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Chapter 57

Hai Yu (Part 2)

The department of commerce head office was not that far at all; he could see it once he passed through the bustling street full of stores. However, Shang Jun did not feel comfortable at all while he walked, it was because he finally believed Lao You's words were true and as such, he firmly determined that he would leave sooner. The whole time he walked there were countless admiring or frightened eyes with ridiculing expressions that sized him up and down; these gazes were all from the women. Shang Jun had never thought that there would be a day when he was stared at so fixedly by women like this, and frankly, since he was not used to this, he had mixed feelings in his heart.

The door to the department of commerce head office was impressively eye-catching, with bluestones steps, stone sculptures of spirited animals and a copper door. It was full of all kinds of things that could not be ignored. On both sides of the door were four silver armored female generals. Shang Jun's eyes were bright, as these generals were slightly darker in skin color with their backs straight and eyes that displayed self-confidence and perseverance that was not usually found in women's eyes. It must be Hai Yu's special custom that nurtured these unique characteristics.

He had quite a favorable impression in his heart, so Shang Jun said with courtesy, "This person is a traveling businessman from Dong Yu; I am requesting to meet with Official Meng."

The female general took one glance at Shang Jun and her eyes flashed with a trace of surprise, but her expression quickly returned to normal as she answered, "Wait a moment."

After the female general went inside for a while, she came back out with another blue clothed woman. The woman looked at Shang Jun and actually slightly knitted her eyebrows before she asked, "You came from Dong Yu?"

"Yes." Shang Jun was quite interested so he looked at the woman up and down; she had clear and bright eyes like a cat and could be regarded as a beauty. Along with her natural and unrestrained personality, she did not put on any pretense at all, it was such that it caused people to be unable to forget her. But what Shang Jun was interested in, was not this, but rather that she was the first person who looked at him without any peculiar expression, unlike the other women from Hai Yu. Moreover, her gaze always seemed to be searching behind him, as if she were looking for another person.

Shang Jun boldly guessed, "Is Miss looking for Bi Xian?"

The woman was startled at first, but then her brows wrinkled even tighter as she looked at Shang Jun with some caution.

He guessed it correctly! Shang Jun faintly smiled and said, "He did not come." Could this woman be the reason why Bi Xian could not come or did not dare to come?!

Lan Yi disliked this man's gentle smile and disliked that he seemed to be able to see through her, so Lan Yi coldly said, "Follow me."

Shang Jun's mood was rather good and so he followed her to go inside. The department of commerce head office was the same inside; it was decorated with an impressive style. Once they passed through the wide winding corridor, the woman took him inside the study.

The woman bowed slightly before she quietly called out, "Official."

Shang Jun looked ahead and saw a slightly plump middle-aged woman sitting in front of a desk with her head lowered as she wrote on something; it was such that he could not see her appearance clearly. She was wearing a dark green government uniform that made her look somewhat dignified. Shang Jun did not know how the official ranking in Hai Yu was determined, but after looking at the fabric and embroidery on that government uniform, this person should be Official Meng whom he wanted to meet.

Meng Yi Ru slightly raised her head and nodded; her gaze swept over the white clothed man behind Lan Yi and she paused for a moment. This was a very handsome man! The corner of his mouth had a gentle and calm smile that did not make him look weak like the other men and it rather made him look more impressive instead! This was a rare personality for men in Hai Yu, so Meng Yi Ru put down the brush in her hand and asked, "Who are you? Where is Bi Xian?" The traveling merchant from Dong Yu was usually family of Bi Xian.

Shang Jun cupped his hands in greeting and answered, "This person is Shang Jun. For this past year, Bi Xian's health has not been good, so I am his substitute to come here." Shang Jun noticed that when he said Bi Xian's health was not good, the woman's body next to him stiffened. This woman must have a story with Bi Xian.

Meng Yi Ru nodded her head, smiled and said, "Shang Jun ah! Good name." She was originally interested in Bi Xian, but this foreigner had a strong temperament that the men in Hai Yu did not have! She was interested in this person who had just arrived here for first time; not only did he have a good appearance, but he was also elegant and graceful, and his manners were out of the ordinary.

"Official is over praising. This is the clearance booklet for this time, please look it over." Taking the booklet in his hand, he gave it Lan Yi because Shang Jun had goosebumps all over his body after he saw this Official Meng.

The goods in the merchant ship were written down clearly in the booklet; this was so that it would make things easy for the supervisor. Meng Yi Ru casually flipped it over for a while, before she smiled and said, "This year, there are a lot of goods that have been brought over from Dong Yu."

Shang Jun intuitively grasped the situation and answered, "Shang Jun has already ordered someone to deliver some of the stuffs to Official's residence. Once Official has assessed them, you will know if the goods are good or not."

Meng Yi Ru put down the booklet, pretended to be angry and said, "How can this be allowed?!"

"As the official in charge of the department commerce office, it is Official's duty to inspect each country's goods. It is just that the goods are a lot, so Official will be troubled." Shang Jun made

an excuse; for a businessman, dealing with corrupt officials was easier than dealing with honest officials.

Intelligent man! Familiar with the situation and discreet! She liked him even more, so nodding her head, Meng Yi Ru conveniently stated, "It is not easy for this Official to occupy a senior position, only Shang Jun is still understanding ah!" Closing the booklet, Meng Yi Ru said, "It is late now, Shang Jun can stay to eat dinner."

Eat dinner? Shang Jun looked at the scorching sun that was still shining above; was it time for dinner?! Official Meng's expression made him feel uncomfortable, so he slightly cupped his hands and answered, "Shang Jun has just arrived today, so I still have a lot of things to handle, plus Official is also busy so Shang Jun does not dare to disturb anymore."

Meng Yi Ru clearly would not accept any rejection, so she instructed with a low voice, "Shang Jun does not need to be too polite. Just take this as a welcoming dinner for Shang Jun. Lan Yi, please take Gentleman Shang to the reception hall."

"Yes, Gentleman Shang, this way please." Lan Yi led the way, so Shang Jun could not retreat anymore. After thinking it through, Shang Jun still followed Lan Yi to walk to the rear court.

Along the way, Shang Jun walked slowly to the reception hall without a worry, but Lan Yi who was walking in front of him, had a heavy heart. Shang Jun was still not in a hurry and he deliberately slowed his footsteps to wait for her question. Unfortunately, even until they entered the reception hall, she still continued to show a complicated look. Shang Jun sat down on the wooden chair and finally smiled to ask, "Does Miss Lan want to ask anything of Shang Jun?"

This time, Lan Yi directly asked without even turning her body around, "How is Bi Xian's health?"

She really cared about Bi Xian. Carefully planning it in his head, Shang Jun deliberately pursed his eyebrows, lowly sighed and said, "His health was originally not too good. He had to come here on his own every year, being in the wind and waves with the dangerous reef along the way. When he returned last year, he was always depressed and often drank heavily, so it made his health get worse and worse." Heaven knew that he had only met Bi Xian once!

"Is it really serious?" As Shang Jun expected, Lan Yi's complexion greatly changed.

Shang Jun lowly sighed, shook his head and answered, "The physician said that he suffered from an emotional issue in his heart. If he cannot untie this matter, he may not be able to be well." Deliberately pausing for a moment, Shang Jun secretly observed Lan Yi's face as he pretended to feel sorry and said, "It is really a pity. We do not know what matter is gnawing at his heart. We only heard when he was drunk and unconscious that he always muttered something like, 'why not letting me come, why not letting me see you', so I guessed the matter in his heart must have been related to Hai Yu!"

After Lan Yi finished listening, she suddenly turned around and coldly answered, "You just wait here. Official Meng will come over shortly." After she finished speaking, she urgently turned to leave the reception hall.

"Miss Lan." He could not see her expression, but since her figure was eager to run away, it already told him the answer, so Shang Jun clearly stated, "You are actually that person who is gnawing at his mind."

Lan Yi's retreating figure suddenly stopped, but she did not respond as she then directly left out of the rear court.

Leaning on the door frame, Shang Jun thoughtfully looked in the direction where she had just anxiously left in. He thought of the night when Bi Xian whispered in grief; he was obviously in love and interested in her, but why would they decide to take this route?! Furthermore, this dinner with Official Meng would not be that simple!

Shang Jun softly raised the corner of his mouth and sat down with his eyes closed. Bi Xian, you sent me here to this 'interesting' place called Hai Yu unprepared, so I will surely thank you nicely! Surely!!

Sian's notes:

Ok, I know this Hai Yu is supposed to be the modern feminist country, lol, but come on with the exaggeration on the supposed weak temperature of those Hai Yu's men??!! Men are men regardless whether the women are strong or not!

Lol, do you think Bi Xian actually trapped Shang Jun for sending him to Hai Yu. Hahaha... He was being chased by that Meng Yi Ru woman so he sent out Shang Jun to replace him instead. 🤔🤔

I can't believe Shang Jun is such a teaser! Lol... Ah, he's thinking to give a revenge to Bi Xian. Hahaha...