

Chapter 391: When It Comes to Acting, He Has Never Feared Anyone Before (1)

Just like the results of her discussions with Leng Nuan the previous time around, Shi Yao thought that Liang Mumu would try to tamper with the gift she had prepared.

But from the looks of it now, she had thought wrong.

Or rather, she had underestimated just what kind of person Liang Mumu was.

From the start to the end, Liang Mumu never had the intention to tamper with the inkstone she bought. Liang Mumu knew that she was poor and couldn't afford anything expensive, and that was the greatest weakness she had compared to Liang Mumu.

Due to that, Liang Mumu was able to set such a trap for her.

Shi Yao had to admit that Liang Mumu was pretty formidable. At the very least, her tricks had worked this time around.

How could an inkstone she had spent 200 RMB on possibly be authentic?

So, it was not without reason why Qin Yiran and Liang Mumu appeared in the antique market back then. Qin Yiran was her spy, and she brought Liang Mumu there to have a look at the inkstone Shi Yao had bought. With that information, Liang Mumu went ahead to look for the real deal to buy...

Shi Yao knew that Grandpa Lin wouldn't mind the fact that her inkstone was a fake. In the first place, buying a fake inkstone wasn't something contemptible. It was just that her identity was that of the future granddaughter-in-law of the Lin Family...

Liang Mumu's actions had tarnished the reputation of the Lin Family, and the culprit who had allowed it to happen was her...

From this perspective, Liang Mumu had succeeded in her aim.

The Lin Family was bound to hate her after this...

Even if Grandpa Lin, who doted on her, and Sis Jiayi, who was on extremely good terms with her, didn't mind this, the rest of the family wouldn't necessarily think the same. At this rate, even if she didn't annul her engagement with Lin Jiage, the Lin Family would probably do it themselves instead.

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At this point, it felt like the only thing she could do was to apologize to Grandpa Lin.

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao turned to look at Grandpa Lin.

But even though she was the one who had embarrassed the Lin Family and caused such an unhappy incident during Grandpa Lin's birthday, she couldn't see the slightest hint of blame in Grandpa Lin's eyes at all. Instead, they were filled with worry for her...

All along, she knew that Grandpa Lin really doted on her, and this scene really left her feeling deeply moved, as well as a little sad.”

She fiddled with the fork in her hands as she called out “Grandpa Lin”, but before she could apologize, the latter had already interjected, “Yaoyao, it’s fine. Grandpa doesn’t lack that kind of money.”

Hearing Grandpa Lin’s words, Lin Jiayi, who was seated beside Shi Yao, spoke up as well, “Yeah, it doesn’t matter whether it’s real or not. It’s the sincerity that counts. Just let the others say whatever they want to. It’s their mouth, we can’t control what they say. It’s fine, Yaoyao.”

It was still fine before Grandpa Lin and Lin Jiayi said those words, but after hearing their consolations, she felt even more guilty and upset than before.

Her eyelids drooped a little as she moved her lips a little. She wanted to say “I’m sorry”, but before she could utter a word at all, a cake was suddenly shoved into her mouth.

She was taken aback for a moment before she turned her head over with a delayed reaction. She found herself faced with a nonchalant Lin Jiage, who looked as if nothing had happened at all.

Meeting her gaze, Lin Jiage explained casually, “The fruits on the cake won’t taste good if you leave them for too long.”

After saying those words, he cut the cake with his fork and delivered it toward Shi Yao’s mouth. At the same time, he swept a glance at the crowd who had gathered around to watch the show. He waited until Shi Yao was done eating the cake before he remarked nonchalantly, “How can you be so sure that Miss Liang’s inkstone is the real one and Yaoyao’s is fake?”

Chapter 392: When It Comes to Acting, He Has Never Feared Anyone Before (2)

“How can you be so sure that Miss Liang’s inkstone is the real one and Yaoyao’s is fake?”

Lin Jiage’s question caused the entire banquet hall to fall silent. Many gazes in the room swiftly turned in his direction.

Despite having the limelight on him, Lin Jiage didn’t appear to be nervous in the least. With his usual lackadaisical attitude, he glanced at Shi Yao and waited for her to swallow her food before stuffing another slice of cake into her mouth. After that, he began speaking, “Did Miss Liang swear on her name that her inkstone is authentic, or did Yaoyao admit that her inkstone is fake?”

Hearing that question, Lin Jiayi immediately concurred, “What Jiage said makes sense. The two inkstones might look similar, but it’s too early to tell which one is real and which one is fake yet. Why is everyone jumping to conclusions here?”

“I think that Miss Lin said makes perfect sense.”

“That’s right. Given that neither of the inkstones has been appraised yet, it seems far too rash to assume that the inkstone of the Lin Family’s future granddaughter-in-law is a fake...”

Hearing Lin Jiayi’s tone, the crowd swiftly changed their tune too.

Hearing the discussions around him, Lin Jiage's lips curled into a mocking smile.

These spectators sure were a joke. It was just a moment ago that they were insisting that Soft Bun's inkstone was a fake, but as soon as they refuted it, they changed their tune?

What was this world coming to?

As Lin Jiage thought, he fed another mouthful of cake to Shi Yao.

It was just that barely after Shi Yao gobbled down the cake, Shen Bailian, who had been standing next to Liang Mumu, spoke up, "Is there even a need to ask that question? Mumu spent 300,000 RMB to buy this inkstone through official sources, so there's no way it could have been a fake..."

This time, before Lin Jiage could refute the argument, Lin Jiayi had already butted right in, "Just because it's from an official source, you think that it's bound to be real? Besides, the price of a good doesn't necessarily indicate its authenticity. There are plenty of people who spent a huge fortune just to purchase an imitation. It looks like you have been living a sheltered life, Miss Shen."

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Shen Bailian was discontented to be refuted by Lin Jiayi in such a manner, such that she immediately tried to argue her way back.

It was just that Lin Jiage wasn't planning to give her a chance to speak at all. "Sis, I must say that there's one thing you have gotten wrong over here. If a person doesn't have the ability to tell an authentic good from an imitation, she would have no choice but to trust the judgment of official sources. Only those who have an eye for things would visit the antique market to fish for treasures."

Liang Mumu, who had been silent all this while, heard Lin Jiage's words and spoke up, "Brother Jiage is right, I can't tell whether the inkstone is real or fake. So, I made sure to buy one with a certificate of authenticity."

Who the hell is this dog Lin Jiage standing with? Why is he helping Liang Mumu?

Having been sabotaged by her 'own teammate', Lin Jiayi shot a displeased glare at Lin Jiage.

Lin Jiage could vividly sense the killing intent Lin Jiayi was directing at him, but he continued to feed Shi Yao with a calm expression on his face.

When it came to acting, I have never feared anyone before!

Look, didn't I manage to prepare a beautiful pit that Liang Mumu simply couldn't resist jumping into?

Since everything is ready, it's time to start filling up the pit then...

After feeding yet another mouthful of cake to Shi Yao, Lin Jiage finally raised his gaze and spoke nonchalantly, "What my sis has mentioned earlier does make sense too. Just because an object is from an official source doesn't mean it's authentic. Since Miss Liang has acknowledged that she lacks the judgment to determine a real good from an imitation, I have a suggestion to make here..."

Chapter 393: A 200 RMB Cheap Good (1)

As Lin Jiage spoke, he began looking around the room as he remarked, "... I recall seeing Uncle Ge's name on the list of guests. He's a renowned appraiser in this field, so I believe that it would be best to seek his expertise on this matter. May I know if anyone has seen him around?"

The one who was responsible for determining the seating of the guests was Lin Jiage's aunt, Lin Gunan. Upon hearing Lin Jiage's question, Lin Gunan immediately replied, "He should be seated on the table close to the window along the first row."

Lin Jiage had known all along that Uncle Ge was seated there, but he feigned ignorance and looked in the direction pointed out by his aunt. Upon spotting his target, he gave a nod of acknowledgment and said, "Ah, I see Uncle Ge. Sis, may I trouble you to invite Uncle Ge here for a moment?"

Lin Jiayi replied, "Sure."

As she rose to her feet, she glanced at Lin Jiage and murmured beneath her breath, "It's only on Yaoyao's account that I'm running this errand for you for free. If it had been for anything else, you can be darned sure that you'll be forking out a hefty sum!"

The sharp-eared Lin Jiage heard those words loud and clear. He looked at Lin Jiayi speechlessly, but he didn't say anything.

Isn't she far too obsessed with money? This is really getting terrifying!

Soon, Lin Jiayi returned with Uncle Ge.

Uncle Ge was on close terms with Lin Jiage's father, Lin Gubei. After walking over, he first greeted Grandpa Lin and offered his well-wishes before trading some pleasantries with Lin Gubei. It was after all of this that he finally asked Lin Jiage what kind of assistance he could offer over here.

Lin Jiage first politely greeted Uncle Ge before explaining the situation concisely to him. After that, he finally got to the point and said, "Uncle Ge, the reason why I invited you is to have you appraise these two inkstones for us and determine which is the real one and which is the imitation."

When Shi Yao heard those words, she nearly choked on her cake.

In the end, Lin Jiage was still going to get a professional appraisal to take a look at her inkstone?

But that inkstone she bought was just a cheap good she bought in the antique market with just 200 RMB! Was Lin Jiage trying to help her or sabotage her?

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Shi Yao felt incredibly panicked by this turn of event. She hurriedly swallowed her cake so that she could stop what that was going to happen soon.

If Uncle Ge were to appraise her inkstone and deem it as a fake, wouldn't that make the Lin Family more of a laughingstock?

However, as it turned out, Lin Jiage had no intention of letting her speak at all. He stuffed yet another slice of cake into her mouth as he said, "Uncle Ge, please give me a moment before you start appraising."

Then, he turned to Liang Mumu and asked, "Miss Liang, may I ask which is your inkstone?"

Liang Mumu pointed to her own inkstone on the table and replied, "It's this one."

"Auntie Sun..." Barely after saying those two words, Lin Jiage suddenly stopped himself. There was a slight dramatic pause before he continued, "... Forget it, let's not call for Auntie Sun. If Auntie Sun brings Miss Liang's inkstone over, and the result isn't to Miss Liang's liking, I'm worried that Auntie Sun might be accused of tampering with the inkstone... So, in order to ensure that the results are accurate, Miss Liang, I'll have to trouble you to bring your own inkstone over. Make sure to hold it properly so as to avoid accidentally dropping it."

Faced with Lin Jiage's mocking, an awkward look appeared on Liang Mumu's face. Nevertheless, she still walked over to carry her own inkstone over.

Meanwhile, Lin Jiage went through everything in his mind once again, and after ensuring that nothing was wrong, he turned to Uncle Ge and said, "Uncle Ge, we'll be troubling you then."

In that instant, Shi Yao felt a shudder running through her body.

Why does it feel like a calamity is racing my way at full speed? At least give me some time to come to terms with it, will you?!

Shi Yao tried opening her mouth once more to stop whatever that was going on, but once again, before she could say a word, Lin Jiage had already leaned over to her ears to ask with a deep voice, "Do you still want more cake?"

Chapter 394: A 200 RMB Cheap Good (2)

Who in the world would be in the mood to eat cake when placed in such a situation?!

Shi Yao shook her head frantically as she replied, "It's not that I want more cake, I'm thinking that..."

But before Shi Yao could finish her words, Lin Jiage had already interrupted her, "I'm glad that you aren't asking for more cake. You already had too much cake today, I can't give you any more than this."

Is there something wrong with this fellow's head? My main point isn't this at all!!!

Shi Yao glared at Lin Jiage with puffed up cheeks as she harrumphed, "I'm not talking about the cake over here! What I want to say is that..."

"Oh..." Lin Jiage interjected yet again with a knowing nod, as if he finally got what she was driving at. "... I get it. You don't have to say anything more. You want to thank me, right?"

Thank you? Like horseradish I would want to thank you!

Shi Yao suddenly felt that all of the good manners she had been cultivating from a young age was quickly fading away due to Lin Jiage.

“You’re thanking me for getting more cake for you, right? There’s no need for you to be so courteous with me...” Lin Jiage replied with a leisure wave of his hand, indicating that it was no big deal at all.

Afraid that Shi Yao would say something she shouldn’t have, he continued to prattle on, “... To be honest with you, the only animal I have taken the initiative to feed on my own ever since I was young has only been pandas.”

What the hell does he mean by those words? Is he treating me like a panda?

All of a sudden, Shi Yao didn’t feel like talking to Lin Jiage anymore. She turned her head to Lin Jiage instead, shoving the back of her head into his face.

Ah... Is Soft Bun unhappy?

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What did I say earlier that offended her?

Lin Jiage earnestly reviewed what he had said earlier before realization finally struck him. He walked in front of her and said softly, “I don’t mean that you are a panda. What I’m trying to say is that you are like one...”

You are the one who is like a panda! From your head to toe and from in to out, you are the one who is a freaking panda!

Shi Yao twisted her head away even more than before, leaving Lin Jiage with nothing but long, black hair in his sight.

However, Lin Jiage, who wasn’t thinking too much into it, simply went on, saying, “Just think about it, what are pandas? They are national treasures! For patriots, feeding a panda can be considered an act of loyalty. That’s why I said that you’re like a panda. It’s not to say that you look like one but that you’re my...”

Before Lin Jiage could finish his sentence with the word ‘treasure’, he suddenly realized what he was saying and went silent.

However, it was already too late. Even though he didn’t finish his sentence, how could Shi Yao not understand what he was going to say?

Her heart suddenly skipped a beat, and she quickly lowered her head slightly.

After that, the two of them didn’t speak to one another anymore.

The surroundings suddenly seemed to have plunged into silence.

Everyone’s attention was focused on Uncle Ge, waiting patiently for the results for his appraisal.

Another five minutes passed before Uncle Ge was finally done examining the two inkstones, and he took off his glasses.

Lin Jiayi immediately asked anxiously, "Uncle Ge, what are the results of your appraisal?"

Uncle Ge didn't respond to Lin Jiayi's words right away. Instead, he first respectfully turned to Grandpa Lin and greeted "Old Master Lin" before he picked up the inkstone Shi Yao bought and asked Shi Yao, "Miss Shi, were you the one who bought this inkstone?"

Shi Yao's mind was still in utter chaos due to what Lin Jiage said earlier, so she wasn't able to reply at all for a moment.

Beside her, Lin Jiage knocked his knuckle on her head lightly and said, "Panda, Uncle Ge is asking you a question."

Who are you calling a panda?

Shi Yao was dissatisfied with Lin Jiage's remark, but out of politeness, she didn't bicker with Lin Jiage. Instead, she obediently turned to Uncle Ge and replied, "Yes, Uncle Ge. I was the one who bought the inkstone."

Chapter 395: Clearing the Stage While AFK-ing (1)

"Miss Shi, pardon me for asking this, but may I know how much money you have spent on the inkstone?"

This... Compared to Liang Mumu's 300,000 RMB, the amount of money I spent on my inkstone isn't worth a mention at all...?

Shi Yao was put at a spot, but she knew that it was a virtue to be honest. So, she spoke the truth in the end, "I bought it with 200 RMB."

"200 RMB?" Uncle Ge was stunned. He clearly didn't believe those words. With a smile on his face, he asked once more, "Miss Shi, are you joking with me? Aren't you leaving out at least three zeros behind there?"

Leaving out three zeros... Isn't that 200,000 RMB?

How can that be? My monthly allowance is only 1000 RMB, so where in the world am I to raise 200,000 RMB?

Shi Yao shook her head earnestly and replied, "No, I'm not joking. Uncle Ge, I'm being serious over here. I really spent 200 RMB to buy that inkstone."

Uncle Ge looked at Shi Yao earnestly for a moment, and it didn't seem like the latter was joking with him. So, he spoke up once more, "Then, Miss Shi, pardon me for asking you this, but where did you buy the inkstone from?"

"Ah..." Compared to the cost of the inkstone, this question was much easier for Shi Yao to answer. "... I went to the antique market and picked it out from one of the stores."

Antique market? Even though it is quite messy over there, it is indeed possible for experts to fish out cheap, quality goods there...?

Hearing those two words, Uncle Ge seemed to have realized what was going on, and he continued asking, "Miss Shi, is it possible that you have some experience in appraising?"

Lin Jiage had waited all this while for Uncle Ge to ask those words.

This time around, before Shi Yao could answer, he had already interjected with a curious tone, "Uncle Ge, we're dying of curiosity over here too. Why don't you tell us directly what's going on?"

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"Little Ge, don't keep all of us in suspense. Get straight to the point," Grandpa Lin added.

Seeing how even Grandpa Lin had spoken too, Uncle Ge turned his attention away from Shi Yao to Grandpa Lin and began explaining, "Miss Shi's inkstone is a rare treasure. It's an item from the Qing Dynasty, making it an antique that has hundreds of years of history behind it.

Upon hearing those words, Shi Yao thought that she was hearing things. She blinked her eyes again and again, but the scenery around her didn't change.

If I am not in a dream... am I hearing things then?

Shi Yao quietly rubbed her ears as she heard Grandpa Lin's voice, "Little Ge, based on what you have said, does it mean that the inkstone Yaoyao has given me as a birthday present an authentic good?"

"Of course! It's even more real than gold. No matter how I look at it, this inkstone is worth 200,000 RMB in the market at the very least. Old Master Lin, just look at the jade over here on the inkstone. It has a clear and vivid color, which is proof that it's a superior good."

"It's worth 200,000 RMB? But Yaoyao mentioned that she spent 200 RMB to buy it..." As Lin Jiayi spoke, she turned her head over to look at Shi Yao and asked doubtfully, "... Yaoyao, you haven't been buying the lottery behind our back, have you?"

Shi Yao was still feeling a little light-headed from the insane turn of events around her. She shook her head blankly and replied, "I didn't. I really spent 200 RMB to buy this inkstone."

"And that's what that makes this entire matter incredible! The antique market is a mystical place. Veterans in the trade are able to procure priceless treasures at an extremely low price. The fact that Miss Shi was able to spend 200 RMB to fish out a treasure worth 200,000 RMB means that she has a sharp eye of treasure!"

The more Uncle Ge spoke, the more excited he became.

"I'm telling you, in our trade, experience means everything. This is the first time I'm seeing such a young person who has such discerning eyes. Amazing, truly amazing. Old Master Lin, your granddaughter-in-law is a genius!"

Chapter 396: Clearing the Stage While AFK-ing (2)

Genius? Veteran?

“?????”

Shi Yao felt as if she was staring at a book of advanced Mathematics problems, and question marks could almost be seen written all over her face.

Who am I? Where am I? What's happening?

“I see...” Grandpa Lin nodded his head calmly for a moment, but in the next second, he was unable to suppress it any longer and ended up bursting into hearty laughter, “... Our Yaoyao has always been this incredible! She is always able to find ways to surprise me! Hahaha! Ahahahahaha...”

“Old Master Lin, congratulations. You have found yourself a truly capable granddaughter-in-law,” Uncle Ge said.

“You’re flattering me.” Even though Grandpa Lin was replying with a humble tone, there was a proud look on his face that said “You don’t say”.

Seeing that Grandpa Lin and Uncle Ge had forgotten the occasion and started chatting between themselves, Lin Jiayi quickly cut right in and said, “Uncle Ge, since you have managed to appraise Yaoyao’s inkstone, what about Miss Liang’s one? Her inkstone...”

Before Lin Jiayi could finish her words, Uncle Ge had already cut right in, “The other inkstone? There’s no need for me to appraise it at all. Those who have an eye for stuff at all would be able to tell that it’s fake with a single look.”

“Fake?” Liang Mumu, who had been confident all this while, looked as if she had heard an unbelievable thing. She exclaimed out loud, “How is that possible? I spent 300,000 RMB to buy this! How can it be fake?”

Shi Yao was equally shocked as well.

The inkstone that Liang Mumu spent 300,000 RMB to buy was a fake whereas the one she spent 200 RMB on was real?

Liang Mumu wanted to scheme against her, but in the end, she ended up getting done in herself... Just what kind of luck was this? Despite AFK-ing all this while, she still somehow managed to clear the stage?

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“There’s no doubt that it is fake. Look at the patina on the inkstone. It looks artificial because it has been painted over with oil. As for the jade, it’s just a stone that is close in resemblance to jade,” Uncle Ge explained calmly to Liang Mumu,

After that, he turned to Grandpa Lin and said, “Old Master Lin, I would like to chat with Miss Shi for a while. Would it be fine if I take her away for a moment?”

“Of course, feel free,” Grandpa Lin replied heartily.

“Thank you, Old Master Lin.”

After that, Uncle Ge turned to Shi Yao and asked, “Miss Shi, may I ask where you have learned your appraising skills from?”

Appraising skills??

Just hearing all of that professional jargon about what patina and the sort is enough to leave my head spinning. How could I possibly know anything about appraising at all?

Besides, even if I had the talent for that, it's not as if those antiques could be eaten anyway. As a self-certified glutton, I would rather spend my effort on learning how to cook first...?

Did Uncle Ge get possessed or something? Why is he asking all of these weird questions...?

Even though Shi Yao was utterly baffled on the inside, the words coming out of her were still very courteous and obedient, "Uncle Ge, I have never learned appraising before."

She has never learned it before? How could that be possible? There's no way an amateur can possibly fish out a real treasure with just 200 RMB!

Uncle Ge pondered for a moment before finally stumbling upon a logical answer, "Miss Shi, is this just your hobby?"

With such thoughts in mind, Uncle Ge turned to Grandpa Lin and exclaimed in wonderment, "If Miss Shi is already so incredible despite only doing this for a hobby, she must be truly talented. Old Master Lin, she isn't just a genius but a once-in-a-century prodigy!"

Once-in-a-century prodigy?

"?????" Shi Yao blinked her eyes blankly.

Did she not express herself properly? Was her pronunciation that off? Or was it because Uncle Ge's comprehension ability was still a little lacking?

Chapter 397: Was Her Name Really Shi Yao And Not Hacker? (1)

Being complimented by someone else should have been a joyful event, but Shi Yao couldn't help but feel extremely sheepish on the inside. So, she tried to clarify the situation, saying, "Uncle Ge, it was really just luck. A friend introduced me to the shop, and I saw that the inkstone looks not bad and only costs 200 RMB, so I bought it right away..."

But how much of a coincidence would it take for one to buy a 200,000 RMB inkstone for just 200 RMB? Uncle Ge didn't think that it was just luck at play here.

He thought that Shi Yao was just being humble, and that deepened his respect and fondness toward her. He turned to Grandpa Lin and remarked, "Old Master Lin, youngsters nowadays tend to get over their head over the smallest matters. It's truly rare to see someone as humble as your granddaughter-in-law! The fact that she bought it right away as soon as she saw it means that she's a highly decisive person who doesn't hesitate to act on her good judgment!"

Excuse me! Is this a new trend now for people to be complimented over even the most minor of stuff? I bought it because I was afraid that the seller would take back his offer, but even that can be regarded as being decisive?

Shi Yao was simply getting more and more baffled by the situation.

Who in the world could tell her what was going on?

It was as if the entire world was somehow favoring her all of a sudden!

The compliments from Uncle Ge made Grandpa Lin even more delighted. He was smiling so brightly that he could hardly close his mouth anymore. "Of course, look at whose granddaughter-in-law you're talking about..."

Grandpa Lin, calm down, calm down!

Shi Yao prayed deeply in her heart, but it wasn't working at all.

The overly excited Grandpa Lin was more and more overboard with his compliment, "Little Ge, it's not that I want to boast, but Yaoyao has always been good in her studies ever since she was younger. She's beautiful, caring, and filial. You can look out there in the world, but you won't find anyone as good as her. Our Lin Family has really picked up a treasure this time around..."

Liang Mumu, who was hugging the fake inkstone verified by Uncle Ge, looked at Grandpa Lin's gleeful look, the bright smiles on the faces of the Lin Family, and finally the slight smile on the face of the usually forbidding Jiang Wangui. She clutched the inkstone in her grasp tightly.

She had really spent 300,000 RMB on this inkstone, so how could it be fake?

That Ge-something guy, he kept complimenting Shi Yao in all kinds of ways. Could it be that he had been bribed by Shi Yao?

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Liang Mumu was determined to put Shi Yao down, but somehow, after a series of bizarre happenings, she became the one who was humiliated instead.

Listening to the proud words that were accompanied by a "Yaoyao" coming out of Grandpa Lin's mouth, her body began to tremble in agitation.

She couldn't believe that her inkstone was fake. That Ge-something guy must have been lying!

The more she thought about it, the more convinced she was with that idea. So, she interjected Grandpa Lin and butted in, saying, "Mr Ge, are you a sham?"

The words spoken by Liang Mumu left Uncle Ge stunned for a few good seconds. A furrow slowly formed on his forehead as he asked in displeasure, "Miss Liang, what do you mean by that?"

"What do I mean by that? It's exactly as what you're hearing."

The rage boiling within Liang Mumu had dulled her rationality, such that her words had become incredibly impolite.

"You merely shot a glance at my inkstone before deeming that it's a fake. How could there be anyone who appraises so perfunctorily? You must have been desperate to please the Lin Family that you spoke all of that nonsense, isn't that so?"

Uncle Ge was still calm when he heard the first few sentences from Liang Mumu, but when she began accusing her of fawning on the Lin Family, his face began to turn ugly.

“Miss Liang, I’m only here to determine the authenticity of the inkstones. The reason why I’m telling you your inkstone is fake is so that you can demand compensation from the person who sold you the good. I didn’t think that you wouldn’t appreciate my goodwill at all. Since that’s the case, I’ll shan’t hold my words back either!”

Chapter 398: Was Her Name Really Shi Yao And Not Hacker? (2)

“Let me put it like this for you. What you are holding in your hands, you can easily find large handfuls of them in night markets, tourist attractions, and even on e-commerce websites. You should count yourself lucky if you could resell it for 30 RMB, let alone 300,000 RMB. It’s the kind of cheap imitation that costs only 10 RMB to manufacture.

“I hope that you won’t find my words too jarring to your ears, but I’m just putting the truth out to you. Inkstones are not like porcelain vases and paintings, which can fetch up to millions. I’m not saying that there aren’t valuable inkstones out there?—of course there is?—but they are extremely rare. 200,000 RMB for an inkstone can already be considered to be an astronomical sum...

“And yet, you spent 300,000 RMB for one. I really have to say, how much common sense do you lack to actually do something like that? I really wonder if you have brought out a fake one to make a big fuss over it, only to end up getting exposed by me...

“Also, you claimed that I’m a sham? You can ask those who are in the banquet hall and see how many of them recognize me? There are plenty of experts who would invite me over to get a second opinion from me when they are faced with an antique they are uncertain about. Miss Liang, your words don’t demean me. They only show how narrow-minded and ignorant you are.

“There’s a saying that those who are ignorant are to be feared, but what’s truly terrifying is when an ignorant person tries to pass off as a knowledgeable person. Miss Liang, I advise you to learn some humility and manners from Miss Shi...”

Against Uncle Ge’s fast and sharp mouth, Liang Mumu didn’t even have a chance to cut in at all. Her face was completely red by the time Uncle Ge was done, be it whether it was out of embarrassment or anger.

Lin Jiage, who had been watching the show from the side all this while, knew that it was time to wrap up, so he stepped in and said, “Uncle Ge, allow me to apologize to you. I invited you over to do us a favor, but this whole affair ended up upsetting you instead.”

“Forget it, I won’t hold a grudge against a junior. If there’s nothing else here, I’ll return to my seat to have a drink.”

With a wave of his hand, Uncle Ge turned around and began to walk away.

But barely after taking two steps, he suddenly halted his footsteps and said, "There's something that I would like to speak of that will be inappropriate for the occasion, but I think that it's something that has to be addressed.

"It's not that I want to accusations over here, but from the start to the end of this fiasco, Miss Shi hasn't said anything at all. Instead, it was Miss Liang who kept pushing the matter along with her words..."

After leaving behind those words, Uncle Ge walked back to his seat and sat down.

There was no one in this banquet hall who was a fool.

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Those who might not have been thinking deeply into it earlier, after Uncle Ge's explicit hint, they recounted everything that had happened so far and realized that there was more to this matter than what they saw on the surface.

"I didn't notice before, but now that Mr Ge has pointed it out, it sure is terrifying..."

"Despite her young age, Miss Liang is already engaging in mind games. It's obvious that she's trying to make a fool out of the granddaughter-in-law of the Lin Family!"

"In the end, everything backfired on her, and she became the laughingstock instead."

Hearing the words all around him, Grandpa Lin's expression gradually grew more and more displeased.

He was, after all, the person who had built the Lin Family's company from scratch. Years in the corporate world had built up an imposing air within his bones. He might appear to be a jolly old man most of the time, but once he got serious, the authoritative aura he exuded was not to be scoffed at.

"Huiling, is this the kind of child you have been raising up?"

Hearing Grandpa Lin's words, Liang Huiling immediately stood up and said, "Uncle Lin, please allow me to apologize to you. I didn't think that such a matter would occur during your birthday banquet. I'll surely discipline Mumu properly once we get home, and I'll have her pay you a visit another day to apologize to you formally."

Chapter 399: I Said, Apologize! (1)

Lin Jiage's aunt, Lin Gunan, stepped in and said, "Mrs Liang, it's none of our business whether you discipline your niece or not. You can feel free to do whatever you deem appropriate at home. As for paying us a visit and apologizing, you can spare with the trouble. I don't think that my father, my older brother, my sister-in-law, and my future niece-in-law will appreciate your effort."

"Gunan is right," Jiang Wangui, who had been silent all this while, finally spoke up as well. "Our Lin Family isn't so cheap as to allow an attempt to besmirch our reputation pass with just a mere apology."

Liang Huiling lowered her posture slightly as she replied with an embarrassed smile, "Yes, Wangui and Sister Gunan is right. It's really a huge embarrassment that such a fiasco happened. I'll surely make sure to discipline Mumu properly when we get home. I hope that you can calm your anger for now. Besides,

it's Uncle Lin's birthday. We shouldn't let a minor matter like this ruin his mood for the rest of the day, don't you say so?"

Minor matter?

Are you calling bullying Soft Bun a minor matter? If that can be a minor matter, there's nothing in the world that can be considered major anymore!

A displeased glint flickered across Lin Jiage's eyes, and before anyone could respond to Liang Huiling's words, he had already spoken up with a seemingly lackadaisical tone, "Aunt Liang, you really do view Miss Liang as your own daughter. You give her plenty of pocket money to spend, and now you're taking on the role of her parent to keep her line."

Following Lin Jiage's words, hushed discussions broke out in the room once again.

"Oh my god, Miss Liang is not the real daughter of the Liang Family?"

"You don't know? She addresses Liang Huiling as her aunt! She isn't the scion of the Liang Family. It's only because her parents had died early that she was adopted by them."

"Good lord, hasn't she gone way overboard then? If she isn't Liang Huiling's real daughter, how in the world can she bring herself to spend several hundred thousand RMB on a birthday present?"

The discussions around made Liang Mumu's complexion turn even more awful.

On the other hand, a satisfied smile crept onto Lin Jiage's lips.

Didn't you hypocritically talk about Soft Bun coming from an underprivileged family earlier to embarrass her?

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Very well then, I'll return the favor to you right now. I'll let everyone know that you aren't the real daughter of the Liang Family at all...?

You act as if you're the only one who knows how to play around with words over here...?

Have you never heard of the saying 'scums will eventually face the retribution of the heavens'?

And I am Soft Bun's heavens! I'll take care of all of the scums around her!

However, there was still one thing that Liang Huiling got right, and that was that it was Grandpa Lin's birthday today, so he should prioritize Grandpa Lin's happiness over here.

It would do just to make his point known. The atmosphere would only turn awry if he were to go too far over here.

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage spoke up, "Auntie Sun, isn't there usually a reciprocal gift to those who have offered grandpa a birthday gift?"

Auntie Sun, who was in charge of handling the presents, immediately replied, "Yes, Young Master."

“Miss Liang and Miss Shen, you have offered a birthday present to my grandfather, and while there is some unhappiness that transpired afterward, it wouldn’t do for our Lin Family not to offer a reciprocal gift to you...” Lin Jiage said.

He pondered for a moment before speaking up, “Auntie Sun, get the driver to head over to the supermarket and buy a crate of green tea for Miss Liang as a reciprocal gift. As for Miss Shen, I recall that some lotuses have bloomed in our residence’s backyard pond. Get the driver to wrap one of them nicely and send it over to Miss Shen. Remember to have him choose the whitest one so that it compliments Miss Shen well...”

*Green tea, lotus... He’s obviously using a roundabout manner to insult them as a Green Tea B*tch and a White Lotus!*

Shi Yao couldn’t help but look at Lin Jiage.

Venomous! His tongue is simply too venomous!

There were plenty amongst the guest who understood the deeper meaning behind Lin Jiage’s words, and some of them even couldn’t help themselves and ended up bursting into laughter.

This put Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian even more into a spot.

“Alright, let’s rest the matter here...” Lin Gubei, who hadn’t stopped Lin Jiage all this while, saw that the Lin Family had done enough for now, so he stood forward to close the case. Then, he turned to Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian and told them calmly, “You should return to your seats too.”

“Wait a moment!” Lin Jiayi suddenly spoke out at this moment.

The eyes in the crowd immediately turned toward her.

However, Lin Jiayi remained perfectly calm despite having abruptly put in the limelight. With her eyes still looking intently at both Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian, she said, “You can return to your seats, but before you do so, there’s something that you have to do...”

Halfway through her words, her eyes moved toward Shi Yao, and she continued, “... and that’s to apologize to Yaoyao.”

Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian stood on the spot quietly. They simply couldn’t bring themselves to open their mouths.

The silence continued for around half a minute before Lin Jiayi pressed on impatiently, “Apologize!”

The two of them still showed no signs of opening their mouths yet.

Lin Jiayi’s forehead furrowed as she repeated herself again, “Apologize to Yaoyao!”

Liang Mumu pursed her lips tightly, and Shen Bailian turned her head away silently.

Seeing this, Lin Jiayi finally rose to her feet.

Without any warning, she smashed her fist into her chair, and cracks swiftly began spreading all over the chair. With an incredibly menacing tone, she spoke up once more, “I said, apologize!”

Chapter 400: I Said, Apologize! (2)

Lin Jiayi's action was too abrupt and violent.

Other than the dignified Jiang Wangui, who was gracefully sipping on her tea, and Lin Jiage, who was so used to this that he wasn't surprised by it at all, the others who were present in the banquet hall jolted in fright.

This was especially so for Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian. A cold shiver ran down their spines as their faces turned pale.

In the end, it was Liang Mumu's aunt, Liang Huiling, who recovered first from the shock and spoke up first, "Jiayi, you have scared them into silence. I'll apologize on their behalf..."

It was just before she could even finish her words, Lin Jiayi had already cut in coldly, "Are you them?"

Liang Huiling was choked by those three words spoken by Lin Jiayi, and for a moment, she wasn't able any words to rebut that.

"Aunt Liang, what I want is Liang Mumu and that woman beside her to apologize to Yaoyao..." As Lin Jiayi spoke, her gaze turned to Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian as she spoke lividly, "... There's a limit to my patience. I'll only say it one last time..."

Lin Jiayi's hands closed into fists, and the sounds of her knuckles cracking echoed loudly in the air. She squeezed a word out of her mouth, "Apolo..."

But this time around, before she could finish saying the entire word, Shen Bailian suddenly shrieked in fear as she exclaimed, "I'll apologize, I'll apologize! Don't hit me, don't hit me..."

Following that, Shen Bailian turned to Shi Yao and said, "I'm sorry for what I've done..."

It didn't seem like Lin Jiayi was very concerned with Shen Bailian either. Watching as the latter apologized, she muttered "Wimp" beneath her breath before turning her gaze toward Liang Mumu, saying, "Your turn."

However, Liang Mumu pursed her tightly together.

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The furrow on Lin Jiayi's forehead deepened further. Her rage was growing from her patience running thin. But before she could act up, Liang Mumu suddenly turned her gaze toward Shi Yao.

As Liang Mumu looked at Shi Yao, she felt incredibly aggrieved and hateful inside, but at the same time, she was deeply afraid of Lin Jiayi. It took her a great deal of conviction before she finally forced herself to spit out two words, "I'm sorry..."

Despite so, Lin Jiayi wasn't satisfied with the apology at all. She snapped impatiently, "Who are you apologizing to? To me? My grandfather? My mother? My aunt? My younger brother?"

Liang Mumu's face turned red from Lin Jiayi's criticism. She clenched her fists so tightly that her fingernails dug into her flesh. She stared at Shi Yao for a long while before she finally spoke up once more, "Yaoyao, I'm sorry."

Once again, Lin Jiayi was still not satisfied with Liang Mumu's apology, and she picked a fault with it, "Is Yaoyao a name you should be calling out?"

Liang Mumu's face turned even more awful. Despite being in a public place, she couldn't hold back her tears anymore. Her lips quivered in agitation as her vision slowly blurred from the tears brimming in it. It was only till she finally couldn't see Shi Yao clearly did her lips finally moved, "I'm sorry, Miss Shi."

This time, Lin Jiayi was finally satisfied. Without paying any heed to Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian anymore, she retracted her gaze and returned back to her chair.

Shortly after she sat back down, she soon noticed that Shi Yao was staring at her with widened eyes.

She was bewildered for a moment before finally coming to a realization.

She stood up slightly to take a second look at the chair she had been sitting on, and after seeing the cracks all over it, she gritted her teeth for a brief instant before she assumed her usual elegant and graceful look.

She directed a gentle smile toward Shi Yao and said, "Yaoyao, it's not my strength that caused the chair to crack. There's a problem with the quality of this chair."