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Chapter 86.3

Shu Qing's Visit

Shang Xiao restrained her smile with a stubborn expression and shook her head as she sighed, "Nothing I can do, some people are just so annoying when I look at them!"

Unexpectedly she had answered like this, stunning the people at the table as they did not know what to say, especially Pei Che who did not know whether to laugh or cry as he could neither stand nor sit down. Xuanyuan Yi smirked and the corners of his mouth perked up, rejoicing in Pei Che's misfortune. Finally, someone agreed with his opinion! Li Ming lowered his head and drank fiercely; he wanted to laugh too, but he did not dare to be too presumptuous in front of Pei Che, so he had to endure a great deal.

Shu Qing did not want to endure it and chuckled happily, as it turned out there was a time when this fox (sly person) could be deflated!

This scene actually put Pei Che on the spot and even though Shang Jun also felt it was very interesting, but as the host, he still called out to Shang Xiao, "Xiao Er!"

Calculating that certainly older brother would not blame her, Shang Xiao just curled her lip and was too lazy to take another shot at Pei Che. She put a piece of pork rib in Murong Shu Qing's bowl and excitedly said, "Older sister Shu Qing, eat this."

Murong Shu Qing was having a hard time restraining her smile so she took a bite. She originally was doing it to divert from this awkward atmosphere, however this one bite startled Murong Shu Qing as she nodded her head and said, "It is delicious." This taste, was this the sweet and sour pork ribs that she had not had for a long time?

Shang Xiao said with a proud face, "Of course, this is the sweet and sour pork ribs that you mentioned to my older brother last time; he especially made it for you." Hearing that older sister Shu Qing was coming today, my older brother prepared it at noon, and it took the whole afternoon!

Sweet and sour pork ribs? Murong Shu Qing seriously tasted another piece again and found it was moderately sweet and sour, smooth, and soft; she seemed to only have told him once! Murong Shu Qing smiled and said, "The taste is pretty good! Jun, you are really talented!"

Shang Jun replied with a faint smile, "It is good that you like it."

Sure enough, it was sweet and sour pork ribs; some people would feel sweet in their hearts when they ate it, but some would feel sour. For example, Xuanyuan Yi's hand that was holding the chopsticks tightened up at this moment before he slowly let it go. Another example was that the smile on Qin Xiu Zhi's face became more and more exaggerated. This all happened because of a bowl of sweet and sour pork ribs and a faint pampering sentence that came thereafter.

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The atmosphere at the dinner table was not relaxed at all. Shang Jun could only chat with Murong Shu Qing and Qin Xiu Zhi from time to time and it was as if Xuanyuan Yi and the other people did not exist at all. Li Ming was annoyed in his heart; they came here to discuss some business affairs, not to accompany them to eat and drink! It would be better to kill the enemy on the battlefield with their time, so Li Ming put down his chopsticks and said straightforwardly to Shang Jun, "Master Shang, we are here this time to ask for your help."

Shang Jun also put down his wine cup and asked courteously, "I wonder what Shang Jun can do?"

He was willing to take up this topic, so strictly speaking, there was still hope. Perhaps Li Ming's rash action could actually complete the mission. Pei Che and Xuanyuan Yi exchanged a glance with each other, but they did not speak and let Li Ming deal with Shang Jun.

Li Ming knew he should seize this opportunity and so he promptly said, "Cang Yue set up this one formation, which is a very strange formation, and so my army wants to ask Master to help break the formation."

Shang Jun shook his head and smiled to say, "Shang Jun is just a merchant. I think the General is looking for the wrong person." Looking towards Shu Qing inconspicuously, he could only see that she was lowering her head to eat happily, with a look of carelessness.

"Master Shang should not be too modest; the surroundings of this manor also have been set up with a complicated formation, so if you are willing to break the formation, then it should be rather easy for you." Even though Li Ming did not have any great skills either, but since the army said that he could, he would give him a compliment first to see if he would agree or not.

But Shang Jun did not take the bait of his tactic, and still only modestly smiled to say, "The General is way over praising. Those formations outside use very little skills; it is only to protect the manor and not something too complicated at all."

"But..."

By mocking his knowledge, it was clear that Shang Jun was rejecting their proposal. If one was wise, then one should say a few words to change this topic, but since their purpose this time was to break the strange formation, they must convince him. Fearing that Li Ming would offend Shang Jun, Pei Che pulled the corner of Li Ming's jacket and motioned him not to speak any more.

Pei Che got up, held the wine cup, drank all of it and then said, "Master Shang, I believe that you have heard of the battle between Dong Yu and Cang Yue. My army is fighting completely in self-defense and does not have any ambitions to capture the city wall. If Cang Yue is victorious, the war will certainly continue and the people from these two countries will suffer from the war; this includes Master's businesses, as they too will also be disturbed. If Master Shang is willing to help end this war early, then it will definitely be a blessing for the people." Rumor had it that Piao Miao Manor often sent food and clothing to the poor, so he was hoping that the people would move his heart.

Shang Jun's smiling face gradually sank and became gloomy; he (PC) was threatening him with the people?! He was not a saint who could help the world. Shang Jun also picked his wine cup, but instead of draining it all in one go, he sipped the wine until the cup was empty. Then he replied with a powerful voice, "Piao Miao Manor is located on the border between the two countries and it only deals with business and not politics. Besides, it is the responsibility of the generals to defend one's country and kill the enemy on the battlefield!"

This sentence about responsibility caused Pei Che to instantly become speechless, but Li Ming could not help but exclaim, "How come you do not have a conscience like this?!"

Li Ming's exclamation made Shang Jun's already gloomy face to become even gloomier as his obvious refusal caused Xuanyuan Yi and the others to feel even more awkward. For a while, the atmosphere at the dinner table became increasingly depressed and more tense.

Sian's notes:

Luckily Shang Xiao is considered a 'good' girl and not a villain in this story but her personality is definitely similar as those whom you can find in the drama as the annoying second lead who thinks she should get the male lead just because she knows the guy longer & is a better match for him, etc etc. Obviously the days that SX spent in the ancestral hall to 'reflect' on her wrongdoings was a waste as she was not reflecting at all. She was blaming Pei Che for her predicament instead of putting the blame on her rash action. She didn't think that if she didn't disobey SJ's order not to go to the army camp, then one, she wouldn't have to fight Pei Che so her hand wouldn't strain, and two, she wouldn't get caught, needed SJ to save her & get punish as a result. Amazing right how some people (even in our real world) will always blame some

ner nana wouldn't strain, and two, she wouldn't get caught, needed SJ to save her & get punished as a result. Amazing right, how some people (even in our real world) will always blame some other people for whatever their predicaments are instead of looking at their own actions that cause their predicaments. If people have the courage to 'reflect' on their actions more instead of blaming some other people, I think the world will be a better place to live. Wow, this note is so deep. ☺

On a lighter note, this part made me hungry! Sweet and sour pork ribs... yummy... The words paigu that the author was using, can actually mean pork chop, pork cutlet, pork ribs (even a skinny person, lol) so I wasn't sure what to use but I think sweet and sour pork ribs will do because we have this meal at Chinese restaurants in the modern time so MSQ must have thought about this meal. Keep in mind that the ribs are more like short ribs and not spare ribs. They're from the same meats but they're cut differently than our bbq spare ribs type. Pork short ribs are cut in short pieces instead of long pieces. I happened to make pork ribs a couple weeks ago. Not sweet and sour but I used char siu (Chinese bbq sauce) & kecap manis (Indonesian's sweet soy sauce). I put way too much indo's sweet soy sauce so the color was dark instead of red color from char siu, but it still tasted yummy. Here's the picture to make you hungry even more... 🍖

