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## Chapter 72

### Gifts

"It is you?" Shang Jun stated when he saw him (QXZ) with his bright, tall figure and perfect facial features with moist, plump lips that softly pursed together. The night wind was blowing his long hair and entangling it together with his green garment. This beautiful face that was as warm as jade along with his temperament matched up with a certain image in his brain; no wonder he felt a sense of déjà vu from those brilliant star-like eyes that were as deep as the blue sea. Shang Jun finally remembered that he was the one who had sat on the fishing boat admiring the painting of a man.

Qin Xiu Zhi knew his own appearance; it was because of this face that countless people's eyes were drawn to him. He did not like this feeling and was even annoyed by it, but when Shang Jun stared at him, Qin Xiu Zhi did not feel any annoyance in his heart but instead felt slightly nervous.

After hearing Shang Jun's words, Qin Xiu Zhi softly furrowed his eyebrows and asked, "You have met me before?" Impossible! He completely did not have any impression of him! If he had met a person like Shang Jun it would have been impossible to forget him. Moreover, Shang Jun had seen his real face without any mask on, so it was strange because it was very rare for him to show his real face to people in the last few years.

Shang Jun smiled and answered, "Almost a year ago at Dong Yu harbor; you were sitting on a small fishing boat."

Qin Xiu Zhi then surprisingly asked, "The man who was sitting on the reef was actually you?" At that time, he could not find any way to get to Hai Yu. He had been living at the East China Sea for a month and would go boating on the sea every day. He remembered one day that he had sensed a probing gaze and when he had looked up, he saw an impressive looking man who was sitting on the reef looking at him. That man was just casually sitting there, but one could mysteriously see his confidence and even though he did not clearly see the man's appearance, he could not help but nod his head to him, but he was still annoyed for a long time after for that reason.

"It was me." Shang Jun nodded his head and calmly answered, "I was about to go to Hai Yu at that time."

The two people could not help but look at each other and laugh. They both lamented how wonderful things were in this world. At that time, it was only a chance meeting, but they did not expect that they would become friends in life and death tonight. After spending the whole night in the jungle, the sky finally became brighter as the rose-colored early morning sky could faintly be seen outside the jungle. An extremely quick figure rushed up, so Shang Jun quickly pulled Qin Xiu Zhi behind him as a precaution as he stared at the oncoming person until he could clearly see that person's face. It was only then that Shang Jun could secretly relax his breath.

Yu Feng had been traveling day and night from Cang Yue and had just come back. After he entered the jungle, he could see Shang Jun with a stunningly beautiful man standing outside the manor. It was just barely dawn now, so did they just come back or want to go out?! Despite the suspicions in his heart, Yu Feng knew not to be talkative, so he cupped his hands and said, "Master."

Shang Jun smiled, nodded his head and said, "Yu Feng, go to the study hall and wait for me."

"Yes."

Yu Feng went inside the manor without speaking any further. Shang Jun said to Qin Xiu Zhi, "You are also tired after this whole night, so go back and rest."

"En," Qin Xiu Zhi and Shang Jun both walked slowly to go inside the manor. Shang Jun then nodded his head and went towards another path. There must be something important Shang Jun wanted to know from the other man, otherwise why would Shang Jun be so impatient like this?

Shang Jun really was in a hurry, so immediately after he entered the study hall, he promptly asked, "Did you find it?"

"It was fortunately fated." Yu Feng carefully opened a small wooden box that he had been protecting and took out a square black ink-stone from inside it.

Shang Jun carefully took it and lightly stroked underneath it; it was as smooth as flesh but thin, solid and moist. All four sides of the ink-stone were carved in a decorative scale design and it was soft and dense with meticulous carving. Shang Jun took it into his hands and played with it carefully; as he tapped it on the wall, he could hear a low and muffled sound with endless humming. This was indeed the ink stone that Shu Qing wanted to find and it was the best quality. He had been looking for two years already and now he had finally found it. He took the ink stone and handed it back to Yu Feng as Shang Jun said in a good mood, "You have worked hard Yu Feng, now let someone else go as fast as possible to deliver this to the Murong family."

"Yes." Yu Feng took the ink stone and used a cloth to wrap it up properly and just when he was about to withdraw, Shang Jun's hesitant voice came from behind him and said, "Yu Feng."

Yu Feng halted his footsteps and looked towards Shang Jun and after hesitating for a while, Shang Jun still quietly asked, "Is San Er alright?"

Was he alright? Yu Feng furrowed his eyebrows because he did not know how to consider whether it was good or not good. After thinking for a bit, he then answered, "The Xiao's third youngest gentleman does not always show up at the Xiao family. He is not too involved with business matters either..." Upon seeing Shang Jun become anxious, Yu Feng decided to say all he had seen, "Moreover, his temper seems to be saltier and colder and he is also unfriendly to people. He saw me half a year ago and seemed to want to say something but he always hesitated. This last half year, he did not say anything and was always cold; no one could speak or say some words to him and even the other two Xiao family gentlemen are puzzled and do not know why either."

Shang Jun covered his eyes and calmly said, "I understand. You must also be tired after hurrying back home, so go rest now."

"Yes." He knew that something had happened between Master and the third Xiao gentleman, but he did not know what to say, so he could only retreat.

The study hall had become quiet all of a sudden, so Shang Jun slowly lifted his head up as he felt his heart turn completely stuffy. San Er was always a proud person, so he had thought that after sulking for a while that he would be alright, but he did not think that San Er would become cold like this. In the past he was always willful and passionate, so this type of San Er was the one that he knew! But now he was not this same type of person anymore? Was it his fault for saying those words back then to San Er on the boat?!

Propping his hands on his cheeks, he looked at the book laying on the desk, but Shang Jun did not have any answers.

When Shang Xiao ran into the study hall and saw Shang Jun leaning on the desk to rest looking lifeless, she became startled in her heart. What had happened that made him look so exhausted and helpless now? Shang Xiao urgently ran over to Shang Jun's side, slightly patted his shoulder and asked, "Older brother, what is wrong with you?"

Shang Jun raised his head and saw Shang Xiao's anxious face, so he softly raised a trace of a warm smile as he answered, "Nothing, I am only thinking about something."

At this time, he was gentle and calm, so did she misinterpret anything just a moment ago? After being curious for a moment, Shang Xiao did not think too much of it anymore before she smiled and said, "Oh, it is lunch time."

Lunch time? Shang Jun looked outside the window; the sunlight in early summer had already begun to show its heat and dazzling white glare. Shang Jun smiled bitterly; as it turned out, he had just spent four hours staring and blanking out foolishly! He got up and then took Shang Xiao's hand to go out to the front hall and after thinking a bit, he said, "You do not need to go and call Xiu Zhi since he just came to the manor and has not adapted to it yet. It is possible that he did not sleep well last night, so let him sleep some more."

As Shang Xiao pulled Shang Jun's hand, she curled her lip and mocked, "Older brother Qin is not as lazy as you, so he already woke up earlier. When I came over, he was already sitting in the courtyard playing the zither. Not only is his zither playing good, but his person is also good."

He already got up? Or had he never slept? Shang Jun secretly sighed; in this world, there were so many things that would torture people and people would have their own worries.

Shang Xiao who was beside him, was still praising Qin Xiu Zhi's zither ability, when her eyes beamed with adoration as her face overflowed with a faint blush. Shang Jun slightly furrowed his eyebrows as he asked, "Little girl, did you fall for him?"

Shang Jun was not clear on his own thoughts either; Qin Xiu Zhi was an outstanding man, so there was nothing wrong if Xiao Er liked him, but his heart inexplicably felt somewhat uncomfortable. Was this a sign of a woman's first growing up?!

Who would have thought that Shang Xiao would strangely laugh before answering, "Of course not! It seems that he and older sister Shu Qing are very similar because they both are gentle and elegant people, so they are a well-matched couple. I have never even thought about it!"

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Sian's notes:

This chapter is so cool! For those who had read book 1, again this chapter was connected to the book 1 when Murong Shu Qing gifted this rare ink-stone for her "famous grandfather", the previous prime minister of Dong Yu. This is why I love the author, Qian Lu. How she was able to connect all of her books without giving us the same type of information in all of her books. In book 1, we only knew that MSQ gifted this rare ink stone for her grandfather's birthday. Now in this book, we found out that she asked SJ to find this rare gift! Very smart author indeed! |

Awww... poor San Er... He's broken hearted! 🥺🥺

So was that SJ eating vinegar (jealousy) when he asked whether or not SX liked QX??? Lol...