

"Fan, not just any soldier but the special troops. Also, General Lu wants you to lead the special troops, so you can become captain. You are a good and young fighter, and you'll be made captain the moment you join. After you work hard at the lower levels for a few years and gain some experience, you will rise rapidly in the armed forces in the future. In 30 years, you might even get promoted to major general like my teacher. Fan, General Lu is giving you the rare opportunity to turn your life around, so you must seize the chance," persuaded Ye Yu-Yan as though Lu Tian-He was doing Ye Fan a colossal favor.

Ye Fan instantly smiled upon hearing her.

The weight on Ye Yu-Yan's heart lifted when she saw Ye Fan's smile.

She thought Ye Fan smiled because he was agreeable to it.

So Ye Yu-Yan continued, "Since Fan is interested in joining the army, then let's go see General Lu now. He will take care of the rest. You can save your gratitude for General Lu and thank him when you see him."

But Ye Fan ignored Ye Yu-Yan's words.

Instead, he asked, "Who do you think is more highly skilled? Me or your master?"

Ye Yu-Yan was stunned. She didn't know why Ye Fan suddenly asked.

She replied to him with honesty, "Master and I were defeated by the top disciple of Sword Shrine, Hua Ying-Tian, at Guangyue Restaurant. Fortunately, you turned the tables around and saved Master and I, so you are more highly skilled from this perspective."

Ye Fan laughed gently and asked Ye Yu-Yan with his back facing her, "Okay. Where do you stand in the army?"

Ye Yu-Yan shook her head and said slowly, "I have just joined the army and am still young and inexperienced. Thanks to General Lu, I became the Dragon Hunting Special Troop leader, but only made it to a major recently. There is a lot of talent in the Yanjing armed forces. We have a few admirals, and there are more than ten lieutenant generals and major generals! I am lowly, and my words carry no weight, so I naturally can't compare

to them.”

Ye Fan turned and said coldly to Ye Yu-Yan in a deep voice, “In that case, are you fit to invite me? I am the leader of all of Jiangdong, and all the influential people worship me like a god. How can someone as lowly as you be fit to invite me to join the army?”

His resounding voice was as impactful as gold falling to the ground.

Ye Yu-Yan was instantly dumbstruck, and her face turned pale when Ye Fan shouted.

Even Lu Wen-Jing and Chen Nan went startled by Ye Fan's question.

But Ye Fan wasn't done yet, and his imposing voice exploded in the air once again.

“At the battle of Mount Tai, I defeated Wu He-Rong with one blow. At Yanxi Lake, I defeated Hua Ying-Long with a single punch. I don't even care about the Sword God of Japan, much less his top disciple. I am the King of Kings and mightier than anyone else in the world. Now you are asking me to work

and take orders from someone else and become captain of your stupid troops? Ye Yu-Yan, oh Ye Yu-Yan, aren't you thinking too highly of yourself? Go back and tell your teacher, even if he makes me the general or the chief military instructor of all troops, I don't give a damn about it. How dare you claim that it is the opportunity of a lifetime? That's a joke!" said Ye Fan angrily nonstop.

Each and every one of his words sounded like swords slashing through the air.

In an instant, Ye Fan's imposing aura made the atmosphere turn a few degrees colder.

His voice made it feel as though they had plummeted into an ice cave.

Then Ye Fan walked off.

Cold wind gusted behind her making leaves swirl into the air!

Ye Yu-Yan continued standing where she was for a long time after Ye Fan had left.

Her face turned ghastly pale as she stood dumbstruck and stared at the Ye Fan's silhouette from behind as he walked off

angrily.

For a long time, she said nothing.

But her eyes turned red very quickly.

Tears unknowingly burst through her eyes and trickled down her face nonstop.

They scattered when they landed on the ground.

Till now, Ye Yu-Yan had no clue why Ye Fan threw such a huge temper at her.

Why?

Ye Yu-Yan was doing this for his good.

She thought she was giving him the chance to change his life.

Ye Yu-Yan thought Ye Fan would happily accept the offer.

But Ye Yu-Yan didn't expect it to end this way.

Instead, Ye Fan was completely unappreciative of her kindness.

The more Ye Yu-Yan thought about it, the more indignant she felt. Her torrential tears were as though dykes had gotten breached.

It never dawned on Ye Yu-Yan that she would cry because of Ye Fan one day.

"Sigh. Miss Ye, although you are Fan's cousin, you don't know him at all. You don't know what it means to be Mr Chu in Jiangdong. You don't know how much respect he commands. He doesn't need your help to change his life around since he has always been in control of his fate! You've underestimated him after all," said Chen Nan softly as she sighed. She couldn't help walking over and speaking up when she saw Ye Yu-Yan crying so sadly.

Ye Fan was a proud man.

Ye Yu-Yan repeatedly looked down on him, and now she wanted the revered leader of Jiangdong to become a tiny captain in the army and claimed that she was giving him an opportunity to change his life for the better.

To Ye Fan, it was contempt and an insult.

Of course, Ye Fan would blow up.

After comforting Ye Yu-Yan, Chen Nan didn't linger and went chasing after Ye Fan.

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"Fan, I think you were too hard on her. I think Miss Ye meant well. Perhaps you misunderstood her," said Chen Nan softly when she recalled the incident while they were on their way to Yeyang.

Ye Fan shook his head and smiled expressionlessly, and said with a calm voice, "Nannan, you don't know what happened between us. After despising me all these years, it's time for some payback."

HUUU!

The cold wind gusted outside the window.

The raging wind smashed Ye Fan's words into bits.

The car sped on while its engine roared deeply like a wild animal and reverberated through the wilderness.

Chen Nan, Lu Wen-Jing, and Ye Fan sat in the car and swiftly headed for his hometown.

Ye Yu-Yan stood frozen at Dongchang Lake and was beside herself with sadness.

Ripples undulated across the vast lake from the waves of cold wind.

"Yu-Yan, I've finally found you. Are you okay? I heard about what happened over lunch, so I hurried over right away," an anxious voice rang by Ye Yu-Yan's ears.

Dong Mei hurried over worriedly. The weight in her heart finally lifted when she caught sight of Ye Yu-Yan.

But Ye Yu-Yan finally found an outlet for her indignance when she saw her mother, so she instantly lunged into Dong Mei's arms and howled.

"Mum, I hate him! I did it for his sake. But why did he treat me like that..."

"What? You told him he would become captain of the Dragon Hunting Special Troop?"

Lu Tian-He and Fang Shao-Hong went into shock when she told them about the situation in the hospital ward.

Ye Yu-Yan's eyes were still a little red. She saw her Master's reaction and asked quietly, "Master, was I wrong? Didn't you invite my cousin to join the armed forces to become captain of the Dragon Hunting Special Troop?"

Lu Tian-He glared and replied, "Who told you we wanted him to be a tiny captain? You silly girl! No wonder you messed up! Use your brains. Your cousin defeated the top disciple of the Sword Shrine with a single move! He is a genius! In the martial arts circle, your skills say it all. Even if I see your cousin, I have to address him as 'Sir' respectfully. How can we invite someone like him to be captain and take orders from someone else? Aren't you looking down on him? How different is it from hurling insult? It was considered kind of him to throw a temper at you. If you did it to me, I'd have kicked you for sure! We want him to be the chief military

instructor of the entire army.”

Lu Tian-He shook his head and sighed with regret bursting from his heart.

Ye Fan didn't like them to begin with, but after Ye Yu-Yan messed up, it would be even more impossible for them to invite Ye Fan to join the army.

“Chief...chief military instructor? Ye...Ye Fan?” stuttered Ye Yu-Yan, who was dumbstruck instantly.

Ye Yu-Yan opened her eyes wide. She didn't dream that her master wanted to invite Ye Fan to join the army and offer him such a respectable role.

“But...but he's only in his twenties. How can he be the chief military instructor at such a young age?” asked Ye Yu-Yan in surprise.

Ye Yu-Yan already knew that Ye Fan would have great accomplishments in life when she witnessed him displaying his true prowess at Guangyue Restaurant.

She even said that Ye Fan would rise to the ranks of a general in 30 years.

Ye Yu-Yan already thought very highly of Ye Fan, but she still underestimated him from the looks of it now.

The position of the chief military instructor would mean he would be at least a major general.

There was probably only one other man who made it to a major general at a young age.

And that was the God of War of China, Ye Qing-Tian!

But now, Ye Fan was about to join his ranks and be the second one.

So Ye Yu-Yan was overwhelmed with shock.

Had the young man whom she despised unknowingly overtaken her so vastly?

"Age is no object if he is talented. You live in a meritocracy to begin with. Your cousin is so powerful at such a young age. Yu-Yan, just you wait, he will probably make a name for himself throughout China in less than 30 years," said Lu Tian-He profoundly in a deep voice that brimmed with excitement and anticipation.

He sounded like an old man hoping his progeny would rise to success.

At Lu Tian-He's age, fame and fortune meant nothing to him.

He only wanted to see the younger generation succeed.

If they could find another matchless martial artist in China, the men who discovered and groomed Ye Fan would become famous when he made a name for himself.

So Lu Tian-He and Fang Shao-Hong didn't give up. Considering what had just transpired, they decided to discuss the matter further before acting.

Instead, a complicated emotion rose in Ye Yu-Yan's heart after she heard them praising Ye Fan to the sky.

She felt defeated and dejected.

Ye Yu-Yan felt insulted when Ye Fan wrote her love letters and courted her back in the day.

But it never crossed her mind that ten years

later, the young man she despised would surpass her staggeringly.

She was now beneath the young man who was exiled from the Chu family.

Ye Yu-Yan could sense her heart split open and something sour gushed from it.

"Enough, Yu-Yan. Stay out of your cousin's matter. Go home and take a few days off. After the Lunar New Year, come back to the armed forces and train hard. Do you now know how small you are compared to those in your generation who are truly talented?"

Despite messing things up, Lu Tian-He didn't reprimand her. He even made an exception and gave her leave, and told her to go home.

But Ye Yu-Yan surprisingly rejected Lu Tian-He's offer.

"I don't want to go home. You're right. I can't compare to true talent. I want to go back to the army right now and train and become stronger. I don't want to be so badly outdone by him!" said Ye Yu-Yan brightly with her fists clenched.

A look of determination emanated from her eyes.

Lu Tian-He and Fang Shao-Hong looked at each other and laughed.

“Haha! It seems this trip to Jingzhou has spurred your fighting spirit. In that case, go on back to the army then. After you get back, work on getting well first. Don’t hurt yourself because you want to train,” said Lu Tian-He hearteningly.

Ye Yu-Yan didn’t spend the Lunar New Year holiday at home and left right away.

Before Ye Yu-Yan left, Dong Mei and the rest of the Ye family did whatever they could to make her stay, but to no avail.

The next day, a military green SUV pulled up in front of the old Ye residence.

The entire Ye family turned up to see her off.

“Yu-Yan, you haven’t spent Lunar New Year at home for years. It’s almost Lunar New Year’s eve, couldn’t you stay a few more days? Why don’t you ask your boss if you can spend the holidays here before going

back?" asked Ye Ya's wife. She hated to see Ye Yu-Yan leave.

"Exactly, Yu-Yan. I came back this year just for you. How could you just leave? I can't bear to see you go," said Ye Xi-Lan as she tried to make her stay.

Ye Yu-Yan was the only person in the Ye family who had found a future beyond Jingzhou, so she was the entire family's pride.

So when Ye Yu-Yan wanted to leave, everyone came to see her off and tried to make her stay.

All of them voiced their reluctance for her to leave.

After everyone attempted to make her stay, Ye Yu-Yan only smiled gently and said, "I have something urgent to attend to. Let's talk next time. Grandpa, Grandma, take care of yourselves. Mum, Dad, goodbye."

Ye Yu-Yan waved her hand and bid farewell to her family.

She kept looking into the courtyard as she

spoke. Even as she got onto the car, she kept looking back.

After the engine started, Ye Yu-Yan still kept turning around to look.

But the skinny silhouette whom she was hoping for didn't turn up.

Previously, Ye Fan never saw her off whenever she left home.

Ye Yu-Yan used to think that Ye Fan was an insignificant character, so she probably wouldn't have cared even if he came.

For some unknown reason, this time Ye Yu-Yan unexpectedly felt disappointed and empty in her heart when Ye Fan didn't show up.

Was she sad?

"Fan, you still can't forgive me."

Ye Yu-Yan's gentle sigh was taken away by the icy cold winter wind!