

Bodyguard 161

Chapter 161 – Division Classes

The cause for Lin Yi's certainty was actually quite simple.

It didn't matter whether or not the pretty boy was a coward, or if he didn't wish to cross this exquisite customer's path- at the end of the day, he was an employee at the establishment!

The exquisite man, regardless of how much power or authority he had, wouldn't go as far as to kick the pretty boy out of the table, without, at the very least, some sort of tip as compensation for the simple sake of not humiliating him!

Yet the pretty boy left after one look at the man, leaving without even a single word- this only meant that the exquisite man himself was part of the establishment as well.

Having made that confirmation, Lin Yi didn't bother playing games with the exquisite man. It was a simple thing to beat him up, but he'd really rather not have to employ violent methods for the sake of solving a problem, especially not when he was inside the enemy's bar.

It was true that he could destroy an entire group of attackers, let alone a single man. That scenario, however, would expose his capabilities for quite a number of people to see, even if what he revealed wasn't the full extent of what he was capable of. That development would certainly yield high-stakes consequences, and it was why Lin Yi held himself back.

The people he was dealing with were not operating on the same level as kids like Zhong Pinliang or Zou Ruoming were playing on, and Lin Yi felt that the people after Chu Mengyao concerned even Chu Pengzhan himself! After all, it wasn't just one man they were dealing with here- it was an entire organization, and a powerful one. What was shown here was but the mere tip of an iceberg.

With all that in mind, Lin Yi decided that he'd expose the exquisite man from the start, and have the guy calling the shots reveal himself to Lin Yi so that they could converse directly. He wouldn't have to reveal his capabilities prematurely, and he'd be able to investigate who or what exactly the enemy was, too.

Everything Lin Yi had shown to the public, up until this point, was but mere speed, including the gunshot at the bank and the gun he'd stolen in the SUV. He'd never went as far as to reveal anything else beyond that.

His grip on the exquisite man's arm was also a controlled pressure- he'd made sure to use only a little more strength than what the man was capable of, so as to misdirect his interpretation of Lin Yi's skill level.

The modern person divided martial arts into four levels, classes. They were Sky, Earth, Mystic, and Golden, with each class split into phases of early, middle, and late.

It was, in actuality, just a generalized division to evaluate those involved in the world of martial arts. Every house trained in different variants of these arts. Two people in the early phase of the golden class, for example, may have a slight difference in their capabilities, even if it wasn't too significant.

It was information Lin Yi had learned from his time in the special ops team; both his old man and shifu never used the division classes.

The old man focused on the betterment of the physical body, known as physical kungfu: he made improvements to the physical body through his own Eastern medicine. Lin Yi's shifu, on the other hand, focused on the art of assassination- there was a certain level of physical kungfu required at the start, but the focus was mainly around surprise attacks and speed training.

Old Lin's efforts of bettering Lin Yi's body placed his ability in somewhere around the late phase of the golden class, although he could very well take down a master in the mystic class if he coupled his physical capabilities with the skillset he'd learned from his assassin training.

Masters of that level were already very rare in urban settings. At least in the war zones Lin Yi had encountered someone of that level, who was a foreigner, too.

The *Art of Dragon Mastery* Lin Yi practiced, on the other hand, was similar to some of the spiritual kungfu of some houses. Although, the powerup Lin Yi had gotten from the first stage of that art was yet to have a prominent effect- it wasn't very noticeable as of yet.

After all, his training in that art only provided strengthening and improvement effects, while Old Lin's Eastern medicine messed with his bones and flesh, without really touching the organs at all, whereas the *Art of Dragon Mastery* made changes to the entire body as a whole.

From what he'd seen, the *Art of Dragon Mastery* provided an absolute advantage in removing fatigue, along with the ability that allowed Lin Yi to send energy into diseased people.

There wasn't much other than that- after all, as powerful as the art seemed, he was still at the first stage.

Yet the most prominent improvement to his body, much to Lin Yi's pleasant surprise, was the ability to sense the energy flow inside the exquisite man's body!

It was something he'd never experienced before! He'd battled with golden class and even mystic class fighters in the battlefields before, but needed to actively combat the particular opponent before he could make an assessment of how strong he or she was. He wasn't expecting to sense the absorbed energy flowing inside another practitioner after completing just the first stage of the *Art of Dragon Mastery!*

The exquisite man was probably a spiritual kungfu practitioner, but Lin Yi didn't know the specific type of art he practiced. The energy flow within him was weaker than his- most likely on the early phase of the golden class.

Naturally, there were exceptions.

Taking Wu Chentian, for example- the guy was a physical practitioner, who focused primarily on his hands. It was something Lin Yi had managed to sense, but there was no energy flow whatsoever within the practitioner's body, and Lin Yi had no means of telling what level he was on. It was, however, a possibility that the energy flow within him was so weak that it didn't even register on Lin Yi's senses.

Ah! The exquisite man wasn't expecting Lin Yi to be so spot on- he'd ruined his plan entirely!

Hed planned to do something to Chu Mengyao, piss her off to the point where Lin Yi would attack him Hed be able to assess what level Lin Yi was at then, punishing him a little if the guy was beneath him in terms of combative ability, and wait for his boss to make an appearance

From what hed seen, Lin Yi was by no means weaker than him, probably even stronger! There was no point in making any assessments by that point, but calling his boss out wasnt something the exquisite man could decide.

He was in the middle of hesitating when his phone rang.

Fuck, now? The exquisite man was getting pissed- who was calling him at a time like this? He had an arm in Lin Yis hands, the two of them with their swords out already!

Hed be finished if Lin Yi wasnt the honorable type, attacking him when he answered his phone! There was no guarantee that hed win against an opponent of Lin Yis level, and the exquisite man made sure to be careful because of that- one slip up and it could very well be the end for him.

Pick it up- its gotta be your boss if its ringing right now. Lin Yi said with a smile as he let go of the mans arm, evidently unafraid that hed try retaliating.

The exquisite man didnt expect Lin Yi to have just let him go like that- he looked deeply at him before pulling the phone out, making sure to keep his eyes on the opponent the whole time. He could tell from his gut that Lin Yi wasnt as honorable a man as hed set himself up to be.

He glanced at his phone- it was Cihua Bro calling.

Chapter 162 – Sorry

Hello, boss The exquisite man made sure to keep the name Cihua Bro secret- he didnt know if Cihua Bro wanted his identity revealed, after all.

Give the phone to Lin Yi- Ill talk to him. Cihua said.

Oh Yes! The man said after a pause. He turned to Lin Yi. Its my boss- you wanna talk to him?

Ah Lin Yi took the phone with a smile on his lips. Sure.

Lin Yi, is it? Li Cihua wasnt expecting Lin Yi to be this big a threat, but he did manage to see everything from the security cameras. Lin Yis speed was definitely high, and from how cautious the exquisite man was being, Cihua understood Lin Yi to be a master as well. He was, however, uncertain of the extent to Lin Yis ability. Im Li Cihua. Im sure youve heard of me?

Ah, yeah, during the new years. Theres double kicks, and sky monkey too. Lin Yi said. Right, and mother lightnings.

(cihua shares a name with a firework type i think..)

..... Cihua was speechless- did this guy think he was a fucking firework? There were really only a handful of people who didnt know his name in Songshan! He felt like laughing, finding it amusing that Lin Yi was still in the mood for joking around after hearing his name. Newborn calves werent afraid of tigers, it seemed.

Haha, I appreciate the joke, Mister Lin. Cihua said with a faint chuckle. Come in, well talk- I believe youre interested in meeting me too, are you not?

Im not, sorry. Lin Yi said. You can come out if you wanna meet me, stop hiding around.

Hahaha. Cihua started laughing again. I understand your concerns, Mister Lin, you dont have to deny it. Youre worried for Chu Mengyao and her friends safeties, am I right?

Lin Yi didnt reply, but it was true- hed walk into flaming forests for Cihua if he were alone, but circumstances made that impossible. He couldnt just leave these two girls to fend for themselves.

Rest assured, Mister Lin. Your suspicions or certainties regarding some things dont matter, as long as that stays away from the table but let me tell you this: as of yet, theres no one in Songshan capable of crossing me! Cihua boasted. But, should something happen to Chu Mengyao in my bar Ha. Im afraid even the person behind me wouldnt be able to protect me. That other girl with her, too itll just be a ton of trouble. I dont want her brother leveling my bar with an army, now do I?

This Cihua character was quite eloquent, and Lin Yi couldnt help but acknowledge that- hed made things clear enough. Lin Yi, naturally, knew about the name Li Cihua... He also linked that name to the Cihua Bro hed heard the baldy say back in the SUV, too- the two should be the same person.

Cihua was practically taking credit for the kidnapping earlier, and he didnt seem the least bit afraid, either, unworried of revealing that information to Lin Yi. It was solid evidence of how powerful the person supporting him was, and Lin Yi guessed that that person had to be on the same level as Chu Pengzhan himself.

People who had reached a certain level did things with extra caution- everything changed with the presence or absence of evidence. Anything went when things were kept in the dark, but put that stuff out in public

Yet Lin Yi couldnt just take Cihuas word for it. Alright, Ill get someone to take the Miss home. Well talk after that.

Haha You still dont believe me after all, Mister Lin? Im disappointed. Cihua said, evidently understanding his concerns. As far as I can tell, youre an intellectual man- I cant say the same if you do something like that.

Whatever you say. Lin Yi hung up immediately, not bothering to bullshit with the guy any longer.

Hello? Hello? Hello?! Fuck!! Cihua was speechless- the guy had hung up on him! Any other young man wouldve listened to him after a couple prods After all, young men were prideful. On the other hand, it was also true that he wasnt planning on doing anything to Mengyao- anything that happened to her could cause major consequences for him later on.

Yet Lin Yi didnt care about all that, hanging up on him with a sentence like that! It was a large blow to Cihuas pride.

Young men these days were too ignorant of the world Cihua pitied him. *Heh Lin Yi, huh? Things wouldve been a lot nicer for you if youd chosen to cooperate with me Im afraid Ill have to apologize if you*

dont Cihua wasnt daring enough to do anything to Chu Mengyao, but killing a little bodyguard like Lin Yi He was sure no one would avenge a character like him.

Lin Yi hung up before tossing the phone to the exquisite man. Tell your boss Ill be there later.

The man had heard the conversation, and took the phone without saying anything else. He got up and walked away.

Mengyao and Yushu, on the other hand, knew theyd fucked up, and Mengyao didnt even dare look Lin Yi in the face. She didnt know what was going on in her head as she looked down at the table- she hated Lin Yi, but also didnt.

Ill call Uncle Fu- hell pick you two up. Lin Yi said as he pulled his phone out.

Lin Yi, can you not tell Uncle Fu? We can get back ourselves, we didnt drink. Mengyao said, feeling guilty when she heard Lin Yi bring Uncle Fu up.

Ah Lin Yi smiled faintly- this wasnt something he could just cover up for Mengyao anymore, and it wasnt something he could just hide from Chu Pengzhan. He had to talk to Pengzhan about his meeting with Cihua, too, and Mengyaos request simply wasnt something he could fulfill.

Im sorry Lin Yi I was wrong Please dont call Uncle Fu Mengyao said as she curled her lips- it was the first time she had lowered her head to Lin Yi... Everything that happened today had been all her fault, after all.

Chapter 163 – Lin Yi’s Golden Finger

Mengyao wasnt stupid- the conversation Lin Yi had on the phone was more than enough for her to understand that situation. These people were coming straight at her.

Miss Chu, I need to be responsible for your safety. Lin Yi said, his face completely solemn now. Ill be worried if it isnt Uncle Fu sending you home safely.

But Mengyao didnt think Lin Yi would reject her so coldly after she went and apologized to him, with her head lowered and everything but Lin Yi

She was frustrated, but also understood that Lin Yi was doing this for their safeties. She stomped her foot lightly as she held back from throwing a retort at Lin Yi.

Shed have openly voiced her displeasure in any other circumstance, asking Lin Yi what more he wanted even after shed went and lowered her head for him. She wouldnt have asked for a gigolo if Lin Yi hadnt flirted with an aunty in the first place!!

Without anyone realizing, Jingyi had become an aunty in Mengyaos eyes.

Lin Yi dialed Li Fu, and told him where they were before hanging up.

Yushu stuck her tongue out lightly. Shield Bro, its actually me and Yao Yaos first time at a bar

Ah... Well, there’s something wrong with this bar. Go to another one next time. Lin Yi nodded, not minding Mengyao and Yushus interest in bars. It was rare enough as it was for it to be the first time, especially for rich girls like them. As for the gigolo Lin Yi wasnt quite sure how to respond to that.

In actuality, both Mengyao and Yushu had good hearts- Miss Chu was a little prideful, cold on the outside and passionate on the inside. Little Miss Chen, on the other hand, was a complete troublemaker, but also very easygoing as well.

Lin Yi treated their relationship as more than employee and employer at this point- theyd hung out long enough, after all.

Yushu blinked in surprise at Lin Yis words telling them that they could go to a bar again. He didnt seem angry about what theyve done at all! Shield Bro, arent you mad?

Why would I be mad? Lin Yi laughed. You two rest earlier when you get home- I still have stuff to do here. Dont wait up.

Kay. Be careful. Yushu said with a nod.

The casual conversation Lin Yi and Yushu were having was a little painful to Mengyao- why was it that he and Shu got along so well, and why did there seem to be something separating Lin Yi and her?

Why did she even care whether they got along well in the first place? He was just a follower her father hired, and he had to listen to her commands even if they didnt get along What was she hurting for?

Li Fu reached the bar quickly, with a couple men following behind him. Lin Yi could tell that they were fighters, albeit ones who only practiced physical kungfu, not too strong. They were enough for handling regular people, but practitioners like that exquisite guy from earlier was not yet someone people of their level could take on.

Mister Lin. I apologize for the trouble. Li Fu said with a nod. Arent you returning with us?

I still have something to take care of here. Lin Yi said. Get them home first, Uncle Fu- Ill talk to Uncle Chu about this whole thing when I can.

Alright. Li Fu left it at that, and left with Mengyao and Yushu. He understood the gravity of the situation- Lin Yi wouldnt have requested for him to get the girls home unless he absolutely had to.

Lin Yi obviously had something pressing to deal with, and Li Fu wasnt in a very good position to be asking too many questions about that.

Lin Yi watched as they left before standing up. He walked in the direction the exquisite man had left in, and saw a common-looking man waiting for him with the exquisite man past the bar.

Mister Lin, Im Su Jiaonang, the manager of this bar. Im extremely sorry for everything earlier The normal looking man said as he walked to Lin Yi.

Cut the crap. Where is Li Cihua? Lin Yi interrupted, absolutely uninterested in the mans bullshit.

Jiaonangs face reddened slightly at Lin Yis interruption, but regained his composure an instant later. Please follow me, Mister Lin.

After all, this person was someone the boss wanted to talk to, and even Li Yao, the exquisite man, had said that Lin Yi wasnt below him in terms of ability. Its wise to tread lightly with people like that.

Jiaonang opened the door and gestured. Please enter, Mister Lin. The boss is waiting for you inside.

Lin Yi walked into the room directly to see a man with a belly inside. There was a skinny man behind him, with looks so common that no one would pay any attention to him. He was the type that become virtually invisible in a crowd.

Lin Yi's face tensed as he sensed the energy flow within this skinny man it was slightly above his own. From the looks of it, he was at the peak late phase of the golden class.

Elder Jiao, I can feel their energy flows, but can they feel mine? Lin Yi asked internally, suddenly thinking of a very important question: did this go both ways?

Doesn't sound possible. Elder Jiao said faintly. They absorb energy differently than you do, theirs is called pure qi. Different types of training results in different pure qis, and it could only be used by the practitioner his or herself. It can't be transferred to other people, while the energy inside of you is universal.

I see. So in other words, the energy inside me can be transferred into the pure qi they need, right? Lin Yi asked.

In theory. Elder Jiao said, pleased that Lin Yi learned quickly. It's also why they can't feel your flow while you can feel theirs.

Lin Yi was both pleased and surprised at the answer- it seemed that he could be a wolf in sheep's clothing all he wanted from now on. This must be his golden finger! He'd be able to judge his opponent's strength beforehand, and escape if he deemed the enemy too much for him to handle!

Lin Yi only laid his eyes on the skinny man for an instant, and the skinny man smiled at him faintly. As far as he was concerned, Lin Yi was at the peak early phase of the golden class. He'd also concealed his presence, and Lin Yi shouldn't have been able to sense how powerful he was at all.

The skinny man assumed that Lin Yi had just looked at him out of curiosity, as a result.

Chapter 164 – Who's Naive And Stupid?

Sit. The fat-bellied man said after one look at Lin Yi, evidently thinking of himself as superior to Lin Yi.

This man was none other than Li Cihua, and Lin Yi's first impression of him was how dominant the man was. He had an air of pride and confidence about him, an aura of superiority- it was an image very effective on the masses.

It was known as the Conqueror's Aura, and anyone with a weaker aura would probably be very cautious when standing before a man like Li Cihua.

Yet Lin Yi had seen his share of conqueror's aura, and there weren't too many still living. The hostile entities towards him were basically all in the afterlife now.

Lin Yi decided to ignore Cihua as he walked around the office. He turned his head to the skinny man. Is this supposed to be your secretary?

(there's like a sexual connotation the word he uses for secretary)

..... Cihua's eyes widened as he refrained from cursing- this Lin Yi wasn't following the conventional script! What was he doing, bouncing all over the place? He was like that in the phone call, too.

Cihua had originally planned to persuade and force Lin Yi into aiding them after he had seated himself, if possible- he'd off him otherwise.

Yet Lin Yi didn't even bother with that, instead blurting out a ridiculous question to piss him off. Was something wrong with his eyes?

He cleared his throat. I see you don't have very good eyes, Mister Lin. He's my secretary, a male secretary.

Ooh. So Cihua bro into that stuff, huh? Lin Yi nodded, as if understanding something. I say, fatty- you're not planning to do anything to me, are you? I don't swing that way.

Fuck!! Cihua couldn't take it anymore- he was even thinking that Lin Yi understood his situation well, adding a Bro to his name and everything. He was just feeling pleased with himself when Lin Yi blurted something outrageous! Into that stuff?!!

Lin Yi calling him a fatty crossed the final line, and a curse escaped his lips.

I'm joking, haha. Don't get angry. Lin Yi smiled as he seated himself on Cihua's sofa, cutting the bullshit. After all, his earlier words served the purpose of pissing him off, and testing where his bottom line was at. The discussion would be more advantageous for Lin Yi if Cihua wasn't in his best mental state, and it'd be easier for Cihua to expose his intentions by accident.

..... Cihua frowned. Mister Lin, let's just speak our minds with each other, now that we're at this point already.

Yes, let's. Lin Yi said. Pissing Cihua off was also to prevent him from spewing any bullshit at him, after all, by showing him that Lin Yi himself was even more capable at bullshitting than he was.

Excellent! Cihua said. Let's get to the point- that robbery case from before: you were the one who ruined it, yes?

I wasn't even needed for that. Lin Yi answered, nonchalant. They were pretty trash at their job- what, were they your men?

Lin Yi wasn't expecting Cihua to nod in agreement. Indeed, I hadn't taken your presence into consideration, Mister Lin. It was a mistake on my part to send them.

Oh? So you're telling me that the mastermind behind the bank robbery.. Is you? Lin Yi didn't understand why Cihua was admitting to the crime just like that.

I'm but one of the profiteers. Cihua explained. I'm sure you'd want to leave the details alone. After all, the more you know, the faster you die.

Hah.. Is that a threat? Lin Yi said, completely uncaring as he received the threat. Aren't you scared I'll report you to the police?

Hahaha! Cihua looked at Lin Yi like he was an idiot. Naturally, yes. Why would I be telling you all this if I were?

Is that so? Lin Yi said, looking at the fat man.

Dont believe me? Youre welcome to try. Cihua said with a wave of his hand. Proof! Evidence! You have no evidence, and I wont ever be leaving behind any evidence! I must say, Lin Yi- youre naive and quite stupid. People at our level are exempt from commonplace laws, you know why? Because theres no proof! The only people thatll ever get in trouble are the pawns! You think the police have no idea whats going on here? You think they dont know what Im doing? They know alright, they know better than you do!! But they cant touch me, do you know why that is? Because the characters backing me up are way above what theyre capable of dealing with- they need solid evidence before they could even start *touching* me!!

So youre saying the same goes for me if I kill you right now without leaving any evidence for the police? Lin Yi asked.

Its an amusing example, but let me provide an answer for you- if you do kill me while being smart enough to erase all traces of evidence or clues, then yes- as long as you have Chu Pengzhan standing behind you. No one would dare do anything to you. Cihua explained. This is how it works here in the upper class, this is the rule we all fight under, and no one would actively disrupt that rule.

Ah, I understand. Lin Yi nodded while cursing internally. *Fuck, howre you smiling so happily? I can kill you as easily as pulling a doll apart!* Yet Lin Yi wasnt about to do anything to the man- there was someone powerful backing him up, after all, and thered be dire consequences.

Lin Yi was considering the bigger picture- he couldnt do anything that reckless yet, not until Chu Pengzhan launched a full scale war on them. It wasnt too big a deal to punish an important character on the other side of the war, beating him up a little. Killing him, however, was way too premature.

Im glad you understand the concept. Ill stop bullshitting then! Cihua continued. They say that dire times forge wise men- Im sure thats the position youre in, Mister Lin. Its no difficult task to have you killed, rest assured. While you have value for Chu Pengzhans protection alive, the same cant be said for when youre dead. How far do you think Chu Pengzhan would go for a bodyguard, or even his daughter?? Hed probably want you dead himself if he ever found out about your relationship with his Chu Mengyao.

Lin Yi blinked at the spit Cihua was spitting at him- what the hell was he saying? Was his mind so perverted that he just assumed that Lin Yi had some sort of dirty relationship with Chu Mengyao.? Did he even look like that kind of person?

Lin Yi looked at the Li Cihua who thought himself to be in full control, and couldnt help but feel sorry for his stupidity. He pitied him.

After all, the ones who thought they knew everything when they didnt were the dumbest ones of all.

What are you trying to say? Lin Yi didnt bother denying the mans accusations, deciding to just let him continue misunderstanding what was going on between him and Mengyao. That was even better, actually- hed have a reason to lay his hands on him next time, giving him a one liner like you mess with my woman, I mess with your family.

Chapter 165 – Threats and Counter-Threats

Im a representative, a spokesperson pushed onto the stage. Cihua said a little pridefully. Im sure youve a good idea of my position and name in Songshan. You should be able to figure out the extent of strength my boss holds.

I know how to boast too. Lin Yi said. Would you believe me if I told you that my shifus a world-class king of assassins?

..... Cihua, naturally, didnt believe Lin Yi, rolling his eyes at him instead. Alright, lets not talk about that. Lets talk about you. What exactly are you with Chu Mengyao for? Money, right? Well, as for the other stuff Heh, Chu Mengyaos a very beautiful girl, true, but shes just that- a girl. Theyre not on the same level as women, who know all about pleasing men. Youll be able to have any woman you want with money, isnt that true?

Ha Lin Yi waited for Cihua to continue.

Lets talk about this cooperation. Cihua continued. You see, our boss has never lacked money! Work with us, and youll have more than that- women, power everything, as long as the jobs done. Youll have everything! Just like me.

You think youre really something, dont you? Lin Yi wanted to laugh, but couldnt- it was just too sad. What kind of man prides himself over being a pawn of someone else? Lin Yi hadnt the interest and time to bother attacking pride like that.

Cooperation how? You want me to go to your side? Or do you want me to play undercover for you? Lin Yi asked.

Both work, as long as youre willing. Cihua answered. Your skills Ive heard they arent inferior to Li Yaos?

Whos Li Yao? Lin Yi didnt know the exquisite mans name.

The man whose arm you stopped earlier. Cihua explained.

Ah, maybe. Li Yi answered, dodging the question.

Youre pretty much one of a kind in Songshan, with ability like that. You come help me out and Im sure my bossll pay a high price for your services. Cihua said. Of course, you can also continue as undercover beside Chu Mengyao, and enjoy your life of women and riches, and well compensate you as well. Youll only need to answer when the timing is right, and crucial.

The way you say it makes it seem so easy but its extremely difficult in practice. Lin Yi said, rejecting it directly. Firstly, Im very satisfied with my life as it is, and Ive no shortage of money with just the amount Chu Pengzhans paying me. Im actually living a life of peaceful comfort as of now, and Im not really interested in high-level undercover missions. So, sorry- I cant take you up on that.

Mister Lin, I hope you think it over carefully before speaking. Cihua said. Do you think you have any other option, at this point?

Another threat? Lin Yi asked as he raised his head to look at Cihua.

You can see it that way. Cihua said with a smile. You can treat it as advice or a threat, its up to you.

Okay, I understand. Lin Yi said, standing up. Anything else? Ill be going if were done here- I need to get home for bed soon.

So is that a yes or a no? Cihua asked. Or are you asking for time to think it over?

No need for that- its a no. Lin Yi said. Ive made my position quite clear. Well meet again next time.

I hope you dont regret your decision as you walk out that door. Cihua said with a frown, not expecting Lin Yi to pass on the better offer. It seemed that hed been mesmerized by Miss Chu- that get home for bed mustve been a hint on Lin Yis part.

Cihuas mind was simply too full of dirty corruption.

Hah Lin Yi pushed open the door, and was just about to leave when Cihuas face distorted and changed.

Hed been full of confidence earlier, even telling Lin Yi to come meet him in person, even opening up and admitting that he was the man behind the bank robbery. It was all for the sake of getting Lin Yi onto his boat!!

To him, every person had their price, and as long as Cihua offered a rich enough profit, he was sure that Lin Yi wouldve abandoned Mengyao for his camp.

Yet Lin Yi never even bothered asking the price, rejecting it blatantly! Cihua wasnt sure if he was underestimating or overestimating Lin Yi anymore.

Was he overestimating him for his needless loyalty, or underestimating him, thinking that he was only after the beauty?

I see. Tread carefully, Mister Lin. Cihua said, understanding that all room for bargaining had been closed- Lin Yi had made up his mind, and thus worthless to him.

I will. You tread carefully too, Cihua Bro- dont do anything unwise. With that, Lin Yi walked out the office. He didnt know the identity, but there was one basic thing hed understood today: the man clashing with Chu Pengzhan was the man backing Li Cihua up.

The bank robbery, on the other hand, had been planned by Cihua Yet there wasnt a whole lot the police could do to him, from what Lin Yi had seen of the mans confidence and fearlessness.

It meant that simply apprehending the robbers meant the end of the robbery case as a whole.

Lin Yi wasnt one to follow proper procedure, but Cihua hadnt touched on his bottom line yet. Chu Pengzhan had yet to respond to this, as well, and Lin Yi decided to let Cihua go this time around.

After all, it was no difficult thing to off Cihua- the man had said so himself, Lin Yi would be fine if he killed him without leaving evidence.

Li Yao and Jiaonang werent making any movements to stop him at the door, allowing Lin Yi to step through and leave. It seemed that these two wouldnt act on their own accords without direct orders from Cihua.

Lin Yi got into Yushus yellow Beetle, and left the Solid Cloud bar.

Mengyaos Audi S5 was gone, most likely sent back by one of Li Fus men.

Fucking hell, counter-threatening me, is he? Cihua waved his hand at the skinny man only after Lin Yi had left. Zhang Long, get rid of this man with Li Yao. Hell only be a thorn if he doesnt join me.

Yes! Zhang Long answered faintly, and left the room without saying anything else.

Zhang Long was the master Cihua had mentioned before, the peak late phase of the golden class his boss had assigned to him. He had an epic name, sharing the Zhang Long with Zhang Long Zhao Hu from *Seven Heroes and Five Gallants*.

Zhang Long remained silent about it, but he thought that he was more than enough to handle Lin Yi alone. He was under direct orders from Cihua, however, and he had no intention of disobeying him.

Li Yao acted as the driver as he went on the move with Zhang Long- there wasnt much he could do about that, since the man was stronger than him, after all.

They tailed Lin Yis Beetle directly as Lin Yi made his way home.

Chapter 166 – Generous Gift

Lin Yi, naturally, wasnt expecting Cihua to just let him go- the jade on his neck started signalling him soon after he drove out.

Lin Yi smiled faintly- as expected, a black SUV started following him a while later. It had just entered his field of vision, quite some distance away, too- but Lin Yi had received a warning from the jade beforehand, and was absolutely certain that the vehicle was hostile.

While it wasnt impossible for him to have determined the nature of the follower, hed still have to have spent a certain amount of time for that. This golden finger of his, however, saved him that precious time. It wasnt too useful in the cities, but a mere one second earlier or later in detecting the enemy in a warzone made all the difference between life and death.

Having confirmed that the SUV was indeed tailing him, Lin Yi decided to change routes- he wasnt too familiar with the citys layout, but he started driving away from the villas direction. Hed been on this route before: the slums Tang Yin lived in was just ahead, and there was a forest past the slums and in the city outskirts. Hed passed the place on the train hed come in the very first day, and locations Lin Yi had been through oftentimes had a stronger impression on him.

Long Bro, that kids changed his route! You think hes spotted us? Li Yao asked.

So what if he did? Zhang Long said, evidently not thinking much of the situation. Doesnt matter if hes seen us or not; he needs to die, and killing him is a piece of cake!

Zhang Long had observed Lin Yi from the shadows earlier, and felt that he was too far weaker than him- he couldnt help but find Cihuas orders a waste of personnel and ability.

From what hed seen, even Li Yao was enough to off Lin Yi, let alone him! Wasnt Cihua clearly doubting his abilities? Or was he overestimating Lin Yis instead?

Zhang Long was irritated and pissed off to the point that he wasn't even interested in fighting Lin Yi anymore- he believed himself to be on a caliber far higher than Lin Yi was, and decided that he'd let Li Yao handle the job, if possible. It simply wasn't worth his time.

Li Yao didn't see Zhang Long's words as a boast, or anything of the sort- after all, Zhang Long's strength was there for all to see; the guy was two phases ahead of him in the golden class, and that meant a world of difference, even if they were in the same category.

Should we report this to Cihua Bro, then? Li Yao asked.

Cihua Bro himself didn't know kung fu, but he was a man the boss saw value in. As such, both Li Yao and Zhang Long were required to obey him.

Yet Zhang Long was on a level so high that Cihua wasn't too much of a figure to him anymore- he'd follow through with his commands all the same, but the disdain towards him was there.

No need. Cihua Bro only told us to kill him- he didn't say anything about the method or location. Zhang Long said.

Alright, we'll follow him then. Li Yao nodded.

Lin Yi increased the speed of the car as he went past the slums and out of the city, finding the yellow Beetle quite nice to drive in- at the least, it was better than the SUV in terms of speed.

Fuck, that Beetle's pretty fast. Shouldn't have gotten in this damn SUV! Li Yao complained, not expecting Lin Yi to change routes to the outskirts. After all, speed wouldn't have made too much of a difference in the city.

Is he trying to shake us off? Zhang Long frowned.

Dunno, but we're at a disadvantage in this terrain. It won't be easy to catch up to him. Li Yao said.

Hm? Zhang Long was about to say something when he saw the Beetle parked at the side of the road- Lin Yi was walking towards them right in the middle of their path. The fuck is he doing?

Ha, he's telling us he's spotted us- maybe he wants to talk with us? Li Yao guessed.

Fuck. Zhang Long nodded, thinking that it had to be the only explanation- what sort of idiot would stop a car from the middle of the road like that?

So do we stop the car and talk to him, Long Bro? Li Yao asked.

Stop the car? Stop my ass! Zhang Long said with a cold laugh. The kid wants to die, why would we deny him that?

Long Bro Are you saying...? Li Yao asked, stunned and uncertain.

We're ramming him. Zhang Long hmped, a mocking smile forming on his lips. Peak early phase, golden class master- killed in a car accident! Hahaha, what a fucking tragedy!

Ahh Heh...heh Li Yao grinned, understanding Zhang Long's intentions- what an evil idea! A practitioner, after all, would gladly die in battle than from something out of place like a car crash!! Even falling to

some evil scheme wouldve been preferable for a practitioner!

It shouldnt be a difficult thing for Li Yao and Zhang Long to take Lin Yi down with their combined abilities, but Zhang Long was planning on killing Lin Yi without even getting out of the car, ramming him dead instead!

Lin Yi would absolutely be crying if he ever learned of what Zhang Long was planning!

Damn, youre baad, Long Bro! Li Yao said with a smile as he prepared to speed up.

Dont speed up! Zhang Long stopped with a wave of his hand.

How do we ram him down if we dont speed up? Li Yao paused.

You gotta act like youre slowing down, and then speed up suddenly twenty meters away from him! Ram him down when he isnt prepared! Zhang Long explained. Dont underestimate him now- hes still an early phase golden class, a master. Lemme ask you this: how confident are you of dodging a car ramming at you from this distance?

At least eighty percent if I knew what the car was gonna do. Li Yao nodded deeply. Itd be pretty troublesome if I didnt though Youre so much more cautious than I am, Long Bro!

Exactly, you need to trick him if you wanna kill him like this. Zhang Long said. Hah, hilarious- a golden class, dead in a car crash!! Man..

Yeah, its really pretty funny isnt it! Li Yao said. The cops wont be suspecting anyone of anything, too; theyll think it was an accident

The SUV started slowing down as it neared Lin Yi, its signal lights flashing as if the car were about to stop

A faint smile formed on Lin Yis lips as he watched the nearing car silently.

Hed warned Cihua, but the guy hadnt listened He had only himself to blame for the generous gift he was about to send him...

Chapter 167 – Two Unlucky Masters

Doing stuff without leaving evidence, after all, wasnt something beyond Lin Yis capabilities. Cihua would probably be crying in regret at his loss soon.

Two sad, unlucky golden class masters, dead just like that

The SUV sped up abruptly when it was twenty meters away, and Lin Yi could even see Li Yao and Wang Long with perverted smiles on their face, clearly very excited of what they were about to do to him. To Lin Yi, however, the smiles were a temporary bliss the two shared, a bliss that would end very soon

Ha Lin Yi started smiling as well, albeit a darker one than the ones the two masters had on their faces

Whats the kid laughing for? Li Yao asked, confused as he subconsciously applied more pressure to the gas pedal, despite it being pressed to its limit already.

Who knows?! Just hit him! Zhang Long said, getting a little uncomfortable with how Lin Yi was smiling at them.

Lin Yi, on the other hand, acted as if the two werent speeding up at all, standing his ground in the middle of the road the way a brave warrior awaiting an honorable death would.

HEH!! Li Yaos smile grew wider- they were an instant away from splattering Lin Yi!

Lin Yi twisted his side violently to his right, throwing himself to the side Li Yaos driver seat was at before sending a kick at the left wheel

The tire exploded instantly with a bang, and the car lost its balance as it swerved to the right, curving around Lin Yis still figure before ramming the fence and plummeting down the hill

The SUV spun in the air a couple times before hitting the bottom, and an orange explosion flashed

Lin Yi took a look down the hill. He waited a while for the people inside to appear, only turning to leave when the car was burnt to scraps.

Naturally, he pushed in the piece of blade poking out from the front of his shoe before walking away.

He had a great deal of power behind his kicks, but even he didnt have any guarantee of bursting the tire instantly. Utilizing an outside weapon was the best course of action.

Lin Yis shoes were always equipped with hidden blades, something hed done on a whim after watching the *Detective Conan* anime a while ago. It wasnt too useful, but it had its uses under certain circumstances.

His puncturing of the tire, for example, required only him to maintain balance for the tire to be destroyed smoothly and successfully.

Naturally, only Lin Yi would attempt stunts as dangerous as that- any regular human wouldve probably ruined their leg if their balance wasnt good enough.

Two golden class masters- one at the early phase and one at the late phase They were masters among masters in Songshan, the highest pinnacle. It was truly a little too tragic for them to die just like that.

Lin Yi sighed as he looked at the burning remnants of the SUV, shaking his head. He wondered what emotions Cihua would be feeling when he found out about his masters dead in a car crash like that.

The thing thatd irritate him the most would most likely be his inability to prove Lin Yis involvement- this mustve been what Cihua was talking about when he talked about fights between members of the upper society. Hed be unable to prove that it was Lin Yi without proper evidence.

Although, Lin Yi would make himself look as oblivious as possible should Cihua come looking for him- hed give him the idea that the two dudes had died from the punctured tire, out of bad luck. Thatd trouble him pretty well.

Lin Yi got in Yushus Beetle, and started making his way to the villa.

It wasn't a very well-maintained road, and there weren't any lights lighting the area up- that resulted in a lack of cars on the road. Lin Yi hadn't even seen a single one the whole time he had been driving, and he shouldn't have to worry about any witnesses at all.

He saw the villa's lights all lit up by the time he returned. He parked the car in Mengyao's garage instead of Yushu's, thinking that Yushu wouldn't mind. He needed a car to drive around in for the time being, after all.

The villa's door opened- someone must've heard him parking the car.

It wasn't Mengyao or Yushu, but Li Fu.

Welcome back, Mister Lin. Li Fu said with a nod.

Uncle Fu. Still here? Lin Yi wasn't sure why Li Fu hadn't left the villa yet- it had to be almost an hour he used for the two golden class masters.

Li Fu would've left right after getting the girls home, under normal circumstances.

Mister Chu's here as well. Please, come in. Li Fu said.

Oh? Uncle Chu's here? Lin Yi said, not expecting Chu Pengzhan to be in the villa this late.

He followed Li Fu into the house, and saw Mengyao and Yushu sitting on the sofa with lowered heads like two good little girls. Chu Pengzhan seemed to be lecturing them with a solemn face, only squeezing out a smile for Lin Yi when he noticed him. Yi, you're here! Sit, sit!

Mengyao glanced at Lin Yi sulkily- Yushu was right, her father was treating Lin Yi way too nicely that it was starting to look a bit absurd! Giving Lin Yi a big smile and Mengyao an angry face plus lecture right after seeing them? What was with that?

She'd really have thought that Lin Yi was Pengzhan's son if she didn't know her father well enough.

She wouldn't have went drinking if Lin Yi hadn't put her in a bad mood in the first place! And she never even drank any!!

Her father's attitude towards Lin Yi was a hundred and eighty degrees from the attitude he treated Mengyao with, and Mengyao wasn't quite sure what her father was even thinking! The guy was a big playboy!! She wondered if her father would still treat Lin Yi this well if he ever found out about his hooking up with that bar woman and that beauty at school

It was, naturally, just a thought- she wasn't in a position to be saying stuff like that, and it'd be too embarrassing for her in the first place.

Thank you for the trouble, Yi. It's a good thing you were around tonight. Pengzhan said with a smile.

It's nothing, Uncle Chu. Lin Yi smiled. I didn't do much.

These two haven't been very good girls I haven't been giving Elder Chen's daughter a very proper upbringing, too, after he'd entrusted her to me Pengzhan said. Who knows what might've happened if you weren't with them tonight.

Ah, actually, Uncle Chu, what happened tonight wasn't Mengyao and Yushu's fault. Lin Yi said, thinking he'd give Pengzhan an explanation after a look at Mengyao's sulking face and Yushu's nonchalant one.

Chapter 168 – Badassery Exposed

Oh? Pengzhan blinked, not expecting Lin Yi to speak up for Mengyao and Yushu like that.

Even Mengyao herself raised her head curiously at Lin Yi. Her impression of Lin Yi, after all, wasn't a good one- the guy might not kick them while they were down, but speaking up for her was not something she'd expect from him. She had been treating him very, very poorly today, too.

There's something up, Uncle Chu. Perhaps we could talk about this in my room? Lin Yi didn't want Mengyao and Yushu to know too much about what was going on- it'd only get them worried.

Pengzhan nodded before turning to Mengyao and Yushu. Yao Yao, Shu- you two go upstairs and rest- were done for today. I have something to discuss with Yi.

Okay Mengyao wasn't someone who couldn't read the mood- Lin Yi's tone suggested that he'd discovered something important in the bar, probably something regarding her father's enemies. The way Lin Yi acted back in the bar, too- Mengyao had understood by now that the people from earlier had Yushu and her in their sights since the very start.

Mengyao grabbed Yushu's hand and went upstairs, and Lin Yi seated himself in the sofa the girls were sitting on.

Speak your mind, Yi. Pengzhan said with a gesture.

Uncle Chu- have you ever heard the name Li Cihua? Lin Yi said directly- there was no need for him to hide anything from this man.

Li Cihua Pengzhan frowned. I know him. Redflower Estates, one of the main competitors of Pengzhan Industries in Songshan.

Ah. Well, he's the guy behind the bank robbery. Lin Yi said.

Him? A shocked expression appeared on Pengzhan's face. Our companies are competitors, but we've always had a half-to-half relationship, in terms of the plans we get our hands on and the like. What does he have to get from the kidnapping?

According to him, there's someone supporting him from the shadows. He's just one of the profiteers, and there's probably more people cooperating with him. Lin Yi explained.

Pengzhan had heard of the person behind Li Cihua, but had no clear idea on who that person might be. A man fresh out of prison, rising to fame and power in just a little more than ten years, building Redflower Estates out of nothing with even multiple bars, hotels, and other entertainment outlets under him. This wasn't the result of sheer effort and will alone.

It'd make more sense if they were in the eighties, riding the tsunami of that age- it wouldn't be far fetched at all for success of that calibre. It wouldn't have been very possible otherwise, since the guy had only started his business in real estate in the year of 2000, years after he had been released from prison. It couldn't have been done without powerful support.

How did you find out about all this? Pengzhan asked, deep in thought and quite taken aback at Lin Yi's information. He'd originally thought of the kidnapping as something perpetrated by one of his stockholders, and had established suspects already. From what Lin Yi had said, there was more to the picture than just the stockholders.

Cihua told me himself. Lin Yi said.

He told you himself? Pengzhan asked in disbelief.

He wanted to get me to his side, even see if I'd be willing to play undercover beside Mengyao for him. Lin Yi said.

Pengzhan nodded, not bothering to ask if Lin Yi had taken up the offer or not- it was clear as day that he hadn't if he was even telling him about it.

I wasn't expecting him to have his sights on Pengzhan Industries. Pengzhan sighed deeply. I'd only seen it as a conflict from within the company, and I hadn't done anything to drastic to the company in consideration of my father's reputation. I didn't think that the outsiders these insiders brought in would have complicated the issue to this degree.

Lin Yi could sense the helplessness and sorrow in Pengzhan's tone as he spoke.

He understood how he felt- the man had said so before: the majority of the stockholders had descendants of the people who had worked with Old Chu back in the day.

What do you need me to do? Lin Yi asked, raising his head at Pengzhan.

This man, Cihua- he has a very complicated background, and he operates on both the legal and illegal planes. I'd prefer not to make him a public enemy. Pengzhan said a little helplessly. We'll have to do this starting from the inside circle of the company, the way things are. Yi, you just focus on protecting Yao Yao and Shu- leave these affairs to me.

Actually, Uncle Chu- I'll be able to help shoulder your problems. Lin Yi said with a smile. Li Cihua will still cause us trouble even if we leave him alone- he sent two masters to kill me right after I declined his offer.

What?!! Li Cihua sent men after your life? Pengzhan said, stunned and shocked as he looked at Lin Yi, clearly not expecting Cihua to go that far at all. Cihua's image was that of a tyrant, but Pengzhan had only minimal contact with the man. After all, he was a proper businessman with almost zero involvement with the other side of the law.

Yes, two golden class masters. Lin Yi wasn't sure if Pengzhan knew about the division classes, but that didn't seem to be the case judging by the expression on his face. Yet there was a slight movement on Pengzhan's face that lasted for an instant, and anyone would've missed it if he or her hadn't been paying attention.

Lin Yi was able to capture that only because he paid additional attention to Pengzhan's expressions after he'd spoken- the man had to have had some idea of the division classes, but Lin Yi decided not to ask any questions about that.

And you shook them off? Pengzhan asked, a little worried.

I lured them to the road outside the city, planned a trap, and they slipped up and fell for it. The car fell straight down the cliff. Lin Yi said with a shrug. They deserved that bad luck, I suppose.

Are they dead? Pengzhan said, his eyes wide at this point. Pengzhan himself had experience in using illegal methods in the past before, due to the intensity of the fighting in the upper society, but Lin Yi's intents of killing the two masters with a trap came as a surprise regardless.

Don't think they'll be getting out of that alive. Lin Yi said with a bitter smile. Uncle Chu- I hope I haven't caused you any trouble.

Trouble? No, not that. Pengzhan said as he regained his composure. After all, Lin Yi was being targeted because of his problems in the first place, not to mention that the two masters had been going at Lin Yi with the intention of murdering him. It couldn't be helped, then, that Lin Yi lured them to their deaths in self-defense. Although, he'd still have ways to get Lin Yi out of the legal mess even if Lin Yi were the one who took the initiative in murdering them. There's no proof- no one will be able to lay a finger on you. We're in Songshan, Yi- you're under Chu Pengzhan's protection.

Pengzhan's badassery finally escaped him that moment, a side of him he'd never shown to Mengyao or Lin Yi before. After all, Pengzhan always had an air of kindness and gentleness about him- it was a first for his anger to surface like that.

Chapter 169 – A Shy Chen Yushu

Having understood the situation, Pengzhan and Li Fu left. Lin Yi, on the other hand, was about to head to his room when Mengyao and Yushu came down the stairs.

What were you guys talking about, Shield Bro? Yushu asked, curious as ever. The both of them had tried to eavesdrop on the conversation earlier, to no avail.

Not much, just some stuff about the company. Lin Yi said. Uncle Chu's business competitor.

Oh Mengyao wasn't interested in that stuff- she was still too young, after all, and hadn't been involved with the plots littering the business world. What she *was* interested in, however, was the real reason Lin Yi was sent to protect her- it was only natural for her to be uninterested after learning that the incident earlier had nothing to do with that.

Tell us honestly, Shield Bro- Uncle Chu sent you here to ask for Mengyao's hand, right? Yushu blurted, not quite believing that Lin Yi was discussing company matters with Pengzhan at all.

Wha-?! Lin Yi stared at Yushu after hearing the words, clearly taken aback.

Oh It's nothing Yushu had planned to test Lin Yi, but realized that her guess wasn't very accurate from the face he was making. That, or Lin Yi was as kept in the dark as Mengyao was, at the very least.

Lin Yi scratched his nose with a bitter smile on his face- this Yushu was being way too ridiculous this time around. Pengzhan had to have a special kind of problem in his brain to hire suitors for her daughter. Was his daughter so ugly or disease-ridden that he had to resort to hiring people like that?

This Chen Yushu, on the other hand, had quite the imagination Lin Yi wondered what sort of stuff was stuffed inside that brain of hers.

Shu, what in the world are you blurting?? Mengyao asked, her face steaming up and blushing. Maybe you should ask if daddy hired him to ask for *your* hand!!

Why would Uncle Chu do that? Yushu blinked. He doesnt have that much free time on his hands, does he

Mengyao only rolled her eyes, evidently frustrated at Yushu. Ill tear your lips off if you continue that nonsense!

Kay But you can still speak with your lips torn off, you know? You gotta stitch them up or something. Your approachs pretty wrong, Yao Yao. Yushu retorted.

..... Mengyao only turned and went up the stairs- this best friend was too strong for her to mess with

Wait for me, Yao Yao!! Yushu said, following after Mengyao.

Lin Yi shook his head as he watched the two girls walk up- he still hadnt been to the second floor, and couldnt help but wonder what was up there. He suddenly remembered that Yushus car keys were still with him. Shu.

Hm? Did you call, Shield Bro? Yushu asked, turning her puzzled head back to look at Lin Yi before opening her mouth in surprise. Did Uncle Chu really hire you to ask for my hand?!!

..... Lin Yi almost tripped at the statement. Just wanna give you your car keys

Oh, car keys Yushu said, embarrassed and panicking. Ha, I was just joking

I know. Lin Yi nodded with certainty. After all, the girl was known for her pranks and lies.

Hehe, good Yushu sighed in relief, suddenly realizing that her face was heating up. It was a good thing she had that weirdo image- itd be pretty awkward and embarrassing if her genuine thoughts were discovered

Oh, thats right- can I borrow your car for a couple of days? Itll be pretty hard to follow you guys the next time you go out otherwise. Lin Yi asked.

Sure. I wont be driving it anyway. Yushu said with a wave of her hand. Ill leave the villa keys to you too- you need a laptop right? Just go get it yourself when you have time! Well, Im gonna go sleep now Bye

Yushu was pretty sure that her face was blushing a bright red, like a lobster with a fever It reminded her of that advertisement she had seen a long time ago: Whats up bro? You getting cooked?.

In actuality, the dim lighting concealed the red on Yushus face, and Lin Yi wasnt paying attention to that in the first place. Kay, Ill go get it tomorrow.

Tang Yin and Liu Xinwen, on the other hand, walked out the school gates under many fingers and gazes

This Lin Yi!! Tang Yin cursed.

Ill be going back first, Tang Yin? Xinwen and Tang Yin lived close together, but never walked home together because of the barbeque stand Tang Yin was needed at.

Yeah. Be careful and maybe pay Su a visit when youre free. Her emotions arent very stable these days- she didnt even say anything to me the last time I visited. Tang Yin said.

Yeah, Ill do that. Xinwen nodded.

Tang Yin then made her way to the food street- her mom was in the middle of preparing the barbeque. Pouting, Tang Yin placed the recipe in front of her mom. Here, the recipe.

Oh? You got it! Mrs. Tang said happily as she picked the recipe up. Truth be told, she wasnt sure if Lin Yi would actually give her the recipe- he mightve just said all that for the sake of conversation, after all.

She wasnt expecting Tang Yin to actually get her hands on the recipe because of that- it meant that her business would get better starting from now, and Mrs. Tang couldnt be happier about that. Did you remember to thank him?

Yeah, I did. Tang Yin pouted. *Thank him? Thank him for the love note everyone thinks he gave me?*

You Did you actually thank him? Mrs. Tang was Tang Yins mother, and she naturally knew best- she shook her head helplessly as she looked at that expression on Tang Yins face. The girl probably didnt even think of thanking Lin Yi at all.

Her daughter was a good girl, with only one problem- a slightly prideful and cold personality. It was a fitting one for a girl born in a rich family, but not in theirs Mrs. Tang sighed to herself- Tang Yin would grow to realize the cruelties of life by the time she reached her age.

After all, she had been as prideful as her daughter was once- it was the harshness of life that blunted her edges.

I said I did already!! Tang Yin said as she fidgeted unnaturally. Here, lemme help you mom

Its okay, were packing up earlier today. I need to try this recipe when I get home- dont wanna risk the spices store closing if we work too late. With that, Mrs. Tang started packing the stand up.

Helpless, Tang Yin gave her mother a hand. Why was it that she believed in Lin Yi so much? What if these spices were some random scribbles Lin Yi had written down on a whim? Theyd be wasting a lot of materials and ingredients if that were the case.

Yet she hadnt any other choice but go along with her mother- she seemed so trusting of that Lin Yi, after all.

Chapter 170 – Delighted Tang Family

Tang Yin followed her mother to the supermarket on their way home, getting themselves some ingredients for testing first.

Mrs. Tang then rushed to make some chicken wings and meat skewers based on Lin Yis recipe, even humming all the while as her hopes for the future grew. After all, better business only meant a better environment for the family- they might even be able to save up for her lover to go through a surgery.

Tang Jucheng, on the other hand, wondered why his wife was so happy as he laid on his sickbed.

Honey, whats up? Did something good happen? Jucheng asked, also bored from lying in bed all day, unable to help his wife even if he wanted to. There wasnt much he could do other than sleep and eat.

Yins classmate gave me a barbeque recipe- our business will get really good if we do this well! Mrs. Tang said as she placed the pickled chicken wings and meat skewers in the fridge to freeze up.

For real? Thats great news!! Jucheng said, delighted as well from the news. Well really have to thank that classmate if everything goes well!

Your precious daughter was actually acting pretty high and mighty the whole time- that boy has a good impression of her, but she always gives him the cold shoulder! Mrs. Tang said. She always got irritated whenever she thought of Tang Yins attitude towards Lin Yi. Well see how well she does if she marries someone like you!

Mrs. Tangs words were hurtful, but Jucheng was far from angry at that Lying in bed for half a year did things to a person, and he thought about things differently now. After all, it was true that his ineptitude dragged both his wife and daughter down with him. They wouldve been a little better off if he had any savings, too.

In the midst of his guilt, and the devotion his wife had towards him, Jucheng realized that he couldnt have his daughter living a life like this when she grew up. It was no life for a normal human being!

Yet his wifes words raised some concerns. Is he one of those young masters? Be careful things dont end up like Fen and that boyfriend she used to have, only toying with her and everything...

Dont think thats possible. Mrs. Tang explained. The kid doesnt look spoiled at all, quite the gentleman, too- I think hell treat our daughter quite nicely

It was a small house, and Tang Yin heard everything. Why was her mother so pleased with Lin Yi? The guy wasnt a good person! Gentleman? Wait until she heard about what the kid did to Zhong Pinliang, kicking him off a chair because his way was blocked.

Just thinking about Lin Yi ruined her mood, and she couldnt even study properly anymore with how troubled she was feeling. She walked out her room to see her mother preparing to test-taste the skewers.

Need some help, mom? Tang Yin asked, trying to preoccupy herself now that studying wasnt working out.

Help me skewer some of those chicken wings then- Ill start the fire. Mrs. Tang said as she put the bamboo sticks aside to get the fire started.

Oh Tang Yin said as she started pushing the skewers through the meat. She didnt know what it would taste like, but it did smell pretty good.

She then put the skewers to the fire after Mrs. Tang finished her preparations, fanning the fire as the wings cooked.

It wasnt long before an alluring aroma spread from the chicken wings, and even Tang Yin started salivating. *Looks like that Lin Yi wasnt lying*

Jucheng smelled the scent as well. That smells good, honey.

It does, doesnt it? Mrs. Tang hadnt tried the wings, but the aroma was proof enough of its taste. Quite a number of customers would come to her stand from just the smell alone. Its almost done, Ill let you try it first!

Jucheng couldnt help but feel a little embarrassed- his wife and daughter were giving the best food to him first before eating any themselves, while he lay in bed all day! Hed have ended his own life long ago if he didnt know the pain itd cause his wife

While his wife did nag on and on about making the wrong choice, she always supported the whole family and house with sheer effort- that was proof enough of their bond.

Yin, give this chicken wing to your dad. Mrs. Tang said as she handed the first skewer to Tang Yin.

Tang Yin couldnt help but swallow her saliva as she stared at the crispy, rich color on the chicken wing yet she couldnt bring herself to bite into it- her father was waiting, after all. With that, she ran to Juchengs bed and handed it to him.

You eat it, Yin. Jucheng, naturally, saw that face Tang Yin was making. The girl was a teenager, and her body was still developing, after all. While Jucheng himself ate the worse skewers of the leftovers, that was out of consideration for Tang Yins health- none of them wanted the girl to take a sick leave from school the next day. This particular chicken wing, on the other hand, was freshly cooked, and Jucheng wanted his daughter to get the first taste

Im not hungry, dad- Ill get fat if I eat too much. Tang Yin shook her head.

Alright, the two of you stop fighting- Old Tang, just eat it! Im almost done with the skewers here, Yin and I will eat these. Mrs. Tang said with a smile.

Alright then Jucheng nodded, taking the chicken wings after hearing what his wife had said. He bit into it and showed her a thumbs up. Really- its a pretty unique taste! Itll sell big for sure.

The next batch of skewers were done as well, and Mrs. Tang handed a skewer to Tang Yin before taking one herself.

Tang Yin would rather not admit it, but the chicken wings this time around were far, far, tastier than the ones her mom used to make. It wasnt any different from the ones she had in that big restaurant Fens ex-boyfriend treated Xinwen and her to!

How is it, Yin? Mrs. Tang hadnt eaten hers, but had a pretty good guess of how successful itd be just from the look on Tang Yins face.

Its okay I guess Tang Yin lied, not wanting Lin Yi to get too pleased with himself, even if he wasnt here.

Mrs. Tang took a bite herself, and her eyes widened. You- Yin, this is okay?? Is something wrong with your taste buds? This is practically no different from the trademark ones in barbeque restaurants! This is it- Ill cook it this way from now on! Ill get more supplies from the supermarket tomorrow.

It'll probably sell better than the old ones Tang Yin had to admit- the aroma was a very alluring one, even if the customers there were looking to fill their empty stomachs up and weren't too picky about what to eat. Most of them only wanted food tastier than the ones they could find in the canteen, after all, and Tang Yin was sure these chicken wings qualified.

Yin, invite Lin Yi and that friend of his over to our house this weekend- we'll treat them to some barbecue as thanks! Mrs. Tang said happily, evidently very grateful.

Wha-? Tang Yin froze, almost letting the skewer slip out from her hand. Invite Lin Yi over? Was her mother out of her mind?? How could she just invite the man to her house?!!