

At School 1161

Chapter 1161: Sincerity, Extravagance and Preciousness

When Hans heard this, his expression relaxed. He looked at Jian Ai and said gratefully, "Jian, thank you!"

Seeing this, Jian Ai only smiled and said, "Leader Hans, you don't have to thank me. I'm just helping you convey the message, but I can't guarantee that Bai Zhou will accept this. The decision is still in his hands. I won't interfere."

Jian Ai's words were magnanimous, and she immediately removed herself from this matter. Bai Zhou listened to her. As long as she nodded, Bai Zhou would sponsor the mercenary group.

However, Jian Ai didn't want to do this. She couldn't use her identity to influence Bai Zhou's decision. This was Bai Zhou's business, and she didn't want to interfere too much.

Hans naturally understood what Jian Ai meant. To him, Jian Ai helping him convey this matter to Prince Bai Zhou was already a huge help!

As for the method of funding and the annual amount, Jian Ai controlled her curiosity and didn't pursue the matter. If Bai Zhou didn't plan to fund it, there was no point in her asking.

If Bai Zhou will fund it to secretly expand his forces, Bai Zhou and Hans should be the ones to discuss these questions.

When they returned to the banquet, the smile on Hans' face became more genuine, and his attitude towards Jian Ai and the rest became friendlier.

Yu Wuyuan looked at Hans' change and couldn't help but ask, "Sect Master, what did you talk about?"

Jian Ai couldn't help but smile helplessly. She whispered to Yu Wuyuan, "He has other goals. Hans thought that because of this matter, he would lose the big financier behind him, so he targeted Bai Zhou as his next financier. He wanted me to help him establish a connection with Bai Zhou."

When Yu Wuyuan heard this, he couldn't help but reveal a look of understanding on his handsome face. This matter was within reason. According to Zhi Tong, such a large-scale international organization had to have a financier supporting it.

"You agreed to him?" Yu Wuyuan asked.

Jian Ai nodded. "Of course. This is Bai Zhou's business. How can I bypass him and help him reject it? Bai Zhou can decide for himself. I won't interfere with this."

Yu Wuyuan understood what Jian Ai meant. She felt that with Bai Zhou's identity, he might need a mercenary group behind him, so she will help Hans pass the message.

However, it was only limited to passing messages. In the end, Bai Zhou would decide for himself.

"Where's Yun Buyao?"

Jian Ai suddenly asked and looked around.

Yu Wuyuan smiled and said slowly, "Hans' son pulled her away."

Jian Ai couldn't help but blink. This foreigner was indeed open-minded. One second, he praised her beauty, and the next, he pulled her away?

Halfway through the banquet, perhaps because Hans had told the core members of the mercenary group about their conversation, everyone suddenly became passionate and took turns drinking and talking to Jian Ai and the rest.

Jian Ai gradually realized that most of these mercenary killers, who roamed the world and were known as outlaws by people who heard their names, had a type of straightforwardness that touched people's hearts. They treated the commissioned missions as work. For them, it differed completely from how ordinary people saw killing people.

Jian Ai naturally could not say that they were good people. It was just that their image differed from what she had imagined.

After a while, Yun Buyao appeared in front of Jian Ai again. She had a smile on her face and looked like she was in an exceptionally good mood.

"Oh, what's going on?" Jian Ai looked at Yun Buyao in amusement and asked, "Did a young hunk confess to you?"

"Not yet!" Yun Buyao gently flipped her smooth hair and said with a passionate expression, "However, being able to chat with a handsome man so unrestrainedly is already a rare opportunity for me."

As soon as she finished speaking, Yun Buyao couldn't help but purse her lips. "You know very well what kind of environment public figures in China are in. When people become famous, there will be more trouble. I have to keep a distance from all the opposite sex who appear around me so that gossip magazines won't write rumors. I don't care about these things myself, but the team asked me to cherish my reputation. If there are too many rumors, even fake ones will become real."

As she spoke, Yun Buyao smiled happily again. "I like this place a little. There are no paparazzi or reporters. I feel comfortable and free. That kid praised me as the most beautiful woman he's ever seen. His mouth is like honey."

Jian Ai looked at Yun Buyao's exaggerated reaction and smiled. "This makes you so happy? In China, haven't you heard such praise often?"

"That's the problem!" Yun Buyao said seriously, "The problem is that if you hear too much of this, you'll realize that everyone's expression is the same when they say it. It's like praising for the sake of praising or praising with a goal."

"Snow is different?" Jian Ai raised her eyebrows.

Yun Buyao nodded. "He's different. His eyes are too clean. Moreover, when he praises you, he will stare into your eyes and let you feel his sincerity. You will believe that he was sincere at that time!"

"Sincerity!" Yun Buyao shook her head and sighed. "This word is too extravagant and precious for me, who has been in the entertainment circle all year round!"

The entertainment circle was a place where everyone wore a mask. Because they had to face the public and the media, they had to maintain dignity and elegance at all times. Once there were any flaws, the cameras would magnify them countless times.

Even a superstar like Yun Buyao was no exception. She even had to be more careful because compared to those who were not that famous, more people's eyes would definitely be on a superstar like Yun Buyao.

Fans would pay attention, and so would opponents.

At this moment, Jian Ai's heart suddenly ached for Yun Buyao. Before knowing her, Jian Ai had only seen Yun Buyao on screen and in newspapers and magazines. At that time, her imagination of Yun Buyao was an audience's out of reach view of a famous superstar.

She must be cold, elegant, and well-rounded.

However, after knowing her, Jian Ai realized that the Yun Buyao she saw back then was the Yun Buyao wearing a mask. The real her was lively and cheerful. Sometimes, she was even a little noisy. This was the real Yun Buyao after taking off her mask.

Thinking of this, Jian Ai suddenly thought of Xia Qinghuan.

She was also a straightforward person who did not want to be restrained by anything around her. However, in the future, when she enters the public eye, should she put away her edges and sharpness and be a perfect person without flaws?

Just thinking about that scene, Jian Ai could imagine Xia Qinghuan going berserk because she couldn't stand the restraints. She couldn't help but smile.

Chapter 1162: She Might Not Like Me Very Much

In the production team of 'Interweaving Night.'

"Ahchoo!"

Xia Qinghuan, who was waiting on standby, couldn't help but sneeze. Then, her shoulder felt heavy, and a cashmere blanket covered her body. Chen Jin's voice followed. "It's getting colder every day. Put on a blanket at all times. Don't catch a cold."

"I understand. Thank you, Brother Jin!" Qinghuan smiled. She knew she couldn't fall sick. Once she did, it would affect her performance. She was the female lead. If she caused a delay in the filming progress, she would feel bad.

It had been a while since the filming for 'Interweaving Night' started, and all the production team members had already adapted to the current situation. Although the weather was cold, fortunately, the place they were filming at was the film base. After leaving the film base, they could return to the hotel. It was much better than other production teams who could not afford to rent a venue.

"Cut!"

At this moment, the assistant director behind the camera called for a stop. He poked his head out from behind the monitor and said, "This scene is over. Everyone, take a rest."

This scene was Jian Yiyi's scene. As soon as it stopped, she dragged her tired body towards the rest area. Unlike Qinghuan, who was surrounded by people when she got off the stage, after Qiao Shuyi left the production team, Jian Yiyi was alone.

Her manager, Dong Jie, had to focus on Yuan Guang, so usually, Jian Yiyi would look for Dong Jie if she had something. Dong Jie rarely took the initiative to look for Jian Yiyi.

Therefore, sometimes, seeing her alone made people feel a little sad. However, for Jian Yiyi, it was better for her to be alone than for her mother to accompany her.

"Yiyi!"

At this moment, Wang Mingxiao, who had been watching Jian Yiyi filming, suddenly ran towards her with a thermal lunch box in his hand.

Over the past few days, Wang Mingxiao was the closest to Jian Yiyi in the production team. At first, he was a little embarrassed when Qiao Shuyi was around, but after Qiao Shuyi left, he became even more passionate. Whenever he had time, he would approach Jian Yiyi.

Jian Yiyi would always disguise herself as an innocent and kind girl, so she would smile and give feedback to those who approached her. Wang Mingxiao was no exception. However, only Jian Yiyi knew how sincere she herself was.

"Mingxiao!" Jian Yiyi quickly smiled. After this period of interaction, she had already called Wang Mingxiao by his nickname.

"Yiyi, I have chicken soup here. Let's drink it together. It's still hot!" Wang Mingxiao held the thermal lunch box and looked at Jian Yiyi expectantly.

Jian Yiyi was stunned for a moment before revealing a pitiful and difficult expression. "Mingxiao, drink it yourself! Uncle Yu spends so much effort to make these soups for you every day. If he sees you sharing them with me, he will be unhappy."

The Uncle Yu Jian Yiyi was talking about was Wang Mingxiao's uncle and manager, Yu Xiaofeng.

Yu Xiaofeng was indeed watching Wang Mingxiao closely. Moreover, he had always encouraged Wang Mingxiao to interact more with Xia Qinghuan to improve their relationship. However, Wang Mingxiao liked Jian Yiyi, so he didn't listen to Yu Xiaofeng. As time passed, Yu Xiaofeng turned a blind eye and couldn't be bothered. However, he explicitly prohibited him from dating Jian Yiyi!

Wang Mingxiao wanted to, but he felt he was not worthy of Jian Yiyi. In his heart, Jian Yiyi was perfect. He felt inferior and didn't dare to confess.

"It's just chicken soup. It's not something expensive. Why wouldn't you dare to drink it?" Wang Mingxiao didn't care. He immediately unscrewed the lid of the lunch box and continued, "Good friends should share things. Don't be so polite to me!"

As he spoke, he poured a bowl and handed it to Jian Yiyi. "Come, drink it while it's hot. I know you girls don't like things that are too oily. This soup isn't oily at all. It's especially delicious!"

Jian Yiyi reached out to take it and looked sincerely touched. "Mingxiao, in the production team, you're the only one who's really good to me. Thank you."

These words made Wang Mingxiao's heart flutter.

"Yiyi, don't say that. Auntie Qiao isn't around, and you're in the production team yourself. We're friends, and I'm older than you. It's only right for me to take care of you," Wang Mingxiao said and couldn't help but reveal a handsome smile.

Jian Yiyi nodded gratefully and took a sip of the chicken soup in her hand. To be honest, the taste was average. As Jian Changsheng's daughter, she had tasted all kinds of delicious soup. However, she still widened her eyes in surprise and said with satisfaction, "Wow, it's delicious, Mingxiao!"

When Wang Mingxiao heard this, the smile on his face deepened. Jian Yiyi felt that the soup he gave her was delicious. To him, it was the most satisfying thing.

The two of them sat at the side of the set and chatted while drinking soup.

"Yiyi, I heard that you and Xia Qinghuan are classmates? Why doesn't your relationship look good?" Wang Mingxiao asked in a low voice. He had been curious about this question for a long time, but he didn't dare to ask.

In the production team, Xia Qinghuan's relationship with everyone was not bad, especially with the male lead, Yuan Guang, and the second female lead, Du Wei.

Because Yuan Guang was the male lead, he had the most scenes with Qinghuan. Moreover, the two of them were newcomers supported by the same company. Yuan Guang was modest and gentlemanly, and he knew his limits when handling things. Qinghuan liked to chat with him because she felt comfortable.

On the other hand, Du Wei became friends with Qinghuan after entering the production team. Du Wei was the second female lead and played a policewoman investigating a serial murder case. The time Qinghuan noticed her was the day of the opening ceremony.

At that time, Jian Yiyi wanted to quietly snatch Du Wei's photo spot and pretended to talk to Qinghuan to push Du Wei to the side. In the end, Du Wei didn't swallow her anger. Instead, she said to Jian Yiyi's face that this was the second female lead's position.

At that time, Xia Qinghuan liked Du Wei's straightforward personality because she felt she was very similar to her. Later, after interacting with her, she realized that Du Wei was indeed a straightforward person. Therefore, the two of them had the same personality and quickly became best friends in the production team.

As for her classmate, Jian Yiyi, Wang Mingxiao rarely saw the two of them talk. Other than when they were filming, there was almost no communication.

Jian Yiyi immediately revealed a helpless smile and looked at Wang Mingxiao with a bitter expression. "It's just that... she might not like me very much."

“Why?” Wang Mingxiao asked in shock. Someone didn’t like such a beautiful and gentle girl like Jian Yiyi?

Jian Yiyi shook her head. “I don’t know, but I’m fine. I’m not money. How can I make everyone like me?”

Chapter 1163: They’re Here!

As soon as she finished speaking, a trace of loneliness flashed across Jian Yiyi’s face. Wang Mingxiao caught this scene and his heart instinctively tightened.

Jian Yiyi continued, “Actually, I don’t have many friends in school. I was studying abroad before and only came back to Baiyun City this year. I transferred to Erzhang.”

Wang Mingxiao nodded, and his heart ached for Jian Yiyi even more. He couldn’t help but comfort her. “Perhaps you’re too outstanding, making people feel distant. Actually, I was like this to you in the beginning. I didn’t dare to approach you.”

“Alright, Mingxiao, you don’t have to comfort me like this. I’m not as outstanding as you think.” Jian Yiyi knew how to grasp the rhythm of the conversation. She was exceptionally modest about the praise Wang Mingxiao gave her.

This was also one reason she attracted Wang Mingxiao. Wang Mingxiao immediately nodded and admitted, “I’m not comforting you. I really think you’re outstanding and perfect. Yiyi, you’ll be famous in the future. Really!”

Jian Yiyi smiled gratefully. “Mingxiao, you will too. All the best!”

“All the best!” Wang Mingxiao’s eyes were bright with youthful passion. The Jian Yiyi in his eyes was sparkling and beautiful.

“Mingxiao, I don’t know if I should tell you something.” At this moment, Jian Yiyi suddenly looked at Wang Mingxiao with a difficult expression.

When Wang Mingxiao heard this, he subconsciously said, “Tell me. You can tell me anything.”

Jian Yiyi pursed her lips and said carefully, “I’ll say this first. You can’t be angry. This might just be my opinion and feeling.”

Wang Mingxiao nodded and looked at Jian Yiyi seriously.

Jian Yiyi frowned and thought for a moment before saying slowly, “I think you might need to change a manager!”

Without waiting for Wang Mingxiao to speak, Jian Yiyi quickly said, “I don’t mean that Uncle Yu doesn’t mean well. I just think with his personality, he might cause you a lot of unnecessary trouble in the future. Of course, he’s a good person, but he’s not suitable to be your manager. Do you know what I mean?”

Jian Yiyi was telling the truth. The core content was also very pertinent. Over the past few days, Wang Mingxiao’s uncle, Yu Xiaofeng, could be said to be the most annoying person in the entire production

team. Those who didn't know would think that Wang Mingxiao was the male lead. In short, he was very ostentatious.

Wang Mingxiao had told Yu Xiaofeng about this many times, but Yu Xiaofeng's personality was like this. He had not seen much of the world and felt that his nephew was awesome after becoming a celebrity. The arrogance that came from his bones could not be changed just like that!

Therefore, Wang Mingxiao also had a headache because of this. He couldn't help but sigh helplessly. "I understand what you mean, Yiyi. I've also said it a few times to him to keep a low profile because I've suffered in this aspect because of him before."

"Didn't I tell you I almost signed with Rose Entertainment? Just because he offended the boss of Rose Entertainment, the management contract with Rose Entertainment, which had already been negotiated, got ruined. Otherwise, I would have been an artist from the same company as you now!"

The boss Wang Mingxiao was talking about was Jian Ai. At that time, the two sides collided at the corner of the company, and a cup of coffee was spilled on Wang Mingxiao. Jian Ai initially wanted to apologize, but Yu Xiaofeng started shouting first.

The final result was obvious.

However, Wang Mingxiao had his difficulties. "My parents passed away early. Uncle and Aunt raised me since I was young. The kindness of raising me is greater than the heavens, so there are many things I can't say. My uncle might be a little mean and arrogant to others, but he's quite good to me."

As he spoke, Wang Mingxiao couldn't help but sigh deeply. He looked at Jian Yiyi and smiled bitterly. "I just want to earn more money so that I can be filial to Uncle and Aunt in the future. I don't have any dream of becoming a famous celebrity."

"These two things don't conflict, Mingxiao." Jian Yiyi said, "You have a company and resources now, so you can definitely earn money. You can give the money you earn to Uncle Yu to repay his kindness in raising you. But you can also persuade him not to be your manager anymore because Uncle Yu's personality offends others too easily!"

"Mingxiao, the entertainment circle is very chaotic. The way the staff around you do things will be magnified and returned to you in the end. If you accidentally offend someone powerful, won't it be easy to ban you with just a word?"

"It's true. Don't think I'm exaggerating. Ask your company's senior artists and you'll know if I'm telling the truth."

Wang Mingxiao knew that Jian Yiyi was telling the truth. He enjoyed Jian Yiyi's sincere concern for him. As for Jian Yiyi's question, he had thought about it seriously.

"After we finish filming this movie, I'll talk to him," Wang Mingxiao said.

...

Jian Ai and the rest stayed at the mercenary group's headquarters for a few days, but they did not receive any news from the other party.

However, Hans was very sure that the other party would come, so Jian Ai was not in a hurry.

Over the past few days, Jian Ai and the rest were treated warmly by Hans and the entire mercenary group like real guests. Jian Ai also took the opportunity to tour the mercenary group's headquarters and even saw the mercenaries on the training ground.

At noon, the attendant beside Hans suddenly came to the villa where Jian Ai and the rest were resting to pass a message to them. The other party was here!

In the living room of the mountainside villa, Hans was receiving the other party's anger.

The people who came this time were still Lao Liu and Xiao Qi. They were very dissatisfied with Hans' refusal to answer the phone and were immediately angry.

"There has to be news about the commissioned mission, right? You didn't answer the phone or give feedback to us. This is extremely unprofessional and irresponsible!" Lao Liu shouted as he glared at Hans.

Xiao Qi chimed in, "Master spends an enormous sum of money to sponsor you every year. Is this how you do things? At that time, you swore that there would be no mistakes. Now? You failed again!"

Lao Liu sneered. "I've never seen such useless killers like you. You can fail three times on a target! In my opinion, you probably won't be able to get a single gold coin from the Master next year!"

The two of them talked non-stop, while Hans sat on the sofa as steady as a mountain and looked at the two of them expressionlessly.

Because Jian Ai had told Hans that if they came, he would stall them. Jian Ai naturally had a way to get information from the two of them.

Chapter 1164: Take Action Immediately

Lao Liu and Xiao Qi vented for a while before finally stopping. However, this did not mean that the anger in their hearts had subsided.

Although the two of them were in charge of passing messages between their master and Hans, as long as Hans' mercenary group did nothing well, they would be the only ones scolded in front of their master. That was why the two of them were so dissatisfied with Hans. Almost every time they met, they would complain about him.

This time, it was even worse. He didn't even pick up their calls and they couldn't contact him, causing the two of them to cross the sea and half the world to come to the headquarters in Italy.

Taking a breather, the two of them picked up the glass of water in front of them and took a sip. As if they felt that they had vented enough, Lao Liu put down the glass and couldn't help but look at Hans impatiently. "What do you plan to do now? Last time, the Master already said that this is your last chance. You can't even handle a prince from the royal family who left his hometown. How can the Master believe you?"

“Hah, without Master’s funding, your mercenary group’s income will probably decrease. I think you know better than us how important this is. This time, Master is furious. Whether you can get the money next year is hard to say!” Xiao Qi chimed in coldly.

When Hans heard this, he straightened his body on the sofa with a calm expression. Just as he was about to say something, he saw his personal attendant walk in quickly.

Hans paused. The attendant came to Hans’ side and whispered something in his ear.

Lao Liu and Xiao Qi did not know what had happened, but they were not in the mood to ask about the mercenary group. They just instinctively stared at Hans’ face, wanting to see his expression.

Hans remained indifferent and did not show any additional reaction.

The attendant retreated after saying that. Hans sighed faintly and looked at Lao Liu and Xiao Qi. He slowly said, “My mercenary group has already done our best for Sir’s request. The target is protected by very powerful experts. I’m already at my wits’ end.”

“I lost seven mercenaries on three missions. In the end, I sent six aces in our organization to go together. In the end, no one has returned. It’s unknown if they’re alive or dead.”

“I know that a failed mission is a failure, and any excuse is just an excuse. However, what I want to say is that in the years we have served Sir, our mercenary group has never relaxed for a moment. As long as it’s Sir’s request, we have perfectly completed it.”

“Only this time, I have no choice. Even if Sir plans to withdraw his investment and never sponsor us again, I have nothing to say!”

Hans’ words were what he was thinking at the moment. There was no trace of sympathy or other goals. In fact, he already knew that after he said that he had no choice, his collaboration with this boss would be over. However, he was not lying. He had no choice.

“Leader Hans, do you mean you don’t plan to continue working on this mission?” Lao Liu’s expression darkened as he frowned at Hans.

Hans did not dawdle and immediately nodded to admit, “That’s right. If we continue, it will only bring unnecessary casualties to our mercenary group.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Hans suddenly lowered his head and said solemnly, “I’ve disappointed Sir. Please find someone else!”

Lao Liu: “...”

Xiao Qi: “...”

The two of them were so shocked by Hans’s words that they were speechless. They did not expect Hans to give up on a gold mountain like their master just like that. It had to be known that the amount of funding their master provided to the mercenary group every year was astronomical, but Hans gave up so easily?

However, what the two of them did not know was that it was difficult for Hans to give up. He had already done enough to keep this Sir behind him. This was also the first time Andrew, and the rest had taken action together. Including Irene, who rushed over later, they were the six strongest people in the mercenary group.

He had tried his best. He knew he could not do it, so he gave up!

Lao Liu's expression changed drastically, but he didn't know what to say.

"The two of you have come from afar. If you don't mind, you can stay here for a few days. We've known each other for a few years, and we no longer have an employer-employee relationship. We're willing to entertain the two of you as friends." Hans changed the topic and invited the two people who had never treated him well.

How would Lao Liu and Xiao Qi dare to stay here?

In the past, relying on their master's financial support for their mercenary group, the two of them knew Hans did not dare to offend them, so they used the tiger's might to talk nonsense and said many nasty words.

Now that the employer-employee relationship could no longer be maintained, the other party did not have to be afraid of their master. Would the two lackeys still have the guts to stay here? They probably did not even dare to sleep.

Therefore, Lao Liu immediately rejected him. "There's no need. I'll convey Leader Hans's intentions to the Master. As for what the Master says, I can't guarantee it."

As soon as they finished speaking, the two of them quickly stood up, thinking to quickly leave this godforsaken place.

Hans didn't force the two of them to stay. He quickly stood up and said, "Please help me convey a message to Sir. Tell him that our mercenary group is very grateful for his support all these years."

Lao Liu had a complicated expression on his face, but Xiao Qi habitually snorted. In their hearts, no matter how humble Hans was, he was just putting on an act.

Staying no longer, the two of them quickly left.

As soon as Lao Liu and Xiao Qi left, Jian Ai and the rest arrived at the villa on the mountainside.

As soon as they met, Hans said to Jian Ai, "Jian, I've already sent someone to follow them."

Jian Ai nodded. "Thank you."

If she wanted to get anything out of these two people, she still needed Yun Buyao's Spiritual Art. At least, she could ensure that the other party would not lie. However, Jian Ai could not attack them at Hans' territory because the side effect of the Spiritual Art was that after the spell ended, the person under control would faint for a period of time.

If the two of them fainted for no reason at Hans's territory, Jian Ai was afraid of causing trouble for Hans.

Therefore, she changed her mind at the last minute and asked the attendant to tell Hans to send someone to follow the two of them. After the two of them left the mercenary group headquarters, Jian Ai and the rest would find an opportunity to take action.

An hour later, someone brought back news that Lao Liu and Xiao Qi had checked into a five-star hotel. It was obvious that the two of them planned to rest in Rome for a day before leaving.

After receiving the news, Jian Ai and the rest took action immediately!

“Jian, do you need my help?” Hans suddenly looked at Jian Ai and asked sincerely.

Over the past few days, the relationship between the two sides had silently gotten closer. Jian Ai left an indescribable impression on Hans that the two of them had already formed a strong friendship with each other.

Jian Ai smiled and said to Hans gratefully, “You’ve already helped us a lot. Don’t get involved in this again, lest you cross your bottom line as a mercenary.”

Even if Hans’s employment relationship with that person had ended, Jian Ai knew he was a principled person. It was enough for him to help her to this extent.

When Hans heard this, he couldn’t help but nod. “Then be careful!”

In the hotel, Lao Liu walked into the room with a cold expression. Even his back was cold. Xiao Qi followed behind her brother and said nothing. When she entered the room, she couldn’t help but say, “This Hans doesn’t know what’s good for him. He actually took the initiative to terminate the employment relationship. Master will be angry when he hears this!”

Lao Liu stood in the middle of the living room and couldn’t help but take a deep breath. “It’s useless to say anything. The mercenary group doesn’t plan to continue with this mission. Master is anxious for that person to die. We can’t delay it anymore. We have to let the Master find other organizations who will accept the mission as soon as possible.”

Xiao Qi pursed her lips and couldn’t help but mutter, “This job is so annoying. I’ll be scolded again when I get back!”

Hearing his sister’s words, Lao Liu couldn’t help but feel his heart ache. He walked forward and held his sister’s shoulder. He forced a smile and said, “It’s fine. This situation isn’t something we can control. As long as we can work for Master, the two of us will make a name for ourselves sooner or later. It’s a critical period now, and Master is very anxious. We have to understand him!”

“Got it, Brother.” Xiao Qi pouted helplessly and said, “I don’t know who’s around Prince Bai Zhou. The people from the mercenary group can’t even handle them. Didn’t Master look for them because this organization is famous internationally and has extremely agile methods? Why did they suffer so many setbacks from Prince Bai Zhou?”

Regarding Xiao Qi’s question, it was also something that Lao Liu did not understand. However, he knew that someone who could make the mercenary group suffer three consecutive losses was not an ordinary person. When he returned, he had to remind his master to make more preparations.

"I'm hungry. Call something to eat. Shall we eat together?" Lao Liu didn't want to dwell on these troublesome things, so he couldn't help but ask casually.

Xiao Qi shook her head. "I'm so tired. I'm going back to my room to sleep."

Lao Liu nodded. "Alright, we'll only stay here for a day. We'll leave tomorrow morning!"

After Xiao Qi left the room, Lao Liu picked up the communication phone in the room and called for room service. Then, he changed into a bathrobe and went into the bathroom.

Not long after, the doorbell rang.

Lao Liu wiped his wet hair and opened the door. A woman with an Asian face was standing outside.

The woman was exceptionally beautiful and had long light green hair that was very eye-catching. Lao Liu was slightly stunned. If not for the dining cart between the two of them, Lao Liu would have thought that the other party had knocked on the wrong door.

The person outside the door was none other than Yun Buyao.

"Sir, the meal you ordered!" Yun Buyao spoke fluent English.

Because she was a beauty that was pleasing to the eye, Lao Liu couldn't help but look at her a few more times. Then, he raised his eyebrows slightly. "Come in."

Yun Buyao pushed the dining cart into the room. When Lao Liu closed the door, he did not forget to look at Yun Buyao's graceful back with a lecherous smile.

At the dining table, Yun Buyao placed the dishes one by one. When she turned around, she saw Lao Liu standing not far behind her, smiling at her with two banknotes in his hand.

"It's for you," Lao Liu said to Yun Buyao with a smile that he thought was handsome.

Yun Buyao rolled her eyes in her heart. Through Lao Liu's gaze, she knew what disgusting things this man was thinking.

She initially thought that the person communicating with Leader Hans would have an experienced and vigilant personality. She was already prepared to deal with him, but she did not expect him to be a pervert with an overdeveloped lower body.

With no interest, Yun Buyao activated her Spiritual Art on Lao Liu.

It was so fast that before Lao Liu's expression could change, he had already lost his mind.

Yun Buyao opened the door from the inside. Jian Ai and the rest were already waiting outside.

They entered the room and saw Lao Liu standing motionless in front of the dining table in a bathrobe.

Jian Ai looked at Yun Buyao and nodded. "Let's start."

Saying nothing, Yun Buyao walked up to Lao Liu and asked.

"Where are you from?"

Lao Liu answered expressionlessly, “Qiusi!”

Jian Ai paused and thought to herself, *‘As expected. I’ve long suspected it, but I lack an answer.’*

This answer seemed to be obvious.

Yun Buyao also frowned slightly. She did not expect them to be from Qiusi.

“Who is your master?”

Lao Liu: “Qiusi royal family—Prince Qi Ye!”

Jian Ai and the rest couldn’t help but look at each other. Prince Qi Ye!

They had all heard this name before. When they were in the Maldives, Bai Zhou had said that he had always been on good terms with this brother called Qi Ye. Bai Zhou did not doubt him. Even Chi Yang said that Qi Ye was the most popular heir to the throne in Qiusi, so there was no reason for him to kill Bai Zhou.

Unexpectedly, after going around in circles, it still landed on this prince of Qiusi.

“Why does Prince Qi Ye want to kill Bai Zhou?” Yun Buyao continued to ask.

However, Lao Liu’s answer was, “I don’t know!”

He was just a small fry, and Prince Qi Ye had a connection with an assassin organization like the mercenary group. To reduce the risk of doing things, they found an inconspicuous small fry like him to do it. That was why he had the chance to work for Prince Qi Ye.

However, other than that, he knew almost nothing.

Yun Buyao asked a few more questions, but she didn’t receive any useful answers. She guessed that this Lao Liu was just a lackey.

“I can’t get anything out of him!” Yun Buyao shook her head at Jian Ai.

Jian Ai’s expression had not been good since she heard Qi Ye’s name. She hoped that the person who assassinated Bai Zhou was not from the Qiusi royal family, but the result was contrary to her wishes.

No matter what the other party’s goal was, that person was Bai Zhou’s brother, his brother from the royal family. Jian Ai didn’t know how to tell Bai Zhou this result.

“It’s enough!” Jian Ai whispered. She didn’t want to know anything else.

After finding the mastermind, Bai Zhou would decide the rest.

Chapter 1165: Answer

“Jian, do you need my help?” Hans suddenly looked at Jian Ai and asked sincerely.

Over the past few days, the relationship between the two sides had silently gotten closer. Jian Ai left an indescribable impression on Hans that the two of them had already formed a strong friendship with each other.

Jian Ai smiled and said to Hans gratefully, "You've already helped us a lot. Don't get involved in this again, lest you cross your bottom line as a mercenary."

Even if Hans's employment relationship with that person had ended, Jian Ai knew he was a principled person. It was enough for him to help her to this extent.

When Hans heard this, he couldn't help but nod. "Then be careful!"

In the hotel, Lao Liu walked into the room with a cold expression. Even his back was cold. Xiao Qi followed behind her brother and said nothing. When she entered the room, she couldn't help but say, "This Hans doesn't know what's good for him. He actually took the initiative to terminate the employment relationship. Master will be angry when he hears this!"

Lao Liu stood in the middle of the living room and couldn't help but take a deep breath. "It's useless to say anything. The mercenary group doesn't plan to continue with this mission. Master is anxious for that person to die. We can't delay it anymore. We have to let the Master find other organizations who will accept the mission as soon as possible."

Xiao Qi pursed her lips and couldn't help but mutter, "This job is so annoying. I'll be scolded again when I get back!"

Hearing his sister's words, Lao Liu couldn't help but feel his heart ache. He walked forward and held his sister's shoulder. He forced a smile and said, "It's fine. This situation isn't something we can control. As long as we can work for Master, the two of us will make a name for ourselves sooner or later. It's a critical period now, and Master is very anxious. We have to understand him!"

"Got it, Brother." Xiao Qi pouted helplessly and said, "I don't know who's around Prince Bai Zhou. The people from the mercenary group can't even handle them. Didn't Master look for them because this organization is famous internationally and has extremely agile methods? Why did they suffer so many setbacks from Prince Bai Zhou?"

Regarding Xiao Qi's question, it was also something that Lao Liu did not understand. However, he knew that someone who could make the mercenary group suffer three consecutive losses was not an ordinary person. When he returned, he had to remind his master to make more preparations.

"I'm hungry. Call something to eat. Shall we eat together?" Lao Liu didn't want to dwell on these troublesome things, so he couldn't help but ask casually.

Xiao Qi shook her head. "I'm so tired. I'm going back to my room to sleep."

Lao Liu nodded. "Alright, we'll only stay here for a day. We'll leave tomorrow morning!"

After Xiao Qi left the room, Lao Liu picked up the communication phone in the room and called for room service. Then, he changed into a bathrobe and went into the bathroom.

Not long after, the doorbell rang.

Lao Liu wiped his wet hair and opened the door. A woman with an Asian face was standing outside.

The woman was exceptionally beautiful and had long light green hair that was very eye-catching. Lao Liu was slightly stunned. If not for the dining cart between the two of them, Lao Liu would have thought that the other party had knocked on the wrong door.

The person outside the door was none other than Yun Buyao.

“Sir, the meal you ordered!” Yun Buyao spoke fluent English.

Because she was a beauty that was pleasing to the eye, Lao Liu couldn’t help but look at her a few more times. Then, he raised his eyebrows slightly. “Come in.”

Yun Buyao pushed the dining cart into the room. When Lao Liu closed the door, he did not forget to look at Yun Buyao’s graceful back with a lecherous smile.

At the dining table, Yun Buyao placed the dishes one by one. When she turned around, she saw Lao Liu standing not far behind her, smiling at her with two banknotes in his hand.

“It’s for you,” Lao Liu said to Yun Buyao with a smile that he thought was handsome.

Yun Buyao rolled her eyes in her heart. Through Lao Liu’s gaze, she knew what disgusting things this man was thinking.

She initially thought that the person communicating with Leader Hans would have an experienced and vigilant personality. She was already prepared to deal with him, but she did not expect him to be a pervert with an overdeveloped lower body.

With no interest, Yun Buyao activated her Spiritual Art on Lao Liu.

It was so fast that before Lao Liu’s expression could change, he had already lost his mind.

Yun Buyao opened the door from the inside. Jian Ai and the rest were already waiting outside.

They entered the room and saw Lao Liu standing motionless in front of the dining table in a bathrobe.

Jian Ai looked at Yun Buyao and nodded. “Let’s start.”

Saying nothing, Yun Buyao walked up to Lao Liu and asked.

“Where are you from?”

Lao Liu answered expressionlessly, “Qiusi!”

Jian Ai paused and thought to herself, *‘As expected. I’ve long suspected it, but I lack an answer.’*

This answer seemed to be obvious.

Yun Buyao also frowned slightly. She did not expect them to be from Qiusi.

“Who is your master?”

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No matter what the other party’s goal was, that person was Bai Zhou’s brother, his brother from the royal family. Jian Ai didn’t know how to tell Bai Zhou this result.

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After finding the mastermind, Bai Zhou would decide the rest.

Chapter 1166: Twists and Turns

“Prince Qi Ye?”

However, when Jian Ai and the rest returned to the mercenary group headquarters and told Hans the answer they had received, Hans was shocked.

His eyes widened as he looked at Jian Ai for confirmation. “You said that the person behind this is Prince Qi Ye of Qiusi?”

Hans’ reaction was a little unexpected and agitated. His usually calm tone had increased by three points, which puzzled Jian Ai.

Jian Ai nodded. “That’s right. It’s Prince Qi Ye!”

“Could he be lying?” Hans’ expression was solemn, but he was extremely embarrassed, as if he was trying his best to prove something.

Hearing the word *'lying,'* Jian Ai couldn't help but smile and shake her head. She explained to Hans, "Leader Hans, do you still remember how Yun Buyao could forcefully talk to you in your mind that night?"

When Hans heard this, he nodded. This ability was very rare, so he naturally wouldn't forget it.

Seeing this, Jian Ai continued, "Yun Buyao's ability is more than that. In front of her, no one can lie!"

Hans' mouth was half-open, and his thick beard was filled with emotions. After a while, he muttered, "It's actually Prince Qi Ye from Qiusi..."

Seeing his abnormality, Jian Ai and the rest subconsciously looked at each other because no one knew what had happened. It was as if this was the first time Leader Hans had heard this news.

!!!

Could it be!!!

"You didn't know?"

Jian Ai exclaimed and looked at Hans in shock.

Hans pursed his lips and shook his head. "He used his identity as an oil tycoon in Dubai to fund the mercenary group!"

That was why he had always called the other party Sir!

Jian Ai: "..."

She did not expect Qi Ye to be so careful and hide himself very well!

Hans smiled bitterly. "All these years, he never really believed me. Even his identity was fake."

Although the mercenary group and Prince Qi Ye had an employment relationship, to put it bluntly, one spent money and the other did things. However, when one party learned that they had never been trusted and had been lied to for so many years that they did not even know the other party's true identity, they would be sad and angry!

Because the other party would sponsor a considerable sum of money for the mercenary group every year, the mercenary group worked very hard and tried their best to achieve the other party's request perfectly.

Those were all requests with their lives on the line, and they did not even know who they were risking their lives for!

Jian Ai and the rest looked at Hans and didn't know what to say because this situation was a little out of line. Who would have thought that Qi Ye would use a fake identity on Hans?

After a while, Hans suddenly laughed at himself. "Jian, fortunately, I kept the last bit of mercenary principles and didn't tell you the other party's identity. Otherwise, what you learned from me would be fake!"

Jian Ai couldn't help but laugh when she heard this. At that time, she thought Hans was doing something unnecessary and deceiving himself. She didn't expect things to turn out like this.

"We got the news we wanted and plan to return to China tomorrow," Jian Ai suddenly said.

Hans was stunned for a moment before revealing a reluctant expression. "Since you're here, why don't you stay for a few more days?"

Jian Ai smiled bitterly and said, "Leader Hans, I'm still in school. I have to go back quickly. Otherwise, I'll fall behind in my homework."

Hans naturally wouldn't force them to stay. He also knew that Jian Ai and the rest had more important things to do.

"Jian, it's good to meet you. I never thought I would be friends with a fifteen-year-old girl, but now, we're friends!" Hans said and extended a hand to Jian Ai.

Jian Ai smiled and reached out to shake his hand. "I never thought that I would be friends with the leader of a mercenary group! Don't worry, I'll help you convey what I promised you to Bai Zhou."

Hans nodded gratefully. "I'll welcome you to Italy again!"

Jian Ai: "Of course!"

The night before they left, Jian Ai and the rest sat in the living room of the villa and talked to Bai Zhou and the rest.

"We'll go back tomorrow."

"Have you found out who it is?" Bai Zhou asked.

"It's your brother, Prince Qi Ye!" Jian Ai said the truth without hesitation.

Because she had thought about it. Although this matter made it difficult for her to say it, and it might make Bai Zhou unable to accept it for a moment, that was the truth. There was no use in running away. The most important thing now was to think of a way to deal with it.

Hearing Jian Ai's words, the other end of the phone fell silent. Jian Ai knew that Bai Zhou was also stunned.

She said nothing else and only said slowly, "I know this news is not what you want. Think about it first."

Jian Ai hung up.

With Xiao Zhen and Chi Yang around, Jian Ai naturally did not have to worry.

Yun Buyao sighed faintly. "Born in that complicated royal family, you can't escape such a fate. Poor Bai Zhou."

From the moment everyone knew it was Prince Qi Ye, their thoughts were almost the same. All of this must have evolved for the throne of Qiusi.

The battle for the throne of the royal family had been happening since ancient times. Qiusi was the only remaining monarchy in the world, and it was the modern version of the ancient royal family, so such a thing was inevitable.

Jian Ai sighed and looked at Zhi Tong who had not said a word. "Don't think about Bai Zhou for now. Zhi Tong, what are your plans? Come with us!"

Zhi Tong was wearing a black robe that completely covered his body. He sat on the sofa like a sack and couldn't help but look up at Jian Ai.

After a while, he said, "If I stay by the Sect Master's side like this, I'll cause trouble for the Sect Master."

At this moment, it was already night. Zhi Tong's voice turned into a hoarse and old man again.

"In my eyes, you're the same as them. There's no difference," Jian Ai said. "The twelve guards who have already appeared have already stayed by my side. I know you want to stay too, right?"

Zhi Tong looked at Jian Ai with anticipation and yearning in his eyes.

Jian Ai smiled and said again, "Come with me!"

The reason she tried her best to take Zhi Tong away was that Jian Ai already understood he had become like how he was because he had awakened the power of the evil spirit. In the eyes of others, he was neither human nor ghost, but he was very kind in his heart.

In order not to scare others, he lived alone in a deep mountain in San Marino and almost never interacted with the outside world.

He was afraid of loneliness, so he would release many vengeful spirits to accompany him. Such days had lasted for a few years when Bai Zhou found him back then.

Jian Ai didn't want him to be alone like a lonely ghost. She wanted to take him away.

"Let's go, Zhi Tong. China is so fun. A few family members are waiting for you to go back!" Yun Buyao also smiled!

Chapter 1167: Returning to China

Hearing the word 'family members,' an inexplicable emotion seemed to strike Zhi Tong's heart.

Family—what a distant and unfamiliar word. It was so distant that he yearned for it, and it was so unfamiliar that it frightened him.

Gently lowering his eyes, Zhi Tong pursed his lips and said nothing. This made their hearts tighten, and their hearts ached for him.

"Zhi Tong, are you afraid?" Jian Ai suddenly asked.

Zhi Tong did not avoid the real thoughts in his heart. Hearing this, he answered, "A little."

The source of his fear was that he had been out of touch with this world for too long, and it was also because he could not remember how long it had been since he had lived with others.

If he left with Jian Ai, everything in the future would be filled with unknowns for Zhi Tong. It was precisely because of these unknowns that Zhi Tong felt fear.

As he struggled, Zhi Tong felt a warmth in his hand. He looked up and realized that the Sect Master was squatting in front of him, clasping his hand.

Jian Ai looked at Zhi Tong with a warm and sincere gaze. There was a smile on her face as she said gently and slowly, "Don't be afraid. You're not alone in this world. You still have me, Bai Zhou, Yu Wuyuan, and Yun Buyao. Everyone will like and accept you. Trust me!"

"That's right, Zhi Tong. You still have all of us. You're so cute. Everyone will like you!" Yun Buyao leaned forward and smiled.

Yu Wuyuan also smiled and nodded. "Believe in yourself and us. Come with us!"

Everyone's tone was exceptionally serious and fervent, making Zhi Tong's already soft and weak heart feel greatly comforted.

In the end, Zhi Tong nodded slightly and revealed a pale and powerless smile. "Alright!"

Seeing this, the smiles on the three of them couldn't help but deepen. Jian Ai also secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

At noon the next day, the four of them took a plane and left Italy. After over ten hours of flying, they safely landed in China.

Bai Zhou and the rest already knew about their return trip, so Chi Yang came to the airport to pick them up early.

As soon as they met, Chi Yang greeted Jian Ai and the rest before looking at Zhi Tong. He leaned over and said respectfully, "Lord Zhi Tong, long time no see!"

Many years ago, when Bai Zhou found Zhi Tong in San Marino, Chi Yang was also by his side. That was the first time he had seen Zhi Tong.

Now was the first time they had reunited after their last farewell. Because of the development in the power of the evil spirit, Zhi Tong was even paler than many years ago.

However, out of his understanding of the power of the evil spirit, Chi Yang did not show any surprise. This was because he knew that the change in Zhi Tong was because he had become stronger.

"Long time no see," Zhi Tong greeted. Because it was just past noon, Zhi Tong's voice was that of a normal adult male. This was also the only few hours in the day when he could make a voice that matched his age.

After getting into the car, Chi Yang drove straight to Xiao Zhen's villa.

"Is Bai Zhou okay?" Jian Ai sat in the backseat of the driver's seat and asked Chi Yang.

In fact, even without Chi Yang's words, Jian Ai could more or less guess. Bai Zhou had never doubted his brother because the two of them were very close to each other. Even when facing such danger, Bai Zhou did not suspect him at all.

Therefore, when the truth was in front of them, the impact would hit Bai Zhou easier than any truth.

He was an extremely sentimental person. Moreover, his brother had attempted to assassinate him. Not to mention him, but how many people in the world could accept it calmly?

As expected, Chi Yang sighed softly. "Not good. This matter dealt a huge blow to him."

As he spoke, Chi Yang's expression gradually darkened. "Actually, I'm also a little affected by this matter. I've been by Master's side for many years and am very familiar with Prince Qi Ye. In my impression, he's a very good person. He's loved by the people and favored by the King. I don't know why he suddenly did such a thing. I think this is also the reason Master is troubled because he can't figure it out."

Yun Buyao sat in the front passenger seat and couldn't help but look at Chi Yang curiously. "Chi Yang, can I ask about Bai Zhou and this Qi Ye? Are they biological brothers? Or do they have different mothers?"

Qiusi was a monarchy. As the name suggested, a king had to have a queen, and then there would be countless consorts. Be it the queen or the consort, the children they gave birth to would be recorded in the king's book as princes and princesses.

Chi Yang shook his head. "No, Prince Qi Ye is Queen Julia's child and the eldest son of King Yale. Master is Princess Diana's child and the second child of King Yale. In terms of status, Prince Qi Ye is more noble!"

They were not brothers with the same mother.

This way, it was easier for them to accept this matter. Although Jian Ai had never seen Prince Qi Ye in person, let alone know him, from the information she knew so far, this Prince Qi Ye should be a very scheming person. He pretended to be a perfect prince in front of others, but behind their backs, he secretly controlled everything and even funded the international killer organization to serve him for many years.

Needless to say, Prince Qi Ye was in a dark place that others did not know about. His hands were probably already covered in blood.

Just the thought of it made Jian Ai gasp. He was a terrifying person.

When they returned to Xiao Zhen's residence, Chi Lian, Xiao Zhen, and Si Yue came out to welcome them. Bai Zhou also came out!

As soon as she got out of the car, everyone surrounded her. The first thing Jian Ai did was introduce Zhi Tong to everyone.

Zhi Tong was very reserved, but a trace of redness filled his originally pale face because of nervousness. He suddenly looked much livelier.

Over the past few days, they had already understood the information and uniqueness of Zhi Tong, so they were mentally prepared. They were not as surprised as Jian Ai and the rest when they first saw him.

Everyone was very friendly, and they were all the twelve guards. This gradually eliminated the nervousness in Zhi Tong's heart and made him feel at ease.

After returning to the villa, everyone sat on the sofa in the living room. Chi Lian spoke first, "Sect Master, from your call, you plan to let Irene and the rest go?"

Jian Ai nodded. This was what she had promised Hans, and it was also the condition the two of them had negotiated and reached a consensus on. "Yes, let Yu Wuyuan undo the sword aura sealed in their bodies later and let them leave."

"What if they make a comeback?" Xiao Zhen was still a little worried. He couldn't help but say, "These people aren't weak. Letting them go will probably cause trouble in the future!"

Chapter 1168: The Last Dinner

"No." Jian Ai couldn't help but smile. "Leader Hans already promised me he won't attack Bai Zhou again. Moreover, because the mercenary group failed repeatedly at Bai Zhou, they have already lost Prince Qi Ye's funding. They shouldn't be working for Prince Qi Ye in the future."

"Besides, after these few days of interaction, I think Leader Hans and I have already become friends. I don't think he's a person who goes back on his word."

Jian Ai was not someone who would trust others easily, let alone this person who was their enemy not too long ago.

However, she was also a person who believed in her intuition greatly. Putting aside the fact that Hans had a favor to ask of her, but just the feeling Hans gave Jian Ai made her believe Hans was a person who would do what he said.

Moreover, Jian Ai was such a person. She had promised Hans, so there was no reason for her to go back on her word.

Hearing Jian Ai's confident tone, Xiao Zhen and the rest said nothing.

The most important thing now was to figure out Bai Zhou's true thoughts. Did he have a clear plan to face his half-brother? Moreover, they had grown up together, and their relationship had always been good. At least in Bai Zhou's opinion, this was the case. Facing such a person, did he have the determination to resist or even counterattack?

At this moment, Bai Zhou was sitting beside Jian Ai. His expression was as usual, as if he did not differ from his usual self. However, everyone present knew that he was just forcing a smile. When he learned that the person who wanted to kill him was Prince Qi Ye, Bai Zhou's heart was like a scene of a burglary. It was a mess!

"Do you have anything to say?"

Jian Ai softened her tone and asked tentatively.

What would come would come, eventually. There was no use in running away. Bai Zhou's body instinctively stiffened, and his expression slowly collapsed.

An instant of silence had already revealed his dilemma. A day was not enough for him to find the answer.

The others pursed their lips and looked at Bai Zhou with different expressions. Everyone knew the pain in his heart.

Jian Ai's heart ached for him. She couldn't bear to force him to accept this so quickly. She couldn't help but pat Bai Zhou's shoulder and say softly, "Don't give yourself too much pressure. Calm down and think about it. I believe you know what to do!"

Yu Wuyuan sat opposite her and slowly said, "The mercenary group no longer plans to help Prince Qi Ye. If he still wants to attack you, he has to find a new organization. The strength of this organization has to be at least on par with the mercenary group. This is not something that can be found in a day. Therefore, as the Sect Master said, you still have time to think about this. There's no hurry!"

The others nodded one after another. They understood why Bai Zhou was in pain and conflicted, but no one planned to interfere with his decision. After all, the person he was facing was his brother, so no one had the right to ask Bai Zhou to kill the other party. Even if they wanted to kill someone, Bai Zhou had to nod.

Feeling everyone's intentions, understanding, and support for him, Bai Zhou nodded gently. When he opened his mouth, his tone was no longer as elegant as before. He said weakly, "Thank you!"

"Don't worry. No matter what your decision is, we will be by your side," Jian Ai said softly.

Bai Zhou turned to look at her and forced a smile that relieved Jian Ai.

It was rare for everyone to be present today, and with the addition of Zhi Tong, Chi Yang made many dishes that night.

Of course, he did not forget Irene and the rest.

Ever since Jian Ai and the rest returned to the villa in the afternoon, Irene and the rest could vaguely hear laughter coming from the living room. They knew that the people who had found the mercenary group's headquarters were back.

"Those people are back? The leader let them go?" Louise finally couldn't help but ask.

She thought Leader Hans said that he would let them go because he had also caught the other party's people in exchange.

However, they did not expect that although the other party had safely returned to China today, no one cared about them.

Andrew sighed and said slowly, "Don't panic. Anyway, we've been living here for a few days. There's no harm in waiting."

“But...”

Before Louise could say anything, the door of the room suddenly opened. Then, Chi Yang pushed the dining cart in and looked at them with a smile. “It’s time to eat!”

Louise paused and turned to look at Chi Yang. She blurted out, “What do you want? If you want to kill me, kill me. Be quick!”

When Chi Yang heard this, he couldn’t help but blink inexplicably. “Kill? We never said that we wanted to kill you!”

“Then what do you want? To imprison and humiliate us?” Because they had sealed Louise in this room for a long time, her emotions had gradually reached a critical point of collapse. Especially after knowing that the other party had returned today, the remaining hope of exchanging hostages with the other party was shattered.

She wanted an outcome now!

The others also looked up at Chi Yang. They wanted to know why he had imprisoned them until now.

At this moment, Yu Wuyuan’s figure slowly appeared at the door.

When they saw Yu Wuyuan, their expressions instantly changed! This man had almost abnormal super strength. If not for him, they would not have been imprisoned in this room.

The sound of leather shoes stepping on the ground sounded. Each step was exceptionally stable, but it made one’s heart tug.

In the end, Yu Wuyuan stood beside Chi Yang. His gaze first landed on the exquisite food on the dining cart, then he raised it and slowly swept his gaze across everyone.

The corners of his naturally curled lips made his expression unable to be serious, as if he had a smile on his face all the time. However, he had an aura of an expert, that it was impossible to ignore his existence. As long as he appeared, everyone’s gaze would be drawn towards him.

Irene leaned in the corner and looked at Yu Wuyuan indifferently. Among everyone present, only she had a slightly different feeling for Yu Wuyuan.

As the strongest mercenary in the mercenary group, Irene had never lost. Yu Wuyuan was the first to defeat her, and he only used one move.

Moreover, among the six of them, only Irene had truly felt Yu Wuyuan’s strength. He was an existence that even she had to look up to.

Irene had been thinking about this question for the past few days. If there was Yu Wuyuan in this world, would there be a second one or even more?

Was she still considered an expert?!

Obviously, Irene would have to think about this question in the future because Yu Wuyuan slowly said, “This is your last dinner here. After eating, I’ll let you leave!”

Chapter 1169: The First Condition for Victory

When they heard Yu Wuyuan's words, they couldn't help but look up with unconcealed shock on their faces.

Let them leave? Not kill them?

During the days they were trapped in this room, they knew nothing about what had happened in the outside world. Because they had no way to understand, when Yu Wuyuan said that he would let them leave, they did not know why or what had happened.

However, Yu Wuyuan explained nothing else. After saying this, he turned around and left.

"Chi Yang, are you really planning to let us go?"

At this moment, Andrew came back to his senses and quickly asked Chi Yang.

Over the past few days, the person they interacted with the most was Chi Yang. Because Chi Yang prepared and delivered their three meals every day, he would occasionally talk to them.

Chi Yang smiled and nodded. "Of course. Our people went to Italy this time and have already reached a certain consensus with your leader, so you're safe."

As he spoke, Chi Yang opened a bottle of red wine and looked at them. "This is the last time I'll prepare dinner for you. Enjoy it!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Chi Yang turned around and left the room.

The few people in the room looked at each other. It was not that they doubted Yu Wuyuan and Chi Yang's words, but all of this happened too suddenly. They had already given up hope, but the other party told them they would let them go.

"Could the food be poisonous..."

Louise always felt uneasy, as if the environment had forced out her persecutory delusions. She immediately frowned and looked at the fragrant food on the dining cart.

Andrew said, "Don't measure the stature of great men by the yardstick of small men. They don't have to do this."

Irene slowly stood up and said, "Andrew is right. If the other party wanted to kill us, they wouldn't have needed such a dirty method of poisoning food."

With their abilities sealed, they did not differ from ordinary people. If they wanted to kill or skin them, wouldn't they be fish on the chopping board—at the mercy of others?

Why would they be so troublesome?!

"Everyone, eat. You can leave after eating!" Irene said and picked up her plate to pick up the food she wanted to eat.

Seeing this, the others also moved.

At the dining table in the living room, Jian Ai and the rest were enjoying dinner.

“It wasn’t easy.” Yun Buyao ate Chi Yang’s meticulously cooked dinner with tears in her eyes. She sighed with relief after surviving a calamity. “You don’t know, but we can still eat many international foods in the restaurants of our Italian hotel. There are also Chinese chefs who specialize in making Chinese food. In the end, Leader Hans invited us to stay in the mercenary group’s headquarters and we ate Italian food every day. I loved western food so much that I almost vomited in the end. It was too greasy and sickening. I feel that I’ve gained at least five to six pounds!”

Jian Ai agreed with her. Hearing this, she couldn’t help but nod and smile. “Moreover, Leader Hans is very passionate. He prepared every meal exceptionally sumptuously. It would seem impolite for you to only eat a little. We all braced ourselves and ate crazily! At first, we thought it was ok, but after two days, we couldn’t do it anymore. We couldn’t care less about being polite. I only ate salad and drank coffee for the next few days. The calories were too high!”

Italian food was like this. They put a lot of cheese in everything and used all kinds of meat sauce and soup. In short, the table was filled with calories. It was no wonder that most Europeans were tall and burly. Their food was still very different from China.

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The others found it refreshing. They felt that the other party treated Jian Ai and the rest as VIPs in the past few days.

Therefore, they found it interesting and funny. They went to infiltrate the enemy to gather information, but they did not expect them to become friends in the end.

“Leader Hans is quite magnanimous.” Chi Lian couldn’t help but raise her eyebrows with interest. “He lost Prince Qi Ye’s funding because he failed three times on us. In the end, he was still willing to negotiate with us and even became friends.”

“That’s the problem!” Jian Ai couldn’t help but sigh. Her gaze landed on Bai Zhou as she slowly said, “Bai Zhou, do you know why Leader Hans was so kind to us under such circumstances?”

When the topic suddenly landed on him, Bai Zhou couldn’t help but be stunned. Then, he shook his head. However, he felt that the Sect Master seemed to have deliberately led the topic to him. He couldn’t help but ask tentatively, “Is it related to me?”

Jian Ai nodded slightly. “Just as Chi Lian said just now, logically speaking, the other party suffered a setback from us and lost the support of their financiers. They should hate us.”

“But Leader Hans is a very comprehensive person. After losing Prince Qi Ye, a rich man, the first thing he considered was the future of the mercenary group. He needs to find the next person who will fund the mercenary group immediately.”

At this point, Bai Zhou and the rest couldn’t help but look enlightened. Chi Yang couldn’t help but say, “Sect Master, you mean that the mercenary group wants Master to fund them?”

Jian Ai raised her eyebrows and nodded. “That’s what I mean!”

Bai Zhou: "..."

Chi Yang: "..."

When Chi Lian heard this, she couldn't help but cross her arms and lean back in her chair. She was the first to express her support. "I think it's possible. With the international influence of the International Mercenary Group, if Bai Zhou can receive their support and protection, it might be a long-term solution. At the very least, those organizations that are afraid of the mercenary group's forces won't dare to have designs on Bai Zhou in the future!"

Even the usually taciturn Xiao Zhen said, "Bai Zhou's identity is special. As a member of the royal family, almost everyone has the support of the dark forces in private. Although Bai Zhou has us to protect him, it doesn't mean that he can't have his own forces. If anything happens in the future, they might be useful. I heard that this international mercenary group is very famous. Even if Bai Zhou gives up on them, they shouldn't have to worry about not being able to find a financier. However, they took the initiative to collaborate with Bai Zhou. I think a large part of the reason is that they think we're strong enough."

The combination of the strong was the first condition for victory!

"I knew it. Everyone will choose to support it!" When Yun Buyao heard this, she revealed an expression that said, "I already guessed that this would be the result." She looked at everyone and said, "From the moment I learned this news, I thought the same as you. Bai Zhou's attack was not a coincidence. Someone carefully planned all of this behind his back. Moreover, from the frequency of the other party's assassinations, this Prince Qi Ye obviously wanted Bai Zhou to die quickly. There must be a reason we don't know."

Chapter 1170: Let Them Go

Yun Buyao's words were also what Jian Ai was thinking.

However, as for the reason, they did not know because Hans did not know, and neither did Lao Liu. It might be related to the internal affairs of the Qiusi royal family, or it might be for some other reason that they could not think of. They could only know this after a deeper investigation in the future.

Although everyone was talking, Bai Zhou maintained an expressionless expression. They saw this and did not know what he was thinking.

As if not wanting to give him too much pressure, Yu Wuyuan immediately whispered, "Bai Zhou, everyone's words are just their opinions on this matter. You can refer to them, but there's no need to be too obsessed. The decision of this matter is still in your hands. Whether or not you want to sponsor them, it's your choice. We support you!"

"That's right. The main thing is how you think of this matter. Don't worry, even without them, we can still protect you. We won't let anything happen to you," Chi Lian said.

When Bai Zhou heard this, he smiled at everyone and nodded gently. "I know. Thank you."

Bai Zhou looked exceptionally listless today. It was obvious that the truth had shocked him. After interacting with him for so long, Jian Ai had never seen the usually optimistic Bai Zhou show such helplessness.

Even though he tried his best to hide it, everyone could feel his pain.

At this moment, Bai Zhou looked at Jian Ai and asked, "Boss, what do you think?"

Jian Ai paused and chuckled. "What you mean is what I mean!"

Jian Ai slowly exhaled and looked at Bai Zhou with a serious expression. "I don't want to interfere with your decision. Just as Chi Lian said, even without them, we will protect you. However, the problem is whether you want their support in your heart."

"Of course, I know that some people secretly fund international terrorist organizations because these people have ambitions and desires. However, you don't have any of these. You don't want to ask for the crown of Qiusi. The status of a prince is a restraint for you. You want freedom, you like China, and you like everyone in the ancient sect. We know all of this.

"But the problem is that the tree wants to be quiet, but the wind won't stop. You did nothing, but some people don't want you to stay out of it and forcefully involve you in a conspiracy that you don't even know why.

"Therefore, you need to think about this calmly. What do you want to do next? Give yourself an answer and strengthen your heart.

"As long as it's your decision, all of us will support you!"

Jian Ai didn't say it too bluntly and absolutely, leaving some flexibility for Bai Zhou to think. To put it bluntly, Jian Ai's meaning was very clear. The only question she hoped Bai Zhou would think about was whether to retaliate!

If the answer was no, it meant that Bai Zhou still could not cut off his feelings for his brother, and he would not want to compete for the throne of Qiusi. This way, there was no point in Bai Zhou collaborating with Hans because to protect his safety, the ancient sect had enough people!

However, if the answer was yes and Bai Zhou retaliated, he would indeed need a mercenary group as his backing to fight against Qi Ye.

Hearing Jian Ai's words, Bai Zhou nodded gently. However, he could not focus on this matter now. He needed to give himself some time. He could only consider other things after he had completely digested the current negative emotions.

"I'll think about it," Bai Zhou said in a low voice.

Seeing this, the others didn't mention this topic anymore. Everyone believed that Bai Zhou would make a choice he thought was right, and what they had to do was support his choice without hesitation and stand beside him!

The night was as cold as water, and the cold wind blew.

Outside the manor, Jian Ai and the rest stood side by side. Standing opposite them were Irene and the rest, who had been released.

Feeling the night wind and the cool and sweet air, Irene and the rest realized that they were still alive.

Yu Wuyuan walked forward and waved his hand. A light green sword aura surged out of their bodies at the same time. After it exposed the sword aura to the air for two seconds, it dissipated.

This sword aura had always been sealed in their meridians, making them lose their superpowers.

Now that the seal was removed, they immediately felt their bodies lighten. Their blocked meridians gradually became smooth, and waves of power that had been suppressed for a long time surged crazily into their limbs.

This long-lost feeling surprised them. They had finally returned to their powerful selves!

"I had no choice but to lock you here during this period. After all, we were enemies before, so it's reasonable for me to be guarded against you. Please understand." Jian Ai walked forward and slowly said, "We destroyed your car when we fought before. We're giving you the car behind us. You can leave now!"

Andrew stood opposite Jian Ai and couldn't help but say, "You could have killed us, but you didn't. We should thank you! As mercenaries, all we can do is accept and carry out missions, and assassinate targets. We have no choice. I hope you can understand us!"

Jian Ai smiled. "We understand. That's why I became friends with Leader Hans. It's because we fully understand each other's standpoint!"

Andrew nodded and said to Jian Ai in Chinese, "Goodbye!"

Jian Ai: "Goodbye!"

On the other hand, Eugene walked up to Chi Yang and smiled. "Thank you for your hospitality. The food you made is very delicious!"

When Chi Yang heard this, he couldn't help but smile. "I didn't treat you well. If there's a chance in the future, I'll cook for you!"

Irene took the initiative to come to Yu Wuyuan. Her silver-white hair was especially striking under the night sky. She looked up at Yu Wuyuan and said, "You're the strongest person I've seen in so many years. Before I met you, I always thought I was the strongest."

Yu Wuyuan smiled and said, "You're indeed very strong!"

Irene suddenly smiled. "I hope I can ask you for guidance when I have the chance."

"The roots are different, and the cultivation methods are different," Yu Wuyuan replied elegantly. "There's no need to ask for guidance. If I have the chance, I'm willing to share a thing or two with you!"

Irene nodded, her eyes gentle. "Alright!"