

## Lady gu 1041

### Chapter 1041: The Mysterious Yingyun Hall

Xia Mengyan burned with rage. She was about to become Fang Shiyun's apprentice and enjoy endless glory, but Qiao Xi did not care at all?

She only felt her breathing stop and her heart ache. She could not help but clench her fists.

At this moment, Xia Cheng frowned and said, "It's fine if she doesn't want to come. She'll only embarrass the Xia family if she comes."

A trace of pride flashed past Xia Mengyan's eyes. Perhaps Qiao Xi was afraid that she would be mocked if she came, so she hid and did not dare to come.

On the way home, Ai Sumei already knew that Qiao Xi had cheated and was discovered. She was extremely excited. As expected, that little b\*tch could not compare to Mengyan. She could finally go up against Yin Lianxin.

Before long, Mengyan would become Fang Shiyun's apprentice, while Qiao Xi would be hated by everyone and expelled from the art industry. The more Ai Sumei thought about it, the happier she became. She wished for nothing more than to hold a apprenticeship banquet immediately and show off in front of Yin Lianxin.

"Mengyan, when is Mr. Fang coming?" Xia Cheng asked.

Xia Mengyan hesitated for a moment before replying, "Mr. Fang will be here on time."

"Alright! I heard that Mr. Fang values this apprenticeship very much. You must work hard and seize this opportunity. With Mr. Fang's help, I believe you'll soon gain a foothold in the art industry."

Xia Cheng smiled in satisfaction. "I'll go to Yingyun Hall to make a reservation later. I'm afraid my subordinates won't do a good job. They might delay our Xia family's matters."

...

Two days later, Fang Shiyun received an invitation from the Xia family to Yingyun Hall.

Fang Shiyun was stunned for a few seconds. "The Xia family?"

The assistant replied respectfully, "Yes, the Xia family said that they've booked a private room in Yingyun Hall tomorrow. They hope you can come."

Fang Shiyun waved her hand. "I don't have time. I've already made an appointment with Senior. We haven't seen each other for so long. No matter what, it can't stop us from meeting!"

The assistant's mouth twitched slightly. "Are you sure... Miss Qiao has agreed to see you?"

Fang Shiyun blushed in embarrassment and replied stubbornly, "I've already asked my master. Senior will definitely see me. Stop nagging. Have you wrapped the gifts? Do you know where Senior is going tomorrow?"

The assistant hesitated for a moment before replying, "Mr. Liang said that Miss Qiao is going to Yingyun Hall."

Senior was also going to Yingyun Hall?

Fang Shiyun frowned. He was afraid that if he went to Yingyun Hall, the Xia family would misunderstand.

After thinking for a moment, he nodded. "Alright! Quickly prepare the gifts. We'll go to Yingyun Hall to look for Senior tomorrow!"

On the other hand, Qiao Xi received a call from the Yin family. They said that Yin Jinglin's birthday was tomorrow and the Yin family had made a reservation at Yingyun Hall. They asked Qiao Xi if she had time to attend the birthday party.

Yin Jinglin's birthday was naturally much more important than Xia Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet, so Qiao Xi agreed without hesitation. Moreover, the Xia family had not called to get an answer from her. It seemed that they had only sent the invitation as a formality and did not want her to attend at all.

The next morning.

Qiao Xi got into the car with the birthday gift for Yin Jinglin. She leaned against Gu Zheng and asked softly, "Yingyun Hall has always been very mysterious. If you want to eat there, you have to make a reservation in advance, but the Yin family didn't seem to have made a reservation."

She was curious because there were only four restaurants in Li City that were sought after by the high society. Two of them were Fragrance Hotel and Furong Pavilion that was under Qin An's name. Another was Yingyun Hall. Qin An had always treated Yingyun Hall as his competitor.

Yingyun Hall was low-profile and mysterious, but their annual income was the combined sum of Fragrance Hotel and Furong Pavilion. Qin An had always been very curious and had come to ask a few times, but the other party always told him that he could not enter without a reservation.

Later on, the famous hedonistic son of a wealthy family in Li City, Gu Yao, relied on his identity and did not bother to make a reservation either. He wanted to forcefully break into Yingyun Hall but was chased out.

Only then did Qiao Xi notice Yingyun Hall. No matter how powerful the other party was, Yingyun Hall insisted on following their rules. Those who did not make a reservation would not be able to enter at all. Hence, when she heard that the Yin family was holding the birthday banquet at Yingyun Hall, she was slightly puzzled.

"Yingyun Hall values rules the most. They won't break them for anyone," Qiao Xi said thoughtfully.

Gu Zheng nodded and smiled. "The rules of Yingyun Hall can't be changed, but... we're family."

"Yingyun Hall belongs to the Yin family, so they don't have to abide by the rules set for outsiders." Gu Zheng looked at her with eyes filled with a dotting smile.

Qiao Xi widened her eyes, then said in disbelief, "Yingyun Hall is... the Yin family's property?"

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow. "The Yin family's businesses are all over the country. It's not strange for them to have their own businesses in Li City."

#### **Chapter 1042: Many Years Of Friendship Amount To This**

Qiao Xi nodded. It was not strange for a century-old family like the Yin family to have their own businesses, but the Yin family's headquarters was in Shengdu. Why would they spend so much effort to open a huge restaurant in Li City?

Moreover, the word 'Yun'...

Qiao Xi suddenly reacted. Her grandmother's children all had the word 'Yun' in their names. Perhaps she opened Yingyun Hall in Li City to commemorate her deceased daughter, Yunqiu.

The car slowly stopped outside Yingyun Hall. The waiter at the door went forward to open the car door. Qiao Xi elegantly got out of the car, but Gu Zheng sat in the car and watched Qiao Xi leave.

Song Shiyu looked surprised. "President, aren't you going with Young Madam?"

Gu Zheng lowered his eyes and hid the emotions in them. He said casually, "I'm going to see someone."

"Alright, President. I'll send you there now!" Song Shiyu quickly prepared to start the car.

Gu Zheng patted his shoulder and interrupted him. He said indifferently, "Get out of the car."

Song Shiyu: "?" If he did not drive there, was the president going to walk there? Or was the person he was going to see in Yingyun Hall?

Before he could think it through, Gu Zheng pointed at him and said coldly, "Get out of the car and let Song Shijing drive."

Song Shiyu looked aggrieved. "President, why won't you let me drive? Do you hate me so much? Do our many years of friendship amount to this in the end?"

On the other hand, Qiao Xi had already entered. The waiter asked Qiao Xi if she had made a reservation. She directly said Yin Jinglin's name. The waiter immediately said respectfully, "So you're Miss Qiao! Young Master's private room is at the far end. You might not find it since it's your first time here. I'll bring you there."

Qiao Xi knew that Yin Jinglin would definitely use the most luxurious and spacious private room in the entire Yingyun Hall for his birthday, so it was impossible for it to be on the first and second floors.

The waiter led the way and was about to bring her upstairs when a dissatisfied voice suddenly came from behind.

"Xi Xi, why are you here? You didn't reply to our invitation, so I thought you weren't coming!" Xia Cheng frowned with displeasure.

Qiao Xi: "... Xia Cheng? Why were they here?"

She looked up and sized up the surroundings. When she saw that the Xia family was dressed formally and Xia Mengyan was dressed to the nines with exquisite makeup, she instantly realized that the apprenticeship banquet was being held in Yingyun Hall!

The Xia family's banquet was actually held in the Yin family's restaurant. What a coincidence!

In the eyes of the Xia family, Qiao Xi's appearance made them think that she had secretly come over although she said she would not attend.

20 minutes ago.

Xia Cheng was wearing an expensive suit as he stood at the door to welcome the guests. Although Fang Shiyun was not here yet, the people he sent out had sent a message saying that Fang Shiyun had already left and was heading toward Yingyun Hall.

Hearing the guests' compliments, Xia Cheng had a proud smile on his face. From time to time, he would praise his granddaughter for being outstanding. He would be at ease if the Xia family was handed to his granddaughter to manage in the future.

"Old Xia! I'm really envious of you! Your granddaughter is good-looking and so talented. I heard from my daughter that your granddaughter is a famous perfumer. The perfumes she makes are selling like hot cakes overseas! You can't buy them even if you have enough money!"

Xia Cheng's old face was red as he said generously, "You're too kind. After the banquet, don't be in a rush to leave. Let Mengyan bring your daughter to pick out a few bottles of perfume.

"Mengyan has been studious since she was young. She was proficient in the four arts since she was five years old. Many people say that she's a genius, but who knew that she grew up to be a perfumer? At least she made a name for herself overseas. However, it's not strange for girls to like these things. As long as she likes it, it's fine. I won't force her to do anything she doesn't like."

After Xia Cheng finished speaking, his friends continued to praise him. "Old Xia! Don't be humble. Your granddaughter is really a talented woman! She has such achievements at such a young age. Her future is definitely limitless. She's not like my unfilial son who only knows how to eat, drink, and play. He doesn't do any proper work. It's my fault for not raising my son well! We all want to know how you educated your granddaughter!"

Old Madam Xia instantly beamed. Her precious granddaughter had indeed not disappointed her and brought honor to the Xia family.

As everyone was chatting, someone suddenly mentioned, "Old Xia, don't you have another granddaughter?"

As soon as that person finished speaking, the atmosphere instantly fell silent. Xia Cheng's expression was a little ugly. That person realized that he had said something wrong and hurriedly opened his mouth to salvage the situation. Unexpectedly, Xia Cheng smiled heartily and said, "It's nothing that can't be said. It's just that that child isn't close to the Xia family. Mengyan has already sent her an invitation to this apprenticeship banquet, but she's unwilling to come."

**Chapter 1043: He's Shameless**

Everyone was stunned for a few seconds. The people of high society did not lack money. What they wanted was nothing more than reputation and power. Now that they were able to meet Fang Shiyun at the apprenticeship banquet and have Xia Mengyan introduce them, this was a great thing. Why would Qiao Xi refuse?

“Old Xia, didn’t you say that your granddaughter isn’t willing to come? But...” The person who spoke pointed at the woman not far away. “Isn’t that...”

He had seen Qiao Xi before and knew that she was Xia Cheng’s granddaughter. Now that he saw her in Yingyun Hall, he could not help but be slightly surprised.

Xia Cheng turned around, and the smile on his face froze.

Qiao Xi? Why was she here?

After a moment of silence, he suddenly reacted. Qiao Xi had rejected him earlier because she was embarrassed. After thinking about it, she was unwilling to give up, so she secretly ran to Yingyun Hall and claimed that she was from the Xia family. She wanted to take the opportunity to get close to Fang Shiyun.

Xia Cheng grunted coldly and hurriedly walked forward to question her. When Qiao Xi heard Xia Cheng’s voice, she turned around with a calm expression.

The atmosphere became awkward for a moment. She was stunned for a few seconds, then turned around and left indifferently as if these people did not exist.

Xia Cheng’s expression darkened. Qiao Xi wanted to use Mengyan’s relationship to get close to Fang Shiyun, but she was still so disrespectful to the Xia family? Did she really think that she could obtain Fang Shiyun’s recognition after entering Yingyun Hall? Without Mengyan’s introduction, how could Fang Shiyun pay attention to her?!

Qiao Xi not showing him any respect in front of everyone made him feel extremely embarrassed. He could not help but question loudly, “Xi Xi, how can you ignore your elders?”

Qiao Xi stopped in her tracks, and the corners of her mouth curled into a disdainful smile.

Xia Cheng could not suppress the anger in his heart, but he could not flare up in front of so many guests. He could only suppress his anger and pretend to be loving as he asked, “Xi Xi, didn’t you reject Mengyan’s invitation previously? Why are you suddenly here? Did you secretly sneak in after lying to the waiter?”

As soon as she finished speaking, everyone’s eyes were filled with ridicule and disdain. Xia Mengyan had invited her a long time ago, but she clearly rejected. Now, she ran over and even deceived the waiter to sneak in. What was going on?

In the end, she was just jealous that Xia Mengyan could acknowledge Fang Shiyun as her master. She did not want to be suppressed by Xia Mengyan, but she was unwilling to miss this opportunity to get to know Fang Shiyun.

Xia Cheng glanced at her from the corner of his eyes, which were filled with disdain. Then, he said as if he was lecturing her, “Xi Xi, you rejected Mengyan previously, and she was depressed for a long time. Now that you’ve used Mengyan’s name to enter Yingyun Hall, shouldn’t you go and thank Mengyan? I know no one was around to teach you manners in the past, but now that you’re in the Xia family, I have to teach you the right conduct!”

Qiao Xi frowned and raised her eyes to look at Xia Cheng with a slightly puzzled gaze. She was really curious how Xia Cheng had the cheek to say such words. How shameless!

She entered Yingyun Hall because of Xia Mengyan? How laughable!

Seeing this, the waiter at the side knew that Xia Cheng had misunderstood. He hurriedly went forward to explain, “Mr. Xia, it’s not like that. Actually, Miss Qiao is here to—”

Xia Cheng frowned and interrupted the waiter, “Shut up! You’re just a waiter. This is our family matter. It’s not your place to interfere! Xi Xi, you broke Mengyan’s heart previously. Even if you don’t thank her, you should apologize! You can’t be as willful as before. I’m doing this for your own good.”

Qiao Xi didn’t even raise her eyes as she grunted coldly. “Apologize to her?”

“Xi Xi, we’re family. Mengyan is tolerant and magnanimous, so she naturally won’t bicker with you over such a small matter. However, I can’t let you continue fooling around like this. Just because your family tolerates you, you think you can fool around outside too? Hurry up and apologize to Mengyan!” Xia Cheng ordered.

Qiao Xi quietly looked at Xia Cheng’s pretentious appearance and suddenly became interested. If he knew that the Yin family was holding a banquet here today, how would he feel?

Qiao Xi blinked and said indifferently, “Old Master Xia, how can you be sure that I got to come in by bringing up Xia Mengyan’s apprenticeship banquet?”

Xia Cheng sneered. “Xi Xi, those who can Yingyun Hall would have made an appointment in advance. The entire first floor of Yingyun Hall has been booked by me today. If you didn’t come with the excuse to attend the apprenticeship banquet, what else could it be? Even if you made an appointment at the last minute, it would be too late!”

The waiter explained anxiously, “Mr. Xia, Miss Qiao does have an appointment. It has nothing to do with the Xia family. She’s here to—”

“Heh! How much did Qiao Xi give you to make you so anxious to defend her?” Xia Cheng sneered, his eyes filled with ridicule.

#### **Chapter 1044: Don’t You Understand Human Language?**

Xia Cheng raised his head arrogantly and stared at Qiao Xi with disdain. “Xi Xi, as long as you apologize to Mengyan, this matter will be over. We’ll happily attend Mengyan’s apprenticeship banquet. When Mr. Fang comes, I’ll get Mengyan to introduce you. You’re my granddaughter, so I naturally won’t treat you badly!

“Many people can’t even dream of getting to know Mr. Fang Shiyun in their lives. You probably won’t refuse such a precious opportunity. Xi Xi, quickly apologize!”

Qiao Xi sneered. “Oh! Mr. Xia, do you think I’m here for Fang Shiyun?”

Xia Cheng frowned. If she was not doing this for Fang Shiyun, what else could it be? Her relationship with Mengyan had never been good. It was impossible for her to attend just to congratulate Mengyan. Could it be that she wanted to ruin things?

At the thought of this, Xia Cheng’s eyes were filled with vigilance. His tone became even more stiff. “Xi Xi, let me tell you. Today is Mengyan’s big day. No matter what, I won’t let you fool around! If you want to stay, quickly apologize to Mengyan. Otherwise, you’ll leave immediately! Mengyan is tolerant and won’t bicker with you, but you can’t take advantage of her!”

Qiao Xi was expressionless and did not want to explain herself to an idiot.

When the guests heard Fang Shiyun’s name, their eyes instantly lit up. They hurriedly echoed, “You should apologize! Miss Qiao, don’t be too stubborn. You and Miss Xia are sisters. Miss Xia has become Mr. Fang Shiyun’s apprentice now. Is it still so difficult for you to admit your mistake? If you continue to be stubborn, even if you manage to see Mr. Fang Shiyun, he won’t care about you.”

“That’s right! You came to the apprenticeship banquet for Mr. Fang. Now, you’ve offended Mr. Fang’s beloved apprentice before even meeting him. The gains won’t make up for the losses!”

“Your grandfather is doing this for your own good. You just have to apologize. What’s so difficult about it?”

Everyone was persuading Qiao Xi. It seemed to be for her own good, but it was actually to please Xia Cheng and Xia Mengyan.

The waiter knew Qiao Xi’s identity. She was the daughter of the Yin family! If he angered her, she could chase everyone in the Xia family out in a fit of anger.

At the thought of this, the waiter could not help but tremble. He hurriedly went forward to explain, “Mr. Xia, you’ve really misunderstood. Miss Qiao didn’t come to Yingyun Hall to attend Miss Xia’s apprenticeship banquet!”

As soon as these words were spoken, someone retorted, “Then which room did Qiao Xi book? Show us the evidence!”

The waiter did not dare to casually expose Qiao Xi’s identity, nor did he dare to rashly mention that the Yin family was holding a birthday party here. He could only brace himself and say, “Miss Qiao didn’t make a reservation, but...”

“Since she didn’t, how did she get in? Did you accept money and violate the rules of Yingyun Hall to let her in? Or did she enter because she’s Miss Xia’s cousin?”

The waiter was speechless.

Qiao Xi curled her lips. What this person meant was that if the waiter denied that she entered through Xia Mengyan, then it meant that the waiter let her in through the back door after taking her money. Hence, it was either she lost her dignity or the waiter lost his job.

However, they did not expect another situation!

The waiter looked at Qiao Xi and heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that she was still calm. Then, he deliberated and replied, "No! Miss Qiao was able to enter Yingyun Hall because she's here to attend another banquet. Mr. Xia, Yingyun Hall has private rooms on other floors as well. Someone invited Miss Qiao here, so even if she didn't make an appointment, she can still enter."

He did not dare to expose the Yin family's identity, so he did not mention the Yin family in his words. He only hoped that this explanation could help Qiao Xi escape.

However, Xia Cheng still felt that Qiao Xi had bribed the waiter. His voice turned cold. "Xi Xi, stop fooling around! So what if you relied on Mengyan to enter? No one will laugh at you. Why bribe the waiter to deceive everyone? Be good and quickly apologize to Mengyan. The banquet is about to start. Don't waste everyone's time."

Qiao Xi lowered her eyes and glanced lazily at Xia Cheng. Then, her tone suddenly turned cold. "Old Master Xia, don't you understand human language?"

The entire place was silent.

Xia Cheng widened his eyes and looked at Qiao Xi in disbelief. He never expected that Qiao Xi would say such disrespectful words in public. He could not help but roar furiously. "Qiao Xi!"

Qiao Xi said indifferently, "There's no need to be so loud. I'm not as old as you, and my ears are still working just fine! The waiter has already explained why I came to Yingyun Hall, but you just insist on thinking that I'm here to attend the apprenticeship banquet. Yingyun Hall isn't specially meant to serve the Xia family. Someone invited me here, so why should I apologize to Xia Mengyan?"

#### **Chapter 1045: Completely Embarrassed**

Xia Cheng was stunned on the spot. The guests' gazes landed on him as if they were mocking him for not educating his granddaughter well. She actually contradicted him in public.

Qiao Xi was the Xia family's enemy! She was as disobedient as her adoptive mother!

Xia Cheng's tone was impatient. "Who invited you? Qiao Xi, even if you're lying, you have to make it sound plausible. Who would invite you to Yingyun Hall on the day of Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet? How could it be such a coincidence? Since you don't want to repent, then don't attend the apprenticeship banquet. Get the hell out immediately. I don't want to see you!"

"I'm the one who invited her! Why? Can't I?" At this moment, a dignified and domineering female voice came from outside.

Xia Cheng and Old Madam Xia felt their hearts tremble. The blood in their bodies seemed to have frozen. This voice was very familiar, so familiar that it made them feel afraid.



Yin Lianxin strode in with a strong aura. A group of juniors from the Yin family followed behind her. When she saw Qiao Xi, she hurriedly waved her hand to signal her to come to her side. Then, she glanced coldly at Xia Cheng and Ai Sumei. This adulterous pair was like a pile of trash. She did not need to take them seriously at all.

“When did Yingyun Hall become the Xia family’s territory? What right do you have to ask Xi Xi to get lost? Xi Xi rejected Xia Mengyan’s invitation, but does that mean she can’t come to Yingyun Hall?” Yin Lianxin’s series of questions made the expressions of the Xia family change.

Then, Yin Jingting took a few steps forward and said indifferently, “Old Master Xia.”

Xia Cheng gritted his teeth. Yin Jingting was clearly his biological grandson, but he was calling him ‘Old Master Xia’ so distantly. It was all because of Yin Lianxin.

Yin Jingting sneered. “Is there a problem with Grandma inviting Cousin to Yingyun Hall for a meal? How did it become a matter of her wanting to attend Xia Mengyan’s apprenticeship banquet? You shouldn’t think that everything revolves around you. It’ll make you look lowly!”

He glanced coldly at Xia Mengyan, and she could not help but tremble. The rest of the Xia family’s faces were livid as they pursed their lips.

“Let me give you a piece of advice. Don’t be too confident. Xi Xi doesn’t like the Xia family. If she wants connections, our Yin family can help her. Why trouble the Xia family? Fortunately, Xi Xi is family. She won’t bicker with you or publicize this matter. Otherwise, everyone in the Xia family will be embarrassed, including you and Xia Mengyan.”

His tone was very calm, but every word was a slap to Xia Cheng’s face. Xia Cheng’s facial muscles twitched, and the anger in his eyes was about to overflow.

Xia Cheng never expected that the person who invited Qiao Xi to Yingyun Hall to eat was actually Yin Lianxin!

He had really lost all her dignity!

Today was Xia Mengyan’s apprenticeship banquet. In order to show off, Xia Cheng had specially invited many guests. Now that everyone had clearly heard Yin Lianxin’s words, they discussed softly, “I heard that Miss Qiao is the only girl in the Yin family, so the entire Yin family dotes on her very much. She naturally has a good relationship with the Yin family. This time, she’s here to eat with the Yin family, but Xia Cheng can’t differentiate between right and wrong. He insisted that Miss Qiao relied on Xia Mengyan to enter. He’s really flattering himself!”

“Although the Xia family has been developing very well in recent years, the gap between them and the Yin family is not small. If it weren’t for the Yin family’s support back then, the Xia family wouldn’t be where they are today. How could Xia Cheng have the cheek to make things difficult for the Yin family’s daughter?!”

The discussion of everyone entered Xia Cheng’s ears, and his mind buzzed. In the past, he was the live-in son-in-law of the Yin family. Everyone said that he relied on his wife to support him. He had already divorced Yin Lianxin for so many years, but there were still people who said that he relied on Yin Lianxin to make a fortune.

He gritted his teeth, the anger and resentment in his heart multiplying. It was all Yin Lianxin's fault! It was all her fault!

In the past, Yin Lianxin had always been high and mighty. As a woman, she did not know how to take care of her husband and raise her children, but she liked to do business. Her limelight completely overshadowed him, her husband. Now, her eyes were still so cold and calm. It was as if he was just a speck of dust in her eyes. No matter what he did, it could not affect her emotions.

When he thought about this, Xia Cheng felt as though the anger in his heart about to break out of his body. His eyes were bloodshot as he gritted his teeth. "The Yin family can invite Qiao Xi to Yingyun Hall, but have you made an appointment? This is Yingyun Hall. Since you're here, you have to abide by the rules. Could it be that you only managed to come in because you claimed to be Mengyan's family?"

Qiao Xi: "... " This person was really shameless!

Yin Jingting: "... "

Seemingly shocked by Xia Cheng's inexplicable confidence, no one said anything.

#### **Chapter 1046: Time Has Never Failed A Beauty**

Yin Lianxin slowly looked up, her cold gaze landing on him. Although Yin Lianxin was old now, her skin was still youthful, and her figure had not changed much.

On the other hand, although Ai Sumei looked a little similar to Yin Lianxin, she had aged a lot. The wrinkles at the corners of her eyes were very deep, and the skin on her face was loose. She had also become fat. In the past, she was not as beautiful as Yin Lianxin, but now, the difference between them was like heaven and earth. Moreover, her eyebrows were filled with shrewishness and scheming.

Yin Lianxin was wearing a wine-red cheongsam. Her aura was fully released, and she exuded confidence and dignity. If one did not know better, they would think that she was only 40 years old. After all, time had never failed beauties. She stood there quietly without saying a word, but everyone was inexplicably attracted to her.

Xia Cheng met Yin Lianxin's cold gaze, and his heart skipped a beat. He gritted his teeth unwillingly. He had lived under Yin Lianxin's shadow his entire life. Now, he had to surpass Yin Lianxin and shatter her pride. He had to let her see how powerful the man she once looked down on was.

He looked at Yin Lianxin hatefully and snorted. "Xi Xi, you must be jealous that Mengyan is holding a apprenticeship banquet in Yingyun Hall, so you got the Yin family to support you. You deliberately made me misunderstand and embarrass us in public, right?"

Qiao Xi glanced at him. Before she could speak, Yin Jingting said in a teasing tone, "Huh? Does your Xia family own Yingyun Hall? Can't our Yin family come?"

"Also, let me remind you that today is my younger brother's birthday. Our family is gathered here to celebrate his birthday." Yin Jingting paused for a moment, his eyes filled with mockery. "Jinglin and Xia Mengyan are both your grandchildren, but you don't remember his birthday at all. You're holding a

groundless apprenticeship banquet for Xia Mengyan with great fanfare. Do we need your permission to hold a birthday banquet for a member of our Yin family?"

There was silence—dead silence.

Xia Cheng was so angry that his beard trembled and his chest felt tight. He could not breathe, and his face turned red.

Only then did everyone understand that today was Yin Jinglin's birthday. Yin Jinglin was Xia Cheng's biological grandson. Not only did Xia Cheng forget his grandson's birthday, but he also said that the reason the Yin family could enter Yingyun Hall was only because of Xia Mengyan.

How shameless!

After knowing the truth, the guests could not stand it anymore.

Everyone looked at him with ridicule and disdain. Xia Cheng was so annoyed that he was about to explode.

Li City was so big. If the Yin family wanted to hold a birthday party, why did they choose Yingyun Hall? Weren't they deliberately making him look bad? He retorted indignantly, "Everyone knows that you have to make a reservation four days in advance for a meal in Yingyun Hall, but after I made a reservation that day, the employees of Yingyun Hall got off work. I clearly saw that the Yin family wasn't on the list at all! You didn't make a reservation, so how did you enter Yingyun Hall? Are you still going to say that you didn't enter because of your connection to the Xia family?"

All the guests were also puzzled. Everyone knew that Yingyun Hall valued rules the most. Without an appointment, no matter how noble one's identity was, it was impossible for them to let anyone in. Then how did the Yin family enter? Could it be that it was really because of Xia Mengyan?

Just as everyone was thinking about it, Yin Jingting suddenly sneered. He was tall and had a cold face. The smile on his lips was filled with disdain.

"Old Master Xia, outsiders need to make an appointment to enter Yingyun Hall but the owners of Yingyun Hall don't have to abide by this rule."

Boom!!!

Yin Jingting's words were like a huge rock that smashed heavily into everyone's hearts. The spacious and gorgeous hall was silent, and the sound of breathing seemed to have stopped.

Was... the Yin family the owners of Yingyun Hall?

Old Madam Xia did not understand what he meant for a moment. Seeing Yin Jingting's arrogant look, she instantly shouted sharply, "Why are you talking to your grandfather like this? No matter what you're doing here, you can't ruin Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet. All of you—"

"Since Old Madam Xia's ears aren't too good, I can repeat myself." Yin Jingting interrupted her indifferently, then raised his voice and announced domineeringly, "Because we're the owners of Yingyun Hall, we don't have to make an appointment. Do you understand?"

Old Madam Xia's mouth was wide open in shock, and her eyes were filled with disbelief. Xia Cheng seemed to have lost the ability to think and stood rooted to the ground in a daze.

Seeing that everyone was dumbfounded, Yin Jingting even explained casually, "Yingyun Hall was established by my grandmother, Madam Yin Lianxin, a few years ago. Our Yin family has always been hospitable and particular about etiquette. Although we have a grudge against the Xia family, we welcomed you to come here to spend your money. However, if you continue to pester us and bully my sister, we'll ask you to leave!"

### **Chapter 1047: He Lost Again**

Xia Cheng felt as if his head was about to explode. His body swayed uncontrollably. He could not accept this news.

This was actually the restaurant Yin Lianxin founded?

Everyone in Li City took pride in being able to enter Yingyun Hall to eat, but now, Yin Jingting actually told him that this was Yin Lianxin's territory?

At this moment, the manager of Yingyun Hall came forward and asked, "Madam, do you think we should chase them out?"

Yin Lianxin glanced indifferently at the Xia family. She was still so arrogant as if looking at them was a waste of her precious time.

Yin Jingting also understood what his grandmother meant and said, "Old Master Xia made a reservation according to the rules of Yingyun Hall. How can we let them leave? Let them finish their meal here."

The last sentence was filled with charity and disdain. It was as if in the eyes of the Yin family, the Xia family were not people at all. They were just a group of pitiful stray dogs. If the Yin family was unhappy, they could get them to scam from Li City at any time.

Xia Cheng clenched his fists tightly as monstrous anger surged in his heart. He had always been the one giving alms to others. When was it anyone's turn to treat him like this? What did the Yin family have to be so proud?

If it were any other time, he would naturally bring everyone away. However, today was Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet, and Fang Shiyun was rushing over. He could not leave just like that. For Mengyan's future and the Xia family, he had to accept the Yin family's charity.

This time, he still lost.

Xia Cheng only felt his face burning as if he had been slapped hard. However, he quickly recovered. No matter how angry he was, he be disgraced in front of so many guests.

However, Old Madam Xia could not take it anymore. Her face was ferocious as she bared her teeth like a wild beast. She had been trampled under Yin Lianxin's feet her entire life. Now that she finally had a chance to mock the Yin family, it turned out that Yingyun Hall was actually founded by Yin Lianxin!

She originally thought that it was a supreme honor for her granddaughter to hold an apprenticeship banquet in Yingyun Hall, but now, the honor was actually given to her by the Yin family. The humiliation and unwillingness in her heart surged. She only felt a suffocating feeling in her chest. Before she could take a breath, her legs went weak and she fell.

“Old Madam Xia!”

“Quickly send her to the hospital!”

When the manager heard everyone’s roars, he hurriedly went forward to take a look. It seemed that Old Madam Xia had really fainted from anger. He was about to ask Old Madam Yin what to do when he turned around and saw that the Yin family had already walked far away. They did not care about Old Madam Xia’s life at all.

Most of the people present knew that Old Madam Xia was a mistress. The first wife of Xia Cheng was Yin Lianxin. When Yin Lianxin heard that the mistress had fainted, she did not have the slightest intention of watching the show. She turned around and left. She did not seem to mind that the Xia family was making things difficult for Miss Qiao just now. It was not that her heart did not ache for Qiao Xi but that she simply looked down on the Xia family.

...

At this moment, Song Shijing was driving to a teahouse. Gu Zheng took out his gloves and put them on before getting out of the car. His expression was cold, and he exuded a chill.

Song Shijing asked softly, “President, is it here?”

“Yes,” Gu Zheng replied, then he slowly entered.

Song Shijing was also curious about who the president was meeting here. Logically speaking, if they were discussing business, they should go to a restaurant or entertainment venue under Gu Corporation. The president rarely came to a teahouse.

After the two of them entered, they saw that the teahouse was empty except for a young man sitting inside. The teahouse had long been cleared.

Gu Zheng’s sharp gaze landed on the man. The man raised his chin and smiled. “President Gu, I’ve heard a lot about you.”

“Doctor Meng,” Gu Zheng greeted, but his eyes were still cold.

Meng Fan smiled faintly. “President Gu, what’s the matter?”

Gu Zheng did not have time to beat about the bush with him. He went straight to the point. “Doctor Meng, what’s your relationship with Madam Xia Yunqiu?”

Meng Fan stopped drinking his tea. He seemed to be surprised that Gu Zheng was so straightforward. After a moment of silence, he sneered. “The people under President Gu are really powerful. They found out about Xia Yunqiu in just a few days. Then what do you think my relationship with her is?”

Gu Zheng was expressionless as he tapped his fingers on the table as if he had lost his patience.

Under the powerful pressure, Meng Fan did not panic. Instead, he said coldly, "She's my enemy."

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow. These words surprised him. Madam Xia Yunqiu had always been gentle and had a good character. She should not have enemies. If one had to think of who her enemies would be, it should be the Xia family.

But Meng Fan actually said that Xia Yunqiu was his enemy?

#### **Chapter 1048: Xia Yunqiu's Enemy**

Meng Fan looked to be in his 20s and was probably not much older than Xi Xi. Xia Yunqiu had died more than 10 years ago. At that time, Meng Fan was only a few years old. How could he have a grudge against Xia Yunqiu?

After thinking for a moment, Gu Zheng understood. Meng Fan's parents probably knew Xia Yunqiu. Because of their grudge, Meng Fan treated Xia Yunqiu as his enemy.

Meng Fan leaned against the chair and shook his head helplessly. "What a pity! Xia Yunqiu is already dead, but I happened to hear that she has a daughter..."

Before he could finish, the cold muzzle of the pistol was pressed against his forehead. Song Shijing's face was cold, and he did not hesitate at all. Meng Fan was surprised.

After a moment of silence, Meng Fan suddenly laughed. His voice carried a hint of madness. "President Gu, it seems that you really love her, but how long can you protect her? Will you be by her side at all times?"

Gu Zheng waved his hand, and Song Shijing put down his pistol.

"Doctor Meng, I do love Mrs. Gu very much, but you also have someone you care about." Gu Zheng's casual words made Meng Fan's expression change. He pursed his lips and did not say anything else.

Gu Zheng glanced at him lazily and said, "Doctor Meng, I think I've already made myself very clear. Before you do anything, you have to think about the consequences. If there's nothing else, you can leave."

After chatting for a while, Gu Zheng started chasing him away.

Meng Fan was unconvinced. "I was here first. Why should I leave?"

Gu Zheng did not even raise his eyes. His long fingers gently stroked the teacup as he chuckled. "10 minutes ago, this teahouse was already mine."

What he meant was that this was his territory, and he had to leave if he wanted him to.

Meng Fan was stunned for a few seconds. He gritted his teeth and said, "As expected of President Gu. As long as you want it, you can get it easily."

Then, he stood up and left. After he was gone, Song Shijing said, "President, I've already investigated. Madam Xia Yunqiu didn't have much contact with many people. I haven't found out who she had a grudge against. As for Meng Fan's parents, I don't know their identities either."

Gu Zheng narrowed his eyes. The results of the investigation showed that Xia Yunqiu had a gentle temper and was kind to others. She had no enemies at all. Moreover, since it was a grudge from the previous generation, why did Meng Fan's parents have their son take revenge? What kind of grudge could make Meng Fan give up his family's identity and come to Li City to take revenge?

"Let's go to Yingyun Hall." Gu Zheng's tone became gentle. "In case she's bullied."

After the two of them got into the car, Song Shijing reported what had just happened in Yingyun Hall. Then, he suddenly thought of something and cleared his throat. "President, um... if Song Shiyu did something... something stupid, please forgive him."

On the other hand, after Meng Fan left the teahouse, a trace of viciousness flashed past his eyes. Gu Zheng was really not easy to deal with.

Xia Yunqiu was already dead and her only daughter could not be touched. How was he going to take revenge? Was he going to let this go?

Back then, Xia Yunqiu caused his mother to commit suicide, and his father went missing for many years after that. She died, but what about the living? How could the hatred in his heart be erased?

...

Yingyun Hall.

Qiao Xi handed the gift to Yin Jinglin. As soon as he took it, he kept talking excitedly. "Ah! Xi Xi gave me a gift. This is the first time I've received a gift from a girl! I'm so happy! It's your first time in Yingyun Hall, right? I'll get the kitchen to make some good dishes for you to try. There's also a garden here. The scenery there is extremely beautiful. I'll accompany you to take a look later!"

Yin Lianxin waved her hand. "Jinglin, calm down. Go out and play. You can come back after the banquet."

Hearing this, Yin Jinglin hurriedly said, "Alright! I'll bring Eighth Sister to the backyard to play!"

As he spoke, he held Qiao Xi's hand and walked out.

When Qiao Xi heard Yin Jinglin call her eighth sister, she felt inexplicably awkward. After all, she was ranked sixth in the past and her brothers all called her Little Six. Now that she was ranked eighth in the Yin family, she was the youngest child.

"Fifth Brother, you should call me Xi Xi in the future. I had a few brothers before, and they all called me Little Six. I'm not used to the new term of address."

Yin Jinglin and Gu Yao had similar personalities and did not care about such small matters. He nodded. "Alright! Xi Xi, you have the final say!"

There was another world in the backyard of Yingyun Hall. There was a small bridge with flowing water, flowers, and trees. It made one feel relaxed as soon as they walked in. Moreover, it was rare for flowers to bloom in the courtyard during this season. It seemed that someone had taken care of them well by strictly controlling the temperature and humidity.

#### **Chapter 1049: Not Going To Talk To Fools**

Yin Jinglin smiled and said, "The scenery here is beautiful, right? Actually, every blade of grass and tree here is personally taken care of by Grandma. She used to spend all her time on work. Now that the company's matters have been handed to the younger generation, she has nothing to do and just fiddles with the flowers and plants."

Qiao Xi could not help but sigh in her heart. Yin Lianxin was such a legendary woman. Decades ago, she was the number one beauty in Shengdu. Even though she was old now, she was still elegant and active. But why did she marry that scumbag Xia Cheng back then?

"Actually, Grandma built this restaurant to hold on to the longing in her heart. The word 'Yun' in Yingyun Hall is in the names of all her three children. She really loves her three children, but Aunt Yunqiu passed away at a young age, while Aunt Yunlou became like this. How did this happen?"

Hearing Yin Jinglin's words, Qiao Xi felt an indescribable sorrow in her heart.

Seeing the sorrow in Qiao Xi's eyes, Yin Jinglin hurriedly smiled. "It's all in the past. At least us juniors are all very good! It's just that the Xia family is really annoying and always disgusts others."

Qiao Xi nodded. The two of them walked along the back garden when they suddenly heard a voice not far away. "Mom, don't be angry. Today is Mengyan's apprenticeship day. You can't faint again. Don't worry, I definitely won't let that little b\*tch off. She embarrassed the Xia family, so I'll definitely make her pay the price!"

Yin Jinglin was instantly angry. He could tell that the person who spoke was Xia Yunlou, and the mother she was calling out to was Old Madam Xia.

As Yin Lianxin's biological daughter, Xia Yunlou called the mistress her mother and even called her daughter a little b\*tch! Was such a person worthy of having familial relations?

Yin Jinglin was furious and was about to go up to argue when Qiao Xi grabbed his arm and advised, "Jinglin, don't be rash. It's beneath your status to bicker with her. Moreover, you're the birthday boy today. Don't be angry with them."

Hearing Qiao Xi's words, Yin Jinglin's expression softened a little. He said with a disdainful expression, "Who do they think they are?! Our Yin family doesn't take them seriously at all! They're just a bunch of ingrates!"

Yin Jinglin's voice was very loud. When Xia Yunlou heard that, she immediately shouted, "You brat from the Yin family! Who did you say is an ingrate? Say that again! Didn't your mother teach you to respect your elders?"



Yin Jinglin gritted his teeth. He could not believe that Xia Yunlou was so shrewish and crude even though they were both children of the same mother.

“Madam Xia.” Yin Jinglin snorted. “I didn’t say that you’re an ingrate. You admitted it yourself. I really didn’t expect someone to take the initiative to scold themselves! Xi Xi, let’s go! I’m not talking to an idiot!”

“Stop right there!” Xia Yunlou roared. “Yin Jinglin! I’m your aunt, yet you’re talking to me like this? You’re calling me an ingrate and an idiot? Don’t you have any manners?”

Yin Jinglin snorted. “Why would my aunt call a mistress ‘Mom’? Madam Xia, don’t claim to be a relative. Our Yin family doesn’t have such a heartless person like you!”

These words slapped Xia Yunlou and Ai Sumei in the face. The two of them were furious and panted heavily. They wished they could tear Yin Jinglin’s mouth apart.

Xia Yunlou glared at him fiercely. Even a little brat from the Yin family looked down on her. She was Yin Lianxin’s biological daughter. No matter what, she was Yin Jinglin’s elder. What right did he have to disrespect her?

What was so good about Yin Lianxin? She was selfish and only had herself in her eyes, so the children she raised were all so selfish. They only cared about enjoying themselves and did not care about the Xia family at all.

Yin Jinglin glanced at the two of them. “Let me remind you, Madam Xia. Yingyun Hall is my grandmother’s territory. If your Xia family wants to hold an apprenticeship banquet here in peace, then keep a low profile. Don’t anger us or we’ll chase all of you out. If that happens, let’s see if Xia Mengyan can still hold the apprenticeship banquet today!”

If he did not scold her, Xia Yunlou would not know how to restrain herself!

Xia Yunlou was so angry that her face turned red. She cursed, “You little brat, what are you talking about?! I’ll tear your mouth off!”

“Tell the kitchen that we won’t be holding the Xia family’s banquet anymore. I’ll bear all the losses!” Yin Jinglin instructed the waiter at the side, then turned to look at Xia Yunlou. “Madam Xia, I’m really sorry. Our Yin family is rich and doesn’t lack your Xia family’s money. Moreover, we don’t welcome mistresses. Please leave!”

At this moment, the others from the Xia family also rushed over when they heard the commotion. They happened to hear Yin Jinglin’s words, and Xia Cheng’s mood, which had just eased up a little, became chaotic again.

### **Chapter 1050: Man Proposes, God Disposes**

Xia Cheng’s face darkened. Today was an important day for Mengyan. Moreover, all the guests were seated. Fang Shiyun would be here later. If they were chased out by the Yin family, they would definitely be mocked.

Yunlou had just called Sumei 'Mom', but Yin Jinglin wanted to chase them out with a cold face because of it. Although the two of them were not biological mother and daughter, Su Mei had raised Yunlou. Yunlou should call her that.

Xia Mengyan clenched her fists tightly, her face pale. She walked in front of Yin Jinglin and said aggrievedly, "Cousin."

"Miss Xia, please pay attention to how you address me. I only have one younger sister. Don't address me as your relative," Yin Jinglin berated her with a cold face. He was really angry. Xia Yunlou actually called that mistress 'Mom'. How shameless could she be?

Xia Cheng frowned. "Jinglin, you're the young master of the Yin family. You represent the Yin family's image. How can you fool around like this? We booked seats according to the rules and paid for them. If you chase us away like this, what will everyone say about you? Even if you have a reason, you shouldn't treat customers like this."

Yin Jinglin glanced at him disdainfully. "Old Master Xia, don't try to use this to blackmail me! The Yin and Xia families have been at odds for decades. Everyone in the high society knows about it! Don't say that I didn't give you a chance. If you want to stay, go look for the chef, Mr. Su. If he approves, I can let you stay on his account."

Qiao Xi had a puzzled expression. Why would they look for Mr. Su?

Yin Jingting, who was at the side, shook his head helplessly. Ever since Jinglin ate the dishes cooked by the chef, Su Dongjun, he had been thinking about them. He made this request now because he wanted the Xia family to back off. He knew that Xia City could not gain Su Dongjun's approval at all.

With that, Yin Jinglin was about to turn around and leave when a waiter rushed in. "Young Master, there's a man who claims to be Chef Su Dongjun. He said that he was asked to come to Yingyun Hall to cook for a customer, but he didn't say who he was here for."

Qiao Xi: "???"

Yin Jinglin: "!!!" How could there be such a coincidence? He had just finished talking about Su Dongjun when that person appeared outside the door. His mouth was too sharp!

The waiter exhaled and looked at Xia Cheng. Then, he lowered his voice and said, "Young Master, Su Dongjun's apprentice has been talking about Xia Cheng recently. It seems that they were invited by the Xia family to congratulate Xia Mengyan."

Yin Jinglin's throat instantly choked. Man proposes, God disposes!

Xia Cheng abruptly looked up at the waiter in disbelief. Su Dongjun's apprentice actually mentioned his name? In terms of culinary skills, Su Dongjun had always been a top existence. He was proficient in the eight major cuisines and had nurtured many apprentices. It was just that he no longer cooked for others easily.

It was precisely because the God of Cooking did not often cook for others that if he came to congratulate Mengyan, it meant that the Xia family was very important to him. At that time, the Xia

family would be proud, while the Yin family would be humiliated. After all, Yin Jinglin had just said that as long as they could invite the God of Cooking, Su Dongjun, over, they could stay.

Just as Xia Cheng was feeling proud of himself, a voice came from outside the door. "Old Master Xia."

A group of people walked in. The man in the lead was the chef, Su Dongjun. He had his hands behind his back as he swaggered in. There were many apprentices behind him. With so many people with superb culinary skills gathered together, this was a sight probably only seen in cooking competitions.

Su Dongjun was a chef recognized by the country. His identity was extraordinary. He would not participate in any programs, so very few people had seen him.

Xia Cheng hurriedly went forward and said respectfully, "Mr. Su."

Su Dongjun glanced at him sideways and nodded arrogantly. It really matched the rumors of him being arrogant. Then, an apprentice at the side said warmly, "Old Master Xia, Master is here to congratulate someone. That person hoped that Master could come to Yingyun Hall to cook a few dishes. As for that person..."

He paused and thought about how to say it. "That person should call Old Master Xia 'Grandpa.' Yes, that's right."

Xia Mengyan looked up abruptly. So, the person the chef was talking about was her? She could not help but smile in surprise.

Qiao Xi looked at the apprentice, and the corners of her mouth suddenly twitched. Song Shiyu had painted his face black and was wearing a fake beard. Did he really think she couldn't tell?

What was Song Shiyu doing?