

## Chapter 1231: Ah Zhu

After the seven-day-long journey, Jiang Yao was almost paralyzed from sitting on the train for so long. Finally, the train arrived at their destination—Shu City.

After getting off the train, Lu Xingzhi picked up all of Jiang Yao's things and led her out of the train station in the crowded station. Lu Xingzhi stood at the train station entrance and looked around for a while. Then he led Jiang Yao to a young man who was about 25 to 26 years old.

That young man had slightly tanned skin, like most people in Shu City. He had an unmistakable outline of an ethnic minority. He had a cigarette dangling from his mouth and a thick gold necklace around his neck—he looked like a loafer.

“Are you Ah Zhu?” Lu Xingzhi asked in a curious tone. However, he knew for a fact that the man was Ah Zhu, a friend that his informant had made in Shu City. Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao had to rely on that person's recommendation to infiltrate the gang.

“Yes, I am him!” Ah Zhu immediately stood up when he saw them. He moved the cigarette from his mouth to his hand. Then, he stared at the young couple who were holding hands in front of him. He laughed heartily. “Gu Changshu, right? Is this your wife? She is so beautiful!”

When Jiang Yao heard Ah Zhu mention her, she hid behind Lu Xingzhi and gave Ah Zhu a timid smile.

It was very shallow, so shallow that one would not be able to see her smile if one did not look at her closely.

Ah Zhu did not care. After all, she was a woman and a newly married wife. It was normal for her to be shy.

“You're Xiao Xing's friend, so you'll be my friend from now on. I won't let you starve to death! It's also good that Director Ding is short of manpower recently, so you've come at the right time,” Ah Zhu said.

“Director Ding is very cautious of new people, so he'll observe you for a period of time. Do your best. As long as Director Ding trusts you, I guarantee that you'll be able to follow him and make a lot more money, just like me.”

Ah Zhu was a little proud when it came to money-making tips. “Has Xiao Xing told you guys anything about me?”

“I am quite well-known in my hometown. The house I built last year was the most magnificent one in the entire village! Now, the whole village is envious of me. Many people want to follow me here to earn big money, but I didn't want to bring any of them. But you are different. You are Xiao Xing's friend, and Xiao Xing is my good friend, so I don't mind taking you under my wings!”

“Thank you,” Lu Xingzhi said stiffly after a few seconds.

Ah Zhu smiled and teased him. “Xiao Xing said that you are a man of few words. I didn't expect you to be so dull. It's okay. We are friends; there's no need to thank me!”

Then, he brought Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao out of the train station. He was two steps ahead of them, so Jiang Yao could easily see that his right foot had a little limp.

Among the documents that Jiang Yao had memorized before she left, she knew that was Ah Zhu. He was a 26-year-old man, and he had been in the gang for five years. Ah Zhu's right foot had been broken since he was young. That was when his drunk biological father had hit him.

Ah Zhu had a miserable childhood. His father was lazy and liked to drink and gamble. When he was only two years old, his mother could not stand her husband's behavior, so she abandoned the child and ran away. Ah Zhu had two uncles, aunts, and a grandmother. The one who treated him slightly better in the entire family was his grandmother... However, she was old and had to live with her son's temperament, so she could not protect her grandson, Ah Zhu.

### **Chapter 1232: A Girl With Ambition**

However, Ah Zu's father was useless. He drank every day, got drunk every day, and did not do any work. He became a burden to his family. When Ah Zu was young, his father got drunk and broke Ah Zu's leg. The child's uncles and aunts did not agree to spend any money to save Ah Zu's leg. So, the child's grandmother carried Ah Zu to someone in the village who knew how to fix bones. Unfortunately, it was not repaired correctly, so Ah Zu's right leg had a limp.

Ah Zu did not go to school. He stayed at home and worked non-stop daily. His uncles wanted Ah Zu to do all his father's work.

Ah Zu's grandmother passed away when Ah Zu was 20 years old. Then, Ah Zu left the village to find work elsewhere. He accidentally met Brother Ding, and then followed him around for so many years.

Ah Zu left his village with only a few cents in his pocket. He did not even tell anyone that he had left. No one in his family had looked for him. About two years ago, he brought the money he had earned in the past few years to his hometown and built a new house there. He became the envy of everyone in the village.

Perhaps his childhood experiences made him especially hard and tired, so he liked to show off whenever he met anyone.

After leading Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao into the taxi, he sat in the front passenger seat and turned his body to continue talking to the two people in the back seat.

Azu smiled very proudly. "In our line of work, money is not a problem if you can work hard! Has Xiao Xing told you about me? When I was living at home, my uncles and aunts did not treat me like a human being. I had to wake up earlier than chickens, sleep later than the dogs, do more work than the cows, and eat less than the birds. Still, they shouted at me all day long. Whenever I was unhappy, they would beat and scold me. Now, they don't dare to do that to me. They will treat me like a Buddha and won't dare speak loudly when I'm there. If I tell them to laugh, they won't dare to cry!"

Jiang Yao said, "It's their fault for not treating you well in the past! Brother Ah Zu, when we make a lot of money with you, I want to return to my hometown with Brother Changshu in the same glorious way as you did. I also want to let my uncles and grandmother see my proud face!"

“Hey! Sister, you are ambitious!” Ah Zu’s heart melted when Jiang Yao called him Brother Ah Zu in such a soft voice. “Don’t worry. You’ll make a lot of money! Those people in my village have been begging me to bring them here to make some money, but I didn’t bring any of them. Do you know why? Because when I was in the village, none of them treated me well. They were all laughing at me. I will always remember that my grandmother was the only one who treated me well. It’s a pity that she died early; she didn’t have the chance to enjoy life with me.”

Ah Zu’s voice sounded a little choked up at the mention of his grandmother. “She’s such a good person, but she hasn’t enjoyed a single day of happiness.”

“Brother Ah Zu, I really envy you. You have a grandmother who treats you so well, unlike my grandmother. She has never doted on me.” Jiang Yao looked upset.

Then, Jiang Yao continued in a lighter tone, “Brother Ah Zu, don’t be sad. Your grandmother doted on you not because she wanted a happy life with you. She doted on you without any ulterior motives. She would definitely be happy for you if she knew that you are doing well now.”

### **Chapter 1233: Gu Junhui**

Ah Zu was comforted by Jiang Yao’s words. “Sister, you’re right! I heard from Xiao Xing that you’ve studied for many years? As expected of an intellectual, you’re really different when it comes to comforting people. I was afraid that you’d laugh at me. I haven’t been to school at all. Don’t laugh at me, please.”

Ah Zu smiled at Jiang Yao when he saw her gentle smile; she did not appear to look down on him. “Sister, don’t be sad. Even though your grandmother isn’t as nice as my grandmother, you have a good aunt and an even better husband—Changshu.”

Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi were disguised as Gu Junhui and Gu Changshu. Ah Zu must have heard about their stories from Xiao Xing.

Ah Zu agreed to take them under his wings because their experiences were too similar to his, especially Gu Changshu’s. He even felt sorry for them.

Gu Junhui and Gu Changshu had a tragic and pitiful story.

When Jiang Yao first saw the information, she could not help but sigh for a long time. She felt sorry for Gu Junhui and Gu Changshu.

However, even though Gu Junhui and Gu Changshu were both pitiful, at the same time, they were fortunate. Just as Ah Zu had said, Gu Junhui had an aunt who loved her very much, and Gu Changshu had been in prison for more than nine years. However, Gu Junhui refused to leave him.

Gu Junhui and Gu Changshu were neighbors in the same town. Gu Changshu was nine years older than Gu Junhui. When they got together, it was a weird relationship between an older man and a much younger woman.

One could tell that Gu Junhui’s parents had received some form of education when one learned her name—it was different from someone in the countryside. Gu Junhui’s father had named her; they were very happy when she was born.

Unfortunately, their happier times were tragically cut short. When Gu Junhui was only two years old, her father died in an accident while on a business trip. Her father's death caused Gu Junhui's life to be plunged into disaster.

Gu Junhui's grandmother was a superstitious old woman; she was unreasonable and preferred boys over girls. Gu Junhui's father was her eldest son and her most beloved child. He was also the most promising child among her children. Gu Junhui's father got married two years later than his two younger brothers. He had waited for Gu Junhui's mother to return from her studies, so the old woman was not very happy with the arrangement. Finally, her daughter-in-law bore them a daughter, and so the old woman had always been blind to Gu Junhui's existence.

After the accident, the family was paid a large amount of compensation. The old woman was afraid that Gu Junhui's mother would take the money, so she said she was a jinx. She forced Gu Junhui's mother out of the house and refused to let her take her two-year-old daughter with her because a large portion of the compensation belonged to the child.

Gu Junhui's mother had no choice. No one in the countryside was willing to help her, so she could only leave by herself.

The old woman took the money but did not think of leaving any for Gu Junhui. The first thing she did with the money was to renovate the old house grandly. Then, she and her two remaining sons began to squander it.

However, Gu Junhui did not get to enjoy those benefits at all. She was bullied by her cousins, aunts, and uncles all day long. Her aunt, who lived in the city, felt sorry for her. So, she brought the young Gu Junhui to the city and provided her with education, food, and clothing. She allowed her to live like her other cousins.

#### **Chapter 1234: As Long As It's With You**

Even though she was not wealthy, Gu Junhui enjoyed everything she deserved from her aunt. Therefore, she was a little simple and naive.

Gu Junhui left her hometown with Gu Changshu because they wanted to elope, and Gu Junhui's grandmother and uncle were the reason for their decision.

Her grandmother and uncles had squandered all the compensation money that was supposed to be Gu Junhui's.

Her cousin had wanted to marry a city girl whose family wanted a lot of money for her dowry. Gu Junhui's grandmother, uncle, and aunt could not afford it, so the old woman set her sight on Gu Junhui, who had just turned 18.

The old woman asked someone to find a matchmaker, who matched Gu Junhui to a man with a deceased wife and child at 40 years old. The man could afford a very high betrothal fee to marry Gu Junhui.

Gu Junhui's aunt was shocked when she heard that; she quickly gave Gu Junhui an idea. She called Gu Changshu, who had just been released from prison, and gave the two of them some money to elope.

It was only then that Gu Junhui's aunt confessed to Gu Junhui. Her mother did not abandon her—the old woman had burned any letters that her mother had sent her. She did not want the mother and daughter duo to contact each other. Gu Junhui's aunt gave her an address and told them to look for Gu Junhui's mother.

Jiang Yao's file mentioned that Gu Junhui and Gu Changshu found Gu Junhui's mother at the address. Her mother had remarried and had another child. However, Gu Junhui's mother did not ignore her daughter.

After hearing what the old woman had done, Gu Junhui's mother knew that her former mother-in-law would come to her after Gu Junhui's disappearance. She did not want the old woman to find her daughter, so she gave Gu Junhui a large sum of money and told them to lay low somewhere discreet.

They were to return after half a year. Gu Junhui's mother also gave Gu Junhui her home phone number and told her to call home after they had settled down. She wanted to visit the couple with Gu Junhui's younger brother.

Hence, what Ah Zu said was not quite right. Gu Junhui also had a mother who doted on her very much.

Gu Junhui's aunt treated her well because Gu Junhui's parents had taken care of her when she was very young. Gu Junhui's grandmother valued her sons over her daughters, so the youngest daughter did not get the love and care she had deserved. Fortunately, she had her eldest brother and sister-in-law to protect her when she was young.

Ah Zu was even more talkative than the old man they had met when they first were on the train. They chatted all the way to their newly rented house, which Ah Zu had arranged for them.

It was a one-bedroom house, so it was not very big. The kitchen only had one coal stove, and the entire floor shared only one common bathroom at the corner of the corridor.

Ah Zu waved his keys and smiled. "You will stay here temporarily. Brother Ding will arrange another place for you after meeting with you and confirming that you'll be working for us. When the time comes, that place will definitely be much better than this one. The place where Brother Ding and I are staying is comparable to a big hotel. That is Brother Ding's house. It is very comfortable. The house in my hometown was built according to that house."

"This place is good enough."

Lu Xingzhi took the key from Ah Zu and turned to Jiang Yao. "Ah Hui, I will earn money to let you live in a better house."

Jiang Yao shook her head gently. "I can live anywhere with you, Brother Changshu. And just like what you said, I also think this place is perfect."

### **Chapter 1235: Quick-witted**

When neither of them seemed to mind, Ah Zhu felt much more at ease. He thought that Gu Changshu and Gu Junhui were quite easy to get along with. They did not have bad tempers and were not picky.

They seemed to be very pragmatic, and they also looked like they were determined to make a lot of money.

“Brother Ding is not here for two days, so he doesn’t have time to visit you. You two can stay here for now. Take a walk around Shu City.” Ah Zhu looked at the two of them. Perhaps he was afraid that the two of them would be anxious, so he comforted them again. “Brother Ding likes people like Changshu, so as long as there are no other problems, he will definitely allow the two of you to stay here. If there’s nothing else, then I’ll go first. I’ll leave you my cell phone number. If there’s anything, you can call me. There’s a snack bar downstairs with a public phone.”

Ah Zhu took a pen and paper, left his phone number, and left. Lu Xingzhi asked Jiang Yao if she wanted to go to the bathroom. When Jiang Yao shook her head, he held her hand and returned to their room.

There was a double bed in the room. A new quilt had been laid on it. Ah Zhu had probably prepared it in advance.

“Xing...” Jiang Yao was about to open her mouth when Lu Xingzhi suddenly made a hissing gesture at her and pointed to the room next door.

When Lu Xingzhi followed Ah Zhu, he noticed the curtain behind the window next door shook slightly. Clearly, someone was standing behind the curtain, and he could also feel their gaze.

However, Lu Xingzhi was not sure if it was a curious neighbor or someone that Brother Ding had specially arranged to observe him and Jiang Yao.

According to the information, Brother Ding was a very vigilant person. It was not without reason that he could climb from the bottom to his position in those years.

He was very vigilant in his actions, and he also had some leeway when dealing with others.

Jiang Yao understood him. Then, she and Lu Xingzhi began to inspect the room casually. After confirming that there were no high-tech gadgets like a mic, the two of them sat down on the bed.

“Even though Ah Zhu looks like a straightforward young man, his mind is too active. If it were the real Gu Junhui, she might really be impressed by Ah Zhu’s warm and straightforward personality. She would probably regard him as someone she could trust.” Jiang Yao clicked her tongue.

Although Ah Zhu had talked a lot with her and Lu Xingzhi along the way, he did not reveal any useful information. He said they would be friends in the future. However, Ah Zhu did not disclose any information about how Brother Ding would observe her and Lu Xingzhi.

He would help Gu Changshu and Gu Junhui for the sake of Xiao Xing, but he would not blindly help them because of his friend’s friends.

As he could go from a penniless country boy to Brother Ding’s right-hand man and a person who lived a luxurious life like that, he must have his own way of doing it.

Jiang Yao did not dare to underestimate any of the people she would come into contact with in the future.

“Rest for a while. I’ll bring you something to eat for dinner.” Lu Xingzhi listened to Jiang Yao’s words but smiled without saying a word. He waited for her to finish speaking before touching her face. “I’ve eaten train food for a few days... Sorry to trouble you, but I’ll use your mother’s money to get you something good tonight.”

### **Chapter 1236: Gu Changshu**

Jiang Yao chuckled. Lu Xingzhi meant the money Gu Junhui’s mother had given them because she was afraid that her daughter would suffer while with Gu Changshu, who had just been released from prison. The man had nothing, so she gave Gu Junhui a large sum of money for them to settle down for a more comfortable life.

Naturally, Jiang Yao had more money than Lu Xingzhi because she had a relatively well-to-do mother.

Gu Changshu was poor; that was in the information.

No matter how hardworking and capable, a person who had just been out of prison for a few months would not have much money.

Gu Changshu had killed his stepfather when he was 19 and was sentenced to ten years in prison. His experience was even more miserable than Gu Junhui’s.

His biological father had died of illness, and his mother had remarried. As a result, his stepfather treated him badly. The man had beaten him since he was young. Not only did his stepfather beat him, but he would also beat his mother if he were not happy.

Gu Changshu killed his stepfather when he saw the man hit his mother when he got home from work. In a fit of anger, he took a kitchen knife from the kitchen and killed his stepfather.

He had killed his stepfather for his mother, but in the end, his mother complained that he should not have killed the family’s patriarch.

After Gu Changshu was imprisoned, his mother only had his half-brother with her. There was no one else in the family. Gu Changshu’s half-brother lived off the family, but the child was young, and no adults watched him. Gu Changshu had died unexpectedly in his third year in prison. His neighbors in his hometown had even arranged his funeral, but no one was sad for him.

While Gu Changshu was in prison, only Gu Junhui, his next-door neighbor, still remembered to visit him in prison.

Gu Junhui lived in the county with her aunt, and Gu Changshu served his sentence in the county jail. Almost every weekend, Gu Junhui would go to prison to see Gu Changshu. Finally, he was released seven months early because of his good behavior; the only person who went to meet him was Gu Junhui.

Gu Junhui was the only ray of light in his long prison life and the only person in the world who still cared about him.

One could say that Gu Junhui was Gu Changshu’s entire life. She had been very kind to him.

When Jiang Yao saw that, she was glad that she was Lu Xingzhi’s partner in that mission.

Gu Zhangshu and Gu Junhui were very close. When they went out, Gu Zhangshu would have Gu Junhui follow him closely; they held hands, and he watched over her at all times. Jiang Yao was not sure she could let Lu Xingzhi do the mission with anyone else.

She was unhappy when she thought about how Lu Xingzhi was so nervous about another woman and how he had to constantly pay attention to and hold the other woman's hand.

Even though she knew that he did it for the job, she thought everyone was entitled to be a little selfish. She would not make a fuss even though she was unhappy about it.

Fortunately, she became Lu Xingzhi's partner for that mission.

The two of them, who were already in love, did not need to pretend at all.

Lu Xingzhi acted almost like himself because Gu Changshu's character was very similar to his personality. The years of imprisonment and the experiences of domestic violence and coldness in his childhood made Gu Changshu a gloomy and silent person.

As for Jiang Yao, she only needed to pretend to be naive and straightforward.

### **Chapter 1237: Don't Even Think About It**

When night fell, Lu Xingzhi brought Jiang Yao out of the house. Due to the weather in Shu City, most people there had dark skin, which was several degrees darker than that of Jiang Yao from the south. It was even darker than that of Lu Xingzhi, who trained under the sun all year round.

If Lu Xingzhi had been walking alone on the street there, he might not have attracted anyone's attention. However, Jiang Yao's skin was so fair that a puff of wind could break it. One would not often see someone like her in Shu City, so they attracted quite a lot of attention.

Lu Xingzhi did not let go of Jiang Yao's hand for even a second. He looked like an old hen protecting a chick. He did not dare to let Jiang Yao out of his sight for even a second.

On the other hand, Jiang Yao was curious about the cultural architecture in Shu City. Her attention was focused on both sides of the road. Occasionally, she would be attracted by the smell of food.

Even though the economy in Shu City was relatively slow, there was no lack of high-end restaurants and entertainment venues. No matter how poor the city was, there would always be rich people.

When they first arrived, Lu Xingzhi was afraid that Jiang Yao might not be able to adapt to the environment, so he did not dare to take her to those stalls to eat. Even though he knew that Jiang Yao was hungry, he still led her to a restaurant that looked clean and decent.

Coincidentally, they saw Ah Zhu the moment they entered the building. Ah Zhu was in a private room in the innermost part of the restaurant. However, the door was not closed, so he could see Ah Zhu's men at a glance.

Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao looked at each other. They tacitly decided to pretend that they did not know that Ah Zhu was there. Then, they found a spot that was away from the private room.



“What do you want to eat?” Lu Xingzhi handed the menu to Jiang Yao. When he saw her looking at the menu quickly, he said, “No kebabs, don’t even think about it.”

Jiang Yao’s expression froze. After a while, she pushed the menu to Lu Xingzhi. “Then you order. I’ll eat whatever you want.”

That guy was like a worm in her stomach—he knew what she was thinking at a glance.

The smell of the skewers by the roadside was too delicious, so she had been craving them.

In the past, when Lu Xingzhi knew that she wanted to eat them, he would get some for her. However, he did not do it that day. Although Jiang Yao did not quite understand, she did not ask him about it. She knew that he had his own reasons.

Lu Xingzhi said, “We’ve just arrived at a strange place. It’s better to eat something light to adapt to the weather and feng shui here. If you really want to eat it, I’ll get you some in a few days. I heard that the skewers in Shu City are really delicious.”

“The most famous dish in this city is the Flower Feast. Are you here on business or for a vacation? While you are here, you should try the Flower Feast. That is a specialty in Shu City, but we don’t have it in our shop. However, you can eat it at the Hundred Flowers restaurant, but it’s not cheap,” the waiter at the side said before he introduced their restaurant’s special dishes to Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao.

After they ordered some dishes, the waiter left to deal with their order. Jiang Yao pretended to be interested in watching the bustle in the restaurant, but her attention was on Ah Zhu’s private room.

Jiang Yao was not surprised to see Brother Ding, who had not been in Shu City for the past few days, in that private room with Ah Zhu. However, the people in the room were surprised to see them; they did not expect to see the two of them there.

### **Chapter 1238: Brother Ding Owns It**

Brother Ding was around 50 years old. He had a chubby face due to his luxurious life. However, no matter how rich he was, it was apparent that he was a middle-aged man.

Brother Ding wore a thick and bright gold necklace around his neck. He seemed to be more interested in gold jewelry than Ah Zhu. He also wore two gold rings on his hand. However, there was another jade ring that was more eye-catching than his gold rings.

He held a cigar in one hand and a wine glass in the other. The wine glass was filled with high-end red wine. One could tell that it was expensive from the color.

“What happened to them? Why are they here so coincidentally?” Brother Ding asked with a cautious tone.

“Brother Ding, I’m going to go take a look.” Ah Zhu stood up, opened the door, and walked out.

Jiang Yao whispered to Lu Xingzhi. “Ah Zhu is out. Brother Ding and Ah Zhu are in the same private room. Brother Ding’s lover, Sister Wen, is also there.”

“Okay.” Lu Xingzhi poured a glass of water into Jiang Yao’s glass. The jug was already on the table. When he poured it, he realized that it was actually some flower tea.

“Let me try it first.” Jiang Yao blew on the petals on the surface of the tea. When Master Cheng kidnapped her, the alcohol did not work on her at all. Later, she asked the system butler and found out that those drugs did not affect her under normal circumstances.

If Jiang Yao had been careful, she would have poured it away. After confirming that there was no problem, she nodded at Lu Xingzhi and said, “It’s delicious. It’s sweet tea. You should try it too.”

Ah Zhu heard the two of them talking about flower tea when he went to them. He appeared behind Lu Xingzhi and patted him on the shoulder. Then, he pulled out an empty chair and sat down. He said in a surprised tone, “What a coincidence! You two are also here to eat?”

“What a coincidence!” Jiang Yao’s expression was even worse than Ah Zhu’s. Her black eyes flickered with surprise as she asked, “Is the food here any good? I keep thinking that the food here seems to be very expensive. I sneaked a glance at the menu just now, but I didn’t see the price. Even though my mother gave us some money, we still have to spend it sparingly.”

Jiang Yao glanced at Lu Xingzhi, who sat opposite her, with a shy expression on her face. “I had wanted to eat on the street, but Brother Changshu said that I have a bad stomach and I have to get used to the food here, so he insisted on eating here. He said that I can eat whatever I want when we make a lot of money in the future.”

“Sister, your husband is right. You women have a delicate stomach, so it’s better not to eat street food, especially since you’re new here. It’s not easy for you to get used to the climate here. Brother Changshu is very considerate of you.” Ah Zhu finally understood why they were there. It turned out that Gu Changshu had felt sorry for his wife.

Then, Ah Zhu said, “What a coincidence! Brother Ding owns this restaurant. You can order whatever you want, my treat. In the future, when you work with Brother Ding, you can even eat here three times a day. I still have some friends with me, so enjoy your meal. I’ll look you up when I’m free later.”

Before he left, Ah Zhu patted Lu Xingzhi on the shoulder and thought that the man was quite a bore. Even though he had said so much to his wife, the man was still silent.

### **Chapter 1239: Replace Them**

Even though Gu Changshu had a quiet personality, he seemed to really love his wife, Gu Junhui. Those who could love others were those with weaknesses.

Ah Zhu returned to the private room, satisfied, and told Brother Ding what he had heard.

Ah Zhu smiled. “Brother Ding, I told the manager to waive the bill for them. I saw how careful they were when they ordered the dishes. I was afraid that they would not be able to pay for the extra dishes. Before I worked for you, I was not any better than Gu Changshu and his wife. Luckily, I met you, Brother Ding. Come, let me toast to you. I am thankful that you brought me great fortune and helped me reach the peak of my life!”

“Ah Zhu, you are very good at talking!” The woman next to Brother Ding praised him. Her 40-year-old face was covered with heavy makeup, and her nails were also covered with red nail polish... She sat there in a mink fur coat. At a glance, she looked like a lady.

Jiang Yao recognized the woman. Everyone called her Sister Wen. She had been Brother Ding’s lover for a very long time that everyone thought she was his wife.

However, Brother Ding’s actual wife and his mother were in his hometown in the countryside. They knew that Brother Ding was in some shady business. After many failed attempts to persuade him to stop, Brother Ding’s mother cut off all contact with him. Even his wife and children had not contacted him for a long time. Brother Ding’s wife stayed in his hometown to care for their children and his parents.

Their informant said that Sister Wen had been with Brother Ding for nearly ten years. He was very tolerant of her and her daughter,

Sister Wen met Brother Ding when she brought her only daughter to Shu City after her husband died. Brother Ding treated Sister Wen’s daughter as if she was his own daughter.

However, Jiang Yao did not see Sister Wen’s daughter in the private room. The informant had minimal information about Sister Wen’s daughter. Her daughter was not in Shu City very much, so the informant did not know her position in that gang and what kind of work she did.

“You did well. You have to show those country bumpkins the life of a rich man.” Brother Ding was elated by Ah Zhu’s praise. He clinked his glass with Ah Zhu and downed the wine in one gulp before he said, “Now is the time to hire new people. Arrange a few people to keep an eye on those two to see if they’re really here to make money. If we can use them, it will also solve my urgent need to hire people.”

Ah Zhu asked with an expectant look, “Brother Ding, are you going to expand your business? Then it looks like I can make a lot of money this year!”

Perhaps it was because he had drunk too much wine, or maybe he was happy that Ah Zhu had flattered him, Brother Ding did not hide the news. He told Ah Zhu and the others in the private room about his plan. “I’m going to do something big! I want trustworthy people to go to Brother Jing and Ah Da to help me gather information. They have become more greedy in recent years. Sooner or later, I will replace them. The money that I worked so hard to earn had been given to them in vain. They even dare to complain that I’ve given them too little!”

#### **Chapter 1240: Don’t Tease Me**

As soon as Brother Ding finished speaking, the private room fell silent for a few seconds. Then, Ah Zhu and the others took turns toasting him. They wished Brother Ding everything he wanted so that he could lead them up the ladder step by step.

Once the wine was served, the people in the private room stopped talking about serious matters. Then, Jiang Yao turned her attention to their dishes on the table.

Lu Xingzhi realized that Jiang Yao had snapped back to her senses, so he pointed at the bowl of porridge in front of her. “Have some porridge. It seems like the dishes here are all very spicy.”

Lu Xingzhi had never been to Shu City, so he did not expect the food to be that spicy. When he looked at the names on the menu, he did not expect it to be spicy either. He realized that Jiang Yao could only eat the porridge when the food was served. "Let's go to the nearby market to see if we can get some vegetables. I'll cook supper for you."

Jiang Yao nodded, but she could not resist the aroma of the dishes on the table. She used her chopsticks to taste the broth on the plate in front of her. After a few seconds, her whole face wrinkled. She quickly picked up the cup on the table and gulped the sweet tea.

Jiang Yao's behavior amused Lu Xingzhi. She was like a greedy little cat. He had told her that it was spicy, and she still wanted to eat it. In the end, it was too spicy for her.

"Don't gloat." Jiang Yao glared at Lu Xingzhi unhappily. She did not even dare to take the tea away from her mouth when she spoke.

Lu Xingzhi's taste was the opposite of hers. She liked to eat light and stewed dishes, but Lu Xingzhi enjoyed braised pork and deep-fried food. He also loved spicy food.

However, Lu Xingzhi had accommodated her tastebuds at home, so she enjoyed every meal at home.

When she realized that the dishes were mainly Lu Xingzhi's favorites, Jiang Yao nudged Lu Xingzhi with the teacup in her hand and giggled. "I heard that kissing can relieve the spiciness."

Then, she pouted at Lu Xingzhi. "Kiss me."

Lu Xingzhi's temples throbbed. "Who told you that kissing can relieve spiciness?"

After a pause, he gritted his teeth and said, "Don't tease me! Otherwise, you'll have to bear the consequences tonight!"

Jiang Yao grinned. "A book said that. Wen Xuehui and the others had read such a book in the dormitory. They even asked me if it were true. Unfortunately, I don't eat spicy food, so I haven't tried it. This is a rare opportunity. Give it a try. Next time, I'll know the answer when they ask me."

Lu Xingzhi glanced at Jiang Yao, who had a wicked smile on her face. Then, he quietly picked up a piece of chili and put it into his mouth without changing his expression. He chewed it for a few seconds before swallowing it. He put down his chopsticks and attempted to kiss Jiang Yao's pouty little mouth.

Jiang Yao was shocked and quickly dodged him. Then, she obediently lowered her head and drank the porridge.

She could not play any tricks on him. Lu Xingzhi was more cunning than anyone else when it came to tricks.

She envied Lu Xingzhi, who could eat chilis without changing his expression. What a joke! He had swallowed the chili. If he continued to kiss her like that, she would probably have to go to the bathroom to drink cold water to survive it.

It was not unreasonable for Brother Ding to like Ah Zhu. The man was very poised in doing things. Brother Ding had just given the order in the private room, and by the time Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi left the restaurant, a few men were ready to follow them.

However, those men had not been specially trained. Their tracking skills were a little weak. Even someone like Jiang Yao, who had been paying attention to the scenery along the road the entire time, had noticed them, let alone someone like Lu Xingzhi, who was like a high-level radar.