black with no engraved patterns on the surface; it appeared very ordinary, yet its sophistication lay inside.

Lifting the furnace lid, one could clearly see four dragon heads at the north, south, east, and west positions in the middle part of the furnace. The intricately carved dragon heads seemed lifelike, serving as the furnace's four fire ports.

Below the dragon heads was a net-like object with very small gaps, so fine that likely not even sand could seep through; beneath the net was a bowl-shaped object for holding medicine.

This medicine furnace, brought to Ye Fan by Chu Ji from Spirit Mountain, had once been used by Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji for alchemy. While not a treasure, the furnace had indirectly absorbed much of heaven and earth's essence over the years, subtly altering its material. In this sense, it could be considered a low-level magical artifact, albeit with no function beyond alchemy.

That day, Duanmu, who had neither interest in alchemy nor knowledge about furnaces, had simply glanced over it without lifting the furnace lid. Thus, he had overlooked its intricacy.

After opening the furnace lid, Ye Fan sat cross-legged beside the jade stone, slightly closing his eyes as he concentrated his mind.

Whoosh!

The next moment.

Under Pan Jueming's scrutiny, Ye Fan's hands moved in a blur, forming handprints too fast for Jueming to see clearly.

As he formed the handprints, the colors of heaven and earth changed!

Suddenly, a faintly visible vortex appeared in the sky above Ao Xiang Villa, with heaven and earth's primordial Qi surging toward it.

"Uh..."

Witnessing magic for the first time, Pan Jueming was astounded by the fluctuations of heaven and earth's primordial Qi and involuntarily gaped.

At the same time, Ye Fan's expression turned very serious, even somewhat solemn.

The solemnity was because he had just used the very common 'Gathering Essence Array,' aimed at gathering the surrounding heaven and earth primordial Qi, a simple task for any magician. But next, he had to use the 'Five Elements Formation' to carefully separate the wood element Qi from the gathered primordial Qi and channel it into the medicine furnace, thereby activating the 'Fire Dragon Formation' laid by Chu Xuanji within.

"Heaven has five elements: metal, wood, water, fire, earth..."

Muttering the mantra for the 'Five Elements Formation,' Ye Fan positioned his hands in front of his chest, rapidly changing his handprints.

"Divide!"

Ye Fan executed the 'Divide' handprint from the 'Five Elements Formation,' looked up to the heavens, and shouted loudly.

With the shout, the primordial Qi of heaven and earth violently fluctuated and instantly dispersed into five invisible streams.

"Wood Essence Energy, absorb!"

With another low shout, Ye Fan changed the handprints again, executing the 'Absorb' handprint of the 'Five Elements Formation.'

Whoosh—

As the handprint was formed, the wood essence energy, as if summoned, descended from the sky.

Having successfully induced the wood essence energy, Ye Fan, who dared not be careless, continued to change the handprints, gingerly controlling the wood essence energy as it slowly entered the medicine furnace.

The caution was because he knew, if too much wood essence energy entered the furnace at once, controlling the fire from the 'Fire Dragon Formation' would become very difficult, even dangerously so, possibly causing the furnace to explode! This had happened when he first learned alchemy with Chu Xuanji and had introduced wood essence into the furnace, leading to uncontrollable flames, a memory still fresh in his mind.

"Wood fuels fire, quickly!"

Swiftly, under Ye Fan's manipulation, the wood essence energy slowly entered the medicine furnace. Without pausing, he divided his consciousness, controlling the slow entrance of wood essence energy into the furnace with one part while activating the 'Fire Dragon Formation' inside the furnace with another part of his magic skill.

Whoosh—

Triggering the Fire Dragon Formation, the four dragon heads that served as fire ports simultaneously spouted flames, and a yellow flame emerged from the top of the furnace.

"Uh..."

Seeing this scene, Pan Jueming was so shocked that he nearly dropped his eyeballs!

Having transitioned from a commoner to a martial artist, he had once been amazed by the magic and power of Martial Arts, but to him, magic seemed even more magical and mysterious!

After all, not even Innate Martial Artists could create fire out of nothing...

Meanwhile, as Pan Jueming stood stunned by the magical spectacle before him, beads of sweat the size of beans continuously seeped from Ye Fan's forehead, trickling down his face, seemingly under some strain.

The situation was indeed as it appeared; at that moment, he was dividing his consciousness, operating the Five Elements Formation on one hand and controlling the Fire Dragon Formation inside the furnace on the other, which was unimaginably challenging. His telekinetic power was being consumed at an unimaginable rate.

"It seems I was a bit too confident." />

Ye Fan inwardly chuckled wryly, simultaneously feeling deeply relieved that, thanks to the appearance of that crimson golden crown, his magic skill had successfully advanced into the Innate Realm, and his telekinetic power had surged. Otherwise, he would have been unable to accomplish all this.

After the brief wry smile, Ye Fan dared not linger longer but divided another part of his consciousness, concentrating a stream of telekinetic power on the bag of essence stones.

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh..."

Quickly, the several Essence Stones that Chu Ji had provided to Ye Fan flew out of the bag under the control of his Mind Power and successively landed in the Medicine Furnace.

Once the Essence Stones entered the Medicine Furnace, the flames at the opening of the furnace immediately disappeared, and the fire inside the furnace greatly diminished.

Realizing this, Ye Fan was moved and gradually increased the speed of the Wood Essence Energy entering the furnace, and he no longer suppressed the fire inside, causing the flames to surge dramatically. Moreover, the flames turned an unusual blackish-red color, which was quite eerie.

"Hiss, hiss..."

As the fire intensified, a slight noise emerged from inside the furnace. The several Essence Stones, under the roasting of the blackish-red flames, gradually melted, emitting strands of Essence Qi, invisible to the naked eye, which suddenly surged out!

"Collect!"

As the Essence Qi emerged, Ye Fan stopped controlling the Five Elements Formation and the Fire Dragon Formation, and just as the Essence Qi surged out of the furnace, he abruptly brought his hands together, forming another handprint.

"Swoosh—"

Upon forming the handprint, the several strands of extremely precious Essence Qi instantly merged together, and under Ye Fan's control, directly entered into the white jade stone.

Whoosh!

In an instant, the jade stone burst into a dazzling luster, so intense that Pan Jueming immediately closed his eyes, while Ye Fan carefully sensed the changes in the jade stone.

"Phew~"

A few seconds later, feeling that the Essence Qi extracted from the Essence Stones had fully integrated into the jade stone, Ye Fan breathed a sigh of relief, "Finally succeeded!"

After speaking, Ye Fan wiped the sweat from his forehead. Instead of clearing the leftover stone debris in the Medicine Furnace, he once again gathered his focus and performed the handprint for the 'Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array.'

Compared to the Gathering Essence Array, the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array was much more powerful, the handprints were also more complex, and the consumption of a magician's Mind Power was relatively much higher. However, for Ye Fan, it had already become a well-trodden path.

Swiftly, Ye Fan formed the handprints, and immediately, eight towering trees within Ao Xiang Villa, along with the jade stone that had absorbed the Essence Qi, established a subtle connection with the nine major stars of the distant starry sky. The Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around Ao Xiang Villa began to gather above the villa.

However, the speed of the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi gathering was not even one percent of what it had been when he had activated the 'Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array' at the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch, nor did it cause the nine stars to flicker!

For this, Ye Fan did not find it strange—on that day, he had used his own Essence Blood as the Array Eye, whereas now, he was only using eight towering trees and the Jade stone which had absorbed Essence Qi as the Array Eye. Comparing the two was simply impossible!

Even more so, Ye Fan was very clear that even if he used the intermediate magical artifact, the Ghostly Gourd, to replace the jade stone as the main Array Eye, the speed of gathering the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi would still not reach a tenth of what it had been at the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch on that day!

But even using just eight towering trees and the jade stone that had absorbed Essence Qi to lay out the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array was enough to increase the density of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi by tenfold around Ao Xiang Villa. If an intermediate magical artifact like the Ghostly Gourd were used as the main Array Eye, it could reach a hundredfold!

And what was even more important was that this array setup was long-term—the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array would operate continuously!

"Any insights?"

After completing the array, Ye Fan turned to look at Pan Jueming, saw Pan Jueming's face looking utterly shocked, and asked with a wry smile.

"The magic is profound and unfathomable; it's truly miraculous and mysterious." Hearing this, Pan Jueming's head shook like a rattle drum, then he sincerely exclaimed.

"If it weren't so, the qualifications required to cultivate magic wouldn't be so demanding either, and magicians in this world wouldn't be so rare," Ye Fan chuckled. Although magic was mysterious and powerful, because the talent requirements were so demanding, there were painfully few magicians compared to martial artists.

Pan Jueming nodded in complete agreement, looking at Ye Fan with even more respect, mixed with a bit of admiration.

"Get ready, tomorrow evening, I will empower you to enhance your strength," Ye Fan arranged.

"Yes, Mr. Ye!"

Pan Jueming was grateful, then seeing Ye Fan drenched in sweat, he said, "Mr. Ye, you must be very tired from setting up the formation just now. I won't disturb you further, please rest."

"Alright, you go on with your affairs, and come over on time tomorrow afternoon," Ye Fan, having spent a considerable amount of Mind Power in continuously casting spells and setting up formations, nodded with a smile upon hearing Pan Jueming's words and then turned to head back to the villa's main hall.

Entering the main hall of the villa, Ye Fan first went to wash his face, wiped his sweat, and then, instead of rushing to cultivate to recover the expended Mind Power, he took out his phone and dialed Su Yuxin's number, opening with, "Yuxin, have Jin Emperor come over tomorrow. I will cleanse his marrow and help him learn to meditate."

"Alright,"

"Besides, I've successfully set up the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array in Ao Xiang Villa. It's best to transfer Jin Emperor's school registration to Dong hai and have him stay in Ao Xiang Villa. That way, his cultivation will be twice as effective, and if he encounters any issues during cultivation, I can resolve them at any time," Ye Fan added.

"Alright, I'll have someone handle that today!"

Su Yuxin responded immediately. Now, as the head of Tianshan Group's Dong hai branch, she could handle such a transfer with just a phone call.

After the call ended, Su Yuxin did not inform Jin Emperor immediately but put down her phone, stood up, and walked over to the French windows, gazing in the direction of Ao Xiang Villa.

"Thank you, my Guardian God," she couldn't help saying, her face filled with emotion.

As she watched, Su Yuxin realized that Ye Fan's arrival had changed her and her brother's destiny!

What she did not know was, Ye Fan would change even more people's destinies!

Chapter 253: [When One Man Attains Dao, Even His Pets Ascend to Heaven]

"Why did you both come together?"

The following evening, Pan Jueming and Su Jindi arrived at Ao Xiang Villa together; Ye Fan, seeing them enter the villa courtyard at the same time, curiously asked.

"Brother Ye, Brother Pan specifically went to the highway entrance to pick me up," Su Jindi explained.

"Is that so..."

Ye Fan suddenly realized, silently admiring Pan Jueming in his heart for being so adept at handling matters, making every action impeccable and extremely satisfying.

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Pan Jueming met Ye Fan's gaze without avoidance, his eyes filled with sincerity and respect, silently conveying something to Ye Fan.

"Jueming, I won't take it the wrong way,"

Understanding the meaning in Pan Jueming's eyes, Ye Fan smiled and said, "Empowerment is quite complicated; I'll first help you enhance your strength. Come sit on this jade stone."

"Alright."

Pan Jueming nodded excitedly and then quickly walked over to the jade stone and sat down cross-legged.

"Jin Emperor, stand further back and no matter what you see, don't make a sound,"

Seeing Pan Jueming seated cross-legged on the jade stone, Ye Fan thought for a moment and then spoke to Su Jindi; he was afraid that Su Jindi would exclaim in shock during the empowerment process for Pan Jueming and disturb him, affecting the empowerment result.

"Don't worry, Brother Ye, I'll just watch," Su Jindi obediently responded and retreated to the entrance of the villa courtyard.

"Jueming, this is a Protective Body Pill, take it now, and then stimulate the pill's power with your Power. Once it takes effect let me know," Ye Fan took out the Protective Body Pill he had crafted that morning and handed it to Pan Jueming.

"Hmm."

Pan Jueming took the Protective Body Pill and swallowed it without hesitation, then closed his eyes and, as Ye Fan had instructed, began to catalyze the pill's power with his Power.

Whoosh!

About ten minutes later, Pan Jueming opened his eyes and said to Ye Fan, "Mr. Ye, the pill's power has taken effect, what should I do next?"

"Concentrate your Consciousness, let yourself enter Meditation State."

As he spoke, Ye Fan took out the Ghostly Gourd and placed it on the jade stone where Pan Jueming was sitting. Once he sensed that Pan Jueming had fully entered Meditation State, his hands swiftly moved, forming the handprint for the 'Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array.'

After completing the handprints, Ye Fan used the Ghostly Gourd as the main Array Eye to activate the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array, and the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi within a five-kilometer radius of Ao Xiang Villa rushed over as if summoned.

At the same time, a surge of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi descended from the sky, infiltrating through the top of Pan Jueming's head.

Seeing this, Ye Fan did not pause, quickly making the 'Lead' decision of the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array.

In an instant, a quantity of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi equal to ten times what Pan Jueming would normally draw in was attracted and furiously entered Pan Jueming's head.

As the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi entered his body, Pan Jueming found his Mind Power insufficient, his Consciousness trembled slightly and showed signs of faltering.

Just then, Ye Fan's right hand forcefully landed on Pan Jueming's 'Tong Tian Point' at the top of his head, dividing his Consciousness in two, helping Pan Jueming control the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi flowing along the small cycle route while managing the Power Seeds within the twenty-eight vital acupoints of his own body.

With Ye Fan's assistance, Pan Jueming's Consciousness gradually became as solid as a rock, and the previously chaotic Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi began to circulate in an orderly fashion. Simultaneously, an Essence of Power emerged from each of the twenty-eight vital acupoints within Ye Fan's body almost at the same moment.

Unlike the Power stored in the vital acupoints, the Essence of Power emerging from the Power Seeds was the Essence of Ye Fan's Power, which, once consumed, would require numerous Cultivation sessions to restore, making it as precious as Life-bound Essence Blood!

And the secret technique 'empowerment' refers to a strong person transferring their own Essence of Power into the body of the person being empowered.

If it was just ordinary Power, there wouldn't be a saying about the empowered person's strength regressing!

After the twenty-eight Essences of Power emerged, under Ye Fan's control, they fused together and surged towards his right hand, then flowed out from his hand and entered Pan Jueming's body through the 'Tong Tian Point' on his head.

As the Power entered his body, Pan Jueming immediately sensed it, feeling as if his meridians were about to be torn apart, experiencing a soul-shaking pain.

That pain caused Pan Jueming's face to contort instantly, and his body trembled violently as if he had been electrocuted!

"Up next, I will control the Power to clean your marrow and refine your body; just endure it."

Noticing Pan Jueming's violent reaction, Ye Fan reminded him, then proceeded as he had said, beginning to control the powerful Power formed by the convergence of the twenty-eight Essences of Power to clean Pan Jueming's marrow and refine his body.

Whoosh—

Moments later, Pan Jueming's body swelled up like a toad taking in air, and his clothes ripped apart instantly. His entire body turned a fiery red, presenting a frightening sight.

"Er..."

Witnessing this bizarre scene, Su Jindi at the courtyard gate was shocked, her eyes widening. Soon, afraid of crying out loud, she quickly covered her mouth and watched motionlessly.

Swiftly, under Su Jindi's watchful eye, Pan Jueming's previously red body started to exude black impurities. As these impurities mixed with sweat, they slowly trickled down his body.

"As Brother Ye told me, Body Refinement is about expelling all the impurities from the body. This must be Body Refinement, right?" Seeing this, Su Jindi thought of the Martial Arts knowledge Ye Fan had shared with her, pondering.

About thirty minutes later, Pan Jueming's body, which had been red, was completely covered in dirt and grime, appearing black and filthy, as if he had just crawled out of a mud pond.

Chapter 254: [When One Man Gains the Dao, Even His Pets Ascend to Heaven]_2

Upon seeing this, Ye Fan knew that most of the impurities Pan Jueming could get rid of within his body had been expelled, so he directed the Essence of Power straight towards Pan Jueming's Dantian.

The next moment.

In Pan Jueming's perception, that powerful Essence of Power forcibly invaded his Dantian and swarmed towards the Power Seed inside.

In an instant, the originally weak Power Seed seemed to be nurtured, growing from small to large, from ethereal to solid, at an astonishing speed!

As the Power Seed transformed, Pan Jueming acutely discovered that his speed of absorbing and transforming the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi into inner strength had significantly increased. Those transformed inner strength energies uncontrollably moved towards the Dantian but did not enter the Power Seed; instead, they were pushed to the periphery by the Essence of Power from Ye Fan.

After an indeterminate amount of time, when the Essence of Power belonging to Ye Fan had completely merged with Pan Jueming's Power Seed, Ye Fan removed his hand from above Pan Jueming's head and said gravely, "Your Power Seed has now reached the Postnatal Perfection Realm, but there's too little inner strength in your body. Continue to meditate, and fill your Dantian with inner strength."

Without responding, Pan Jueming earnestly followed Ye Fan's instructions and continued his Meditation Cultivation.

"Jin Emperor, come here!" Ye Fan called Su Jindi over with a wave of his hand.

"Is it my turn?" Su Jindi hesitated at first, then hurried to Ye Fan's side full of excitement.

"Hmm." Upon seeing this, Ye Fan chuckled wryly, "Sit cross-legged next to Jueming."

Su Jindi did as instructed and eagerly asked, "Then what do I do?"

"Wait a moment, my Mind Power will enter your consciousness..."

"Consciousness?" Su Jindi interrupted Ye Fan, puzzled.

"Consciousness is your soul," Ye Fan explained. "I will use my Mind Power to control your consciousness, thereby manipulating your body to meditate and generate a Power Seed inside you."

"What do I need to do then?"

"You don't need to do anything, just open your heart and willingly let my Mind Power control your consciousness," Ye Fan said. "Remember, throughout the process, you must trust me completely and must not resist at all, or it will all be for naught. If you resist, I can only use a Formation to create a terrifying illusion in your mind, causing your consciousness to falter and forcibly control it. If that happens, the illusion will leave an imprint in your soul that cannot be erased, affecting your future cultivation."

"Don't worry, Brother Ye, I trust you unconditionally. Just go ahead and control my consciousness!" Su Jindi grinned broadly, thumping his chest.

"Uh..."

Soon, before Su Jindi was fully prepared, a powerful surge of telekinesis entered his soul, seeking to take over his body. His smile stiffened as he instinctively resisted.

"Don't resist, open up your heart completely!"

Realizing Su Jindi's resistance, Ye Fan urgently reminded him, for, with the strength of his Innate Mage's Mind Power, he could only manipulate objects without life. Only if the living being willingly gave up control of their body could he manipulate it.

Hearing Ye Fan's words, a thought arose in Su Jindi's mind: Brother Ye wouldn't harm me; I have no reason to fear, so I should confidently hand over control of my body to him!

With that thought, the smile on Su Jindi's face vanished, replaced by an unprecedented calm.

Seizing the opportunity, Ye Fan quickly used his Mind Power to control Su Jindi's consciousness, then manipulated Su Jindi's body, enabling him to enter into a state of meditation in an extremely short time.

"Swoosh—"

Moments later, a faint flow of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi entered Su Jindi's head, moved into his body, and circulated following the route of the small cycle.

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh..."

After the first flow of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi completed a circuit along the small cycle route, more Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi entered Su Jindi's body to circulate.

Gradually, the impurities within Su Jindi's body were expelled, and bits of inner strength began to form inside him, gathering in the Dantian and floating like a Qi Vortex.

"Form!"

Later, when Inner Strength had completely filled Su Jindi's Dantian, Ye Fan's consciousness stirred, and the Inner Strength inside Su Jindi's Dantian instantly shrank, compressed, and finally formed a tiny Power Seed!

Seeing the Power Seed formed, Ye Fan no longer input his Mental Power into Su Jindi's body, handing over control of consciousness and body to Su Jindi himself.

Having regained control of his body, Su Jindi felt he had gained some memories which were the methods of meditation.

"While I was controlling your body for the meditation, I left a Spiritual Imprint in your soul. Meditate on your own following the method I left in that Spiritual Imprint," Ye Fan quickly said.

Hearing Ye Fan's words in his ears, Su Jindi's consciousness stirred, and he hurriedly began meditating according to the method remembered.

"Hu~"

Seeing that Su Jindi was meditating on his own and that the Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth was still entering his body without interruption, Ye Fan breathed a sigh of relief, wiped the sweat off his forehead, and looked slightly fatigued.

He had first ensured that he would not drop back to the Postnatal Perfection Realm, then transferred all the Essence of Power he could muster into Pan Jue Ming's body, and afterwards spent Mental Power to control Su Jindi's body for meditation. Though it seemed simple, it was in fact very risky and demanded high control over Mental Power. A slight mistake could not only result in Pan Jue Ming and Su Jindi suffering mental harm and becoming vegetative, but he himself could have been swallowed up!

The reason he was able to elevate Pan Jue Ming to the Postnatal Perfection Realm so quickly was that he had Power Seeds in all twenty-eight vital acupoints, possessing considerably more Inner Strength than Elder Huang Qi of the Hongwu Sect, who had just entered the Innate Great Success Realm not long before.

Although both his mind and body were extremely tired, Ye Fan, wishing to help Pan Jue Ming and Su Jindi quickly fill their Dantians with Inner Strength, did not recover through Meditation Cultivation but instead watched over the two as their protector.

Shua!

After an unknown duration, Su Jindi opened his eyes first. In his gaze, there was now a hint of sharpness, and his overall spiritual energy was much more potent than before.

"Haha, I have learned to meditate and become a Martial Artist!"

Feeling the overwhelming power within, Su Jindi, as if injected with adrenaline, leapt off the jade stone, excitedly looked at Ye Fan, and said, "Brother Ye, I feel like I could kill a bull right now!"

"I think you could blow a bull away," Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh and cry.

"Hehe, Brother Ye, thank you!" Su Jindi expressed his gratitude, his face seemingly playful yet his eyes filled with appreciation.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step; there is a long road ahead of you, and everything depends on you," Ye Fan said seriously.

"Make sure to thoroughly study the rules of the Yanhuang Organization, and don't abuse your skills to do evil!"

"Hehe, Brother Ye, don't worry, I won't do evil; at most, I'll just show off a bit. For example, three days from now is Su Liuli's birthday party, and I'll definitely show off a few tricks!"

Saying this, Su Jindi suddenly remembered something, his eyes gleaming as he said: "At that time, Su Liuli and her classmates will absolutely worship me, and maybe some rich and beautiful older woman will throw herself at me, haha!"

"__"

Seeing that Su Jindi was about to use Martial Arts to impress girls, Ye Fan facepalmed, then asked, "Three days later is Su Liuli's birthday?"

"Ah..."

Upon Ye Fan's inquiry, Su Jindi cursed himself for his thoughtlessness, smacked his forehead, and said, "Sorry, Brother Ye, I almost forgot. Su Liuli is too proud to invite you herself, she especially asked me to invite you to her birthday party."

"Hmm, you give gifts at a birthday party, right?" Ye Fan had never attended a birthday party but had heard about the gift-giving tradition, so he verified with Su Jindi.

"Generally, that's the case, but considering your relationship with Su Liuli, it doesn't matter whether you bring a gift or not," Su Jindi considered and said.

"Tell her I'll definitely be there on time."

In his mind, Ye Fan already decided on what to bring.

Chapter 255: [Birthday Party, Pretending to be Strong Verbally]

Time flowed like water, and three days passed in the blink of an eye.

In the past three days, besides taking the time to refine some elixir pills, Ye Fan devoted all his energy to cultivation, recovering the essence of power he had consumed while empowering Pan Jueming.

During Ye Fan's cultivation, he utilized the Ghostly Gourd to activate the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array, making the concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi above Ao Xiang Villa a hundred times the normal level. Moreover, with the help of a crimson golden crown outside his consciousness, his cultivation speed increased by more than tenfold!

Even so, despite cultivating day and night for three days and nights, Ye Fan barely recovered one-tenth of his essence of power.

This forced Ye Fan to sigh at how fearsome the secret technique "empowerment" was—if it were any other martial artist, they might not be able to recover the lost essence of power even in a year.

However, for Ye Fan, it was all worth it.

On one hand, Pan Jueming needed to act as his frontline pawn against the Yanhuang Organization, and if he didn't have the ability to protect himself, being easily killed would disrupt his plans. On the other hand, Pan Jueming's loyalty was worth such a great cost.

While Ye Fan was cultivating tirelessly day and night, Pan Jueming was doing his best to familiarize himself with the Postnatal Perfection realm as Ye Fan had requested.

In Ye Fan's words, Pan Jueming had been forcibly elevated to the Postnatal Perfection realm, and he was still very unfamiliar with this realm's martial arts insights and combat methods.

To put it accurately, Pan Jueming possessed all the abilities of a Postnatal Perfect Martial Artist, but not the strength!

"Mr. Ye, let me take you to the Tan Palace Villa," Pan Jueming came to the villa where Ye Fan was staying, after spending a day familiarizing himself with the combat methods of the Postnatal Perfection realm, and inquired.

"No need, I'll go by myself."

Ye Fan shook his head, declining Pan Jueming's offer, then handed a handwritten copy of "Xingyi Fist" to Pan Jueming, "This is the intermediate martial art 'Xingyi Fist,' has been passed down for a long time. Take it and practice well, strive to comprehend it thoroughly as soon as possible. This will help you familiarize yourself with the Postnatal Perfection realm, and it will also greatly benefit your combat prowess."

"Hmm."

Pan Jueming nodded emphatically, recalling Ye Fan's saying 'actions are more important than words,' he swallowed back the thanks that were on the tip of his tongue, and bowed deeply three times to Ye Fan.

All was understood without words.

When the last rays of the sun completely disappeared below the horizon, Ye Fan, dressed in a Zhongshan suit, white round-neck shirt, and black leather shoes, arrived outside the villa courtyard, and saw a Rolls-Royce Phantom parked at the door, a very rare Presidential level, worth tens of millions.

"Mr. Ye, Brother Pan asked me to take you to the Tan Palace Villa," a member of the Donghai Gang approached him. He was one of the Situ Family's bodyguards when Situ Chen was present, and could somewhat be considered half a disciple of Fei Si. Having just advanced to the Postnatal Great Success Realm, nicknamed Xiao Hu, he was now Ye Fan's chauffeur.

"Change the car."

Ye Fan frowned. He had learned from Su Jindi that those attending Sister Liuli's birthday party were mostly students from Donghai University. Arriving in a Rolls-Royce Phantom worth tens of millions would completely clash with the atmosphere of the gathering and disrupt its mood.

"The villa has a Maybach, Bentley, Maserati, Mercedes S600, BMW 760, Land Rover Range Rover..." Although Xiao Hu did not understand why Ye Fan wanted to change cars, he dutifully informed Ye Fan of the options available in the villa.

"I remember there's an Audi A6L, right?" Ye Fan interrupted Xiao Hu and asked.

"Yes, that's what the bodyguards use." Xiao Hu nodded, his face full of surprise as if asking: Is Mr. Ye really going to use the Audi A6L?

"Just drive the Audi A6L then."

Ye Fan checked his wristwatch, confirming Xiao Hu's guess, then added, "The gathering starts at seven thirty, try to get there before then."

"Understood!"

Xiao Hu bowed and accepted the order, drove the Rolls-Royce Phantom back into the garage, then had the bodyguards bring over the unremarkable Audi A6L.

By seven o'clock, the Tan Palace Villa, which Chu Ji had prepared for Ye Fan and Su Yuxin's birthday party, had been set up with the scene, not only meticulously arranged inside the villa but also festively lit with colored lights all over the yard.

Most of those attending Sister Liuli's birthday party from Donghai University had arrived, with the men in suits and the women largely in evening dresses and high heels. Even those not in evening dresses were well-dressed.

As Ye Fan had guessed, the majority of them were ordinary students; although they paid attention to their attire for the gathering, their clothes were not branded.

Since the party hadn't started yet, most of the attending students were in the villa courtyard, specifically gathering around Su Jindi—after Su Jindi arrived at the villa, he ostentatiously displayed his martial skills, astonishing those students who were ignorant about the Martial Arts World, making each of them eager to become his disciples.

"Guys, it's not that I don't want to teach you, martial arts are a magical thing, not just anyone can practice them," in the crowd, Su Jindi held his head up, quite smug, "To put it simply, practicing martial arts requires talent! Talent, you understand? Just like studying, some are prodigies who barely need to study while someone like me, without the talent for studying, it's futile no matter how hard I try."

"Giggle~"

"Haha..."

It must be said, Su Jindi, once known as the Demon Lord of Mayhem in Hanghu, had good social skills. Even though he was showing off, he managed to amuse the students around him and made them laugh.

However, there were exceptions.

On the outskirts of the crowd, there were five or six well-dressed, distinguished young men who weren't revolving around Su Jindi. In fact, one of the late-arriving young men, seeing Su Jindi stealing the limelight, was somewhat annoyed and said, "Who is that guy? Why haven't I seen him at school before?"

"You definitely haven't seen him."

The young man dressed in Bulaioni gave a light smile and said, "His name is Su Jindi, he's Su Liuli's cousin and he's currently studying at Zijin Shan Noble Middle School in Hangzhou."

"Brother Ling Feng, it looks like you've really put a lot of thought into pursuing Su Liuli, even digging up information about her cousin," said a previously displeased young master, now full of admiration.

"That's nothing, Brother Ling Feng has really invested this time—he used all of his last year's stock market earnings to buy an Aston Martin sports car, planning to give it to Su Liuli as a birthday gift," another young master close to Ouyang Ling Feng said.

"Hiss~"

On hearing this, the other young masters were all stunned by Ouyang Ling Feng's grand gesture—the Aston Martin, priced at over forty million in Huaxia, such a splurge, not even a goddess could resist!

"Brother Ling Feng, is it worth spending so much?" asked a young master, feeling pity for Ouyang Ling Feng.

"As long as it helps me win over my beloved, what's a bit of money?" Ouyang Ling Feng proudly lifted his head, his attitude seeming to trivialize money.

In fact, having returned from studying Economics as a PhD student at Dong hai University in September, the main reason he spent so much to pursue Su Liuli, besides her looks, figure, and demeanor, was that he learned through special channels that Su Liuli's cousin Su Yuxin currently headed the Dong hai branch of the Tianshan Group, and rumors had it that Su Yuxin had close ties with the recently famous Dong hai Godfather from the Ye Family.

In his view, if he could win over Su Liuli, he could get close to Su Yuxin, which would allow his family's business to collaborate with the financially formidable Tianshan Group, even cling to the Ye Family's powerful influence.

By then, not just one Aston Martin, even ten or a hundred could be easily recouped!

Despite clearly showing off, Ouyang Ling Feng's spending power had indeed impressed everyone, as they continuously raised their thumbs in praise.

Facing the admiration of his peers, Ouyang Ling Feng just smiled and walked directly into the crowd ahead, approaching the star-surrounded Su Jindi, "Jindi, I heard you were a member of the Shanghai-Hangzhou Super Car Club, and that you're quite skilled. How about we hang out and drive when you're free?"

"Who are you?"

Su Jindi, who had been enjoying his moment in the spotlight, was slightly annoyed by the interruption from Ouyang Ling Feng.

"My name is Ouyang Ling Feng, I go to the same school as your cousin Su Liuli."

Su Jindi's response slightly embarrassed Ouyang Ling Feng, a legend of Dong University, but he didn't show a hint of dissatisfaction; instead, he gave a forced smile with all the grace of a gentleman.

"I don't know you."

Su Jindi looked disdainful, "As for street racing, man, what era are you living in? If anything, we should be into martial arts now; am I right, everyone?"

"Absolutely."

Many of the ordinary students at the scene, who were not fans of Ouyang Ling Feng's usual arrogant demeanor at school, promptly agreed with Su Jindi.

Putting aside his fame as the successful financier's son and his outstanding abilities, Ouyang Ling Feng had always been the center of attention wherever he went; he was unaccustomed to today's disrespect from Su Jindi.

Even though Ouyang Ling Feng was astutely patient and thick-skinned, his face still shifted colors as he struggled to hold back his anger, managing a strained smile, "If Jindi isn't interested, then never mind."

As soon as the words left his mouth, Ouyang Ling Feng hurriedly left the crowd, looking visibly distressed, fearful of further embarrassment by Su Jindi.

On one hand, he approached Su Jindi hoping to curry favor and thereby win over Su Liuli. On the other hand, since his return to the country, he had been desperate to connect with Ye Fan, a name that resounded like thunder, dreaming of an introduction, even though he could find neither photographs nor information about him; therefore, he was attempting to get an introduction through Su Jindi!

Feeling downcast from plastering his warm face against Su Jindi's cold demeanor, how could he not be distressed?

Meanwhile, as Ouyang Ling Feng felt depressed, the birthday girl Su Liuli, dressed in a rose-red evening gown and accompanied by Situ Ruoshui, stayed in a bedroom on the second floor of the villa.

In front of the window, the dolled-up Su Liuli wasn't paying attention to every move in the villa's courtyard, instead gazing toward the villa's outside road.

"Sister Liuli, are you waiting for big brother?"

Seeing this, Situ Ruoshui couldn't help asking. She knew that Su Yuxin was in Yanjing for business negotiations, and among those invited only Ye Fan had not yet arrived.

"Bah, I'm not waiting for him at all. He can come or not, whatever," Su Liuli declared proudly.

"Then why did you invite him?" asked Situ Ruoshui tentatively.

"If I didn't invite him, Sister Yu Xin would have scolded me," Su Liuli cleverly found an excuse.

"Is that so..."

Situ Ruoshui took her at her word, then thought and added, "According to Su Jindi, big brother has been using his mind power and essence of power to boost his and Brother Pan's strength, and he's been training day and night for the past three days to recover. Maybe he really can't make it."

"I'd actually be happy if he didn't come,"

Su Liuli said indifferently, pursing her lips, yet her heart twinged unexpectedly: Could he really not come?

Chapter 256: [Gift]

At 7:20 PM, as darkness enveloped the sky, all the students attending Su Liuli's birthday party, including Ouyang Lingfeng, entered the villa one after another.

"Ah... It looks like Big Brother really isn't coming,"

In the bedroom on the second floor of the villa, Situ Ruoshui, seeing the guests beginning to enter and Ye Fan still nowhere to be seen, couldn't help but sigh, her porcelain doll-like face filled with disappointment.

Because she was afraid of interrupting Ye Fan's cultivation, she hadn't seen him for three days, feeling like each day dragged on like a year, and was eagerly looking forward to seeing him.

Because, whenever she was with Ye Fan, she felt as sweet as if her heart had been filled with honey, and as happy as an angel.

"It's just as well he didn't come."

Hearing Situ Ruoshui's words, Su Liuli pretended to be strong on the surface, but her heart was filled with even greater disappointment than Situ Ruoshui's.

However—

She did not let that disappointment show on her face, and instead, feigned cheerfulness as she accompanied Situ Ruoshui downstairs.

The hall on the first floor had been decorated into a party scene, with streamers hanging from the ceiling, flowers arranged, balloons floating around, and tables by the walls laden with assorted snacks, desserts, fruits, and barbecued meat. In addition, there were expensive barrels of red wine, the center of the hall cleared to form an impromptu stage, with a spotlight hanging above.

"The birthday girl is here!"

As soon as Su Liuli and Situ Ruoshui appeared at the top of the stairs, someone shouted, and all the guests threw their gazes towards the staircase to see the elaborately dressed Su Liuli.

Under the lighting, they clearly saw that, tonight, Su Liuli was wearing a rose-red, trailing evening gown; the dress was fitted at the top and loose at the bottom, perfectly showcasing Su Liuli's figure, making her seem like a mermaid from a fairy tale, breathtakingly beautiful.

Perhaps Su Liuli was simply too enchanting tonight, and the hall fell into a brief silence.

In the light, apart from Su Jindi, the other boys were visibly awestruck, their eyes filled with admiration and desire, while the girls looked on with faces full of envy.

As a legendary figure at Dong hai University, Ouyang Lingfeng had studied abroad, and while attending school, he had also made a name in the stock market, having a broad social circle and having seen many beautiful women. But upon seeing the elaborately dressed Su Liuli, he too was taken aback, feeling a conquering desire in his heart rising unstoppably.

However, having seen much of the world, and being of strong mentality, he quickly snapped out of his daze, and took the lead in clapping with a smile, "Let's welcome Classmate Liuli with a round of warm applause."

"Clap clap—"

Following Ouyang Lingfeng's lead, everyone came back to their senses and started clapping to welcome her.

"Thank you, thank you, everyone!"

Because she was wearing delicate high heels, Su Liuli carefully maintained her balance to avoid falling, while holding up the hem of her gown with one hand. Seeing everyone clapping, she managed a somewhat strained smile and waved to the crowd.

Soon, amid the neat and loud applause, Su Liuli slowly walked to the middle of the dance floor, accompanied by Situ Ruoshui, surrounded and feted by all.

"First of all, thank you everyone for coming to my birthday party tonight, and secondly, I hope that you all have a great time here tonight," Su Liuli said, taking the microphone handed to her by Situ Ruoshui, smiling, after the applause gradually died down.

"Clap clap—"

The applause broke out once again, mixed with cheers and whistles.

"What a bunch of losers, look how happy they are."

Seeing the male students from ordinary backgrounds one by one elated, a young aristocrat by Ouyang Lingfeng's side spoke with disdain.

"Well, since they are losers, being able to attend such a party and take the chance to pick up girls, naturally they'd be excited," another young aristocrat added with a laugh.

"Exactly, do you think everybody can be like Brother Ling Feng, not just the knight in shining armor in the hearts of female losers but also indifferent to the advances of rich and beautiful women, and able to spend tens of millions on an Aston Martin to conquer a top-grade beauty like Su Liuli?" That aristocrat, who was in good terms with Ouyang Lingfeng, buttered him up.

Ouyang Lingfeng smiled indifferently, but did not rush to present the Aston Martin car keys as a gift to Su Liuli. Instead, he planned to wait until the so-called loser students had finished giving their gifts, to stand out even more by emphasizing the gulf between them.

Soon, as Ouyang Lingfeng waited, Su Liuli walked out from the dance floor, accompanied by Situ Ruoshui, ready to greet each student who came to the party. Behind her followed a former bodyguard from the Situ Family, in charge of receiving gifts for Su Liuli.

"Liuli, this is the birthday present I got for you."

The first one to greet Su Liuli was a girl, a roommate of hers and Situ Ruoshui's, with very ordinary family circumstances, who gave her a bottle of ordinary branded perfume.

"Thank you."

Su Liuli smiled and thanked her, while the bodyguard promptly stepped forward to take the gift on her behalf.

Similar to the first girl, the gifts from the other students that followed were quite ordinary, though exquisitely presented.

A moment later, Su Liuli arrived in front of Ouyang Lingfeng and a few other young aristocrats.

Originally she had not planned to invite them, but as they, like her, were members of the Management College Student Union and insisted on attending her party, she could not well refuse.

"Miss Su, happy birthday."

Very quickly, one of the young aristocrats presented Su Liuli with an elegant and upscale little gift box, smiling as he said, "I had the good fortune to attend an auction last time I was in Paris with the European Union and thought this brooch was nice so I bid on it. It's perfect to offer as a birthday present to Miss Su now; I hope you don't find it too modest."

Chapter 257: [Gift]_2

"Uh..."

Surprised by the young man's words, the ordinary students all opened their mouths slightly in shock. Although they didn't know how much the brooch in the gift box was worth, the phrase "auction event" was enough to let them deduce that the price of the brooch was far from affordable for them.

After a brief moment of stupor, the male students looked like they had been struck, their smiles becoming stiff and their expressions a bit downcast, while the female students showed faces full of envy and jealousy.

"This gift is too valuable, I appreciate your intentions, thank you."

Noticing the reactions of the surrounding students and before the bodyguard could step forward to accept the gift, Su Liuli gracefully declined.

"Miss Su, it's not that valuable, the auction is just a gimmick, just a small token," the young man said with a teasing smile, "You accepted everyone else's gifts, if you don't accept mine it means you have an opinion about me."

"Since you put it that way, I can only accept it, thank you," Su Liuli pondered briefly, then decided to accept the gift, planning to give the money for the brooch back to the young man after the party had ended.

"Miss Su, happy birthday! This is a Vacheron Constantin 1972 series ladies' watch. I think it suits you well and hope you will like it."

"Miss Su, this is the latest Hermes handbag release, I think it was designed just for you."

"Miss Su..."

Later, amidst the complex expressions of the ordinary students, those young men around Ouyang Lingfeng congratulated Su Liuli on her birthday and presented their gifts—each one a valuable luxury item, forming a sharp contrast with the previous gifts.

In response, Su Liuli thanked each of them and instructed the bodyguards to collect the gifts, secretly planning to announce after receiving Ouyang Lingfeng's gift that she would give the money to these young men after the party, so as not to embarrass the ordinary students.

"Liuli, happy birthday!"

Later, under everyone's gaze, Ouyang Lingfeng affectionately addressed Su Liuli as Liuli, then with a smile, he passed the Aston Martin car keys in front of Su Liuli, without explaining what the gift was, intending to let others vocalize it.

"An Aston Martin ONE-77?"

As a member of the Shanghai-Hangzhou Super Car Club, Su Jindi was well-versed in various sports cars, recognizing at a glance that the gift Ouyang Lingfeng gave to Su Liuli was the keys to an Aston Martin ONE-77, a car he had once dreamed of owning, making him utterly astonished.

"An Aston Martin ONE-77, I heard that car costs over forty million!"

Hearing Su Jindi mention the name Aston Martin ONE-77, a materialistic girl exclaimed excitedly, as if Ouyang Lingfeng were gifting the car keys to her.

"Gasp—"

At the sound of the girl's exclamation, the other ordinary female students gasped in shock, dumbfounded—giving away a forty million-plus sports car as a gift was beyond their wildest thoughts!

Not only them but even Su Liuli herself was somewhat surprised!

"Miss Su, I heard Ling Feng went all out for this gift, putting all of last year's stock market profits into it and even contacting the manufacturer directly, quite a painstaking effort indeed," one of the young men close to Ouyang Lingfeng commented with a laugh, subtly 'lifting the palanquin' for Ouyang Lingfeng.

As expected, Su Liuli looked surprised. Hearing his companion's words, Ouyang Lingfeng's smile grew even more charming.

It seemed that in his view, Su Liuli had no reason to refuse such a thoughtfully expensive gift.

Not just him, everyone present, except Situ Ruoshui and Su Jindi who knew Su Liuli, thought it impossible for Su Liuli to refuse!

"Liuli, if you have time after the party, I can accompany you for a test drive," Ouyang Lingfeng said, shaking the car keys as Su Liuli hadn't recovered from her surprise.

"Thank you for your kindness, but I can't accept this gift," Su Liuli initially pondered how to tactfully refuse Ouyang Lingfeng. Seeing his gesture with the keys, she felt a bit uncomfortable and decided to speak up.

"Uh..."

As Su Liuli's words echoed in everyone's ears, except for Situ Ruoshui and Su Jindi, everyone was startled!

Ouyang Lingfeng looked the most shocked, blurting out, "Why?"

"It's too valuable."

Su Liuli smiled and her gaze swept over the faces of several young gentlemen beside Ouyang Lingfeng, saying, "Originally, I planned to wait until after the party to give them the money for those expensive gifts just now, as if to accept the gesture and buy them. But your gift, it's just too valuable, I can't afford it."

Upon hearing Su Liuli's words again, the ordinary students were once again shocked. Surprised, their fondness for Su Liuli also rose sharply.

As for the several young gentlemen including Ouyang Lingfeng, their faces were filled with embarrassment, especially Ouyang Lingfeng, whose smile suddenly stiffened and he began to speak with a sullen face, "Liuli..."

"I'm really sorry, I appreciate the thought, thank you."

Before Ouyang Lingfeng could finish his words, Su Liuli placed her right hand over the neckline of her evening dress and her left hand behind her back, bowing slightly in thanks.

As her words fell, Su Liuli no longer gave Ouyang Lingfeng and the others a chance to speak. With an apologetic smile, she turned around and quickly returned to the center of the dance floor to prepare for the cake-cutting ceremony.

"Sister Liuli, big brother is here!"

Just as Su Liuli was about to reach the dance floor, Situ Ruoshui suddenly whispered in her ear in a low voice. Her Mental Body was stimulated by Ye Fan, and her Consciousness had retained a bit of Ye Fan's Spiritual Imprint, giving her a faint sense of Ye Fan, so even if Ye Fan completely contained his aura, she could still detect his presence.

Hmm?

Startled upon hearing Situ Ruoshui's words, Su Liuli was shaken to the core, and her steps halted as if a high-speeding car had suddenly slammed on the brakes!

Because Su Liuli's action was so sudden, she lost her balance when she stopped and fell forward due to inertia.

"Lady Su!"

Seeing this, a bodyguard's expression changed, and he hurriedly stepped forward to steady Su Liuli.

"Thank you, I'm fine." Realizing her lapse, Su Liuli quickly adjusted her emotions, but her peripheral vision continued to stare towards the entrance.

"Huh, didn't Sister Liuli not want big brother to come? Why are you so excited to hear that big brother is here?" Situ Ruoshui was filled with confusion.

The next moment.

Before Situ Ruoshui could figure anything out, under Su Liuli's watchful eye, Ye Fan, dressed in a Sun Yat-sen suit, slowly entered the hall.

Whoosh!

Seeing the familiar figure of Ye Fan, Su Liuli's pupils suddenly dilated, and Situ Ruoshui no longer pondered why Su Liuli was excited, instead, she waved excitedly at Ye Fan.

Hmm?

Seeing this, everyone was momentarily startled, then instinctively followed Su Liuli's gaze to look and found Ye Fan walking into the hall with an old-fashioned box in his hands.

Who is this guy?

Including Ouyang Lingfeng, none of the students who came for the party had ever seen Ye Fan and were filled with questions.

Ignoring everyone's stares, Ye Fan with the old-fashioned box in hand, walked straight towards Su Liuli.

Seeing Ye Fan approaching, Situ Ruoshui wore a happy smile, while Su Liuli, though she tried her best to control her emotions and kept reminding herself to stay calm, her slightly trembling hands revealed how excited her heart was!

"On the way here, I saw an old man fall and nobody helped, so I had Xiao Hu take him to the hospital, and I couldn't get a taxi." Ye Fan stopped one meter away from Su Liuli and said with a wry smile, "Sorry for being late, happy birthday!"

As he finished speaking, Ye Fan handed the old-fashioned box to Su Liuli with both hands.

"It's... it's okay, thank you!"

Speaking incoherently, Su Liuli's hands trembled as she accepted the old-fashioned box and then clutched it tightly in her palms, as if it contained the most precious treasure in the world!

Chapter 258: x [Who is the Clown?]

In Ye Fan's memory, Su Liuli had always treated him like a sworn enemy from a past life, taking every opportunity to take a jab at him. Yet, now, not only had she refrained from blaming him for arriving late, she was also cradling the gift he had given her like a prized treasure, her face filled with excitement...

Could she have known what the gift he was going to give was?

Su Liuli's abnormal behavior stunned Ye Fan for a moment before a strange thought surfaced in his heart; he then dismissed it as impossible—he hadn't told anyone about the gift for Su Liuli, so there was no way she could have guessed what was inside the box!

What's gotten into Sister Liuli?

It wasn't just Ye Fan who found the situation strange. Su Jindi and Situ Ruoshui, familiar with Su Liuli's style, were also taken aback. Based on their understanding of Su Liuli, even if she felt too embarrassed to publicly reprimand Ye Fan for his tardiness, she wouldn't typically grant Ye Fan any grace.

Could this guy be Su Liuli's boyfriend?

But had anyone heard that Su Liuli had a boyfriend?

Just as Ye Fan and the others felt bewildered, Ouyang Lingfeng, who had lost face before due to being rejected by Su Liuli when he tried to give her a gift, slightly changed his expression.

Known as a scion of finance, not only was he unmatched in the stock market, but he was also an absolute expert in flirting. He knew exactly what Su Liuli's excited demeanor implied!

Realizing this, Ouyang Lingfeng's expression turned extremely ugly.

In pursuit of Su Liuli, he had taken the opportunity of her birthday to spend over forty million on an Aston Martin, hoping to win her affection with his generosity. Yet she had publicly rejected him, and now here was a guy who claimed to have helped an old lady after a fall, who had come by taxi, casually taking out a worn-out box that seemed to send Su Liuli into a flurry of excitement—this was more frustrating than finding out his date was a man after getting intimate!

"Liuli student, what treasure did he give you to make you so excited?"

A buddy of Ouyang Lingfeng, noticing the change in his expression, guessed what was on his mind and asked with a smirk.

"What treasure could there be in that packaging?" sneered another young master.

"Didn't you hear him say he helped an old lady who fell down? Anyone who dares to help the old these days is a super tycoon, maybe it's some rare treasure!" another young master mocked.

Hearing the sneering and jeering of the young masters, Ouyang Lingfeng felt slightly better and, like his companions, looked at Ye Fan with a gaze reserved for watching a clown perform, waiting to see Ye Fan's embarrassment.

Meanwhile, the other students were also somewhat curious about what exactly Ye Fan had given Su Liuli that had elicited such an emotional response.

However, Su Jindi, hearing the disrespectful remarks from the young masters about Ye Fan, was about to lose his temper, but before he could, Su Liuli, as if waking from a dream, suddenly blushed and said in a fluster, "Who... who's excited?"

"Liuli student, if you weren't excited, then why were you clutching the box so tightly just now?" the young master allied with Ouyang Lingfeng asked again.

"I... I was considering whether to smash the gift in this guy's face."

Having recovered from her initial panic, Su Liuli tried to cover up the anomaly by not only returning to her usual demeanor but also deliberately showing a pissed-off expression, saying, "So many people were on time, yet he was the only one late!"

"Liuli, he was late because he kindly helped an old lady who had fallen; that's a good deed, you shouldn't do that."

Although Su Liuli quickly returned to normal, Ouyang Lingfeng still felt there was something fishy between her and Ye Fan, and he mused, "Besides, everyone is curious about the gift he gave you; why not satisfy everyone's curiosity?"

"Yeah, open it and let us take a look."

The young master allied with Ouyang Lingfeng urged provocatively, knowing from his understanding of Ouyang Lingfeng that even though he appeared to be speaking in defense of Ye Fan, he was actually pressuring Su Liuli to open the box to make Ye Fan embarrass himself in public.

As soon as Ouyang Lingfeng and his companions spoke, they completely piqued everyone's curiosity, and most people started echoing and instigating.

Facing all this, Su Liuli felt somewhat distressed; on one hand, she wanted to check the gift that Ye Fan had given her alone when no one was around, and on the other, she feared that opening Ye Fan's gift privately might upset him.

"Open it, and if you don't like it, just toss it away, but don't smash it in my face." Seeing Su Liuli return to normal and everyone goading her, Ye Fan couldn't help but give a wry smile.

"Should I really open it?"

Su Liuli was also full of curiosity about the gift Ye Fan had given her; seeing that Ye Fan wasn't minding her opening it, she asked once more for confirmation.

Ye Fan smiled and nodded.

Seeing this, Su Liuli no longer hesitated and now asked her bodyguard to hold the ancient box, ready to open it publicly.

Seeing Su Liuli's action, the hall fell silent again, everyone motionlessly staring at the box.

The next moment.

Under everyone's gaze, Su Liuli slowly opened the ancient wooden box.

Hmm?

As the wooden box was opened, everyone immediately saw a white bottle, a black pill, and four talismans drawn with strange patterns inside it.

Seeing the contents of the box, Su Liuli's heart was instantly filled with emotion.

Though she had not cultivated in martial arts and magic, she could tell that the items in the box were definitely related to martial arts and magic. Given what Situ Ruoshui had said, that Ye Fan, despite being severely drained from helping Pan Jueming and Su Jindi enhance their strength, power, and mind power, had been cultivating day and night to recover...

In such circumstances, Ye Fan had still taken the time and effort to craft these items for her, clearly showing how much he valued her birthday!

And before the party started, because Ye Fan was late and with a reminder from Situ Ruoshui, she somewhat believed that Ye Fan might not show up...

This stark contrast for her felt like moving from hell back to heaven, bringing her an unimaginable shock!

Just as Su Liuli was moved, the ordinary students were taken aback. Being regular people, they subconsciously thought the box contained medicine, and in their memory, giving medicine for a birthday was a first!

"Liuli, he's not a scam artist, is he?"

While everyone was still in shock, the young master with good relations with Ouyang Lingfeng laughed and said, "He gave you medicine and talismans, is he trying to ward off evil for you?"

"Liuli, in recent years, scam artists are everywhere, often deceiving people out of their money and taking advantage of them. Don't be fooled by him!"

Reminded by his companions, Ouyang Lingfeng also felt that Ye Fan was a scam artist. Recalling Su Liuli's excited reaction when she received the gift, he concluded she had been deceived by Ye Fan and hurriedly warned her.

As his words fell, Ouyang Lingfeng stepped forward, eyeing Ye Fan with a hostile look and warned, "You better not let me find out you're using tricks to deceive Liuli, otherwise I won't let you off!"

"Idiot, are you fucking stupid?"

Seeing Ouyang Lingfeng treating Ye Fan as a scam artist and arrogantly warning him, Su Jindi, who had been holding back until now, became furious. In his heart, Ye Fan was his great benefactor, almost godlike, and he wouldn't allow Ouyang Lingfeng to offend him.

"You..."

Ouyang Lingfeng, upon hearing this, changed color in anger. He wanted to erupt, but considering his image in front of so many people, and since Su Jindi was Su Liuli's cousin, he didn't want to upset her, so he forcibly suppressed his anger.

"Scam artist, I'll scam your face!"

Thinking of what Ouyang Lingfeng had said, Su Jindi's anger skyrocketed, and he burst out cursing, "You think you're so great because you gifted an Aston Martin ONE-77? Do you believe that black pill could trade for ten Aston Martin ONE-77s?"

"Er..."

Hearing Su Jindi's furious rebuke, everyone at the party, including Ouyang Lingfeng, was shocked!

Indeed...

They felt as if they had heard the most incredible thing in the world, staring at the unremarkable black pill with disbelief as if asking: It... it could trade for ten Aston Martin ONE-77s worth over forty million?!

"How is that possible?"

One young master muttered to himself, unable to believe Su Jindi's words.

"That pill is what every Martial Artist dreams of..."

Although Su Jindi didn't know what was in the white bottle, he recognized the black pill as the 'Body Refining Pill' Ye Fan had previously given him, capable of Washing Marrow and Removing Hair, a priceless treasure. Seeing the young master's disbelief, he began to explain its value.

However—

Before Su Jindi could finish speaking, Ye Fan interrupted, "Jin Emperor."

"Brother Ye is a generous man and won't stoop to your level, but if I hear even half a disrespectful word about Brother Ye again, don't blame me for not being nice!"

Seeing that Ye Fan halted him, Su Jindi also felt that explaining the 'Body Refining Pill's amazingness to people like Ouyang Lingfeng was completely like playing music to a cow. So, he simply warned coldly.

Brother Ye?

Shocked by the reference, Ouyang Lingfeng's mind raced as he looked at Ye Fan in astonishment and blurted out, "You... you're Ye Fan?"

"Yeah." Ye Fan nodded slightly, looking at Ouyang Lingfeng oddly, "And you are?"

Whoosh!

No answer.

Ouyang Lingfeng's face suddenly turned pale, his body stiffening on the spot!

Initially, he wanted to ingratiate himself with Su Jindi to introduce him to the legendary Ye Fan, but he not only mistook Ye Fan for a scam artist but also warned him with hostility...

At this point, Ouyang Lingfeng felt dizzy, his calves cramping as if about to go limp, almost collapsing to the ground!

Could it be... could it be that he is the legendary new godfather of Dong hai Underground World, that young master from the Ye Family?

Noticing Ouyang Lingfeng's abnormal reaction, his peers stared wide-eyed at Ye Fan, questioning themselves.

Yes!

A definite answer emerged in their minds almost simultaneously!

Even though they couldn't believe that the legendary Dong hai Godfather, the Ye Family's young master, would arrive by taxi at the party, their reason told them, if this wasn't the same Ye Fan, Ouyang Lingfeng wouldn't be so terrified!

Done for!

Thinking about how they had treated Ye Fan as a clown and spoken rudely, the young masters' knees went weak, they collapsed to the ground, sweating profusely.

Chapter 259: The Most Charming Scenery

Who on earth is this Ye Fan?

Seeing the once haughty Ouyang Lingfeng and his entourage acting like rats who had just seen a cat, all of them terrified, their faces drained of color and collapsing on the ground, the ordinary students were filled with curiosity about Ye Fan's identity.

For a moment, the hall became quiet once more, and the atmosphere turned somewhat eerie.

Previously, Ye Fan had declined to arrive at the party in the Rolls-Royce Phantom Presidential Edition, fearing it would affect the mood of the gathering. Now, seeing this scene, he thought for a moment and, under everyone's gaze, swiftly walked toward Ouyang Lingfeng.

"I'm so... sorry, Mr. Ye, I was blind and failed to recognize Taishan. I beg for your generosity to not lower yourself to my level," Ouyang Lingfeng, frightened to his core with his body shivering, plead in terror as he saw Ye Fan approaching.

As his voice fell, Ouyang Lingfeng completely cast aside his pride as if to feed it to the dogs, and with knees bending, he made as if to kneel in submission and apologize to Ye Fan!

"I don't know you. You might have mistaken me for someone else."

Upon seeing this, Ye Fan first reached out to grasp Ouyang Lingfeng, preventing him from kneeling, and then hinted with intentional nonchalance.

Misidentified?

When they heard Ye Fan's words, those young masters who had collapsed on the ground, drenched in cold sweat, froze in place, staring at Ouyang Lingfeng in shock, their expressions seeming to ask: What in the world is Ouyang Lingfeng doing?

Ouyang Lingfeng himself was stunned, his thoughts racing as he replayed the recent events. Upon catching Ye Fan's meaningful look, a realization struck him: It wasn't that he had mistaken someone else, but that Ye Fan simply didn't deign to hold him accountable!

"Sorry, I mistook you for an old acquaintance of the Ouyang Family. He too is named Ye Fan, an eminent hermit who once did our family a great service."

It must be said that Ouyang Lingfeng's quick-witted response was quite adept. Realizing Ye Fan's intent, he not only followed suit but also provided a gracious way out for himself and discreetly flattered Ye Fan with the high praise.

Upon hearing Ouyang Lingfeng's words, the young masters snapped out of their astonishment, quickly stood up, and looked as if they were about to lash out at Ye Fan.

Ouyang Lingfeng, seemingly having anticipated this reaction, winked repeatedly at the young masters.

Noticing Ouyang Lingfeng's gesture, the young masters understood that he was signaling them to keep quiet and forgo the thought of retaliation against Ye Fan, but confusion filled their hearts: Hadn't it been a case of mistaken identity? Why then was Ouyang Lingfeng stopping them from disciplining this guy? Could it be for fear of offending Su Jindi?

Without answers, the young masters exchanged perplexed glances, their expressions the epitome of bafflement, while Ouyang Lingfeng secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Seeing that the situation had calmed down, Ye Fan, inwardly admiring Ouyang Lingfeng's shrewdness, chuckled and said, "Jin Emperor was just joking earlier; don't take it to heart. That pill only provides a bit of help to one's body."

"Ah... right, I was just bragging, everyone. Don't mind me, don't mind," agreed Su Jindi, catching on that Ye Fan did not want to spoil the atmosphere of the gathering, and then turned to Su Liuli and said, "Sister Liuli, everyone is waiting to eat your cake. What are you dawdling for?"

"Yes, Liu Li, we're all starving," Ouyang Lingfeng added with a smile, though his smile looked incredibly awkward, as if it were more pained than a cry.

"Sorry for keeping you all waiting."

Seeing that the atmosphere had returned to normal, Su Liuli first looked at Ye Fan with gratitude, then carefully handed the antique box to the bodyguard. Accompanied by Situ Ruoshui, she returned to the center of the dance floor, and the bodyguard wheeled the cake trolley out from the restaurant.

"Ling Feng, big brother, what's going on?" Seizing the opportunity, the young master who was on good terms with Ouyang Lingfeng asked in a hushed voice.

Although his voice was quiet, it was still overheard by several other young masters nearby, who all turned to look at Ouyang Lingfeng, waiting for his explanation.

"I didn't recognize the wrong person."

Ouyang Lingfeng explained with a face full of belated fear, "It's just that he disdains to stoop to our level, and moreover, he doesn't want to ruin the atmosphere of the birthday party."

"Uh..."

Even though several young masters had considered this possibility, they were once again stunned upon hearing Ouyang Lingfeng's explanation.

"Then... then why did he come here by taxi?" After being stunned, one young master asked, puzzled.

"That's called being low-key."

Another young master quickly responded, "No wonder my dad told me that in today's society, the rich like to play it down, while the pretenders love to flaunt wealth. It seems to be true."

"He probably didn't intend to come by taxi. It's just that he encountered an elderly person who had fallen on the road, and he had his men send the fallen elderly to the hospital. He was left without a car, so he had to take a taxi here," said Ouyang Lingfeng, recalling what Ye Fan had told him earlier. He understood something, but doubts arose in his heart: Rumor had it that this Ye Family young master was arrogant and ruthless; how could he do such a kind deed?

There was no answer, but based on what had just happened, Ouyang Lingfeng could see that the real Ye Fan was very different from the rumors!

As Ouyang Lingfeng came to understand this, the bodyguard pushed the cake cart into the center of the dance floor, and Su Liuli, with Situ Ruoshui's help, inserted twenty candles onto the cake and lit them one by one.

Whoosh!

As the candles were lit, the lights in the hall suddenly went out, leaving only the flickering candlelight, casting a charming glow on Su Liuli's face.

"Happy Birthday to you..."

Soon after, excluding Ye Fan, everyone was clapping their hands and keeping the beat, singing the birthday song for Su Liuli.

"Does this guy not know how to sing the birthday song?"

Su Liuli had been glancing at Ye Fan out of the corner of her eye the whole time. Seeing that Ye Fan was just dumbly clapping along without opening his mouth to sing, she guessed something.

Indeed, just as Su Liuli had assumed, Ye Fan really didn't know how to sing the birthday song. He had never celebrated a birthday from childhood to adulthood, and he didn't even know when his own birthday was!

Once, when he first stepped out of the mountains and came to the bustling city, passing by a restaurant where he saw a couple celebrating their child's birthday, he stood frozen like someone had cast an immobilization spell on him, enviously watching from outside the restaurant's glass window, until the restaurant's security guard chased him away thinking he was a beggar.

After that day, he had more than once fantasized that one day he, too, could celebrate a birthday like that child.

With the warm birthday song ringing in his ears and thinking back to his wish from those days, combined with the reality of his current situation, Ye Fan lowered his head and gave a bitter smile. His normally proud stature suddenly seemed to stoop.

"He really doesn't know how to sing."

Seeing Ye Fan lower his head, his originally erect posture becoming somewhat hunched, Su Liuli thought about how Ye Fan had once been an orphan, raised in the mountains, and immediately confirmed her guess. At the same time, she felt as if her heart had been pricked by a needle, very painful... very painful!

The pain made it hard for her to breathe!

The pain gave her an urge to rush down and pull Ye Fan into her embrace!

"Sister Liuli, it's time to blow out the candles and make a wish,"

Shortly after, without waiting for Su Liuli to turn her impulse into action, Situ Ruoshui by her side tugged at her evening dress, reminding her.

"Oh."

As if she had just awoken from a dream, Su Liuli's heart stirred, and she suddenly picked up the microphone and said, "Actually, today is not just my birthday, but also the birthday of a friend of mine."

Hmm?

When Su Liuli said this, there was a stir in the crowd.

"He is also here today," Su Liuli said with a smile.

"Who is it?"

Someone in the crowd asked, and people began to look around, trying to find the person that Su Liuli was talking about.

"Now, let's all sing the birthday song together for our other birthday star—Mr. Ye Fan!" Su Liuli revealed the surprise.

Whoosh!

Because of the earlier incident, Ye Fan had already become the focus of attention that evening, and now as Su Liuli spoke, people's gazes once again gathered on Ye Fan.

"Uh..."

Even Ye Fan, an Innate Mage with a heart as steady as rock, was startled by this sudden turn of events and looked at Su Liuli with a full face of bewilderment.

"Happy Birthday to you..."

Amid flickering candlelight, Su Liuli watched Ye Fan with a smile, slightly opening her sensual lips to lead the singing of the birthday song, her eyes shimmering as if communicating something to Ye Fan.

"Happy Birthday to you..."

With Su Liuli taking the lead, the crowd once again clapped and sang the birthday song in time.

Click!

Hearing the warm birthday song again and seeing the smiles and well-wishes of the people around him, an emotion called 'touched' silently surged into Ye Fan's heart, making it quiver.

In the dim candlelight, he stood as if bound in place, motionless, his expression dreamy, as if he were in a dream.

Is this a dream?

"Mr. Ye Fan, what are you dazing for? Come up here and blow out the candles with me, make a wish, and then cut the cake for everyone to eat," Su Liuli invited him with a smile as the birthday song came to an end and Ye Fan stood there in a daze.

Hearing Su Liuli's voice by his ear, Ye Fan opened his mouth as if to say something, but found his throat was a bit dry.

Gulp!

His Adam's apple moved as he swallowed, and in the end, without uttering a word, he silently walked towards the center of the dance floor.

One step, two steps, three steps...

That short distance felt as if it were tens of thousands of miles long to Ye Fan.

Finally, under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Ye Fan walked to the center of the dance floor and stood shoulder to shoulder with Su Liuli.

"Thank you."

Ye Fan turned his head and said softly to Su Liuli.

"Thank a big-headed ghost, hurry up and make a wish," Su Liuli replied with a smile, then she closed her eyes, leading the way in making a wish, her eyelashes trembling slightly, revealing a gap on purpose to steal a glance at Ye Fan to see if he was making a wish.

Lit by the candlelight, her charming face was brimming with smiles, filled with sweetness and happiness.

That sweet and warm smile was like a Spiritual Imprint, deeply etched into Ye Fan's soul.

In that moment.

He suddenly felt that Su Liuli was the most enchanting scenery in this world, beautiful enough to intoxicate.

Chapter 260: [Left with No Choice]

"Dong... Dong..."

Watching as Ye Fan didn't make a wish but instead stared at her with a dumbfounded expression, Su Liuli's cheeks flushed red, feeling an inexplicable surge of nervousness. Her heart raced wildly, and she quickly closed her eyes, daring not to look at Ye Fan any longer.

Hmm?

Sensing the change in Su Liuli's expression, Ye Fan snapped out of his reverie, aware that he had lost his composure. He quickly averted his gaze and, like Su Liuli, shut his eyes, awkwardly making a wish.

Whish!

Soon after, Su Liuli finished making her wish and, feeling like a thief with a guilty conscience, glanced at Ye Fan. Then, thinking of the wish she had just made, a charming smile spread across her lips.

"Let's blow out the candles together," Su Liuli suggested a moment later when she saw that Ye Fan had also opened his eyes.

"Okay," Ye Fan nodded.

"One."

"Two."

"Three."

As soon as Su Liuli counted to three, Ye Fan blew out a breath almost at the same time, extinguishing the twenty lit candles, and the hall was plunged into momentary darkness.

As the lights came back on, Su Liuli picked up the cake knife and proposed again, "Shall we cut the cake together?"

"Hmm."

Ye Fan had never celebrated a birthday. Tonight, by a happy coincidence, he was dragged by Su Liuli to celebrate together. Touched, he let Su Liuli make all the arrangements.

Soon, under everyone's watchful eyes, Ye Fan and Su Liuli held the knife together and slowly made a slice into the three-layered cake.

"Brother Ye, wait, I'll take a photo of you two!" Seeing this scene, Su Jindi felt a surge of excitement and took out his phone, suggesting.

Hearing Su Jindi's words, Su Liuli felt an inexplicable tension in her heart and sneaked a glance at Ye Fan, who smiled and nodded.

"You two, stand closer together, preferably with an embrace," Su Jindi instructed as he aimed his phone at the two of them, arranging them like a professional photographer.

Upon hearing this, Su Liuli subconsciously moved closer to Ye Fan, her delicate body almost pressing against his. Ye Fan, unable to help but smile, extended his hand and wrapped it around Su Liuli's slender waist.

Feeling the warmth and strength from Ye Fan's palm, Su Liuli tensed up and didn't dare to move an inch.

"Su Liuli, it's just a picture, not the execution ground. What are you so nervous about?" Su Jindi was not pleased, thinking that Su Liuli's expression was too tense and would affect the effect of the photo.

"Who's nervous?"

As eternal adversaries, Su Liuli and Su Jindi would bicker whenever they met. Seeing Su Jindi making fun of her nervousness, Su Liuli's competitive nature was triggered. Far from being nervous, she puffed out her proud chest, exuding a powerful presence.

Click—

A crisp sound echoed, and the moment was captured.

"Clap clap—"

Ouyang Lingfeng led the applause for the two, and soon the claps rose like a tide all around.

After the applause subsided, two bodyguards swiftly sliced the cake and served it to the guests around the stage.

A few minutes later, once the guests had finished their cake, the real party began, and they one by one toasted Ye Fan and Su Liuli.

Because of her happiness, Su Liuli downed the first few drinks in one gulp.

"With the way you're drinking, you'll be drunk before they finish toasting you,"

Seeing Su Liuli's tomboyish behavior and her face as red as if it was about to drip water, Ye Fan reminded her with a bitter smile, "Just sip each one."

"Hmm."

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Su Liuli unexpectedly didn't argue back. Instead, she looked at Ye Fan with shining Liuli eyes and obediently nodded her head.

Even though Su Liuli drank only a sip each time as Ye Fan suggested, the number of people was overwhelming. By the time everyone had offered their toasts, Su Liuli's cheeks, earlobes, and neck were flushed with red, and a hint of drunkenness appeared between her brows and eyes.

After the toasting was over, the lights dimmed again, only the flashlights twinkled, and soothing music began to play. Many couples took to the dance floor, hand in hand, starting a ballroom dance.

In the dim light, Su Liuli, slightly inebriated, looked at Ye Fan with twinkling eyes, full of expectation, hoping that Ye Fan would ask her to dance.

"What's wrong?" Ye Fan asked, noticing Su Liuli's gaze.

"Nothing," Su Liuli played dumb.

"You were told to drink less but didn't listen, and now you feel uncomfortable, right?" Ye Fan thought Su Liuli was feeling unwell from drinking too much and said with a wry smile, "If you're feeling dizzy, I can help you rest over there for a while."

Is this guy a blockhead?

Su Liuli gave Ye Fan a look of exasperation. Then, spurred on by the alcohol, she took the initiative and said, "Tonight is our shared birthday party, and as a man, shouldn't you display some gentlemanly behavior and ask me for a dance?"

"Are you sure you're not drunk?" Seeing the usually 'adversarial' Su Liuli actually taking the initiative to dance with him, Ye Fan couldn't quite believe it.

"__"

Su Liuli was on the verge of tears, and then, almost as if in a huff, she grabbed Ye Fan's hand and headed towards the dance floor.

Hmm?

Outside the dance floor, Situ Ruoshui and Su Jindi both were startled at the sight, then exchanged glances, feeling as if they were asking each other: What's going on?

Not only Situ Ruoshui and Su Jindi saw this scene, but nearly all the guests in the hall did as well.

Sensing those gazes, even though Su Liuli was emboldened by alcohol, she couldn't help feeling nervous. Her heart thumped at a terrifying pace, as if it was about to leap out of her throat.

Soon, Su Liuli pulled Ye Fan onto the dance floor. Seeing him looking at her as if she were a freak, she suddenly had an idea and asked in shock, "Don't... Don't tell me you can't dance?"