

Young Master 141

Chapter 141: [Nightmare!] Request for Monthly Ticket!

After nightfall, one after another, luxury, high-end sedans successively arrived at the entrance of the West Lake Club.

At the club entrance, two rows of fashionably and sexily dressed models acted as greeters. Whenever a guest's car stopped, they would bow in unison to welcome them, their chests a dazzling white against their straight, fair legs—a temptingly sight.

At the same time, members of the Nanqinhong responsible for security were the first to step forward and greet the guests politely, then took the invitation cards handed over by the guests. After confirming that they were correct, they let the guests enter.

As time passed, more and more guests who were invited arrived, and the parking lot at the club was packed to capacity, its standard and class by no means inferior to some large-scale car shows.

Lights blazed on the open ground in front of the club hall, where a well-known band from Taiwan played famous piano pieces in the northwest corner. The waiters, dressed in uniform attire, stood in line. Whenever a guest gestured with their glass, the waiters would push the dining cart forward, either to pour drinks for the guests or to serve them food on silver platters.

Guests with wine glasses in hands gathered in small groups, conversing in low voices.

For them, the purpose of coming here tonight was not so much to witness Lin Ao Feng and Su Yuxin's engagement, but to use this opportunity and setting to connect with people from their own circles while also expanding their networks and promoting some business deals.

Advocating for his own interests, Su Hongyuan naturally did not miss this excellent social opportunity. As one of the hosts, he was wearing a suit made by a famous tailor from the EU's French region, holding a wine glass, constantly weaving through the crowd.

For Su Hongyuan, who had fought his way through the business world his entire life, he was already accustomed to such occasions. When facing the Su family's business partners, he would greet them and

clink glasses as a friendly gesture, and with the guests invited by the Lin family, he would deliberately engage in more conversation, presenting himself with great humility. And because of the marital union between the Su and Lin families, those guests were also quite polite to Su Hongyuan.

Furthermore, those guests who looked disdainfully at Su Hongyuan's actions of 'selling his granddaughter for profit' did not show their contempt on their faces; instead, they smiled brilliantly like the other guests, offering constant congratulations.

Faced with all this, Su Hongyuan's smile was so wide his mouth could barely close, and even more so, he felt fortunate that he had made the right decision by marrying Su Yuxin to Lin Ao Feng.

After all, in his view, the scene before him was something that Ye Fan could not offer him!

Lin Ao Feng, however, different from Su Hongyuan, became the obvious protagonist of the night as soon as he appeared. The invited guests flocked to him like moths to a flame, surrounding him like stars around a moon.

Facing the pleasing gestures of one guest after another, Lin Ao Feng wore that proud smile of the Nanqinhong Crown Prince on his face, not taking it to heart, his eyes instead occasionally and intentionally fixed on the entrance of the club.

He was waiting, waiting for the arrival of the supporting actor, Ye Fan!

At seven-thirty, Lin Ao Feng began to grow impatient as Ye Fan had yet to appear. He handed his wine glass to a waiter and then took a handkerchief from another, wiping his mouth.

Having done all this, he strode towards Su Hongyuan.

"Apologies, everyone, Ao Feng might have something to discuss with me. We'll talk again later. I wish you all a pleasant evening here," Su Hongyuan, having cultivated the ability to 'observe in all directions and listen in every way,' quickly raised his glass to apologize to the guests nearby when he saw Lin Ao Feng approaching.

The guests, sharp as they were, understood with Su Hongyuan's words and seeing Lin Ao Feng actually heading their way, they tactfully took their wine glasses and departed, while Su Hongyuan took the initiative to meet Lin Ao Feng.

"Young Master Lin, what's the matter?"

Although Lin Ao Feng's engagement to Su Yuxin was about to become a reality, Su Hongyuan still lowered his stance in front of him, maintaining the address of 'Young Master Lin.'

"Didn't you say that bastard would definitely come? Why hasn't he shown up yet?" Lin Ao Feng frowned and asked. For him, besides wanting to use the Su family to secretly prevent Ye Wenhao from gilding his image, it was also to avenge the 'arrow feud' with Ye Fan and, with the help of He Qingshu, to eliminate Fan.

As of now, Ye Fan was still absent, which somewhat displeased him.

"Young Master Lin, when Su Ming delivered the invitation to him, he did say he would come," Su Hongyuan replied. "As for why he hasn't shown up yet, I think he must have been scared, previously only showing off his verbal prowess."

"Find a way to force him out!" Lin Ao Feng said with a frown.

Su Hongyuan was taken aback. He had subjectively assumed that Lin Ao Feng invited Ye Fan over just to embarrass him in public, but seeing Lin Ao Feng speak this way now, he had a vague feeling that things weren't as simple as he thought.

"In my plan, this day next year will be his death anniversary, so no matter what, that bastard must show up!" Lin Ao Feng revealed his determination to kill Ye Fan without any disguise.

"I see." Su Hongyuan was shocked. Although he did not wish to drive Ye Fan to his death, the current situation left him no room to choose. He could only say, "Young Master Lin, I don't have his contact information; Yuxin does on her side."

"Oh?"

Upon hearing this, a glint flashed in Lin Ao Feng's eyes, as if struck by an excellent idea, and he returned to the club hall with a cold laugh.

Soon, Lin Ao Feng, dressed in a tailcoat, came alone to the doorway of a room in the club.

The room was arranged as a dressing room, and two top image designers from Nangang were adorning Su Yuxin with various jewelry.

Under the lighting, Su Yuxin's face showed not a hint of joy about the impending engagement, but a frosty coldness that even made the two image designers feel a bit jittery.

This feeling was intensified when they saw Su Jindi, with bandages tied around him, watching like a tiger on the sidelines.

Creak!

The sound of the door opening was heard, and Lin Ao Feng, dressed in a tailcoat, appeared at the room's entrance.

Whoosh!

In an instant, Su Yuxin, Su Jindi, and the two makeup artists all turned their gazes towards Lin Ao Feng.

Among them, Su Yuxin looked through the mirror with an extremely indifferent gaze, devoid of any emotional color, Su Jindi showed a face full of anger, and the two makeup artists appeared somewhat panicked.

"The engagement ceremony is about to begin, how come you haven't finished doing Su Yuxin's makeup yet? What are you all good for?" Originally, Lin Ao Feng thought that Su Yuxin had long been ready, but now seeing that she hadn't even put on her jewelry, he immediately started lecturing with a cold face.

"Mr. Lin..."

The two makeup artists looked at Lin Ao Feng with frightened hearts, trying to explain something.

"Get out first!"

Lin Ao Feng said coldly, "Wait until I finish talking with Miss Su Yuxin, then you can come back in and help Su Yuxin put on her jewelry. If it's not done before the engagement ceremony starts, you can crawl back to Nangang!"

"Yes... yes!"

The two makeup artists were scared pale, their legs trembling as they stumbled out of the makeup room.

"Jin Emperor, don't show me such hostility; the incident that day was completely a misunderstanding."

After the makeup artists left, Lin Ao Feng saw Su Jindi looking at him with a face full of hostility, and his expression changed. He then smiled and said, "Let bygones be bygones. From now on, we are one family. If you need anything in the future, just ask me. Oh, right, I remember you like racing and Kung Fu. I'll get someone to prepare a Bugatti Veyron for you, and find you a master to take you as an apprentice..."

"Not interested!" Su Jindi interrupted Lin Ao Feng coldly.

Lin Ao Feng's face changed, but he held back his anger and walked directly over to Su Yuxin, looking at her reflection in the mirror that was beautiful as a Heavenly Immortal, a sinister glint flashing through his eyes, then smilingly said, "Yuxin, I know you are very averse to me right now. But there is a saying that feelings develop over time, and one day you will willingly be with me."

Su Yuxin was expressionless, seemingly treating Lin Ao Feng's words as if they were air.

"I know you are still thinking about that Ye fellow. Let me tell you the truth, he hasn't shown up until now, which means he isn't going to come at all, and he doesn't dare to come!" As if already anticipating Su Yuxin's reaction, Lin Ao Feng was not angry but deliberately provoked her.

It had to be said, Lin Ao Feng had a knack for emotional manipulation as his taunt instantly caused a change in Su Yuxin's expression, with anger surging up her face.

"Yuxin, if you think I'm lying to you, why don't you make a call to him and ask if he dares to come?" Lin Ao Feng continued with a look of disdain.

"The reason I agreed to proceed with the engagement ceremony as scheduled is because I know my man is a proud person—he has said he would handle this matter! Do you think Su Hongyuan would have been able to make me submit if I weren't afraid of trampling on my man's pride?"

Su Yuxin looked at Lin Ao Feng with a mocking gaze, as if looking at a clown, "Rest assured, tonight, not only will my man come, but he will also make all of you regret it!"

"That's right, Brother Ye will definitely come!" Su Jindi spoke with full anger backing her words.

"Haha, hahaha..."

Laughter filled Lin Ao Feng's ears upon hearing their resolute words, as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world, and he laughed uncontrollably, almost to the point of tearing up.

"Bang bang—"

Soon after, before Lin Ao Feng could stop laughing, the door of the makeup room was knocked on.

"Come in!"

Lin Ao Feng collected himself and commanded sternly.

"Young Master Lin... that guy is here!"

As Lin Ao Feng's voice faded, the door was pushed open, and a member of Nanqinghong appeared at the doorway, reporting anxiously.

"Are you saying that Ye bastard has come?"

Lin Ao Feng had treated Su Yuxin's words as a joke and was convinced that Ye Fan wouldn't dare to come, so hearing his subordinate say Ye Fan was here, he became excited.

"Yes!"

"Good, good, that's great, hahaha!" Upon receiving his subordinate's confirmation, Lin Ao Feng was as excited as if injected with adrenaline.

"Scumbag, I promise you, tonight will become your nightmare!"

Upon learning Ye Fan had arrived, Su Yuxin stood up swiftly, looking at Lin Ao Feng as if looking at a clown.

"Since you have so much confidence in him, then let's go out together and see who will truly face a nightmare tonight!"

Su Yuxin's words echoed in Lin Ao Feng's ears as he looked at her with a face filled with sneering laughter and then made a beckoning gesture, "Let's go, my dear fiancée!"

As he finished speaking, Lin Ao Feng was the first to head towards the door, as if he could hardly wait to crush Ye Fan into dust!

Forgive once, twice, but not a third time.

He never learns his lesson!

Chapter 142: [Prepared]

The night was as dark as ink, and the moon painted a picturesque scene.

At the entrance of the club's main hall, guests who were originally engaged in drinking and chatting suddenly saw a car's headlights approaching from a distance. A car drove directly towards the club, prompting everyone to cease their conversations and turn their gazes toward the vehicle, puzzled expressions emerging on their faces.

It seemed they wanted to see who had the audacity to drive right up to the club with such grandeur.

Gradually, under the guests' watchful eyes, Ye Fan, driving an Audi A6L, arrived on the road in front of the main hall of the club. He pressed the brakes, and the car slowly decelerated.

Hmm?

As the car stopped, the guests could clearly see with the help of the lights that it was an unremarkable Audi A6L and that it did not bear an impressive license plate.

This discovery almost convinced them that the person arriving was not someone significant.

Having made such a judgment, their curiosity only deepened: if the person was not anyone of importance, why would they dare to drive up here?

There was one exception.

Su Hongyuan.

He recognized at a glance that the Audi A6L was the company car specifically provided to Ye Fan by Su Yuxin.

Because of this, after his initial surprise and suspicion, he thought of everything Lin Ao Feng had told him and subconsciously believed that Ye Fan was 'pulling the tiger's whiskers,' seeking his own death!

The next moment.

Under the watchful eyes of Su Hongyuan and the other guests, Ye Fan was the first to open the car door and step out.

"Isn't he Yuxin's personal doctor, Ye Fan?"

"Correct, it was he who cured Yuxin's illness."

"I heard he helped the Su family uncover the traitor initially planted by the He Family, securing the Binhe New District Phase I project, and now he serves as the deputy general manager of the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company."

"Not only that, I've heard through the grapevine that he and Yuxin are currently in a romantic relationship, and he even had a confrontation with Lin Ao Feng while aiding Su Jindi."

"If that's the case, Lin Ao Feng's engagement to Su Yuxin this time might very well contain elements of revenge, and he still dares to come?"

"They say he's a martial artist, and quite a skilled one at that, he must be here to steal the bride, right?"

"Hey, with such a scene today, if he dares to act recklessly, he's simply courting death!"

...

As Ye Fan got out of the car, appearing before everyone's eyes, the venue was filled with incessant murmuring. Those collaborating with the Su family felt somewhat sympathetic towards Ye Fan but also thought that his coming here was very reckless and foolish.

Those invited by Lin Ao Feng from the business circles and from various regions of Nanqinhong who were well aware of Ye Fan's situation and also knew of Lin Ao Feng's plans to eliminate him, each regarded Ye Fan with a look that one might give to a dead man.

Because the lights were too dazzling, the crowd did not notice Chu Ji's presence.

Ye Fan did not wait for Chu Ji to get out of the car but quickly walked towards the crowd, seemingly intending to find Su Yuxin first, while inside the car, Chu Ji seemed to intentionally use tonight's event as an opportunity to toughen up Ye Fan and was not in a hurry to get out.

Facing the gaze of over a hundred business magnates and local bigshots from Nanqinhong, Ye Fan's face bore no hint of nervousness or excitement, only calm.

He looked up, puffed out his chest, and walked step by step towards the crowd.

"Sir, may I assist you in any way?"

Soon, as Ye Fan approached the crowd, a waiter pushing a meal cart hurried towards him and asked with a respectful smile.

"No, thank you."

Ye Fan shook his head in refusal and then spotted Su Hongyuan in the crowd.

Noticing Ye Fan's gaze, Su Hongyuan deliberately turned his head away, pretending not to recognize Ye Fan, and more accurately treated Ye Fan as if he were thin air.

Seeing this, those partners of the Su family internally sighed at how ruthlessly Su Hongyuan was playing the old trick of 'killing the donkey after grinding.'

Ye Fan's steps slightly paused, then he walked straight toward Su Hongyuan.

In an instant.

The venue fell completely silent, so quiet that one could hear the steady steps of Ye Fan, as everyone's gaze followed his pace.

It seemed they all wanted to know what Ye Fan was about to do.

"Where is Yuxin?"

Soon, under the watchful eyes of everyone, Ye Fan walked directly to Su Hongyuan and got straight to the point.

"Dr. Ye, welcome to Lin Mister and Yuxin's engagement ceremony,"

Upon Ye Fan speaking, Su Hongyuan knew he could no longer pretend not to hear, so he responded with a cheery tone, "The engagement ceremony is about to begin, she and Mr. Lin are inside preparing."

Hmm?

Startled by Su Hongyuan's words and seeing no hint of surprise on his face, those partners of the Su family and the elite from Jiangnan society were taken aback — both intuition and logic told them that Ye Fan might not have come on his own but was invited to attend the engagement ceremony!

With this realization in their minds, they couldn't help feeling that the Su family and Lin Ao Feng were being excessively harsh, this was simply a public slap in Ye Fan's face!

As if to confirm everyone's guesses, just two seconds after Su Hongyuan's words, Lin Ao Feng and He Qingshu were seen walking out from the club hall with Su Yuxin and Su Jindi, while Su Ming followed closely behind Su Yuxin.

His purpose today was to keep an eye on Su Yuxin to prevent her from contacting Ye Fan on her own.

Whoosh—

Seeing Lin Ao Feng and others appear, the originally quiet scene became agitated, and the guests' gazes constantly shifted between Ye Fan and Lin Ao Feng.

Perhaps it was because everyone's gaze was directed towards Ye Fan, or perhaps because Ye Fan's position was too conspicuous, Lin Ao Feng spotted Ye Fan at a glance, his lips curving into a cold smile like a hunter spotting his prey.

At the same time, both Su Yuxin and her brother Su Jindi saw Ye Fan and displayed excited expressions, with Su Jindi especially running towards Ye Fan while shouting, "Brother Ye!"

Su Yuxin also intended to walk towards Ye Fan like Su Jindi did, but just as she took a step, she was blocked by Su Ming: "You can't go over there!"

"Move aside!"

Seeing Su Ming blocking her, Su Yuxin's expression instantly turned from the warmth of early spring to the coldness of deep winter as she spoke in a low voice, her tone laden with heavy anger.

"Yuxin, let's go together and thank Dr. Ye."

Oblivious, Lin Ao Feng stopped in his tracks, forced a smile, then deliberately walked in front of Su Yuxin, striding quickly towards Ye Fan.

"Dr. Ye, first of all, welcome to our engagement ceremony, and secondly, thank you for once treating Yuxin's illness."

Soon after, Lin Ao Feng walked up to the temporary stage, smiling at Ye Fan: "To show my gratitude, I'll enjoy a few drinks with you later."

As Lin Ao Feng's words echoed in his ears and seeing Lin Ao Feng's sinister smile, many guests at the venue couldn't help but internally remark on Lin Ao Feng's ruthlessness, perceiving his actions as trampling on Ye Fan's dignity as a man!

Amidst the internal sighs, those guests, like the others, cast their eyes on Ye Fan, seemingly curious about his reaction.

Surprisingly to everyone, facing Lin Ao Feng's provocation, Ye Fan remained calm, as if the matter had nothing to do with him.

In reality, he was waiting, waiting for Chu Ji to get out of the car, waiting to implement his counterattack plan.

Previously, he had come over first merely to confirm if Su Yuxin was safe and sound!

"Grandpa Su, since all the guests have arrived, shall we start the engagement ceremony now?" Seeing Ye Fan remain indifferent, Lin Ao Feng added fuel to the fire, signaling Su Hongyuan to commence the engagement ceremony on stage.

"Alright."

Su Hongyuan replied, not even giving Ye Fan a proper look, and walked towards the temporary stage.

"Who said all the guests had arrived?"

The next moment.

Just as Su Hongyuan took a step, a pleasant voice rang out. Though not loud, it was enough for everyone at the venue to hear clearly.

As the voice fell, the person appeared!

Chu Ji, in a red cloak, pushed open the car door and slowly stepped out from the unassuming Audi A6L.

Swish!

Instantly, everyone's gaze, except for Ye Fan's, uncontrollably turned towards Chu Ji.

"Uh..."

Seeing Chu Ji's stunning face, everyone, except for Ye Fan and Su Yuxin, was shocked with their mouths slightly open.

This wasn't because Chu Ji's entrance was too dazzling, nor because of her beautiful face and enticing figure, but rather because of her influence.

A person's reputation, a tree's shadow.

Chu Ji, known as the 'Demon Queen', although mostly active in the north and often staying in Yanjing, had her reputation well-established throughout Huaxia.

Because, there were rumors suggesting her involvement with the Ye Family, especially a close relationship with Ye Wenhao!

Moreover, as the chairperson of the Tianshan Group, one of Huaxia's private enterprise giants, and having featured on the covers of economic magazines of Huaxia and other alliances multiple times, she was a legendary figure in Huaxia's business world!

Compared to those business magnates, the shock of the people from Nanqinhong was even greater—they not only knew Chu Ji's public identity but also knew she was a martial arts expert who had entered the Innate Realm over a decade ago and had dominated the top spot on the Qing bang until she was removed last year due to her age over thirty!

Even the people from Nanqinhong knew about Chu Ji's prowess in the martial arts world, let alone Lin Ao Feng and He Qingshu?

Seeing Chu Ji appear, both of their faces changed simultaneously, each showing a few shades of shock—originally, they had been sure that Ye Fan wouldn't have any significantly powerful backing, but now discovering Chu Ji was supporting Ye Fan, one can imagine the terror that brought them!

Su Hongyuan and Su Ming were also shocked!

They had long known that Ye Fan was recommended by Chu Ji to treat Su Yuxin, and they vaguely judged that Ye Fan's ability to send Gou Wei and Su Feiyu to prison had been completely due to Chu Ji quietly pulling strings!

But...

They always thought that Chu Ji would not get involved in this dispute for Ye Fan!

After all, in their view, if Chu Ji got involved, she'd face not just Nanqinhong but possibly also confront the Bai Family—such consequences were far beyond what Chu Ji could bear!

Impossible, right?

Click! Click!

Later.

Under everyone's gaze, Chu Ji in a red cloak, with steady steps, walked directly towards Ye Fan, the sound of her high heels striking the ground exceptionally crisp.

That crisp sound brought everyone back from their shock and helped them realize.

The previously ignored young man wasn't reckless at all.

He came prepared!

Chapter 143: [The Powerful Demon Queen]

Realizing this, those Su Family partners and the Jiangnan elite swiftly diverted their gaze from Chu Ji, unanimously shifting it toward Su Hongyuan.

Seeing Su Hongyuan's astonished expression, they were sure that Su Hongyuan hadn't expected the "Demon Queen" Chu Ji to come and support Ye Fan. Likewise, they understood that since Ye Fan had come prepared, the idea of tonight's engagement ceremony proceeding smoothly was nothing short of a fool's dream!

For a moment, their faces uniformly displayed a contemplative look, and while they didn't mind using the occasion to expand their contacts and discuss business, they were also interested in witnessing a drama of marriage disruption unfold.

However, considering that this matter could potentially involve and affect them, they couldn't help but set aside their amusement to seriously contemplate which direction this situation would ultimately take.

In comparison, the members from Nanqinghong appeared slightly more solemn.

Because in their memory, Chu Ji was not only a Martial Artist with high prowess but also notoriously ruthless.

Ten years ago, when Chu Ji suddenly appeared, an Innate Martial Artist who practiced the Lust Demon Technique tried to assault her and ended up having his Martial Arts crippled by her. She castrated him, amputated his limbs, and threw him to a pack of wolves, turning the Martial Artist into wolf food.

It was unclear who had spread this incident, but ever since then, the "Demon Queen" title began to circulate within the Martial Arts World and eventually reached the secular world. This led the conceited young masters of Yanjing to regard Chu Ji as a poisonous rose, to be admired from a distance but not to be desecrated.

And today, Chu Ji had clearly come to support Ye Fan...

Although they didn't know what Chu Ji would do, they were sure of one thing: the "Demon Queen" Chu Ji, who had dominated the Qing bang for ten years, definitely didn't take Nanqinhong lightly!

"Didn't you say that kid had no backing?"

As the members of Nanqinhong looked terrified, He Qingshu tightly furrowed his brow and asked Lin Ao Feng in a never before seen grave tone.

"Uncle He, I also didn't know that this kid was connected to this woman." Lin Ao Feng regained his senses from the shock and instinctively replied.

"Hiss~"

He Qingshu sucked in a breath of cold air, looking somewhat displeased at Lin Ao Feng.

"Uncle He, although this woman is powerful and influential in the secular world, given that this issue involves the Ye Family's and Bai Family's struggle, she wouldn't dare act rashly."

Sensing He Qingshu's anger, Lin Ao Feng analyzed calmly, "Moreover, she can't openly challenge the authority of the Yanhuang Organization!"

Perhaps feeling that Lin Ao Feng had a point, He Qingshu didn't respond, but he knew clearly that since Chu Ji had arrived, their plan to infuriate Ye Fan, provoke him into attacking, and use the self-defense rule to kill him, was doomed.

He Qingshu understood this, and Lin Ao Feng was also crystal clear about it!

This realization extremely frustrated Lin Ao Feng!

Apart from feeling frustrated, he saw Su Hongyuan's face alternating between hope and despair, fully aware that Su Hongyuan was panicking due to Chu Ji's arrival. Lin Ao Feng suddenly steeled his heart and said, "Lady Chu, I truly did not expect you to grace our wedding. It's an honor beyond our wildest expectations."

"Who did you call 'lady'?"

Chu Ji, who had just reached Ye Fan's side, saw Lin Ao Feng greeting her with a fake smile and scoffed in response.

"Uh..."

Lin Ao Feng suddenly found himself at a loss for words.

"Don't flatter yourself. I came uninvited because some people are shamelessly coveting my nephew's woman and deserve a beating!" Chu Ji candidly expressed her stance and attitude.

Whoosh—

As soon as Chu Ji spoke, the crowd burst into an uproar again.

Clearly, nobody had expected that Ye Fan would be the famous "Demon Queen's" nephew!

"Su Hongyuan is going to have a tough time now!"

Almost simultaneously, those Su Family partners and elite figures of Jiangnan society cast their eyes on Su Hongyuan, each harboring the same thought.

In their view, although Lin Ao Feng, as the Nanqinghong Crown Prince, had a distinguished identity and a lofty position, Ye Fan, being the nephew of the "Demon Queen" Chu Ji, was no less impressive and potentially even more beneficial for the future of the Su Family!

After all, Nanqinghong was an underworld force and couldn't be openly acknowledged!

Difficult, right?

Yes!

From the moment Chu Ji appeared, Su Hongyuan started to feel uneasy, and now, hearing Chu Ji's words, his discomfort soared drastically.

Besides feeling difficult, he also knew that at this point, he could only hope in the rumors that Bai Family was the backer of Nanqinghong!

If Nanqinghong had no such backing from the Bai Family, he had a thousand reasons to believe that Lin Ao Feng would behave like a tame mongrel in front of Chu Ji, getting completely smoked by Ye Fan, and the Su Family might very well have to bear the wrath of Ye Fan and Chu Ji!

Guessing Su Hongyuan's thoughts, facing the formidable Chu Ji, Lin Ao Feng forcefully suppressed the fear in his heart and said word by word, "Lady Chu..."

"This is the second and last time. If I hear you say 'lady' again, I will cut off your tongue!" Chu Ji coldly interrupted Lin Ao Feng, displaying her dominance to the fullest.

"You might have misunderstood; I didn't steal your nephew's woman..." Perhaps because Chu Ji was so dominant, Lin Ao Feng also inevitably got a bit irked, his tone unintentionally becoming forceful.

Chu Ji coldly laughed again and interrupted Lin Ao Feng, "Then you mean to say that you and the Su girl are truly in love?"

"Uh..."

Lin Ao Feng was at a loss for words.

Su Yuxin was the first to clarify, "Sister Chu, I have no feelings for him; on the contrary, in my eyes, he's just a scumbag!"

"Sss~"

Seeing Su Yuxin publicly calling him scum, Lin Ao Feng's face turned pale with rage, and he said irritably, "Engagement and marriage are not just about the two individuals but about the union of two families—I engaged her with Grandpa Su's permission!"

As his words fell, Lin Ao Feng looked meaningfully at Su Hongyuan, signaling him to make a statement.

"Miss Chu, Ao Feng is telling the truth. He indeed personally came to ask for her hand in marriage, and our Su Family even held a family meeting to unanimously agree on this marriage. As for Yuxin, I think, she just temporarily doesn't understand our good intentions. I believe that after some time, she will willingly be Ao Feng's wife!" Prompted by Lin Ao Feng, Su Hongyuan spoke, firmly aligning himself with Lin Ao Feng.

Because he knew that without the Bai Family's support behind him, Lin Ao Feng definitely wouldn't dare to be so presumptuous in front of Chu Ji!

"Phew~"

Hearing Su Hongyuan's words, Lin Ao Feng secretly breathed a sigh of relief, then looked at Chu Ji with a smile and said, "Lady Chu, if you and your nephew would like to attend our engagement ceremony, I would be very grateful and sincerely thank you. If you merely came to verify whether I stole your

nephew's woman, then the result is clear now, and Grandpa Su's words are enough to prove that I'm not lying. Also, I believe someone of your esteemed status would certainly not act out of character."

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Hearing Lin Ao Feng's words, the guests at the scene secretly marveled at how the son of the cunning Lin Tianyi, though arrogant, inherited Lin Tianyi's treachery, using retreat as an advance in such a nicely played move!

On one hand, he placed himself on a moral high ground—if Chu Ji forced the issue, she would inevitably confront the laws of Huaxia and the regulations of the Yanhuang Organization. Furthermore, by deliberately mentioning Chu Ji's noble status, if Chu Ji really were to forcibly take someone, she would become a laughingstock in the future!

"Little bastard, playing games with me? You're still too green."

Facing Lin Ao Feng's strategic retreat, Chu Ji scoffed, then turned to Su Hongyuan and said, "Su Hongyuan, come with me to the bamboo grove for a private chat."

"Uh..."

Upon hearing this, Su Hongyuan involuntarily was taken aback.

"Lady Chu, a person of your nobility, are you intending to threaten and intimidate Grandpa Su?"

Lin Ao Feng feigned a surprised look, ostensibly provoking Chu Ji while secretly worrying if Su Hongyuan would waver, "As a banner of the Jiangnan Business World, I assume he won't be scared off by a few words from you."

"Little bastard, don't be too happy with your prancing around; soon I'll make you regret it deeply."

Chu Ji scoffed and then moved like a shadow, appearing in front of Su Hongyuan, "Su Hongyuan, it's just a few words, no need to be this scared, right? Of course, you can choose not to go, but I guarantee you'll regret it!"

As her words ended, Chu Ji didn't waste more words, leading the way to the bamboo grove.

"Ao Feng, rest assured, since I've agreed to your engagement with Yuxin, I certainly won't change my mind at this time."

Looking at Chu Ji's enticing silhouette, Su Hongyuan's heart was in turmoil, but he finally steeled his resolve and told Lin Ao Feng, "I'll be right back!"

"You..."

Although he faintly felt that the profit-oriented and opportunist Su Hongyuan would go, hearing Su Hongyuan's words still made Lin Ao Feng quite angry; he instinctively wanted to curse, but feeling it inappropriate, he swallowed the words he had on the tip of his tongue.

And Su Hongyuan simply turned around and quickly followed Chu Ji.

"Little bastard, better not let your underlings harass me, or else, you'll bear the consequences!"

Noticing that Su Hongyuan was eagerly following, Chu Ji showed no surprise, as if she had anticipated this, and without turning back, she issued a warning to Lin Ao Feng.

Clack!

Lin Ao Feng, originally planning to send someone to spy on Chu Ji and Su Hongyuan's conversation, suddenly heard Chu Ji's warning, was startled, and immediately abandoned the idea, only yelling toward Su Hongyuan's retreating figure, "Grandpa Su, don't forget our agreement!"

Su Hongyuan's body jolted, then remembered Lin Ao Feng's prior threats and promises.

"Su Hongyuan, don't think about that bullshit agreement anymore." Chu Ji turned her head, looking at Su Hongyuan with a mournful gaze, "Tonight, you will deeply regret your actions!"

Chapter 144: [Atonement!]

"Tonight, you're going to regret this to your guts!"

Su Hongyuan's mood became unsettled as the teasing words of Chu Ji echoed in his ears, and Chu Ji's mournful gaze appeared in his eyes.

Even though his intellect told him that partnering with Lin Ao Feng, the Crown Prince of Nanqinghong backed by the Bai Family, was the correct choice, he couldn't shake off a sense of unease in his heart. On the contrary, that unease, like a seed watered by the rain, began to grow rapidly.

Could it really be that Ye Fan is part of the Ye Family?

Su Hongyuan asked himself, almost instinctively denying the thought.

For one thing, according to the investigations of both the Su Family and Nanqinghong, there was no Ye Fan in the Ye Family. Moreover, even if Ye Fan were some illegitimate child of a third-generation member of the Ye Family, Ye Wenhao, the most powerful contender for the head of the third generation, would not be oblivious.

After once again denying that Ye Fan was part of the Ye Family, Su Hongyuan was very curious about why Chu Ji said he would regret it, especially since the Bai Family is the most powerful and influential beside the Ye Family in all of Huaxia!

Driven by sheer curiosity, Su Hongyuan almost couldn't resist asking Chu Ji, but seeing the bamboo forest close at hand, he abandoned the idea—the answer would be revealed once he entered the bamboo forest!

Hm?

Half a minute later, Su Hongyuan followed Chu Ji into the bamboo forest and vaguely saw a figure in the depths of the forest.

This discovery made Su Hongyuan puzzled and his eyes widened in an effort to discern who the person in the bamboo forest was.

"There's no need to look any further, Ye Wenhao is waiting for you." Seeing Su Hongyuan's actions, Chu Ji stopped and unveiled the mystery.

Ye Wenhao?!

Perhaps it was because of the unintended offense against Ye Wenhao some time ago or the decision to form an alliance through marriage with the Lin family and take shelter under the Bai family's big tree, but upon hearing the name Ye Wenhao, Su Hongyuan felt like a mouse who had heard a cat, and his whole body shuddered with a surge of panic.

Not paying attention to Su Hongyuan's terrified demeanor, nor thinking about the shock that the name Ye Wenhao brought to Su Hongyuan, Chu Ji turned around, closed her eyes slightly, let her consciousness expand, and sensed everything around, ensuring that no one approached the bamboo forest.

Meanwhile, cold sweat uncontrollably emerged from Su Hongyuan's forehead. He felt as if his feet were filled with lead, utterly heavy, and as if Ye Wenhao, who was within the depths of the bamboo forest, was a devil from hell.

"Huff! Huff! Huff!"

After the shock had passed, Su Hongyuan took three deep breaths in quick succession, trying hard to calm himself down. He walked directly toward Ye Wenhao, pondering the purpose of Ye Wenhao's secret summoning while he walked.

Although Su Hongyuan had weathered countless storms during his years in the business world and had experience beyond that of an ordinary businessman, and even though he was now a banner in the

Jiangnan Business World, he still couldn't figure out the trick as he stopped three meters behind Ye Wenhao.

"Gulp!"

Looking at Ye Wenhao's solitary figure, Su Hongyuan's Adam's apple moved convulsively. He tried hard to calm himself, but the muscles at the corner of his eyes twitched uncontrollably, and there was a slight tremor in his voice, "Governor... Governor Ye."

Without answering, Ye Wenhao slowly turned around, his gaze sweeping towards Su Hongyuan.

In an instant.

Su Hongyuan felt as though his neck was being clenched by Death himself, unable to move or even breathe. Large beads of sweat continuously seeped from his forehead, sliding down his aged face.

He didn't dare to wipe them away, but stood there shivering, bending over, without even the courage to look at Ye Wenhao again!

Because the aura of a superior and a martial arts master that emanated from Ye Wenhao was something he couldn't withstand!

"Ye Fan is my son."

A few seconds later, just when Su Hongyuan was on the verge of collapse, Ye Wenhao spoke, his voice not loud, yet it exploded in Su Hongyuan's ears like a clap of thunder!

Hum——

In that instant, Su Hongyuan was so shocked that his eyes bulged, his mouth gaped open, and his mind went blank!

He looked at Ye Wenhao with a dumbfounded face, as if to ask, "How... how is this possible?"

Possible??

Without answering, Ye Wenhao simply looked expressionlessly at Su Hongyuan.

Thump—

Su Hongyuan's legs went soft, and he slumped to the ground.

Even though he felt that everything was absurd, as ridiculous as if heaven were playing a joke on him, the sliver of rationality that remained told him that Ye Wenhao, as the most powerful contender for the Ye Family's third-generation leadership, wouldn't waste his time running here to tease him!

"Huff... Huff..."

Realizing all this, Su Hongyuan's breathing became rapid, his heartbeat accelerated to a rate that was almost unbearable for him, and sweat poured down like rain.

"Lin Ao Feng has approached the Su Family for a marriage alliance with two purposes in mind. One is to use the Su Family's influence to meddle with my work in Jiangnan and affect my political achievements, thereby deepening cooperation with the Bai Family,"

Looking at Su Hongyuan, who had collapsed in fright on the ground, Ye Wenhao's face showed no emotion as he said indifferently, "The second reason is that Lin Ao Feng wants to take this opportunity to retaliate against my son—he's trying to provoke my son into taking action against him, so that he can kill my son under the guise of self-defense!"

"Bang... Bang... Bang..."

As Ye Wenhao's words echoed in his ears, Su Hongyuan shivered as if he had just been fished out of an ice cellar. He opened his mouth to say something, but he couldn't utter a single word; all that could be heard was the clacking of his upper and lower teeth.

"I might as well tell you, I never gave a second thought to Nanqinghong wanting to use the Su Family to disrupt my work—that family might count for something in Jiangnan, but in my eyes, you might not even amount to a leaf!" Ye Wenhao said from his commanding height.

No answer came.

On the day Lin Ao Feng proposed the marriage alliance, Su Hongyuan had considered approaching Ye Wenhao, but after much thought, he subconsciously believed that the Su Family might not even register in Ye Wenhao's eyes, and even if he approached Ye Wenhao in a gesture of loyalty and begged for forgiveness, with Ye Wenhao's arrogance and pride, he would likely be ignored.

It was because of this that he ultimately resolutely chose to stand on Lin Ao Feng's side. Now hearing what Ye Wenhao had said, how could he dare to respond?

Ye Wenhao spoke again, his voice suddenly rising, and with it surged a hint of anger, "You should be aware that since I've guessed Nanqinghong's intentions, your petty tricks naturally become meaningless. Tonight, I came here for the sake of my son—if it weren't for the worry that my son might not be able to accept me as his father for the time being, I wouldn't need to waste my words with you!"

Clang!

Hearing Ye Wenhao's words and feeling his wrath, Su Hongyuan was greatly shocked, as if he had been scared senseless.

Because he knew that what Ye Wenhao was saying was the truth!

Since Ye Wenhao had come out for Ye Fan, if it weren't for the concern he had just mentioned, he would have definitely stepped in personally to defend Ye Fan, rather than wasting his words here!

"Governor Ye... Governor Ye... Governor Ye, I had no idea about all this," Su pleaded, his voice verging on panic. "I was forced into agreeing to marry off Yuxin to Lin Ao Feng. Please, spare me, spare the Su Family!"

As understanding dawned, Su Hongyuan collapsed to the ground, groveling like a beaten dog. The wrath of Ye Wenhao was not something the Su Family could withstand, nor was it something Nanqinghong could withstand, and even the Bai Family would pay a heavy price should they face the fury of Ye Wenhao!

"I can spare you," Ye Wenhao said coldly. "But you must restore the honor my son has lost!"

"Please... rest assured, I know what to do," Su Hongyuan responded immediately.

After the initial terror had subsided, Su Hongyuan regained a measure of calm. Hearing Ye Wenhao's words, an idea struck him, and he rapidly nodded his understanding like a chicken pecking at the ground.

"Remember, don't tell anyone you've seen me, nor should you tell anyone that Ye Fan is my son." Seeing that Su Hongyuan had grasped his intention, Ye Wenhao added firmly, leaving no room for doubt.

"Yes... Yes!"

Recalling Ye Wenhao's previous statement, Su Hongyuan was well aware of its meaning and hurriedly nodded in agreement.

Shortly after, as Su Hongyuan waited for further instructions from Ye Wenhao, he suddenly realized that Ye Wenhao had vanished without a trace, almost as if he'd never been there.

This eerie occurrence almost made Su Hongyuan believe he was hallucinating.

However...

When he turned around and saw the faint silhouette of Chu Ji behind him, he knew it was no illusion—Ye Wenhao had left in his moment of distraction.

"Huh!"

With this realization, Su Hongyuan took a deep breath and then forcefully exhaled, as if to expel all the fear and shock from his system.

Having done this, he slowly got to his feet, dusted himself off, steadied his nerves, and walked out of the bamboo forest.

"Lady Chu, I'm sorry..."

Soon, Su Hongyuan approached Chu Ji and bowed deeply by way of apology.

But—

Before he could finish, Chu Ji interrupted him coldly, "I'm not here to hear your apologies. What's the value of your 'sorry'?"

"I will publicly cancel the engagement ceremony and do whatever it takes to provoke Lin Ao Feng," Su Hongyuan said after being rebuffed. Despite being shut down, he didn't dare to utter even the smallest complaint but spoke with a face full of reverence.

Perhaps because of her full trust in Su Hongyuan's profit-oriented and opportunistic nature, Chu Ji didn't bother to overexplain or add anything further. Instead, she took the lead and walked out of the bamboo forest.

Seeing this, Su Hongyuan followed closely behind, feeling extremely fortunate. He was grateful that Ye Wenhao, out of concern for Ye Fan's feelings, did not appear in person, otherwise how could he have had the chance to make amends for his wrongs?

Half a minute later, under the watchful eyes of everyone, Chu Ji and Su Hongyuan emerged from the bamboo forest, walking straight toward the event.

What exactly did Chu Ji and Su Hongyuan discuss?

Seeing the two of them appear, everyone, including Ye Fan, wondered—Trusting in Chu Ji, Ye Fan was only aware of the plan to counterattack that night and did not know the specifics—he was clueless about how Chu Ji intended to persuade Su Hongyuan to change his mind!

What exactly was discussed?

There was no answer.

Yet—

As Chu Ji and Su Hongyuan walked down the red carpet and into the engagement scene, everyone could clearly see Su Hongyuan following behind Chu Ji like a subservient dog, his face expressing nothing but reverence!

Could it be... Su Hongyuan had changed his mind?

This discovery made everyone, except Ye Fan, visibly surprised.

As if to clear up the doubts in everyone's minds.

Suddenly.

Su Hongyuan quickened his pace.

He didn't head towards Lin Ao Feng, whom he had previously humbled himself to please, but instead walked towards Ye Fan.

One step, two steps, three steps...

Under the lights.

His pace was so frantic that he nearly stumbled and fell.

Seconds later, under the gaze of all and amid Lin Ao Feng's uneasy mood, Su Hongyuan stopped just one meter away from Ye Fan.

What was he going to do?

Witnessing this scene, many asked themselves.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Ye, please forgive my ignorance and foolishness!"

As if in answer to their questions, Su Hongyuan bowed deeply to Ye Fan, under the incredulous stares of all present.

A ninety-degree bow!

In that moment.

He cast aside the honor and pride of the Su Family Patriarch and the flag-bearer of the Jiangnan Business World, all in the name of seeking redemption!

Chapter 145: [The Expert at Playing Both Sides]

Time seemed to stop at this moment.

The scene appeared to be frozen at this moment.

The vast venue instantly fell into absolute silence, as everyone involuntarily turned their gaze toward Su Hongyuan.

Among them, except for Ye Fan and Lady Chu, everyone else's face revealed varying degrees of shock.

Including Su Yuxin!

Although she knew that Ye Fan was Lady Chu's junior brother and also a disciple of Chu Xuanji, she had not anticipated that her grandpa's change of attitude would be so swift!

By comparison, the shock of others was self-evident!

For those Su Family business partners and the upper-class society of Jiangnan, although they had long witnessed Su Hongyuan's 'profit above all' nature, they had not expected that at this moment, Su Hongyuan would outright abandon his dignity and pride.

He Qingshu and those from Nanqinhong stood there stunned, even suspecting whether Su Hongyuan's consciousness had been controlled by someone else, otherwise, he wouldn't make such an absurd decision.

Because, in their view, Su Hongyuan's actions at this moment were akin to slapping Lin Ao Feng in the face, trampling on the glory of Nanqinhong!

As for Lin Ao Feng himself, although he had considered that Su Hongyuan might be 'coaxed or frightened' by Lady Chu, he believed Su Hongyuan would not make a decision blindly. How could he have imagined that after a trip to the bamboo forest, Su Hongyuan's stance would change by a complete 180 degrees?

Even Su Ming, who knew Su Hongyuan best, was shocked and frozen in place by the change. He simply couldn't comprehend what had caused Su Hongyuan to switch camps so resolutely in such a short time!

While everyone except Lady Chu was shocked, Ye Fan looked at the humbled Su Hongyuan with an expressionless face.

Under the lights, he just watched quietly, without uttering a word.

"Mr. Ye, please rest assured, I will give you an explanation for tonight's events!"

Ye Fan's silence put considerable pressure on Su Hongyuan. He was well aware that if his next actions did not satisfy Ye Fan, he would bear the brunt of Ye Fan's fury.

And Ye Fan's fury was tantamount to Ye Wenhao's fury!

Whoosh—

Su Hongyuan's once more speaking pulled everyone back from their shock to reality, but they still remained motionless, watching him, as if asking: What exactly had Lady Chu said to Su Hongyuan that made him change his attitude so directly?

What was it?

There was no answer.

Under everyone's gaze, Su Hongyuan walked towards Su Yuxin in silence.

"I'm sorry, Yuxin, Grandpa was wrong."

Soon, Su Hongyuan approached Su Yuxin, full of remorse: "Marriage is one of the most important things in a person's life, especially for a girl, it's a matter of utmost importance. Grandpa should not have rashly agreed to this marriage without considering your feelings, without hearing your opinion. After all, it will affect your happiness in the future."

Hearing Su Hongyuan's insincere words and seeing his contrite expression, Su Yuxin laughed.

Yes.

At that moment, she could not help but laugh.

She couldn't stop thinking about that scene where she had desperately pleaded with Su Hongyuan with red eyes and tears, to no avail.

She also remembered that before coming here, her mother had said similar things to Su Hongyuan, only to be rebuffed by Su Ming.

And at that time, Su Hongyuan had made no compromises, instead, he told her sternly that she needed to arrive at the engagement venue early and must not breach etiquette in front of the guests!

"It seems I've still underestimated his opportunism..."

Under the lights, Su Yuxin's laughter was on her face, but the pain was in her heart. She even wondered if, for Su Hongyuan, this world contained only interests, and everything had its price!

If even Su Yuxin felt Su Hongyuan's words were too false, what about the others?

"Grandpa Su, please don't forget our agreement!"

Not long after, without waiting for Su Yuxin to speak, Lin Ao Feng, not too far away, forcefully suppressed his inner fury and reminded him.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Lin, I haven't forgotten our agreement, but I just think that Miss Chu is right, marriage is a very important matter for a girl and should not be treated carelessly."

Su Hongyuan replied earnestly, his attitude was like night and day compared to before.

"You... what do you mean?"

Lin Ao Feng trembled with rage. To him, if Su Hongyuan were to back out of the engagement in front of so many people, it would be more than a slap in the face; it would be like grinding the pride of the Nanqinghong Crown Prince to dust and feeding it to dogs!

"After careful consideration, I think this matter concerning Yuxin's happiness should be primarily based on Yuxin's opinion."

Su Hongyuan seemed to be responding to Lin Ao Feng's question but also seemed to explain to the others. Then, turning his head to Su Yuxin, he asked, "Yuxin, now, Grandpa gives you the decision power. Are you willing to be engaged to Lin Ao Feng?"

"I'd rather die than marry a scumbag!"

Although unsure why Su Hongyuan was putting on such an act, when faced with the question, Su Yuxin was resolute, as if even a single glance at Lin Ao Feng disgusted her.

"Swish!"

Seeing Su Hongyuan feigning ignorance and indirectly insulting him, while Su Yuxin made no attempt to hide her revulsion, a wave of uncontrollable shame instantly flooded Lin Ao Feng's heart, turning his complexion extremely ugly!

Shame?

Yes!

Before Su Hongyuan and Chu Ji had their conversation, Su Hongyuan treated him with the utmost respect, speaking humbly and referring to him as Young Master Lin at every turn.

But now, at this moment, Su Hongyuan didn't even consider him worthy of attention, let alone the fact that he seemed to be mocking him!

This stark contrast brought Lin Ao Feng a shame that was far more intense than the fear he had experienced after Ye Fan had crippled Yang Qing, leaving him to flee like a dog that had lost its family!

"Su Hongyuan, let me remind you not to get so confused by some people's few words that you can't tell north from south! Even your toes could tell what she can bring to you and the Su Family."

Perhaps thoroughly irritated, Lin Ao Feng couldn't hide the anger in his heart any longer and glared at Su Hongyuan with a fiery face, bellowing in a low voice, "One must not break their promise. Up to this point, if you're considering calling off the engagement, you better think through the consequences!"

"Mr. Lin, I think you've misunderstood me. I haven't thought about calling off the engagement. I just want to give the decision-making power over the engagement to Yuxin," replied Su Hongyuan calmly, looking at Lin Ao Feng as if he were looking at an idiot.

If it hadn't been for Ye Wenhao's warning not to reveal Ye Wenhao's relationship with Ye Fan, he would have wanted to point at Lin Ao Feng's face and curse him—for although you may be the Crown Prince of Nanqingsong, Ye Fan is the son of Ye Wenhao. When compared to him, what are you even worth?

Noticing the mockery in Su Hongyuan's eyes, Lin Ao Feng was so infuriated he nearly fainted.

Meanwhile, Su Ming's eyes widened in disbelief as he watched Su Hongyuan.

In his memory, while Su Hongyuan was profit-oriented and mercenary, he also upheld the businessman's spirit of "harmony brings wealth."

By this logic, even if Su Hongyuan had switched sides, he should have acted more tactfully, minimizing the negative impact, rather than blatantly tearing his face off with Lin Ao Feng—or, more appropriately, turning friends into enemies!

Not only Su Ming, but other partners of the Su Family familiar with Su Hongyuan and the elite of Jiangnan society were also baffled by Su Hongyuan's actions.

They simply couldn't imagine what kind of promise Chu Ji had made to Su Hongyuan to give him the confidence to slap Lin Ao Feng so publicly, metaphorically speaking.

What kind of promise?

Facing all those puzzled and bewildered looks, Chu Ji paid no attention but was amused by Su Hongyuan's performance.

After she stepped out from Spirit Mountain, in the past ten years, she saw countless self-serving people, but there were few like Su Hongyuan, truly a rarity!

Amused, Chu Ji cast a meaningful glance at Ye Fan, seemingly reminding him of something with this gesture.

Sensing Chu Ji's look, Ye Fan covertly activated his inner strength, body tensed, readying himself for a fight at any moment.

At the side of the fighting ring, Lin Ao Feng, unaware of both Chu Ji and Ye Fan's exchanged glances or Ye Fan's silent gathering of power, seemed completely consumed by anger.

Under the lights.

He glared at Su Hongyuan with a savage expression, like a wild beast ready to roar, "Su Hongyuan, it looks like you've made up your mind to call off the wedding, haven't you?"

"Mr. Lin, I've already explained clearly that I don't want to call off the wedding. I just want to give the decision-making power to Yuxin..."

Looking at Lin Ao Feng's ferocious face and feeling the mounting murderous intent, Su Hongyuan felt some fear in his heart, but remembering Ye Wenhao's intentions, he still braced himself and faced Lin Ao Feng head-on, despite the fear inside.

However—

Before Su Hongyuan could finish his sentence, Lin Ao Feng roared unwillingly, "Are you sure?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Lin, but Yuxin has already made her stance clear. She doesn't wish to marry you."

Knowing very well that Ye Wenhao intended to 'give him a taste of his own medicine,' Su Hongyuan saw Lin Ao Feng on the verge of breaking down and added fuel to the fire, "So, I can't decide to marry Yuxin off to you. You'd better find another woman to get engaged to—I'm sure, with Mr. Lin's conditions, the line of people wanting to get engaged to you could stretch from Taiwan to Hanghu."

"You're asking for it!"

As expected, upon hearing Su Hongyuan's words, Lin Ao Feng completely lost his temper. With a loud shout, his body swayed as he lunged toward Su Hongyuan, his right hand swinging out, trying to land a slap on Su Hongyuan's face.

But—

Someone was faster!

The moment Lin Ao Feng moved, Ye Fan activated the power from the Yongquan point in his feet, and like a ghost, suddenly stood in front of Su Hongyuan.

"Young Master Lin, don't!"

Perceiving Ye Fan's actions through Spiritual Sense, the silent He Qingshu's expression changed, and he quickly shouted out, simultaneously leaping to grab Lin Ao Feng, trying to pull him back.

—Too late!

"Slap—"

The next moment.

Just as He Qingshu was about to grasp Lin Ao Feng, Lin Ao Feng's palm struck Ye Fan's arm.

At the same time.

Chu Ji, somehow behind Lin Ao Feng without anyone noticing, looked at He Qingshu reaching for her shoulder with a smile.

That smile, seen by He Qingshu, was like the grimacing of the Death God!

Chapter 146: [The Higher You Jump, The Harder You Fall]

Though Lin Ao Feng completely lost his temper due to Su Hongyuan's repeated provocations and humiliations, he retained a last shred of sanity.

That shred of sanity prevented him from using his power against Su Hongyuan, opting instead to use only his physical strength!

Using physical strength, he struck Ye Fan's arm, which was full of power. The result was predictable, wasn't it?

"Pfft—"

The right hand Lin Ao Feng had used to strike Ye Fan's arm recoiled as if pricked by needles, his blood spurting out immediately.

Under the light, his right hand's bones were completely shattered, and his flesh was a bloody mess, as if it had been blasted by explosives.

The intense pain was like a bucket of cold river water poured over Lin Ao Feng, extinguishing the rage in his heart and snapping him back to reality instantly.

Under the light, he stared with wide eyes, dumbfoundedly looking at Ye Fan's emotionless face, standing as if petrified, unable to move.

By contrast, as an Innate Grandmaster, He Qingshu's reaction times were much quicker than Lin Ao Feng's—just as he was about to grab Chu Ji's shoulder, he twisted his body like a Spirit Snake, trying to sweep past her.

He wanted to avoid Chu Ji!

—Too late!

As if sensing He Qingshu's intentions, Chu Ji smirked and swung out her delicate white hand, grabbing He Qingshu's neck as quickly as lightning.

Suddenly, He Qingshu was like a magician had cast an immobilization spell on him, frozen in mid-air, unable to move.

All this happened in the blink of an eye.

So quick that no one could anticipate it!

So quick that no one could see clearly!

By the time people came to their senses, Lin Ao Feng stood like a statue in front of Ye Fan, letting blood flow from his hand, while He Qingshu was suspended in mid-air by Chu Ji, looking like a little chick.

Perhaps knowing of Chu Ji's unfathomable strength, or perhaps intimidated by her former reputation, He Qingshu in the air dared not make any reckless moves, instead looking at Chu Ji with a face full of terror.

At this moment, if he didn't realize that he and Lin Ao Feng had fallen into a trap, then he wouldn't even qualify to carry the shoes for The Ruler of the Nanqinghong, Lin Tianyi!

What... what's going on?

Seeing this eerie scene, the Su Family's business partners and the elites of Jiangnan society all widened their eyes in confusion.

Meanwhile, those from Nanqinghong who knew about Lin Ao Feng's plans quickly guessed that both Lin Ao Feng and He Qingshu had been tricked, yet they dared not step forward.

Though there were Martial Artists among them, none were as powerful as Lin Ao Feng. Stepping forward to help would be like a mouse trying to steal milk from a cat—suicidal!

"Whew—"

At the same time, Su Hongyuan let out a long sigh of relief, subconsciously wiping the cold sweat from his forehead—just now, he had felt that death was only a step away!

"My shoulder is also something you can grab?"

As everyone's attention turned toward them, Chu Ji spoke, her voice as cold as ever, feigning an angry expression.

"Uh..."

Faced with Chu Ji's false accusation, He Qingshu subconsciously tried to open his mouth to explain something, but because Chu Ji was gripping his neck, he couldn't utter a word, only making a sound akin to a duck's quack.

"Crack—"

The quacking was immediately drowned out by a crisp snapping sound.

Under everyone's gaze, Chu Ji's seemingly frail and boneless delicate hand suddenly exerted force, instantly crushing He Qingshu's Adam's apple!

He Qingshu, the chief of the Eight Great Kings of Nanqinghong, didn't even have a chance to scream before he died instantly!

Gulp!

The sound of bones breaking snapped Lin Ao Feng out of the shock brought on by this sudden change.

"Enjoying the fight?"

Seeing Lin Ao Feng come to his senses, Ye Fan, like Chu Ji, slowly spoke, reminding everyone that Lin Ao Feng had been the first to attack.

"You... you all..."

This moment, Lin Ao Feng looked as if he had been violated, his face full of anger. However, in his anger, he also realized that the best course of action was to quickly step aside.

That way, even if Ye Fan wanted to use 'self-defense' as an excuse to kill him, he would have to weigh his options.

On one hand, he hadn't injured Ye Fan, and furthermore, if he hadn't injured Ye Fan and was fleeing, Ye Fan's action of killing him would be seen as 'excessive defense,' inevitably leading to punishment from the Yanhuang Organization.

Aspirations are plump, reality is stark.

"Whew—"

Just as Lin Ao Feng tried to dodge to the side and escape, Ye Fan took a quick step forward, transformed his hand into a blade, and slashed toward Lin Ao Feng's head.

This blow, Ye Fan's seemingly casual hand blade, was however employing the most basic yet most ferocious 'slash' technique from the saber technique.

"Hiss—"

The hand blade was swung, emanating a sound like a venomous snake spitting, seemingly splitting the air itself.

Swoosh!

Faced with Ye Fan's seemingly casual, yet ferocious hand blade, Lin Ao Feng's face changed in fright, not daring to block it head-on, instead immediately dodging to the side.

Whoosh!

Ye Fan's swift hand blade cut down, grazing Lin Ao Feng's nose and creating a piercing blast of wind that not only caused a sharp pain on his face but also stung his eyes, forcing him to close them.

"Whew!"

With the blade missing its mark, Ye Fan did not pause. Taking advantage of the momentum, he reversed his hand and struck with another blade.

—Circular Slash!

This counter-hand blade, employing the Circular Slash's power, was no less powerful than the previous slashing blade.

The sharp wind came again, giving Lin Ao Feng a suffocating sensation, and his internal energies were somewhat disordered. Finding it impossible to dodge again, he reluctantly used his uninjured left arm to protect his front.

Bang—

Crackle and pop!

In a flash of electricity and sparks, Ye Fan's hand blade struck Lin Ao Feng's arm. The force from both sides erupted instantly, canceling each other out, akin to two armies clashing fiercely on the battlefield.

Lin Ao Feng initially aimed to slap Su Hongyuan, but his strike landed on Ye Fan's arm instead. His right hand was shattered by the force, his inner energy destabilized. Now continuously suppressed by Ye Fan, he rushed his defense, utilizing less than seventy percent of his power...

Originally, in terms of the power of force, Lin Ao Feng, barely a Postnatal Perfect Martial Artist, was far inferior to Ye Fan, let alone using only seventy percent.

"Crack—"

As the forces canceled each other out, the remaining power from Ye Fan's hand blade surged into Lin Ao Feng's arm, instantly breaking it, throwing his internal energies into complete disarray, and leaving him unable to mobilize his power for a short time.

Meanwhile, the momentum of Ye Fan's hand blade did not diminish, like a phantom, it swept past the front of Lin Ao Feng's neck. While it did not strike his neck, it left a bloody mark.

Click!

Lin Ao Feng's heart skipped a beat, feeling as though he had just circled the entrance of the Yama Palace.

"Ye Fan, you..."

In his shock, Lin Ao Feng also realized the vast gap in strength between himself and Ye Fan, and fleeing was utterly unrealistic. He tried to use words to force Ye Fan to stop.

But just—

As he began to speak, he felt a chilly sensation between his legs.

Under the lights.

Ye Fan's right leg suddenly sprang forward, his foot taut, turning into a phantom aiming straight for between Lin Ao Feng's legs.

"Pop—"

A dull sound echoed. Ye Fan's foot struck precisely Lin Ao Feng's 'third leg', the force erupting, sending Lin Ao Feng upward like he was on a clay rocket.

"Aow!!"

Excruciating pain instantly spread throughout Lin Ao Feng's body as he shot into the air, his legs uncontrollably clamping together, issuing a horrifying scream.

Everything changed so swiftly, so quickly that aside from Chu Ji, everyone felt as though they were in a dream, and only when they heard Lin Ao Feng's scream did they snap back to reality, instinctively looking up.

"Uh..."

Seeing Lin Ao Feng shoot up like a 'sky-climbing monkey,' blood-stained between his legs, everyone, including the hoodlums from Nanqinghong, was left dumbfounded, statuesque, and immobile.

Shortly after.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Lin Ao Feng ascended about ten meters into the air before, under the force of gravity, beginning to plummet rapidly.

The cold wind whistled by his ears, images flickered before his eyes. Lin Ao Feng's heart raced, feeling as if it was about to leap out of his throat.

He tried to use his consciousness to control the force flowing into his legs to offset the gravity pulling him down, but since his 'third leg' had been shattered, his internal energies had already leaked out, and no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't mobilize any force.

"No... don't want!"

Finding himself unable to gather any force, Lin Ao Feng felt as if he was plunging into Hell's Abyss, screaming in utter terror.

That voice, filled with despair!

"Bang—"

In his despair, Lin Ao Feng's body slammed heavily onto the ground. Though his body hit the ground first, the height was so significant that the rebound shattered his internal organs and broke his bones all over.

"Pfft... pfft..."

On the ground, Lin Ao Feng kept spitting blood, yet his eyes were fixed on Ye Fan, filled with endless hatred, as if to say: Even as a ghost, I won't let you go!

Seeing Lin Ao Feng in such a gruesome state, whether it were the Su family's partners, the elite of Jiangnan, or the hoodlums from Nanqinghong, a chill ran down everyone's spine.

So did Su Hongyuan!

However—

While feeling a chill, he was also relieved to have sided with Ye Fan at the last moment. Otherwise, he couldn't guarantee that he wouldn't have died as miserably as Lin Ao Feng!

Relieved, Su Hongyuan had a thought, then, suppressing the terror in his heart, he stepped forward and said, "Lin Ao Feng, you overestimated your abilities trying to strike at Mr. Ye, you truly deserved death!"

"Pfft—"

Stunned by Su Hongyuan's words, Lin Ao Feng as if greatly shocked, suddenly sat up, spewed a mouthful of blood mist, then slowly... slowly moved his head, his eyes red-rimmed staring at Su Hongyuan.

At that moment.

His gaze did not carry anger or hatred, just bewilderment!

He really wanted to know what Chu Ji had told Su Hongyuan, making him dare to take the risk of facing Nanqinghong's wrath to join hands with Ye Fan and bury him!

No answer came.

"Bang—"

Lin Ao Feng's head tilted, he collapsed weakly onto the ground, dead!

Under the light, his eyes were wide open, seemingly asking: What exactly did Chu Ji say?

What exactly??

The higher you jump, the harder you fall!

Chapter 147: "Why Bother in the First Place if Only to Repent Now"

Dead?

The entire venue fell silent. The Su Family's partners, the elite of Jiangnan's upper-class society, and the lieutenants of Nanqinghong all looked towards Lin Ao Feng, each silently questioning themselves.

Dead!

Seeing Lin Ao Feng lying motionless like a dead dog, an answer rose unbidden in everyone's mind, and then, as if summoned, their gazes turned towards Ye Fan, their expressions varying.

Among them, the Su Family's partners and the elite of Jiangnan's society showed a hint of reverence in their eyes—they might not have seen how Ye Fan killed Lin Ao Feng, but they all witnessed his tragic death.

As for Nanqinghong's lieutenants, their faces were filled with shock and unease.

On one hand, they feared that Chu Ji and Ye Fan might take action against them, forcing them to join Lin Ao Feng in death—they each brought their own subordinates, indeed, and the West Lake Club held many members of Nanqinghong, but they had a thousand reasons to believe that for Chu Ji and Ye Fan, killing them would be as easy as slaughtering chickens!

Moreover, even if Chu Ji and Ye Fan spared them, they wouldn't be able to explain themselves to Lin Tianyi upon their return!

After all, Lin Ao Feng was Lin Tianyi's only son, and he had great expectations for him!

"Go back and tell Lin Tianyi, if he thinks his son died unjustly and wants revenge, just come for it," Chu Ji said.

Without paying attention to the crowd's strange expressions, Chu Ji turned her head to those Nanqinghong lieutenants, her face full of a charming smile, her eyes sparking with electricity, as if looking at her beloved, "Be it an assassination or a duel to the death, this old lady is always ready to accompany you!"

"Uh..."

Seeing Chu Ji's enticing smile and hearing her domineering and assertive words, the Su Family's partners and the elite of Jiangnan internally sighed, affirming that the title of 'Demon Queen' was no empty boast.

The lieutenants of Nanqinghong, frightened speechless, didn't even dare to look Chu Ji in the eye.

"Take their bodies and get out!" Chu Ji spoke again, her smile unchanged, her tone leaving no room for doubt, treating the West Lake Club as if it were her own backyard.

In fact, this place belonged to Nanqinghong.

Just that—

At this moment, for the lieutenants of Nanqinghong, it was as if they had forgotten this fact. All they wanted was to get as far away from this demoness as possible.

For this reason, facing Chu Ji's forceful and unreasonable demand, they acted like soldiers obeying a general's command, not uttering a word of protest, signaling their subordinates to carry away the bodies of Lin Ao Feng and He Qingshu, and then left the club like a pack of defeated dogs in flight.

Seeing this scene, both the Su Family's partners and the elite of Jiangnan felt as if they were reacquainting themselves with the Demon Queen Chu Ji's renown, looking at her with filled awe.

Not only that, but when they turned their attention to the previously 'reckless' young man, their gazes no longer held a trace of ridicule.

They were all very clear that after this incident, Ye Fan, the nephew of the Demon Queen Chu Ji, would have the capital to swagger through Jiangnan and the Yangtze River Delta!

If even they, who only knew the surface, thought this way, what about Su Hongyuan, who knew the full story?

Just as Nanqinghong's members were carrying the bodies of Lin Ao Feng and He Qingshu away, Su Hongyuan rushed to Chu Ji, bending his spine, licking his chops like a fawning cur, "Lady Chu, do you think the gathering should continue?"

"Why shouldn't it continue?"

Chu Ji retorted; having come this far, she naturally wanted to amplify her presence, so that no one would dare to trouble Ye Fan in the future.

"Uh..."

Caught off guard by her retort, Su Hongyuan then turned to the audience below, encompassing both Su Family's partners and Nanqinghong's lieutenants, and bowed, "Everyone, I apologize for dampening your spirits tonight. If you don't mind, please stay and allow me to make amends one by one."

"Old Su, we are all partners and friends, no need for such formalities," someone responded.

"Indeed, think of this as a warm-up for Mr. Ye and Yuxin's engagement."

"We should toast the couple in advance later on."

...

Hearing Su Hongyuan's words, the Su Family's partners and elites of Jiangnan's upper-class society didn't mind at all, behaving as if they came tonight especially to congratulate Ye Fan and Su Yuxin, their face-changing speed on par with how fast they'd drop their trousers in front of a beautiful woman.

Later on, the Su Family's partners and the elites of Jiangnan, like cats scenting blood, swiftly approached Chu Ji and Ye Fan with their wine glasses in hand, encircling them like stars around the moon, holding them in the center.

Because they were all well aware that if they could take advantage of tonight's events to forge ties with Chu Ji, even if it was just the Tianshan Group sparing them a little soup, it would be a huge gain!

After all, even a plucked feather from Tianshan Group's vast wealth was thicker than their own thighs!

The secular society is far more realistic than the Martial Arts World.

Witnessing this scene, Ye Fan couldn't help but internally sigh. After his silent contemplation, he didn't leave, but calmly watched as those business tycoons who wouldn't even look him in the eye started to fawn over him and Chu Ji like eager dogs.

All of this, Su Hongyuan saw with his eyes, and it touched his heart—he very much wanted to curry favor with Chu Ji like those people, but he also knew it was impossible!

The most pressing matter was how to obtain Ye Fan's forgiveness. Only by obtaining Ye Fan's forgiveness would he have a chance to fawn over Chu Ji and even Ye Wenhao. Otherwise, he and the entire Su Family might still suffer the wrath of Chu Ji and Ye Wenhao!

Understanding all this, Su Hongyuan secretly sighed before he quickly approached Su Yuxin and Su Jindi, attempting an indirect approach—by having Su Yuxin and Su Jindi ask for Ye Fan's forgiveness on their behalf.

"Yuxin, I'm sorry, Grandpa should not have agreed to Lin Ao Feng's marriage proposal. Grandpa knows he was wrong and hopes you can forgive him this time. I promise I won't interfere with you and Ye Fan again!" Facing Su Yuxin again, Su Hongyuan did not put on the air of the Su Family Patriarch, nor did he display any elder's dignity, but instead wore a face filled with apology and regret.

Because of Su Hongyuan's favoritism, Su Jindi had little affection for Su Hongyuan from a young age. If it weren't for Su Yuxin always asking him to respect Su Hongyuan, he would probably have turned against Su Hongyuan long ago.

Now, seeing Su Hongyuan's seemingly insincere admission of guilt and apology, Su Jindi directly scoffed, "You're just afraid to interfere, aren't you?"

"__"

Su Hongyuan was left speechless.

Because, just as Su Jindi said, even if he were given a hundred times the courage, he would not dare to break up Ye Fan and Su Yuxin again. On the contrary, he couldn't wait to kneel and beg for Ye Fan to be with Su Yuxin!

"Yuxin, I'm sorry, we were all wrong."

Seeing Su Hongyuan admit his mistakes and apologize, Su Ming, although curious about the reason for Su Hongyuan's change of heart, did not rush to ask and instead followed suit by apologizing to Su Yuxin, "It's just that we underestimated Ye Fan. We hope that you can go and earnestly plead with Ye Fan to forgive our Su Family for the sake of your face!"

"If you knew this day would come, why did you do it in the first place?" Su Jindi stared coldly at Su Ming, not giving him any face.

"After all, we were doing this for the good of the family; we didn't expect Ye Fan to..."

Being challenged by Su Jindi like that, Su Ming subconsciously started to defend themselves. However, halfway through speaking, he realized that he couldn't talk to Su Jindi in the same manner as before, so he was forced to swallow the rest of his words.

"So for the good of this family, you can let my sister marry a scumbag?"

Upon hearing this, Su Jindi angrily said, "Does that mean if a sow took a liking to your son in the future, as long as it could bring benefits to the family, you would let your son marry that sow and have a litter of piglets?"

"Su Jindi, you..."

As the saying goes, when one man gains the Dao, his poultry and dogs ascend to heaven.

Although Su Ming knew that after tonight's events, Su Yuxin and Su Jindi were not as they used to be, he was still somewhat angry at Su Jindi's venomous words.

"Su Ming, you should remember what I said to Mr. Ye when you sent him the invitation. You all went too far!" Su Yuxin coldly cut off Su Ming's words, "And Ye Fan also told you, there is no antidote for regret in this world!"

"_"

Perhaps because he knew he was in the wrong, Su Ming immediately swallowed the rest of his words, closing his mouth tighter than a virgin's legs.

"Yuxin, we all know our mistakes. But for the sake of the survival of the Su Family, Grandpa is hoping that you can step forward and talk with Ye Fan."

Seeing the situation, Su Hongyuan hesitated for a moment, then spoke in a pleading tone, "Our Su Family will become the enemy of Nanqinghong, and they will stop at nothing to take revenge on us! Under such circumstances, if we cannot obtain Ye Fan's forgiveness, the Su Family will surely fall and may even be annihilated! I think, as a member of the Su Family, you wouldn't want to see the efforts of generations go to waste, would you?"

"I have no right to ask Ye Fan to forgive you, nor do I have the obligation!"

As Su Hongyuan's words echoed in her ears, Su Yuxin's heart softened for a moment, but then she steeled herself, "From the moment I agreed to come here early for you and the Su Family, I had no more ties with the Su Family—that was the last thing I did for you and the Su Family! From now on, the affairs of the Su Family have nothing to do with me!"

"Yuxin, grandpa is begging you!"

Seeing Su Yuxin so resolute, Su Hongyuan became desperate and suddenly bent his back towards Su Yuxin.

"You should know that some things, once done, cannot be undone; and some people, once missed, are missed forever!"

Seeing this, Su Yuxin took a deep breath and then coldly looked at Su Hongyuan, whom she once respected and trusted, word by word she said, "The moment you chose to collude with Lin Ao Feng to put Ye Fan in a life-threatening situation, you sealed your fate of not being forgiven by him!"

"Uh..."

Su Hongyuan was left speechless once again, for one thing, because he knew Su Yuxin was telling the truth, and for another, because he didn't expect Su Yuxin to see through that.

In an instant, a feeling called regret began to spread through Su Hongyuan's heart.

He couldn't help but think, what would the situation be like if he had categorically refused Lin Ao Feng's marriage proposal back then and let Su Yuxin and Ye Fan be together?

You reap what you sow.

There are no if's in this world.

Chapter 148: "It's too late to repair the pen after the sheep are lost

Seeing Su Hongyuan's expression of regret, Su Yuxin did not soften her heart but silently led Su Jindi to one side.

It seemed that she was affirming her stance in this manner, distancing herself from Su Hongyuan.

At the same time, several of the Su Family's business partners, unable to get to Ye Fan and Lady Chu for an opportunity to show their faces, had a thought. They stopped trying to push through the crowd and quickly walked over to Su Yuxin, smiling as they congratulated her.

"Yuxin, may you and Mr. Ye marry soon to good fortune."

"May you marry soon, be well, and quickly bear a noble son. You must invite us to the celebration."

"That's right, we've watched you grow up; we must attend your wedding feast."

...

Hearing the words of the Su Family's business partners and seeing their ingratiating expressions, Su Yuxin did not feel the slightest joy, only managed a forced smile as she thanked them.

Sensing that Su Yuxin was not in a good mood, the business partners did not say anything more to risk making matters worse. They smiled, excused themselves, and then walked towards Su Hongyuan and Su Ming, who were not far away.

"What exactly is going on, Old Su?"

"Yeah, wasn't it said that Yuxin would get engaged to Lin Ao Feng? How did it turn into this situation in the end?"

Quickly, several of the Su Family's business partners approached Su Hongyuan, questioning in succession. They did not directly ask what Lady Chu had said to make Su Hongyuan change his decision, but rather they were seeking information indirectly.

"Gentlemen, I'm deeply sorry for tonight's events. It's my fault. I will apologize personally when there's a chance," Su Hongyuan responded, due to Ye Wenhao's warning not daring to reveal the truth. Bowing, he said, "As for the real inside story of tonight, please don't inquire further; it is truly complicated."

"Alright then, Old Su, we won't ask anymore. But it is said that Lin Tianyi is a notorious scoundrel. Now that his son has been killed, he surely won't let things lie. You should be prepared for that," said another Su Family's business partner on hearing Su Hongyuan's response.

"Yes, Old Su."

The other partners nodded and voiced their agreement, seemingly concerned for the safety of Su Hongyuan and the Su Family. In reality, they were indirectly trying to gauge how much benefit the Su Family had gained from Lady Chu and if they had the capital to withstand Nanqinghong's wrath.

This would determine whether they should strengthen their cooperation with the Su Family in the future!

As a standard-bearer of the Jiangnan Business World, Su Hongyuan, who was known for pursuing profit, could see through everyone's intentions.

Watching as the guests used concern as a pretext to test him, Su Hongyuan was inwardly furious, but he did not reveal his anger. Instead, he forced a smile and said, "I appreciate everyone's concern. Although Nanqinghong is powerful, I trust Lady Chu is not afraid of them."

Hmm?

Upon hearing Su Hongyuan's words, the business partners were intrigued and kept their eyes fixed on him, seemingly trying to gauge the truth of what he said from any change in his expression.

But—

No matter how wide they opened their eyes, they were unable to discern anything from his expression.

Not just them, but also those Su Family's business partners and the elites of Jiangnan high society who had used congratulations and concern as pretexts for their inquiries did not learn anything from Su Hongyuan.

Seeing their inquiries bear no fruit, the business partners and the elites of Jiangnan high society departed one after the other.

After the last guest left, Su Hongyuan gave Su Ming a meaningful glance, which Su Ming understood immediately.

Later, the two men approached Lady Chu, bending at the waist like servants in an ancient royal court, and bowed deeply as they apologized, "Lady Chu, we realize our mistake, please forgive us."

"What have you done to wrong me?" Lady Chu asked with her soul-captivating eyes blinking.

"I shouldn't have agreed to Yuxin's engagement with Lin Ao Feng..."

"What does that have to do with me?"

This time, before Su Hongyuan could finish his statement, Chu Ji interrupted with a smiling face.

"Uh..."

Although they had guessed that making amends wouldn't be so easy, Su Hongyuan and Su Ming had not expected Lady Chu to flat out deny them the opportunity to apologize, and they stood there dumbfounded. Shortly after, Su Hongyuan, gathering his courage, tried to say something to Lady Chu. Seeing Lady Chu shift her gaze towards Ye Fan, Su Yuxin, and Su Jindi, he suddenly realized what he needed to do.

"Lady Chu, we know what we must do!"

Having realized their mistake, Su Hongyuan and Su Ming first bowed respectfully to Lady Chu, and then hurried off towards Ye Fan as if afraid that moving too slowly would show insufficient sincerity in their apology.

"Mr. Ye, please, for Yuxin's sake, give the Su Family a chance to survive," Su Hongyuan and Su Ming soon reached Ye Fan, bending over as they earnestly begged for his forgiveness.

Ye Fan, whose presence had been outright ignored by Su Hongyuan and Su Ming just two days earlier, did not show any victor's joy on his face upon their lowly approach. Instead, he looked at Su Yuxin as if to tell her that she was the one to decide on this matter.

"I told you before that coming here early to cooperate with them was the last thing I would do for the Su Family. After that, I've completely cut my ties with them, with this family!" Su Yuxin said, moved by the meaning in Ye Fan's look. Biting her lip firmly, she decidedly stated, "So, you don't need to worry about my feelings."

"Yuxin..."

Perhaps not expecting the usually strong but gentle Su Yuxin to be so unrelenting, Su Hongyuan and Su Ming both paused, and after a moment, Su Hongyuan looked at Su Yuxin anxiously and pleadingly, trying to say more.

Chapter 149: "It's too late to repair the pen after the sheep are lost" - Part 2

But—

Before he could finish his words, Su Yuxin gently interrupted him, "I have already told you what needed to be said before."

Hearing Su Yuxin's heartless words again, Su Hongyuan subconsciously swallowed the rest of his words.

Because he knew that his actions had deeply hurt Su Yuxin's heart and crossed her bottom line, otherwise, the outwardly tough but inwardly tender Su Yuxin wouldn't be so heartless!

Seeing Su Yuxin's heartless expression, Ye Fan felt somewhat moved—Su Yuxin was doing this largely because she was considering his feelings!

Moved, Ye Fan pondered for a moment and said, "Su Hongyuan, I told you before that, because of Yuxin, I won't do anything to the Su Family."

"Thank you, thank you for your generosity!" Su Hongyuan and Su Ming first breathed a sigh of relief and quickly bowed to express their thanks.

"Let's go."

Ye Fan, seeing their reaction, felt somewhat uninspired and turned his head, signaling Su Yuxin and Su Jindi to leave.

"Mr. Ye—"

Su Hongyuan, upon seeing this, immediately panicked and blocked Ye Fan's path.

Ye Fan slightly raised his eyebrows.

Sensing Ye Fan's displeasure, Su Hongyuan's face turned pale with fright.

"Thud—"

The next moment.

Before Ye Fan could speak, Su Hongyuan steeled his heart, discarded the dignity of the Su Family Patriarch and the flag of the Jiangnan Business World as if feeding it to dogs, bent his knees, and knelt before Ye Fan.

"Thud—"

Seeing Su Hongyuan's action, Su Ming was stunned, then seemed to guess Su Hongyuan's intention, gritted his teeth, and also knelt down.

"Mr. Ye, I know since you entered our Su Family, not only have you cured Yuxin's illness, but you also helped the Su Family root out the traitor and topple our biggest competitor, the He Family. It can be said you have helped the Su Family greatly, and we should be grateful and repay you, not bite the hand that feeds us!"

Su Hongyuan knelt on the ground, his face full of regret, and said, "I also know that although we tried to make amends by assisting you in eliminating Lin Ao Feng, it can't offset my mistakes. You haven't punished the Su Family. You have already done more than enough..."

"Are you afraid of Nanqinghong seeking revenge and want me to help you?"

Ye Fan's mind raced, and he immediately understood Su Hongyuan's intention. Although Lin Ao Feng died at his hands, the issue originated from the Su Family, and Su Hongyuan played an indispensable role, naturally leading to retaliation against the Su Family.

"Mr. Ye, as long as you can ensure the Su Family is safe and sound, I am willing to do whatever you ask!" Su Hongyuan answered Ye Fan indirectly with a promise.

In the light, he watched Ye Fan earnestly, like a hopeful dog looking at its master, waiting for him to throw a bone.

At the same time, Su Ming nodded as quickly as a pecking chicken, "Mr. Ye, I feel the same way!"

"Tsk tsk, Su Hongyuan, oh, Su Hongyuan, I have seen many peculiar people in my life, but to see someone as opportunistic as you is truly a first," this time, before Ye Fan could speak, Chu Ji walked over, her voice full of sarcasm, "It's no wonder you've managed to thrive in the Jiangnan Business World."

Without responding or daring to respond, Su Hongyuan and Su Ming lay flat on the ground, like servants waiting for their master to speak.

"Xiao Fan, Miss Su, after all, is a member of the Su Family, and deep down she must still have some feelings for the Su Family..." Chu Ji turned to look at Ye Fan.

"Sister Chu, I have already made a clear separation from the Su Family. You don't need to consider my feelings!" Su Yuxin explained anxiously.

"Silly girl, if I'm not mistaken, your thorough separation from the Su Family isn't because Su Hongyuan used you as a bargaining chip for benefits, but because they betrayed Xiao Fan and even teamed up with that bastard Lin Ao Feng to kill Xiao Fan, right?" Chu Ji asked with a bitter smile.

"I..."

As if someone had peeked into her innermost secrets, Su Yuxin tried to explain something, but couldn't find the words.

"Miss Su, I haven't had many interactions with you, but I can see that you are strong-willed yet soft-hearted, and value loyalty highly. The extent you went to for Xiao Fan proves your feelings for him, which makes me very relieved." Chu Ji sighed softly, "I am Xiao Fan's aunt, and I came in a hurry this time without bringing any gifts for you, so I'm offering you borrowed flowers as a tribute."

In her commanding tone, Chu Ji looked down at Su Hongyuan, "Su Hongyuan, I can help the Su Family avoid the wrath of Nanqinghong, but there are two conditions."

"Speak," when he heard Chu Ji's words, Su Hongyuan shivered with excitement, as if he were listening to celestial music.

"First, transfer eighty percent of Su Group's assets to Miss Su and her brother, and hand over the management rights of the Su Group to Miss Su," Chu Ji commanded indisputably, "Second, I'll have someone evaluate the market value of Su Group's industries and then have them purchased in the name of Tianshan Group. That means all of Su Group's industries will belong to Tianshan Group hereafter, with the management rights belonging to Miss Su, while other members of the Su Family no longer have any management authority, only holding shares."

Whoosh!

As Chu Ji's words fell, the faces of Su Hongyuan and Su Ming changed drastically!

In their view, handing over the share and management rights of Su Group's industries to Su Yuxin was equivalent to indirectly handing over Su Group's industries to Ye Fan—given Su Yuxin's actions this time, she was determined to marry Ye Fan!

"I know, you are worried that we are using this opportunity to annex Su Group's industries."

Seeing their anxious faces, Chu Ji scoffed, "Although Su Group's industries are not small, they are still less than one-fifth of Tianshan Group."

Chapter 150: "It's too late to repair the pen after the sheep are lost" - Part 3

"To put it bluntly, this little family fortune really doesn't catch my eye. On one hand, I'm doing this to prevent you from going back on your word and playing tricks afterward. On the other, it's also a way to

give Miss Su a little practice ahead of time—the day she marries Xiao Fan, Mount Tian Group will be her dowry!"

"Uh..."

Perhaps in their wildest dreams, no one expected Chu Ji to say such a thing. Su Hongyuan and Su Ming were completely stunned, and Su Yuxin and Su Jindi were also flabbergasted!

Even Ye Fan was slightly moved!

Using Mount Tian Group as a dowry...

If word of this got out, it would undoubtedly cause a massive uproar in both the Huaxia and the global business communities!

"Lady Chu, I agree," said Su Hongyuan.

About half a minute later, Su Hongyuan came to his senses from the shock. After a moment's hesitation, he accepted the demand proposed by Chu Ji.

On one hand, he was overwhelmed by Chu Ji's bold move, believing she wasn't doing this to seize the Su Family's assets. On the other, he knew that at this point, if he didn't agree to Chu Ji, Su Family would face the wrath of Nanqinghong, and possibly even the Bai Family!

The Su Family couldn't afford that wrath!

Moreover, he had already made a promise; if he went back on his word now, who knows what Ye Fan and Chu Ji would do?

From his conversation with Ye Wenhao, he saw that although Ye Fan was an illegitimate child, he was different from typical illegitimate children—Ye Fan held a significant place in Ye Wenhao's heart!

In such a situation, if he continued to go back on his word and offended Ye Fan, in case he angered Ye Fan and Ye Wenhao, the consequences would be scarier than offending Nanqinghong and the Bai Family!

More importantly, knowing Su Yuxin well, she would definitely give most of the shares to Su Jindi. This way, the Su Family's assets would still end up in the hands of a Su Family member—no matter how little he thought of Su Jindi, Su Jindi was still his grandson.

"Dad, we can't agree! They are clearly trying to snatch our Su Family's assets!"

Seeing Su Hongyuan agreeing, Su Ming excitedly got up from the ground, grabbed Su Hongyuan's arms like a drowning man clutching at straws, and held on tight, "We should fight Nanqinghong to the death rather than let them take our Su Family's assets!"

"Shut up!"

Su Hongyuan frowned and shouted angrily at Su Ming, trying to make him come to his senses and consider the bigger picture—he knew Ming was fighting for shares and managerial rights, even fighting for Su Feiyu's future as the successor of the Su Family!

"Dad, didn't Xiao Qin say at the time that she had a way to stop Lin Ao Feng from taking over our Su Family?"

Startled by Su Hongyuan's shout, Su Ming initially froze, then confronted Su Hongyuan like he'd been greatly provoked.

"Slap—"

What Su Ming got in response was a loud slap across the face.

"Uh..."

The slap was loud, and Su Ming stood there in shock, looking at Su Hongyuan with disbelief.

If it weren't for the pain on his face, he might even believe he was hallucinating!

"Can't you see the situation clearly? Even if Xiao Qin has connections that can get her in touch with Lin Tianyi, but with the enmity of killing a child, do you think Xiao Qin can quell Lin Tianyi's wrath?"

Su Hongyuan glared at Su Ming with a look that was both furious and disappointed, "If you still can't use your brain, then get out of the Su Family. I won't give you a single share!"

"Uh..."

Su Hongyuan's words felt like a bucket of icy water dumped over Su Ming's head, instantly extinguishing his rage and reluctance, turning his formerly furious and fierce face deathly pale.

Reason told him that Su Hongyuan was right.

Lin Tianyi had only one son, and now that the son was dead, he definitely wouldn't let it go.

It was just like if Su Feiyu was killed, he would stop at nothing to get revenge.

Thump—

Having realized all this, Su Ming's legs went weak, and he collapsed to the ground, his face ashen, looking like a dead dog.

"There's no such thing as regret medicine in this world!"

As if under a spell, Ye Fan's words echoed back and forth in his ears...