

At School 1301

Chapter 1301 A Tricky New Situation!

When Jian Ai heard this, the smile on her face disappeared, and she immediately became serious. "Is there something on Prince Qi Ye's side?"

Andrew nodded and said, "His actions this time are a little unexpected. It's different from what we have guessed before."

When everyone heard this, they sat around. Chi Lian was the first to ask, "What did you mean by what you said just now? What did Prince Qi Ye secretly do?"

Andrew looked at everyone with a solemn expression and said, "I don't know through what channels, but Prince Qi Ye contacted a very mysterious person. It was also through this person that he spent a lot of money to hire eight international killers."

"Only eight people?"

Jian Ai was surprised.

It had to be known that an organization with over a thousand people in the mercenary group could not help Prince Qi Ye assassinate Bai Zhou. Now, Prince Qi Ye spent a lot of money to hire just eight killers? This was a little puzzling.

Unless...

Bai Zhou thought for a moment and said, "My brother is not a confused person. These eight killers must have something outstanding that ordinary people don't."

"You mean these eight killers might all have special abilities?" Chi Lian frowned and asked.

Bai Zhou nodded, and Jian Ai thought so too. "As Bai Zhou said, Prince Qi Ye is not a sucker. Since he's willing to spend money, these eight people must have the ability to convince him. If they didn't have special abilities, I can't think of any other reason."

Andrew nodded slightly and affirmed Jian Ai's and Bai Zhou's guess. "You're right. Gale and Louise did a deeper investigation. Other than a few people who are difficult to approach, specific information they found are about special ability users."

Chi Yang was slightly shocked. "All eight of them?"

Andrew said solemnly, "I'm almost certain."

Everyone could not help but look at each other in shock. After all, a super powerful international organization like the mercenary group only had Irene, Andrew, and the other three ability users under them.

However, now, Prince Qi Ye had hired eight ability users through a secret middleman. It was unknown where they found these people from. The mysterious middleman behind this was probably not a simple identity.

“I have photos and some information about these people. Everyone can look!” Andrew said and placed the printed information and photos on the table.

Everyone’s corresponding information and photos were bound together. Jian Ai picked one up and looked at it.

Name: Edward.

Gender: Male.

Age: Twenty-eight years old.

Nationality: Country M.

Ability: His hair has a special ability to control its length at will. The ends of the hair are as sharp as needles.

Jian Ai frowned. What kind of strange ability was this?

They arranged the information of the killers that they investigated in the same format. They did not describe the abilities in detail, but they had a rough idea.

“Sect Master, look at this person!”

At this moment, Chi Yang suddenly handed the information in his hand to Jian Ai with a solemn expression.

Jian Ai paused and reached out to take it. Then, she looked down.

This was... Lei!

Name: Lei.

Gender: Male.

Age: Twenty-three years old.

Nationality: San Marino.

Ability: Use of lightning strikes. Extremely lethal!

The way they described the ability could be said to be superficial. Jian Ai had a deep impression of this person. Lei’s strength was terrifying. Back then, Si Yue, Xiao Zhen, and Chi Yang were at a disadvantage even when they joined forces.

Unexpectedly, after going around in circles, they met this person again!

“It’s him?”

Si Yue also saw the information in Jian Ai’s hand and his expression darkened.

Seeing this, the others couldn’t help but look at him questioningly. Bai Zhou couldn’t help but ask, “What’s wrong? Have you seen this person before?”

Jian Ai nodded. "Do you still remember the battle in the western suburbs of Baiyun in the summer? You used your ability to find my location. Xiao Zhen and the rest rushed over as support, but they almost couldn't defeat the other party. At that time, it was this person who used lightning!"

Bai Zhou naturally wouldn't forget. When he heard this, he couldn't help but frown and say, "I remember that someone resolved your siege at that time? This person is powerful, and he's not easy to deal with!"

Jian Ai nodded and admitted, "That's right. This person is quite powerful. What I'm worried about now is that if these people are experts of the same level as him, we won't be able to handle them!"

Everyone's expressions were slightly solemn, and this was not what gave them the most headache. Andrew suddenly took out two photos and threw them in front of everyone. "These two are the most troublesome."

Everyone focused their eyes. In the photo was an Asian woman and a White man.

Jian Ai picked it up and flipped to the back. There was no information.

"These are the ones with no information?" Jian Ai asked.

Andrew nodded. "These two people are very vigilant. From the pursuit, Gale and Louise felt they were very powerful, especially this man. He almost discovered Louise under her invisibility ability. Fortunately, she hid quickly. Otherwise, something would have happened."

At this moment, Bai Zhou asked, "Have these eight people seen my brother?"

Andrew shook his head. "No, there are many rules for international killers. There's a mysterious middleman between these eight people and Prince Qi Ye. According to the rules, they can't cross this person and contact their employer without permission."

"They just have to wait for the employer to issue the mission and the middleman to convey it. They will carry it out."

Irene, who had been silent, said, "I think it's better for us to strike first and take the initiative before the other party can react."

Irene's thoughts were the same as Jian Ai and Bai Zhou's. Jian Ai continued, "Irene is right. These eight people have different nationalities and are in different places. Taking advantage of the fact that they haven't gathered together, we'll defeat them one by one. It's the most effective solution now."

Because if it was as Jian Ai thought, and these eight people were as strong as the man called Lei, with some of them even stronger than him, that would be too troublesome.

Once the eight of them gathered in Baiyun City to attack Bai Zhou, it would be a fierce battle. They did not know who would win or lose because they did not clearly understand the other party's strength.

When Chi Yang heard this, he couldn't help but say worriedly, "But if that's the case, won't Master be exposed? If something happened to the people Prince Qi Ye hired, he must know that Master already knows that he's going to attack Master."

Bai Zhou immediately snorted. "Now that things have come to this, we have no choice but to stand up. Brother is so generous. If I don't react, won't I be letting him down?"

Chapter 1302 Those Who Offend Our Sect Will Be Killed, No Matter How Far They Are

When everyone saw Bai Zhou's attitude, who seemed to have finally hardened his heart, their expressions were different.

The blow Bai Zhou suffered because of this matter made him dispirited for a long time. His brother, whom he had grown up with, wanted to kill him. He had never convinced himself to be his enemy.

However, everything that had happened in the past few months showed that Prince Qi Ye did not plan to show mercy. He even used the darkest and most vicious powers in the world to deal with Bai Zhou.

Even if his heart was hot, it would have turned cold by now.

"Bai Zhou is right. We've always been passive before, but now that Leader Hans helped us get these clues in advance, if we don't use these hard-won clues to take the initiative, we would have wasted Gale and Louise's hard work of investigation for so long," Jian Ai said slowly.

Chi Lian nodded in agreement. "That's right. Since the enemy has always been in the dark and we're in the open, and now that everyone knows the opponent is Prince Qi Ye, there's no reason to wait for death. As the Sect Master said just now, if these eight people gather and attack together, it will be a fierce battle. No one can guarantee what will happen then!"

Everyone nodded. At this moment, Irene conveyed Leader Hans' intentions. "Leader Hans said that our mercenary group is now under Prince Bai Zhou. As long as there's a move, all six people in our mercenary group will be present to support him."

The six people Irene was talking about were naturally the ability users of the mercenary group. After all, the target of this mission was also an ability user. If they sent ordinary people to increase the number of people, it would be useless. It would undoubtedly send them to their deaths.

"Sect Master, how should we arrange the plan?" Chi Yang looked at Jian Ai and asked.

Everyone looked at Jian Ai, waiting for her to say her thoughts.

Jian Ai sat up slightly and said, "Inform Yu Wuyuan and Yun Buyao to meet us in Baiyun City quickly!"

Bai Zhou nodded. "I'll contact them later!"

Jian Ai looked at Andrew and Irene and said, "This is a team battle. Since you're involved, please contact the others to meet in Baiyun City. We'll discuss how to deal with it."

"No problem!" Andrew agreed. "I'll inform them immediately!"

In the end, Jian Ai looked at Bai Zhou and said, "Bai Zhou, the ancient sect members are scattered across the world. According to the address in this information, gather the local ancient sect members who can increase the number of our people. It doesn't matter even if there are only one or two people. We have to do our best to ensure that nothing goes wrong. Because we don't know the other party's strength, we have to have the advantage in numbers!"

“Alright!” Bai Zhou nodded solemnly. He did not expect the Sect Master to suggest mobilizing the ancient sect at this critical moment.

After all, Jian Ai had never wanted to disturb these people’s lives before. Now, it seemed that the Sect Master was very careful.

Bai Zhou was not wrong. Jian Ai knew she had to do her best this time. Only by winning completely could she intimidate Prince Qi Ye so that when he wanted to deal with Bai Zhou in the future, he could weigh it and be afraid.

Therefore, Jian Ai said, “It’s time for the few guards who didn’t show up to see me!”

When Bai Zhou, Chi Lian, and the rest heard this, they subconsciously looked at each other and revealed meaningful smiles.

The Sect Master planned to gather everyone to deal with Prince Qi Ye together for Bai Zhou!

“If the twelve guards move out, this will greatly increase our chances of winning!” Chi Lian couldn’t help but say.

Even Chi Yang and Bai Zhou, who were initially nervous, felt slightly relieved. From the Sect Master’s attitude, it was obvious that she wanted to hit the target with one strike, not giving her opponent any chance to catch his breath.

Jian Ai said seriously, “Bai Zhou is a member of our ancient sect. All of us will share a common enemy. Those who offend our sect will be killed no matter how far they are!”

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The next afternoon, Ji Haoyu received news that Old Master Ji was already awake.

Ji Haoyu, who was working in the corporation, quickly put down his work and called for Yuan Ye to go to the hospital to pay a visit.

However, as soon as he went downstairs, he saw Wang Yunmei dealing with the front desk in the corporation lobby.

“Madam, I’m sorry. You don’t have an appointment, so I can’t let you go up,” the receptionist said seriously.

Wang Yunmei was wearing casual clothes. It was obvious that she had specially come over. When she heard this, she couldn’t help but explain, “I’m General Manager Wang of Yaochi. I went out in a hurry today and forgot to bring my identification. Help me call the CEO’s office. If he knows it’s me, he’ll let me go up.”

When the receptionist heard that she was Yaochi’s general manager, she couldn’t help but be stunned. The lead receptionist at the front desk seemed to have heard Wang Yunmei’s words and immediately walked over. “Is it Manager Wang from Yaochi?”

Wang Yunmei quickly nodded. “Yes, if you don’t believe me, you can check!”

“No need. I’ll help you contact the CEO’s secretary. Wait a moment!” the lead receptionist said with a smile.

When she turned around, she saw Ji Haoyu walking over from the elevator.

Seeing Wang Yunmei, Ji Haoyu couldn’t help but walk faster. “Auntie, why are you at the headquarters? Are you here for me?”

Seeing Ji Haoyu suddenly appear, Wang Yunmei quickly went forward and said, “Haoyu, how’s Old Master Ji?”

It turned out that Wang Yunmei suddenly came to the corporation’s headquarters because she heard from Jian Ai that Old Master Ji was seriously ill and hospitalized. Hence, she specially came over to ask and wanted to visit him in the hospital.

After all, when she was being treated in the hospital, Old Ji had visited her a few times and even reimbursed all her treatment fees in the name of the Ji Group.

Wang Yunmei had always been grateful. Now that she knew Old Ji was hospitalized, she was naturally anxious.

Seeing that Wang Yunmei was here for the old man, Ji Haoyu couldn’t help but smile. “Auntie, don’t worry. I just received a call. Grandpa has already woken up. I was just about to go over to see him!”

When Wang Yunmei heard this, she quickly said, “That’s good. Haoyu, I’ll go with you.”

“Alright.” Ji Haoyu smiled and nodded in agreement. “Auntie, don’t come so far to look for me in the future. Just give me a call.”

Wang Yunmei explained, “Oh, I initially wanted to call you after I went out and go straight to the hospital, but my phone ran out of battery, so I didn’t notice.”

The surrounding employees at the Ji Group’s headquarters were all dumbfounded. Wasn’t Manager Wang Yaochi’s general manager? She should only be a middle-level employee under the Ji Group then.

However, why was Young Master Ji so polite to her? He even had a smile on his face from the beginning to the end. That smile was not the usual smile on Young Master Ji’s face, but it was obvious that he was sincere!

What was Manager Wang’s background?

Especially the employees at the front desk just now. They looked at each other in shock and thought to themselves, ‘Fortunately, I didn’t offend them just now.’

Chapter 1303 The Twelve Guards Gather!

After yesterday’s conversation, everyone acted according to Jian Ai’s instructions. The first thing was to contact the people Jian Ai instructed to contact.

On the mercenary group’s side, Eugene and Robert were the first to arrive. Gale and Louise, who were in charge of the investigation, could not escape for the time being because the two of them had to keep a

close eye on the other party's movements. Therefore, they could only meet up with everyone when the operation started.

On Bai Zhou's side, he activated everyone the ancient sect could use and contacted the remaining few guards.

As members of the ancient sect, and with Jian Ai's orders, all the people who were contacted responded.

In just two days, everyone rushed to Baiyun City in China.

When Jian Ai appeared in Bai Zhou's apartment again, three people were kneeling in front of her.

"I'm ranked fourth among the twelve guards of the ancient sect. I'm The Space and Time Controller, Ming Zui. Greetings, Sect Master!"

Ming Zui was from Country Z. He was about twenty-five years old and had thick eyebrows, big eyes, and a heroic aura. He had the appearance of a standard Asian man.

Moreover, he had the power of space and time, one of the five great abilities of the ancient sect. Although he was ranked fourth, according to Bai Zhou, this person was very powerful and was comparable to Chi Lian, who was ranked third.

"I'm ranked eighth among the twelve guards of the ancient sect. I'm the Flower Speaker, Luan Qingyang. Greetings, Sect Master!"

Luan Qingyang and Ming Zui were two completely different people. Luan Qingyang was born in Northern Europe and looked the most special among the twelve guards. He had golden hair and amber eyes. Because he liked Asian culture, he gave himself a very refined name, Luan Qingyang.

He was extremely handsome and had a graceful bearing. It complemented his name.

The last person was a Japanese person. He was dressed in an orthodox black Chinese tunic suit and looked much older than the others. He was at least in his forties.

This person was strict, and his expression was exceptionally cold and determined. However, he still appeared respectful to Jian Ai. "I'm ranked ninth among the twelve guards of the ancient sect. I'm The Pen of Calming Souls Duo!"

That's right. His name was only one word, and it had the meaning of falling into hell!

Duo's ability was extremely special. It was a dark attribute ability like Zhi Tong, who was ranked tenth. Especially since he was already in his forties and had cultivated for longer than others, his strength could not be underestimated.

Jian Ai looked at the three people in front of her. For some reason, she could not hide her excitement.

At this moment, ten of the twelve guards under the ancient sect had already gathered in this room.

"Everyone, stand up and talk. There's no need to be too polite!" Jian Ai calmed herself down as she talked.

Everyone stood up one after another. At this moment, Bai Zhou leaned forward and whispered, "Sect Master, Ye Liushang can't rush over immediately, but I've already relayed the situation to him. What he means is that the Sect Master can directly assign the strongest person on the enemy's side for him to resolve. When the time comes, he can attack directly and not meet us!"

Jian Ai nodded.

She believed that Ye Liushang, as the strongest among the twelve guards, could say this. When the two sides fought, the strongest person on the enemy's side should be handed over to the strongest person on her side.

"Where's the twelfth?" Only then did Jian Ai realize that other than Ye Liushang, the person ranked twelve was not around.

When Jian Ai suddenly mentioned the twelfth, everyone's expressions changed slightly. Bai Zhou looked at everyone and said to Jian Ai, "The twelfth. He can't come. Please forgive him, Sect Master."

Jian Ai could tell that when she mentioned the twelfth, the others' reactions were not right, especially Bai Zhou!

Usually, when Bai Zhou reported things to her, he would tell her the results directly. However, for this question only, he told her that the twelfth could not come. He did not even tell her why he could not come.

Jian Ai frowned and looked at Bai Zhou. "What's going on? Are you hiding something from me?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Jian Ai couldn't help but think of the night she first saw Bai Zhou. She had once asked about the twelfth. At that time, Bai Zhou seemed to have something difficult to say and avoided answering her question.

Back then, the ancient sect's matter shocked her, so she did not think too much about it. However, now, she already saw herself as the sect master of the ancient sect. This concerned the twelfth, so she could not be fooled like before.

"Sect Master, I'll tell you about the twelfth in the future," Bai Zhou said awkwardly. "Now is not the right time."

Seeing Bai Zhou like this, Jian Ai's heart instinctively thumped, and an ominous premonition arose.

"Something happened to the twelfth? Has he already..." Jian Ai stopped mid-sentence, but her thoughts shocked her.

Fortunately, Bai Zhou quickly denied her words. "He is still alive. Sect Master, don't worry. However, many things happened to him. When the time is ripe in the future, I'll tell you everything."

Bai Zhou tried his best to hide it. Although Jian Ai was puzzled, she understood his difficulties.

If there was no other reason, Jian Ai believed that Bai Zhou would have told her.

Fortunately, he was still alive. It was good that it was not what she thought.

"I understand. I won't ask!" Jian Ai sighed and relented.

Seeing this, everyone looked at each other and heaved a sigh of relief.

At this moment, Yu Wuyuan changed the topic. "As one of the twelve guards of the ancient sect, this is the first time we've met. We should talk nicely, but we're all here under orders now. I believe everyone knows the situation. We still have to discuss a countermeasure as soon as possible."

"It's not too late to catch up and talk after we've settled serious business," Yun Buyao said with a smile.

Everyone nodded. Jian Ai looked at Chi Yang and instructed, "Chi Yang, call Irene and the rest downstairs. Since we're going to act together, let's discuss it together."

"Yes, Sect Master!" Chi Yang nodded and turned around to leave quickly.

Not long after, Irene and the rest arrived at Bai Zhou's apartment. The sudden appearance of a few more people from the ancient sect shocked them.

During this period, the two sides had long turned from enemies to friends, especially Irene and Andrew, who had been living in Bai Zhou's building. They interacted with them almost every day and learned some things about the ancient sect.

Although it was difficult to explain what had happened in ancient China to Irene and the rest, in their understanding, they treated the ancient sect as an organization like a mercenary group.

It was not wrong to say that ancient sects did not differ from current organizations.

However, what shocked Irene and the rest was that there were so many ability users in the ancient sect that they did not know about.

Chapter 1304 I Won't Stay Behind

What they did not know was that although there were less than a hundred people from the ancient sect scattered around the world, everyone had more or less inherited the ancient sect's mental cultivation techniques. It was just that there were differences in strength.

Of course, the twelve guards of the ancient sect had to be the strongest, except Bai Zhou!

Even though they were shocked, they had dominated the international scene for many years. Moreover, they were ability users, so they quickly accepted this.

The two sides introduced each other briefly again and sat around each other.

Jian Ai was the first to speak. "Although I'm the sect master, I'm still young and haven't experienced as much as you, so you can raise your opinions and objections on this matter. We'll discuss countermeasures together. You don't have to listen to my arrangements."

Jian Ai's action could be said to be quite democratic. Most importantly, to Jian Ai, the safety of these people was the most important, so she had to formulate a foolproof plan without mistakes to ensure that nothing went wrong.

She knew her abilities were limited for now. Even if she could do her best to be thorough in thinking about problems, she could not be completely dictatorial. After all, Yu Wuyuan and the rest were quick-witted people. She would need their guidance in something she did not expect.

Everyone nodded.

Jian Ai restrained her expression and placed the photos of the eight ability users on the table again.

Moreover, the arrangement they were placed this time was in order.

“According to Gale and Louise’s intelligence analysis, the strength rankings of these eight people are as follows,” Jian Ai said, but she didn’t forget to remind them, “Of course, there might be a deviation in the rankings because this is only the conclusion Gale and Louise gave during the investigation. However, we have no other way to understand them, so we can only use this as a reference.”

When everyone heard this, they looked at these photos. Si Yue, Xiao Zhen, and Chi Yang had fought Lei before, but in this ranking, Lei could only be ranked fifth!

This was already a ranking below average.

Xiao Zhen frowned and couldn’t help but say, “This Lei is only ranked fifth among the eight?”

This was the first time Ming Zui and the rest had seen these photos, let alone know that Xiao Zhen and the rest had fought Lei before. They couldn’t help but look puzzled. “Is there anything wrong?”

When Xiao Zhen heard this, he looked at Ming Zui, Luan Qingyang, and Duo, and explained, “Just this year, we accidentally fought this man called Lei. At that time, Si Yue, Chi Yang, and I joined forces, but we were almost not his match. This person’s ability can summon heavenly lightning. Although it’s not a strange ability, his lethality is extremely powerful. His speed is not even inferior to the power of darkness.”

Si Yue also said, “With such strength, he can’t rank in the top four of the eight and can only be ranked fifth. The four people in front are probably quite troublesome!”

“Irene, your mercenary group has been around the world for many years and has fought with ability users. Do you know anyone here?” Jian Ai looked at Irene and the rest and asked.

Irene and the rest looked at the photos again to identify them, but in the end, they shook their heads. “No.”

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn’t help but take a deep breath. Other than Lei, the remaining seven were unfamiliar faces to everyone. How many people with special abilities were there in this world?

Jian Ai raised her hand and flipped the photo of the man ranked first on the table. She said, “Leave this person to Ye Liushang.”

Among the twelve guards, the top three were the strongest. However, there was a considerable difference in strength among the three of them.

Just like Chi Lian and Yu Wuyuan. When Chi Lian fought with Irene back then, the battle was in a deadlock. However, after Yu Wuyuan appeared, he subdued Irene with a move. It was enough to see that there was still a considerable difference in strength between the two of them.

Similarly, as the outstanding leader of the twelve guards, Ye Liushang’s strength was definitely above Yu Wuyuan’s.

Therefore, no one, including Yu Wuyuan, objected to Jian Ai's decision.

Seeing that no one had any objections, Jian Ai continued, "There are only seven people left on the other side. Other than Bai Zhou and Ye Liushang, there are eleven people from the ancient sect – Yu Wuyuan, Chi Lian, Yun Buyao, Si Yue, Xiao Zhen, Luan Qingyang, Duo, Zhi Tong, Chi Yang, and I!"

"Irene, Andrew, Eugene, Robert, Gale, and Louise from the mercenary group. Six people!"

"There are seventeen people in total, so even if we fight two against one, there are still three people left! In other words, there are some individual groups with three people instead!"

"In addition, we still have the reinforcements from the ancient sect. The other party only has seven people. We're acting secretly as well, so our chances of winning are still very high!"

Everyone nodded. Looking at the analysis in front of them, they indeed had a considerable advantage in numbers.

Prince Qi Ye could not have guessed that he had spent so much effort to find eight powerful ability users through a mysterious middleman, but almost twenty people had casually gathered on Bai Zhou's side.

"Sect Master, don't put yourself in danger, okay?" Luan Qingyang looked at Jian Ai and said.

The others also expressed their worry. Chi Lian said, "Sect Master, your power of blood hasn't awakened yet. There are too many uncertainties in this battle. It's better for you to stay in Baiyun City."

"That's right, Sect Master!" The others echoed.

Jian Ai chuckled and said, "I already knew that you would make such an arrangement, so I've long thought about it. This time, it's useless no matter who says it. Even if I haven't awakened my ability, the ordinary mental cultivation techniques of the ancient sect are enough to protect myself. I won't let you fight in front and hide at the back."

Bai Zhou said, "But..."

"No buts!" Jian Ai looked at Bai Zhou and said mercilessly, "You have no combat ability at all. I'm different from you. My current strength is not inferior to ordinary ancient sect members. Since they can stand up to reinforce us, why can't I?"

As if seeing Jian Ai's determination, Yu Wuyuan immediately said, "Since the Sect Master has already made up her mind, there's no need for us to argue."

As soon as he finished speaking, Yu Wuyuan took the initiative to ask for orders. He said, "Sect Master, leave the person ranked second to me alone!"

When Jian Ai heard this, she couldn't help but smile. She looked at Yu Wuyuan with a playful expression and said, "The person ranked second is a woman. Can you do it?"

However, Jian Ai initially wanted to tease Yu Wuyuan, but as soon as she finished speaking, Irene's voice sounded indifferently. "He could do it!"

Everyone was stunned for a moment before chuckling. Bai Zhou looked at Irene and said, "It seems that Irene is still holding a grudge against Yu Wuyuan for not showing mercy to her at that time!"

Chapter 1305 Divide and Conquer!

Hearing everyone's laughter, Irene did not blush. Instead, she touched her hair generously and said casually, "I'm not holding a grudge. I'm just inferior."

Yu Wuyuan shook his head and laughed, but he said nothing.

Back then, it was an emergency. To be honest, he had no time to consider if his opponent was a man or a woman because an enemy was an enemy. In his eyes, there was no difference between men and women.

Jian Ai flipped over the second photo according to Yu Wuyuan's instructions and didn't forget to remind him, "You have to be careful. There's no information on the top two people. They must be very troublesome!"

Even so, Jian Ai still believed in Yu Wuyuan's ability. With his calmness, even if he met an equally matched opponent, he could win in other aspects.

Yu Wuyuan nodded slightly. "Don't worry, Sect Master."

As such, Ye Liushang and Yu Wuyuan took away the first two people from the other party, leaving six people behind.

The person ranked third was called Trump. He was from Canada and had a special ability of ice. According to the information, although this person's ability was not special, he had already reached the peak in using his ability.

"If this person's ability is Ice, I'm the most suitable person to deal with him!" Andrew said with sparkling eyes.

Andrew's ability was fire, and he could even create extremely hot lava. He was the natural enemy of ice.

Jian Ai nodded but said, "But for safety reasons, I'm afraid Andrew alone is not enough."

"Why don't you let me travel with Andrew?" Chi Lian explained, "My holy power belongs to the light attribute, and its destructive power is relatively strong. It might be effective against condensed ice!"

"Chi Lian is right. Moreover, the other party seems to be quite strong in this position. With Chi Lian and Andrew dealing with him together, we can feel at ease!" Bai Zhou said.

"Alright, leave this person to Chi Lian and Andrew!" Jian Ai said and flipped the photo over.

The fourth person, Morgery, was from Belgium. Gale had investigated this person single-handedly. He gave this person a nickname – the Mud Man.

Jian Ai picked up Morgery's photo and frowned. She said, "This person's ability is quite special. He can even change the combat environment and turn the ground under his feet into a swamp. He can burrow underground, so he's probably quite troublesome to deal with."

As soon as she finished speaking, Jian Ai looked up at the remaining people and asked, "Who do you think is suitable?"

Chi Yang analyzed, "Since he can change the terrain, we can resolve this disadvantage by flying in the air!"

Everyone agreed.

At that moment, Irene was the only one left who could fly in the air.

"Sect Master, leave this person to me!" Before Jian Ai could say anything, Luan Qingyang suddenly said.

Jian Ai was stunned. Bai Zhou said in realization, "That's right. Qingyang's power of flowers can transform petals into wings. She can indeed fly in the air!"

However, Chi Lian said, "But it's not easy for Qingyang's power of flowers to cause damage to a person who can escape underground."

"I don't plan to send just one person to deal with him," Jian Ai said at this moment. Her gaze landed on Irene. "Irene, go with Qingyang."

"No problem!" Irene nodded.

At this point, they already made arrangements for the first four people, but Jian Ai had only arranged for Ye Liushang, Yu Wuyuan, Chi Lian, Luan Qingyang, Irene, and Andrew!

Jian Ai was not in a hurry to make arrangements for the next person. Instead, she returned to consider if they were completely confident in winning the top four people.

In fact, the few people Jian Ai sent out to deal with the top four were already the strongest among them, but she had to be careful.

After a while, Jian Ai nodded. "There are no other oversights for the time being. Let's continue..."

The next person was Lei!

"Sect Master, how about leaving this person to me, Si Yue, and Chi Yang?" Xiao Zhen was the first to speak.

As if unwilling to be defeated last time, Xiao Zhen admitted he had not used his full strength last time, so he wanted to fight Lei again.

Si Yue was already like this. He was not a talkative person, but he also had his competitiveness in his heart. Especially last time, when Lei almost wiped them out, there was a knot in his heart.

"We've fought him before and know his abilities," Si Yue said.

However, Jian Ai did not agree to send the same people to fight Lei this time. She said, "You know him, but how can he not know you? Don't forget that he still had a few companions as burdens the last time, so he was restrained. Once others are not dragging him down, he will only be stronger, so we have to treat the problem and create an unexpected effect."

Si Yue frowned, unwilling to accept this.

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn't help but say, "I know you must be unconvinced about your previous match, but you should know Lei's strength even better after exchanging blows. His speed and the lethality of his

heavenly lightning are extremely restraining to you. This time, we should prioritize the overall situation. Don't be impulsive!"

"Yes!" Si Yue nodded.

Seeing this, Jian Ai heaved a sigh of relief. Then, she looked at the others and said, "This person is the only one among the eight who already fought us. At that time, Si Yue, Xiao Zhen, and Chi Yang fought him alone, but they didn't gain any advantage."

"This person can control heavenly lightning, but the drawback is that only one bolt of lightning can fall every time. However, it's extremely fast. When Chi Yang used the Tide Life Technique to increase Si Yue's speed by fifty percent, and even if Si Yue activates the power of darkness, he can only be on par with the speed of the heavenly lightning. He didn't have an advantage."

"Do you have any thoughts?"

Xiao Zhen immediately said, "We still have to use this person's drawbacks, which is that only one bolt of lightning can fall every time. Although it's extremely fast, if we have enough people, we can always find his flaw!"

"Sect Master, I'm willing to try!" At this moment, Ming Zui, whom Bai Zhou said was on par with Chi Lian, spoke.

The ruler of space and time. Just from this name, one could vaguely guess his mental cultivation techniques.

The power of space and time was one of the five great abilities of the ancient sect. It had a long history and was extremely ancient.

Moreover, because it was very difficult to cultivate the power of space and time, every person chosen to inherit it was someone with an extremely firm will.

Ming Zui was such a person!

He recommended himself. "No matter how fast that heavenly lightning is, it still needs time. However, my power is different. It doesn't take time to change space. No matter how fast he is, he can't be faster than me!"

Although she had never seen the power of time and space, Ming Zui's words were firm and confident, giving Jian Ai some confidence.

However, to be safe, Jian Ai still said, "Alright, but we can't let Ming Zui go alone. As Xiao Zhen said, we still have to have the advantage in numbers to easily find the other party's flaws!"

Chapter 1306 Divide and Conquer (2)

Xiao Zhen nodded in agreement. "Last time, the three of us didn't gain an advantage. This person has rich combat experience and can calmly deal with multiple threats. We can't underestimate him."

Irene thought for a moment and suggested, "I think Louise is more suitable. Since the other party has both speed and strength, the other party might find Louise's invisibility more troublesome because he can't see the target."

"Count me in." Eugene recommended herself. "My ability is also related to speed and destructive power. Even if I'm not powerful in a certain area, I can restrain them in the chaos and create a more beneficial opportunity for us."

With that, it was the three of them – Ming Zui, Louise, and Eugene.

To be honest, although Lei was only ranked fifth among the eight people, he was still the person Jian Ai was most afraid of because she had fought him before and knew how powerful he was.

Previously, the three of them did not have an advantage against him. If there were still three of them now...

It was not that she wanted to boost others' ambitions and destroy her own prestige. Jian Ai just wanted to be foolproof.

Therefore, Jian Ai thought for a moment and finally said, "Let's add another person. Xiao Zhen, go!"

Xiao Zhen was stunned because Jian Ai said just now that she didn't want to send anyone who had fought with Lei before. Now, she suddenly let him go.

However, Xiao Zhen didn't ask further and only agreed. "Yes, Sect Master!"

Jian Ai explained her decision. "Although we can't let everyone who fought with Lei before to fight him again, I think it's useful to have someone who knows Lei around. Xiao Zhen knows Lei's ability and some of his combat details. When the time comes, the other three can attack more easily."

Everyone felt that Jian Ai made sense. If the three of them had fought with Lei before, they knew each other and did not have an advantage.

However, if Xiao Zhen was alone and Lei had never seen the other three before, the situation would be different!

The sixth person after Lei was called Ao Duo. She was a South East Asian and was a puppet master! Moreover, in the information Louise gave, it was clearly noted that Ao Duo's ability was also a relatively special ability that could imperceptibly control a person's mind and actions.

"You'll go?" Yun Buyao was the first person Jian Ai thought of. She couldn't help but raise her eyebrows at her.

The Spiritual Art also meant to control, but Yun Buyao's mental cultivation techniques had already reached a high level of the Spiritual Art. She could activate it extremely quickly. Jian Ai felt that a puppet master would need some time to use their abilities, but Yun Buyao did not need to. As long as they met her eyes, no one could escape.

Yun Buyao naturally knew Jian Ai's thoughts. When she saw this person's information, she had the same thoughts as Jian Ai.

“Alright, leave it to me!” Yun Buyao smiled.

Of course, Jian Ai would not let Yun Buyao take the risk alone. It had to be known that Yun Buyao did not have the ability to kill. She could control people to kill each other or commit suicide. The so-called killing without using her hands was referring to her.

Therefore, for safety reasons, Jian Ai said to Si Yue and Chi Yang, “You two, go with Yun Buyao!”

“Yes, Sect Master!”

The next was the first photo Jian Ai had seen before. It was the person whose hair would become longer, harder, and sharper. His name was Edward, and he was from Country M.

“Zhi Tong, I’ll leave this person to you!” Jian Ai looked up at Zhi Tong and instructed him with certainty!

Chapter 1307 Divide and Conquer (3)

Jian Ai said to Zhi Tong, “I remember that after you are completely etherealized, physical attacks won’t work on you! No matter how Edward’s hair changes, it’s still hair. It shouldn’t hurt you!”

Jian Ai had a certain understanding of Zhi Tong’s abilities. Back then, he dared to sneak into the mercenary group’s headquarters to gather information because physical attacks did not affect his body after his etherealization.

Therefore, even if he was discovered and shot at, he would not sustain an injury.

Zhi Tong nodded. “Sect Master is right. I’ll deal with this person.”

“Sect Master!” At this moment, Duo, who had said nothing, suddenly spoke. He said respectfully, “Zhi Tong is the Hand of the Evil Spirit, and I’m the Pen of Calming Souls. The two of us belong to the dark attribute mental cultivation techniques of ancient times. It can be said to complement each other. If we work together, we might have an unexpected effect.”

Jian Ai had never seen or understood Duo’s mental cultivation techniques, but hearing his explanation, Jian Ai still believed Duo’s words.

Moreover, she was indeed worried about Zhi Tong acting alone, so she nodded and said, “In that case, Uncle Duo and Zhi Tong will act together.”

Jian Ai called Duo Uncle because her soul was twenty-six years old, so it was fine for her to call the other sect members by their names.

However, Duo was already in his forties. Out of politeness, she was too embarrassed to call him by his name, so she called him Uncle.

“Understood.” Duo nodded in agreement.

This way, other than Ye Liushang and Yu Wuyuan fighting the two strongest people on the other side alone, most people had already split into groups.

Now, only Gale, Robert, and Jian Ai were left!

“Leave the last person to Robert, Gale, and me!” Jian Ai said.

When Bai Zhou heard this, he subconsciously frowned and couldn't help but say, "Sect Master, aren't you bringing someone from the ancient sect along?"

Jian Ai smiled and said, "There's no need. We've made targeted arrangements for everyone, so there's no need to change because of me. Robert and Gale are both powerful. It shouldn't be a problem for the three of us to fight against one person."

"Besides, perhaps we can still get the other sect members' help with this last person, so you don't have to worry too much."

"But..." Bai Zhou was anxious. He was already worried.

Jian Ai raised her hand and interrupted Bai Zhou. She said firmly, "Alright, I won't risk my life. Don't worry."

She was the leader of the ancient sect and was not a flower raised in a greenhouse. She had arranged for herself to be in the weakest of the eight enemies' camp. This was already the greatest concession to let Bai Zhou and the rest feel at ease.

The reason for this arrangement was that Jian Ai knew her limitations. She wanted to experience all the hardships with everyone, but she also knew her limits. Therefore, she assigned herself to deal with the other party's weakest person.

Of course, Jian Ai could not judge if she was weak or not, but other than that, she had no better choice because she would not do nothing.

Hearing Jian Ai's words, Bai Zhou could only lower his head. The others knew the conflict and struggle in Bai Zhou's heart. Everyone, including the Sect Master, was risking their lives for him. However, as one of the twelve guards, he could do nothing because he had no combat strength.

"It's fine. Leave it to us!" Yu Wuyuan gently placed his hand on Bai Zhou's shoulder and comforted him.

The others nodded one after another. "Don't worry, no matter what the other party's background is, they won't have a good time if they dare to provoke the ancient sect. This time, I'll let your ignorant brother see what people he shouldn't have provoked!"

Bai Zhou looked at the firm and decisive expressions in everyone's eyes and felt touched.

They were originally one, advancing and retreating together. Even if he could not contribute in terms of combat ability, at least in terms of mind and spirit, he was highly unified with everyone!

"It's been hard on everyone!" Bai Zhou nodded hard!

Jian Ai smiled and looked at everyone. "Everyone must be tired from rushing over. You can rest in Baiyun City for the next few days. It's almost New Year's Day in China. As soon as New Year's Day passes, we'll act together!"

They did not plan to kill them one by one. Instead, they had to deal with all eight of them at the same time. Only then would they not give the others and Prince Qi Ye any chance to react. The shock they caused would also be the greatest!

At night, everyone planned to have a gathering. Because there were many people, everyone who knew how to cook went to the kitchen to help Chi Yang.

Jian Ai looked at the lively scene in the house and couldn't help but smile. She had finally seen all the twelve guards, leaving only Ye Liushang, who was ranked first, and the twelfth...

Thinking of the twelfth, Jian Ai couldn't help but mind. From the way everyone addressed him, it didn't seem that he was called the twelfth because he was at the bottom of the rankings. Instead, he should be the youngest among the twelve guards.

Younger than Si Yue?

Jian Ai didn't know because Bai Zhou seemed to deliberately avoid talking about the twelfth, so her understanding was limited.

She didn't know what kind of person he was, but Jian Ai was almost as curious about him as she was about the High Priest.

"Sect Master, everyone is finally together." Yun Buyao handed a glass of champagne to Jian Ai and smiled at her.

Jian Ai took it and nodded with a smile. "Yes, when Bai Zhou first found me, I was so resistant to meeting you..."

Jian Ai still remembered her mental activity at that time. She said in a dignified manner that she didn't want to disturb others' normal lives. She was exceptionally serious, and Bai Zhou believed her.

However, only Jian Ai knew that at that time, she had not completely accepted this new identity. The real meaning behind her words was that she did not want to disturb her life with this sudden new identity.

People were ultimately selfish at certain times. She had just been reborn and only wanted to cherish this lifetime. She did not want to be distracted by anyone and only wanted to live for her mother and brother.

However, at that moment, she could no longer cut off the feelings of the ancient sect. Everyone, even those she had never seen before, could affect her heart at all times.

She treated the ancient sect as another home now. In her heart, these people did not differ from family. She will do anything for everyone in the ancient sect.

"Actually, everyone has been waiting for you all these years," Yun Buyao said softly. "With Bai Zhou as the connection, we learned about the ancient sect's situation through him. We were all waiting for the Sect Master to appear and gather everyone."

"Most of the people are here now. After this matter is over, Ye Liushang will also come to the Sect Master's side."

Chapter 1308 In the Blink of an Eye, 2003!

Jian Ai smiled and nodded. She said softly, "Sometimes, I can't help but be in a daze. I just feel that all of this seems to be a dream."

After her rebirth, Jian Ai had not completely adapted to this matter, especially when she was alone. She often had some thoughts.

Could this be a dream she had in her previous life after she got into a car accident and fell unconscious?

However, was the dream so long and real?

Jian Ai understood she was overthinking, but even if it was not a dream but reality, Jian Ai had the illusion that she had been reborn in another world.

Everything had left the trajectory of her previous life. Her family, friends, and even everyone and everything around her had no traces of her previous life.

Especially after she reunited with Bai Zhou, what she saw on the other side of the world and what happened hidden in places that ordinary people could not see made Jian Ai feel out of place.

This was not something she should experience, but these seemed to be conditions that the heavens gave her to be reborn. They forced her to participate in a completely unfamiliar world.

Fortunately, she was not alone. Everyone in the ancient sect was willing to accompany her. This was the key to Jian Ai gradually letting down her guard and selfishness.

In the blink of an eye, it was New Year's Day of 2003!

This was a traditional Chinese holiday. After New Year's Day, it would be the Spring Festival that the Chinese valued the most. It was also the most festive holiday of the year in the country.

All the companies and schools would have a three-day break on New Year's Day according to the country's rules to celebrate the arrival of the new year.

Jian Ai and Si Yue woke up early. The two of them especially went to the mall to buy some gifts for Yang Jie last night.

Not that Jian Ai had the intention, but the senior brothers reminded Jian Ai. Because their master and eldest senior brother spent the New Year at the martial arts school every year, it was quite cold since there was only the two of them. Therefore, everyone would buy gifts for New Year's Day and send them over every year as a token of appreciation.

Therefore, this year, Jian Ai and the other new disciples naturally had to do as the Romans do.

After breakfast, the two of them carried the things they had bought and went straight to the martial arts school. They bumped into Senior Brother Mobai at the main entrance.

"Junior Brother, Junior Sister, you're really early!" Li Mobai couldn't help but say with a festive smile when he saw the two of them.

Jian Ai went forward and smiled. "It's a festive day today. The two of us have to return to Haicheng District, unlike the other senior brothers who live nearby and can come over anytime during the day."

Li Mobai nodded. "Let's go in together!"

They initially thought that Jian Ai and Si Yue were considered early, but didn't expect Lin Yi and Gao Yang to be even earlier than them.

"Second Senior Brother, Jian Ai, Si Yue, happy New Year's Day!" Lin Yi smiled warmly and was the first to welcome them.

When Gao Yang heard the voice, he walked out of the front hall. "Lin Yi and I thought we wouldn't see you. We've been waiting here for half an hour."

They smiled and talked for a while before Jian Ai raised the things in her hand. "I bought a massager for Master. I'll send it in for him first!"

Yang Jie's leg had almost recovered. Although he was a martial arts practitioner, he still had to use less strength in his legs for the past year. He could run normally though.

If he wanted to completely recover, he still needed to recuperate well this year.

"I've already told them not to buy anything during the holidays. I'm already satisfied that you can come and see me."

When Yang Jie saw that Jian Ai and Si Yue had brought something, he couldn't help but smile helplessly. However, he was even more touched.

Be it these disciples who never left the martial arts school when it was barren or the new disciples who resolutely chose Chinese martial arts this year, they were like his children in Yang Jie's heart.

Especially Jian Ai. She was the most helpful to him and to the martial arts school. In Yang Jie's heart, Jian Ai's existence had a different meaning.

"Master, it's New Year's Day. It's to celebrate. You're an elder. It's etiquette for us to show filial respect to you. How many opportunities do we have to buy you a gift this year?" Jian Ai smiled.

When Yang Jie heard this, he couldn't help but smile and nod. "I know you're sharp-tongued. I can't win against you. Since it's your sincerity, I'll accept it."

Jian Ai stuck out her tongue playfully and quickly took out her gift. "Master, I bought you a massager. It's usually tough to practice martial arts. After practicing martial arts, you have to relax your muscles. This massager can be useful, and you can often massage your legs when they ache."

Seeing this, Si Yue also handed over his gift. "Master, this is a thermos. I bought it."

Seeing this, Yang Jie couldn't help but raise his eyebrows at Si Yue. "Your gift was probably Xiao Ai's idea, right?"

Si Yue subconsciously looked at Jian Ai.

Jian Ai couldn't help but laugh. "It was. Si Yue wanted to buy you a scarf. I said that Master has a scarf. Since Master likes to drink water, why don't he buy a better thermos instead? It's also convenient to carry it with you."

“Haha...” Yang Jie couldn’t help but laugh heartily. “Your gifts make me look like I’m already in my seventies or eighties. But I like them. Thank you.”

As he spoke, Yang Jie carefully put away their gifts. Then, he looked at Jian Ai and Si Yue and said, “Today is New Year’s Day, and it’s a new year. I hope everything will go smoothly for our martial arts school next year.”

Yang Jie suddenly sighed in his heart. It was mainly because this year, before he met Jian Ai, it was a huge hurdle for the martial arts school that he almost couldn’t cross.

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn’t help but ask, “Master, the day of the martial arts competition has been confirmed. Let’s sign up!”

Yang Jie sighed and nodded gently. “Initially, because your senior brothers were going to take the college entrance examination, I didn’t want you newbies to take part in such a competition so early. I wanted to give up. It wouldn’t be too late to take part in the second round.”

“But I think all of you seem to want to take part. Your Eldest Senior Brother also said that although winning or losing is important, the core spirit of Chinese martial arts is not to give up easily. Even if it’s training, it’s good!”

“Master, the surrounding martial arts schools are also sharpening their spears at the last minute. It seems that they take this competition quite seriously,” Lin Yi said.

At the mention of this, Yang Jie couldn’t help but sneer in disdain. He mocked, “These fence-sitters. Back then, because Chinese martial arts couldn’t bring benefits to the martial arts school, they abandoned teaching it and brought in foreign martial arts. Now that the country has started to value cultural heritage and even spent a lot of money to organize competitions, they’re all energetic again and forced disciples who had already learned foreign martial arts to practice Chinese martial arts again.”

“It’s not that I want to say this, but their foundations are far apart. Their methods probably won’t achieve much!”

Chapter 1309 The Lively Jian Family

Yang Jie was not exaggerating. Chinese martial arts differed from Taekwondo, karate, and so on. Because of its long history, there were many things to pay attention to.

For someone like Lin Yi and Gao Yang, who had learned for half a year, Yang Jie felt they had yet to learn the basics, let alone the students from the other martial arts schools who had suddenly started learning a month or two ago.

At that time, they would probably make a fool of themselves at the competition. With such an uneven martial arts foundation, outsiders would probably laugh at them.

“Master, have the candidates been decided?” Li Mobai asked curiously.

Coincidentally, only Jian Ai, the other new disciples, and Li Mobai were present. These people were also the ones Jian Ai suggested to represent the martial arts school in the competition. After all, Yu Yue, Qi Wei, and the rest were going to take the college entrance examination next year. It was not good to be distracted.

Yang Jie nodded. "The number of people in the martial arts school is limited. If we want to sign up for the competition, you're the only ones we can choose. Fortunately, Mobai is leading the team, and Si Yue has a foundation. Xiao Ai has also improved a lot these days. On the other hand, Lin Yi and Gao Yang, I heard from your Eldest Senior Brother that you recently underwent Si Yue's training and made a huge breakthrough? I went to the capital a while ago and haven't seen it yet. When the New Year's holiday ends, show me a thing or two and let me see the results."

"Yes, Master!" Lin Yi and Gao Yang agreed.

After chatting with Yang Jie for a while, Jian Ai and the rest left the martial arts school.

"Senior Brother Mobai, you've practiced martial arts for so many years. Have you taken part in any martial arts competition?" Jian Ai looked at Li Mobai and asked on the way.

Li Mobai smiled and nodded when he heard that. "Of course I've participated, but this is the first time I've seen a competition like this organized by the country. Many years ago, Chinese martial arts had not fallen to such a state. There were quite a few competitions. At that time, if the martial arts school wanted to make a name for itself, there were only two paths: challenges or competitions. After all, there was no news in the past."

Jian Ai and the rest nodded in understanding. At this moment, Li Mobai looked at his junior brothers and sister and said, "Don't be nervous. There's no need to feel pressured. People who learn Chinese martial arts have complexes. I made many friends because I took part in competitions before."

"This competition should be the most authoritative and professional in the country. When the time comes, the television will broadcast the entire process. It has always been extremely fair. Everyone, just do your best. The most important thing is to take part."

"Got it, Senior Brother!" Everyone said.

...

At the Jian family.

This morning, Jian Changsheng was still working in the study on New Year's Day. Qiao Shuyi came to the study after putting on her makeup. Seeing that the door was ajar, she gently knocked and poked her head in. "Changsheng, pack up. We're about to set off."

Jian Changsheng looked up at Qiao Shuyi and nodded with a smile. "I understand. Is Yiyi up?"

"I'll call her now. Prepare yourself first. Don't forget what you bought for Dad and Mom. Take it to the car first," Qiao Shuyi said.

Jian Changsheng: "Alright, I understand."

Jian Changsheng's family naturally had to go to the Jian residence for New Year's Day. Although there was some estrangement between Jian Changsheng and Old Master Jian because of the company this year, they were still father and son. The old lady and Qiao Shuyi were stuck in the middle. Although that matter was unpleasant, everyone tacitly stopped mentioning it.

Especially after Jian Yichen moved to the Jian residence, with his grandson around, he could more or less take away a lot of the old man's energy.

After Jian Yiyi wrapped up filming, she immediately relaxed. Life in the production team was day and night, and sleeping soundly was an extravagant hope. Now that the filming was finally over, she lay on the bed most of the day.

Qiao Shuyi's heart ached for her daughter. Even when she had to go to school, she would let Jian Yiyi sleep until the last moment before waking her up.

She knocked on the door and thought that her daughter was not awake. Unexpectedly, the door was pulled open. Jian Yiyi called out sleepily, "Mom."

"You're awake, Yiyi. I was about to call you," Qiao Shuyi said.

Jian Yiyi: "They were setting off fireworks outside just now and woke me up. Are we leaving?"

Qiao Shuyi nodded. "Yes, quickly wash up and change your clothes. Dad and Mom will wait for you downstairs."

Jian Yiyi made an OK gesture and turned around to close the door.

An hour later, the family arrived at the Jian residence.

Not only was Jian Changsheng's family coming back on New Year's Day, but Jian Changsheng's brother, Jian Changyuan's family, was also there.

Old Master Jian had two sons and a daughter. His daughter was the eldest. She still had to return to her in-laws' house with her husband on such an important holiday.

"Brother and Sister-in-law are here!"

The person who opened the door was Jian Changyuan. When he saw Jian Changsheng's family, he smiled.

"Uncle!" Jian Yiyi called out.

Jian Changyuan only had one son and doted on Jian Yiyi since she was young. The smile on his face deepened. "Yiyi is prettier again. I heard from your grandfather that you filmed a movie?"

Jian Yiyi was smug and smiled calmly. "I just did that for fun. Uncle, remember to watch it when the time comes."

"Of course!" Jian Changyuan said.

When they were changing their shoes, Jian Changsheng looked at Jian Changyuan and asked, "How's Dad's mood today?"

"Don't worry, he's quite good. With Yichen and Tongtong around, how can he not be happy?" Jian Changyuan said.

Jian Changyuan was only a year younger than Jian Changsheng. The two of them didn't look alike. One wouldn't be able to tell that they were biological brothers.

Jian Changsheng looked like the old man when he was young, so the old man valued him since he was young. Jian Changyuan looked more like the old lady.

The two brothers had a grudge in the past. When the old man gave the company to Jian Changsheng, Jian Changyuan naturally couldn't accept it.

Because they were both sons, Jian Changyuan knew he was not bad, but he knew that the old man had favored his brother since he was young.

Fortunately, Jian Changsheng took out a lot of money for Jian Changyuan to start a business. Jian Changyuan was also hardworking. In just a few years, he had achieved a lot. Now, it is the brother company of the Jian Group. The two companies worked together for many years and formed a win-win model.

It was also because of this that the brothers' relationship became better.

Jian Changsheng nodded. Ever since that incident, Jian Changsheng had come back less often. He was afraid that his father would be unhappy to see him. After all, he had been too harsh with his words.

When they entered the house, the others were sitting in the living room. The house immediately became lively.

After greeting each other, the old man didn't react. Instead, he was the first to call Jian Yiyi, "Yiyi, come to Grandpa and let Grandpa see if you've lost weight recently."

Jian Yiyi obediently leaned over and held the old man's arm intimately. "Grandpa, take a good look and see if I've lost weight?"

The old man was like a child. He widened his eyes and sized her up from top to bottom. Then, he laughed. "You don't look like you've lost weight. Tell Grandpa, is the production team hard?"

Chapter 1310 Plead

"Of course." Jian Yiyi was an obedient girl in front of the old man. Because she was doted on, she spoke much more freely because no matter what, her grandparents wouldn't blame her.

She naturally leaned her head on the old man's arm and said coquettishly, "It's cold, and I can't sleep well. My skin has worsened."

"It's that tough? Then don't do it. It's enough that you've tried something fresh." When the old man heard this, he couldn't help but feel heartache for his granddaughter.

How could a child of the Jian family suffer like this?

When Qiao Shuyi heard this, she couldn't help but smile helplessly. "Dad, you're spoiling Yiyi too much. She's not a child anymore. How can she give up on her decision so quickly? Moreover, after signing the contract, if you really want to withdraw, you have to pay the penalty fee."

"Then we'll pay. Can't we afford this penalty fee?" The old man said seriously. Those who didn't know would think that Jian Yiyi was going to terminate the contract.

Qiao Shuyi smiled helplessly and shook her head. "This isn't about money, Dad..."

“Grandpa!” Jian Yiyi smiled. “I’m just complaining. Do you think I really want to terminate the contract? I don’t want to. I like this line of work. I won’t give up easily.”

The old man widened his eyes. “You’re not giving up even though it’s so tough?”

Jian Yiyi nodded hard. “I won’t give up. Of course, I won’t give up what I like.”

When the old man heard this, he couldn’t help but stroke Jian Yiyi’s head with a loving smile. “You’re as stubborn as your father. You’ve never suffered since you were young, but you can still tolerate this!”

“Alright, since you like it, Grandpa and Grandma support it. When the movie is released later, our family will watch it.”

At this moment, Jian Changyuan’s wife, Lili, couldn’t help but say, “Yiyi has been sensible since she was young. She’s so young, but she already has a goal she wants to work hard for. This is a good thing. Brother and Sister-in-law know how to teach children. Yiyi and Yichen are so obedient and sensible.”

“Look at my Tongtong again. He’s mischievous every day and isn’t serious in his studies. How worrying!”

Qiao Shuyi sat at the side and smiled when she heard this. “Tongtong is still young, and how can boys not be naughty? I hope Yichen can be as lively as Tongtong. It’s always good for boys to be more fun-loving.”

“He’s not young anymore. He’ll be twelve years old after the New Year,” Lili said.

The family sat on the sofa and chatted. The old man called Jian Changsheng and Jian Changyuan to the study upstairs.

On the wooden sofa, the brothers couldn’t help but look at each other. They could tell that the old man had something to say, but they didn’t know what he wanted to say.

The old man sat opposite them and sighed softly. Then, he looked at Jian Changsheng and said slowly, “Changsheng, Dad knows that it’s a joyous occasion today. I shouldn’t have mentioned these things that made us unhappy.”

“But this is indeed Dad’s worry. If we don’t resolve it, Dad won’t feel at ease.”

Unlike his disappointed and bossy attitude, the old man spoke in an extremely soft tone this time. This made Jian Changsheng subconsciously frown. He already had a premonition.

As expected, the old man said, “Secretary Wang and the rest are waiting for my news. Almost half a year has passed. I have to give them an explanation.”

“I instructed them to do what happened before. If you want to blame someone, blame me. Secretary Wang and the rest are all elders of the Jian Group. They worked hard for the Jian Group for half their lives. You can’t kick them all out just because of a thought of mine.”

Jian Changsheng frowned even more. He thought he had already expressed this matter very clearly. What they had done behind his back as the company’s CEO was his bottom line. He had always emphasized his principles. Some things could not be forgiven.

Without waiting for Jian Changsheng to speak, the old man continued, "You can be angry at Dad, but think about it. Why is Dad targeting East Sea Real Estate? This small company has already reached such a scale in just a year. I heard that they have also entered the second round of bidding for South City's reconstruction project. You should know now that Dad planned ahead because he saw this company's unstoppable potential."

"Dad!" Jian Changsheng said in a low voice, "I..."

However, as soon as he spoke, the old man interrupted him. "I know. You look down on my methods and think they're dirty and shady. I know your character. You definitely can't do these things, so Dad didn't let you get involved, right?"

"From the time I established the Jian Group to handing it to you, I had my own set of competitive methods. Perhaps this crossed your bottom line, but Dad apologized to you. They only did those things because they listened to me. Why can't you forgive them?"

Jian Changsheng sighed.

What he could not forgive was that these people listened to the old man. As the higher-ups of the Jian Group, the person they should have listened to should be him, not the old man.

"Brother, Dad already apologized to you. He also knows that there are some things he shouldn't do behind your back. Uncle Wang and the rest are the backbone of the company. Without them, it's a huge loss for the Jian Group. Why don't you take a step back? For the company!" Jian Changyuan said.

Obviously, Jian Changyuan already knew the ins and outs of this matter. He was here to help the old man today.

Jian Changsheng sat on the sofa and fell into a dilemma. If the old man hadn't pleaded again and again, he wouldn't have wavered.

However, a long time had passed. In terms of punishment, this was already considered a punishment. However, because what had happened before had dealt a heavy blow to the Jian Group, this loss could not be made up. Jian Changsheng could not blame this on his father.

The only ones who could bear it were these people.

If they returned to the company now, what would the other higher-ups say about this?

After thinking about it, Jian Changsheng didn't soften his heart. However, considering that it was New Year's Day, he didn't refuse the old man directly. He only said, "I'll consider it."

The old man knew Jian Changsheng the best. His words were just a stalling tactic. He probably already had an affirmative answer in his heart.

He knew his son's temper very well, but because of this, his relationship with his son had already deteriorated. Therefore, even though he knew Jian Changsheng wouldn't agree, the old man didn't expose him.

He had already done his best. Since they could not return to the Ji Group, he could only compensate them in other ways.

Nodding, the old man sighed. "Alright, it's good to consider it..."