

Nobel Ruler 81

Chapter 81: Phoenix Restaurant

Knock knock...

Knocks could be heard coming from the door.

Zhao Ming went forward to open it and saw an unfamiliar face.

The person was wearing clothes made of cotton and looked like a pageboy. One look at his sly-looking appearance made people unhappy.

“You are?”

The person didn't seem to expect that Zhao Ming would be the one who opened the door. Upon seeing the imperial guard garb Zhao Ming wore, the person reacted and weirdly said, “Oh, I thought you were someone else. It's you, Official Imperial Guard.”

Zhao Ming's brows knitted, and his intuition told him that the incoming person had ill intentions. He hollered in a deep voice, “Speak if you have something to do. If not, get lost.” He gestured to close the door as he talked.

“Aish... don’t be anxious! Of course, I came here to do something.” The man hurriedly went forward and blocked Zhao Ming’s path, taking the chance to look into the residence as if he was looking for something.

“Don’t blame me for being ruthless if you don’t leave,” said Zhao Ming as he grabbed the person’s wrist and harshly pushed him out.

The pageboy staggered backward and fell onto the floor. He clenched his teeth in agony, and anger rushed up to his chest. “Do you know who I am? How dare you push me? I’m with the Chu family.”

Zhao Ming’s anger turned into laughter once he heard the pageboy’s words. *The Chu family is simply asking for a beating when they come here.*

“You...”

“Chu Liuyue lives here, right? This place looks so plain and bare. Pui!” The pageboy climbed up and became even more arrogant. “Didn’t she say that she was holding a celebratory banquet today? Tsk tsk, why isn’t anyone here yet? It’s so quiet.”

“It’s not quiet at all with a lost dog barking wildly.” A cold woman’s voice sounded.

Chu Liuyue and Chu Ning heard the commotion and walked over.

Zhao Ming hurriedly said, “Commander, Big Missy, this person came here to stir trouble. I’ll chase him away right now.”

Chu Liuyue raised her hand and looked at the pageboy with much interest. "Why? Is the Chu family so useless that they don't even dare to come themselves?"

The pageboy's face flushed red. "Who are you calling a dog?"

Chu Liuyue shrugged her shoulders. "Whoever is the one barking."

The pageboy was stumped. His eyes turned, and he laughed coldly. "Hmph, didn't you say you were holding a banquet yesterday? It's already so late, yet both of you are still at home. Oh no... Could it be that you don't have a place to hold the banquet? Do you intend to host your guests in such a rotten mansion? No, I think nobody would even come. Hahaha!"

Chu Ning's face darkened. "I think you don't want your mouth anymore."

A chill ran down the pageboy's spine as he backed away in fear.

I heard that Chu Ning has already recovered his stage-five warrior cultivation, and his aura is indeed different. However... so what? Nobody dares to do business with this father-daughter duo in the entire Imperial City. They don't even have a restaurant that is willing to host them.

He shrugged his shoulders and teased, "Oh my, Officer Chu Ning you're currently the imperial guards' Commander in Chief; you won't hold it against a mere servant like me, right? Besides, I came here to help you. First Elder told me to tell you that there's still a way if you can't find a place to host the banquet."

"The Chu family has several restaurants. If you're willing, First Elder won't mind lending you the place, ignoring whatever happened before. He will even give you a discount. What do you think?"

They were riding all over him!

“Officer Chu Ning, don’t be upset. First Elder just wants to help you. Look, yesterday you said you were going to hold a banquet. If you don’t have a location today”—the pageboy hit his face—“what do you think will become of your status as the Commander in Chief?”

Chu Ning’s blood boiled, and he gathered force into his palms. He was going to deal with this pageboy straight away.

Someone walked over from not far away. “May I ask if this is Ms. Chu Liuyue’s residence?”

The few people all turned around to look at him.

The person who just spoke was a slightly chubby middle-aged man and looked very harmonious when he smiled.

Chu Liuyue nodded. “This is my house. May I know who—”

That man was slightly taken aback and smiled even friendlier afterward. “So you are Ms. Liuyue. Apologies for not recognizing you earlier. I’m Phoenix Restaurant’s manager—Su Hui.”

Everyone was shocked when he introduced himself.

Phoenix Restaurant was an old store with a long history in the Imperial City and was very famous. Rumor had it that Phoenix Restaurant had three bests—best taste, best price, and best appearance.

The taste need not be mentioned since everyone who had been there only had praises for the food. Of course, the food was not something an average person could afford. Even some aristocratic children could not afford to eat there.

In terms of appearance, Phoenix Restaurant overflowed with elegance from top to bottom and inside to outside. It was also known as the top view in the Imperial City.

Phoenix Restaurant was definitely the best restaurant in the Imperial City because of these. Ying Bin Restaurant and the rest could not even be compared to it.

However, why did Phoenix Restaurant's manager come here?

"You're here for..."

"I heard that Ms. Liuyue wants to host a banquet. May I know if Phoenix Restaurant can have the honor of being the venue?"

The surroundings fell into deep silence.

Chu Liuyue blinked. "You mean... you're willing to host this banquet?"

Su Hui bent his back slightly. "It's my honor."

“...”

Chu Liuyue really did not expect that Phoenix Restaurant would take the initiative to help them after she was rejected by all the restaurants in the Imperial City.

Even Chu Ning could not stay calm. “Manager Su, are you serious? I thought the banquets at Phoenix Restaurant had to be booked one month in advance? There won’t be space if we go there now, right?” He did not dare say this about other places, but Phoenix Restaurant would definitely be packed to the brim.

Su Hui smiled and said, “Don’t worry, Officer Chu Ning. Phoenix Restaurant has already cleared our place today, and we’ll only serve Ms. Liuyue.”

“...”

Su Hui’s words sounded like thunder in the few people’s ears, and they could not recover from their shock.

Chu Liuyue was the first to react. *Did... someone save me from this mess? The point is, who did? I don’t have any friends or backing in the Imperial City, and I even offended a bunch of people.*

Who exactly is willing to risk offending the Chu family to help me? That’s not right. That person must come from a formidable background and has strong capabilities to get Phoenix Restaurant to do this, so why will he fear the Chu family?

“Manager Su, are you sure you want to help them? I heard a cup of tea starts from 500 silver taels. I’m afraid these two people aren’t able to afford the banquet. Are you sure you want to do a losing business?” That pageboy did not expect someone from Phoenix Restaurant would come, and he was stunned. However, he refused to admit defeat on the surface and continued talking arrogantly.

Upon hearing this, Su Hui did not even look at him and smiled at Chu Liuyue instead. He said, “Don’t worry, Ms. Liuyue. Today’s expenses have already been paid.”

“Who did it?”

“Second Master Yan.”

Second Master Yan? Zhen Bao Pavilion’s Yan Ge...?

“Didn’t you know? A high-level fiend appeared in the hunting ground you sold to them a few days ago. To express his gratitude, Second Master Yan specifically booked Phoenix Restaurant for you. He will also come and celebrate with you today.”

“Officer Chu Ning and Ms. Liuyue, please—”

Chapter 82: Book the Whole Place

Phoenix Restaurant was situated in the Imperial City’s busiest street—Eastern Street.

Chu Liuyue and the rest followed Su Hui over. Many people were on the streets, and it was very lively.

Su Hui smiled and pointed to the front. "It's the place in front."

Upon looking in the direction he was pointing at, Chu Liuyue saw a traditional two-story restaurant and could vaguely see the two words 'Phoenix Restaurant' on the plaque.

She was slightly shocked. Every inch of ground was worth gold in this place. Even the rental price for a small shop was ridiculous. *How can Phoenix Restaurant only have two floors as the top restaurant in the Imperial City?*

Chu Liuyue casually scanned her surroundings. Even the neighboring clothes shop had three stories.

Phoenix Restaurant really looked much more low-key in comparison.

Phoenix Restaurant's doors were tightly shut as two pageboys stood in front of the building.

A few people were at the door and speaking to the pageboy.

"Closed? Phoenix Restaurant normally closes at the end of the month, right? Why are you closed so suddenly today?"

The pageboy politely said, "Sorry Sirs, we're only listening to our manager's commands. I seek your kind forgiveness."

"It's not over just because you apologized. I already made a deal with my brothers to gather here today. How dare you tell me this? It will be so embarrassing for me."

The few people looked like young masters that were very rich. The leader of the pack looked very frustrated, and his words were arrogant.

Chu Liuyue looked over and realized the person talking seemed familiar.

"Tell your manager to come out. How dare Phoenix Restaurant not care about the Lu family's reputation?"

Oh, so it's him, Lu family's Fourth Young Master—Lu Zhitao.

The pageboy matter-of-factly said, "We won't entertain any guests today. Please, come another day. If not, there are many restaurants in the Imperial City, and you can just change to another one."

"How is it the same?" Lu Zhitao raised his voice. "How do you do your business? How can you chase your customers away? Do you believe I'll—"

Su Hui stepped forward. "Young Master, I'm really sorry about it."

Lu Zhitao turned around and knitted his brows. "Who are you?"

The two pageboys immediately bowed. "Manager."

Su Hui nodded.

Lu Zhitao and the rest looked at each other and were slightly shocked. They did not expect the seemingly harmonious fatty to be Phoenix Restaurant's manager.

Phoenix Restaurant was very famous, but only a handful of people could see the manager. Thus, they still did not know Su Hui, even though they had come a few times.

"So you're Phoenix Restaurant's manager. You've come at the right time. You've seen what happened earlier, right? We're considered regulars at Phoenix Restaurant, so how can you treat us like this?" Lu Zhitao still sounded very aggressive.

The people behind tugged him and softly said, "Fourth Young Master, Phoenix Restaurant is not simple. We should be polite..."

Lu Zhitao still smiled coldly. "It's just a restaurant. How powerful can it be? My Lu family also does business, but we've never chased customers away so directly. Why, can the top restaurant in the Imperial City not care about their customers?"

His voice was very loud, quickly attracting the surrounding people's attention.

A few people gradually started to gather around. Some of them were watching the commotion while others were enjoying the show.

Lu Zhitao felt even more justified.

Su Hui cupped his fists. "Phoenix Restaurant wouldn't dare to claim the title of the Imperial City's top restaurant, but someone has already booked the entire Phoenix Restaurant today. Thus, we're really sorry for the inconvenience today. I seek your understanding on this."

Once he said that, the crowd's faces instantly changed at the same time.

B-book the whole place?

Booked the entire Phoenix Restaurant?

How much would that cost?

Who is so extravagant?

Lu Zhitao's anger was reduced by half as he clearly knew that it was not easy to book the entire Phoenix Restaurant, even for his Lu family. It was akin to burning money.

The person who did such a thing... could not be offended.

"Oh... you should've said so earlier!" Lu Zhitao exchanged glances with the people behind him. "We'll come back again tomorrow."

Su Hui smiled. "Sorry, that person has booked the entire place for three days straight. If you really want to come, please come three days later."

Chapter 83: Digging My Own Grave

The entire street fell into a strange silence once again.

Almost everyone could not believe what they had just heard as they stared at Su Hui in disbelief.

Three days?

Booked the entire Phoenix Restaurant for three days?

Is that person crazy?

"W-what..." Lu Zhitao could not even speak in a short amount of time because he was too shocked.

"Today is a celebratory day for our esteemed guests, so Phoenix Restaurant will not hold it against you. Young Masters, please take your leave." Su Hui turned around after saying that and clearly did not want to continue talking to them.

Su Hui might not even meet the Lu family head if he came on a normal day, so it was very rare for him to be patient enough to talk to Lu Zhitao.

“Fourth Young Master, Phoenix Restaurant can’t be rifled with. We should go.”

Anger rose in Lu Zhitao’s heart, but he became more clear-headed once he heard the reminder. Just as he was about to cower and leave, his gaze shifted and landed on the pretty young girl standing nearby.

She was just standing there quietly, but she seemed to make everything around her lose its color.

Lu Zhitao’s eyes immediately brightened. *Since when did the Imperial City have such a beautiful lady?*

Chu Liuyue’s eyes shifted when she noticed Lu Zhitao’s gaze.

Lu Zhitao did not go to the Crown Prince’s banquet that day. She had also disguised herself when they argued the previous time, so it was normal for him not to recognize her.

“Oh my, whose daughter is this? Why haven’t I seen you before?” said Lu Zhitao as he walked over.

Su Hui moved and blocked his way. Su Hui’s smile had vanished from his face, and his tone was packed with warning. “This lady is Phoenix Restaurant’s esteemed guest today—Ms. Liuyue.”

...

“What? They’re hosting the banquet at Phoenix Restaurant? How is that possible? They can’t afford it!”

The entire Chu family was stunned when they heard the piece of news the pageboy brought back. “I heard that Zhen Bao Pavilion’s Second Master Yan booked the entire place for her as thanks for selling the hunting ground’s title deed.”

Chu Yan was so furious that his teeth were itchy. *Everything was going well until Yan Ge appeared out of nowhere.*

“I also heard that high-level fiends have appeared in the hunting ground recently, so the price surged drastically. Fourth Princess is also going to bring a few people over today.”

“This Chu Liuyue is so lucky. Even though she lost her marriage agreement with the Crown Prince after selling the hunting ground, she won Zhen Bao Pavilion’s liking.”

“What kind of place is Zhen Bao Pavilion? Would they look at Chu Liuyue differently just because of a mere hunting ground? I think something must be up behind the scenes.”

“It’s not the time to talk about this now. We should think of what to do next. The news about Zhen Bao Pavilion standing up for Chu Liuyue is probably spreading like wildfire around the Imperial City. Some might even go and support Chu Liuyue and her father because of Zhen Bao Pavilion.”

First Elder’s face darkened, and he suddenly laughed coldly. “Hmph, this incident isn’t so simple. Zhen Bao Pavilion snatched the Crown Prince’s belongings. Now that high-level fiends have appeared in the hunting ground, the Crown Prince will only hate Zhen Bao Pavilion even more. He might not do anything to Zhen Bao Pavilion, but he will definitely push the blame to Chu Liuyue. The people who go to the banquet today aren’t only going against us but offending the Crown Prince as well. I want to see who will intentionally get involved in this mess.”

...

Chu Liuyue walked into Phoenix Restaurant and discovered that the place was huge, even though there were only two floors.

Upon walking in, she realized that there was an annulus level apart from the main hall.

A clear pond sat in the middle of the building. The pond was surrounded by borders carved from agarwood, exuding a light fragrance in the entire Phoenix Restaurant that refreshed one's heart.

"Don't worry. Officer Chu Ning and Ms. Liuyue, I've already sent out the news about the banquet venue changing to Phoenix Restaurant. You can just wait here peacefully."

Chu Liuyue was secretly touched that he had done so much. The other party was clearly prepared and settled everything for her.

Chu Ning could not help but say, "Yue'er, we must thank Second Master Yan properly this time."

Chu Liuyue nodded. In actual fact, she also wanted to ask Second Master Yan some questions.

At this time, a voice sounded from the outside. "Second Master Yan is here!"

Speak of the devil.

Chu Liuyue and the rest turned around and saw Yan Ge walking towards them.

She did not expect Yan Ge to be the first to arrive. According to his identity, it was already very rare for him to come personally, not to mention this early.

Chu Liuyue suppressed her surprise and welcomed him with a smile and bow. "Second Master Yan."

Once Yan Ge saw this, his heart skipped a beat, and he hurriedly moved behind. "Don't say that."

Chu Liuyue glanced at him curiously and noticed that he looked rather anxious and a little... restrained. He seemed very different from the delightful and calm Second Master Yan she first met. "Second Master Yan, what happened to you?"

Yan Ge tried hard to pretend to be calm, and his mouth curved up unnaturally. "N-nothing much. Ms. Liuyue entering Tian Lu Academy is a very happy incident. I came here to celebrate with you."

Chu Liuyue's eyes curved up like crescent moons. "Your gift is too much."

Yan Ge waved his hands. "It's nothing much! Nothing much! I even brought some gifts for you; they're outside."

Chu Liuyue casually scanned her surroundings and saw quite a few boxes outside. The corner of her eyes twitched. *He's giving gifts in boxes?*

“Second Master Yan, you’re too kind...”

Yan Ge forced a smile.

I only gave 300,000 silver taels for the title deed of Master’s wife... I wouldn’t be digging my own grave if I knew of this earlier.

Chapter 84: Fight

“It’s just a small gift; it’s not much. Ms. Liuyue, you must accept it.”

Chu Liuyue was silent as she stared at the gift boxes piled into a hill outside.

Small gift... Does Yan Ge have a misunderstanding of this term? Or does he think that Zhen Bao Pavilion has too much money?

But Chu Liuyue could only accept them in the end. Considering Yan Ge’s determined expression, she would be looking down on him if she didn’t accept them. “Then, I can only accept your goodwill respectfully.”

Yan Ge finally heaved a sigh of relief in his heart when she finally accepted it. Only God knew that his soul was almost frightened away when he heard that his master was choosing presents for Chu Liuyue.

He never thought that his master's rumored missus would be Chu family's Big Missy—the one he had recently struck a deal with—Chu Liuyue.

“That's great! That's great! I didn't expect Ms. Liuyue to have such outstanding talent. You really surprised me.”

This was the truth. Who would have thought that Chu Liuyue—whom everyone thought was a good-for-nothing—could actually enter Tian Lu Academy and attain such great results?

With Chu Liuyue's talent and forbearance, it was no wonder his master—who did not care much for girls—was attracted to her.

Yan Ge had dealt with Chu Liuyue before during the hunting ground business deal, and he had admired her quite a bit. Now that he knew she was the apple of his master's eye, his attitude was naturally even better.

He looked at Chu Ning and sighed emotionally. “I heard that you've completely recovered, and you're now the imperial guards' Commander in Chief. I haven't congratulated you yet.”

“Second Master Yan, you're too kind.” Chu Ning walked forward and looked at Chu Liuyue lovingly. “If it wasn't for my Yue'er...” He paused and did not continue.

Even though Yue'er passed all three examinations and entered Tian Lu Academy, her most outstanding achievements were her placing second in the Xuan Master assessment, followed by first place in the warrior assessment. Nobody seemed to mention her heavenly doctor talent.

She also did not participate in the heavenly doctor assessment, nor did she perform ideally in that category during the entrance examination since she passed it forcefully.

Chu Ning originally thought that she would enter as a heavenly doctor, but it seemed like she was hiding her talent on purpose. Even though he did not know the reason, Yue'er definitely had her reasons for doing so.

At the very least, she had a trump card up her sleeves.

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, "What are you talking about, Father? We've relied on each other for so many years, and we have finally made it past the bad days. It's my blessing to have you with me."

Chu Ning's tears started welling up. "Yue'er is right! Today, we should celebrate properly! Second Master Yan, please head inside."

'Inside' definitely meant the more central location.

Yan Ge personally attending the banquet meant that Zhen Bao Pavilion was willing to stand up for the father-daughter duo. It was really rare for Zhen Bao Pavilion to do so with their current status in the Imperial City.

"Haha, Officer Chu Ning and Ms. Liuyue are the true hosts today. You two should head in first," answered Yan Ge with a smile, but his gaze shifted to Chu Liuyue subconsciously. *What a joke! How would I dare to walk in front of Master's missus?*

Chu Liuyue discovered that Second Master Yan was really weird today. However, it was not the time to ask questions. After seeing Yan Ge's persistence, Chu Liuyue did not force him. "Second Master Yan, make yourself at home then."

Yan Ge immediately agreed happily.

Something flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind, and she seemingly nonchalantly asked, "Second Master Yan, I heard that high-level fiends have appeared in the hunting ground. May I know what level they are?"

Yan Ge immediately felt a bit guilty when he heard that and coughed. "Actually, we only found traces of high-level fiends in the hunting ground previously. We haven't seen what exactly they are yet. However... I think their levels aren't too low..."

Chu Liuyue nodded. It was rare to see high-level fiends, so it was natural for Yan Ge not to want to talk about such important things in detail.

Chu Ning looked outside the door, and it seemed like nobody else came other than the people Yan Ge brought. He could not help but say, "I can't thank you enough for booking the entire Phoenix Restaurant. I really don't know how to return the favor. However, there won't be many people coming today; I'm afraid you're just wasting your money."

Yan Ge chuckled and did not say a word. *Waste? I'm afraid it won't be enough!*

...

"Si family's Eldest Young Master, Si Ting, is here!"

The second announcement shocked the people in Phoenix Restaurant.

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw a young man in a blue robe walking over.

The face of the young man was sharp and handsome. He exuded a cold and distinguished aura, similar to a sharp knife. It was Si Ting!

“W-Why is he here?” Chu Ning was surprised.

As the indubitable top aristocratic family in the Imperial City, the Si family rarely interfered with other families' affairs. So, why did they send someone over this time?

They had even sent Si Ting, who had the highest status amongst the Si family's younger generation.

This banquet could be considered as the battle between the father-daughter duo and the Chu family. Everyone knew that they were pitting themselves against the Chu family by coming here.

Logically speaking, the Si family had no need to get involved in this situation. Even if they had to choose, they would choose the Chu family. Then, why would they...

Si Ting had already walked over in the blink of an eye. He first bowed towards Chu Ning. “Greetings, Uncle Chu.”

Chu Ning hurriedly said, “There’s no need to be so formal, Si Ting.”

Si Ting exuded a faintly distinguished yet distant aura, but his gaze was calm and actions appropriate, which people would not be uncomfortable with.

“Did... the Si family’s Master send you over?” asked Chu Ning rather hesitantly.

Si Ting nodded. “Master has been rather busy lately, so he can’t come personally. Thus, he told me to take his place. He heard that you became a stage-five warrior, and he’s very happy about it. He said that he wants to duel with you if there is time.”

Actually, Si Ye was only a few years older than Chu Ning. Both of them had some connections before, but Chu Ning got injured later, and Si Ye became the Si family’s head. Thus, they started interacting with each other less and less.

With Si Ye’s current status, he had no need to come over personally. It was more than enough that he sent the Si family’s Eldest Young Master, Si Ting, over. This was enough to show the Si family’s stance.

Chu Ning was touched. “... Good! Good!”

“However... I came here today on behalf of my family and also myself,” said Si Ting as he looked at Chu Liuyue. “Big Chu Missy and I are disciples in the same Xuan Master course, so I should come over to congratulate her.”

The academy was split into the three factions—warrior, Xuan Master, and heavenly doctor. Originally, few people could be Xuan Masters, so they were more united and bonded.

Thus, Si Ting's actions were considered normal.

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Thank you."

Si Ting felt that the young girl's smile was bedazzling, and he could not look at it directly. His heart skipped a beat, and the weird feeling from before appeared again.

He nodded lightly and subconsciously looked away. "There aren't many people in the academy as we're on a break. However, Si Yang has already gone to call the others over. They'll be here in a bit."

"Si family's Fifth Young Master, Si Yang; Ou family's Second Young Master, Ou Zhen; Sun family's Fourth Missy, Sun Xiaoxiang; General Zhen Nan's daughter, Wu Yingying..."

Chu Liuyue looked up and saw a group of young men and women walking towards her together.

The person leading the pack was Si Yang, and he was filled with excitement. "Phoenix Restaurant! We must eat until Chu Liuyue becomes poor!"

"Okay!" replied the crowd loudly.

"I didn't expect her to be so powerful. I can't even eat at Phoenix Restaurant once every three months."

"That's right! I came out late for the previous assessment, so I didn't even see how she looks. I must look at her properly this time."

“The second place in our Xuan Master assessment got first place in the warrior assessment. Don’t you think those people were driven to their graves? Hahaha!”

“Don’t fight with me later! I want to be the first to drink with her!”

The lively chatter immediately made the entire Phoenix Restaurant livelier.

Si Yang looked up and winked at Si Ting. “Big Brother! I called everyone over! More people are still behind!”

Si Ting softly replied with an “Mm,” but the hands in his sleeves gradually formed a tight fist.

Chu Liuyue blinked. “Si Ting, did you call them over?”

Si Ting nodded grimly. “Not really. We’re all in the same school anyway, and it’s livelier with more people around.”

Yan Ge’s brows rose up high. *What a lad. Is he fighting with Master?*

Chapter 85: Crowd

“Yeah! We’re all Xuan Masters, so we’re family. How can we not come to your banquet?!” Si Yang did not realize that he had betrayed his brother with his words as he hopped over to Chu Liuyue and

marveled at things. “However, I’ve got to say that you’re really generous! You reserved the entire Phoenix Restaurant for this? This must’ve cost a bomb, right?!”

Even he, who was the Si family’s fifth young master, could not come here whenever he wanted.

Chu Liuyue looked at Yan Ge. “Actually, I have to thank Second Master Yan from Zhen Bao Pavilion for this.”

Si Yang and the rest paused when they heard Chu Liuyue mention Zhen Bao Pavilion. It was only then that they saw Yan Ge, who was standing by the side.

The few of them greeted him immediately. “Second Master Yan!”

Yan Ge waved and laughed out loud. “Don’t stand on ceremony, everyone. Ms. Liuyue is the star today. I’m just here to congratulate her on behalf of Zhen Bao Pavilion!”

Everyone was secretly stunned by his words.

What status does Zhen Bao Pavilion hold? In the Imperial City, only a handful of people have the guts to provoke them!

Rumor has it that Zhen Bao Pavilion stood the big families up last night, but they did not receive any trouble for it!

Here on behalf of Zhen Bao Pavilion to congratulate her?

That sounds simple, but it will be very clear that Zhen Bao Pavilion is backing Chu Liuyue up if word gets out!

Si Yang and the others took another good look at Chu Liuyue.

Everyone used to say that Chu Liuyue was a good-for-nothing. However, she got into Tian Lu Academy with stellar results! Even though she broke off her ties with the Chu family, she had Zhen Bao Pavilion backing her up in an instant!

There is probably little to no truth in the rumors about Chu Liuyue! How many cards does she still have hidden!

“Si Yang, what are you waiting for? Aren’t you going to introduce us?” A young man by the side nudged Si Yang and gave him a look. “Only you and Si Ting met her that day. We were behind and could not catch up!”

“Come, come! I’ll introduce you all one by one. This is Ou Zhen!” Si Yang returned to his senses and introduced them to Chu Liuyue one by one. Just as he finished the introductions, a few more young men and women came in from outside.

Without a doubt, they were here because of Si Yang.

Actually, it should be because of Si Ting.

Even though they were all in the same Xuan Master class at Tian Lu Academy, their identities were not to be belittled.

Most of them came from noble families. Some students came from outside the Imperial City, but they also had strong family backgrounds.

After all, large amounts of resources and support were required to become a Xuan Master. Common families would not be able to afford these two things.

Thus, their presence here was representative of their family's wishes.

Of course, Chu Liuyue was not naive enough to believe that her status as a Xuan Master was enough to garner their support.

These people were probably there on account of Si Yang and Si Ting.

Especially Si Ting. His attitude was a reflection of the Si family's attitude!

Si Yang was more extroverted, so he was good at livening things up.

Even though Chu Liuyue did not know these people beforehand, things warmed up fast with Si Yang around.

While Chu Liuyue was surprised by everyone's attendance, Yan Ge's presence stunned the rest of the people.

They were there on account of Si Ting and the Si family, but they did not expect Zhen Bao Pavilion's second-in-charge to be here before them!

No wonder Chu Liuyue had the courage to break off ties with the Chu family!

With Zhen Bao Pavilion, the Chu family cannot act as they please!

"The rooms on the second floor have been prepared. If you all would please..." Su Hui smiled extra graciously.

Si Yang and the rest were a little surprised. "Rooms on the second floor? I thought they were not usually open to the public?"

When ordinary people came to Phoenix Restaurant, they could only remain on the first floor. Rumor had it that the rooms on the second floor had exorbitant prices and hard to reserve.

"We usually have such a rule, but Ms. Liuyue has reserved the entire place today. Thus, it's of no problem. Everyone is classmates with Ms. Liuyue, so, of course, you all have the right to take a seat." Su Hui smiled as he bowed.

Si Yang and the others looked at each other, stunned.

The rooms on Phoenix Restaurant's second floor!

Led by the manager!

What kind of treatment is this!

The youngsters were still young and unfamiliar with such situations, so they could not help but look forward to it. They followed Su Hui up the stairs excitedly.

Soon, only Si Ting remained on the first floor.

Seeing that the others had left, it did not seem appropriate for him to remain there further. Thus, he took a step forward, intending to head upstairs.

“Si Ting, thank you for today,” said Chu Liuyue seriously as she looked at him.

Without Si Ting’s maneuvers, these people would not have come today. Even though she was not worried about it, she had to thank Si Ting for his good intentions.

Si Ting glanced at her. *Sparkles seem to be rippling in Chu Liuyue’s bright, black eyes. She seems to see through... everything.*

Si Ting felt his heartbeat speed up. He instinctively turned and hurried towards the second floor. “It was nothing. Don’t worry about it.”

Chu Liuyue confusedly blinked as she watched him leave, and then she chuckled. She did not expect the Si family's cold and sharp looking eldest young master to be shy.

Si Ting paused when he heard the laughter behind him, and he felt his face heat up. In that instant, he felt like he had been seen right through. He felt a little exposed.

Yan Ge suddenly asked, "Ms. Liuyue, are you happy with the arrangements this time?"

Chu Liuyue touched her forehead helplessly. "Second Master Yan, your thank you gift is a little too expensive."

Even if high-level fiends appeared in a hunting ground, one would not be able to cover the expenses of renting out the entire Phoenix Restaurant!

"It's already too kind of you to rent out the place for three days. I didn't expect you to convince Manager Su to open up the rooms on the second floor... I can't repay you even if I sold another hunting ground to you. Are you sure Zhen Bao Pavilion's master will not have any objections to your actions?"

Yan Ge felt his head throb when he heard this. *Madam, the entire Zhen Bao Pavilion is yours, yet you're saying this? Master is moving rather slowly. There are many things that Madam doesn't know about yet...*

He looked around before breaking into a smile. "Don't worry about it! To be honest, all of the arrangements were Master's ideas."

His ideas? Chu Liuyue was taken aback. She was just prodding for information, but she did not expect Yan Ge would actually admit to it directly!

But... she did not know Zhen Bao Pavilion's mysterious master!

Why was he helping her?

She did not believe that it was just because of the hunting ground!

"I don't know Zhen Bao Pavilion's master, so how..."

"Head of the Ou family, Ou Xiangtian; Head of the Sun family, Sun Xia; Zhenbei Duke, Jiang Yuan; Xiangnan Superintendent, Mo Qing..." At this time, more announcements came from the door!

Everyone was stunned when they heard the names, and they looked towards the door.

From the corner of his eye, Yan Ge saw Si Ting—who was going up the stairs—freeze. He laughed out loud and loudly said, "Master's orders were to make sure your banquet is lively and crowded!"

Chapter 86: Protection

"Hahahaha! Brother Chu Ning, congratulations!"

The laughter just broke out when several men entered Phoenix Restaurant.

Chu Ning suppressed his surprise and went up to receive them. "Brother Xiangtian, why are you all here?"

These people were of high status. By right, they shouldn't have come...

"Brother Chu Ning made a comeback after so many years, and you're now the imperial guards' Commander in Chief. Your beloved daughter got into Tian Lu Academy with stunning talent. Of course, we have to come and celebrate!" said Ou Xiangtian as he patted Chu Ning's shoulder.

The others nodded. They were clearly there for the same reasons.

However, Chu Ning's doubt only deepened. He did know these people, but they were not close. After all, they were all outstanding members of their own families, so there was no way they would be particularly close.

He had been down and under all these years, and people rarely paid attention to him.

Based on these people's status, they didn't have to lower themselves, even if he and Yue'er were different now.

He could not help but take a look at Yan Ge. He clearly heard the words from earlier.

Zhen Bao Pavilion's master said to make sure that Yue'er's party is lively and crowded. Other than renting out Phoenix Restaurant, could it be that he has even invited guests on our behalf...?

“Brother Chu Ning, this has to be your daughter, right?” Ou Xiangtian and the others looked towards Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue greeted them one by one.

“The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! Brother Chu Ning, I am envious of you for having such an outstanding daughter!” Ou Xiangtian sighed. He meant what he said.

Everyone in the Imperial City knew that Chu Liuyue had rare warrior and Xuan Master talent. The key point was that she was talented in both aspects!

She became her year's top warrior and second-best Xuan Master on her first day of school! Who would not be jealous?!

Chu Liuyue was rumored to be a good-for-nothing while Chu Ning was downtrodden because of his injury. Who would've expected both of them to be where they are now?!

“We're not too late, are we?” asked Sun Xia.

Chu Ning shook his head with a smile. “You're just on time, please...”

After hearing the commotion downstairs, the youngsters on the second floor were uneasy.

“Why do I feel like I just heard my father’s name?” Ou Zhen asked confusedly. “Did he beat me silly this morning?”

“It might be, but... I heard my father’s name as well.” Sun Xiaoxiang walked towards the door, looked down from the corridor, and became stunned. “My father really is here! Ou Zhen, your father is here too! You were not mistaken!”

Ou Zhen’s expression froze, and he hugged his head in agony. “No way?! He chased after me all the way here?! He refused to agree when I said I was coming in the morning, and I finally managed to sneak out! I’m doomed! Doomed, I tell you! I’m going to get it from him this time. No! I’ve got to hide first!”

Ou Zhen got to his feet, preparing to jump out of the window.

“Why are you panicking!” Wu Yingying grabbed Ou Zhen by his collar with disdain. “Look at you! It’s just that your father is here. If he really wanted to come for you, can you really get away?”

Ou Zhen had a pained expression on his face because he really could not defeat his father!

Si Ting—who just arrived on the second floor—plainly said, “Your dad is not here to punish you.”

Ou Zhen leaped over as if he had just seen his lifeline. “Si Ting! You’ve got to help me! If anything happens to me...”

“They’re here to offer their well-wishes too.”

Si Ting's words stunned the others into silence and disbelief.

"Ho-how can that be? My father called me an idiot when I told him I wanted to come in the morning..."
Ou Zhen mumbled.

Sun Xiaoxiang cried out. "They're really coming upstairs! They have smiles on their faces too!"

The students huddled together to look over.

The people heading to the second floor seemed to be having a pleasant conversation with Chu Ning and Chu Liuyue!

At this point, Ou Xiangtian looked up and saw Ou Zhen.

The father-son duo's eyes met.

Ou Zhen was ready to leave. "Comrades, I'll..."

"Haha! Ah Zhen, you're here already!"

Ou Zhen knew that he could not hide, so he could only smile stiffly. "Father."

“This child; do you not know to wait for me? Did you come without preparing any gifts?”

Ou Zhen, who was waiting to be lectured: “?”

“However, Father has already brought the gift. Don’t be so careless next time, okay?”

Ou Zhen widened his eyes. *Who was the one who said it was not appropriate to offend the Chu family? Who stopped me? Who called me an idiot?*

From the side, Sun Xia said, “Brother Xiangtian, don’t be mad. The children only wanted to have some fun. How could they have taken things like this into consideration? Look! My Xiaoxiang didn’t bring anything either. As their elders, we have to bear the burden...”

Sun Xiaoxiang, who was implicated: “?”

“Sirs, your room is by the side. Please...” Su Hui was smart, so he arranged for the adults to be placed in a room further away from the children.

Si Yang gave Su Hui a silent thumbs-up.

After the adults left, the youngsters still could not come to their senses.

“This... They were here for Officer Chu, right?”

Si Ting stood behind them and quietly watched the young girl downstairs.

Chu Liuyue was slender, calm, and collected, and had let her sleek hair down.

He knew that Ou Xiangtian and the rest did not come for Chu Ning. No, they were here because of her...

An invisible hand is shielding her from the Imperial City's chaos. Who... is that person?!

Chapter 87: The Dispute

Time passed slowly, bit by bit, and an endless stream of people was coming to Phoenix Restaurant. Many people belonging to rich and powerful families in the Imperial City had come.

Phoenix Restaurant, which was calm earlier, quickly became lively.

People came in succession to exchange pleasantries with Chu Ning, but they couldn't stop themselves from looking at Chu Liuyue. Some were curious, others were confused, and some even looked fearful.

This girl's status must be extraordinary if it can make Zhen Bao Pavilion's Second Master Yan be so attentive to her.

At the very least, with Zhen Bao Pavilion backing her up, few people will dare to provoke her in the open from now on.

No wonder she dared to offend the Crown Prince and the Chu family without fearing the consequences. It isn't surprising when she has such backing.

Chu Liuyue naturally noticed the different sorts of stares at her. She was calm on the surface, but in reality, she was becoming more and more confused.

Who exactly is Zhen Bao Pavilion's Big Boss? Why is he helping me, and what exactly did he do to make the whole Imperial City so afraid of him? These people have inevitably offended the Crown Prince and the Chu family by coming to Phoenix Restaurant today. Nevertheless, they still came! When this is over, I'm going to investigate thoroughly...

Chu Liuyue pushed these thoughts away and followed Chu Ning to greet the guests.

Yan Ge stood beside them and greeted the guests as well. He looked more eager and sincere than them.

Chu Ning might have been in the limelight back then, but he had been silent all these years. Even with his recent and sudden full recovery, he still felt a bit awkward.

As Zhen Bao Pavilion's Second Boss, Yan Ge was best at getting along with all sorts of people. His presence made things easier for both Chu Liuyue and Chu Ning.

Some people couldn't help themselves from whispering when they saw this.

"Second Master Yan has always been a distinguished figure. Even the princes and princesses treat him with respect. Have you ever seen him treat anyone like this?"

“You’re right. This morning, when I heard that Zhen Bao Pavilion would be present, I didn’t think much of it. I assumed that Chu Ning had spared no effort with the invitations. Who would have thought that this was obviously arranged by Second Master Yan at the last minute!”

“Hey, do you guys think he’s being extra attentive toward Chu Liuyue? It seems like... he’s being cautious? He takes Chu Liuyue’s occasional words very seriously! Tsk... do you think he’s taken a liking to her?”

“Shh! Be careful about what you say! You guys arrived late. Earlier, Second Master Yan himself said he was following his master’s orders!”

“That’s strange. Doesn’t he already have a wife...”

“Who knows what means Chu Liuyue used to deserve this? Anyway, the Crown Prince and the Chu family can’t do anything to her for the time being with Zhen Bao Pavillion in the picture! I believe there’s going to be more drama in the future!”

...

“Are you speaking the truth? Ou Xiangtian and the others have gone?”

The Lu family was taken aback after hearing Lu Zhitao’s words.

“I’ve spoken nothing but the truth! After Chu Liuyue offended the Crown Prince and the Chu family, I thought no one would attend the banquet even though she booked the whole Phoenix Restaurant.

Nevertheless, it didn't take long before people started to arrive one after another. Quite a number of high profile people are there too! I came back immediately with that knowledge."

Lu Zhitao recalled all the prestigious names, and he shuddered inwardly. *There might not even be so many attendees, even if it were a prince's or princess's banquet!*

The Lu family members fell silent.

Lu Feiyan listened from the side with disdain. "So what? The Ou family may be powerful, but they can't even be compared with us! Apart from the royal family, we, the four great families, are the most powerful in the Imperial City. Si Ting and Si Yang may be there, but the other three families have yet to make their moves! Those people went for nothing!"

Lu Ming, the head of the Lu family, was sullen. "Fool! On their own, none of them can be compared to the four great families. However, they can't be ignored when they join forces! If it were just for the sake of Chu Ning's promotion as the imperial guards' Commander in Chief, there's no reason for so many of them to go! There's definitely something fishy about it!"

Lu Feiyan was reprimanded, and she became upset. However, she didn't retort when she saw Lu Ming's gloomy expression.

"I don't care if anyone goes or not; I'm not going! Chu Liuyue ruined Minmin's face because of her own jealousy. If I go there, she might ruin my face too!"

Lu Zhitao couldn't help from snorting as he listened. "Big Sister, I have to disagree. Minmin may be pretty, but Chu Liuyue is much more beautiful than she is. Why should she be jealous of Minmin? Chances are that Minmin did something to offend her and got herself into trouble..."

“Four, what do you mean? Have you taken a liking to that b*tch?” Lu Feiyan glared at him with bulging eyes and scolded.

Lu Zhitao sneered inwardly.

Lu Feiyan had always been domineering in the family because she had gotten into Tian Lu Academy. She acted as if she couldn't be offended. He had had an issue with her attitude for a long time.

“Isn't what I said the truth? Besides, Chu Liuyue has become the envy of everyone as a genius, and she has a father who is also the imperial guards' Commander in Chief. Many men will be asking for her hand in marriage! Minmin's reputation and her face are ruined. The Crown Prince won't bother himself about her well-being anymore. Sister, I advise you to keep your distance from her!”

“You...”

“Enough! Shut up, all of you!” Lu Ming snapped harshly. “You will all stay put at home today! No one is to step foot outside! I'm going to the Crown Prince Mansion.”

The Lu family had spent a lot of effort to maintain a cordial relationship with the Crown Prince. At a time like this, it was even more crucial for them to show their loyalty to him!

No matter how powerful Zhen Bao Pavilion was, it couldn't be compared to the imperial court. In Country Yao Chen, only the words of the person sitting on the throne counted!

Chapter 88: Investigation

Unlike the bustling Phoenix Restaurant, the atmosphere in Crown Prince Mansion had been exceptionally tense in recent days.

All the servants in Crown Prince Mansion knew that His Highness had been in a bad mood ever since Tian Lu Academy's mid-term assessment.

Everyone had been treading on thin ice, worried about incurring his wrath if they did anything wrong.

As usual, Rong Jin sat in his study, reading. However, he couldn't take in anything because of his irritable mood. A beautiful girl's face also kept popping up in his mind, and he couldn't shake it away.

He was still staring at the same folder after one hour without actually reading a single word. Finally, he put it away and rubbed the area between his brows. "Song Yuan, how's the situation at the Chu family?"

Song Yuan—who had cautiously been waiting outside—came in when he was called. He bowed respectfully. "Your Highness, Third Missy Chu is still recuperating in her bed. Her condition doesn't seem to be good..."

Rong Jin opened his eyes and looked at him.

Bang!

The prince slammed his palm against the tabletop and spoke in an icy tone. "You know very well what I was asking!"

Song Yuan shuddered and fell on his knees immediately. “Your Highness, the Chu family sent news overnight. Hardly any restaurants in the entire Imperial City have accepted their reservation...”

Rong Jin closed his eyes, his mood somewhat improved. *So what if Chu Liuyue is a double genius? Without support from her family clan, she is isolated on her own! She will know the consequences of going against me! When she is at the end of the rope, she will regret dissolving our marriage agreement on purpose!*

“I own a restaurant in my name. Send word to her. Tell her I am willing to forgive her and offer my help this once if she comes and begs for my mercy in person.”

Song Yuan stood rooted to the spot. His expression became awkward. “Your Highness, i-it’s... Chu Liuyue has found a restaurant for her banquet...”

Rong Jin froze.

“Zhen Bao Pavilion has booked the whole Phoenix Restaurant for Chu Liuyue’s celebratory banquet...”

Clang!

Rong Jin swept everything off his table. He had a murderous look on his face.

Song Yuan dared not look up. He, too, had been shocked when he heard the news. However, this was not the most surprising thing!

“Your Highness, because of this, a rumor has started to spread in the Imperial City that Chu Liuyue has Zhen Bao Pavilion to back her up. Many people have gone to Phoenix Restaurant on account of Zhen Bao Pavilion...”

A mighty pressure descended on Song Yuan! He didn't dare to resist. A blow struck his chest as he flew backward and slammed onto the ground!

Poof!

Song Yuan spat out a mouthful of blood but still managed to stand on his feet almost immediately. “Your Highness, please calm down!”

Rong Jin tightly clenched both his hands into fists. His entire being was being consumed by the anger inside him!

Calm down? How am I supposed to calm down? I dissolved his marriage agreement with Chu Liuyue after much difficulty, even going as far as bearing Father's scolding. What about Chu Liuyue?

She became a genius in the blink of an eye, and she is celebrating without a care! It's as though she wants everyone to know that she has been accepted into Tian Lu Academy! This is clearly a provocation from her to the Chu family and me!

The more glamorous Chu Liuyue became, the more people would mock Rong Jin and the Chu family!

“And here I was thinking about how she could muster up so much courage to...” *It turns out that she had already secured her position with Zhen Bao Pavilion!*

Rong Jin frowned as he paced in his study, and finally coldly said, "Send someone to investigate immediately. I want to know everything about Zhen Bao Pavilion!"

"Your Highness!" Song Yuan looked up in surprise. He scrambled to discourage the prince. "Your Highness, please think twice! Zhen Bao Pavilion has a mysterious background and is incredibly wealthy. It's not wise to mess with them! As you know, people have tried to investigate Zhen Bao Pavilion secretly, but they failed to achieve their goal miserably! You really don't need to get yourself into trouble because of this!"

How could Rong Jin not know this? Even his father treated Zhen Bao Pavilion like it was something important that must be kept secret. Otherwise, he never would've given up on that whole hunting ground matter so easily in the first place!

Tolerating it once or twice only means it will happen more in the future!

"Investigate!"

Chapter 89: Borrow a Place

People in the Imperial City always kept their eye on the course of events.

After Ou Xiangtian and the others found out that Zhen Bao Pavilion had booked the whole Phoenix Restaurant for Chu Liuyue, they immediately changed their attitude and came without stopping.

The news of their arrival caused many—who had previously maintained a neutral stance—to fall in line and come one after the other. They couldn't afford to offend the Crown Prince and the Chu family, but the consequences of offending Zhen Bao Pavilion were much worse!

When the Crown Prince had suffered a loss at Zhen Bao Pavilion, he hadn't been able to retaliate.

As such, people from all over Imperial City began to arrive in waves. By noon, the large Phoenix Restaurant was actually filled to the brim.

"Manager, all the private rooms on the second floor have been filled up. The first floor is also full. We still have a dozen guests outside yet to be seated!"

The pageboys at Phoenix Restaurant were so busy that they hadn't had time to rest their feet.

Business in the restaurant was usually good, but the second floor was rarely open. Thus, things had never been this hectic.

Chu Liuyue and the others had booked the venue. Although the first and second floors were packed to the brim, it still wasn't enough!

Su Hui had a bit of a headache. He apologetically looked at Chu Ning and the others. "Lord Chu Ning, Ms. Liuyue, Second Master Yan, what do you think we should do?"

Phoenix Restaurant was an extremely high-end and elegant place. They never had this many people in the restaurant before.

Chu Ning was at his wits' end as well. "The visitors are all guests. Besides, they're not of ordinary status. It will reflect badly on us if we do not treat them with the hospitality they deserve. Manager Su, is there really no place for them?"

Su Hui sighed helplessly and smiled. "Lord Chu Ning, there's really no room. We can't possibly seat them at the cloister in the center of the lake, can we?"

The four of them fell into instant silence.

Chu Liuyue looked at Yan Ge. "Second Master Yan, you've invited too many people..."

"Oh, Ms. Liuyue, you're mistaken. I didn't invite those people that came towards the end!" Yan Ge quickly waved his hand. Those on his invite list were all respectable and dignified.

The people that came later hadn't even popped up in his mind when he was drafting the invitation list. However, all of them came with an invitation!

"Lord Chu Ning, you've sent out too many invitations!"

Chu Ning's hands balled into fists as he coughed. "At first, I thought not many of them would bother to come, so I sent a few more..."

At the time, he thought it would make a difference if only one of the people he invited did come here. However, he didn't expect all of them to be here!

They had now run out of room in the restaurant!

Chu Liuyue naturally knew what was on her father's mind. For a moment, she was caught between laughter and tears. She pondered for a moment and suddenly had an idea. "Officer Zhao, I wonder if it will be possible to trouble you for an errand?"

Zhao Ming—who had been standing to their side—immediately replied, "Ms. Liuyue, I'm at your command."

Chu Liuyue pulled out an invitation and handed it to him. "Officer Zhao, please deliver this invitation to the Chu family."

As soon as she said that, several people's expressions changed.

"Yue'er, what are you planning to do?" Chu Ning frowned slightly. He didn't want to deal with the people from the Chu family on this joyous occasion!

Zhao Ming took the invitation hesitantly. "Ms. Liuyue, are you sure you want to do this?"

Chu Liuyue nodded.

Yan Ge also couldn't figure out what she was thinking. He couldn't help but ask, "Ms. Liuyue, we don't have enough space in Phoenix Restaurant. Why are you still sending out invitations, and... to the Chu family?"

Chu Liuyue glanced and smiled at Chu Ning, who was wearing a disapproving look. "Father, do you remember that pageboy sent by the Chu family this morning?"

"Of course. Why are we talking about him?"

This morning, before they came to Phoenix Restaurant with Su Hui, they had already sent the pageboy away.

"Have you forgotten? He said we could ask them for help if we don't have a venue to hold our banquet. The Chu family happens to own a few restaurants, right?"

Chu Ning's eyes widened slowly. "Do you mean..."

Chu Liuyue tapped on that invitation as her red lips curved. "Their restaurants are not up to the standard, so naturally we can't let our VIPs go there and suffer. However, we can have them bring over some tables and chairs and set them up on the street outside Phoenix Restaurant. I'm sure we can put quite a number of tables outside."

"Phoenix Restaurant will still provide tea, wine, and food. At the same time, their staff can stay behind to help with the chores and save us from the manpower shortage. It's a win-win situation, isn't it?"

Zhao Ming foolishly asked, "I-is this okay?"

"Why not? Didn't they also say they'll give us a discount for old times' sake?" Chu Liuyue smiled brightly. "I, Chu Liuyue, can still afford to pay for this!"

All those present were flabbergasted by what she said. It took them quite a long time to regain their senses.

Yan Ge couldn't help himself from giving her a thumbs up. "Ms. Liuyue, you're simply amazing!"

This is no longer a slap; she is literally ripping the Chu family's face off, throwing it on the ground, and stomping on it! When this invitation arrives at the Chu family, it will antagonize them so much that they will vomit blood! She is indeed worthy of Master's love. This strategy is fantastic!

Chu Liuyue urged, "Officer Zhao, please."

"Oh! Sure! I'll do it right away!" Zhao Ming broke into a wide smile. He took the invitation and headed to the Chu family without further ado.

Su Hui regained his senses and cupped his hands in admiration. "Ms. Liuyue, that's really clever."

"Manager Su, I'm flattered. However, I hope you don't mind the trouble we've caused."

"How could I?" Su Hui shook his head. Then, he sighed inwardly. *The Chu family must have eight generations of bad luck to offend this lady! They thought they could teach her a lesson by utilizing their family's resources, but who would have expected them to meet their match! The Chu family is going to be a laughingstock in the Imperial City again!*

Chu Liuyue looked towards the door. She rested a hand on her cheek, then tapped her chin as she thoughtfully asked, "As I recall, the Crown Prince also seems to own a restaurant under his name?"

Chapter 90: He Came

“Get him out of here!” First Elder tore the invitation to shreds, shaking with anger. “Get him to tell Chu Liuyue that whatever happens in the future has nothing to do with us since they have severed their ties with the Chu family!”

“Yes, yes!” The pageboy looked at the irate First Elder and retreated hastily. He didn’t dare stay any longer.

The others in the hall didn’t look good as well.

“Who sent that person this morning?” First Elder asked angrily.

No one spoke.

Piak!

First Elder slapped the table so hard that the corners splintered immediately!

“Answer me!”

Chu Yan cringed. Finally, he stepped forward and whispered, “I-I was going to humiliate them. I-I... didn’t expect...”

“Humiliate them? Open your eyes wide and take a look! Who is humiliating who? If this gets out, it’ll embarrass our family. This is all your fault!”

The unfairness suffocated Chu Yan. At the time, First Elder had been aware of his actions and had agreed to send the pageboy, too. Now that things had taken a turn for the worse, he flipped out and made it look like it was all Chu Yan’s fault.

“... Nobody knows she’s capable of doing this...”

The gloom on First Elder’s face was horrifying.

This wasn’t the most important thing. What troubled them the most was that half the city’s most respectable people had already gone to Phoenix Restaurant! No matter what, it was a done deal! This event would certainly solidify Chu Ning’s and Chu Liuyue’s statuses in Imperial City!

“First Elder, I hear that the Lu family head has gone to Crown Prince Mansion. What do you think... What should we do now?” someone asked.

First Elder breathed in deeply. The Crown Prince is still fuming about what happened between Chu Liuyue and Chu Xianmin. He won’t show the Chu family any kindness! We thought we could rely on Chu Xianmin when she climbed the social ladder with the prince’s connections, but who would have expected things to turn out this way? However, this isn’t the time to lose the support from Crown Prince Mansion!

“I’ll have to go there myself!”

...

Chu Liuyue had expected the Chu family's rejection. Instead of panicking, Chu Liuyue asked Su Hui to send his men to the other restaurants to seek help. At the same time, she also sent someone to send an invitation to Crown Prince Mansion.

Chu Liuyue didn't care whether Rong Jin came or not. However, she was happy to give some problems to others.

Unlike the previous repeated refusals, quite a few restaurants immediately agreed this time. Their attitudes were completely different from this morning.

Table after table was set up outside Phoenix Restaurant, occupying almost half the street. People mingled around, and the aroma of the wine was overwhelming. It was really lively!

The focus of everyone's discussions naturally didn't stray away from Chu Ning and Chu Liuyue.

Who would have thought that the father-daughter duo, who had been constantly bullied, would be in the limelight? This truly reflected the ever-changing world with an unpredictable future.

As Chu Ning listened to his peers' countless congratulatory words, he couldn't help but feel sad. He knew very well that all this happened because of Yue'er.

"Brother Chu Ning, if I remember correctly, Liuyue is of marriageable age. Now that she's single, and you've just been promoted, I wonder if you've been considering the sons from any families?"

"Yes! Your daughter is simply outstanding. Many people in the Imperial City will be keeping an eye on her! Haha!"

“Brother Chu Ning, what do you think of my son?”

“And my nephew! He’s also a student at Tian Lu Academy! They must have something to talk about together!”

Chu Ning was beginning to get anxious. After what happened with the Crown Prince, he had become more cautious. For the time being, he didn’t see the rush in getting Yue’er engaged. “Gentlemen, Yue’er is still young. Now—”

“Prince Li has arrived!” Chu Ning was interrupted by this announcement. It also got everyone’s attention!

Countless pairs of eyes turned towards the door!

Prince Li!

This person hadn’t received many guests since his return to the Imperial City. Many still didn’t know what he looked like.

Why was he here on this occasion?