

“It’s been a few years. I thought you didn’t recognize your Papa anymore,” said Jiang Ning calmly.

Lin Yuzhen nearly fainted.

She looked at Sugita, then at Jiang Ning. He had a son of this age?!

He actually had a son without her knowledge?

“How could that be? Even if I fail to recognize my own mother, I will never forget my Papa.” Sugita quickly bowed before looking at Lin Yuzhen. “And this is...?”

“My name is Lin Yuzhen.”

She was afraid that Sugita might suddenly call her ‘Mama’, which would be simply too embarrassing.

“Hello, Miss Lin.” Sugita smiled. He could tell how Lin Yuzhen was related to Jiang Ning immediately. “I’m Sugita, please take care of me.”

“Why are you still standing there?” he yelled at the men behind him. “Hurry up and prepare some good wine and food! Now!”

He looked back at Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen. “This way please!”

They nodded and followed Sugita into the inner section of the shrine.

This fellow really knew how to enjoy life. He had decorated his living space very elegantly.

“Oh, so that’s what happened,” Lin Yuzhen was enlightened after hearing Sugita’s explanation. “I nearly thought that he had a son of your age behind my back.”

“Haha!” Sugita burst out laughing. “I lost this bet fair and square, so I’m good with calling him Papa.”

The way he looked at Jiang Ning was filled with respect, and he didn’t hide any of it.

“I’m not sure why Mr Jiang is in Tokyo this time?”

The last time Jiang Ning came, he made a huge commotion in Tokyo. It was as if an earthquake had hit the city, and even after Jiang Ning left, very few people knew exactly what hit them.

Sugita didn’t think that Jiang Ning was here just to bring a woman on holiday.

“I’m here to see you,” said Jiang Ning. “I’m afraid that if I don’t come to see you for too long, you might be dead.”

“Thank you for your concern. You saved me the last time, so my days after that are already more than the days allocated to me,” sighed Sugita as he shook his head. “But I’ve been very troubled lately. Look at my hair! It’s all white!”

He figured that if this situation went on, the internal conflict within the syndicate would worsen and he would eventually have to choose a side. Regardless of which side he chose, a head on conflict was still going to be inevitable.

He really wasn’t sure if he would survive this.

Sugita looked at Jiang Ning and didn’t think that Jiang Ning was really here to see him either.

They were old friends and he owed Jiang Ning his life, but there were simply too many people who owed Jiang Ning their lives and favors...

“You’re here because of that woman from the Salo family, right?” Sugita poured Jiang Ning a cup of sake. “Did I guess it right?”

It was clear that many visitors had arrived in Tokyo recently, especially people from those Third World powers.

Even though they had concealed their identities and snuck into Tokyo through a variety of

channels, Sugita was in charge of this place after all, so nothing escaped his eye.

“Mr Jiang, I’m afraid that I can’t help you in this matter,” Sugita went straight to the point. “If it was anything else, I’d even sacrifice my life for you. But this woman is very important to the Yamaguchi Syndicate, and she’s a pawn in the fight between the two factions in the syndicate. I’m not even allowed to go near her.”

He didn’t hide anything from Jiang Ning, and he wouldn’t have anyway.

He was a member of the Yamaguchi Syndicate, but this was just a job to him.

It was worth far less than the gratitude he had towards Jiang Ning.

“So, what if I insist on making life difficult for you?” Jiang Ning picked up the sake and took a sip. “Are you going to help or not?”

Sugita froze and didn’t say anything.

He poured Jiang Ning another cup and filled his own cup before raising it with both hands and saying respectfully, “You are really my Papa!”



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Sugita drank the entire cup down in one mouthful. The alcohol made him feel like his throat was on fire.

Since Jiang Ning had already said so, there was nothing else for him to say.

“I’ll try to think of something,” said Sugita. “But I really can’t guarantee you anything. I’m just a small fry within the syndicate, you know that.”

Of course Jiang Ning knew.

Sugita wasn’t an ambitious man and just wanted to enjoy a comfortable life. That was very rare within the Yamaguchi Syndicate.

Becoming the head of the main shrine in Tokyo was definitely the peak of his career.

Would he advance any further?

He had that chance. If he had made use of Jiang Ning back then, he would have gone up the ranks long ago, but he knew that the higher one climbed, the colder the wind blew.

It was more important to be happy, and to be alive.

If one died, then no amount of power and wealth would mean anything.

Sugita stood up.

His face was a little red after downing a few cups of sake at one shot.

“You wait here for me, I’ll go to the headquarters to have a look.”

Sugita waved his hands and arranged for some people to take care of his guests. He sighed and glanced back at Jiang Ning with a worried face, but Jiang Ning ignored him.

He didn’t have any choice but to put his wooden clogs on and clomp off.

“He doesn’t seem willing to,” whispered Lin Yuzhen.

“He’s a person who’s very afraid of trouble,” said Jiang Ning as he took some food for Lin Yuzhen. “He’s that sort of donkey that only takes one step if you whip it. It’s alright, just get used to it.”

“Taste the food, these are all delicacies found in Tokyo, try them.”

He didn’t care about what Sugita was going to do and only wanted results. Sugita was a smart man and knew what he needed to do.

Of course Sugita knew Jiang Ning’s temperament well. After so many years, he could forget anything about his own parents, but he never dared to forget Jiang Ning’s

temperament.

After leaving the shrine, he went straight for Yamaguchi Syndicate's headquarters in Tokyo.

He never liked coming here, and during the past few months, he wished he could go further away from it. But Jiang Ning wanted him to gather information, so he had to come here.

He had just reached the entrance to the headquarters when the person guarding outside saw him and immediately called out respectfully, "Mr Sugita!"

Sugita ignored him and his clogs continued to clomp away as he walked in.

The minute he walked in, the person at the gate passed on the information.

Sugita was here!

Sugita couldn't be bothered as he continued walking in with his hands behind his back.

He was familiar with this place, and knew exactly where he would meet who.

"Mr Sugita!"

As he had expected, someone called out to him just as he reached the path beside the pavilion.



He frowned slightly and turned around to look.

“Ah, Mr Watanabe.”

“Mr Sugita, you’ve actually come to HQ.”  
Watanabe looked at Sugita with a face filled with surprise. “I tried looking for you at the shrine several times but your men said you weren’t in. What a rare visit!”

It was so hard to meet Sugita. He knew that Sugita was avoiding all of them on purpose.

“Mr Sugita, have you considered what I talked to you about the last time? I believe you know how sincere we are on our end.”

Sugita waved his hands a little impatiently. “Let me consider some more.”

He was too lazy to speak anymore and continued walking in with his hands behind his back.

But less than 100 meters later, someone else stopped him again, and after a few polite exchanges, the same question came again.

“Mr Sugita, standing on our side is the right choice. You still have a chance to choose now. If you wait till the dust settles before choosing, it’ll be too late.”

“Mr Sugita, this chance only comes once!”



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