

# Battle Through the Heavens #Chapter 91: A meeting in the night - Read Battle Through the Heavens Chapter 91: A meeting in the night

## Chapter 91: A meeting in the night

“Just who are you?”

Hearing this young girl’s calm voice, the black-clothed person shrugged his shoulders helplessly. After a short bit of silence, an aged voice slowly rang out, “I believe you’ve seen me at the Xiao Clan’s home?”

Lightly shaking her snow white legs, Xun Er’s glance roamed around. She offhandedly asked in a soft voice: “Why did you go to the Jia Lie clan?”

“I was entrusted by someone to settle some trouble.”

“Entrusted by someone?” Xun Er hurriedly asked, narrowing her eyes.

“Uh, this is something I cannot disclose.” Yao Lao waved his hands and said.

“But I want to know.” With a faint smile on her exquisite face, Xun Er leaped forward. Her body seemed to float in midair. On her finger, a spiraling pale golden flame with a pointed edge was quickly being formed.

“Heh heh, little girl, I know that you are very strong now but that is not enough to stop this old man.” Yao Lao said with a smile.

Xun Er knit her eyebrows but she did not speak. She raised her finger, causing several more spiraling golden flame blades to continue appearing.

Seeing that Xun Er was refusing to give up, the two men in the black cloak had a headache. Sighing once again, Yao Lao helplessly said, “I don’t wish to fight with you. If I hurt you accidentally, that guy would be heartbroken.”

“Alright, alright. I’m afraid of you. Today, there was someone stupid who took advantage of a girl who was held in high regards by another man. This other man happens to know me so I was requested to perform some task. Oh, do you think it is easy for an old man like me to run all over the place in the middle of the night?”

Xun Er’s long eyelashes lightly blinked, her exquisite face gradually became flushed. She flipped her hand and the flame blades slowly disappeared. Gazing at the black cloaked man, she said with a wide smile, “As expected. Old sir and Xiao Yan ge-ge have a relationship.”

“Heh, what a quick change in the manner you address me.” Yao Lao said with a smile. “I’m afraid that you have already guessed my relationship with Xiao Yan a long time ago.”

“In the past, it was only a guess that I couldn’t be certain of.” Xun Er shook her head with a smile. She bowed to Yao Lao while still in midair and said: “Although I am unaware of the old sir’s background, I believe that you have something to do with Xiao Yan ge-ge being able to be rid of his weakened self from a year ago.”

Yao Lao faintly laughed, neither denying nor confirming her conjunction.

With her beautiful eyes staring at the black cloaked man, Xun Er smiled sweetly and whispered, “Regardless of what was the original motive old sir had in approaching Xiao Yan ge-ge, I hope that you do not have any other intentions towards him. Xun Er will look at anyone who poses a threat to Xiao Yan ge-ge with enmity. Old sir may be very strong but believe me, I have the ability to say such things.”

“Tsk tsk. What a strong girl.” Hearing Xun Er’s slightly threatening words, Yao Lao was stunned as he commented.

“My only wish is that Xiao Yan ge-ge not be deceived and hurt by others.” With a slight smile, Xun Er once again bowed to Yao Lao and said, “It’s already late. I need to return home. I hope that you will not tell Xiao Yan ge-ge what you have witnessed tonight.”

“Rest assured. I will not mention a single word.” Yao Lao nodded his head. Within him, he jokingly added, “Because he has already witnessed everything himself.”

Hearing Yao Lao reply, Xun Er smiled. Just as she turned her body, a green shadow suddenly appeared. After being momentarily stunned, Xun Er’s small hand reached out and drew it into her palms.

Xun Er was startled as she stared at the jade bottle. She shifted her gaze toward the black cloaked man,

“Having used a secret technique, you will likely be weak for the next few days. This bottle contains ‘Energy Replenishment Powder’. Keep it and recover quickly. Otherwise, someone will feel hurt seeing your sickly appearance.” Yao Lao said indifferently.

Hearing this, Xun Er’s small face turned red. Carrying the jade bottle in her hands, she nodded gratefully at the black cloaked man before lightly pressing her feet in the air. Her body quickly shot into the darkness and disappeared from sight.

Standing on the rooftop and watching the disappearing figure, Yao Lao suddenly took in a deep breath and muttered, “Back then, when you stealthily entered the girl’s room and strangely came up with some useless idea of warming blood vessels, you had

accidentally got hold of the girl's heart. Oh, come to think of it, you're luck is something that others would be jealous of."

Under the black cloak, Xiao Yan rubbed his nose. He knew very well that had it not been for the incident in their childhood, the grown up Xun Er would have treated him with the same attitude that she gave others.

Of course, these hypothetical thoughts held no water in front of reality. Heh heh, he had silently entered the heart of a girl at her most fragile moment and unintentionally left a memory which consisted only of him within her heart.

Laughing a little proudly, Xiao Yan cupped his hands behind his head and allowed Yao Lao to control his body. His body quickly shot toward the Xiao clan's home.

Once he reached the Xiao clan's home, Xiao Yan carefully avoided the courtyard where Xun Er's room was to not alert her about his presence. He landed in the courtyard near his room and rushed into his room, gently closing the door behind him as he did so.

In his room, Xiao Yan hurriedly removed the black cloak and stored it within the storage ring. Only then did he heave a sigh of relief. He weakly lay on his bed and lazily mumbled to himself, "Oh, what a beautiful night."

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In the early morning of the next day at the Jia Lie clan's home.

Jia Lie Bi's current expression was gloomy and frightening. Threads of cold aura were emitted from his body, terrifying the kneeling beautiful female servant who was trembling in fear.

Sweeping his cold gaze across the room where Liu Xi had resided, Jia Lie Bi's said crisply: "You said that Liu Xi had disappeared?"

"Yes, clan leader. Yesterday, this lowly servant suddenly fainted without reason and only woke up the next morning. Master Liu Xi was already missing by then. This lowly servant had asked the guards outside but they have not seen Master Liu Xi either." The female servant cautiously said while trembling in fear.

"From the time he returned to his room yesterday night, I have not detected him leaving. Moreover, there are Dou Si level guards posted at the two entrances into the Jia Lie clan's home. With Liu Xi's ability he would not be able to leave the place without anyone noticing."

"This girl doesn't know either." The servant girl's face was ashen. She was afraid that Jia Lie Bi would put the blame on her.

Jia Lie Bi felt the corner of his eyes twitch. His feelings were in a mess as he took in a deep breath and ignored the quivering female servant. Slowly, he walked to every corner of the room.

Seeing Jia Lie Bi's action, the servant girl dared not speak. Her kneeling body did not even dare move an inch.

As he was walking through the quiet room, Jia Lie Bi suddenly came to a stop at one corner. His eyes stared at the small pile of ashes at the corner of the room.

With his heart beating wildly, Jia Lie Bi bent down. He used his finger to extract some of the powder and sniffed it under his nose. Instantly, the cold expression turned into fear.

Jia Lie Bi let out a deep breath. He suddenly felt that his legs were a little numb. A cold feeling was slowly but uncontrollably coming up from deep within his heart.

"Liu Xi... was actually murdered under my watch?"

## **Chapter 92: Rob**

By the time Xiao Yan woke up from his sleep, the sky was already very bright. Warm sunlight entered through the gaps in the window, leaving spots of light on the ground.

Getting up, Xiao Yan's sleepy gaze was hazy as he sat on the bed and stared blankly for a long while before finally getting rid of his desire to continue sleeping. Shaking his waking head, he lazily got out of bed and randomly washed his face.

Just as his washing was done, a faint knock vibrated from the door. This was coupled with a young lady's soft and gentle voice: "Xiao Yan ge-ge, have you not woken up?"

Hearing this voice, Xiao Yan's eyebrows twitched. He quickly wiped off the moisture on his face and walked to the door. The door screeched as he slowly pulled it open.

After opening the door, a blinding light suddenly shot into the room, causing Xiao Yan to habitually close his eyes. A while later, he slowly opened his eyes and shifted his gaze to the lady in green who was standing quietly by the doorway.

Today, Xun Er was once again wearing green. Her appropriate clothes matched her lotus-like refinement, prompting the young man in the room to let out some praise in his heart.

After randomly scanning Xun Er's delicate and slim body, his gaze finally landed on the slightly pale exquisite small face. His eyebrows could not help but form a frown. "What happened?"

With charming big eyes focused on Xiao Yan's expression and finding nothing but accusation. Xun Er immediately replied with a smile, "I'm not feeling well. It's no big deal."

"Not feeling well?" Xiao Yan's eyebrows twitched as he walked out of the room. After closing the door, his palm suddenly grabbed Xun Er's small hand. A weak and warm Dou Qi under the control of his spiritual perception, slowly circulated in Xun Er's body.

A moment later, Xiao Yan expressionlessly retrieved his Dou Qi and sighed in his heart. It seems that the secret technique Xun Er had used last night was extremely exhausting. In her body right now, only a little weak Dou Qi was flowing. Clearly, this was the aftermath of using the secret technique.

During the early morning, there were many clan members who had woken up to practice. This group was filled with envy upon seeing Xiao Yan holding Xun Er's hands while standing by the doorway.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge." A red faced Xun Er lightly whispered as she struggled to free her hands.

"I have no idea what you have done. How can you become so weak?" Putting down Xun Er's small hand, Xiao Yan stiffened his face and softly said.

After those intelligent big eyes scanned Xiao Yan's face and once again found nothing, Xun Er secretly heaved a sigh of relief and smiled, "Yesterday I had tried to train a Dou technique that surpassed my level and this is the result. I'll be fine after a few days of rest. Xiao Yan ge-ge need not worry."

Rolling his eyes, Xiao Yan could only shake his head helplessly as he accompanied Xun Er to breakfast. After that, he found an excuse and secretly left the clan.

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Xiao Yan walked aimlessly in Wu Tan City and casually inquired about news on the Jia Lie clan. Liu Xi's disappearance would definitely cause some sensation within the Jia Lie clan. Contrary to his expectations, however, he could not discover any abnormality in the Jia Lie clan. The marketplaces had continued to operate and the healing medicine continued to be sold. There was nothing different.

"Heh. No wonder this Jia Lie Bi is a clan leader. He could actually suppress this news. Still, he might be able to suppress this for a day but he can't do it forever. Once the remaining healing medicine is sold out, I want to see what he can do." Xiao Yan laughed coldly for a while before heading to the Primer Auction House at the center of the city.

In a remote area outside the auction house, Xiao Yan put on a black cloak just like he always did and entered the busy auction house.

Upon entering the auction house, Xiao Yan was courteously led into the VIP room by a beautiful female waiter. He waited for a moment before the graceful looking Ya Fei appeared with a smile in front of Xiao Yan.

“Haha, an important guest. Xiao Yan Di-di, what brings you to the auction house?” Lifting a tea pot, she personally bent her body and poured a cup of tea for Xiao Yan as she spoke.

Whether it was intentional or otherwise, the attractive snow white skin on on Yan Fei’s chest appeared and disappeared as she bent her body to pour tea. It caused one’s eyes to be fixated on it.

“Ke...” Xiao Yan’s gaze was almost lost in the magnificent view but he used his fairly strong willpower and managed to shift his gaze away with a dry cough. His gaze did not leave his cup of tea as he pulled out a dark red storage ring from his breast pocket and extracted five small jade bottles from it. In an indifferent voice, he said: “Today, I am here to fulfill our agreement.” As Ya Fei already knew about his identity, Xiao Yan no longer let Yao Lao speak for him and simply used his young voice.

Ya Fei’s gaze never left the small jade bottles upon their appearance. Happiness appeared on her enchanting face.

Ya Fei elegantly sat on the chair beside Xiao Yan. She carefully picked up one of the jade bottles and weighed it with equal care. After which, she slightly opened the bottle. A green coloured round pill naughtily rolled out from the bottle.

Taking a deep breath of the medicinal smell that assailed her nostrils, Ya Fei’s beautiful eyes constricted. A while later, Ya Fei finally attentively returned the pill to the bottle. She threw an enchanting and beautiful smile at Xiao Yan who was beside her. “It seems that Xiao Yan Di-di is prepared to take action against the Jia Lie clan. Otherwise, why would you come over to prematurely complete our deal?”

Hearing this, he shrugged his shoulders, neither denying nor acknowledging it. He took out another scroll which contained the names of some medicinal ingredients. These medicinal ingredients had the ability to recover one’s strength. Naturally, this was prepared for Xun Er. Seeing her weak and pale face, Xiao Yan felt his heart ache.

Receiving the scroll from Xiao Yan, Ya Fei, who had a number of such experiences, knew Xiao Yan’s meaning. Without any unnecessary words, she proceeded to call a female waiter and got her to quickly prepare what was on the list.

Sitting in the quiet VIP room, Xiao Yan, who had been silent, suddenly said, "It appears that the Jia Lie clan has gone to other cities in search for a new source for medicinal ingredients."

"Em, the Jia Lie clan is now working with a medicinal supplier in Te Lan City. However, the price of the medicinal ingredients they purchased from there is four times more expensive than it is in Wu Tan City." Ya Fei nodded and agreed with a smile.

"To think that they are willing." Mockingly shaking his head, Xiao Yan continued with a smile. "Can you provide me with some information on the transportation of these medicines?"

Hearing this, Ya Fei's hand which was holding a tea cup trembled. Her beautiful eyes stared at the young man beside her with astonishment and said, "What do you plan to do?"

"Rob."

After a bitter smile, Ya Fei once again sighed: "The Jia Lie clan was really unlucky to meet a little fiend like you."

Shaking her head, Ya Fei became quiet. She finally stood up and went to the room behind her. After some time, she finally came out with a scroll and handed it to Xiao Yan. She quietly whispered, "I have received some information from the auction house in Te Lan City. Two days ago, the Jia Lie clan had once again purchased four hundred thousand gold coins worth of medicinal ingredients. This batch of medicinal ingredients should reach Wu Tan City by this afternoon."

"The Jia Lie clan has only paid one hundred thousand gold coins as deposit for this batch of medicinal ingredients. The remaining three hundred thousand gold coins is on credit. Protecting the medicinal ingredients are the warriors of the Jia Lie clan, three Dou Shi's and a Da Dou Shi. There are also another few dozen guards with at least the strength of a Dou Zhe.

"Four hundred thousand? What a large amount." Xiao Yan said with a smile as he deposited the scroll into the storage ring. His laughter slowly became colder. "If this batch of medicinal ingredients disappeared, I wonder how they would account to the medicinal supplier. With the current Jia Lie clan being close to bankruptcy, this three hundred thousand gold credit would be its final blow."

Lifting his head, Xiao Yan watched a female waiter who had just entered. After cupping one hand over the other and thanking Ya Fei, he went forward and received the medicinal ingredients before walking out of the hall without a backward glance.

Sitting on the chair and watching the decisive manner in which Xiao Yan left, Ya Fei laughed bitterly and shook her head. She gently sighed: "This little boy's actions do not

correspond with his age at all. That old man, Jia Lie Bi, is likely going to be in deep trouble...”

### **Chapter 93: Midway Destruction of Medicine**

Seven or eight horse drawn carriages slowly trotted down the road under the scorching sun of the noontide heat. In its overbearing heat, the guards all around the carts were drenched in a fine mist of sweat and agitated voices drifted out from the carriages.

Part of the escort team was Jia Lie Nu, a three star Da Dou Shi and one of the two elders of the Jia Lie Clan, was considered one of the strongest within Wu Tan City. With his strength, having him personally escort the medicinal ingredients highlighted the importance they held to the clan. However, it would seem that Jia Lie Nu had received no news of the disappearance of Liu Xi, otherwise the elder would've immediately returned the expensive ingredients.

Jia Lie Nu sat crossed leg on one of the horse drawn carriages. Regardless of how much the carriages tossed and shook, his body did not move. Having lived in luxury and comfort for some time, he was growing impatient after two days of travel.

“It’s all because of that damn Xiao Clan. Sooner or later, I will destroy all of you.” Jia Lie Nu clenched his teeth and muttered angrily. He then turned his head slightly and observed the neatly-stacked medicinal ingredients through a window behind him. A look of helplessness appeared on his expressionless face.

Although storage rings would certainly make transportation more convenient, a low-grade ring only had two or three cubic meters worth of space and in order to fully store all the medicinal ingredients it would have required at least five low-grade storage rings. These rings were rare and expensive, and even the entire Jia Lie Clan had two. Thus, they could only use the cumbersome method of carriages to transport the ingredients.

Tiredly blinking his eyes, Jia Lie Nu, who had began napping, realised that the carriage at the front had suddenly stopped. Faint angry shouts vibrated through the air.

Furrowing his eyebrows, Jia Lie Nu was about to call someone to investigate what happened, when a guard of the Jia Lie clan came hurrying from the front. He urgently reported, “Elder, there is a black-cloaked man blocking our path.”

Hearing this, Jia Lie Nu’s face darkened. Now that they have entered the territory of Wu Tang City, who would dare block them?

With a cold glint appearing in his eyes, Jia Lie Nu nodded his head slightly and hopped off the horse carriage. He swiftly progressed in the direction of the convoy and finally saw a black-cloaked man sitting on a huge rock in the middle of the road. Although he could not see the black-cloaked man’s face, he could feel the ill intention from the gaze of the black-cloaked man.



“Who are you? Why are you blocking our path?” Jia Lie Nu’s gaze swept across the black-cloaked man before asking in a deep voice.

“You must be members of the Jia Lie Clan, no?” An aged voice escaped from below the black cloak.

Jia Lie Nu’s face twitched. With a somber expression, he waved his arm. The dozens of guards behind him immediately drew their weapons from their waist and stared inhospitably at the unknown and mysterious black-cloaked man.

“Well, it seems that I was right.” Looking at the reaction from Jia Lie Nu, the black cloaked man simply smiled and leaped from the huge rock before strolling over to the convoy.

Coldly watching the approaching black-cloaked man, Jia Lie Nu grabbed a huge bow and arrow from the guard beside him. He pulled at the bowstring and the bow bent like a cord. Upon release, the arrow transformed into a ferocious wind and shot towards the black-cloaked man’s throat.

Accompanying the arrow was a frightening whistle of breaking wind. When it was one meter away from the black-cloaked man however, a group of white flames appeared suddenly, turning the arrow into black ashes as soon as it touched the flame.

Watching the scene before him, Jia Lie Nu’s face changed color. An uneasiness began rising from within him. It appeared that the black-cloaked man in front of him was not weaker than a Da Dou Shi.

Slowly releasing his breath, Jia Lie Nu grabbed a deep blue long spear from a guard behind him. A faint blue Dou Qi was emitted from his body. Instantly, the surrounding air became more humid. Clearly, his Qi Method was that of the dark and chilly water element.

Grabbing the long spear, Jia Lie Nu stared intently at the black-cloaked man. He adjusted his body slightly before suddenly jumping off the ground. His body turned into a blue light, rushing forward and closing in on the black-cloaked man.

In midair, Jia Lie Nu maintained a respectful face as the long spear suddenly and violently shook. The Dou Qi on it shone brilliantly. With a vibration of the spear, echos followed.

“Overlapping Waves!”

“Overlapping Waves” a Low Xuan Dou Technique, was the strongest technique that Jia Lie Nu could fully control. His long period of training had allowed him to master this Dou Technique to perfection. Being released at its full force, the strength was such that even a six star Da Dou Shi would not dare to underestimate it.

Following the yell from Jia Lie Nu, a huge blue wave comprised of energy emitted from within the shining blue long rod. The huge wave of energy rose up high into the sky before abruptly gashing towards the rooted black-cloaked man,,

Around the convoy, proud cheers erupted upon seeing their elder reveal his god-like strength. Throughout their journey, the group had met a couple of robbers, but each and everyone of them were all killed under Jia Lie Nu's spear. In most people's eyes, another victim was about to be added.

The huge blue wave rolled along the horizon. Within it, a tiny light suddenly expanded. Like lightning, a long spear shot toward the black-cloaked man's head.

"Die!" Seeing that the target was almost within reach, a sinister expression flashed across Jia Lie Nu's face as he coldly smiled. Energy gushed uncontrollably from the spear in his hand.

Just as the long rod was about to strike his skull cap, the black-cloaked man slowly raised his head. The image of a delicate and pretty face was revealed under the sunlight was imprinted upon Jia Lie Nu's eyes.

"This... is that rascal from the Xiao Clan?"

Recognizing the familiar face, Jia Lie Nu's eyes narrowed and his killing intent grew immediately.

The long spear grew increasingly closer. Just as it was about to make contact, however, a white flame suddenly flowed from the black-cloaked man's body. Finally, it acted as a fire source and swept towards Jia Lie Nu, who was in midair.

The white flame flashed across the horizon and everyone felt a chill on their skin. Immediately, the wave, spear, and person.. disappeared.

On the road, the cheers were suddenly halted. The guards of the Jia Lie Clan, like a duck with its neck broken, widened their mouths and hyperventilated. The arrogance on their faces slowly transformed into fear. When their gaze once again fell on the black-cloaked man, the terror within was much like how one would look at a monster.

Scanning the guards indifferently, the black-cloaked man slowly extended his hand. A couple of white flames appeared. Jerking his finger, the flame shot forward and lightly fell on the carriages under the gazes of everyone.

"Boom!"

With a muffled blast, the horse carriages and the medicinal ingredients simultaneously caught fire and turned into ashes in front of everyone's dull gaze.

## Chapter 94: Poor Foresight

“What? All the medicinal ingredients were destroyed by someone?” The furious roar within the large hall nearly caused the roof to collapse.

The trembling guard that knelt in front of Jia Lie Bi had a face filled with horror as he swallowed his own saliva. Quaking in fear, he said: “The second elder was also killed by the one who destroyed the medicine.”

Jia Lie Bi’s furious face suddenly froze. His face fell and legs felt weak as he collapsed backwards, onto the chair behind him. Jia Lie Nu was one of the three Da Dou Shi’s of the Jia Lie clan. His death added to the turmoil that the Jia Lie Clan currently faced.

Seeing Jia Lie Bi’s reaction, the face of the guard who delivered the message was also filled with distress. At that moment, his mind recalled the frightening strength of the black cloaked man. It was difficult to imagine that the second elder, a three star Da Dou Shi, would actually be burnt to ashes by the mysterious man. The frightening scene had given those present the true taste of fear.

“Who was the one who killed the second elder?” After a few minutes of silence, Jia Lie Bi finally began to gradually recover. His slightly hoarse voice revealed how big a blow Jia Lie Nu’s death was for him.

“I have no idea. Back then, the man was wearing a black cloak so no one saw his face. But he could control some kind of white flame, which was also the flame the second elder perished under.” The guard shook his head and replied softly.

“A black cloak? Controlling a white flame?” After a brief silence, Jia Lie Bi’s face changed. Manipulating flames to hurt the enemy was the preference of an alchemist. And the only alchemist who had any enmity with the Jia Lie Clan and possess the strength to easily kill Jia Lie Nu... All of these criteria caused an image of the black cloaked alchemist he had accidentally met at the auction house to flash into his mind.

Recalling the respectful manner Ya Fei and Gu Ni showed towards the black cloaked alchemist, Jia Lie Bi suddenly felt a bitterness in his mouth. They were wrong from the beginning. Back then, just because of a statement from Liu Xi, they had thought the Xiao Clan was simply lucky enough to hire a novice alchemist. However, the current situation told them that the alchemist of the Xiao Clan was much stronger than the incompetent Liu Xi.

Jia Lie Bi gently shook his head as malicious fury flashed across his eyes. The four hundred thousand gold coins worth of medicinal ingredients were destroyed and moreover, they still owed three hundred thousand gold coins to the medicinal ingredients supplier in Ta Lan City due to cash flow problems.

Jia Lie Bi had originally intended to refine this batch of medicinal ingredients into healing medicine and sell the medicine to repay the loan. With the latest development, all of his plans were ruined.

The medicinal supplier that worked with the Jia Lie clan had significant influence and strength in Ta Lan City. Once they knew that the medicinal supplies were destroyed, they would definitely send someone to collect their debt. However, with the coffers of the Jia Lie clan having been exhausted, how were they going to find such a large sum of money? If they failed to raise the money, then the Jia Lie Clan's reputation would be completely destroyed by this event.

"Damn!" Unable to think of a solution, Jia Lie Bi slammed his palm angrily into the table beside him. Immediately, the black wooden table was smashed into pieces and a wooden fragment hit the face of a guard standing by the side. The latter simply clenched his teeth and withstood it.

Taking a light breath, Jia Lie Bi forcefully suppressed the fury and malicious resentment towards the Xiao Clan in his heart. He shook his hand and purposefully acted calm as he said, "Distribute all the remaining healing medicine in the warehouse to all the marketplaces. One more thing. I want everyone to keep quiet about everything that has happened today. If anyone spreads this news, they will be punished in accordance with the clan rules."

"Yes." The guard's body trembled lightly before he respectfully gave a reply. After which, he got up and quickly exited the hall.

Staring at the empty large hall, Jia Lie Bi tiredly leaned against the chair. This time, even if the Jia Lie Clan managed to survive, their strength would be greatly diminished. From then on, it would be difficult to fight with the Xiao Clan. Thinking of this, Jia Lie Bi sighed deeply. For some unknown reason, he was beginning to regret having started the conflict with the Xiao Clan back then...

However, this regret came a little too late.

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After settling a few other matters, Xiao Yan threw off his disguise and quickly returned to his clan. He requested Yao Lao to refine some Strength Recovering Pills before quickly delivering them to Xun Er. Seeing the girl caress the pills and her slightly red limpid eyes, Xiao Yan received a great boost to his confidence.

A few days after Xiao Yan destroyed the medicinal ingredients of the Jia Lie Clan, Wu Tan City continued to remain calm on the surface. However, the more observant people began to realize that the members of the Jia Lie Clan who had been causing trouble near the Xiao Clan's marketplace silently disappeared. Their usual arrogance had also

diminished. In the face of the Jia Lie Clan's inexplicable actions, some people began to feel a little suspicious.

Xiao Clan's meeting room-

"What is the Jia Lie Clan trying to do these days? Are they trying to give us the impression of being weak?" After receiving various amounts of information in the past few days, Xiao Zhan narrowed his eyebrows as he spoke to the three elders in the hall. His face was filled with suspicion.

Exchanging looks with one another, the three elders shook their heads in unison. After a deep hum, the first elder slowly spoke, "This abnormality may not be that simple. Jia Lie Bi is a cunning man. He may well be carrying out some schemes; it is better to be cautious."

Xiao Zhan nodded his head. Naturally, as a prudent person, he would not relax in the face of the Jia Lie Clan's actions.

Shifting his gaze, Xiao Zhan helplessly shook his head at Xiao Yan who was almost napping in his chair. . The rascal seemed unable to show any interest in clan matters.

"Yan Er, have you met with the esteemed elder recently?" Xiao Zhan randomly asked as he raised his tea cup to his mouth and took a sip.

TL: Er - an intimate form of address. Yan Er refers to Xiao Yan

Hearing Xiao Zhan's question, the three elders also shifted their gaze to Xiao Yan. That esteemed elder's importance to the Xiao Clan was understood even without saying. However, it appeared that only Xiao Yan in the entire Xiao Clan was favored. No other person had the opportunity to meet the esteemed elder alone.

Seeing how Xiao Yan got to enjoy such a privilege, everyone was filled with envy.

Lazily raising his eye lids, Xiao Yan said with a bored voice, "Hmm... I've seen him." After a brief silence, he continued, "He intends to take me as his disciple."

Upon hearing Xiao Yan's words, Xiao Zhan's hand which had lifted the tea cup froze. He lifted his face, which was filled with emotion and stared at the young man who had shrunk into his chair. Swallowing his saliva, he asked in disbelief, "Did you say that he wants to take you as his disciple?"

Raising his eyelids and watching Xiao Zhan's face fill with happiness and excitement, while the faces of the three elders grimaced with knitted brows, Xiao Yan nodded lazily.

"Good. Good. Good..." With a flushed face, Xiao Zhan emptied his tea cup in one go and excitedly stood up. He paced the room and rubbed his hands eagerly. "I knew that

my son was not an ordinary person. Dammit, whoever dares to call my son 'cripple' in the future will be killed personally by me.”

Watching Xiao Zhan's agitated manner, Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head and say softly, “In half a month, I will leave to train with teacher. I'm afraid it will be over a year before I return.”

“Ha?” Xiao Zhan was stunned. The smile on his face diminished as he raised his eyebrows and hesitatingly asked, “Are you not planning to take the entrance examination for the Jia Nan Academy? Jia Nan is a well known top academy across the whole Dou Qi continent. If you can enroll there, it would definitely benefit you.”

“I will take entrance examination, but I may skip for one or two years.” Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and smiled indifferently. “Although Jia Nan Academy is great, they cannot help me surpass Nalan Yan Ran in less than two years...”

TL: Nalan Yanran - Xiao Yan ex-fiancee; Nalan Su - Nalan Yanran's father

TL: Xiao Yan master skipper

Xiao Yan smiled as his gaze swept across the entire hall. Back then, that arrogant woman had crushed his remaining pride at this very place.

Hearing the name that was taboo to Xiao Yan, Xiao Zhan face trembled and he became silent.

Standing up, Xiao Yan lazily stretched his arms and cupped the back of his head as he slowly exited the large hall. The young man's faint laughter floated through in the large hall.

“Since I made a promise back then, I must keep my word and meet her. Haha, it is not that I wish for her to look at me in a better light, it is just that I want to tell her that her foresight is terrible when I finally meet her...”

### **Chapter 95: The Circumstances of the Jia Lie Clan**

As the next few days slowly passed by, the amount of healing medicine that the Jia Lie Clan sold in their marketplace at Wu Tan City began to decrease. On the last day, when the last bottle of healing medicine was finally sold, the Jia Lie Clan members responsible for selling the medicine had little choice but to embarrassingly smile at the mercenaries jostling outside. “I'm very sorry. Due to a shortage of stock, our stall will be temporarily closed.”

The mercenaries who were squeezing for a better spot outside the stall became silent upon hearing those words. After glaring furiously at the stall workers for a long time, they began to start scolding angrily.

As the crowd dispersed, some of the less courteous customers verbally abused the medicine sellers.

The news that the Jia Lie clan had ceased the sales of healing medicine spread throughout the entire Wu Tan City in less than an hour. The first reaction of everyone was shock followed by some who gloated at their misfortune, some who felt regretful, and some who sighed...

Without the support of the healing medicine, the Jia Lie Clan, in the fight against the Xiao Clan, was totally defeated. Following their miserable defeat, the Jia Lie Clan was severely weakened and their influence within Wu Tan City was unlikely to ever recover to the high influential level that they had enjoyed in the past.

The Xiao Clan's home, Meeting room.

"The Jia Lie Clan has lost the source of their healing medicine?" Hearing the news that his subordinate had brought him, Xiao Zhan was momentarily stunned before abruptly standing up. The happiness on his face was difficult to hide.

In his excitement, he exchanged glances with the three elders, only to find that their faces were also filled with uncontrolled happiness. Xiao Zhan agitatedly took two steps in the hall. A while later, he finally suppressed his happiness and asked the messenger with a smile, "What about Liu Xi, their Alchemist?"

"I have no idea. Ever since that day when Jia Lie Ao and young master Xiao Yan fought, he was never seen again."

Hearing this, Xiao Zhan and the three elders were surprised. They shifted their gaze stealthily at Xiao Yan, who was sitting in one corner.

"Why are you looking at me? This has nothing to do with me." Seeing the four pairs of eyes looking at him, Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and innocently said.

Xiao Zhan helplessly shook his head. In any case, he did not believe Xiao Yan's denial. Nothing to do with him? Then why was it that Liu Xi would vanish after having a conflict with him?

"That's right. Clan leader, a member of the Jia Lie Clan inner circle accidentally leaked out that the Jia Lie Clan's second elder, Jia Lie Nu, was killed by a black cloaked man when he was transporting medicinal ingredients." After a brief hesitation, the messenger finally said in a low voice.

Xiao Zhan's strolling legs suddenly froze. He drew his eyelids and nodded before waving his hand to dismiss the messenger. He stared intently at Xiao Yan and said with a wide smile, "Yan Er, I don't think that there is anyone in the entire Wu Tan City who has the ability to kill the three star Da Dou Shi Jia Lie Nu other than your teacher."

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose and sighed. He helplessly nodded his head. "Jia Lie Nu is indeed dead."

Hearing the admission from Xiao Yan, Xiao Zhan also shook his head and sighed. The Jia Lie Clan, which had fought for decades with the Xiao Clan, had actually fell into a decline because of a single young man. This feeling... Xiao Zhan bitterly smiled and said, "I know that the reason for the esteemed elder to extend his help is because of you. Still, if there is time, please convey our Xiao Clan's thanks. We owe him so much."

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and carelessly nodded his head.

"Now, let us see how the Jia Lie Clan tries to get out of this mess." Xiao Zhan laughed quietly. The gloating manner in his laughter was hard to hide. In the competition for the healing medicine market, the Jia Lie Clan had pulled out after a big loss and this huge loss had severely weakened the Jia Lie Clan while the Xiao Clan benefitted greatly.

In these short two months, the Xiao Clan had miraculously pulled themselves from their initial miserable position to win the competition. In addition, the two months of profit from the healing medicine was equivalent to their annual income from before. Moreover, their influence within Wu Tan City had obviously surpassed both the Jia Lie Clan and the Ao Ba Clan. Even the Primer Auction house had made gestures of goodwill because of Xiao Yan. With the accumulation of these factors, the Xiao Clan had the greatest spot in the limelight in the entire Wu Tan City.

Nevertheless, a centipede dies but never falls. Although the Jia Lie Clan had received a terrible blow, they were still a force that couldn't be underestimated. The armed forces that the clan had built up over the years was a force no one in Wu Tan City dared look down on.

The Jia Lie Clan was also well aware of the current influence of the Xiao Clan. Hence, after they knew that it was hopeless to continue to compete, they gathered their body like a poisonous snake and began licking their wounds, seemingly waiting for an opportunity to devastate their enemy.

However, the days that were occupied in such a manner did not last long. Two days after the Jia Lie Clan announced the ceasing of the sales of the healing medicine, the Ta Lan City medicinal supplier sent a group led by two Da Dou Shi. They aggressively entered the Jia Lie Clan family home and rudely demanded that Jie Lie Bi pay up the three hundred thousand gold coins owed to them within two days.

The action by the Ta Lan City medicinal ingredient supplier was equivalent to worsening the problem for Jia Lie Clan. At this moment, however, Jia Lie Bi did not dare to recklessly offend a party that was not weaker than the Jia Lie Clan regardless of how angry he was. Therefore, he could only swallow his bitterness and attempt to raise money.



After searching all over the Jia Lie clan, however, they could only find a hundred thousand gold coins. This was a far cry from the debt they had.

Helplessly, Jia Lie Bi could only thicken his skin and attempt to borrow money from the powers which the Jia Lie Clan had better relationships with. However, there are far more people willing to share in your happiness than aid in your sorrow. Seeing the current pathetic state of the Jia Lie Clan and the hostility from the Xiao Clan, those powers which once had a good relationship with the Jia Lie Clan did not want to get involved in the mess.

Helping the Jia Lie Clan now would undoubtedly offend the rising Xiao Clan. As a result, even after putting in tremendous effort, Jia Lie Bi was unable to raise a sufficient amount of money.

With his face filled with gloominess, Jia Lie Bi returned home and raged like a war god. After which, he unwillingly voiced a shocking suggestion: Selling the marketplaces.

Jia Lie Clan had a total of three middle sized marketplaces and four small sized marketplaces in Wu Tan City. The ones that Jia Lie Bi intended to sell were two of the middle sized marketplaces with the best location and popularity.

Once these words were out, the members of the Jia Lie Clan reacted strongly. Even the entire Wu Tan City was in a state of shock. The revenue from these two marketplaces basically made up half of the income of the Jia Lie Clan. Being forced into selling their marketplaces showed just how desperate they had become.

If a marketplace had a sufficient crowd, it was a business venture that would definitely be profitable. However, there were only slightly more than ten marketplaces in the entire Wu Tan City. These marketplaces were usually controlled by both the Jia Lie Clan and the Xiao Clan. The Ao Ba Clan did not rely on a marketplace for a living. Instead, their income mainly comes from underground gambling dens and brothels. Therefore, after hearing that the Jie Lie Clan intended to sell the marketplace with the best location, many people were tempted. However, after the initial fervor subsided, they became down heartened. In the current Wu Tan city, almost all of the crowds were dominated by the marketplaces of Xiao Clan. Other than the extremely profitable marketplaces of the Xiao Clan, all of the marketplaces could at best only break even. Buying the marketplace at this moment would undoubtedly be a bad business venture. More importantly, whoever bought the marketplaces of the Jia Lie Clan would definitely offend the Xiao Clan. Those who were slightly interested had little choice but to withdraw their interest with plenty of disappointment.

After announcing his intentions to sell the marketplaces, Jia Lie Bi, who had originally thought that there would be a surge of interest, once again tasted embarrassment. He had not expected that the current influence of the Xiao Clan had already reached such a great stage.

With the two day deadline drawing closer and the inability to raise the needed money, Jia Lie Bi began perspiring anxiously. Just as Jia Lie Bi became extremely anxious, a stranger appeared. After spending the entire afternoon discussing about the price, the marketplaces were finally bought by the stranger at a cheap price of two hundred thousand gold coins. In front of the Jia Lie Bi's extremely gloomy face accompanied by killing intent, the stranger swaggered out with two sales agreements, feeling extremely satisfied.

Upon receiving two hundred thousand gold coins as payment for the two marketplaces, the Jia Lie Clan finally managed to be rid of the group from the medicinal ingredient supplier. Seeing those bandit-like debt collectors leaving the courtyard, Jia Lie Bi felt like crying, though no tears came out.

Not long after sending off the debt collectors, a member of the clan came rushing over to report the latest news. The two marketplaces which they had sold in the morning were now under the name of the Xiao Clan. Hearing this news, the extremely furious Jia Lie Bi was stunned for a moment before finally coughing up blood and fainting.

Watching Jia Lie Bi being hurriedly carried into the room, all the members of the Jia Lie Clan let out a sigh. From then on, the Jia Lie Clan was condemned to be a second rate power in Wu Tan City...

### **Chapter 96: Promise**

The economic confrontation between the two families of Wu Tan City finally ended with the Xiao Clan's victory. Whereas the Jia Le Clan, as the defeated party, had their influence rapidly shrink. They would never be able to regain their former glory.

The confrontation between both clans stopped being a hotly contested topic in Wu Tan City after a week or so. People who loved the new and loathed the old, gradually shifted their attention away and started to place it on another important matter and this matter was regarding the enrollment of the Jia Nan Academy.

As one of Dou Qi Continent's most famous institutions of higher learning, Jia Nan Academy was almost a holy place in every teenager's heart. If they were able to graduate from it, their journey henceforth would be smooth sailing. Not only would they be able to proudly return home, they would also be fervently sought after by all parties.

Jia Nan Academy was located in the vicinity where Jia Ma Empire's borders intersected with two other large empires. In that no man's land, Jia Nan Academy was almost like a small country in itself. According to common sense, for this trapped force, the three empires would naturally not ignore it, as there was no assurance that someday this power would be roped by an opponent; which would result in a major threat to that side of the empire's defence.

Of course, this was under the condition that this force was weak, but if its prowess had already risen to be able to contest the three empires, the three empires had no choice but to stop their actions and leave Jia Nan Academy alone as if it was like a huge dragon coiling at the edge of their empire, and so no one would willingly provoke it.

After experiencing plenty of growth over many years. The current Jia Nan Academy was not only one of Dou Qi Continent's most famous institutions of higher learning, but also quite reputable between the citizens of the three empires due to kind of concealed cooperation between it and the three empires.

For the incompatible three empires to smoothly maintain close to a century's peace between them, the Jia Nan Academy was a large factor in mediating and threatening them.

These many things caused Jia Nan Academy's reputation in the three empires to grow even stronger. In addition, every year, Jia Nan Academy would dispatch a large numbers of teachers to head into the three empires to recruit gifted students.

Towards Jia Nan Academy's act of sending teachers into the three empires to recruit students, the three royal families all expressed a high degree of approval. After all, an academy is ultimately not a sect. Academies do not have many restrictions and after graduation, a large portion of the graduates would choose to return to their own empire. This would be the new and powerful blood into the empire's strength, so as long as the royal families of the three empires had working brains, they would naturally agree.

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After another few days, the recruiting instructors of Jia Nan Academy were about to arrive at Wu Tan City. All of Wu Tan City's attention was shifted away from the matters of the two clans from about half a month ago into this new recruitment. This shift allowed the Xiao Clan which was constantly the topic of gossip to breathe a sigh of relief.

Jia Nan Academy's enrollment placed importance on talent and not on the person's background. Without sufficient talent, one would be hard pressed to enter the academy which signified a smooth future. Of course, nothing is for certain, if you were to have powerful backing, Jia Nan Academy would not mind taking you into the academy for a few years to collect a large sum of tuition.

Due to Jia Nan Academy's indifference regarding status and position, now in Wu Tan City, even the young beggars or thieves or whatnot, began to await the arrival of the teachers eagerly. If they were able to get past the tests, they would finally leave their degrading jobs which was looked down upon by the public eye and henceforth become a respected Dou Zhe.

Under this driving mood, the recent atmosphere in Wu Tan City was even livelier than during the New Year and every day outside the city, there would be people eagerly gazing off into the distance with hope filled expressions.

Compared to these people with wholehearted expectations, Xiao Yan was extremely busy. Due to him having to travel soon, during this time period, he was almost always desperately making healing medicine. Looking at Xiao Yan's desperate figure, Yao Lao finally felt bad and decided to help him. With Yao Lao's unknown ability in alchemy's help, huge batches of medicine were completed and was constantly entering the vaults of the Xiao Clan. With this stored amount, as long as the Xiao Clan sold it periodically, they could sell for a year or longer. After the Xiao Clan finally sold all of this healing medicine, they would have already earned an envious sum of money.

This high degree of alchemy of course made Xiao Yan tired. However, the refining process also allowed his control of his inner Dou Qi to become more and more smooth. Even his control over the temperature of the flames became more skilled. This improvement, combined with his highly praised soul perception, made Xiao Yan's success rate in making blood clotting medicine almost close to sixty percent. Such a high success rate, would be something only an experienced second tier alchemist could accomplish.

Comparable to his improvement in alchemy, Xiao Yan's own strength, under the help of Yao Lao's carefully made elixirs, was also slowly and steadily increasing. After Xiao Yan's last completion of a batch of medicine, the Dou Qi collected inside his body and forced itself to breakthrough and land Xiao Yan among the ranks of a four star Dou Zhe.

Xiao Yan was very delighted by this unexpected gain. Looking at this, the high intensity of alchemy had quite the reinforcement effect on raising one's strength.

Of course, although alchemy had some reinforcement effects, it was very taxing on energy and once the last batch of elixirs were completed, Yao Lao immediately stopped Xiao Yan. Seeing Yao Lao's severe expression, Xiao Yan considered the fact that the storage was sufficient and decided to stop. He then went to his room and tiredly slept for a day as his daily life became more relaxed again.

.....

Slowly walking in his clan, gazing at the suddenly squeezed practice grounds, Xiao Yan was a little bored.

In each field, many young clan members were toiling away at training. These people were hoping that these last days worth of effort were enough to let themselves achieve Jia Nan Academy's enrollment criteria.

Standing at the edge of the practice ground, Xiao Yan lazily looked at a few fields, then with a bored expression, turned and left. For these procrastinators, he didn't have much

compassion. Although he initially regained his talent, he also had to work like a dog to keep improving. These people, without much talent, always depended on their clan's background to philander which didn't settle well with Xiao Yan.

Jia Nan Academy's enrollment baseline was not low: before the age of eighteen, one had to achieve 8 Duan Qi. This slightly stringent criteria alone had destroyed many people's dreams. Of course, with Xiao Yan's view, there would only be two people on this practice ground that could meet this criteria.

Both hands holding the back of his head, Xiao Yan threw these clansmen out of his mind since how many people being enrolled was none of his business. Shaking his head, Xiao Yan entered another small path, walking into the flower gardens in the backyard. A familiar female figure, was prettily sitting amongst the flowers, appearing very beautiful.

Slightly narrowing his eyes gazing at that perfectly curved back, a gentle look appeared on Xiao Yan's face. Lightly smiling, he slowly walked toward the green clothed girl that was staring at the willow tree in a daze.

"Xiao Yan ge-ge, you... you are leaving soon?" Before reaching the young girl, a slightly sad voice entered Xiao Yan's ears.

His footsteps stopping briefly, Xiao Yan powerlessly nodded his head and slowly walked forward to stand beside Xun Er. Turning his head, he saw that slightly dejected exquisite face. Lightly smiling, he reached out his hand and patted Xun Er's small head before having his hand quietly sliding down her soft hair. The comfortable feeling made him feel a little enchanted.

"You aren't going to Jia Nan Academy anymore?" Letting Xiao Yan intimately play with her hair which no other male had ever touched, Xun Er softly asked.

"Un." Nodding his head, Xiao Yan gently laughed, "I also have my own things that I definitely must do."

"Nalan Yanran?" Xun Er lightly bit her lips as she said in a low voice with her watery eyes throbbing with a kind of inexplicable coldness.

The palm that was playing with her hair briefly stopped, Xiao Yan shrugged, faintly laughed and said, "That promise that was set in front of so many people, I can't miss it right? If that was the case, even you would despise me."

Xun Er's brow lightly knitted, softly sighed and then using a voice that only she could hear muttered, "I really shouldn't have let her live back then."

“Haha, rest assured, after this matter is finished, I will go to Jia Nan Academy to find Xun Er. Uh... at most a year and a half,. Wait no, just a year....” Looking at Xun Er’s face that had suddenly become bitter, Xiao Yan promptly laughed and changed his words.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, actually.... If you follow Xun Er, Xun Er also has a plan to let you be able to defeat Nalan Yanran within the promised time.” Biting her lips after thinking for a while, Xun Er suddenly hesitantly spoke.

Bitterly laughing, Xiao Yan shook his head and self deprecatingly sighed, “This girl sometimes says some words that make me feel a little ashamed.”

“I know Xiao Yan ge-ge won’t think that this is charity.” Xun Er sweetly smiled and said.

Softly smiling, Xiao Yan lightly shook his head. He breathed out in consternation and laughingly said, “ Rest assured, I have confidence that after a year, I will ascend to Misty Cloud Faction and battle Nalan Yanran.”

Gazing at Xiao Yan who suddenly became prideful, Xun Er helplessly shook her head and was about to persuade him one more time, when Xiao Yan suddenly turned over, extended his arms, and in a split moment, grabbed Xun Er’s small waist, roughly pulling her into his embrace.

A gentle wind blew across the flower garden, the willow lightly floated, a young man tightly hugging a young girl like they would never split apart.

Xiao Yan’s sudden action scared Xun Er and after brief moment, Xun Er’s soft ear tips turned bright red. Lightly struggling for a while then shyly stopping, her small face was slightly suffused with an enticing layer of blushing red.

“Xun Er, after a year, I will go to Jia Nan Academy to find you, wait for me.”

Burying his head in that soft hair, the young man’s promise, finally let the girl, who was at a loss, to obediently nod her head.

## **Chapter 97: Xue Ni**

Walking on a small street and observing the clan that had become much emptier, Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. Today was the day that the recruitment team from Jia Nan Academy would arrive at Wu Tan City and thus almost half of the clan members had gone to watch. By now, the entrance to Wu Tan City would likely be entirely blocked by people.

“What a bunch of insane people. Did you think that they would easily let you pass the entrance examination just because you went to look?” Xiao Yan shook his head and whispered. In a relaxed manner as he headed towards the mountains. At this time everyday, he would train his Dou Technique without fail.

Although the recruitment team this time stayed in Wu Tan City, the territories that they were responsible of included other nearby cities. Thus, when Xiao Yan and his group rushed to the recruitment location on the next day and saw the seemingly never ending queue, they could not help but be stunned.

In the huge plaza, there were continuous noises and disturbances. Countless young people were struggling to head into the interior of the plaza. Were it not for the soldiers from the governor's barracks maintaining order at the edge of the plaza, the agitated crowd would have desperately rushed in.

After staring in shock at the sea of people for a long while, Xiao Yan sighed lightly. His face was dispirited as he shook his head. From the looks of things, it seemed he could forget about passing the entrance examination today.

"Hum. There's nothing you can do right?" Looking at Xiao Yan's dispirited manner, Xiao Yu who was having a conversation with Xun Er behind him, immediately said in a pleased voice.

Rolling his eyes, Xiao Yan ignored her. "Does Xiao Yu biao-jie have a solution?" Seeing that the pair was about to argue, Xun Er, who was standing beside them, quickly changed the conversation topic.

"The one who is in charge of the recruitment team in Wu Tan City is my teacher. Naturally, as her favorite pupil, I have a solution." Xiao Yu raised her nose and laughed as she waved her hand. "Follow me."

Watching Xiao Yu raise her sexy long legs and head towards the other side of the plaza, Xiao Yan looked at Xun Er and helplessly pushed his hands away. "Forget it. I will not argue with her."

Hearing this, Xun Er smiled and nodded as she and Xiao Yan followed Xiao Yu.

The few of them followed Xiao Yu and rounded around the huge plaza before they came to a stop at the western side, where the back of the plaza was. Here, there were fully equipped soldiers who formed two to three layers around the place. Their weapons carried a cold glint which under the hot sun, reflected the piercing rays.

Scanning the tightly guarded formation, Xiao Yu issued some orders to Xiao Yan before moving forward by herself. She took out a piece of green identification card and spoke for a long while to someone who appeared to be an officer. Only after that did she wave for Xiao Yan and his group to come over.

The middle aged officer's cold gaze swept over Xiao Yan and his companions. Only after a while did he wave his hand and order, "Let them through!"

Upon hearing the order from the middle aged officer, an ordered sound of metal rubbing against another was immediately emitted from the tight wall of armored men and slowly, a small path appeared. Xiao Yu smiled at the middle aged officer as she took back her green plate. After lifting her chin at Xiao Yan and group, she followed the middle aged officer and led the group in.

Following behind Xiao Yu, the other members from Xian Clan also entered this path. Just as they entered, the group could feel a coldness on their skin. The surrounding expressionless soldiers were emitting a scent of blood from their bodies, causing the group, who had never experienced such a formation, to feel an intense pressure that made it difficult to breath.

“These are soldiers who have survived real wars?” Xiao Yan gradually let out a breath. Xiao Yan’s extraordinary will allowed him to slowly drive out the pressure. Licking his lips, his weakened legs suddenly felt strong once more. Regardless of how you put it, with his strength as a four star Dou Zhe, he was stronger than most of the soldiers present. He might not be able to compete in terms of bloody auras, but at the very least, he would not embarrass himself for that reason.

The short, less than twenty meter distance felt like a hundred or thousand meters to the few of them. When they finally took their final step, all of them found that their palms were sweaty..

With her slightly pale face. Xiao Yu faced the middle aged officer and smiled bitterly: “Senior Ke, did you purposely torture us?”

“Haha, this was what Teacher Ruo Lin ordered. If you want to take the back door, it is only natural to have to go through a little test. All of you are quite good. These subordinates of mine have all hugged a corpse to sleep. If you did not have a strong inner strength, you would have been paralysed with fear halfway through.” The middle aged officer face revealed a smile as his gaze swept across Xiao Yu and those around her. Finally seeing on the calm faces of Xun Er and Xiao Yan, astonishment filled his eyes. “It seems that Teacher Ruo Lin will be able to recruit some good students this time.”

TL: Back door means unofficial aka somewhat cheating

Hugged a corpse to sleep = Seen death, and a lot of it

Waving at the middle aged officer in a less than good mood, Xiao Yu pulled Xiao Mei and Xiao Ning, whose legs had already weakened, and walked swiftly into the interior of the plaza.

Once they were in the middle of the plaza, their eyes caught sight of a large green tent. From there, Xiao Yan and the others could already see the sea of people outside. On



the pathway, there were occasionally some people who had passed the entrance test and were happily heading towards the interior of the plaza.

“Yu Er!” Just as they began walking near the huge tent, a female’s laugh rang out. A red figure rushed over and happily hugged Xiao Yu. Her palms touched Xiao Yu’s waist as she jokingly said, “Have you grown fatter?”

TL: Yu er - an intimate form of address. Refers to Xiao Yu.

“You lewd girl. Get off me.” Scolding with a smile, Xiao Yu pushed the girl off. Following that, she turned around to face Xiao Yan and the others as she made the introductions with a smile. “This is my best friend in the Jia Nan Academy. She’s called Xue Ni and is a four star Dou Zhe.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan and the others shifted their gaze to the lady in red. A radiant smile could be seen on her slightly pretty face and her brown hair was carelessly tied into a ponytail. She had a full blossom, a very slender waist along with a round bottom. Although she was not as pretty as Xiao Yu, her sexy devilish figure was something from every man’s dream. During the short period of introduction, Xiao Yan had realised that many of the young men who had passed the test were stealthily and obscenely gazing at the two women.

Xiao Yu affectionately held Xue Ni. From her expression, it was obvious they enjoyed a good relationship.

“They are members of my clan. This is Xun Er, heh heh, beautiful, isn’t she? But you are not allowed to have any intentions towards her, she will not show any interest in you. This is Xiao Mei, another beauty. This is my younger brother Xiao Ning. Finally this is...” When her eyes landed on the lazy looking Xiao Yan, Xiao Yu slanted her head and pulled the ears of the girl called Xue Ni and whispered, “He’s Xiao Yan, the one whom I have mentioned to you before.”

At first, Xue Ni glanced at both Xun Er and Xiao Mei. Widening her eyes, she gasped, “Wow. Your clan really does have quite a number of beauties. Once they enter Jia Nan Academy, all of the males will be utterly smitten.”

“Eh? Xiao Yan?” After a shocked gasp, Xue Ni suddenly stilled as she watched Xiao Yan with a stunned expression. “Is this the one whom you said... the cousin who remained at 3 Duan Qi? Looks quite handsome.”

“Ah?” The corner of Xiao Yu’s mouth twitched as she ruthlessly pinched the big-mouthed woman beside her. Seeing the terrible expression on Xiao Yan’s face, she embarrassingly tried to explain, “I did not go around talking about you. It is just that these sharp ears of hers picked up what I said when I was sleep talking.”

Raising his eyebrows, Xiao Yan curled his mouth and touched his face as he mocked: "You are thinking of me even in your dreams? Since when has our relationship been this good? Back then, all I did was touch..."

"Shut up." Hearing Xiao Yan's words, Xiao Yu's face was filled with embarrassment. The sexy long legs of hers ruthlessly kicked at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan shifted his body smoothly to avoid it. After getting back at her, he waved his hands and stopped his teasing.

"What did you touch? It can't be Yu Er, can it?" Xue Ni's face was filled with curiosity as she was ruthlessly pinched by Xiao Yu.

"Yu Er, how cruel of you. You actually attacked your old friend.." Covering her reddened wrist, Xue Ni watched Xiao Yu with a pair of watery eyes.

"Stop fooling around. We still need to bring them to take the test." Xiao Yu scolded as she pushed away the living treasure, not knowing to cry or smile.

"Hehe, let's go. Follow me. I will lead the way." Xue Ni changed her face and withdrew the tears from her eyes. She turned around and was about to take the first step when she tilted her head and said, "Oh, right. I forgot to tell you that Luo Bu is in this recruitment party. Moreover, on the journey here, I heard that he had risen to a four star Dou Zhe."

Hearing this, the smiling face of Xiao Yu's became gloomy and she impatiently said, "Why did that irritating guy come?"

"Isn't it because of the beautiful Xiao Yu in front of us? On the way here, he only had thoughts of you." Xue Ni jokingly said.

Xiao Yu clenched her teeth a couple of times. For a while, her expression changed irregularly before she suddenly turned around and stared at Xiao Yan.

"What are you looking at me for? You can forget about getting me to act intimate with you in front of that guy. I am not interested in you and have no intention of feigning interest." Seeing the glint in Xiao Yu's eyes and given his intelligence, how could Xiao Yan not guess what that girl was thinking? He simply laughed coldly and ignored the angry gaze as he swaggered toward the large tent.

"Uh... Yu Er. it seems that your charm has diminished... In the face of such a good thing, the students in our school would have fought desperately for it. But that little boy actually ignored you?" Watching Xiao Yan's back, Xue Ni said incredulously.

Tightly clenching her teeth, Xiao Yu irritably said, " This little rascal is a freak. How can you use logic to try and understand him? Other than that vamp in the academy, have

you seen anyone else who could improve from having 3 Duan Qi to being a three star Dou Zhe in just one year?"

Hearing this, Xue Ni's mouth opened. Her cheeky expression was finally overcome by shock. She had not expected that the delicate and handsome looking young man to possess such talent. Was this still the same person as the clan's "cripple" that Xiao Yu had told her about earlier?

### **Chapter 98: Making Things Difficult**

Xiao Yan slowly made his way towards the large tent. Xiao Yu was behind him, angrily glaring at his back, clenching her teeth. She had not expected that Xiao Yan would decline her offer and not give her any face.

As the group got closer to the large green tent, they found over ten people gathered in its shade. They were split up into a few small circles and talking. Based on their relaxed expressions, one would probably say they were all students from the same academy as Xue Ni, Jia Nan Academy.

Outside of the tent's cool shade, over twenty young men and women were sitting on the ground under the hot sun. Although the heat caused them to perspire unceasingly, their expressions stayed timid. On first glance, it seemed that they were the new students who had just passed the entrance examination outside.

A couple of chattering females in the tent suddenly raised their heads and saw Xiao Yu with her group walking towards them. The students faces instantly brightened at the sight and they quickly rushed over with unceasing laughter to surround Xiao Yu.

Xiao Yan felt his head swell at the sudden assault of loud noises, he was not ready for the loud clamouring of adolescent girls. His gaze swept across these young and pretty female students. From their surprised expressions, Xiao Yan realized that Xiao Yu's relationships in the academy seemed to be quite good.

"Aya! Please, all of you, can you be more reserved?" Xiao Yu helplessly said. She didn't know whether to laugh or cry as she was forced to push away a couple of friends who were continuously throwing themselves on her.

"Yu Er, I haven't seen you in two months and it seems you have become more shapely in my absence. Be honest, did you... ah?" A female with a beautiful face secretly swept her hand on Xiao Yu's chest before resting it on her shoulder as she joked.

At the side, Xiao Yan helplessly sighed and gave Xiao Yu a strange look. Why was it that all these friends of hers were like female leechers?

"Get lost, you lewd girl. Don't act so unrestrained toward me." Blushing, Xiao Yu pushed off the girl from her chest. When she saw that there were other girls attempting to

pounce on her, she quickly took a step back, pointed at Xiao Yan and group and hurriedly introduced them. Thankfully, this move successfully rid the girls of their teasing intentions.

“Hehe, what beautiful girls.” After the gazes swept across Xun Er and Xiao Mei, their great beauty caused these female students to sigh in surprise.

Their gazes gradually turned toward Xiao Yan. As for Xiao Ning, he was luckily overlooked by these females due to his sibling relationship with Xiao Yu.

Although Xiao Yan was younger than Xiao Yu by two to three years, his size could easily be compared to Xiao Yu’s after over a year of tough training. His face may have appeared a little young and delicate, but he carried a maturity that did not match his age. This visual contradiction caused the females to helplessly take another look.

“Hee hee, what a handsome young man. Yu Er, is he your cousin? Blood-related cousin? Be honest. Did you steal him for yourself.”

Regardless of how calm Xiao Yan was, upon hearing these ladies openly asking such a valiant question in front of the parties involved, the corner of his mouth could not help but twitch. The gaze that he used on Xiao Yu grew increasingly strange.

After hearing the teasing of these girls, Xiao Yu’s face showed both embarrassment and helplessness. She was about to explain when the corner of her eye caught a male figure striding over.

Xiao Yu’s face changed and frowned. Immediately, a flustered red appeared on her face as she flirtatiously said, “I don’t have any blood relation with him. Why don’t you stop making fun of him. He has been shy since he was young.”

“Uh...” Hearing those words, all the female students were stunned. Watching a flustered looking Xiao Yu that they have never seen before, they began exchanging looks with one another. Originally they had only intended to joke around; they did not expect that Xiao Yu would actually seriously come forth and explain. Moreover, the tone she used... it was like half attempting to lie.

Even Xun Er and those following Xiao Yu were also stunned by Xiao Yu’s intimate tone. They exchanged glances as they all saw each other’s eyes foggy. Since when had the relationship between Xiao Yu and Xiao Yan become so good?

TL: Eyes foggy = confused

Standing on one side, Xiao Yan coldly stared at Xiao Yu’s acting. He was about to expose her when Xiao Yu quickly extended her hands. One of them locked onto his hand while the other intimately swept off the dust from Xiao Yan’s clothes.

“Ah...” Seeing Xiao Yu’s sudden action, those surrounding her were all totally shocked. When had they ever witnessed Xiao Yu treat another man in such a manner?

“Xiao Yu, you... long time no see.” Just as everyone was in a daze, a male’s voice abruptly called out.

Hearing the voice, everyone tilted their heads. A young man in grey was standing at their backs, smiling widely at them. The young man was quite handsome, but that radiant smile appeared false to Xiao Yan and the others.

The flustered look on Xiao Yu face slowly receded. Turning around with her hand still holding Xiao Yan, she glanced at the young man and indifferently said, “Luo Bu, long time no see.”

“Ke ke.” Nodding his head and laughing, the young man called Luo Bu randomly looked at the interlocked hands. Instantly, a coldness and fury flashed across the gaze he sent to Xiao Yan.

“Ke ke, you must have brought over these few people, no?” Luo Bu asked with a smile as he stepped toward them.

“Yes.” Carelessly nodding her head Xiao Yu once again introduced Xiao Yan and the others. She said with a smile, “I have brought them here to take the test.”

“Oh, have you now?” Nodding his head with a smile, Luo Bu pulled out a fist sized red crystal ball. He waved it and said with a smile, “It so happens that Teacher Ruo Ling has just given me an examination crystal. Why don’t we let them try. The other examination crystals have all been brought to the examination gateway at the front. If you don’t use mine, you will have to wait for some time.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yu hesitated a little before nodding her head. She slanted her head and softly explained to Xiao Yan, “This examination crystal is very simple. As long as your strength has reached the a Dou Qi of the 8 Duan, it will light up. Once that happens, you will have passed the initial test.”

“Let me go.” Xiao Yan unruly stared at her and indifferently ordered.

“Uh.” Xiao Yu smilingly nodded her head and obediently released her hands. Seeing her obedient manner, the grip of the one called Luo Bo tightened on the crystal ball.

“Xun Er, why don’t all of you go first.” Rubbing his reddened wrist that Xiao Yu had grabbed, Xiao Yan told Xun Er with a smile.

Nodding with a smile, Xun Er, Xiao Mei and Xiao Ning took the lead and went forward. Soon after their palms touched the crystal ball, it lit up and they stepped back.

Seeing the three of them succeeding, Xiao Yan also went forward and carelessly touched the crystal ball, obtaining the same result.

“Rest assured that if they did not have the ability to pass the test, I would not have acted on my own and brought them in here.” Watching the success of the four people, Xiao Yu said indifferently.

“Ke ke. It is not that I don't trust you but this is the rule.” Giving Xiao Yu an apologetic smile, Luo Bu kept the crystal ball. His finger pointed towards those outside, who were sitting under the sun. Facing Xiao Yan and group, he said with a smile, “Congratulations on passing the initial test. Now, please sit outside for half an hour.”

“Luo Bu, what is the meaning of this?” Hearing Luo Bu words, Xiao Yu frowned and asked with iciness.

“Xiao Yu, you are also a student here. You ought to know that this is a rule during recruitment. Ke ke, The new students these days are getting more and more impulsive. Wearing down their spirit during the recruitment would benefit their future life at the academy.” Luo Bu explained with a smile.

“Hmph. Luo Bu, I am not interested in whatever you tell the new students but you shall not impose these lousy rules on the people I have brought over.” Xiao Yu icily said.

“This is the rule.”

The corner of Luo Bu's mouth twitched. Being publicly rebuked by Xiao Yu without consideration of his reputation had contributed to the anger and sourness within him.

“Luo Bu, you should stop creating trouble. You know very well that these are rules that can be done without so why do you want to make a big fuss out of it?” The surrounding girls frowned as they were also unable to bear how Luo Bu was trying to make a big fuss over nothing.

“Ke ke. I'm sorry. They had passed the test on my watch. Based on the rules, during this time period, I am in charge of them.” Luo Bu smiled radiantly. Seeing the furious Xiao Yu, he suddenly changed his words. “Alright. Because it's you, not all of them will need to go out. Why don't we let someone be a representative? Uh... let me see. We shall let...let this boy be the representative. Ke ke, he's a man, so there's no need for him to worry about turning darker under the sun.” After slowly moving his finger across the few new students, he finally smiled and stopped in front of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan widened his eyes and indifferently watched the young man in front of him who was full of smiles.

“Get lost. Xiao Yan will also not leave. I will personally look for Teacher Ruo Ling to talk about this. There is no need for you to be here giving orders!” With a stride of her long sexy legs, Xiao Yu stood in front of Xiao Yan and coldly said.

“Oh ah, Luo Bu Da-ge, it seems that you are having some problems.” Just as they were in a constant entanglement, a group of laughing men appeared from the shadow of the tent.

TL: Da-ge - means big brother

“It’s nothing other than this new student being unwilling to be under the sun.” Luo Bo secured his crystal ball as he said offhandedly.

“Heh, it has been a long time since I’ve seen such an arrogant new student. Luo Bu Da-ge, do you need our help?” Hearing this, a young man with one golden star on his chest quietly smiled at Luo Bu. His smile was filled with an attempt to curry favor.

Smiling and nodding his head, Luo Bu faced the gloomy faced Xiao Yu and mused. Suddenly, he smiled and said, “Why don’t we do this. It is alright not to go out, but there are many new students out there watching. If only these few students are exempted from being under the sun, the others may not be happy about it.”

As he spoke, Luo Bu patted the shoulders of the young man beside him and smiled at Xiao Yan. “Since you do not wish to go out, why don’t you spar with Ge La here. Of course, you need not defeat him. All you need is to endure for twenty rounds under him.”

Hearing this, the ladies by Xiao Yu’s side immediately angrily scolded Luo Bu. After seeing the situation, they had finally understood that this guy was jealous of Xiao Yan and was trying to abuse his authority to punish Xiao Yan for a personal grudge.

Compared to the angry cries of those around her, Xiao Yu had strangely become quiet. Tilting her head and watching Xiao Yan, she clearly understood that Xiao Yan’s current strength was not weaker than hers. Dealing with a one star Dou Zhe was not something difficult.

Ignoring Xiao Yu’s gaze, Xiao Yan indifferently stared at the radiantly smiling Luo Bu. A coldness filled his black eyes. Originally, he had not wanted to be meddlesome but this guy just had to force his hand.

“Heh heh, come. Little boy, let me teach you how to respect your seniors. Otherwise, when you suffer at the academy in the future, you would blame us.” The young man called Ge La stepped forward and smiled at Xiao Yan with ill intentions.

Gradually letting his breath out, Xiao Yan simply shrugged his shoulders in front of everyone’s gaze. He took two steps forward. When he was by Xiao Yu’s side, he

abruptly extended his arm and ruthlessly grabbed her soft narrow waist and pulled her into an embrace.

Faced with Xiao Yan's sudden surprise attack, Xiao Yu was momentarily stunned before her entire face flamed. Considering that Luo Bu was nearby, she could only cease her struggle and clench her teeth as she repeatedly cursed this guy who publicly took advantage of her.

Xiao Yan's action caused all the females around them to be totally stunned. It also caused Luo Bu's face to immediately become dark. He slanted his head and coldly told Ge La, "Be more ruthless when you attack."

Hearing this, Ge La smiled sinisterly and nodded,

At the side, Xun Er and the two others could only helplessly shake their head at the strange action.

"This is interesting." Xiao Yan coldly whispered as his hand caressed Xiao Yu's waist twice more, seemingly reluctant to leave.

After saying that, Xiao Yan released his hand without another glance at Xiao Yu's beet-red face. He stretched his neck while holding a smile at the edge of his mouth and slowly walked toward Ge La who was staring at him sinisterly.

### **Chapter 99: Threaten**

Watching Xiao Yan stroll over, Ge La smiled coldly. He had seen many such new students who had stood out, but none of them had a good ending. Wearing down the spirit of new students during their recruitment was an unofficial tradition in Jia Nan Academy. Those who possessed the qualification to be recruited usually had quite a lot of talent. These people were also usually pampered within their home and seldom met with any mocking or taunting. Carrying this kind of attitude and entering Jia Nan Academy which was filled with outstanding individuals would easily result in fights breaking out because of verbal disputes. At the end, this would only cause unnecessary trouble. Hence, when recruiting new students, it was important to let the new students clearly understand their ability and wear down their arrogance and spirit.

When faced with this unofficial rule, even the teachers of the Jia Nan Academy did not raise any objections. Thus, this rule continued to be passed down over the generations.

Tightening his fist and allowing his faint Dou Qi to enshroud over it, Ge La smiled coldly. Back when he first joined the Jia Nan Academy, he had also resisted with his talent. However, a two star Dou Zhe senior had only used one punch before he sensibly ran out to stand under the blazing sun for half an hour. This personal humiliation had further increased his desire to grind down the spirit of each new student he saw.



Under the watchful eyes of the surrounding people, the young man finally stopped right in front of Ge La.

“Yu Er, why are you not stopping him? Being under the sun is much better than suffering physical injuries.” Seeing the sinister smile of Ge La, the girls beside Xiao Yu somewhat unwillingly blamed her.

Standing beside Xiao Yu, Xue Ni recalled the appraisal Xiao Yu had of Xiao Yan and her clear eyes blinked. Curiously, she stared at the young man who had continued smiling faintly. She wanted to know whether Xiao Yu was right and that this young man called Xiao Yan really had a talent comparable to that Witch.

Closing her red lips tightly, Xue Ni placed her hands in front of her chest while anticipation flashed across her eyes.

With the redness on her face yet to subside, Xiao Yu appeared extremely attractive. She lazily stretched her arm and then pushed aside the black hair in front of her forehead. As she stared at the young man’s back, she said in an offhanded whisper, “It is difficult to say who’s going to suffer.”

Watching the two men in the tent who were about to start fighting, the twenty plus new students under the sun curiously directed their gaze at them. Before choosing to be under the sun, they had also attempted to retaliate but those retaliations were all easily forcefully suppressed by their much stronger seniors. Seeing another who wanted to challenge the strength of these seniors, they began to gloat at his misfortune as they got ready to observe how he would embarrass himself.

“Are you ready?”

Enjoying being the focus of everyone’s attention, the smile on Ge La’s face grew richer. His small eyes glanced at Xiao Yan and spoke with a smile.

“Begin.” Xiao Yan simply scratched his chin quietly, causing everyone to be stunned.

“Heh heh, Little boy. Your mentality is not bad.” Faced with Xiao Yan’s attitude, Ge Le was a little surprised. Immediately, he felt an anger from within. Was this an attempt at discriminating against him?

Lightly releasing his breath, Xiao Yan did not bother to say any nonsense. He simply lazily stared at the somewhat angry face of his opponent.

“Very good!”

The calm of his opponent had hurt Ge La’s pride. With a cold smile, he furiously rushed forward with his right fist clenched and Dou Qi agglomerating on it. Immediately, the fist, along with the accompanying wind ruthlessly bombarded toward Xiao Yan’s head.

The surrounding audience, upon seeing Ge La use such a great force against a new student, frowned.

Gently lifting his eyelids and watching the large fist rushing at him, Xiao Yan shook his head. He raised his palm where the fist was about to strike and halted Ge La's fist.

After halting the fist, his palm did not even make the slightest movement. The punch which had a huge amount of energy and strength did not even raise the slightest reaction, much like punching air.

"Speed, slow! Strength, weak! Are you really a student from Jia Nan Academy?" Lifting his face, Xiao Yan shook his head and whispered.

The ridicule in the young man's whisper caused the surrounding people to become dumbfounded. One by one, astonished gazes stared at the spot where the fist and palm made contact. It was difficult to imagine that a new student would be able to easily block an attack from a one star Dou Zhe.

Luo Bu, who was originally full of smiles, gradually turned gloomy as he watched this scene. His gaze was filled with coldness as he watched the young man who was smiling faintly. It seemed that he had made a mistake. Had he known, he would have let someone who was stronger enter the fight.

"Bastard! Do you want to die?"

Being publicly ridiculed by a new student, Ge La's face had turned completely red as he bellowed. His right leg aimed at Xiao Yan's lower abdomen and violently kicked.

With an indifferent face, Xiao Yan lazily swung his unused left hand as one would do to a fly. Finally, with a snapping sound, he hit Ge La's ankle; a bruise instantly appeared.

"Hiss."

An intense pain was emitted from the ankle, causing Ge La to breathe in a mouthful of cold air. The fury on his face became even wilder. Quickly retreating a step, he broke away from Xiao Yan's palm. His right leg stepped off the ground and borrowed the force to rise high into the air. Spinning abruptly, a pale green Dou Qi appeared on his right leg. A wind blade like imaginary light covered his leg before it ruthlessly cut towards Xiao Yan's skull cap.

"Shameless. To even use the 'Wind-Light Edge'. This is a High Huang Dou Skill. This guy is far too shameless." Watching the blurry light blade on Ge La's leg, the group of female students, whose faces were filled with anger, yelled furiously.

Seeing Ge La's action, Xiao Yu's eyebrow creased slightly only to relax soon after. Back then, even after using a High Xuan Dou Skill, Jia Lie Ao's hands were still crippled by Xiao Yan. She did not believe that with just the strength of a one star Dou Zhe, this guy could do any significant harm to Xiao Yan.

Lifting his face, the somewhat sharp wind caused Xiao Yan's face to shudder slightly. Slowly lifting his palm, he aimed at the descending Ge La.

"Scram!" Moving his lips, the faint voice shouted.

As the shout died down, a ferocious and shapeless force came rushing forth from Xiao Yan's palm and ruthlessly landed on the chest of the descending Ge La.

"Puff!"

As his chest suffered an unknown heavy blow, the cold face of Ge La immediately turned white. A moment later, his body was pushed backwards as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Bang!"

After his body was thrown back by more than ten meters, it landed heavily on a rock that had been baked under the hot sun. Ge La's body slightly twitched as his terrified face watched the young man who was standing a distance away with his palm still stretched out. His chest felt then stuffy and his vision became black as he finally fainted.

The time between Ge La's powerful attack till the time he was thrown back without any apparent reason was only slightly more than ten seconds.

Seeing how the victory was decided in such a short time, the people both within and outside the camp harmoniously kept silent.

Under the hot sun, the new students foolishly stared at Ge La who had fainted near them. Moments later, their fervent gaze shifted towards the young man standing under the shade. This was the first time they had witnessed a freshman defeating a senior. Moreover, this new student seemed to be slightly younger than them.

The prettier young ladies amongst the new student gazed passionately at the black clothed young man who wore an indifferent face. Their eyes were filled with a worshipful glint. Was it not for the inappropriate atmosphere, they might have screeched once or twice to vent their worshipful feelings.

"Certainly... a terrifying talent." Staring intently at Xiao Yan, Xue Ni let out a shocked sigh and shook her head. Xiao Yan's strength had proven that what Xiao Yu had said earlier was the truth.

“Yu... Yu er. This person from your family, what exactly is the level of his strength. From the looks of it, it seems he has already become a Dou Zhe, right?” While staring dumbly at the young man in black, the girls beside Xiao Yu abruptly asked with a stammer.

What a joke. Being able to easily beat up a one star Dou Zhe to such an extent, his strength was already greater than most of the people here.

Xiao Yu smiled sweetly as she stared intently at the young man standing on the spot where the fight had taken place. An unknown radiance flashed across her eyes. A moment later, she copied Xiao Yan’s manner and waved her hands while speaking with a smile, “If we were to fight, even I would not be able to beat him. Do you think he is a Dou Zhe?”

Tsk tsk, a Dou Zhe at such a young age. Even in Jia Nan Academy, that is considered to be one of the top talents. Heh heh, Yu er, it seems you have quite a good taste. But he is your cousin, isn’t he? Why don’t you let us have him?” The beautiful lady’s laughingly teased.

“Get lost you lewd woman!”

With a red face, Xiao Yu pushed the girl away. In her heart, Xiao Yu muttered without reason, “I have already said. There are no blood ties between him and me...”

The sudden appearance of her heartfelt feelings caused the tip of Xiao Yu’s ears to scald. She quickly scolded herself before calming her feelings, not daring to let her imagination run wild.

Compared to the laughter on Xiao Yu’s side, Luo Bu’s face was becoming increasingly gloomy. He coldly stared at Xiao Yan as the corner of his mouth twitched.

“I do not need to go out now, do I?” Carelessly pulling down his sleeves, Xiao Yan looked at Luo Bu and smiled faintly.

“haha, You seem to have some hidden skills.” Hiding the coldness on his face, Luo Bu once again displayed a radiant smile. Walking forward, he patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders in a seemingly friendly manner as he coldly whispered, “Little boy, you had better not be too impudent. Although you possess some talent, there are many in Jia Nan Academy who are more outstanding than you. With your attitude, you will find yourself in an unfavourable situation in Jia Nan Academy.”

“Thanks for your reminder.” Nodding his head with a smile, Xiao Yan said, “But I believe that you do not possess such qualifications”

Xiao Yan was no fool. Luo Bu’s enmity toward him was something he clearly understood. Therefore, there was no need to act ignorant in front of him. Even if they

were to fight, Xiao Yan was not afraid of him. If he were to be more annoyed... it was not as though it was the first time he killed someone and destroyed the corpse.

Although Luo Bu's enmity towards him originated from a misunderstanding, Xiao Yan did not have the leisure mood to explain it away. Putting it in a less courteous manner, it was Luo Bu who did not possess the qualification for Xiao Yan to do so.

Moreover, Xiao Yu may have argued with him everyday but Xiao Yan did not wish for her to be harmed by this two-faced hypocrite.

Listening to Xiao Yan's rude words, Luo Bu radiant smile once again dissolved into coldness. His cold eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan and his face twitched. The cold glint in his eyes seemed to imaginary slash Xiao Yan into multiple pieces.

Xiao Yan ignored the pointless visual assault. The indifferent smile on his delicate and handsome face was clearly better at giving others a good impression compared to the forceful pretentious hypocrite smile.

"Arrogant boy. When you start at Jia Nan Academy, I will take good care of you as your senior." Luo Bu clench his teeth and said with a cold smile.

Touching his face, Xiao Yan softly said, "I don't know about other things but if you continue your act, believe me, I am able to cause you to be unable to leave Wu Tan City."

Shrinking his eyes, the corner of Luo Bu's mouth twitched as he stared at the young man. Within those black eyes, he found a depth of indifference.

His body trembled without leaving a trace. When he looked into those chilly black eyes, Luo Bu actually felt a frightening coldness. This feeling was similar to the one he got when he faced a savage Mystical Wolf alone during his last mission.

Luo Bu covertly swallowed his saliva. The threatening words which were about to escape his mouth were also forcefully swallowed.

"Very good." Luo Bu heaved out a breath of air seemingly intent on expelling the embarrassing chill that he had felt. Clenching his teeth and nodding his head, he had already made a decision. If he had the opportunity, he would get someone to cultivate a 'good' relationship with this boy.

Indifferently staring at Luo Bu, Xiao Yan was considering whether to find an opportunity to let this guy vanish from Wu Tan City in order to avoid future trouble when a tender female voice from within the tent caused Xiao Yan to soften.

"Hehe, this little boy has quite a great talent. This time around, it looks like I have found a treasure."

## **Chapter 100: The Classification of One's Potential**

The unexpected female voice was so gentle that it gave off a heartbreaking feeling. Under this tenderness, Xiao Yan felt a little absentminded despite his mental strength. A moment later, he finally followed the source of the voice and gazed into the tent.

In the shadows of the tent, a lady dressed in green was standing prettily with a grin. The smile on her pretty face was warm and her eyes looked around quickly. The tenderness in her gaze was like clear water quietly passing through, causing people to become intoxicated by the lady's special vivid gentleness.

The lady looked much older than Xiao Yu and the others. The voluminous and exquisite posture, leaked out a mature loveliness that was molded by the years. This kind of natural loveliness far surpassed what Xiao Yu and these immature girls had.

Xiao Yan swept his gaze over the lady. Although this lady's appearance was slightly inferior to Xun Er and Xiao Yu, her genuine gentle disposition was something that amazed Xiao Yan.

The lady on the opposite was as gentle as water, demonstrating the epitome of gentleness.

Ever since this lady appeared, Xiao Yan realised that the gaze of some of the young male students in the tent had quietly become passionate. The gazes that they gave her also contained an inexplicable sentiment.

Having discovered this phenomenon, Xiao Yan immediately shook his head quietly. It seemed that these guys had some sort of crush on the lady, which was not something surprising. The younger guys usually liked women who were more matured than them... Uh, this seemed to be called having a preference for a mature woman.

"Teacher Ruo Lin, ha ha, Yu'er has missed you dearly."

Seeing the gentle woman who had appeared in the tent, Xiao Yu immediately cried out in surprise. Following which, she pounced forward and with a smile, tightly hugged that seemingly plump but not fat waist.

"Hehe, Yu-er, are you enjoying your leave?" The gentle lady who was called Teacher Ruo Lin smilingly said as she embraced Xiao Yu.

"It has been not bad." With a saucy smile, Xiao Yu bit Teaching Ruo Lin's ears and joked softly, "Teacher's becoming gentler and gentler. If this continues, any man who catches the eye of teacher in the future would be utterly trapped by this gentleness."

A shallow redness appeared on her face as Teacher Ruo Lin shook her head helplessly. After spoiling Xiao Yu by patting her head, she abruptly faced Xiao Yan and

the others and raised her chin. In her gentle voice, she said, "Are these the people you brought over? It seems that they are quite good."

"Ha ha, of course." Proudly lifting her chest, Xiao Yu tilted her head and fiercely stared at Luo Bu and complained softly, "That guy is becoming more and more arrogant."

"Who told you to purposefully provoke him? You should know his feelings for you. After acting so intimately with another man before his eyes, it would be strange if he did not find an excuse to make things difficult." Teacher Ruo Lin helplessly said

"That will only increase my dislike for him." Xiao Yu curled her lips and said.

Shaking her head, Ruo Lin released Xiao Yu. She slowly walked forward and spoke with a smile to the ten plus students under the hot sun, "Dear students, come in."

Hearing her open her mouth to speak, the new students who were perspiring under the hot sun were immediately filled with happiness. They quickly got up and entered the shade of the tent in a haggardly manner.

It must be said that even though this method of wearing down the spirit of the new students was a little merciless, it was effective. At the very least, the arrogance of the new students who were entering the tent was much diminished compared to when they had first arrived. All of them withdrew under the shadows of the tent, their eyes constantly roaming all over the interior of the tent.

Sweeping a smile that was overflowing with gentleness over everyone, Teacher Ruo Ning finally landed her gaze on Xiao Yan's face. She smiled and said softly, "Luo Bu does not have any evil intentions. Before, he was only a little angry so his actions were a little reckless. Please don't blame him."

"Haha, Teacher must be joking. I'm a good natured person. Why would I blame Luo Bu senior." Xiao Yan rubbed his head and 'shyly' smiled.

Hearing this, most of the people in the tent rolled their eyes and laughed in their hearts. Did this person not feel that saying these words after rudely knocking out a senior was a little burlesque?

After staring intently at the smiling young man in front of her, Teacher Ruo Ning blinked her long eyelashes. She had a foreboding that after so many years of being a teacher, she had finally met a student who would give her the greatest headache.

After letting her imagination run wild, Teacher Ruo Lin shook her head and ordered two male students to bring the fainted Ge La in. She lowered her head and observed Ge La's wounds. Immediately, she pressed her eyebrows together and stared at the innocent looking Xiao Yan with censure.

Being assaulted by the full force of her gaze, Xiao Yan felt his insides trembled. The corner of his mouth cracked but he was not distracted.

After thinking for a moment with a frown, Teacher Ruo Ning extended her clean white hand and instantly lightly touched Ge La's hand under the envious gaze of the male students. A pale blue moist energy was guided by her hand as it entered Ge La's body, helping calm the disordered Dou Qi in his body and healing some of the injuries caused by Xiao Yan.

Amongst the different classification of Dou Qi, the water type Dou Qi was the most gentle kind. In the absence of any healing medicine, water type Dou Qi was the most suitable choice to help treat wounds. Hence, water type Dou Qi practitioners were also commonly known as "Mobile Healing Medicine". In many mercenary groups, someone who possessed the water element Qi Technique was a must. After all, when fellow members were severely injured, only water or wood type Dou Qi would be able to help the member gain sufficient time to heal.

Under the warmth of Teacher Ruo Ning's Dou Qi, the unconscious Ge La quickly woke up with a groan. Opening his eyes and watching the smiling Teacher Ruo Ning beside him, the former's eyes were filled with intoxication and worship. Instantly, he embarrassingly got up. His eyes swept across Xiao Yan and he cowardly hid his eyes.

"Are you alright?" Releasing his head, Ruo Lin gently asked.

"Thank you teacher." Ge La gratefully nodded his head. "It's good to know that you are fine." Smiling, Teacher Ruo Lin turned around and elegantly sat down on the leader's chair. With a full smile, she watched the new students gathered in the tent. She shook her white hand and a ring on her finger flickered while a green scroll made of goatskin and a pen appeared in her hands.

Lifting her eyes, Teacher Ruo Lin smiled in a lazy demeanor. "Dear students, congratulations on passing the test. Now, you can be considered to have entered the Jia Nan Academy. As the school needs to divide the students according to their potential, I will need to know your current actual strength."

"8 Duan Qi would belong to the F class in terms of potential. This is the minimum requirement to enter Jia Nan Academy."

"9 Duan Qi would belong to the E class in terms of potential."

"A one star Dou Zhe, D class, two star Dou Zhe, C class. Continuing on in this manner, the highest class is the S class for those who are five star Dou Zhe. Of course, this is restricted to those who are younger than twenty."

"Hehe. For over a decade, Jia Nan Academy has only seen one student who has S class potential. Now that little Witch is quite incredible in the academy." Covering her



red lips and softly laughing, Ruo Lin's tall and slender eyelashes lightly blinked. "I don't really have extravagant hopes of meeting someone in the same class as the little Witch but if I can obtain some in the B or C classes, I will be satisfied."

Speaking to this point, Ruo Lin stealthily swept across Xiao Yan and Xun Er. From her perception, out of all those in the tent, only these two gave her an unpredictable feeling. She forecasted that the strength of the two of them would not be lower than the C class.

She was not the only one who was guessing. All those in the tent who had witnessed Xiao Yan in action were also guessing in their heart. What class did the potential of this seemingly abnormal person belong to?

"Alright. Begin. Starting from the left, report your name, your Dou Qi level and age." Ruo Lin's empty hand held the ink brush and gently smiled.

Seeing that the registration was about to begin, Xiao Yu and the others in the tent were filled with interest and idly sat down in one corner.

"Heh, Yu er, what level does your clan's Xiao Yan belong to?" The few beautiful female students squeezing with Xiao Yu curiously inquired.

Hearing this, Xiao Yu narrowed her eyebrows and became silent for a moment. She had never seen Xiao Yan test his Dou Qi. Hence, she did not dare to say too much least she caused Xiao Yan embarrassment should she make a mistake. The current Xiao Yu, for no apparent reason, was strangely beginning to think for Xiao Yan. If it was in the past, she would likely be happier at the embarrassment Xiao Yan faced.

After some hesitation, Xiao Yu gave a somewhat conservative answer, "I think that he should be able to achieve C or B class."

"Wow, that is quite good already. He can be considered amongst the more talented ones entering Jia Nan Academy. When our potential was evaluated back then, the best was only a D class." Hearing this, some of the female students said with an envious gaze.

Xiao Yu lightly smiled but did not continue speaking. Her gaze was focused on the evaluation that had already begun in the middle of the tent.

"Hei Yan, Ninth stage Duan Qi, Twenty years old."

The slightly black skinned young man sitting on the left most corner announced his information with a slightly red face.

Smiling and nodding her head, Teacher Ruo Lin quickly recorded the student's information. Her red lips parted: "E class."

“Lin Dun, Eight Duan Qi, Nineteen years old.”

“F class.”

“Ke Li, Nine Duan Qi, Seventeen years old.”

“E class.”

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At the same time everyone took turns to report their information, a few new students who just passed the test outside would occasionally enter the tent. After they were strictly warned by the seniors, they quickly and obediently stood behind the queue and waited to report their information.

Amongst the twenty odd people who had reported their information, most of them were weaker than a Dou Zhe. Naturally, there were a couple of new students who originally had Nine Duan Qi but were downgraded to an eight Duan Qi after failing to become a Dou Zhe.

Prior to Xiao Yan’s turn, the most outstanding one in the group was a seventeen year old one star Dou Zhe. According to his potential calculation, this was only a D class. Even if it was only this, it gave Ruo Lin some happiness. After all, for a seventeen year old to reach a one star Dou Zhe meant that he had potential.

After the new student in front of Xiao Yan finished reporting his information, all the gazes in the tent immediately focused on the young man who was about to fall asleep from the long wait.

“Xiao Yan ge-ge, it’s your turn.” Seeing the hazy eyes of Xiao Yan beside her, Xun Er helplessly tried to wake him.

“Oh.” Xiao Yan, who had just woken up, quickly rubbed the non-existent saliva from his mouth. His gaze shifted towards the front only to find the beautiful Teacher Ruo Lin smiling widely at him. With an awkward smile, Xiao Yan flipped his hand and revealed his clean white teeth. “I cannot be compared to the Little Witch that teacher had mentioned. After calculating everything and weighing myself repeatedly... It seems that I can barely be counted as an A class.”

“Uh...” Xiao Yan’s somewhat regretful words barely left his mouth when the tent which was full of whispers, suddenly became silent.

At one corner, Luo Bu’s face twitched. He did not expect that this young man of sixteen or seventeen years of age would actually be of equal strength to him.

Beside Luo Bu, Ge La's face had slightly whitened. His face was full of bitterness. No wonder he lost so terribly. This guy was a wolf in sheep's skin.

"Yu-er... you... Didn't you say that he was at most only a C or B class? Why did it jump to an A class. During each recruitment of the Jia Nan Academy, there will not be more than a hundred students who possess a class A potential." A few female students muttered as they stared at Xiao Yan with open mouths.

Staring intently at the young man's delicate face, Xiao Yu helplessly sighed and muttered, "How would I know that this guy is becoming more abnormal?"

"A class?" Ruo Lin blinked long eyelashes in wonderment. A moment later, she smiled brilliantly.

"It seems that I have found a treasure... it was true." Acting like a young lady, Teacher Ruo Ning saucily blinked her eyes. This loveliness caused some of the men in the tent to widen their eyes.

Xiao Yan rubbed his nose as Xun Er beside him suddenly laughed slightly, "Xiao Yan ge-ge, you have created a sensation once again."

"Tsk, I know that you are stronger than me. I'm afraid that the S class should be yours." Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and snapped.

"Uh... Then should I give false information?" In the time that everyone had yet to recover from their shock, Xun Er pulled Xiao Yan clothes and secretly asked.

"Just report your real strength. Do you think I will be jealous of you? Letting the academy know some of your potential would be good for your future development. Of course, you may not be concerned about all this." Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulder and smiled.

Xun Er pursed her lips and nodded her small head as she said lovably: "Then I will listen to Xiao Yan ge-ge." As she spoke, she took a step forward. The agile and moving voice of the young lady reverberated throughout the tent.

"Xiao Xun Er, a six star Dou Zhe. Age... sixteen..."

On the leader's seat, Ruo Lin, who had just raised her pen in preparation to record the information felt her hand stiffen. Her gentle face finally revealed an astonished expression!