

Lady gu 1051

Chapter 1051: Top Chef Su Dongjun

Everyone knew that Xia Mengyan was not the only one who called Xia Cheng 'Grandpa.' Yin Jingting and Yin Jinglin were both Xia Cheng's biological grandsons as well.

Everyone in the Xia family hesitated for a moment before their eyes suddenly lit up. It seemed that the person Su Dongjun was talking about was Mengyan! Xia Cheng was stunned for a moment and looked at Xia Mengyan in confusion.

At this moment, Xia Mengyan's mind was extremely chaotic. Logically speaking, it was impossible for her to know Su Dongjun. Could it be that she had seen him before and had just forgotten because it was too long ago?

Before Xia Mengyan could figure it out, Old Madam Xia said excitedly, "Mengyan, come over and meet Mr. Su!"

Everyone's eyes shifted between Su Dongjun and Xia Mengyan. Xia Mengyan's body tightened as she felt inexplicably uneasy. Now, everyone thought that Su Dongjun was here to look for her. If the outcome was different, wouldn't it be very embarrassing?

Xia Mengyan suppressed the uneasiness in her heart, then took a deep breath and slowly walked forward with a smile. "Hello, Mr. Su. I'm Xia Mengyan."

Su Dongjun glanced at her coldly. His posture was still arrogant as he nodded symbolically.

She heard that this top chef had a bad temper and was arrogant. If one wanted to invite him to cook, it would depend on his mood. If he was happy, it would not be a problem for him to cook a few dishes. If he was unhappy, it would be useless no matter how much money one spent. However, even though he had such a strange personality, there were still many people who invited him to cook. Moreover, they were all from noble families, so he had a lot of connections.

Xia Mengyan did not expect Su Dongjun to come for her, so she said with a smile, "Mr. Su, it's really my honor that you're here for my apprenticeship banquet today!"

Before Su Dongjun could say anything, Song Shiyu was dumbfounded.

Wasn't today Young Master Yin Jinglin's birthday banquet? He had long heard that Young Master Yin had been thinking about the top chef's dishes, and he happened to know the top chef, so he invited him over. What was this about Xia Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet? Wasn't this person overly confident?

Before Song Shiyu could say anything, Old Madam Xia could not help but get excited. The top chef was here for Xia Mengyan. Mengyan was really too outstanding. Even the top chef was willing to cook for her.

What right did the Yin family have to be arrogant? Even if Yingyun Hall was owned by the Yin family, they could not invite this top chef to cook for them even after so many years!

Old Madam Xia raised her head arrogantly and said proudly, "Yin Jinglin, you just said that if we could invite Mr. Su over, you wouldn't chase us away. Now that he's here, not only do you need to let us stay, but you also have to apologize to us!"

Yin Jingting's expression instantly darkened. He wanted to chase the Xia family out not only because of their past grudges but also because Xia Yunlou actually called that mistress 'Mom' in public. Now, this mistress wanted to suppress the Yin family just because Su Dongjun was here and even wanted Jinglin to apologize?

He did not care about the relationship between Su Dongjun and Xia Mengyan, but it concerned the reputation of the entire Yin family. Even if it would offend Su Dongjun, he would never ask Jinglin to apologize.

Before Yin Jingting could say anything, Song Shiyu said anxiously, "We're here for Xia Cheng..."

"That's right! My Mengyan is Xia Cheng's only granddaughter!" Old Madam Xia replied self-righteously, her old face full of wrinkles.

She held Xia Mengyan's hand, her tone filled with pride and gratification. "Mengyan, you're indeed a child of our Xia family. You're the most outstanding no matter where you are. Even though some people have the care of the Yin family, they still don't have the ability."

Everyone could tell that the person Old Madam Xia was talking about was Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi's expression was calm when she heard this, and she sneered in her heart.

The envious gazes around her made Xia Mengyan lose herself in them. The last trace of doubt and rationality disappeared. She did not have time to think about the rationality of the matter. Vanity filled her heart and made it beat violently.

At this moment, she was the focus of everyone's attention. Even if Qiao Xi had the Yin family behind her and Yingyun Hall was still the Yin family's business, she was the one who managed to invite the top chef over. This was a supreme honor.

Xia Mengyan smiled shyly. "Everyone, you've come a long way to attend my apprenticeship banquet. It's really been hard on you. Please rest for a while. Dinner will be ready soon. May I know your name?"

Xia Mengyan looked at the apprentice standing beside Su Dongjun. She felt that this person looked a little familiar, but he seemed to have a high status. This was because ever since this group of people entered, he had been speaking up on behalf of Mr. Su Dongjun.

Song Shiyu glanced at her with disdain. "My surname is Song."

Chapter 1052: Came For Young Master Yin

Xia Mengyan quickly said warmly, "Hello, Mr. Song. Please accompany Mr. Su to the lounge first. I'll send someone to get all of you later."

Song Shiyu smiled meaningfully. “Miss Xia, you’re really understanding, huh? But have you always been so gentle and virtuous?”

Xia Mengyan smiled in embarrassment. She did not understand the meaning behind Song Shiyu’s words and thought that he was praising her. She felt even prouder.

“Mr. Song, I’m not gentle or virtuous. It’s just that everyone here is my family and friend. Even if there’s a misunderstanding between us, I won’t hold it against you,” Xia Mengyan said, pretending to be magnanimous.

Qiao Xi raised her eyebrows. Xia Mengyan really knew how to flatter herself. She meant that the Yin family had done something wrong, but she would not take issue with it and would even generously forgive the Yin family. She was indeed from the Xia family for saying such dignified words.

The corners of Xia Mengyan’s mouth curled into a proud smile. Although she did not know who invited Su Dongjun, she knew very well that she was far better than Qiao Xi in terms of interpersonal relationships. Even though Qiao Xi had married Gu Zheng, it had not even been a year. She did not like to attend all kinds of banquets, nor did she interact with noble families. The number of people she knew in high society could be counted on one hand. How could she know Su Dongjun?

As for Yin Jinglin, although the Yin family was powerful, he had been eyeing Su Dongjun’s dishes for a long time but never managed to invite the top chef over. Now that Su Dongjun was here for her, it was a slap to the Yin family’s face. What right did the Yin family have to continue staying here?

In the past, the Yin family only had their current status because of the foundation of their ancestors. The Xia family started from scratch, so they naturally could not compare to them. However, they would go up against them one day!

Xia Mengyan curled her lips and said respectfully, “Mr. Song, please go to the lounge with Mr. Su...”

“That’s not necessary.” Song Shiyu waved his hand and refused. He smiled meaningfully. “Mr. Su is here to cook. He’s been entrusted with the task, so he won’t be resting. Miss Xia, you’re helping the fifth young master of the Yin family with his birthday banquet and even welcomed the top chef on his behalf. You’re really magnanimous!”

Song Shiyu’s casual words stirred up a storm in everyone’s hearts.

W-What?

The backyard was silent for a few seconds. Xia Mengyan seemed to have stopped breathing as she looked at Song Shiyu in disbelief. Xia Cheng and the Xia family were also stunned, their eyes filled with shock.

Su Dongjun’s apprentice said that they were here to congratulate the fifth young master of the Yin family?

The smile on Xia Mengyan’s face froze. It was as if she had been struck by lightning. Her legs went weak, and her body swayed.

No! Impossible! Chef Su’s apprentice must have made a mistake. How could they be here for Yin Jinglin?

Song Shiyu glanced at the Xia family indifferently, then walked in front of Yin Jinglin and asked patiently, “Young Master Yin, what kind of dishes do you like? Please tell me. Mr. Su will cook for you today!”

As soon as he finished speaking, Su Dongjun took a few steps forward and said indifferently, “Young Master Yin, feel free to instruct me.”

Xia Mengyan felt her heart being squeezed tightly, and it even stopped beating. Her face was ferocious, and she could not control her emotions at all.

Yin Jinglin? The chef was actually here for him?

Then why did the chef and his apprentices not retort when she went forward just now?

Song Shiyu looked at Xia Mengyan’s fierce gaze and asked in surprise and confusion, “Miss Xia, why do you look so pale? Don’t tell me you thought Mr. Su was here to cook for you? That’ll be too awkward.”

The entire venue was silent. The chefs behind Su Dongjun also looked at Xia Mengyan with mocking gazes.

Xia Mengyan lowered her head and felt that she was surrounded by mocking gazes. They were all laughing at her for overestimating herself. Mr. Su was clearly here for Yin Jinglin, but she shamelessly thought he was here for her.

However, it was clearly that apprentice who deliberately led her to mistakenly think that Mr. Su was here for her!

Xia Mengyan only felt her chest tighten, and the air around her became thin. She wanted to explain, but she could not say a word.

After a long time, Xia Cheng cleared his throat and said, “Mr. Song, didn’t you say that Mr. Su came for my granddaughter? I only have Mengyan as my granddaughter. It’s not strange that Mengyan misunderstood. If you hadn’t said something wrong, Mengyan wouldn’t have thought that way.”

Chapter 1053: You Can’t Simply Acknowledge Others As Your Father!

Old Madam Xia immediately reacted and shielded Xia Mengyan behind her like an old hen. She shouted, “Yes! Our Mengyan didn’t take the initiative to admit it. You were the one who said that Mr. Su was here to cook for Ah Cheng’s granddaughter. You can’t blame Mengyan!”

Song Shiyu looked innocent. “I was just keeping you in suspense. I said that person should call Old Master Xia ‘Grandpa.’ I didn’t say she’s his granddaughter. Doesn’t Old Master Xia have grandsons?”

His retort made Xia Cheng’s face darken. Old Madam Xia shouted unwillingly, “You’re spouting nonsense! Those little brats from the Yin family have never called Ah Cheng ‘Grandpa’ at all. Moreover, they’re from the Yin family while Mengyan is a descendant of the Xia family. You’re deliberately causing misunderstandings!”

Song Shiyu was not in a rush to retort. Everyone’s eyes were on him.

Just as Old Madam Xia thought that Song Shiyu had nothing to say, Song Shiyu suddenly smiled and said, "That's not right! I remember that Old Master Xia only has two daughters and a son. If she's his granddaughter, she should be Mr. Yin Yunyi's daughter. However, I remember that Mr. Yin has no daughters!"

The moment that was said, Xia Cheng's and Ai Sumei's expressions froze. Xia Cheng only glared at him fiercely, but Ai Sumei's expression was ferocious as if she wanted to eat someone.

However, Song Shiyu did not intend to let them off just like that. Instead, he continued to say with an innocent expression, "I'm really sorry. Maybe I remembered wrongly. It turns out that Miss Xia Mengyan is Mr. Yin Yunyi's daughter! From Miss Xia's temperament, I thought she was from the Xia branch family! If that's the case, it's understandable for Miss Xia to misunderstand.

"Since you're Young Master Yin's biological daughter, I'll apologize. Please don't take offense!"

Hearing Song Shiyu's words, Ai Sumei gritted her teeth. This man was doing this on purpose!

At this moment, Xia Ji said with a livid expression, "Mr. Song, Mengyan is indeed my father's granddaughter, but she's not Yin Yunyi's daughter. She's my daughter!"

Song Shiyu asked in surprise, "Who are you?"

Xia Ji snorted and was about to retort when Song Shiyu spoke first, "I clearly remember that Old Master Xia only has Yin Yunyi as his son! Who are you? You can't simply acknowledge others as your father!"

Qiao Xi almost couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Song Shiyu knew that Xia Ji was an illegitimate child, but he still pretended not to know anything and deliberately embarrassed the Xia family. As expected, the Xia family's faces darkened. Ai Sumei hated it the most when others said that Xia Ji was an illegitimate child. Outsiders only knew about the three children Yin Lianxin gave birth to. They did not know that she had a child at all. They clearly did not take her seriously!

"Um, Mr. Song," Yin Jinglin said slowly, "You probably don't know that Xia Ji is also my grandfather's son."

Yin Jinglin had never called Xia Cheng 'Grandpa' before. Now, in order to cooperate with Song Shiyu, he finally did it.

Then, he said in a teasing tone, "Although Xia Ji is just an illegitimate child, he's still of the old man's bloodline."

He specially emphasized the words 'illegitimate child.' These words were like a slap to the Xia family.

Song Shiyu nodded thoughtfully and sighed loudly. "So, you're an illegitimate child! If you're an illegitimate child, you should keep a low profile. Miss Xia is to blame for this. Old Master Xia only has Yin Jinglin and Yin Jingting as his grandsons, while she's just the daughter of an illegitimate child. In the past, the two of you wouldn't even have the right to be listed in the family register. Why are you trying to get close to the two legitimate young masters? How could Mr. Su cook for you?"

Then, Song Shiyu turned to look at Su Dongjun with lingering fear. "Mr. Su, it's a good thing you're not here to cook for Miss Xia Mengyan. If you found out later that she's the daughter of an illegitimate child, you'd probably leave right away!"

Su Dongjun nodded, his eyes filled with disdain.

Song Shiyu sized up the Xia family and smiled slyly. "Don't mind me! I'm a straightforward person who speaks casually. Don't be angry! You won't be so petty, right?"

Qiao Xi looked at the anger in the Xia family's eyes as if they wanted to burn Song Shiyu to ashes.

Song Shiyu was really a smart person. With just a few words, he made the Xia family feel ashamed!

Chapter 1054: I Want To Take Them Home

Yin Jinglin was about to turn around and leave when he suddenly stopped in his tracks and said with a smile, "I remember Old Madam Xia saying that Xia Mengyan is more capable than Xi Xi. That's true. In terms of shamelessness, Xi Xi is indeed inferior to Xia Mengyan. There's no one in the entire Yin family who can compare to Xia Mengyan.

"If there's a competition to compete in narcissism and shamelessness, Xia Mengyan must participate. Maybe she can bring glory to the Xia family!"

Qiao Xi: "... 'Fifth Brother's mouth was quite vicious!' "

As soon as he finished speaking, Yin Jinglin turned around and left. Su Dongjun and his disciples also walked past Xia Mengyan and left as if looking at her was a waste of time.

Xia Mengyan had been high and mighty since she was young. She had never been looked down on like this. She was so angry that her face was livid. She gritted her teeth. However, she had been taught by Xia Cheng since she was young. In front of so many people, she naturally could not lose her dignity. Moreover, today was her apprenticeship banquet. She had to remain calm and complete the apprenticeship banquet.

Fortunately, the guests did not come just now and did not know what was going on. She could only suppress the anger and unwillingness in her heart and pretend that nothing had happened. She followed everyone back to the private room.

However, Old Madam Xia and Xia Yunlou were not as calm. Old Madam Xia was so angry that her head was spinning and she was panting heavily. Fortunately, Xia Ji, who was at the side, hurriedly supported her. Otherwise, she would definitely have fallen to the floor.

Xia Yunlou shouted unwillingly, "That little b*tch clearly cheated, yet the Yin family still treats her as a treasure! Are they blind? What right does she have to compare herself to Mengyan?"

Xia Cheng's face darkened as he interrupted her unhappily. "Stop arguing. What happened just now was just a small episode. Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet is the most important event today. Fang Shiyun will be here soon. At that time, Mengyan will become the focus of everyone's attention. Who will care about the misunderstanding just now?"

Hearing his words, everyone gradually calmed down.

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At this moment, Song Shiyu had already taken off his strange beard and was wiping his face with a wet towel. Qiao Xi looked at Su Dongjun, who was not far away. She asked curiously, "Is he really a top chef? He even wants to cook for Cousin?"

Song Shiyu said firmly, "Of course! I heard that Young Master Yin likes Su Dongjun's dishes, so that's why he came."

Qiao Xi hurriedly asked, "You said that the top chef was asked to come here. Were you the one who invited him?"

"Yes!" Song Shiyu nodded like a chick pecking on rice, looking forward to being praised.

Qiao Xi frowned and stared fixedly at Su Dongjun's back. This was strange. She heard that this top chef had a strange temper and was arrogant. It was not easy to invite him to cook.

It would be fine if Gu Zheng had invited Su Dongjun over, but Song Shiyu was just Gu Zheng's assistant. How could he know Su Dongjun and seem to be very familiar with him?

Su Dongjun was not just a chef. The apprentices he nurtured and the restaurants under his name were all over the country. He was a top figure in the country. Even her teacher did not dare to provoke such a figure.

Qiao Xi hesitated for a moment. "Um..."

Song Shiyu looked at her and roughly understood what she meant. She was just curious about how he knew Su Dongjun. How should he answer?

Just as Song Shiyu was hesitating about what to say, he heard Qiao Xi gulp. She then looked at him expectantly. "If there's time, can you ask Mr. Su to make a few dishes for me? I want to take them home."

Song Shiyu: "... That was it?"

Qiao Xi wanted to cry but had no tears. She did not know what was wrong with her recently. The poison in Gu Zheng's body had clearly been cured, but she still did not have a sense of taste. Without Gu Zheng's kisses, everything she ate was tasteless.

She had bumped into a top chef today! It would be too tragic if she did not have a sense of taste. Coincidentally, Gu Zheng was not around either. She wanted to take some food back and eat it with Gu Zheng. Good things had to be shared.

On the other hand, when Yin Lianxin heard that the top chef had arrived, a trace of surprise flashed through her eyes, but she did not ask further.

Yin Jinglin was so happy that he almost jumped up. He remembered that when he was young, he was lucky enough to try the dishes of the top chef once. After that, he had been thinking about it for so

many years. Today, Mr. Su was here to celebrate his birthday for him. This was the best birthday gift he had received!

After a while, delicious dishes were served. Yin Jinglin gulped excitedly and hurriedly picked up his chopsticks to take a bite.

Yes! This was the taste! It was too delicious!

The other members of the Yin family also picked up their chopsticks to taste the food. Even though Yin Lianxin had seen the world, her eyes could not help but be filled with surprise.

Chapter 1055: Profiting From A Misfortune

Seeing that everyone looked satisfied with every bite, Su Dongjun could not help but smile.

Rumor had it that he had a strange personality, but in reality, he just did not like the deception in the world. Those people invited him to cook for the sake of showing off, not for the sake of the delicacies themselves. Hence, no matter how delicious the food was, it would not matter to them. However, he could tell that the Yin family simply liked his dishes.

As a chef, he could not help but feel happy when he saw these customers treating the food so seriously.

He was able to become friends with Song Shiyu because Song Shiyu was very innocent. He was like a child who was not scheming and could say whatever he wanted. He was straightforward, but it made him seem real.

Seeing that Yin Jinglin liked his dishes so much, Su Dongjun wanted to ask Yin Jinglin if he wanted to try his new dishes.

However, before he could speak, he suddenly glanced at Qiao Xi. Qiao Xi was frowning in pain, and her appearance was practically worse than death.

Looking at Yin Jinglin's satisfied smile, she knew that these dishes must be delicious. However, she could only smell the faint fragrance but not taste it. In order not to affect everyone's meal, she decided not to eat.

However, Su Dongjun saw her painful expression. Su Dongjun felt that his dignity as a top chef was being challenged.

Qiao Xi was chewing the meat in her mouth with difficulty when she heard a gloomy voice behind her. "Miss Qiao, how does this dish taste?"

Qiao Xi looked up and saw that it was Su Dongjun. She did not want to say that she had lost her taste buds, lest everyone became worried. Hence, she replied, "It's very delicious."

Su Dongjun frowned. "Are you sure?"

Hearing that Chef Su had a strange temper, Qiao Xi was afraid of making him unhappy. She could only brace herself and answer, "Yes, it's really delicious."

However, the next second, Su Dongjun snorted. "I know you're lying just by looking at your pained expression! Why? Don't you like my dishes?"

Qiao Xi instantly became nervous. She was in pain because she could not taste anything while watching everyone enjoying the food.

Before she could answer, Su Dongjun said again, "You keep saying that it's delicious, but you haven't eaten much. It even looks like you have difficulty swallowing the food in your mouth. Are my dishes bad?"

Qiao Xi's heart trembled. Afraid that Su Dongjun would not let her pack the food back, she hurriedly explained in a panic, "No, no..."

"I've made so many dishes in my life, but I've never met a customer like you!" Su Dongjun had a serious expression. Then, he shouted, "I absolutely won't allow this to happen. I have to go back to your home with you. I have to make the dishes you like!"

The private room instantly fell silent, and Qiao Xi's flustered expression froze. This was a blessing in disguise!

As expected, this top chef had a strange temper. If other chefs saw that someone was not satisfied with their dishes, they would probably be angry. However, this top chef had to be satisfied.

After another 10 minutes, the door of the private room was pushed open. Gu Zheng was wearing a gray windbreaker as he walked toward Qiao Xi. His expression was a little serious, and he was still thinking about his conversation with Meng Fan.

His expression softened a little when he saw Qiao Xi, then he nodded at the Yin family before sitting down beside Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi was instantly excited when she saw Gu Zheng. She hurriedly moved closer to his ear and said in a low voice, "Ah Zheng, can you go out with me for a while?"

Gu Zheng's eyes were filled with confusion. What was Mrs. Gu doing? Why did she look so sneaky?

Qiao Xi looked at the dishes on the table and drooled. However, she could not hug Gu Zheng and kiss him in front of everyone. That would be too embarrassing, so she wanted to pull Gu Zheng out to kiss him before coming back to eat.

"I... have something to tell you," Qiao Xi said in embarrassment.

Gu Zheng looked at Su Dongjun, who was not far away, then at the delicious dishes on the table. He instantly understood and could not help but curl his lips. He teased, "Mrs. Gu, let's talk here."

Qiao Xi looked at Yin Jinglin who was holding a chicken drumstick in his hand and eating it while sweating profusely. She stomped her feet anxiously. "No! We have to talk outside. Come with me!"

Gu Zheng smiled brightly and stroked her head gently. "Mhm."

Yin Jinglin was chewing meat and asked in confusion, "Why are you going out? We're family. Just say it here!"

Yin Jingting glanced at him. "Even food can't shut you up!"

Qiao Xi excitedly pulled Gu Zheng out of the door and walked to an empty corner before looking around.

Seeing Mrs. Gu's cute appearance, Gu Zheng could not help but smile. "There's no one here. What do you want to say, Mrs. Gu?"

Chapter 1056: Fang Shiyun Is Here

Qiao Xi's face was slightly red, then she raised her head and said shyly, "It's nothing important. I just missed you so much!"

Gu Zheng raised an eyebrow and said casually, "I think I was the one who sent you to Yingyun Hall this morning. We were only separated for two hours."

Qiao Xi pouted aggrievedly. "What's wrong with that? Not to mention two hours, even if it's a minute or a second, I'll miss you! But you didn't miss me, huh? I'm so sad!"

Gu Zheng was silent for a moment. The smile on his face grew wider and wider with a trace of ambiguity. "In that case, Mrs. Gu, you called me out to talk about this?"

Qiao Xi lowered her head, and her cheeks were slightly red. Seeing that Gu Zheng was insensible, it seemed that she had to use her ultimate move. A trace of a bright light flashed past her eyes as she stared fixedly at Gu Zheng's eyes.

Gu Zheng smirked. Was Mrs. Gu going to use hypnosis again?

Qiao Xi was very confident in her hypnosis technique. Gu Zheng was her first experimenter, so she would naturally succeed. Moreover, hypnosis would not harm the human body, so she could use it without worry.

Qiao Xi only heaved a sigh of relief when she saw Gu Zheng's eyes gradually turn red. She did not dare to control Gu Zheng for too long. After all, someone like Gu Zheng was too determined.

Hence, Qiao Xi raised her head without the slightest hesitation and kissed his slightly cold lips. After the kiss, the redness in his eyes gradually faded and he recovered his clarity.

Gu Zheng looked at Qiao Xi meaningfully. When he saw her smug expression, he wanted to laugh but forcefully held it in. He smiled lightly. "Mrs. Gu."

"Huh?" Qiao Xi raised her eyes.

Then, Gu Zheng hugged her waist with one hand and controlled her chin with the other. He planted a kiss on her lips.

"I missed you too." He chuckled and said, "That's why I'm asking for a kiss from Mrs. Gu to relieve my longing for you."

Qiao Xi was instantly stunned, then the blush on her face spread to the back of her ears. If she had known that Gu Zheng would kiss her, why did she spend so much effort to hypnotize him?

The two of them returned to the private room. Qiao Xi could not wait to pick up her chopsticks and taste Su Dongjun's food. A satisfied smile appeared on her face, but when she thought of Su Dongjun's words, she hurriedly controlled the smile on her face.

Gu Zheng looked at her cute appearance and could not help but laugh.

Mrs. Gu was so cute!

On the other hand, Fang Shiyun and her assistant had already arrived at Yingyun Hall.

his assistant smiled and said, "This restaurant is fated with you. It also has the word 'Yun'."

Fang Shiyun did not care about this small matter at all. He straightened her clothes and said nervously, "Senior won't be unhappy to see me, right?"

His assistant hurriedly said, "Mr. Liang has already told Miss Qiao that you'll be coming, but today is Young Master Yin Jinglin's birthday. Everyone from the Yin family is eating here."

"Ah! I didn't receive an invitation, so it's indeed not good for me to come over like this. Fortunately, I prepared a gift for Young Master Yin in advance. It won't be too abrupt." Fang Shiyun heaved a sigh of relief and bowed. "Go ask which private room Senior is in."

The assistant hurriedly said, "The Yin family's banquet will definitely be held in the largest private room!"

He pointed at the innermost private room on the first floor. "The largest private room in Yingyun Hall is there. Let's go there directly."

Fang Shiyun nodded, and the two of them walked toward the innermost room.

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In the Xia family's private room.

After all, the main character of the day, Fang Shiyun, had not arrived yet, so everyone was just sitting and chatting. They were not prepared to start the banquet. However, after a long time, Fang Shiyun was still nowhere to be seen. The guests gradually lost their patience.

The group of young ladies who came to join in the fun with their families could not help but mock, "It's been so long but he's not here yet. Could it be that Mr. Fang didn't agree to come at all?"

Xia Mengyan clenched her fists and forced a smile. She did not answer. She just looked at the door of the private room anxiously, but no one came in.

She had been smart since she was young and was the center of attention among the many young ladies. It was normal for these people to be jealous of her. She was already used to it. Moreover, she did not take these people seriously at all because they were not worthy of being her opponents.

At this moment, she was anxious and felt like she was sitting on pins and needles. She was afraid that Fang Shiyun would not come. If that was the case, she would really become the laughing stock of many young ladies.

When Old Madam Xia heard that there were people bullying her granddaughter, she hurriedly retorted, "The news of Mr. Fang wanting to take on an apprentice has long spread. Moreover, he has only contacted the Xia family during this period. Some people are just jealous of our Mengyan's excellence, so they're making sarcastic remarks here. Even if Mengyan doesn't acknowledge a master, she's still better than them!"

Chapter 1057: Bringing Up Li City University's Cheating Incident

The few young ladies instantly widened their eyes unhappily. They could not stand Xia Mengyan's act of pretending to be noble, but no matter how dissatisfied they were, they could not cause trouble at the Xia family's apprenticeship banquet. After all, the Xia family was powerful. If they offended them, it would affect their families' businesses.

Sumei said proudly, "Moreover, even Mr. Yan said that Mr. Fang will definitely come."

Yan Jun, who was sitting in the corner, did not expect Old Madam Xia to mention him. Although he was a member of the National Painting and Calligraphy Association, he was ranked last. His talent was average, and he did not have an outstanding master to recommend him. He had always been mediocre.

However, he was unwilling to be looked down on for the rest of his life, so he wanted to please Fang Shiyun's apprentice.

He also heard that Fang Shiyun had a senior whom he respected very much. If he could get to know that person, it would be a better choice. However, it was very difficult to meet Fang Shiyun, let alone that mysterious senior.

Before this, Yan Jun had also wondered if Fang Shiyun's gifts were for his senior. However, since he called her his senior, she must be older than him. However, those gifts were all for young girls, so he guessed that they were for his apprentice.

Over the past few days, Fang Shiyun had only contacted the Xia family. The Xia family was very high-profile and even held a apprenticeship banquet for this. If they were not confident, how could they casually hold a apprenticeship banquet?

Moreover, Miss Xia was indeed very outstanding. She had great achievements at a young age and was very famous overseas. Even if the apprentice Fang Shiyun wanted to take on was not her, he might consider it after knowing her achievements.

After a few seconds of silence, Yan Jun smiled and said, "That's right. We all heard that Mr. Fang is taking on an apprentice. Miss Xia is so outstanding. Mr. Fang will definitely come."

When the Xia family heard this, their expressions softened a little. The daughters who were watching the joke just now were also reprimanded by their parents and could only lower their heads aggrievedly.

Everyone praised Xia Mengyan and the Xia family.

Ai Sumei looked at her granddaughter and nodded her head proudly. Her granddaughter was not inferior to those brats from the Yin family. Mengyan would soon become Fang Shiyun's apprentice. This

was the stepping stone to enter the art circle. With Mengyan's ability, it would not be long before she stood out and rose in status.

Qiao Xi's reputation was ruined because she cheated, and it was impossible for her to enter the art industry again. She would probably not be able to stay in the design industry in the future. So what if she was a little talented?

Yin Lianxin was still inferior to her!

The more Ai Sumei thought about it, the more excited she became. She knew that the Yin family was holding a birthday party in Yingyun Hall. She urgently wanted the Yin family to see how outstanding her granddaughter was. She wanted to show off and use Xia Mengyan to slap Yin Lianxin's face.

Old Madam Xia was so excited that her entire body was trembling. Hearing everyone's compliments, she gradually lost herself and showed off. "That's right. Our Mengyan is outstanding, unlike a certain someone who actually cheated in Li City University's competition and embarrassed the Xia family. She's clearly a child of the Xia family, but she's worlds apart from Mengyan. I don't know if it's because she did something wrong in her previous life. She's clearly not a child raised by the Xia family, but she always causes everyone in the Xia family to be implicated by her!"

The moment that was said, the private room instantly fell silent.

Xia Mengyan remained silent, her expression still gentle. However, the corners of her mouth curled into a proud smile because she knew what her grandmother was going to say next.

When everyone heard Old Madam Xia's words, they were slightly stunned. Then, someone asked curiously, "Old Madam Xia, are you talking about the cheating incident at Li City University?"

Seeing that someone was asking about it, Ai Sumei hurriedly suppressed the smile on her face and said indignantly, "Yes, not only did she cheat, but she also implicated Mengyan. Mengyan is her sister. Why doesn't she think about Mengyan when she does things? She may not be afraid of her reputation being ruined, but our Mengyan has always been so hardworking. Why should she bear the consequences of her mistake?"

"Fortunately, Mr. Fang is a magnanimous person. He knows that the two didn't grow up together and their personalities are worlds apart. Otherwise, it might have affected Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet!"

Xia Mengyan hurriedly went forward to calm Ai Sumei down, then smiled helplessly. "Grandma, this matter is in the past. Why are you angry? Moreover, my cousin didn't grow up in the Xia family and didn't receive the right education. It's normal for her to be tainted by some bad habits. We'll educate her well in the future and let her change."

At the mention of the cheating incident at Li City University, Yan Jun looked confused. "What exactly is going on?"

Chapter 1058: Rumors

Yan Jun knew that Liang Pingchuan had gone to Li City University a few days ago, but he didn't hear about any cheating. However, Xia Mengyan was Fang Shiyun's apprentice. If he could help her with this matter, it would be a good thing. If he encountered any problems in the future, Xia Mengyan would not be able to reject him.

Xia Mengyan sighed and said, "Actually, it's not a big deal. It's just that my cousin cheated in Li City University's calligraphy competition and was exposed. After this matter spread, there were people who said that since she cheated, I'd cheat in the future too."

When Yan Jun heard this, he said disdainfully, "Is there a need to cheat in Li City University's competition? This person is really too stupid! Miss Xia, although you and she are cousins, you should interact less in the future. With such a cousin, there'll surely be rumors about you in the future. Now that you're about to become Mr. Fang's apprentice, you shouldn't ruin your future because of such a person."

Sumei hurriedly said, "I tried to persuade Mengyan as well, but Mengyan has been kind-hearted since she was young. She knows that the cheating incident has affected her, but she can't bear to blame her cousin and has been speaking up for her."

Xia Mengyan smiled bitterly and shook her head. "It's okay. After all, she's my younger cousin. We're family. How can I bear to blame her? I hope everyone here won't spread the news lest Xi Xi is affected."

Xia Yunlou lowered her head, feeling very embarrassed. Then, she revealed a proud smile. Fortunately, she had Mengyan. In the future, Mengyan would bring honor to the Xia family.

Xia Mengyan smiled at everyone. "Let's not talk about this anymore. After all, Xi Xi is also in Yingyun Hall. If she hears this, she'll be unhappy. Moreover, I believe she'll definitely turn over a new leaf."

Yan Jun had a serious expression and frowned. "Miss Xia, it won't sound good if news of your cousin cheating gets out. It's better not to mention it in front of Mr. Fang. After all, Mr. Fang has always hated cheating and manipulation. If he finds out about this, it might affect his impression of you."

A trace of sinisteress flashed past Old Madam Xia's eyes. She just had to let Fang Shiyun know about this and let everyone know that Qiao Xi had cheated. Qiao Xi was the daughter of the Yin family. What did the Yin family's reputation have to do with the Xia family?!

Everyone could tell that Old Madam Xia hated Miss Xia's younger sister. There was even hatred in her eyes.

At this moment, someone probed, "Li City University is a top university in the country. It's not easy to enter this university. How did she enter? Could it be that she cheated or used her connections?"

Hearing this, Sumei's eyes flashed with excitement.

Immediately after, someone else said, "It's indeed possible! She even cheated in such a small competition. Maybe she has cheated many times and is already a habitual offender. How is such a person worthy of working in Li City University?"

Xia Mengyan pretended to be worried and said, "Everyone, you're thinking too much. Although Xi Xi cheated in the calligraphy competition, she was able to enter Li City University because of her own ability. She's an internationally renowned designer!"

"Miss Xia, you're just too naive. You think that she wouldn't do such a thing, but the fact that she cheated in a small competition means that she has cheated in large competitions in the past. Her current status and identity are all fake. Such a person isn't worthy of teaching at all. She should get out of Li City!"

"That's right! It's just a small competition without any benefits. It doesn't matter if she won or lost, but she just had to cheat. I heard that she stole the work of a calligraphy master and submitted it as her own. In the end, she was exposed on the spot."

Everyone couldn't help but recall what had happened a few days ago. Wasn't Miss Xia's cousin Qiao Xi? They heard that she cheated, but they weren't sure what the outcome of the incident was. However, the impact of the incident was so bad that she must have been severely punished.

"Alright, stop talking about her. Today is Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet. Everyone should be happy." Old Madam Xia's old face was full of smiles. She had finally achieved her goal. She started to pretend to be a good person.

"This child has been wandering outside since she was young. No one has educated her about what's right and what's wrong, so she has some bad habits. However, she's Ah Cheng's granddaughter, after all. We can't ignore her. We can only discipline her strictly in the future. I hope she can listen to our teachings and correct her mistakes." Old Madam Xia sighed and said, "Fortunately, Mengyan grew up by our side since she was young. Ah Cheng has always taught her well, unlike that child who has no talent and only knows how to cheat."

Chapter 1059: How Powerful Is Fang Shiyun's Senior?

After Old Madam Xia finished speaking, Yan Jun immediately said, "Miss Xia is the apprentice that Mr. Fang Shiyun has acknowledged. Of course, she's talented in art. No Tom, Dick, or Harry can compare to her. However, in terms of talent, there's probably only one person who's stronger than Miss Xia."

The smile on Xia Mengyan's face froze instantly, and her eyes shone with jealousy. Who was more talented than her? Could it be that Fang Shiyun had other candidates?

Old Madam Xia, who was at the side, also became nervous. She would never allow anyone to threaten Mengyan's status.

Seeing that everyone in the Xia family was so nervous, Yan Jun smiled and said, "She's Mr. Fang's senior. She joined the industry at a very young age. I heard that Mr. Fang respects this senior very much. If you're lucky enough to meet her, you must be more respectful. Maybe this senior can give you a few pointers. That'll be more beneficial than studying hard for two years."

When the Xia family heard that, they instantly heaved a sigh of relief. So, she was Fang Shiyun's senior!

“Mr. Fang’s senior is Liang Pingchuan’s last apprentice. Although very few people have seen her and she has very few calligraphy works, every one of them is widely spread. Her style is wanton and frivolous, and she can almost perfect all the details. I heard that she became Liang Pingchuan’s apprentice when she was very young. All these years, she has been learning from Liang Pingchuan. She has a carefree personality like Liang Pingchuan and doesn’t like to be tied down, so she didn’t join the Painting and Calligraphy Association. However, there are few people in the calligraphy world who don’t know this senior.”

“It’s probably because true artists don’t like to show their faces. We’ve invited her to attend painting and calligraphy competitions several times, but Mr. Liang Pingchuan has always rejected the invitations on her behalf. He said that she thinks she still needs to practice and isn’t qualified to be a judge.”

“We’ve all seen her calligraphy work with our own eyes. Her standard has already surpassed Fang Shiyun’s, but she’s still so humble. How rare!”

Hearing everyone’s explanation, Xia Mengyan’s expression gradually softened. It turned out that the person Yan Jun was talking about who was more talented than her was Fang Shiyun’s senior. It was already beyond her reach to be able to acknowledge Fang Shiyun as her master. Fang Shiyun’s senior was a big shot she could not reach. If she could meet her in the future, she would definitely perform well. Perhaps the senior would see that she was hardworking and talented and personally nurture her. At that time, she would enjoy a greater glory than just becoming Fang Shiyun’s apprentice.

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Old Madam Xia and Xia Cheng were also a little excited. It turned out that Mengyan’s talent was second only to Fang Shiyun’s senior. If they could get to know that senior, Mengyan would definitely be famous in high society. At that time, there would definitely be an endless stream of people coming to ask for her hand in marriage.

This thought made the Xia family very excited, and Yan Jun’s words also moved the guests present. Everyone discussed softly. “Miss Xia, you’re really talented! We have to build a good relationship with the Xia family.”

“They’re clearly both children of the Xia family, so why is Qiao Xi so unbearable? If she had half of Miss Xia’s character and strength, her reputation wouldn’t have been ruined.”

“Don’t mention Qiao Xi anymore. How unlucky! When Mr. Fang comes later, don’t let him hear you, lest it affects Miss Xia’s reputation.”

Amidst everyone’s praise, Xia Mengyan’s face turned red. She smiled in embarrassment. “Thank you for your praise, everyone. I’ll continue to work hard and not let everyone down!”

As soon as she finished speaking, there was a knock on the door. Someone was about to push the door open and enter.

Old Madam Xia turned around excitedly. Could it be that Fang Shiyun was here?

One second, two seconds...

The private room was silent as everyone stared at the door. The door slowly opened. The man who entered was not wearing a suit or branded clothes. Instead, he was wearing a long robe that did not even have a logo. He was carrying a canvas bag. He stood at the door, looking out of place with the people in suits and leather shoes.

Disgust appeared in Old Madam Xia's eyes. Today was Mengyan's apprenticeship banquet. How could she let this poor man in? Mr. Fang would be here soon. If he saw this person in the room, how could he eat?

Xia Mengyan also frowned, and her eyes were filled with dissatisfaction. However, she still had to pretend to be gentle in front of everyone. She walked forward and said gently, "May I know who you are..."

"Thank goodness! The banquet hasn't started yet, right?" The person who entered took a deep breath and wiped the sweat off his forehead.

Xia Mengyan hurriedly took a few steps back. The disgust in her eyes was about to overflow. She could not suppress the frustration in her heart. Who was this person? He was dressed so poorly. Was he a beggar?

Old Madam Xia glared at him and was about to wave her hand to get someone to chase him out when Yan Jun suddenly stood up and went forward to welcome him warmly. "Mr. Fang! You're finally here!"

Chapter 1060: Don't Call Me Master

Fang Shiyun looked at the person in front of him and was slightly stunned. He sized up Yan Jun before saying casually, "Oh, you're from the Painting and Calligraphy Association."

Seeing that Fang Shiyun still remembered him, Yan Jun said excitedly, "Yes! I didn't expect Mr. Fang to still remember me. It's really my honor!"

The surrounding people were instantly stunned. The Xia family, whose faces were filled with disgust just now, hurriedly retracted the emotions in their eyes. Old Madam Xia also hurriedly covered her mouth, afraid that she would offend Fang Shiyun.

Xia Mengyan stood at the side with her mouth wide open in surprise. This person was actually Fang Shiyun?

He was wearing an old cotton linen robe and looked so casual. He was actually the famous calligraphy master whose works were worth millions?

Fortunately, she did not have the time to say anything overboard just now. Her tone was still very gentle. Otherwise, if she offended Fang Shiyun, this apprenticeship banquet would be ruined.

Fang Shiyun did not have the time to look around. He found a random seat and sat down. He then asked Yan Jun unhappily, "Why are you here?"

Senior did not join the Painting and Calligraphy Association! Moreover, she was not interested in calligraphy. Why did she invite Yan Jun? Could it be that in her eyes, he was not as capable as Yan Jun?

Yan Jun did not notice that he was unhappy. It was normal for a master to be a little arrogant. He said excitedly, "Miss Xia was the one who invited me here. Miss Xia, come and greet your master!"

With that, Yan Jun waved at someone not far away.

At this moment, Xia Mengyan had already recovered from her shock and walked forward nervously. She revealed a sweet smile and said respectfully, "Hello, Mr. Fang. I'm Xia Mengyan."

Fang Shiyun: "???"

Before Fang Shiyun could say anything, Yan Jun said obsequiously, "Miss Xia, I'm really envious that you can acknowledge Mr. Fang as your master at such a young age."

Xia Mengyan smiled in embarrassment. "I'm just lucky to be able to become Mr. Fang's apprentice. I'll definitely work harder to learn calligraphy in the future. I definitely won't disappoint Mr. Fang."

Fang Shiyun: "... 'What are you talking about? When did I agree to take this woman as my apprentice? Isn't this a little too funny?"

The members of the Xia family did not see the shock in Fang Shiyun's eyes and only received everyone's praise. Old Madam Xia's vanity was satisfied, and her face was filled with a proud smile. At this moment, she really wanted to see Qiao Xi's expression. Would she be shocked, envious, or ashamed?

Old Madam Xia gestured to the servant beside her. That person immediately understood and hurriedly left for the Yin family's private room.

At this moment, Xia Mengyan and the rest of the Xia family were all immersed in their beautiful fantasies. The guests all went forward to congratulate Xia Mengyan and see Fang Shiyun, hoping to bring their sons and daughters to meet him.

"Mr. Fang, you've come a long way. You've worked hard," Xia Mengyan said respectfully.

"Mengyan, why are you still calling him 'Mister' at a time like this?! It's time to call him 'Master'!" Old Madam Xia reminded her affectionately. The wrinkles at the corners of her eyes were so deep.

Everyone looked at Xia Mengyan expectantly and reminded her loudly, "Yes, Miss Xia! Mr. Fang is here, yet you're still so polite. Hurry up and call him 'Master'!"

Xia Mengyan looked at Fang Shiyun in embarrassment and smiled shyly and nervously. Just as she was about to speak, she was suddenly interrupted by Fang Shiyun.

"Wait!"

He was surrounded by a group of people just now and was unable to react in time. Now that he heard that Xia Mengyan wanted to acknowledge him as her master, he suddenly stood up. His eyes were filled with doubt as he pointed at himself and asked, "You're calling me 'Master'?"

Yan Jun was about to explain that this was Miss Xia, the apprentice he had taken a liking to.

However, before he could speak, Fang Shiyun's shocking words shattered the Xia family's beautiful dream.

“Don’t call me that! I don’t accept apprentices! Besides, I don’t even know this woman. Why should I accept her as my apprentice?”

The entire venue was silent. Everyone stopped breathing.

Fang Shiyun’s words seemed to have slapped Xia Mengyan twice. The words in her mouth were stuck in her throat, and she could not say anything. She was about to suffocate.

Old Madam Xia’s face instantly turned ashen, and the smile on Xia Cheng’s face cracked.

After a long silence, Yan Jun said tentatively, “Mr. Fang, have you forgotten that this is your apprentice, Miss Xia? Today is her apprenticeship banquet.”

Fang Shiyun’s face was filled with question marks. What did he say? Why didn’t he know about it? Then, he suddenly reacted and hurriedly asked, “This is an apprenticeship banquet? Isn’t this the most luxurious private room in Yingyun Hall?”