

## Chapter 801 - Betrayal of the Heartbreaker

### **Betrayal of the Heartbreaker**

Cai Ning who was standing by his side realized that something was off. "Mind-controlled? Yang Chen, are you telling me that the elders aren't acting of their own free will?"

Yang Chen was almost certain that the treatment they had received since their arrival was not done intended by the elders.

Cai Ning, after all, was undeniably one of their brightest disciples. Murdering her without second thought was a reckless and stupid act to put it lightly.

Just when Yang Chen was busy contemplating the situation, it had taken a turn for the worst.

The white-bearded elder who was clamped on the ground appeared to be in immense pain and agony.

A chill ran down Yang Chen's spine. "Not good. The True Qi in him is starting to act up. I think he's going to self detonate!"

Before he could finish, the bearded elder's abdomen bloated to the size of a beach ball.

Yang Chen was well aware of the might of pulse self-detonation of a Xiantian cultivator.

If he were to allow the old bag to explode, he would be unharmed. But the innocent disciples of the Tang Sect would be scapegoats of this catastrophe. At a minimum, it would vaporize half of the Tang Ancestral Fortress along with its occupants!

After debating his options, Yang Chen felt that the safest option would be to throw the old bag's body into the sky and let it detonate there.

Yang Chen's cultivation was far beyond what most people could even begin to imagine. Throwing the elder's body into the air meant that it sailed several hundred meters like a missile.

Amidst the hysteria of everyone watching, a dull bang echoed in the skies above them.

The pulse of the elder blew up, leaving his body in pieces. The radius of the explosion was hundreds of meters wide in every direction.

Even from the ground, many of the low-level disciples felt the overwhelming pressure of the explosion.

Cai Ning stared at her master Tang Luyi in tears. Previously she was willing to let her master go as she tried to take her life. Now that she knew that her master was not acting of her own free will, there was no way she was going to let her master die.

"Yang Chen, please save my master. I don't want her to die..."

Cai Ning clenched onto Yang Chen's arm. This matter was beyond her capabilities.

"Ning'er, calm down. I have it under control."

After a brief moment of thought, Yang Chen dashed right in front of Tang Luyi.

Yang Chen took a good look around him. "I don't know who you are and why you've chosen to manipulate these people, but if you want the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture for yourself, then stop being a pussy about this! Face me or run. I'll find you either way."

Yang Chen then placed his palm on Tang Luyi's face and banished the demonic aura from her body.

A strand of blood shot out from the back of her lower neck.

Once the string of blood was liberated, the shade of red engulfing her eyes faded. Her body was drained as she felt lifelessly to the ground.

Yang Chen seemed to have secured the perfect methodology as he repeated his action for the rest of the elders.

"Master!"

Cai Ning noticed that everyone was mostly left unscathed. She hurriedly ordered Tang Lizhong and his fellow disciples in shock to assist Tang Dianshan and the rest of the elders.

Yang Chen could not lower his guard though. The fact that there was someone with unprecedented power hiding under the breath of the Tang Sect left him immensely insecure. He was unsure if it was the perpetrator's astronomical cultivations or from a piece of unique divine equipment that he had no knowledge about.

All of a sudden, an artificially manipulated nasal voice resonated from the sky.

"What an adept Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture cultivator. You've familiarized yourself with the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy. I didn't expect you to have been through Tai Qing Heavenly Lightning, so you are free to go for now. But rest assured, I will be back. Luck will not be on your side next time..."

His voice slowly faded away, indicating that the perpetrator had left.

An ominous feeling hovered over Yang Chen. He just couldn't convince himself that the lurking evil made an open challenge, and yet he was still unable to trace its whereabouts.

Based on his own cultivation level, even if the opponent was at Poseidon's level, there was still no way he could've shielded his aura. This person must possess a divine item or be of a cultivation level that is higher than Yang Chen's!

Yang Chen ultimately realized that as his cultivation improved, the range of advanced cultivators that he would come into contact with would also widen.

This, in turn, had also solidified Yang Chen's persistence to secure a worthy piece of cultivation for his women to train for. Even if none of them could achieve the Soul Forming stage in the near future, they would at least be able to protect themselves from certain threats if they were in the Xiantian realm.

After all, he knew that there was someone in the shadows locking their target upon himself and his Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture. It was only a matter of time before he would meet them again. If the circumstances disavowed his stance to defend all his women at once, the aftermath would be devastating.

What confused Yang Chen was the magnificence of this cultivation technique. Instead of

*Oh yeah, that guy mentioned that I've been manipulating the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy...*

*So that's what explains the strange, invisible, non-True Yuan energy. So it's called Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy...*

After a round of thought, he turned behind to check on the elders. Tang Dianshan and company had returned to consciousness, after losing self-control and subsequent retaliation from Yang Chen's force attacks, many of them were left bleeding or nauseous.

"Take them back. They should be fine after a short period of rest," Yang Chen mentioned.

The disciples on site saw Yang Chen as their savior and swiftly took the grandmaster and the elders back to their respective accommodations.

Cai Ning at that moment couldn't care less about her elegance as she hastily carried Tang Luyi from the ground. She effortlessly leaped off the ground onto the rooftop and dashed towards the southern end of the Tang Ancestral Fortress.

Yang Chen went towards Tang Lizhong and instructed him to provide Tang Dianshan and the elders detailed explanations when they woke up, before swiftly flying towards Cai Ning's direction.

They made their way towards the forest at the end of the Tang Ancestral Fortress, which Yang Chen noticed had several neatly built bamboo houses.

Cai Ning escorted Tang Luyi into a hut. The interior was minimalistic. There was a bamboo mat, along with several female personal hygiene items, a cosmetic table and nothing else.

"Yang Chen, is she... alright?" After she tucked her in, Cai Ning was in desperate need of reassurance.

"Your master broke a few tendons and veins, but it's nothing that cannot be healed with time. Don't worry, she'll be fine in a couple of days."

Cai Ning nodded with a frown as she added, "The one who manipulated my master and the others was the one with the threat right? Who is he?"

"How would I know?" Yang Chen said in frustration. "I will need to consult your master first. But something tells me that they don't know as well. I guess I'll have to face whatever comes head-on. Don't worry, with me here I'm not going to let anything happen to you."

Cai Ning warily glanced at her lover but had quickly brought herself to smile. "Oh well, I'm just glad that Master was just mind-controlled by someone else when she intended to take my life."

"Oh not me though, I thought it'd be easy if I could just kill them all. But now I'm back to square one with the discussions," Yang Chen dispiritedly mentioned.

Cai Ning glared at his remark. "How can you be so self-centered? Isn't avoiding bloodshed the best route to take? Think about it, the elders all have children and grandchildren. You'd be facing an army of people you didn't even know existed. That's like a thousand people!"

Yang Chen chuckled as he brushed it off. He circled the parameter before taking a glance outside the bamboo hut, only to see more bamboo huts. "Let me guess, most of your childhood was spent living here. Your master must have really despised the finer things in life, choosing to live here over the Tang Ancestral Fortress."

Cai Ning sighed ever so slightly as she strolled towards Yang Chen. "To tell the truth, my master... She has never married in her entire life. I heard a little bit of the back story from what came to be from the elderly in the Tang Sect.

"Apparently, when Master was young, she left this place to cultivate faraways alone. There she met a heartbreaker who had betrayed her feelings and left her devastated. After her return to the sect, her personality took a huge turn. It got so bad that she was not willing to meet her own brother. It eventually got better but she still hated men.

"Nevertheless, there has always been more men than women in the Tang Ancestral Fortress which was why she chose to move out. Even when the preceding grandmaster appointed her to teach young disciples, she chose to recruit her own female disciples instead."

"It makes a lot more sense now," Yang Chen replied. "So that's why she took in female disciples like you and forced you all to live her frugal lifestyle. If it wasn't for me, I bet you'd still be a blooming flower in a pit of sand."

Cai Ning turned red as she stretched out her fair, silky fingers to stroke Yang Chen's cheek. "How thick-skinned can you possibly be?"

Yang Chen was clearly unbothered as he proudly giggled. But he was soon reminded of something and asked, "Ning'er... how many female disciples did you say your master took in? Is there by any chance a disciple with the surname Xiao?"

Chapter 802 - Deep in the Bamboo Forest

### **Deep in the Bamboo Forest**

"Xiao?"

Cai Ning contemplated for a moment before she shook her head. "I had two seniors and one junior but none with the surname Xiao. Why?"

Yang Chen took a sigh of relief. He had to find out if the woman from his escapades in America had come from the Tang Sect.

*Well I guess it's a good thing she's not a member of the Tang Sect. Kinda miss her smooth silky body though, but that woman can be incredibly problematic. I'm bound to suffer should I meet her again,* he thought.

"No, it's nothing. I just remembered an old acquaintance and wanted to find out if she was part of the Tang Sect." Yang Chen brushed it off with a smile. "Babe, since the sky's not dark yet, let's go take a look at your old living circle, shall we?"

Cai Ning was rather pleased but she awkwardly lowered her head to ask, "What do you have in mind?"

“Your bed... oh no I meant your crib.” Yang Chen was quick to mend his slip of the tongue, albeit with his tone of seriousness intact.

Cai Ning quickly noticed his intention behind as she rolled her eyes. “Alright follow me, I’ll take you to where I used to train.”

Yang Chen was slightly pissed at himself as he mumbled under his breath, “How could I let that slip?”

Around the Tang Ancestral Fortress, most notably the bamboo forest on its southern end, one could easily immerse themselves in the lush greenery of summer.

Yang Chen and Cai Ning walked hand in hand through the pavilion where she trained. The scenery was breathtaking, but it was nevertheless a completely different sight in Cai Ning’s mind.

Yang Chen picked up traces of sadness in her voice as she regaled her stories to him.

Wandering through the forest to a lagoon formed by the influx of mountain streams, Cai Ning pointed at the center of the lagoon. “Back in the days, when I was around twelve, I had always wanted to skip morning trainings during the winter. The temperature in this region would get really cold. I’d hide under my blankets in that little hut. It lacked coals and other facilities to keep me warm.

“But Master was stern about this and she’d often personally drag me out of my room. I was made to endure the harsh weather in this forest. She’d proceed to toss me into the lagoon, which by the way, was much colder than the land.

“I can still recall all the times I thought about killing her. How much I wanted to slip poison into her food and drink. I dreamt about it day and night.”

Yang Chen understood that his own experience in his past was far more brutal than this, but Cai Ning was not him. Different people were made to endure different hardships in life.

“Do you still hate her? If you still do, I can go back and kill her.”

Cai Ning knew he was just kidding but shook her head nonetheless. “All Master ever wanted was to make sure, the moment I stepped out of the sect, I could fend for myself against the misdeeds of the outside world. If I blame her for waking me up early, that kinda means she had to wake up earlier to do so.”

“So that’s why you’d still plead for me to save her despite her shitty temper,” Yang Chen replied.

They were chatting in all smiles as they walked across a slope. Right before their eyes was a vast piece of land, filled with brown, burnt-looking bamboo leaves, as if millions of knives were planted deep into the soil.

“These are specially modified bamboo leaves, soaked in a special poison sap. Its strength is comparable to that of iron. But unlike iron, it is not susceptible to rust and decay,” Cai Ning explained. “Those days I used to train my lightness skill here with the other disciples.”

Yang Chen frowned. “With the bamboo leaves all sharp as blades, wouldn’t you all be prone to injury all the time?”

“We started off with gauze wrapped around our feet, then after two years of cultivation, we had to run through the entire field for an hour. Falling meant we had to restart from the beginning.”

Cai Ning continued, “The Tang Sect is renowned for their poison. Even if we injure ourselves badly, the wounds can be treated and healed. Many disciples couldn’t make it past this stage and were thus unable to continue with cultivation techniques exclusive to the sect. So, they end up as servants, most of whom are the ones you see here from time to time.”

As the words left her mouth, Cai Ning subsequently removed her white canvas shoes, exposing her fair bare feet, before instantly hovering herself into the air and onto one of the bladed leaves amongst the entire plot of land.

The razor-sharp leaf blades did not throw her off balance. Instead, she balanced on the razor-sharp bamboo like a dragonfly on a lotus leaf.

Yang Chen was amazed by her cultivation. He knew for a fact that she was not utilizing True Qi as a barrier, but was instead using an advanced form of lightness skill balance technique, rendering her body light as a feather. Tang Sect’s cultivation techniques truly had their own majestic flair.

Cai Ning reminiscently glanced through her surroundings, before instantly hovering herself up and dancing around the leaves.

After a couple of minutes, Cai Ning elegantly brought herself back onto the spot of her shoes, silently putting them on without a single gasp.

Yang Chen was duly impressed as he clapped. “Oh Master Cai, it’s an honor to witness your gracefulness.”

“Alright, that’s enough.” Cai Ning halted Yang Chen’s teasing. “It might seem odd to you but I felt compelled to do it when I saw the field. I never thought I’d come back again. Now that I think about it, it doesn’t seem half as bad as before.

“The treasured memories and unforgettable experiences truly come to you only when you’re gone.”

Yang Chen had a flash about a silhouette in a blue dress, which seemed like a distant dream. He later quickly brought himself back. “At least right now, we can appreciate the present which is more important than anything else.”

“Why are you always so confident, huh?”

Yang Chen thought about it before he replied, “I’ve always thought that if I survived where everyone else died, I can survive the next one.”

Cai Ning giggled with her mouth covered. “I guess some people were just born confident, like you. But some others only gain confidence over time.

“Since young, people always say that it was a pity General Cai’s firstborn was a daughter. But my father had never once blamed my mother, yet she always had this thorn in her heart that is the center of her self-loathe from time to time. When Yanyan was born, my father was very happy but even I could see the slight pity in his eyes.

“Not to mention the garbage people talking behind our backs, about how our family was bound to pledge allegiance to other clans. But that kept me thinking, if I became stronger, if I was stronger than all the boys of the other clans, then just maybe, I would be able to make my father proud.

“Since then, it’s been ten arduous years since I’ve clenched my teeth and pushed through to defy odds, and from within I discovered my inner confidence. But it did not bring me the joy I was looking for.

“I know my father couldn’t be prouder that I’ve earned my place among the Group of Eight, in addition to a significant position in the National Security Bureau. Nevertheless, I have developed since then to become the Cai Ning that wasn’t purely living for the recognition of her parents, or the happiness of her younger sister, but the Cai Ning who will define her own life.”

As she reminisced, it was as if she was monologuing.

Yang Chen could visualize the scene from a decade ago. A girl in skimpy attire, deep within the bamboo forest, putting her entire concentration on balancing on a bamboo blades partially submerged into the fertile soil. She was drenched in sweat, swaying from the slightest of movements but her focus was solely on the completion of the task.

The next scene was back to that night under the stars, on the empty bridge, sitting alone in the winds of winter—lost, confused, unsure of what fate had in store for her.

“Look at me, Cai Ning,”

Yang Chen sighed before he held onto Cai Ning’s hand.

Cai Ning, with a bit of confusion, stared obediently back at him.

Solemnly, he said, “I hereby announce that from now on, Cai Ning’s happiness will be intertwined with Yang Chen to his bones. That today, more than yesterday, her happiness will only grow. This is a pact of happiness that shall be obligated by both parties. If Yang Chen were to forget or negate this, he would be subjected to Cai Ning’s bullying for eternity.”

Her silky-smooth hand held tightly by Yang Chen shook a little, as Cai Ning stared blankly at Yang Chen for what felt like forever, before bursting into laughter.

“So cheesy. Why does it sound as if you stole it from a book to woo girls?” Cai Ning giggled as she asked.

Yang Chen scratched his head lightly. “Why aren’t you tearing up? It wouldn’t hurt to give me some reaction right?”

“Cheesy, but I like it.” Cai Ning unexpectedly added, “One more.”

Yang Chen stuttered. “Erm... It flows with my emotions. I’m not particularly emotional now so I can’t really come out with anything.”

“What about this...”

Cai Ning tiptoed as she clung onto Yang Chen’s shoulders and sealed his lips!

Yet another woman took advantage of him.

Yang Chen was unamused. *It was Lin Ruoxi then, now even Cai Ning wants to play it this way?*

*No way, she needs to be punished!*

Yang Chen held onto her waist, pinching through her slim, sleek waist, glossing his tongue over her sweet cherry lips.

Cai Ning was originally an amateur in that matter, and a sudden gush of passion from Yang Chen left her in a daze. Her premature bravery had instantly become timidity, with a tinge of innocence from inexperience.

“Ahem...”

A woman’s cough resonated from a distance, cutting off their passionate kiss.

Chapter 803 - Humility

### **Humility**

Yang Chen was annoyed at her sudden appearance. *Goddamnit Tang Luyi. Can’t you leave us alone and recuperate? I even evaded the opportunity to heal her as a petty punishment!*

*You want to stir controversy? Well fine, I just had the idea to pop her cherry in this picturesque bamboo forest. Can’t you feel the passion here between us? Why do you always have to interrupt?!?* he thought.

With her arrival, the couple felt uneasy continuing with their sensual kiss.

Cai Ning, embarrassed, quickly hid behind Yang Chen’s muscular body to avoid looking at her master in the eye.

Tang Luyi was pale and frail but was left mostly unaffected. She hovered herself through several bamboo shoots before elegantly landing a few meters away from them both. Her graceful cultivation was clearly leagues above her disciple despite her injuries.

“Hmph, lovey-dovey in the bamboo forest. Are you not ashamed?!” Tang Luyi proclaimed with a stone-cold expression.

Yang Chen started becoming agitated. “Hey, I’m not kissing you. What are you mad about?”

“You...” Tang Luyi’s blood pressure skyrocketed in an instant. Yet she chose to refrain from making a move knowing that she was no match for Yang Chen.

“Seeing that you saved the Tang Sect, I will let you go this once,” Tang Luyi boastfully replied.

That reactively led Yang Chen to shake his head in determent. “Ning’er, your master must be so full of herself to be able to gloat this much after being mind controlled.”

“How dare you?!” Tang Luyi nearly threw up a mouth of blood.

“Enough!”

Cai Ning quickly reacted to cease the fiery interaction between them both, as she awkwardly bit on her cherry lips. Pulling Yang Chen's hand, she advised, "Alright, alright. She's my master after all. And our senior."

Yang Chen was not actually mad at Tang Luyi. While she looked cold and indifferent on the outside, the warmth in her eyes was not lost to him when she looked at Cai Ning.

"Master, you came here on your own to look for us. Is there a problem?" Cai Ning carefully mentioned, evidently still nervous in the presence of her no-nonsense mentor.

Tang Luyi stared at Cai Ning in silence for a while, before she affectionately asked, "These years out there, has it been kind to you?"

Cai Ning was caught off-guard as she quickly snapped out of her own thoughts. Her eyes immediately reddened as an overwhelming surge of emotions filled her very essence. She shook her head with an appreciative smile. "Yes, thank you for asking, Master."

"That's great to hear..." Tang Luyi proclaimed with a repressed smile. "Don't make the same mistakes I've made."

While speaking, Tang Luyi handed Yang Chen a soul-piercing glare. "Yang Chen, I am aware that you are at the top of your rank right now. I'm also aware that I or the entire Tang Sect put together would not even amount to anything against you. But Cai Ning has been under my guidance for ten years. I watched her grow up to be the articulate woman she is now. You can say that she's like a daughter to me.

"I am strict with her because I do not want her to suffer the things I have. But you, you have to cherish her and care for her like she is the most precious thing you've ever seen. If you hurt her in any way, I will never forgive you till the day I die!"

Yang Chen was slightly taken aback. He never thought Tang Luyi would be talking to him about Cai Ning, or to even be so welcoming of their relationship. He was half-expecting her to be biased against himself, as she did with most men.

"Hmph, you thought I'd oppose your relationship with Cai Ning?" Tang Luyi seemed to have read Yang Chen's thoughts.

"At the end of the day, I'm only her master. I can't decide what she wants to do with her life. I, Tang Luyi, might not have a liking for nasty men, but I'm also not unreasonable.

"If it wasn't for Cai Ning's position in your heart, you would've slaughtered us before you could grasp the situation. But since now you've done the Tang Sect a great favor, I will not dismiss my gratitude for hatred."

Yang Chen chuckled satisfyingly. "I'm sure I like you more now than when you were hypnotized. Nice, that's how I envisioned a Xiantian Full Cycle cultivator to act."

"Stop with the false approvals. I know you never bothered to even look at us mere Xiantian cultivators." Tang Luyi stared at Yang Chen in a peculiar manner, seemingly still in a daze on how a man this young could achieve such heights.

Cai Ning at this point had tears rolling down her cheeks. She reminisced the years she had spent hating and loving her master before her eyes. Here her master stood, like she had never aged a day, just as graceful and mesmerizing as she remembered. This was the same woman who had taught her everything she knew. Though they were not related by blood, Tang Luyi dedicated her life's teaching in a way that exceeded even her own mother.

"Master," Cai Ning wobblily called upon her.

Tang Luyi shivered ever so slightly as she empathetically stared at her disciple.

Cai Ning clenched her teeth, putting her thoughts aside as she went towards her mentor and gave her a tight embrace.

"Master, I've missed you so much..."

Tang Luyi's trademark stoicism cracked open as she patted her disciple on the back.

"Silly girl, if you missed me you could've come back anytime. There was no need to wait all these years..."

"I missed you Master, but... but I was afraid you'd get mad."

"You're still the silly girl I remember. You're all grown up now, no longer the careless child you once were."

Tang Luyi affectionately caressed her hair, as she lightly sighed.

Yang Chen took several steps back and allowed the two women to share their moment. He watched patiently and silently before he was reminded of that rugged man who had handed him the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture when he was a boy.

After the two emotional women cried and laughed in each other's presence, Tang Luyi finally took to discuss the core situation.

She was notified that Tang Dianshan and the rest of the elders were awake, fully aware of the incident. They were in much haste to invite Yang Chen to their location to provide him with a proper apology. They were also keen on discussing the real reason everyone was gathered there as well.

Naturally, they were all taken aback by the barren site from where the great guildhall once stood.

As dusk encroached, Yang Chen and Cai Ning alongside her master Tang Luyi strolled towards the dining hall of the Tang Ancestral Fortress. A banquet was set up in honor of the guests.

Tang Dianshan led the entire seat of Xiantian elders, upon Yang Chen appearance, hastily made way to welcome his entrance.

"My gratitude to Master Yang for your selfless rescue of the Tang Sect from an imminent catastrophe. I, Tang Dianshan, represent the entire Tang Sect of a thousand people hereby to dedicate the greatest honor to you. If there is any request of assistance by Master Yang towards the Tang clan, we will certainly vow to be in full support!"

Tang Dianshan was in cold sweat recalling the incident. His best cultivators, including himself, were manipulated by foreign powers. If they were to be slaughtered right there and then, the entire Tang Sect would have crumbled from within!

Without a Xiantian cultivator in place, they would concede to the likes of Kunlun and Shaolin, both of which were major ancient sects.

Yang Chen was however completely uninterested by their words of gratitude. He hadn't eaten since the day before. He was eyeing the feast laid out before him. He might not be hungry, but he definitely was craving decent food. "Erm... about that Master Tang, why don't we start eating? Sounds good?"

The sect members were dumbfounded. They didn't expect the young master of the Yang clan to be so easy-going. One would usually expect arrogance and self-centeredness from major clan members, but all Yang Chen cared about at this moment was food.

If only Yang Chen knew they took his lack of interest in their formal conversations as humility, he would've burst into laughter.

In normal circumstances, Cai Ning as just another disciple would not be allowed to sit among the elders. But today, she was hailed as one of their saviors which caused her to be seen in a different light.

Tang Dianshan and his board showered Cai Ning with praises and exclamation, leaving her slightly uneasy as she was barely involved with the rescue.

Small talk was unavoidable in a banquet of such magnitude, but Yang Chen braced himself through it all. The wine served was self-brewed, native to the Tang Sect. It was made using a combination of exquisite secret ingredients while possessing an alcohol concentration of sixty percent. The burning after-sensation through the throat left Yang Chen in a frenzy.

Yang Chen had a ridiculously stimulated appetite. He chomped down on the roasted pig and gulped down alcohol like there was no tomorrow. With no sign of stopping, he left the masses with a peculiar sight.

They did not understand much about the Soul Forming stage, but they were aware that a master of such terrifying levels should be detached from mortal necessities like food. But judging from his eating habits, he was closer to a street mongrel than a grandmaster!

The sect members in attendance were looking forward to a proper discussion over the incident in that afternoon, but Yang Chen seemed to be completely devoid of any urgent matters!

As everyone was wondering what to be done next, Tang Dianshan took to himself to break the ice. "Master Yang, I'm sure the point of your visit was to discuss the possibility of you entering the Tower of Scrolls, is it not? Would you mind if we start the discussion now?"

Chapter 804 - Nothing but Misfortune

### **Nothing but Misfortune**

Yang Chen licked the grease and bits of meat off his lips before he spoke. "Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Your chefs are top-notch. Did they add any special herbs by any chance? The roasted suckling pig had a tinge of herbal medicine which enhanced the flavor."

“Good to know you enjoyed it,” Tang Dianshan awkwardly replied. “This is a medicinal cuisine unique to the Tang Sect. Our chefs are actually the elderly and the disciples tasked to research and develop new beneficial drugs. Oh, about the Tower of Scrolls...”

“Where is it?”

“Huh?”

“The tower. Where is it located?” Yang Chen quickly repeated.

Tang Dianshan and the others were confused at his sudden request.

“What? Are you going to deny my entry again?” Yang Chen frowned as his tone shifted to being slightly hostile.

Tang Dianshan was quick to deny his speculations. “Of course not. We might have full restriction towards outsiders entering the Tower of Scrolls, but you are a unique exception to the case. Furthermore, with your Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture cultivation technique, Master Yang, worrying about your greed has become the last of our concerns.”

“So all that nonsense just to say you’ll allow me to enter?” Yang Chen pouted as he shook his head in disbelief. “You people have the lowest efficiency I’ve ever seen. Who beats around the bush nowadays?”

Tang Dianshan and the others awkwardly grinned but were not agitated by his crude remarks. To have a cultivator of his level and proficiency to share a meal with them was already more than what they could have hoped for.

When they thought about it, geniuses of an array of sectors had always been excluded from the confinement of societal restrictions, just like this young man before them. His free-spoken personality might be the reason why he had achieved such heights.

Tang Luyi took the conversation over as she added, “The Tower of Scrolls is located at the backhills of the Tang Ancestral Fortress. In the case of intrusion, there are up to a hundred different booby trap formations. In addition to that, there are Xiantian cultivators rounding the area in case of any possible failures in the traps.

“If you wish to enter tomorrow, my brother and I will personally diffuse the traps and allow you a safe passage. I know they are probably not a big deal for you but we have protocols to follow here.”

With that, the elders reaffirmed Yang Chen’s primary motivation to visit the Tang sect, which left him rather satisfied by the progress. Well aware of how Cai Ning was reminiscent of the venue of much of her adolescence, he thought to accompany her for the next few days as she reconnected with her elders and seniors.

Besides, Yang Chen knew he himself might require slightly more time to fully interpret and decipher the literature of his liking.

Tang Dianshan and the other elders shared a glance before he hesitatingly questioned, “Master Yang, if I may, what do you think the level of the perpetrator’s cultivation is at?”

Yang Chen chugged a mouthful of wine before he replied, "I'm not too sure myself. But I can say for sure that his level is above the Soul Forming stage. It is entirely possible that he had the assistance of a divine artifact to shield himself from me. But rest assured that your sect will be left unharmed by him in the near future. His goal was to extract the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture from me."

The crowd was horrified by his reply. The fact that there was someone so powerful under their noses was something that took a little longer than a moment to comprehend.

An elder spoke up. "Logically speaking, Hongmeng would not pull such a trick on a generational ancient martial arts sect. It goes against their principles. We're now talking about someone above the Soul Forming stage yet dispassionate towards research and intellectual studying towards the betterment of their cultivation. Could it be..."

"Impossible!" Tang Luyi instantly shunned his deduction. "They wouldn't do such a thing!"

The crowd erupted into a discussion upon the subtle deduction.

Yang Chen peculiarly sneaked a glance at Tang Luyi, before he frustratingly took to ask, "What is it, I suppose all of you had somebody in mind?"

Tang Dianshan sighed. "Actually, we chose to avoid jumping to that conclusion which was why we decided to keep it a secret. Nevertheless, Master Yang possesses cultivations far beyond ours, so I am rather convinced that you might cross paths in the future.

"Our assumptions point towards the other ancient sect of Hongmeng, on the same footing as us on its reputation as an ancient power, or should I say, clans. The rumored 'great ancient clans'."

"Great ancient clans? What's that?" Yang Chen finally decided to stop eating and pay attention to their words.

Tang Dianshan elaborated, "I'm certain Master Yang is fairly familiar with Hongmeng at this point. That said, Hongmeng is the foundation of China's defense. It is founded by cultivators of the Soul Forming stage and beyond. While we don't know how they operate, we're sure that their existence is to fulfill some kind of role.

"The great ancient clans, on the other hand, do not have a known role. They do not have their loyalties tied to China.

"According to folklore, they are the descendents of the mightiest of deities from the prehistoric times.

"Among Hongmeng, however, they all practise the descended cultivation techniques from us ancient sects. Reaching a certain point would only bring you to the Soul Forming stage.

"Meanwhile, the great ancient clans have inherited much of the cultivation techniques from their prehistoric ancestors. In their eyes, the Soul Forming stage is nothing special. Only when one achieves the Tribulation Passing stage would one be considered a master. They don't care about China's welfare. They live for one thing and one thing only, to break through the ceiling their ancestors have set."

After hearing this, Yang Chen was rather shocked.

Knowledge like this was certainly not public. Even the likes of Yan Sanniang were not privy to it.

“This information was passed down to us by our predecessors. The great ancient sects would occasionally have capable disciples who would train within the realms of mortals to get rid of their internal demons which are mental barriers hindering their training. As a result, there have only been rumors of their existence.”

Yang Chen instantly thought of a certain someone. *Xue Zijing?!*

*She's not from the Tang Sect nor Hongmeng. Yet she speaks of a certain Xue and Luo clans?! But someone ridden with that much poison doesn't seem to be from one of those great ancient clans,* he thought.

Nobody noticed Yang Chen peculiar reaction as Tang Dianshan frustratedly added, “What worries me is, if it was the great ancient clans, why would they go through such lengths to obtain your cultivation technique, so far as to control the entire Tang Sect?”

“Unless... the scripture is not just a cultivation technique that is extinct, but something much more?”

Cai Ning deciphered his words as she deduced, “What if... the culprit was one person from the clan who decided to take matters into his own hands. It might explain why he had to mask himself and still be unsure if Yang Chen was the one he was after.”

Tang Dianshan and the elders seemed to agree with Cai Ning's deduction. “Good presumption, Cai Ning. That might just be the case. After all, even the ancient great clans

would have set their own regulations.

“If anyone chose to carelessly take action, it might affect the harmony and balance between both sides, triggering a counter-reaction from Hongmeng. Now that I think about it, this might be the most likely of reasons. But I still can't, for the life of me, understand why they are after the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture.”

Yang Chen seemed to have come to the realization that comprehending these matters might prove a challenge to the people who did not possess the same cultivation level as him.

Nonetheless, Yang Chen did not feel the need to explain his thoughts to the elders. “Are you aware of the names of all the great ancient clans?”

Tang Dianshan shook his head in fair discouragement. “That we are not sure, we were only briefly told by our ancestors.”

Tang Luyi meanwhile suspiciously glanced towards Yang Chen, seemingly with something in mind.

Yang Chen's heart sunk. He was convinced that with his current level of cultivation, there should hardly anything left for him to comprehend unless Athena or Zeus decides to play their hand. But then again, they had no reason to target him which such hostility.

Now that the circumstances evidently took a complicated turn, in addition to his 'fateful' meeting with Xue Zijing who seemed to originate from those clans, everything was flung way out of proportion!

*This is bad. I never expected people to target me for my cultivation technique of all reasons! I've had nothing but misfortune since returning to China!* he thought.

Yang Chen could hardly relieve himself of his thoughts for the rest of the banquet. After a group discussion, they had come to the conclusion that the enemy was after Yang Chen and not the Tang Sect. At least they were safe in the meantime.

#### Chapter 805 - Reciting Scriptures

For the rest of the dinner, Yang Chen's appetite had been spoiled at the revelation. Nevertheless, now that the gathering had concluded itself, everyone heaved a sigh of relief as they slowly trickled back to their living quarters.

Thereafter, Yang Chen and Cai Ning followed Tang Luyi to her arranged guest accommodations.

Under the glittering night sky, the couple pursued the path of the green marble pavement as they enjoyed the cool forest breeze.

Cai Ning noticed that Yang Chen was silent the whole time. "Are you still worried about the great ancient clans?"

Yang Chen was not keen to hide it as he took to reply, "I don't want to hide anything from you, but it is the least of my worries at the moment. I've cheated death way too many times to be afraid of something like that. What I'm most wary about is if they could manipulate the elders of the Tang Sect so easily, what's stopping them from manipulating one of my women to stab me while I sleep?"

Cai Ning giggled as she replied, "Well you can always teach us to be cultivators ourselves. At least you can be sure that none of the women beside you are incompetent. One day they will have improved so much that you wouldn't even need to worry about them anymore."

Yang Chen burst into laughter. "Easy for you to say, but I'm still pretty surprised that you wouldn't mind talking about them."

"I'm not your wife. I don't get a say in this. This is what they call finding a glimmer of hope in the dark, isn't it?" Cai Ning rolled her eyes. "Besides, as of now, there's nothing you've faced that you cannot handle. I'm guessing that the reason why the person has yet to make an appearance is that they know that you are more powerful than them."

Yang Chen contemplated and agreed with her. He never had been a coward his whole life, no fear except for the wellbeing of his women. *Exactly, let them come in the hundreds and the thousands. I'll slaughter them all!* he thought.

As they brisk walked to their accommodation rooms, Yang Chen tightened his grip onto Cai Ning's hands. "Ning'er, come with me."

Yang Chen was clearly unhappy with Tang Luyi's arrangement of separating them into two different rooms.

Cai Ning instantly caught onto his intentions as she embarrassingly noted. "You're leaving for the tower early tomorrow, why can't you just wait for a couple more days?"

"You're not opposing the idea I see?" Yang Chen was in glee.

"I..." Cai Ning's tongue was tied. She had envisioned her life to progress in the way her sister Cai Yan did, to get to that stage with her lover.

While Cai Ning was contemplating, an elegant figure made way towards the couple.

"That is not allowed here." Tang Luyi abruptly interrupted.

Yang Chen was furious. "I'm sorry ma'am, I know she's your favorite disciple or whatnot, but do you really have to follow her around?"

Tang Luyi sneered. "You think I ought to? I fear that one night of passion will derail her whole life-long path of cultivation!"

"What do you mean by that?"

"You really don't know anything, do you? I truly doubt your journey in achieving such a high cultivation level." Tang Luyi sighed as she elaborated, "A woman's Yuan Yin far outweighs the Yuan Yang of a man. Because Cai Ning is still a virgin, she is shielded by her Yuan Yin, thus the True Qi exerted by her internal energy will be particularly pure.

"Should you take her virginity, her cultivation progression to the Xiantian level will instantly be prolonged for three years at a minimum. With her brilliance and physique, she will achieve the Xiantian realm within the next one or two years. One night of pleasure for three years of pain doesn't seem worth it."

Yang Chen was stupefied, staring at the embarrassed Cai Ning whose head held dead low. "Is that true? Ning'er, why didn't you tell me?"

Cai Ning moped in silence, naturally agreeing with her master's statement.

"Hmph, you little rascal, you just can't bring yourself to reject him, can you? Look, she'd rather spend more time cultivating than to reject you," Tang Luyi resented. "I don't know why I sacrificed a decade of my life to teach you. I guess ten years of my teaching meant less than a few months with this brat!"

"It's not that like that..." Cai Ning attempted to clarify.

"No excuses." Tang Luyi glared at Yang Chen. "Now that you're aware, leave her alone for the time being. Tomorrow you shall enter the Tower of Scrolls. If you truly devote your focus to learning the teachings within, I'm certain that you're bound for enlightenment.

"If the day comes where Cai Ning achieves the Xiantian realm, that would put a satisfied smile on my face, as her master."

Yang Chen felt warmth in his heart, watching the blushing woman by his side. She had a gentle side to her that was equally loveable once it was accessed.

That night, Yang Chen naturally kept his hands to himself, knowing how she was willing to yield for his stead. He was self-aware enough to appreciate her goodwill like a gentleman.

At the crack of dawn the next morning, Yang Chen, in the company of the siblings Tang Dianshan and Tang Luyi, left for the prohibited Tower of Scrolls.

Before he left, he didn't forget to bid an emotional farewell with Cai Ning. Despite her position within the sect as a core disciple, she was still considered unworthy enough to enter the area where the tower was located. Thus she opted to wait for his return.

Along the narrow path from the Tang Ancestral Fortress to the hills, the forestation gradually shifted from bamboo to a forest dominated by cypress trees. There they came to an area with four stone huts, symmetrically placed in the ground.

Yang Chen questioned from curiosity, "This place, why doesn't it have any doors?"

Tang Dianshan explained, "The four stone huts here are individually safeguarded by the noblest of our elders, sky, earth, profundity, and gold. All four elders are now centenarians themselves and are among the closest within the Tang Sect to reach the Soul Forming stage. Unless someone were to force their entry, they would not emerge from their resting place."

Yang Chen questioned, "So am I supposed to fly in?"

"Exactly." Tang Dianshan held out a sign of respect, before he rounded up. "My sister and I will only be able to take Master Yang this far. After a round of discussion with the elders, you will be able to proceed. We shall remain here."

Tang Luyi added, "Your entry will not be a problem but be wary not to inflict damage upon the elders."

Yang Chen giggled from her remarks. "Unless they'll need to test my skills before I am allowed to enter, I suppose?"

"Because you're not an official Shushan disciple or a member of the Tang Sect, the rules stipulate that you must be able to take three hits from the grand elders without losing, or else, the Tang Sect might be unconvinced of your worthiness of entry," Tang Dianshan explained.

Yang Chen smirked. *So the rules were made to ensure if you weren't beyond the Soul Forming stage, you'll never be permitted inside the tower!* he thought.

Nonetheless, for a cultivator beyond the Soul Forming stage, the contents within the tower would no longer be significant which naturally meant hardly anyone would take upon such redundancy to visit the tower.

Yang Chen was done with formalities as he effortlessly hurled himself like an arrow on a crossbow into the center point of all four stone huts.

In the mid-rift was a large gray plot with the words 'Tower of Scrolls' carved onto the ground, plated with molten gold.

Yang Chen instantly realized that the 'tower', was actually a cellar.

"Young one, your cultivation might be well-known as the cream of the crop, but we might have to put that to the test."

A rustic voice resonated from the stone cabin, before long four beams of Xiantian True Qi at its pinnacle purity bombarded from all four huts right to where Yang Chen was standing!

Yang Chen finally realized that the four huts were made specifically to amplify the energy that shot out from within!

However, as expected, the accumulated True Qi projectiles that could easily decimate an ordinary person was barely an obstacle in Yang Chen's eyes.

And as such he was uninterested in a duel with the elders as he just stood in mid-air, watching idly as the projectiles from all four corners transfused through his body.

The True Qi left Yang Chen's body the way it entered without any damage.

Watching from yards away of the tower were Tang Dianshan and Tang Luyi. They never understood how Yang Chen could be so happy go lucky in the absence of any prior safeguard measures, completely in neglect of an enhanced strike from four cultivators of Xiantian Full Cycle!

The four stone huts of 'sky', 'earth', 'profundity', and 'gold' were left futile and could only concede with Yang Chen's requests.

"You're a formidable cultivator, young one. Your permission to enter the tower is granted for the next three days. When the duration is up, the Tower of Scrolls will not be accessible anymore." The deep voice from the 'sky' stone cabin rustled in slight frustration as it declared.

Upon completion of its proclamation, the stone slab on the ground with the words 'Tower of Scrolls' instantly retracted to its four edges, exposing a dark tunnel leading deep into the abyss.

Yang Chen nodded to each side of the entrance as a gesture of acknowledgment before he galloped down the fleet of stairs. The depth of the tunnel left Yang Chen in anticipation about what was to come, despite having already passed trivial things like these.

*I, the whimsical monk, have officially found a genuine temple of worship. Now it's time to see how monks recite scriptures!*

Chapter 806 - The Brave Tailor

### **The Brave Tailor**

Three days had passed and the weekend had arrived.

It was a peaceful afternoon over at Hope Orphanage.

The children were enjoying their weekend around in the backyard. The girls were busy playing with their cooking sets while the boys were playing a game of tag. Even if the circumstances might be tough for the children, the simple life brought about the connection between them that city kids tended to lack nowadays.

There were several orphans who'd grown up and left the orphanage at a shot of a new life. Once in a while, they would return to assist President Cha with the chores around the orphanage, whether if it was lifting the donations around, or for spring cleaning.

From Lin Ruoxi's perspective, everything looked too good to be true. A scene filled to the brim with love and heart, as she was subconsciously relieved from her burden, she cracked a rare smile.

At a comparatively secluded corner, under a Chinese banyan tree was Lin Ruoxi surrounded by a modest crowd of seven to eight children with a book in her hand.

It was a classic publication by nineteenth-century German linguists, the Grimm brothers. Even after centuries, the stories it brought was still going strong.

Lin Ruoxi, was not an exciting storyteller, but her tone was mellow and sweet, and in addition to her natural appeal with the children, she effortlessly captivated the attention of the children by her side.

Her main story today was the one story that she had narrated a dozen times now, the Brave Little Tailor.

It was a story about a witty, street-smart protagonist who, with some luck and bravery, became king. It was a story that inspired children with fantasy and imagination to what their lives could be.

The stories that she intentionally chose to skip were the ones like the Tom Thumb and Hansel and Gretel, which focused upon the appreciation of parents. She realized that it might bring about a sense of depression in the orphans, so she chose to evade them whenever possible.

After the first story was done, the children nagged for more and wanted to continue with Sleeping Beauty. Lin Ruoxi wiped off the beads of sweat from her forehead before she affectionately patted the head of a five-year-old girl closest to her. "Alright guys, you guys will have to wait for a bit, okay? I'm going to get some water, and I'll come back as fast as I can."

It was summer after all. If it wasn't for her love for the children, she wouldn't be sitting out there in the sun with a book in her hand. This was also an event very much supported by Guo Xuehua. As the spokesperson of multiple orphanages, her usual job required her to run the funding and distribution, which would keep her circling the orphanages throughout the weekend.

Storytelling was no easy work which was why President Cha had prepared a cup of tea for Lin Ruoxi prior to her arrival.

The children hesitantly watched as Lin Ruoxi left before quickly gathering around to discuss the fairytale and who resembled the tailor most.

Just when Lin Ruoxi was about to make her way back to President Cha's office to take a good sip of tea, at the edge of her sight was a little silhouette by the entrance of the orphanage.

She was a petite girl about four years of age, dressed in a blue floral dress. Her face was chubby and she had a straight fringe haircut, matching her round face perfectly. Her distinct features resembled the pixies in fairy tales.

That reminded Lin Ruoxi of herself when she was at her age, not as adorable, but it did spawn many thoughts in her head like she had seen her somewhere before.

The girl had some baby fat which made her irresistibly chubby.

Right at that moment, while Lin Ruoxi was fixated upon the child. She stood by the gate while staring at Lin Ruoxi with slight apprehension.

The two of them, adult and child, just stood and stared blankly at one another.

Right then, a yellow-haired woman in a black lace dress paired with heavy makeup went up to the little girl, squatted down, and approached her with a passionate smile.

“Hi little girl, what are you looking at?”

The child turned her head towards the unfamiliar face. She blinked and stared but kept her silence.

The yellow-haired lady had a sparkle in her eyes, before retrieving a lollipop from her back pocket. “Tell me little one, what’s your name? If you tell me auntie here will give you this candy I have, It’s strawberry-flavored.”

The girl started licking her lips, before she announced, “My name’s Lanlan.”

“What an adorable name! Lanlan, who are you looking for?” The yellow-haired lady giggled.

Lanlan took over the lollipop from her grasp, simultaneously pouting as she answered, “That big sister over there looks like Mommy.”

The yellow-haired woman contemplated for a moment before she scanned the garden and pinpointed Lin Ruoxi standing by a corner. She then turned back at the little girl and grinned. “Lanlan, I know where Mommy is. Do you want to come with me?”

Lanlan instantly lifted her head and stared at her with anticipation in her eyes. “Really? You know where Mommy is?”

“Of course, Lanlan’s Mommy is my best friend! I know you’ve never met me, but I’ve always known you Lanlan. Auntie here even knows that your Mommy loved blue dresses. Isn’t that right?”

Lanlan vigorously nodded. “Mhm, Mommy likes blue dresses.”

“Then let’s go, follow me,” The woman declared.

Lanlan hesitated as she mumbled, “But, but... Lanlan sneaked out from home. If Auntie Babysitter can’t find Lanlan, she’ll tell Grandpa and Grandpa will spank my butt again.”

The yellow-haired woman quickly reassured her. “It’s going to be okay, Lanlan. Lanlan is going to see Mommy. So Grandpa and Auntie Babysitter wouldn’t punish you.”

“Really?”

“Of course.”

The girl hastily agreed, pulling her focus away from the lollipop and held onto the woman’s hand. “Let’s go, we gotta find Mommy!”

The yellow-haired woman wholesomely agreed. With one hand holding hers, she led her towards a white bakery van.

From the garden, as she watched, Lin Ruoxi had an ominous feeling about it. President Cha came out from the office, which prompted an immediate question from Lin Ruoxi. “President, do you have a little girl dressed in a blue dress within the orphanage? About four to five years old?”

President Cha heard her description and chuckled. "Oh, that child, she's not from our orphanage. I've talked to her a few times now. She said that her mother has left, but she was still quite desperate to see her mother again.

"I once invited her to come in and play with the children, but she rejected. She does like to come over though, from time to time to look inside the backyard from afar. I'm not sure what exactly happened to her. Oh yeah, what brought you to talk about it?"

Lin Ruoxi felt like something was clearly off with the incident. If the girl had no parents, then who was that yellow-haired woman?

Then she recalled the unfamiliarity from the little girl towards the woman who had handed a lollipop to her.

Lin Ruoxi's heart skipped a beat. *Wait, wasn't there news about an international human trafficking organization operating in Zhonghai recently?!* she thought.

*Oh no, it's a kidnapping plot!*

Lin Ruoxi's mind was running amok before she instantly ran in pursuit!

Just when she darted out of the gates, she witnessed the child in the blue dress enter the van, and the car doors were just held shut, ready to depart.

Lin Ruoxi was left tackleless as to what to do. Her mind was in a frenzy as she ran towards her Bentley.

She quickly caught up to the white bakery van.

On one hand, she was strenuously meddling the steering wheel, on the other was her phone dialing a number. It was Cai Yan's.

"Hello, oh it's Ruoxi, why are you calling me all of a sudden?" Cai Yan was slightly dumbfounded after all their relationship was in murky grounds.

"Yanyan, terrible news. I met a human trafficker!"

"What? Say it again."

Cai Yan had recently been following the case closely, which left her particularly sensitive at the mention of the word.

Lin Ruoxi tried her best to tail the bakery van close, while simultaneously debriefing the incident.

"You're saying that the woman had dyed yellow hair right?"

"Yeah, is she a human trafficker?"

Cai Yan quickly instructed her. "Ruoxi, for now just stay calm. Tell me the number plate of the van, the color, and all of its details. Then send me the route you have taken to get there.

"I'll immediately send my people to stop that yellow-haired woman. She might be a core member of the organization. If I'm not mistaken, she's responsible for the kidnapping and trafficking of children. As of now, we believe her to be responsible for several missing children!"

## Chapter 807 - Good Price

### Good Price

Lin Ruoxi followed Cai Yan's words and had a chill run down her spine. She was frail and tackless. Tailing an international human trafficking organization was no small feat considering the kind of experience and weapons they might own!

But the thought of that defenseless little blue-dressed girl in the van fueled her with adrenaline as she stomped on the accelerator pedal and sped off after the van.

The driver of the bakery van was a dark-skinned man, scruffy and sturdy, wearing a white singlet and a silver necklace.

A glance at the rear-mirror prompted the sturdy man, with heavily accented English, to declare, "Spider, somebody's following us."

'Spider' was the yellow-haired, stone-faced woman who was currently watching Lanlan suck on the lollipop by her side. She reactively bobbed herself up from the seat to take a good look behind them, which she then whistled. "Wow. A Bentley. Must be someone of importance. I'm guessing it's a woman seeing as it's painted a rosy red."

"Should we take her too?" The sturdy man grinned, exposing his yellowing teeth in the process. "A little extra goes a long way."

Spider chuckled as she said, "Who would have thought that a little sheep would give herself to us on our way back? This has to be the best return trip we've had. Isn't that right, Black Panther?"

"It's a pity that we have to depart from Zhonghai tomorrow. Interpol are on to us and we cannot afford to loiter any longer," Black Panther replied with slight pity.

"Boss is such a pussy sometimes. If it had been just the Chinese police, I reckon we could shoot them up and end it fast. Even Interpol can't catch us. If not, they would have done so at Hormuz Strait!" Spider was defiant.

"There's a reason Python is our boss. I trust that he has a good reason for our early departure." Black Panther giggled. "But today's catch is a pretty way to end our operations!"

He then took a sharp turn and steered the van down the nearest junction!

Lanlan heard them speak in English. Curious, her bubbly eyes yearning for answers, she took to ask, "Auntie, what are they talking about?"

Spider grinned as she replied, "It's the dialect from my hometown, Lanlan wouldn't know."

"Oh." Lanlan added, "Does Mommy speak it too?"

"Of course she does, Mommy knows everything."

Closely by their tail was Lin Ruoxi, who took a sharp turn to follow in suit. She was deeply anxious about the situation that was about to unfold.

Cai Yan clearly assumed that they were going to stick to the highway and did not think to set up hiding posts anywhere else.

Lin Ruoxi was done contemplating as she quickly followed suit, simultaneously updating Cai Yan through the phone call regarding her current location.

Cai Yan, on the other end, got the news about their sudden detour as she anxiously warned, "Ruoxi take care to not let them notice you. I'm afraid something might happen to you. I'm not sure how I'm supposed to put this but I also wouldn't want to lose the precious lead. Oh my god!"

Lin Ruoxi at that moment was contrastingly level headed as she reassured, "Yanyan, just try to arrange everything as soon as possible. I'll constantly update you with their most recent whereabouts. Right now I can roughly identify two adults in the van. I can still drive off if they do notice me though."

Cai Yan was stuck at the moment. She hastily commanded the convergence of the police deployments based on Lin Ruoxi's phone connection, making sure her forces made it to Lin Ruoxi as soon as possible.

The van steered straight for the next ten minutes or so, before their eventual arrival at the outskirts of East Zhonghai. The area was mainly populated with old factories and polluted walkways.

When they ventured into a narrow cement strip with factory buildings on both sides, Lin Ruoxi noticed that there was something ominous in their route.

She figured that she had made a grave miscalculation. She had been led into an abandoned side of the city!

Recalibrating her state of mind, Lin Ruoxi's soul froze, as cold sweat trickled down her forehead.

Before she could decipher her next move, the van before her stopped before a factory building!

Lin Ruoxi had her mind preoccupied on leading the little girl to safety, but now she instead led herself right into a trap!

In the split second of thought, she opted to first leave the district and come back with Cai Yan and her force as a back up.

The Bentley came to a halt as Lin Ruoxi slammed onto the breaks.

But while she was making her way out, the yellow-haired Spider and the sturdy Black Panther hopped off the van and smirked at her direction.

Standing more than ten meters away, Black Panther withdrew a silenced pistol from his back and aimed at the Bentley.

**BANG BANG!**

Before Lin Ruoxi could make steer her car out of the way, the bullets from the gun had pierced through a front and a rear tire!

"Ahh!"

Lin Ruoxi reactively screamed from fright. She paled at the thought of what was about to happen. She did not anticipate that the opposing side would fire at her car to deter her escape. *‘I’ve made a mistake. Why wouldn’t international human traffickers bring guns with them?’* she thought.

At that moment, Lanlan hurled herself out the van and gazed at the red Bentley, then turned to Black Panther with the pistol. “Why’d you shoot at that auntie that looks just like my mommy?!”

Spider and Black Panther stared in surprise at Lanlan who was by their side against their will. They wouldn’t expect a child her age to be so unfazed by the gunshots.

Nonetheless, the two ignored the child as her presence was one that they were not concerned with right now. Products were just products after all.

“Go get the woman,” Black Panther demanded.

Spider sneered at him before she nodded and went towards the Bentley.

Lin Ruoxi noticed the warning signals activate as an aftermath of her punctured tires. To make matters worse, there was no signal in the area, making it impossible to call for help!

“Come out, I won’t hurt you so don’t worry. I wouldn’t want to make you a damaged good after all.” Spider had a sinister grin as she forced the doors open.

Lin Ruoxi bit on her lower lip, her eyes filled with determination. Every second she spent breathing was another second stalled until help arrived.

Comforting herself from within, she abidingly followed Spider’s requests and made her way out of the car.

The factory gates were opened before several fierce-looking men and women emerged from within.

The leader was a brawny man with curly hair, slightly darker skin. He stuck his head out to observe the situation before he demanded, “Black Panther, I specifically remember asking you to retrieve some equipment. Might I inquire why these two women are here?”

Black Panther cleared the air. “Python, don’t you think we can get a good price for the girl? I think the lady in the Bentley would fetch a pretty amount as well.”

“Hmph, the scheduled interception is already in place by the port, you’re lucky we didn’t have to delay any further.” Python then directed the two subordinates by his side. “Grab the little one and the woman and toss them both into the cage.”

Two towering men took to obey his orders, one walking towards Lanlan and the other towards Lin Ruoxi standing right behind Spider.

Right at that moment, a dull voice resonated from the beams of the ceiling.

“It’s best if you leave her be. This is not a fight which you would want to pick.”

“Who is it?” Python and Black Panther along with the other crewmates quickly turned their heads upwards.

A suave Caucasian man with brown curly hair did a backflip mid-air before descending effortlessly from six, seven meters above.

“The Red Triangle from Northern Africa. Seen in South East Asia, the Middle East, and Africa trafficking about five years ago. The first person to take up the mantle of leader was the Black Widow, who was sentenced to death by the Pentagon about two years ago. Since then, the organization was headed by the second in command, Python.

“Current core members include Black Panther, Nile Crocodile, the Mummy, Spider, and Jackal. Tell me, is my information precise?” the Caucasian man proudly taunted.

Everyone in attendance was terrified. As a top-secret international crime organization, their worst fear was to have an outsider pinpoint their details down to the microscopic. Who exactly was the intruder?!

Lanlan was intrigued as her pupils widened, but on her omnipresent pouting lips were twitches of dispiritment, seemingly aware that she was misled.

Lin Ruoxi was overjoyed as she instantly recognized the familiar face from Gao Guoxiong’s mercenary crisis when Molin captained the Sea Eagles to help!

She quickly associated his presence to Yang Chen’s prior assignment of the Sea Eagles as her private bodyguards. She felt a surge of comfort knowing that he had not left her to fend for herself.

Python winced as he rebuked, “Who are you? If you’re in the same field, you should know the rules.”

“My name’s Molin Klaus. Unfortunately for you, we do not share the same sentiments.” Molin smirked, before retrieving a gold plated emblem from his breast pocket. On the emblem was a lively stamp of a blue eagle taking flight.

Upon noticing the badge, Python and Black Panther alongside their entire squad were left horrified.

“Sea Eagles...?!”

Anyone living in the shady side of the world was familiar with the name and the emblem. To know them was to fear them, to see them was to know death!

Excluding the group Sand Storm who had recently risen in the Middle East, practically no mercenary on the planet could leech in on any benefits from the Sea Eagles! As the publicly renowned ace for the past decade, they were now well known to pledge loyalty to one person and one person only!

“So what if you’re among the Sea Eagles! You are greatly outnumbered by two dozens to one! I’ll make sure to wipe your existence from the face of the Earth!” Spider taunted.

Chapter 808 - You Are the Bad Guys

### **You Are the Bad Guys**

Following Spider’s proclamation, the other members of the Red Triangle were fueled with rage and a thirst for action.

Being a gang who lived on the edge, their encounter with Molin was bound to go sideways. But despite the Sea Eagles’ reputation, they weren’t intimidated enough to back down from this fight.

After all, the odds were in their favor!

"I don't think you comprehend the circumstances you're in. Some things cannot be won by strength in numbers." Molin Klaus impatiently brushed his hair, before he reassuringly turned towards Lin Ruoxi and declared, "Ma'am, do forgive me for the impending vulgarities that I will have to conduct before you. As I see it, these people have no right to live."

After he finished, he leaped from his original position and sent a flying kick right into Spider's chest!

Spider grunted as her lack of awareness sent her flying towards a metal shutter gate about seven to eight meters away!

Molin chose Spider as his target, naturally to remove the greatest threat to Lin Ruoxi first and foremost. It was his sole priority after all.

"Do it."

Python realized that there was no Plan B. Regardless of the potential number of people the Sea Eagles had deployed, he ordered to fire in retaliation.

Black Panther raised his silenced pistol, simultaneously with the other members with their respective weapons and all aimed towards the current sole intruder.

Before they could react, Molin dashed toward them.

BANG!

A dull rumble resonated from the discharge of a revolver, but the bullets were somehow diverted into the air!

A bulky henchman with a revolver decided to gather himself and take aim before shooting. But before he could react, Molin had fired off a solid kick to his dominant arm.

"Argh!" The sturdy man shrieked in pain as his arm shattered into several fractured pieces.

Since Molin had already breached their defensive position, they were forced to take extra precautions when firing as to not injure their own.

"Goddamnit, if that woman is what he's looking for, then we'll take her!" Python howled before several henchmen quickly reacted and pounced towards Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi reactively evaded them but was naturally slower than the human traffickers.

"Idiots."

Molin smirked as he whisked through the crowd before coming behind the two perpetrators and hurling them both towards Python and his gang.

A huge boulder of a person crushed upon a few other members as pants and cries were heard.

Molin clearly was in the mood as he took a quick turn into the crowd and brushed through the people before they could retaliate. His immense superiority clearly overpowered any sign of strength in numbers they held upon.

In a blink of an eye, Python and seven or eight others were the only ones left standing among the Red Triangle organization.

Meanwhile, Molin was holding a huge assault rifle which he had taken from one of the henchmen. After a quick survey of the people remaining, he said, "You couldn't even put up a fight when I was unarmed. Now that I am, who would like to continue?"

Black Panther was furious as he ranted, before instantly raising his weapon, aimed not to Molin, but Lin Ruoxi at a far corner!

BANG!

Before Black Panther could fire, Molin shot right through his wrist!

"Argh!"

A defeated shriek followed after his hand was saturated by his own spilled flesh and blood.

"Well, I was inclined to leave a few of you alive seeing as though the Sea Eagles wouldn't care if there were several pests left alive. But since you have made the unwise decision to threaten the lady behind me, I'm afraid this is where you will have to die," Molin casually said, as his weapon was raised.

The human traffickers were cemented to their positions at the sight of absolute power. A regular member of the Sea Eagles was more than enough to overpower all of them. Having their captain here was just too much for any of them to bear.

"Hold your fire or she dies."

Out of nowhere were the high-pitched taunts of Spider, who had been smashed towards the gate earlier.

It instantly prompted everyone to turn to her direction. Her lips were still red from the blood she had spit. She was holding a little girl in one hand while holding a gun in the other.

Molin's strike might have been hard, but it had not managed to keep Spider down. Lin Ruoxi was frozen in fear, her eyes full of worry.

Spider sneered. "Put down the gun. Take one more step and the kid dies."

Molin's options were stuck between a rock and a hard place. On one hand, he could choose to save the kid and shoot Spider. But that would mean leaving time for Python and the rest of them to make a move, potentially harming Lin Ruoxi!

"You think you could threaten me with a child?" Molin rebuked, "These hands of mine are stained by the blood of hundreds. Dead people are occupational hazards. My main duty is to protect this lady behind me.

"And to think you would assume you could sway my actions by using that random child as a scapegoat, what a bloody joke."

Upon finishing he raised his gun once again, and aimed straight at their mastermind, Python!

“No!”

Lin Ruoxi yelled in terror as she rushed up to Molin and held him by the arm. “Don’t shoot, the child will die!”

Molin bafflingly turned to her. “Ma’am, why do you care so much about her?”

He was now estranged in a tight situation. Theoretically, his sole focus was to ensure Lin Ruoxi’s safety. But now that Lin Ruoxi had given him an order, disobeying it would be similar to disrespecting Yang Chen.

Molin was now caught between a rock and a hard place. If he had known what was about to happen, he would have called up for some backup. But since he knew the situation was under his control, he refrained from dragging anyone else into it.

Lin Ruoxi didn’t know how to apprehend the situation either. As she turned towards the little girl, tears were bawling from her eyes.

Meanwhile, Lanlan seemed to be unperturbed by the turn of events. She had no fear of the situation she was in. Instead, her face adopted one of boredom.

She then noticed that Lin Ruoxi was trying to rescue herself, which brought a glimpse of curiosity in those bubbly eyes.

Spider quickly took to notice Molin’s hesitation as she smirked. “Look, the deal’s still on. Drop your weapon and we’ll let her go.”

“You think I’m an idiot, don’t you? If I drop my gun you’ll shoot us.” Molin was rather agitated.

“But you don’t have a choice, do you? If the girl dies, you will have disobeyed your master.” Spider pressured him with bloated stakes at play.

Lanlan who was held captive suddenly tilted her little head, blinked, as she took to ask, “Auntie, you told Lanlan that Mommy was here. You’re lying, aren’t you?”

Spider then threatened, “Maybe if you shut the hell up you might find her!”

Hearing those words, Lin Ruoxi finally grasped the situation. The woman had deceptively told Lanlan that her mother was here.

The thought that the child was just wholeheartedly in search of her missing mother, only to be repaid by a treacherous scheme of life and death. Lin Ruoxi couldn’t resist the tears which were falling from her face.

Molin noticed Lin Ruoxi’s vigorous reaction towards the situation, clear that he was embroiled in a messy issue. His top priority was to defend Lin Ruoxi. He clenched his teeth, subsequently raising his gun towards Python and the lot, with the intention to wipe them from existence.

Right at that moment, Lanlan who was caught up to the current affairs said, “Lanlan hates people who tell lies the most! Grandpa always says... he says that liars are all bad kids!”

Everyone in attendance was caught off-guard by the child's criticism. Not only was she not afraid, she instead took the offensive to rage upon the armed Spider.

"You pesky little scoundrel, don't make me kill..."

Just when Spider was about to threaten her, a colossal force plunged into her heart!

"BANG!"

A loud thud resonated through space as Spider's body helplessly smashed onto the metal shutter gate!

Only this time, it was far more terrifying than the last.

Spider was hurled right into the aluminum shutter gate, leaving only a human-shaped hole in her wake.

The shutter gate was made with flexibility and elasticity. To inflict such damage by heavily twisting it beyond its tension required a force which was incomprehensible.

Spider would have never known the cause of her death. Her chest was ground into a spill of gruesomely fractured bones and flesh as viscous blood spewed from her mouth.

In an instant, all the people inside the room went blank at what they had just witnessed.

The same chubby little hands which had inflicted such fatality on Spider still had lingering droplets of blood in her nails as Lanlan curled it back. Tearing a person from the inside out and subsequently tossing them into the metal shutter gate seemed not to have fazed little Lanlan a single bit.

"How dare you take me this far to find Mommy and lie to me? I don't know the way back home... If I'm late Grandpa's going to spank me again, you are the bad guys!"

Python and Black Panther along with the rest of the Red Triangle were stupefied, unable to fathom how those tiny, chubby palms of hers could have the force of a grenade!

Chapter 809 - Fat Little Girl

### **Fat Little Girl**

Molin was stupefied. As a fitness mentor towards his teammates, he was fully accustomed to the limits of mankind's ability and physical achievements. *The unfathomable force required to smash a grown woman as far as to bore a hole through a shutter gate. I can't safely say that I could replicate her actions even at my peak. This girl did it so effortlessly... Is she a demon?!?* he thought.

Lin Ruoxi too felt a gush of terror flushed through her body, but she was nonetheless comforted that Lanlan was fine. Her time with Yang Chen had certainly built some form of mental resistance within her.

Meanwhile, the little girl had no plans to stay put as she agilely dashed towards Lin Ruoxi.

After a quick scan from top to bottom, she nodded and said with a surprisingly mature tone, "I'm glad Auntie who looks like Mommy is fine."

After she finished her sentence, Lanlan ran towards Python with her arms proudly posed in a superhero stance. "Grandpa told me not to hit anyone but bad people. I can safely say that you are bad."

Python heard her words, leaving him horrified. The fact that she was only four fled their minds as they took cover from her!

Lanlan pouted and stomped her feet. "You tell Lanlan the way home and Lanlan will show you mercy by only breaking your legs!"

The members of the Red Triangle were terrified at the prospect of their situation. *?What's going on here? Molin was hard enough as it was, now she's here to terrorize us too?*

*And this child is killing us left and right whenever she pleases!*

*Besides, who among us even knows where she lives?!*

Lin Ruoxi by the sidelines was glued to her position, overwhelmed by what the child had said. "Auntie that looks like Mommy..." she mumbled.

*All this while she was only watching me because I looked like her mother?*

Lin Ruoxi was confused by the sudden proclamation. She had an inkling that she had seen her somewhere before.

Lanlan noticed the inaction from the crowd as she frustratedly sneered. "You guys are the bad guys, aren't you? Aren't you supposed to be fierce and menacing? Nevermind I'm going to kill you guys now. I'll find Uncle on my own hehe, Lanlan is a genius!"

She then dashed like a ray of blue, breezing past Python and his gang!

"Lanlan, stop!"

A husky yet commanding voice resonated from afar as a new face came into the picture.

Lanlan tilted ever so slightly with her little fist aimed right at Python's abdomen.

Hearing that voice, Lanlan sassily stuck her tongue out, before she hurled herself right into the embrace of the surprise visitor.

Python instantly collapsed on the ground. The empty punch echoed two seconds after it was released. The force of a punch that strong was unimaginable!

The unfamiliar guest was a middle-aged man in a white short-sleeved shirt, a pair of khaki shorts topped off by a pair of bull hide sandals.

The unprecedented appearance of the new face prompted Molin to reactively shield himself in front of Lin Ruoxi, naturally defending her from any forthcoming danger.

The man had his back against Lin Ruoxi and Molin, with no intention to turn towards them. He lightly lifted Lanlan and supported her petite legs with one arm, before he spanked her ever so slightly on the buttocks. "You don't listen, do you? I told you so many times now, that you're not allowed to kill people directly. Just keep yourself safe."

"I'm sorry Grandpa. Lanlan's been a good girl, but these people lied to Lanlan, and they wanted to harm Auntie that looks like Mommy..." Lanlan wrapped her hands over the man's neck, while coyly trying to redeem herself.

The man sighed at her reply. "All I told you to do was stay put while your babysitter went to get some groceries. Remind me to lock the doors next time."

Lanlan coyly shook her head on the man's shoulders. "No, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! Lanlan will never run out like that ever again."

The man sneered from slight frustration as he declared, "This time I'm willing to let it go. If Auntie Babysitter can't find you again she's going to be so worried. Alright, let's go home now, shall we?"

After he ended his words, Lanlan in the man's embrace, vanished into the horizon!

It was so surreal for the onlookers it almost seemed like a dream sequence.

Not too long after, a loud echo of the wailing police sirens brought everyone back to the present!

"Shit, police!"

"Let's go!"

Python and the handful of others who were still able to move went straight to their vehicles with the intention of fleeing the scene.

Molin naturally wouldn't allow such a conclusion to happen as he raised his gun and shot them clear, with each bullet hitting their craniums!

Molin completed his job, before he then turned towards her, bowed as he bid his farewell. "Ma'am, you're in safe hands now. I believe this is where we part ways. All you need to say to them is that a stranger came to your rescue."

Once he was done, Molin agilely propelled himself upwards and vanished the same way he arrived.

Seconds later, police vehicles blocked all points of entry, and from the nearest car, several policemen hopped out frantically.

Cai Yan was the first to rush to the scene, only to be greeted with a platform of bodies. She ran towards Lin Ruoxi and placed her hands on her shoulders to see if she was injured. After making sure she was safe and sound, Cai Yan eventually asked, "Ruoxi, what happened here? Why are the people all dead?"

Lin Ruoxi who had her gaze fixated upon the blue sky was caught zoned out. Registering that Cai Yan was here, she forced a smile. "It's a long story, let's leave this place first."

Cai Yan was bewildered before she took a good look around her, noticing the gruesome sight of a woman's corpse jammed within a factory shutter gate.

On the other side was Wei Tinghao brisk walking into the scene, his face solemn. "Damn it. I didn't get to kill these jerks myself! Yan'er, take Ms Lin somewhere safe. I will free the rest of the victims."

Cai Yan gave him no attention, knowing full well that his only intention was to take full credit for himself, which clearly was why he immediately searched for the imprisoned victims after sending Cai Yan away.

But she was hardly concerned by that. She nodded and escorted Lin Ruoxi into the police car. As for Lin Ruoxi's Bentley, it was towed away to a mechanic.

An originally sentient area was now stirred into disarray by one single case.

Far away from the original location lay a neighborhood with one of its residents being Lanlan.

Lanlan's hands were already cleaned off from before. As for her conscience, she was hardly fazed by the murder she had committed earlier.

Her tiny legs stood on top of a tall stool while her torso was glued to a huge transparent glass display shelf. Her eyes were glowing at the sight of the sweet treats, her tongue licking her salivating lips.

"Which one do you like? Grandpa will get for you," the middle-aged man lovingly offered.

"I want all of them!"

The man speechlessly smiled in disagreement. "Only one a day like you promised. Didn't I tell you that too much ice cream will make you a fat little girl? Daddy wouldn't like you if you are fat when you finally meet him."

Lanlan pouted coyly as she reluctantly agreed. "Okay... Lanlan wants the biggest one!"

The man shook his head in disbelief before he chose the biggest tricolored ice cream and paid for it.

Lanlan naturally couldn't wait to dig in as she shoveled the scoops of ice cream with her dessert spoon. Her adorable and endearing demeanor caught the attention of pedestrians, causing them to giggle and smile at her presence.

"Sir, your kid sure makes the ice cream look delicious!" a young woman praised.

Lanlan affectionately grinned at the woman.

The man, however, remained silent and replied with nothing but a nod of acknowledgment. He lifted Lanlan up on his arm and headed towards a bus stop.

Meanwhile, in the police station of Zhonghai West District, something else was being discussed by its occupants.

Lin Ruoxi took a sip of the green tea Cai Yan brewed for her. "Yeah, that's the gist of the incident. Believe me, it sounds just as bad to me as it does to you."

Cai Yan heard her entire narration and was left dumbfounded. "A four-year-old kid, slaughtered... that person?"

"I know what I saw. Why would I lie?" Lin Ruoxi smiled bitterly.

Cai Yan hastily denied. "Ruoxi, you're misunderstanding me. I'm not doubting you. I know I can always trust you. This is nothing to be ashamed about. Yang Chen went to the Tang Ancestral Fortress with Elder Sister. So it's only natural that he left someone to watch over you while he's away.

“And obviously, it wouldn’t just be a nobody off the street. Besides, the Red Triangle organization focuses mainly on human trafficking, so it’s no surprise that they were annihilated by a mercenary. But I’m more interested in who the child is...”

Lin Ruoxi naturally was also baffled about that.

Perhaps they might meet again on her next visit to the orphanage. But what should Lin Ruoxi ask her by then?

Cai Yan presumed that Lin Ruoxi was tired of the interrogation, so she stopped the questioning as she reassured her with a smile. “Alright, at least the situation is over now. Too bad I wasn’t able to kill a few of them myself.”

Lin Ruoxi nodded brightly. “Alright then, I need to go back now. It’s almost evening and I still need to help with preparing dinner tonight.”

“You? When did you learn how to cook?” Cai Yan was astounded.

Lin Ruoxi had a shiver through her body as her face reddened up just as quick. “Is it really that peculiar?”

Cai Yan replied with a tinge of understanding, “Oh... I get it now. My gosh, you really took the time to learn for a certain someone. I wouldn’t do that for him. Cooking is so boring! And it’s not like we can’t afford eating out.”

After she outspokenly remarked, she quickly took to realize that the one she was talking about was the husband of the woman standing right before her.

Likewise, Lin Ruoxi’s facial expression abruptly turned grim as she glared at Cai Yan, suffocating her through that stone-cold gaze.

Cai Yan felt a sudden chill through her spine as she curled up on her office seat. “Ruoxi... I—I was just joking. I’ll file the report after this, so... you can go now.”

Lin Ruoxi obviously wouldn’t actually proceed to whack some ‘sense’ into Cai Yan, but to see a close innocent friendship evolved to the awkwardness right now was rather dispiriting.

The two women were hardly at ease on their encounter in the police station, but the man in the center of their conversation was relaxed and content thousands of kilometers away.

The promised duration of three days was not up yet, but a silhouette was seen lazily trotting up the long fleet of stairs from within the deep dark tunnel.

Upon stepping foot on the ground, the man took an extensive stretch, as he watched the sunset into the night.

Waving towards the four stone huts, Yang Chen smilingly yelled, “Alright old bags I know staying in the informants’ room is tedious work. Take a break and rest, I am finished. As an appreciation gift, why don’t I personally deliver the Tang Sect’s exclusive roast suckling pig and herbal wine to you guys?”

Chapter 810 - Wish I Could Hate You

**Wish I Could Hate You**

Bribing someone with their own possessions seemed like a joke. If only they knew what Yang Chen was really worth.

Sky, Earth, Divinity, and Gold were the names of all four stone huts located across each other. The elders were at a loss as to how they should reply to his goodwill. The Sky hut's guardian master eventually replied, "Master Yang, now that you have completed your stay, might I suggest you to hasten your return to your lady? She has been waiting for your return."

Yang Chen heard him and sighed. He then quickly hovered and left the tower, heading for the main estate.

Upon Yang Chen's departure, four beams of robust Xiantian True Qi flushed through the core of the Tower of Scrolls, closing the stone slabs by its entrance once again.

In the forest several hundred meters away from the tower, Cai Ning stiffly stood by the balcony, silently staring into the direction of the stone huts.

Although she knew that her lover would not come into any trouble, she still couldn't help but wait in anticipation for his arrival.

All of a sudden, the silhouette of a man landed from the exact direction she was blankly staring at, right in front of her.

"What are you looking at?" Yang Chen smirked as he hopped towards her.

Cai Ning's graceful expression instantly became ten times brighter. "Why are you out? I thought you were going to return tomorrow morning."

Yang Chen went up and gave her a warm embrace. "Silly girl. Why did you wait out here for me? You know there's nothing that can harm me."

"I just... felt anxious... about it. About you..."

Yang Chen stroked her fair cheeks. "Ms Cai Ning, can I ask you something?"

"What..."

"So do you like me? Or do you like, like me? Or do you like me this much?" Yang Chen teased her in a sarcastic tone.

Cai Ning instantly realized his teasing tone and turned her head to hide her blushing face.

Yang Chen didn't stop there. "Could it be... that you like me super duper much? Oh my, how brazen of you in expressing your love for me. I can feel my cheeks redden from embarrassment."

Cai Ning reactively stomped on Yang Chen's foot. "Sometimes I don't even know if you're doing this for me."

Yang Chen grinned as he answered, "Since you have brought me so much joy, I decided to return the favor."

Cai Ning shivered for a bit before she cracked a bright smile. Lying on Yang Chen's chest, she mumbled, "Let's not talk about this anymore. Did you find anything useful in the tower?"

Yang Chen stroked her back and sighed. "Honestly, everything in the tower seemed so rudimentary. The best way I can explain this would be a PhD graduate looking at elementary school work."

Cai Ning thought for a moment, before she exclaimed, "Wait... are you going to create your own cultivation technique, derived from the old teachings?"

She knew full well that Yang Chen's cultivations were leagues ahead of the scriptures within the Tower of Scrolls. Creating a new branch of cultivation based on the old texts would not be too far off.

Yang Chen gave his head a scratch before he said, "I need more time to sort it out. I'm not just teaching a person or two after all. For example, you're almost at the Xiantian realm now while the others are new. I guess there will have to be some customization and improvisation. Nothing is set in stone."

Cai Ning saw his stoic expressions fade away and instantly giggled at the sight of it.

... ..

Meanwhile, the air of a presidential suite within a five-star hotel in Beijing was filled with a woman's fragrance and the suffocating smell of raging hormones.

A woman with perfect curves rose from the violet sheets, in her birthday suit. She strolled over to the carpet and picked up her clothing.

The woman's skin was so fair and supple it glistened in the lights. It was, however, tainted with bite marks and bruises.

On the spacious bed lay a man with a bottle of hard liquor on one hand and a cigar in the other. His mouth oozed with smoke.

The woman abidingly collected the scattered clothes. She hesitated for a long while before she gathered whatever courage left in her, and declared to the man in nude lying on the hotel bed, "Buwen, I... need to tell you something."

The woman was none other than Tang Xin!

Yan Buwen who was lying on the bed relaxing after a bout of passion replied slowly, "Speak..."

Tang Xin clenched her teeth, as she mumbled under her breath, "I have missed my menstrual cycle two months in a row."

Yan Buwen reactively flinched to the revelation, in the absence of joy was the glare of rage.

"What are you trying to say, woman?"

"I... think I'm... pregnant," Tang Xin anxiously clarified. "I didn't plan to hide it from you. I just haven't found the time to tell you."

Yan Buwen hurled himself before her eyes like a gust of wind before he ruthlessly declared, "Look, just because you have some form of life within your body that was derived from my DNA, doesn't mean I'll treat you any differently. You are still a breeding vessel, a tool for me to use. Remember your place.

"If I ever wish to reproduce, there are far better specimens than the likes of you. Your filthy kind doesn't deserve to bear my child, you understand?"

Tang Xin was horrified. Piece by piece and wound by wound, the man's words stabbed her in the heart, leaving a hollow vessel in its wake.

"Being pregnant is your damn problem. Keep it or lose it, I don't care. But when I call, you show. Whatever I tell you to do, you obey like a pet. My time is far too valuable for your nonsense. Got it?"

Tang Xin aggressively nodded, her lips sealed without a word.

Yan Buwen sneered. "My plans are perfectly falling in place. If you or your bug go so far as to hinder my plans for even a split second, I will personally ensure your reward for it."

Tang Xin subconsciously held onto her belly, as she obligingly shook her head.

Yan Buwen scoffed as he pushed her aside on the bed, the same way he left.

Tears trickled down Tang Xin's face, which immediately prompted her to leave the room.

She initially assumed that if she had his child, he would at least treated her slightly better. But now it undoubtedly seemed that the societal concepts of morality had no influence on that wicked man.

She hurriedly put on her clothes, dried her swollen eyes from tears, and kneeled to Yan Buwen as a sign of goodbye before leaving the room.

After a quarter of an hour, Tang Xin reorganized her volatile emotions as she took the elevator down to the lobby and left the hotel.

She needed to head back home tonight, which was why she had to look totally normal.

Nonetheless, before she could get to her car, a man brazenly halted before her path.

Dressed in a navy green short-sleeved shirt and a pair of ripped jeans was the rugged and husky brute Li Dun.

"It's you..." Tang Xin frowned. "You stalked me?"

"I cared for you," Li Dun affectionately replied.

Throughout the past days, Li Dun had been constantly by her side, which gradually diminished Tang Xin's guard towards the authority of the Li clan's young master, while progressively biting more and more into her nerves.

"Li Dun, how many times do I have to tell you? We are not meant for each other. Not now, not ever! If you think you're looking after me well guess what? You're only causing me more problems!" Tang Xin furiously rebuked.

But Li Dun wasn't even listening, as he reached towards Tang Xin's shoulder, with a finger he lifted her collar.

"What are you doing?!" Tang Xin quickly resisted.

"Why is there a bruise on your shoulder? Xin'er, who... hurt you?" Li Dun questioned with a heartache.

Tang Xin flusteredly took to reply, "Nobody did, you're mistaken."

However while she was replying, the mistreatment she had felt once again flushed a bombardment of emotions onto her as her pupils watered again.

Li Dun shook his head with a smile. "I won't press on, but I just want you to know, that if you feel like you can't take it anymore, I'll be here. I'll always be here."

"Are you psycho?" Tang Xin erupted. "Did your brains get hit by a car? Li Dun, I've told you so many times now. Nothing's going to happen between the both of us, no matter how long you plan to wait, I will never choose you. We are from different worlds, are you hearing me? Do you even understand what I'm saying?"

Determined, Li Dun replied, "From the day I met you I fell for you. And I have fallen deeper in love with you every day since. You can always choose to hate me, or even despise me, and that's okay. But my feelings will never waver."

"Love?"

Tang Xin scoffed at his confession and marched her way to the fountain by the hotel. Watching the continuously uniform splash of the water fountain, she dispiritedly replied, "Why does everyone except me seem to know what love means?"

"In this materialistic society, there is only the exchange of benefits, loyalty, and betrayal. There's no love. Cut that crap, if you're looking for a certain something from a dumb woman like me, there is nothing I can give you."

Li Dun paused for a moment before he walked up to Tang Xin as he declared, "I'm a soldier, and some may say I'm rough on the edges. Give me a gun, I can tell you its make, model, origin, and caliber.

"But, if you were to ask me which finger is the wedding finger, I might still second guess myself. My point is, I don't know how the world defines the word 'love', but I can assure you, what I feel for you is love."

Tang Xin abruptly turned towards him, with a teasing tone she taunted him, "Oh is that so? Then Mr Rough Edges, what exactly do you mean by love?"

Li Dun reached out and stroked her shoulder. "Ms Tang Xin, my love for you transcends all. I promise to give you my all and everything I have. I promise to give you my heart and all that I am. My only regret is that I cannot give you more than my being."

By the side of the fountain, the man's brash actions and words of determination left the woman without a word.

After a long while, Tang Xin shifted her gaze away from Li Dun as she mumbled, "How can you be so stupid? I'm already dumb enough on my own, and yet the heavens decided to send you by my side. Li Dun... you really are the dumbest person on Earth. I... wish I could hate you..."

Li Dun patted her on her fair shoulders, his grin as wide as the sky.

chapter 811

Offering a Granddaughter

Back at the Tang Ancestral Fortress, the ambiance was entirely different from the previous one. Tang Dianshan, Tang Luyi, along with several other elders of the Tang Sect were sat at their seats in absolute silence, looking stiff.

Yang Chen was sitting on a spacious redwood chair with his legs crossed. On one hand, he held onto a cup of wine while the other held a phone. He was trying feverishly to call Lin Ruoxi.

"Wifey, Molin told me you were completely immersed in playing hero today. But I also heard that you were saved by a child. Haha, still staying true to that brainiac that failed PE back in the day I see? Hehe..." Yang Chen laughed his heart out.

Since his early departure from the Tower of Scrolls, Yang Chen made a call to Molin to check on the conditions of his harem. Besides Lin Ruoxi who was involved in slight inconvenience, the others were totally fine.

From Molin's description, Yang Chen more or less who the little girl was. After all, he did take note of her presence in the past but did not expect her to be shrouded in so much mystery.

A four-year-old superweapon? Yang Chen was intrigued by her background, naturally including the mysterious expert he had noticed back then.

Nonetheless, to lighten Lin Ruoxi's mood, Yang Chen tried his best to shield his thoughts from Lin Ruoxi, which was why he chose to joke about her situation instead.

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth as she irked on the other side of the line. "If you're done I'm hanging up."

"Wait, don't you miss me? I left four days ago... C'mon, how about a kiss through the phone?" Yang Chen quickly responded.

Before he could finish his sentence, the line was cut off from the other end.

Yang Chen frustratedly stuffed his phone back into his front pocket, before he turned towards Tang Dianshan and the rest. "Alright I'm done, what have you summoned me for?"

Tang Dianshan smiled bitterly before he clarified, "To be frank with you, Master Yang, the summon was not per my request. The Li clan's master, Li Moshen, was informed that you were here visiting in the Tang Sect and had chosen to contact us. He hoped that all of us could have a call together for a seemingly urgent matter."

"Li Moshen?" Yang Chen grunted. There's absolutely no reason for him to contact me. For him to do so, I guess it must be something to do with his son Li Dun then. he thought.

“Master Li was aware of your excursion into the Tower of Scrolls and had deliberately asked us to avoid interrupting your mission. He specifically mentioned to call you after you come back from the tower,” Tang Luyi added.

Yang Chen contemplated for a while, then agreed. “If that’s the case, let’s talk.”

Despite the antiquated interior of the Tang Ancestral Fortress, it was well equipped with technology in sync with the outside world.

Video conference facilities had been set up within the conference hall, and upon Tang Dianshan’s cue, the line connected to Li Moshen.

Presumably due to the setup duration on the opposite side of the line, after an approximate three-minute wait, the screen was finally on.

Displayed on the screen was Li Moshen, but the scene stealer was none other than Cai Yuncheng of the Cai clan by his side.

Cai Ning was baffled. She stole a glance at Yang Chen, hoping to get some answers out of him.

The energized old man was dressed in a blazer, well-suited but casual at the same time. With a respectable tone, he addressed the people from the Tang Sect. “I was not expecting such a swift reply. I am truly appreciative of the effort, fellow elders.”

Tang Dianshan and the other elders subsequently returned the greeting.

Li Moshen turned towards Yang Chen before he smilingly introduced himself. “We’ve never officially met, Yang Chen, but your grandfather speaks highly of you. I’ve heard that you were in search of effective cultivation techniques in the Tower of Scrolls. Did you find anything of use?”

“Why would I tell you?” Yang Chen casually dropped.

Li Moshen was slightly offended as he sneered. “That’s why you’re close with my son Li Dun. Both of you are equally as disrespectful. Regardless of your achievements, I’m still a senior to you. Would it kill you to show some respect?”

Yang Chen rolled his eyes. “It’s not like you have a granddaughter to offer me. Respect is earned, not demanded. Isn’t that right, Father-In-Law? Hehe...”

Whilst speaking, Yang Chen fondly grinned towards Cai Yuncheng.

The entire ambiance of the conference hall turned awkward almost instantly as Cai Ning forcefully pinched him on the arm from embarrassment, hinting for him to stop.

Cai Yuncheng watched as the situation unfolded. He quickly took to defuse the stale mood. “Yang Chen, we called you because of a series of events that have happened over here in Beijing recently. Given your involvement, it was necessary for us to contact you.”

“Do proceed, Father-In-Law,” Yang Chen added obediently with a smirk.

The stark contrast in reaction once again found its way to Li Moshen’s agitated look which caught Cai Ning’s eyes as she tried her best to suppress her laughter.

Cai Yuncheng naturally felt like a fish out of water after Yang Chen's crude reasoning, but he quickly reorganized himself and started narrating the entire incident in detail.

It all led back to the poisoning incident back at the Tang clan.

It was related to the sinister events which had brought down the Tang clan's master, Tang Zhechen, and Tang Wan.

After thorough and tedious investigations, the perpetrator was still lurking in the dark with no trails for them to follow.

Before the investigation team left China, they had left behind various accounts of information on the toxin. Throughout China, only a handful of people could gain access to it, and the biggest suspect of them all was none other than Yan Buwen!

But that was where the problem lay. Who exactly was Yan Buwen? He was the gem of China's recent scientific breakthroughs, the key to major sectors for the betterment of China!

Approaching divinity in the fields of his expertise, in addition to his background as part of the younger generation of the ever-rising Yan clan, Yan Buwen was not one they could casually accuse and interrogate.

Furthermore, due to the nature of his field of work, much of his occupational data were strictly off-limits from nearly everyone as it involved connections with peak-level military confidentiality.

Even if he might be working closely with the military, he was ultimately in service of the government. They acted as a protective barrier for him.

That directly correlated to the ever-present issues into Yan Buwen's investigation, which was also the key reason as to why the investigations on the Tang clan's collective poisoning incident had yet to be concluded.

What originated as an independent case, due to the sudden 'death' of Luo Cuishan had become an overcast sky culminating upon Yan Buwen!

"As you all know, Cai Ning was previously assigned to investigate Luo Cuishan's death. Long story short, we decided to run some tests on her cremated corpse. After further identification with the late Luo Cuishan's hair, we were astonished to discover that they were not the same person!"

Having been enlightened with this recent information, Yang Chen felt his body grow ten years older.

Cai Ning was too caught off-guard as she asked, "Dad, do you mean that the analysis has proven that... Luo Cuishan is still alive?"

Before her departure, she could only pass on gathered evidence to the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, naturally unaware of any subsequent revelations.

Cai Yuncheng grunted. "We can't confirm that as of now but what we can say is that she did not die from the supposed claims of the Ning clan. As for the missing link that joins all these plots together, I believe Master Yang has a better grasp on it."

Yang Chen was not in the mood for sarcasm. If that Luo Cuishan hag is really dead then all is well, but in the potential event that she lived, given her wicked grudge towards Lin Ruoxi, she might be plotting something against her as we speak! he thought.

“Since you know that her misfortune is related to me, don’t hide anything from me. Just say what you want,” Yang Chen declared.

Cai Yuncheng nodded, before he continued, “From the information at hand, Luo Cuishan’s death might have occurred in one of two ways. One, she couldn’t take any more of your punishment and decidedly commit suicide. The Ning clan would then have chosen a reason for her to retain some dignity and not destroy their clan’s reputation. Two, Luo Cuishan was not given a choice to live, which can only mean that the people behind this can only come from the Ning clan!”

“How is that possible?!” Cai Ning was terrified. “You’re saying it could be... Premier Ning?”

“There’s nothing suspicious about that,” Li Moshen picked up on the conversation. “That brat Ning Guangyao has always been a sly one. Becoming premier before the age of fifty must have taken some meddling in the dark.

“Back in the days in his thirties, when he was still a state secretary over at the southwest region, he was unhesitant to remove rebellious local ministers whenever he saw fit. He has easily murdered hundreds of people during his short reign there. If it was not for his chilling background, many of his past competitors might not have backed down so easily.

As the master of one of the four dominant clans, Li Moshen was earnest and upfront in his description of the highest political positions in the land. It was instead petty issues that were less concerning to him.

The Tang clan were however not too surprised by that revelation but they were hesitant to provide a response towards the greatest confidentialities of the nation, unkeen to provoke a major figure before their eyes.

Cai Yuncheng added, “Whether or not it was Ning Guangyao is the least of our concerns. After all, in an attempt to protect the status and reputation of the Ning clan, alongside his public perception nationwide, it would make perfect sense if he was the mastermind behind her death. This does not include the fact that Luo Cuisan’s actions were already deemed unfit for the first lady.”

“Where is her corpse now?” Yang Chen had an instant glow in his eyes. “If Ning Guangyao were to murder Luo Cuishan, he had no reason to fake the cremation. There was no reason for anyone to switch in a body double. Unless you suspect that Yan Buwen has somehow stolen her corpse?!”

Chapter 812 - Killing Intent

### **Killing Intent**

“Not bad.” A glimpse of approval flashed across Li Moshen’s eyes. He then added, “I also appreciate your information in regards to that limped youngster.

“Since Flower Rain has gone with you to the Tang Sect, the others from the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade pinpointed a youth with a limp by the name ‘Wen Tao’ enrolling into Beijing University. His admission was secretly requested by Ning Guangyao himself.

“What I was most suspicious about was the fact that Wen Tao was kept alive despite his knowledge on the events that have most likely transpired. Yet, he was kept alive and was treated very well for someone of his status.

“The informants from the Security Bureau within the Ning clan have notified us of the latest updates. Wen Tao was indeed brought alongside Luo Cuishan to Beijing but was the only one kept alive. He was even escorted into the Ning residence to meet Ning Guangyao, while Luo Cuishan’s death was simultaneously announced to the public.”

Yang Chen had a strange grin as he continued, “I had my suspicions in regards to his being back then. Who would’ve thought that he had several tricks up his sleeve? He must have something that Premier Ning wants for him to still be alive.”

“Wen Tao has been under our surveillance for a while now, but retrieving any information from him might not be possible,” Li Moshen added. “But one thing that we are most certain about, is that Luo Cuishan’s corpse has been taken away by Yan Buwen.”

“How can you be so sure?” Yang Chen interrupted.

Li Moshen and Cai Yunchen both had grim looks on their faces.

“Long story short, there were two others who were involved in this.” Cai Yuncheng declared, “First, it was Ning Guodong, and the second, was Yang Lie...”

Hearing the mention of the name ‘Yang Lie’, tension arose in Yang Chen’s mind.

Cai Yuncheng added, “Yang Lie’s condition was a peculiar one. Previously, you single-handedly wiped his cultivations clean. But not too long ago, he seemed to have returned with his cultivations intact. Not only that, he was much stronger than before.

“This is something I myself, along with Gray Robe and Abbess Yun Miao, both of whom are among the Group of Eight, have contemplated upon. It is safe to say that he has reached the Xiantian realm.”

“What? Him?”

Cai Ning, on the other hand, was uncharacteristically furious about the revelation. She had believed that besides Yang Chen, there shouldn’t be anyone else of her age range who would reach the Xiantian stage before herself. Never would she have thought that the title would have been stripped off by someone who recently had their cultivation purged.

Yang Chen grimly said, “I broke his meridians with my own hands. I watched his internal energy disperse with my own eyes. How is it possible that he managed to recover in such a short time, and even have a break through?”

Li Moshen dispiritedly sighed as he explained, “If it was under normal circumstances, it wouldn’t have been possible. But Yan Buwen has been known to dabble in things even we cannot understand.”

“Yang Chen, I admire your exceptional ability and talent but please don’t underestimate Yan Buwen’s thirst for excellence.

“Taking his enormous contribution towards Chinese technological advancements, his achievements were unprecedented and frankly unheard of on the planet, with the only exception being the UK’s very own Princess Jane.”

“Pfft, his experiments are clearly unethical and borderline masochistic. I wouldn’t be surprised if he actually used living humans as his lab rats. But from the looks of it, human lives are deemed sacrificial in the eyes of developing weaponry. But who am I to comment, I’m no saint myself.” Yang Chen sarcastically hit back.

The two seniors were left silent for a while before Cai Yuncheng broke the ice. “Yang Lie... was the product of his frequent collaborations with Yan Buwen, alongside his subsequent leap in cultivations.

“Not to mention his regular visits to Yan Buwen’s private weapon facility had been ever more recurring the past weeks. Right after Luo Cuishan’s funeral, Ning Guodong had also received Yang Lie’s invitation towards Yan Buwen’s laboratory.”

“So I assume you’re saying that one visit to the secret lab would expose the answers to all our inquiries right now, is that right?” Yang Chen took to question.

“This issue requires a bilateral agreement with the military. It’s a weapon facility after all. Now that we’re on the topic, it might do us some good if your old man decides to back us up on this. If he bothers to ask, I’m sure many of the military officials wouldn’t mind a visit,” Li Moshen said smilingly. “I might throw your name in as leverage, hope you don’t mind.”

Yang Chen was unbothered. “He’s not an idiot, I’m sure he would instantly call you out on your bluff.”

Li Moshen smirked as he replied, “Oh, before I forget, my rascal of a son Li Dun has identified Tang Xin of the Tang clan to have intimate relations with Yan Buwen. Nonetheless, Yan Buwen has yet to have fallen to our baits, and since it would be best to avoid a forced confrontation with the Tang clan, I believe we should make haste in the continuation of our investigations.”

“Our?” Yang Chen irked.

Li Moshen was stern-faced. “Yes, our. Luo Cuishan’s encounters were very much tied to you and your actions. Yang Lie and Ning Guodong are both locked in a feud with you, isn’t that right? Even the Ning clan seems to be associated with you.”

Watching the old miser tweak the situation against his favor, Yang Chen seemed to have noticed the ultimate intention of this video meeting. *?I guess the truth that Lin Ruoxi is the bloodline of the Ning clan isn’t a surprise to the Li clan’s Security Bureau. I should’ve known,?* he thought.

“So you want me to assist with the investigations?” Yang Chen pouted. “Just so you know, I’m a busy man. There are many matters that require my immediate attention back home. If they were to find their way to me, you can be sure that they are all bound to end up dead.”

“My my... a young man with an insatiable fury.” Li Moshen shook his head in disbelief. “Killing might seem quick and effective in the heat of the moment, but for every man you recklessly kill, the consequences stack up like dominos awaiting your eventual fall. If you were to take action, at least make sure it’s justifiable. Look, I have been in deep discussion with General Cai, and the biggest plothole in

this series of events is Yan Buwen's ultimate goal in mind. We must lay low in uncovering the truth behind Wen Tao the cripple, and his twisted relationship with Luo Cuishan and the Ning clan."

Yang Chen gave it a thought. *?I mean it sure is good that I don't need to take action on my own. I guess I'll help out whenever I can. After all, we are after the same things. I will be able to rid myself of those pesky bugs.*

"As you said, as long as my neutral stance is respected, I don't mind lending a hand to the likes of you," Yang Chen replied.

"This naturally will not spill over to your handlings abroad," Cai Yuncheng said. "We too are dealing with a shortage of manpower in the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade and cannot allow normal agents to deal with matters like this one. You are our best chance at resolving this matter with that handy team of yours. I have just one party in mind that could slip into China under the noses of the government."

"Wait... are you talking about the Yamata Sect?" Yang Chen instantly brought his thoughts towards the squad of ninjas. Similar in appearance to the Chinese, they were certainly more than accustomed for this mission.

Li Moshen nodded in agreement as he added. "We'll play our part in overseeing, or lack thereof, of Yamata Sect's entry into the country. Since they are eternally loyal to you, it guarantees the reassurance needed in the stealth operations of this manner. See it as our part of the bargain.

"We would even approve for further reinforcements of Sea Eagles' members into Zhonghai as a means of protection for your loved ones. I've just caught wind of the news regarding Ms Lin. A few more members of the Sea Eagles would surely lighten the load off your back."

Yang Chen had a rush of glee. Deeming the odds in his favor, he instantly accepted.

Cai Yuncheng continued, "One more thing, it might hardly be likely, but it could very well be added into the range of investigation. Previously in the Pacific, there was a silhouette of someone resembling you. Knowing that it wasn't you, there might be a divine being impersonating you.

"My intuitions point towards Yan Buwen. If he was able to help Yang Lie breakthrough into the Xiantian realm, there's nothing stopping him from recreating someone in your image."

Yang Chen's heart sunk from hearing Cai Yuncheng's presumptions, nonetheless it did remind him of a certain something. *?Could God's Stone be in Yan Buwen's hands too??* he thought.

*It is entirely possible for Yan Buwen to wield the power of the stone and create a being capable of manipulating space laws.*

*In those circumstances, the worst I fear will be a god that functions as a war machine under the orders of that vile person, who could also disobey the Treaty of Gods. Who knows what kind of mayhem can come out of that?*

*What if it's not just one god, but a whole army of them suckers?*

"Since Yan Buwen has already posed a lurking threat, what's stopping me from going over there and killing him myself? I could very well end it once and for all." Yang Chen felt his killing intent rise.

“Absolutely not.” Li Moshen quickly rejected his proposal. “Excluding the fact that the Yan clan is among the four dominant clans with actual power, Yan Buwen himself has not been convicted with any crime as of late.

“Just taking the groundbreaking contributions he has gifted to the advancement of our great nation, we should never take any risky measures against him. If he really was killed by a blunder, it would undoubtedly be a huge loss to China.”

Yang Chen was furious as the situation panned out exactly the way he thought government officials were going to operate, which led him to wave his hands in dismay. “Whatever suits you. But make no mistake, if he ever decides to cross my path, I’ll send him off myself.”

After the issue was conferred and views were exchanged, Li Moshen and Cai Yuncheng continued on with Tang Dianshan and his board of elders with the distribution of manpower within his sect, hoping for a mutual agreement on the support of the ancient sects whenever needed.

Tang Dianshan originally wanted to exclude the Tang Sect from the covert operation, but after the entire board of elders was left manipulated and defenseless, they ultimately recognized the pressing issue at hand and the reality that they could stay excluded no longer.

They agreed to deploy some of their best disciples to assist the Security Bureau with the case, in an attempt to exert their alignment with the national direction, bulking up as a security measure for the inevitable.

Yang Chen declared to Tang Dianshan and the rest of his board that he had ultimately made up his mind to leave for Zhonghai the next morning. There were things that required his attention back home, as he said.

The people of Tang Sect comprehensibly took no action to persuade him to stay. After all, his volatile behavior and disregard for the rules left them feeling insecure.

Cai Ning naturally agreed to leave with him. As a member of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, she was genuinely worried about her father’s safety.

As the couple left for their respective accommodations in the company of one another, Cai Ning cracked a smile ever so slightly, with plans to return to her own room, but was abruptly halted by Yang Chen.

Cai Yan was dumbfounded, unsure of what Yang Chen was about to do next.

“Ning’er, I actually wanted to take time refining the art that I have recently developed before I pass it on to you. But because you are leaving for Beijing so soon, I reckon we should start the cultivations tonight. I’ll first enlighten you. It’ll surely help out with your strive towards the Xiantian stage,” Yang Chen said softly.

### **Chapter 813 Physically Weak**

The very next day brought forth a beautiful Sunday morning. From the parking zone of Zhonghai’s International Airport came a white BMW which shot off from within.

Its driver was none other than Yang Chen who had just returned from his trip to the Tang Sect.

Yang Chen was seen in a rather jolly mood. He was listening to one of Hui Lin's latest hits, occasionally even humming to the tune.

He spent the entire night before grounded within the Tang Ancestral Fortress, specifically in Cai Ning's room.

But there was no funny business going on that night. Yang Chen was determined to give his all in transferring the knowledge he was enlightened with, combined with his own distinct cultivational modus operandi to Cai Ning. It was essentially a step-by-step guide for her to follow along with answering any questions she might have had.

This was a serious matter even for the likes of Yang Chen. The slightest misstep would cause one's mind to corrupt!

They continued this until the break of dawn after which they parted to go their own separate ways.

The reason Yang Chen was in a jovial mood was that, throughout the process of educating Cai Ning, he managed to refine his teaching strategies through the question and answer session. He was able to structure out his lessons and focus on emphasizing the importance of the core aspects of cultivation.

That in turn provided Yang Chen with a confidence boost in leading his harem towards the direction of cultivation. His excursion to the Tang Ancestral Fortress in Sichuan was a success. Not only did it provide him with answers to his core inquiries, he had also managed to check off all his goals.

After a half-hour drive, Yang Chen arrived at the gates of his house. His five-day trip had left him homesick, leaving him with the thought that it might be tough for his women to leave abroad by his side, but more so himself for his increasing reluctance to move away from his place he called home.

In the front garden were lush green boxwood and magnolia shrubs, blooming proudly under the rays of the sun.

A flush of natural fragrance embodied the garden.

By the grass patches was a familiar figure in an apron, wholly occupying herself with the watering of the flourishing plants.

Guo Xuehua was happily mending the vegetation, unaware of Yang Chen's return.

"It's lucky you don't live alone. How would you know if a thief were to sneak up on you?" Yang Chen crept up to her as he joked.

Guo Xuehua was slightly frightened. "My god, why do you always sneak up on me? Would it kill you to phone home when you return?"

"I'm not leading a crowd of tourists, why would I need to call beforehand? Anyways, is there any food at home? I'm starving."

Guo Xuehua smiled brightly. "Go ask Wang Ma, we've all eaten."

Yang Chen excitedly trotted into the house. He noticed that Wang Ma was occupied with cleaning the house, but she was rather calm at the sight of his return. After she found out that he had yet to eat, she

hastily went to the kitchen and brought out the leftovers from breakfast. The heat of summer kept the food rather warm.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, was also rather casual with his meals as he quickly sat down and started munching on the buns, before he took to ask, "Wang Ma, why isn't Ruoxi or Zhenxiu around? Isn't she on her summer holidays right now?"

Wang Ma turned back to him. With a smile, she replied, "Zhenxiu went back to the orphanage to help out today. She felt bad for not visiting during her exam season. She promised to go over and help out more often. It does get tiring for the old woman looking after the kids in summer after all."

Yang Chen continued. "Then what about Ruoxi? Isn't it Sunday today? Is she also at work?"

"The young lady is..." Wang Ma seemed a little awkward as her tone shifted. "Young Master, what did you say to her? She has seemed rather off, emotionally speaking, these last few days."

"What do you mean?"

"On the second day when you were away, she decided to skip work out of nowhere and go running," Wang Ma disclosed, extremely clueless. "In all the years I have raised her, I have never seen her take the initiative to go running on her own."

Wow, it looks like she is taking this pretty seriously. Now that I think about it, the thought of being able to stay young forever must be an enticing thought to a woman. Any woman! he thought.

Wang Ma was full of praise. "It's not like I'm complaining or anything. The child is mentally strong but physically weak. Perhaps this might boost her immune system a little."

Yang Chen nodded with a smile but was rather dispirited. It was too late for her to develop a strong core at this age. This meant that it would be very difficult for her to break through. It seemed like he would have to come up with an alternate way for her to go about it.

After several moments into his late breakfast, a woman in a short-sleeved Nike running tee paired with navy green hot pants came trotting into the house. She had her hair in a ponytail, exposing her forehead with huge beads of sweat fighting to stream down her cherry-red face. In Yang Chen eyes, she resembled a ripe strawberry amidst lush green shrubs.

It was the first time Yang Chen got to witness Lin Ruoxi in this outfit, a stark contrast from her usual cold and striking appearance. Just the sight of her fair, supple long legs would captivate the attention of everyone around. It was an alluring figure fit for a model.

Yang Chen unknowingly licked his lips, staring right at her long, silky legs, envisioning a smooth caress through it.

Lin Ruoxi was first surprised to find Yang Chen in the house, but her confoundment quickly turned into self-conscious and agitation as she noticed Yang Chen's lustful gaze on her body as she confronted him. "You stared enough?"

"Nope..." Yang Chen stiffly replied.

Lin Ruoxi was flushed with embarrassment by Yang Chen's shameless gaping as she awkwardly stood by.

At this moment, Yang Chen abruptly asked, "Wifey, where did you go jogging?"

Lin Ruoxi noticed his bewilderment as she shyly mumbled, "Just a couple of rounds over at the park on the west side, what about it..."

"What?!" Yang Chen hopped up from his seat unanticipatedly before he pouted in frustration. "How could you dress like that then? Those horny old men are gonna stare at you, licking their gross lips! This wouldn't do, from tomorrow onwards you're gonna wear jogging trousers, you hear me? Definitely not this exposed."

Lin Ruoxi finally grasped the situation. The brat's jealous, who would have thought? While she found his behavior rather childish, she felt a little sweet at heart too.

"It's not like I'm the only one jogging in the park. Not everyone's as shameless as you are, staring right at a woman's legs without a single blink!" Lin Ruoxi coyly teased.

Yang Chen stubbornly declared, "I can proudly stare at you because I earned it. These other people don't even deserve a peek! You can say I'm selfish or thick-headed, but from now on you shall only wear this in the house. If you go running in those again, I'll drag you back to this house in a sack!"

Lin Ruoxi was left dumbfounded by how stubborn and ridiculous her husband was. But, she understood how thick-headed her husband was and was sure that he would follow through with his word. So for now, all she could do was nod her head in agreement. Lucky for her, her wardrobe was the least of her concerns. She could just have someone bring a pair for her anytime.

She subsequently went upstairs to take a soothing warm shower, before putting on a pair of casual household dress. By the time she went downstairs again, Yang Chen was already done with his meal and watching the news.

Lin Ruoxi ignored him and headed straight for the kitchen.

Seconds later she came out with the snacks that she had been craving for, before she seated herself on a separate cushion, sharing the TV with Yang Chen.

The couple rarely had any opportunity to spend time on the TV even during the weekends. It might seem like something normal for a couple but with their busy schedules and cold wars, this was almost unheard of.

Yang Chen took a quick glance and noticed the packet of familiar glutinous rice balls in her grasp.

"Babe, aren't those glutinous rice balls from the Zhao's? When did you buy them?"

Lin Ruoxi habitually held the huge glutinous rice ball with both hands as she nibbled away. "Aunt Ma brought it over for me."

"Aunt Ma?" Yang Chen frowned. "You got Qianni's mother to buy glutinous rice balls for you?"

"It's not a big deal, she was passing by," Lin Ruoxi continued. "A few days ago I noticed that Aunt Ma was occupied with the modest vegetable shrubs in her garden. I stopped by and asked about her recent vacancy from her previous job. She told me she left the job, so I asked if she would like to help out at the glutinous rice ball parlor. She seemed to fancy that idea and she's been working there ever since."

Yang Chen never would have thought Lin Ruoxi had the heart to care about Ma Guifang and her issues on her employment. But it did bring a smile to his face which prompted him to reply, "I always knew my wifey's the most generous among us all. You even cared for Qianni's mother. I guess you'll spend more time with Qianni in the future, hehe..."

"Don't you dare." Lin Ruoxi coldly glared at him. "Don't think I didn't catch your tone. You thought I intentionally ordered Aunt Ma around to belittle the mother-daughter pair, didn't you?"

Yang Chen hastily shook his head in denial. "I was just curious, why would I judge you like that?"

"I'm just that wicked, I thought you knew all along." Lin Ruoxi was unconvinced.

Yang Chen patted himself awkwardly on the head as he mumbled, "You promised our peace treaty would last for a year. There's still a long way to go. Where's your honor?"

Lin Ruoxi held onto her flames as she furiously chomped down on her glutinous rice ball, ignoring the man by her side.

The subsequent moments were peaceful and silent as they continued watching the news. Upon its conclusion, Yang Chen checked the time and stood up. "I'm not going to be back for lunch. I need to go out and get some things done. Try helping Wang Ma out whenever you can."

Lin Ruoxi frowned. "Are you leaving already?"

Noticing the subtle longing in her tone, Yang Chen was filled with glee knowing that despite her icy cold exterior, she was still very much concerned about his presence. "Don't worry, alright? I won't be going too far. I'll just be next door..."

Halfway through his sentence, Yang Chen could feel droplets of cold sweat trickle through his back. Damn it, how did I let that slip?! he thought.

Chapter 814 - Collapse

### **Collapse**

Unsurprisingly, Lin Ruoxi's soul-piercing gaze froze everything in her sight. "Looks like someone is going out to meet his lover! What a great man. No wonder two leftover buns were enough to fill him up. I bet he didn't want to get full before his lunch date. I'll thank you beforehand for saving up on our groceries. Since you're already being so kind to us, why not save us some more by not coming home for dinner tonight? Or better yet, tomorrow for breakfast too..."

Yang Chen was stiff as a statue. "Ruoxi, hear me out. I was just gonna hand the newfound cultivation technique to Rose. I plan to teach you too, but you're still pretty new to this, so I thought we'd hold off on it until your body gets strong enough to practise it."

Lin Ruoxi hated his cheap explanation, but she understood that there was no way she could stop him from doing what he wanted. "Then when would I be ready?"

She would be lying if she said she wasn't interested in looking young forever.

Yang Chen contemplated for a couple of seconds before he replied, "We'll have to wait until your body gets as healthy as the average person. You might not feel it but your body is physically weaker than most due to your working habits. Work out more, eat better, and cut down on those tempting glutinous rice balls. Hopefully, in two months we can begin basic training. Otherwise, your progression would be much slower."

Two months were not too long in the grand scale of things, so Lin Ruoxi nodded without a word.

The two of them had grown to a relationship in which Lin Ruoxi was no longer uncomfortable with the thought of him spending time with other women. It was a change gradually taking shape, one that even Lin Ruoxi herself was unaware of.

Yang Chen dried the cold sweat off his forehead, eternally grateful that he chose to be earnest about it. He was safe from her wrath for now.

He promptly left the house, and couldn't be bothered to take the front gate into Rose's house as he hurled himself across the fence and landed effortlessly on her lawn.

After a series of polite knocks on the door, Mo Qianni answered the door instead of Rose.

The woman had regained her confidence and was positively radiating with a refreshing glow. Her hair was wrinkled from what seemed to be a morning shower, with some strands latching onto her cheeks. After she had seen who was visiting, her smile widened considerably. "Oh, you're back!"

Yang Chen noticed Mo Qianni's blue striped silk dress hugging her phenomenal curves while fluttering in the wind. Her fair arms were exposed in the air and her body fragrance eluded that of a feminine floral scent.

"How can you open the door dressed like that? There are many bad people in this world," Yang Chen replied, displeased.

Mo Qianni latched herself onto Yang Chen's shoulders as she coyly said, "I saw you 'trespass' from a mile away. Plus, the entire compound is monitored by Rose's men. Why would I be afraid?"

Yang Chen quickly scanned through his surroundings. Noticing that there were indeed Red Thorns Society's members on guard, he ultimately let down his own.

Mo Qianni enthusiastically asked, "Did you bring anything back for me? Some Sichuan regional treats or whatnot?"

Yang Chen slapped himself on the head. *That's Qianni's hometown I just came back from. How could I possibly forget that!*

"Hehe...erm...next time alright? I promise."

Mo Qianni clenched her teeth. "I knew you'd have forgotten about me."

"I... didn't bring anyone anything!" Yang Chen pleaded for his innocence.

Mo Qianni quickly grinned as she teased, "I was just messing with you, I know you never cared about those things. I'd honestly be more surprised if you actually brought something back."

Yang Chen realized that he was being fooled as he hastily swooped down and scooped her gorgeous legs from below.

Mo Qianni reactively taunted while patting him on the back. ‘What... are you doing?! I just had a shower!’

“That’s why I shouldn’t waste this wonderful opportunity!”

Before she could react to the sudden change in pace, Yang Chen dashed into the living room, dropped her down onto the leather couch, and pounced on her!

The last time they met, Mo Qianni was far from her best state, and he could not have done anything to her. But after the cloud of confusion had settled down, they were in desperate need of each other.

Yang Chen scanned his surroundings and realized that they were the only ones home, as he gave her cherry lips a tight smooch. He placed his hands on her ample bosom and flesh behind respectively.

The temperature indoors skyrocketed within seconds. Their hands moved in a frenzy to remove each other’s clothing while their bodies stayed tightly pressed against each other.

The two were already masters of the game at this point, not to mention it’d been a while since Mo Qianni had felt the excitement of this exercise. A woman of her age couldn’t easily resist a fiery passion like that.

Envisioning himself on a cushion, Yang Chen lifted her and placed Mo Qianni on her back against the air as they indulged themselves in vigorous activities.

Eventually, the woman gave a bewitching moan as a result of months of pent-up sexual tension in her body.

Soon, the living room had turned its atmosphere into one of passion and lust.

Mo Qianni at this point had already lost all perception of time and space as she was completely engrossed in the lovemaking.

Just as Yang Chen was about to meld their bodies into one, an alarm went off in his head!

“Shit!”

A deafening explosion resounded throughout the estate!

**BANG!**

Flames engulfed the entire building, spreading to the furthest corners of the estate. The air was saturated with a thick layer of smog and smoke, threatening to suffocate anything in its vicinity!

The exquisite building was demolished into the jaws of flames!

The intensity of the explosion had shaken the foundations of the estate next to it. If it were not for the thick concrete wall separating the two, the estate beside might have found itself in a similar fate!

Even then, the entire plot of land was thoroughly chewed through!

Through the rumble and cracks, Yang Chen along with Mo Qianni in his arms busted through the suffocating smog. Thanks to Yang Chen, they were left unharmed by the explosion or the smog that followed!

Yang Chen decidedly landed on the second-floor balcony of his own house. Looking back at the house behind him completely burnt to the ground, his fury resurfaced.

Mo Qianni was absolutely petrified by the turn of events. Her heart was pounding so hard she felt like it was about to burst. She leaned on Yang Chen's body, completely unaware of her nude state.

After some thought, Yang Chen headed towards his own room and carefully placed her down on the bed. He grabbed some clothing for Mo Qianni and himself to put on.

He took a quick gaze behind him, only to notice Mo Qianni bawling in tears, completely frightened out of her wits. His heart twisted at the sight. He bent down and held her hand reassuringly.

"Qianni, it's gonna be fine, I'm here. Put on these clothes and wait for me at home. I believe somebody has a bone to pick with me and Rose. I need to go now but rest assured, I will sort everything out."

The sudden terror left Mo Qianni in a daze, tears rolling in her eyes. Nodding, she said, "Go, be careful."

Yang Chen once again hovered himself off the balcony.

On the lawn downstairs, Lin Ruoxi, Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua were staring at the pile of rubble in their neighbor's house as well as their own. They wore expressions of shock and terror.

Noticing Yang Chen's descent from the second floor unscathed, they were relieved.

Lin Ruoxi hastily made her way to Yang Chen and scanned him up and down before asking, "What happened? I thought you said you were going over to Rose's? Why did the house blow up? Are you okay?"

Yang Chen sighed with a smile. "This is nothing but a tad bit of inconvenience."

"What about everyone else in the house? Rose, Qianni and Aunt Ma, are they alright?"

Yang Chen replied, "I suspect it was someone who planted highly explosive charges to deal with me and Rose. I need to go look for Rose now. Do look after Qianni while I'm away. She's currently resting in my room. I'll explain everything I know when I'm back."

Yang Chen concluded and went searching for his pockets, only to realize he left his trousers in the house. And now that the house was in bits, that could only mean the same for his phone.

Cursing under his breath, Yang Chen hastily asked around for an available mobile phone.

Guo Xuehua promptly handed her phone over to her son. Despite the terrifying incident she had just witnessed, she managed to keep her composure. "Here son, take mine. Be careful."

Yang Chen grabbed the phone over, gave them a reassuring nod and dashed out of the house while dialing Molin's number on the phone.

Once the line connected, Molin anxiously proclaimed, "Your Majesty Pluto, I have been trying to contact you but your phone isn't connected. There has been an issue with Ms Rose!"

"What are you talking about, I ordered your squad to watch after her. You had one job!"

Molin remorsefully answered, "Calm down Your Majesty Pluto... I did send Adeline to watch after Ms Rose. But this was not something that we predicted would happen!"

"Ms Rose has gone up to the peak of Mount Xunshan located at northern Zhonghai to work on her martial arts and core strengthening. I sent Adeline after her. But just when Ms Rose was about to descend moments ago, the base of the mountain experienced immense tremor which led to a massive collapse of enormous proportions! I regret to say I have no information on when the explosives had been planted which is why we're completely dumbfounded..."

Chapter 815 - Lapland Rangers

### **Lapland Rangers**

Yang Chen was boiling with rage. "I suggest you give me a straight answer."

Molin gulped before he continued, "Adeline immediately entered the site of the explosion and had managed to implement adequate safety precautions. Thankfully, she managed to shield Rose from any significant injuries due to the thick foliage of the mountain range. They've only sustained minor bruises and small cuts.

"Nonetheless, since the mountain range is full of steep slopes, large parts of the region are now covered by boulders and loose soil, effectively blocking off their escape route. Adeline isn't able to get out without help but she managed to update me on their position using a wireless device."

Yang Chen had never been to Mount Xunshan but he did have the map of China memorized. He was roughly able to zero in on their location.

"Molin, I'll handle this myself. I need you to dispatch several of your men to watch over the people in my house. Also, see if there are any remaining explosives."

Yang Chen was worried that the enemy would use his harem as leverage to cripple him, which prompted him to be highly sensitive of their wellbeing at the moment.

Molin immediately acknowledged his order and went to set things in motion.

Yang Chen might be reluctant to exert the true level of his cultivations but desperate times called for desperate measures. Rose's safety was his top priority at the moment. He could not safely say that the enemy was done with their schemes.

Mount Xunshan was not too far from his residence. It was not so much a mountain but more of a hill spanning approximately 500 meters above sea level. The vegetation there was bountiful which prompted many people to climb up and down each day.

Nevertheless, the recent prioritization by local governments in designating local parks within the region, paired with governmental control of environmental preservation by restricting neighboring businesses, made the hill lose its popularity.

Rose took to Yang Chen's word and decided to get some fresh air, which would enhance her mental and physical wellbeing. With that in mind, she had chosen this particular hill for her training.

No one could have predicted that the enemy would take advantage of such a decision.

Meanwhile, around the mid-ridge of Mount Xunshan, the landscape of the area was left in ruins from the aftermath.

Boulders and soil gravel lined the entire route. The trees and shrubbery were uprooted and tossed haphazardly around the entire area.

And right at that moment in the same forest near the base of the hills, a group of men in assorted clothing was making their way through the debris. They consisted of mainly Caucasians from different parts of the world, evident from their hair and eye colors.

Most of them were carrying bags of equipment as they all gathered towards a midpoint near the site of the landslide. Their faces glowed with absolute glee at the sight of the devastation.

Their backpacks were filled with multiple missile launchers all dyed an inky black.

These missile launchers were well worn by the looks of it. Nevertheless, they were as functional as the day they were made.

The men wielding the launchers positioned themselves at the base of the mountain and all aimed at one direction. They were preparing for the final nail in the coffin.

Dozens of missile launchers simultaneously fired at once, rivaling the firepower of a tank.

But right at that moment, a silhouette dashed in front of the mercenaries. It was none other than Yang Chen who had teleported from home.

The men who were on the brink of attacking suddenly froze in their spots.

Yang Chen had arrived in the nick of time. He noticed the launchers and immediately allowed his rage to take over. He was confident that he could take them all on without causing any damage to Adeline and Rose who were still under the rocks. But he had to curb himself from killing on sight.

Finding out who was behind this was crucial.

A quick glance to the model of the missile launchers, Yang Chen figured out where they were from. "Carl Gustav missile launchers, are you lot Swedish?"

Yang Chen engaged in fluent Swedish which caught the men slightly off-guard.

"Who are you..." A brown-haired man presumably the leader of the squad suspiciously enquired in Swedish.

Yang Chen sneered as he replied, "These Carl Gustav missile launchers are custom made for the official Swedish military. Something tells me you're not here on behalf of your government so my assumption is that you guys are veterans turned mercenaries."

“So what if we are? You might be fast but we are the Lapland Rangers. The cream of the crop from the Swedish army. What makes you think you can take us all head-on?” The man sneered.

Yang Chen was confused at his introduction. “Lapland Rangers?”

“What, you’ve heard of us?” A man proudly boasted.

The Lapland Rangers was an elite Swedish squad, trained exclusively within the Arctic circle. They battled the harsh cold and went through intensive training. Their operations were mainly long-distance patrols, long-range ambushes, and the infiltration of enemy lines.

Back in the days when Yang Chen was tasked with an assassination in the Arctic Circle, he missed the chance to have a duel with the Swedish aces.

From the looks of it, the planting of explosives was clearly their doing. But one thing was constantly bugging Yang Chen—what was their motive in their well-coordinated ambush of himself and Rose?

Then a sudden thought flashed through his head, a name that was buried deep in his mind all these years—Situ Mingze!

Back in the day, Rose did mention about sending Situ Mingze to a Nordic country to live out the rest of his days in exile. Sweden is a Nordic country!

“Did Situ Mingze send you lots?”

Even though he wasn’t sure if Situ Mingze could actually stage a comeback, Yang Chen took the opportunity to narrow his presumptions.

The man shook his finger in denial. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. There’s no time to waste boys. Fire!”

With the command the mercenaries pulled the triggers in unison!

BANG BANG BANG!

The series of consecutive explosions shook the forest to its core.

The rockets propelled towards the shielded area of the landslide, leaving a trail of smoke behind them.

However, before the missiles could reach the edge of the mountain, its thrust seemed to have died down as they were hovering motionless in mid-air!

The sight akin one of frozen times left the Swedish mercenaries horrified.

Yang Chen winked at them. “Since y’all aren’t keen to talk, then there’s no point letting you live any longer.”

Once his words dropped, Yang Chen flung his arms as the entire arsenal of missiles flipped directions and swarmed towards their initiators like a swarm of bees!

“No!”

The eerie yet petrifying scene left the group in tears and pleads.

But that would not change the outcome one bit.

The next moment, deafening sounds of a continuous array of massive explosions stirred up the dirt into a swirl in the air, accumulating into a vortex.

The once proud, headstrong veterans were left in piles of shredded clothing and pieces of charred flesh.

Yang Chen glared at the scene. The butchering of a couple of dozen men could hardly faze him. Turning toward the boulders which stood in his way, he channeled the might of the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy and shot it towards the boulders. In an instant, the boulders disintegrated into dust, getting swept away with a gust of wind.

Two women eventually peeked out to see what had happened out there.

Adeline was in her usual stealth bodysuit, latching onto Rose tightly. She had used her body as a shield for Rose which left it bruised and battered.

However, her training had left her tenacity and tolerance leagues above the average person.

Rose was far from her strong-willed self. Her pupils were swollen red from crying and her porcelain-like skin was dirtied by the debris that she was trapped under. She was holding on to Adeline as she cried.

“Hubby... take a look... take a look at Adeline, she’s...” Rose was whimpering as she choked the words out.

Rose had trained with the Sea Eagles in the past which caused her to be close to Adeline. But never would she have thought that her life would one day be saved by that woman she had met in training.

When the mountain range blew up, Rose was completely lost. But from the depths of her despair came Adeline to her rescue. She was saved from what would have been certain death.

Adeline, on the other hand, took significant amounts onto herself.

Yang Chen instantly kneeled down, carefully lifting the frail Adeline from Rose. Adeline was pale as a sheet. Her lips were stained with blood and she was gasping for air. Her eyes, however, showed that she was determined to make it out alive.

“You did well, I’m grateful for you,” Yang Chen sincerely replied with a warm and genuine smile.

Adeline through drenched sweat and dirt cracked a smile in response. “Have I... gained Your Majesty Pluto’s... recognition?”

“I’ll consider streamlining you to a grand early retirement.” Yang Chen smiled as he swiped through Adeline’s back. The miraculous recuperating ability of the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture instantly sealed up her wounds.

Subsequent nutritional replenishment would instantly amplify her recovery.

Rose witnessed Adeline’s recovery and breathed a sigh of relief. “I’m glad that you’re alright...”

Yang Chen, on the other hand, was not in a good mood. If it wasn't for his perfect interception, Rose could very much be dead by now. He was now certain that the Sea Eagles enforcements could not be delayed any further. These pesky bugs were growing restless.

Just when he wanted to delve deeper, his phone rang. Molin had called.

Chapter 816 - Digging Their Own Graves

### **Digging Their Own Graves**

Yang Chen picked up the call. "What's the matter?"

"Your Majesty Pluto, it would seem as though the situation was not as we predicted it to be. The Red Thorns Society's members on duty seem to be involved with the incident. When we were searching for other potential explosives in the compound, we stumbled upon a piece of information. We found out that there was some internal conflict of power within the Red Thorns Society.

"Some of them even tried to take the initiative into their own hands to undermine their own members. Their target was your family. But thanks to their internal conflict and lack of cohesion, we managed to swoop in at the last second and stop any more potential plots against your family."

Molin's explanation instantly supercharged Yang Chen's rage. He had been lured away so that the enemy could attack his family!

"Hubby, is everything ok? Why do you look so pale?" Rose asked, worried, as she supported Adeline.

Yang Chen then ordered Molin to continue his sweep and notify him if anything else arose.

"Rose, did you... send your father to Sweden?" Yang Chen asked.

Rose seemed slightly surprised at his insinuation. "Hubby, are you suggesting that... all this... was my dad's doing?"

"Our opponents were Swedish military veterans that are now part of a mercenary organization. From planting the explosives under your residence to the cleanup crew, the targets were clearly the both of us. I can only assume that the culprit has substantial knowledge of us and possesses so much suppressed hatred that they would seek to bring me down with you," Yang Chen explained.

Rose's pupils lost her focus as she mumbled, "I did send him to Sweden, in hopes that would stop him for good, that it would put an end to his schemes. I never thought that he would one day return. Certainly not like this..."

"If I was your father, I'd take advantage of the internal conflict within the society to stage my revenge," Yang Chen laid out simply. "The same people that you sent to protect you, a portion of them just staged a mutiny a while ago in an attempt to cleave through your household. I assume a good number of them might be from the West Union Society. They must have caught wind of your dad's return and decided to plan a coup."

Rose nodded in agreement. "So what do we do now?"

Yang Chen turned back and surveyed the hill once more. "We'll wait for updates before making our move.."

Meanwhile, several meters below the hill at its base was a Mercedes-Benz S600 stopping right in front of the row of neatly arranged sedans. From it, came a woman dressed in red. It was Chen Rong.

Chen Rong appeared visibly burnt out, as she dried the sweat trickling down her forehead. She commanded the people from the Red Thorns Society to make their way through the rubble and up the hill.

Since Mount Xunshan was barely considered a mountain, the men were able to reach Yang Chen's location in no time.

It wasn't long before they noticed the huge artificial crater in front of Yang Chen's sight, and in between were burnt unrecognizable corpses.

Chen Rong subsequently arrived and breathed a sigh of relief to see Yang Chen and Rose, which left her with a wide, enthusiastic grin. "Brother Yang, Sister Rose, I'm so glad to see that you are safe. I just received news from my men that your house got blown up into pieces. It was a miracle that you weren't home. But then I realized that you might be ambushed at your usual training spot."

Watching the tearful Chen Rong, Rose's initial skepticism towards her was now mostly relieved. *?I guess there's no way she would gather such strong motivation to undermine me and Yang Chen...?she thought.*

From the looks of it, Situ Mingze himself was the sole mastermind.

Yang Chen then asked, "Did you find out the culprit behind this?"

Chen Rong nodded as she replied, "We discovered certain plots here and there. It appears that some of the former West Union Society members stirred up the plot. Our best guess is Situ Mingze who has secretly made his return from Sweden. We knew he has left as his residence in Sweden was abandoned recently."

"Where is he now?" Yang Chen quickly followed up.

Chen Rong was caught off-guard as she lowered her head in disappointment. "My apologies... Brother Yang. We are still unable to pinpoint his exact location as of now."

Yang Chen contemplated for a bit before he turned towards Rose. "Let's go back first. Adeline is our top priority right now."

Rose might be eager to get to the bottom of the plot, but she too agreed that it was best to take Adeline, her lifesaver, to safety and proceed with her much needed recuperation.

As the members returned to their respective rides, Chen Rong sat in the front passenger seat next to the driver, while the three of them comfortably placed themselves in the back. Once they arrived, they were able to pass Adeline to the Sea Eagles for further treatment.

Chen Rong made a number of calls to the sub-society leaders, with commands for them to closely monitor the movements of every member across the society.

After she ended the series of calls, Chen Rong turned towards the back row as she earnestly inquired, "Sister Rose, should we dispatch a scouting group outside the borders of Zhonghai? My guess would be that he might have planned an escape route should his plan fail."

Rose was just about to nod in agreement, but Yang Chen quickly stopped her.

"There's no need for that. Rongrong, I want you to gather everyone who holds a position in the Red Thorns Society. I want you to get them all to gather at Zhonghai's southeast harbor. I distinctly remember having a private cruise ship docked there," Yang Chen demanded.

Chen Rong was perplexed. "Brother Yang... what is this for, may I ask? Are we going out to sea?"

Yang Chen stoically continued, "Just do as I said."

Chen Rong noticed Yang Chen's stone-cold gaze and felt a chill run down her delicate back. She immediately nodded and went to make the calls necessary to make that happen.

Yang Chen then added out of the blue, "Tell them that attendance is mandatory. Not showing up is the equivalent of digging their own graves."

Chen Rong was horrified, understanding that Yang Chen was not joking around.

Rose seemed to be in deep contemplation as she glanced towards Yang Chen but ultimately chose to maintain her silence.

A couple of minutes later, they arrived at the wide pavement by Rose's house.

Standing at the plot of burnt land where her house once stood, she turned towards the disfigured neighboring house, which belonged to Lin Ruoxi. Rose cracked a bitter smile. "Hubby, I guess it's time for both of us to move again."

"Let's do it then, I'll help you out with that. But we have some things to settle first," Yang Chen said with a gentle smile.

The party left the car with Rose assisting Adeline as they made way into the garden. Adeline was rather reluctant to receiving help from her client but Rose was adamant in her assistance.

Back in the garden, the sights awaiting them were not for the faint of heart.

A row of disfigured corpses were neatly lined up on the garden front. Blood tainted the ground and ran throughout the estate grounds.

A muscular Caucasian man with golden brown hair came before Yang Chen and bowed. "Your Majesty Pluto, they are the traitors who have been slaughtered. My sincere apologies for tainting your garden with the sinful blood of these imbeciles."

Yang Chen placed a hand on his shoulder. "Good work, just on time. I will personally contact Sauron in regards to offering you, alongside Adeline, a lofty bonus. It's about time we leave anyway, don't bother with the mess."

Even if Yang Chen could instantly vaporize the corpses into dust, he did not see the need for it. After all, he tried not to make it a habit to use his cultivations.

He wanted to try and avoid the heavenly tribulations which were out to get him. But recent events had led him to believe that keeping his powers at bay might prove to be useful when the enemy had yet to figure out the true extent of his powers.

To avoid a potential ambush, Lin Ruoxi, Guo Xuehua, and everyone else stayed obediently within the parameters of the house.

Yang Chen thought it was not time for him to enter the house. After making sure they were all unscathed, he left Adeline at home while she waited for reinforcements to come and pick her up.

He then left with Rose towards the harbor.

The luxurious cruise ship with a huge Red Thorns Society symbol was in place ready for departure. The ship was originally used for occasional celebrations, or handle illegal dealings on international waters. But this time, it was being used for a purpose even the captain wasn't notified for.

Rows of extravagant cars were parked by the cruise ship harbor as more began to pile in. The higher-ups of the Red Thorns Society slowly filed in one by one as they speculated on why they were being called in under a death threat.

Since the establishment of the Red Thorns Society, the society was no longer the modest organization it once was. The sub-clan leaders were now respectable figures among the Zhonghai nobles.

This was very much intertwined with Zhonghai's solidified status as a major economic hub within the country, alongside their effective partnership with Beijing's own Green Dragon Society.

Upon Yang Chen and Rose's entrance onto the cruise, alongside Chen Rong, the leaders were seen gossiping with speculations.

As the actual head of the society, Rose was rarely involved with the management of their internal affairs, excluding a few core decisions and missions. Most of the day-to-day operations were managed by Chen Rong instead.

As for Yang Chen, most elders within the society would comprehend and accept his involvement in the matter, but those who were absent from the war among Zhonghai's mafia were uninformed of Yang Chen's delicate existence.

Once everyone was on board, Yang Chen allowed Chen Rong to organize the meeting, as people freely mingled on the ship, which was about to leave towards the direction of the international waters beyond Zhonghai's territory.

The top-level members started speaking among one another, and before long, nearly everyone on board was accustomed to the presence of the young outsider calling the shots. He was the lover of Rose herself, not to mention his efforts in securing the spot for Rose and to exile her father Situ Mingze. Just that knowledge alone left many bewildered while simultaneously curious about what that young man was capable of.

HOOT HOOT!

After around ten minutes, the sound of the horn signified the ships departure to international waters.

## Chapter 817 - Leave No One Behind

### Leave No One Behind

While everyone else was busy mingling, Yang Chen made his way to a luxurious room away from the noise where the laptop he requested for was present. After connecting to the WiFi onboard, he contacted Sauron who was situated in the United Kingdom.

Although it was relatively early due to their time zone difference, Sauron answered Yang Chen's call. A shirtless muscular man with messy red hair appeared on the screen of the video call and asked monotonously, "Your Majesty Pluto, although I am aware that you have something urgent to discuss with me, I have to say that you called at a bad time."

Yang Chen ignored his complaints. "I need you to locate someone. He had hired the Lapland Rangers, a mercenary group from Sweden, to hunt me down along with the head of the Red Thorns Society. From what I can gather, he chose not to enter Zhonghai and executed his plans at sea, providing him with an easier escape route. Because of that, I'm not entirely sure where his location is and I need you to find him for me. We will formulate a course of action once he has been found."

Sauron contemplated for a moment before replying, "May I have his name?"

"Situ Mingze."

Sauron nodded. "Give me half an hour. It should not prove too difficult if a mercenary group was involved."

Yang Chen left the room and headed to the deck of the ship. Sauron had promised to notify him if he secured a location.

The deck was filled with all kinds of facilities for entertainment purposes making it a perfect place for swimming and sunbathing.

However, everyone expected this issue to be wrapped up within a day or two and packed lightly in accordance. So, most of them resorted to drinking cocktails and chatting to kill time.

Rose brought Chen Rong along with her and was chatting with the upper management of the society, filling them in about the emergency that had occurred.

Everyone was shocked to know that Situ Mingze resurfaced and almost succeeded in killing Rose. Some people started speculating among themselves about the incident.

Yang Chen moved over to Rose while holding a glass of chilled champagne. He was about to ask her something but was interrupted when he heard a familiar voice calling out for him.

A chubby guy in a blue flower shirt greeted Yang Chen with a huge grin, "Brother Yang! It's so good to finally see you. It's been too long!"

Yang Chen eyed him up and down. "Are you... Xiao Zhao?"

Xiao Zhao laughed. "Oh my. And here I thought you wouldn't be able to recognize me."

When Yang Chen first met him, he was only a bartender in Rose's bar.

He had an adolescent face full of pimples in the past but now sported a more mature face despite having doubled in size.

Rose walked over and smiled. "Xiao Zhao, I told you to control yourself. You can't go around being so carefree now that you have a wife."

Xiao Zhao rubbed the back of his neck sheepishly. "Things have been quiet lately and my wife, she's an amazing cook. She's the one who feeds me and makes sure I eat well."

Yang Chen was surprised at the revelation. "You got married? When?"

"Half a year ago. We had the ceremony in my hometown so not many people knew about it," Xiao Zhao responded with a face filled with satisfaction.

Rose shook her head and chuckled lightly. "He got his wife pregnant before their marriage so she's expecting in two months or so."

Yang Chen grinned suggestively when he realized the insinuation. "I couldn't have known. I heard that you're a hall master now so money wouldn't be a problem for you."

Xiao Zhao grinned. "I owe it all to you, Brother Yang, hehe..."

Yang Chen sighed. It had been almost two years ever since he returned and things had changed without him noticing it.

He placed a hand on Xiao Zhao's shoulder before turning around to Rose and asked, "My dear, are all your subordinates here?"

Rose turned to Chen Rong and relayed the question. "The ones that you informed, are they all here?"

Chen Rong replied in embarrassment, "The absent ones are the heads of the sixteenth and twenty-third zones, plus the hall master of the Bing Nang area."

"Reasons?" Yang Chen asked.

Chen Rong responded with a stiff smile, "They were unwilling to come without proper explanation. They mentioned something about disrupting their plans if they came."

"Did you mention that Rose ordered them to come?"

"I did," Chen Rong replied and added cautiously, "Perhaps they had urgent matters to attend to..."

Yang Chen remained silent and shifted his gaze towards Rose.

Rose sighed faintly, but her gaze was firm. "Those no longer loyal to my orders will have the favor returned."

She extended a hand towards Chen Rong. "Rongrong, hand me the mobile phone."

Chen Rong sensed what was happening and tried to dissuade her. "Sister Rose, calm down. They have done a lot for our society. They don't deserve to die."

Some of the elderly from the Red Thorns Society overheard their conversation and looked over worriedly. They did not expect Rose to be so ruthless.

Rose's eyes turned cold. "Refusing to show up despite my direct orders. Do my words then mean nothing to you?"

"Of course not, it's just that..."

Chen Rong wanted to keep persuading her but upon seeing Rose's rage grow bigger, she eventually kept her silence.

Chen Rong had no choice but to pass the mobile phone to Rose.

Rose dialed a number with no hesitation and said coldly, "Get rid of Wang Duo and Zhou He in the sixteenth and twenty-third zones, and Liu Ziqiang in Bing Nang. Leave no one behind, including their families."

After saying that, Rose hung up and tossed the mobile phone back to Chen Rong.

A chill ran down the spine of those who heard Rose's order.

The strongest elite squad in the Red Thorns Society trained by the Sea Eagles were loyal subordinates that only listened to Rose's orders and are in charge of punishing the troublesome ones within the society and from other gangs.

Since Rose had ordered them to carry out the punishment, the three who were sentenced to death were bound by their fate. But killing off their innocent family members, it reminded those present that Chen Rong might seem like the one running operations in the society, but Rose was truly the one in charge.

Rose questioned upon seeing Chen Rong's face turn white, "Why, you think I'm too cruel?"

Chen Rong shook her head hurriedly. "I... dare not."

"You are dissatisfied by my orders but dare not question them." Rose snorted lightly. "I told you this ages ago, there's no way back after choosing to go down this road. They chose to disobey despite being weaker than me. I have no patience for those who might bring about potential trouble in the future."

Chen Rong nodded silently.

Rose remained stoic all this while until she turned around to ask Yang Chen with a smile on her face, "Hubby, why did you make everyone leave for the open sea? Is it because you found him already?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "I haven't gotten ahold of his exact location. I went out to sea to settle our matters because what I have planned might be a little too dicey for the shore."

Rose was confused and chided, "You never give me a straight answer. Nevermind, I'm sure you know what to do. For now, I'll just be the dumb woman by your side."

They both chatted with the upper management for a while after that. However, now that they knew Rose was on a warpath again, they tried to flatter her by showering her with compliments.

Finally, almost half an hour later, Yang Chen received a call from Sauron.

“Your Majesty Pluto, your predictions were accurate. He was found at the open sea outside of Zhonghai. Situ Mingze spent a huge amount of money and hired three squads from the Lapland Rangers. As of now, he is protected by two groups of mercenaries on a destroyer several miles from Zhonghai’s borders. Our satellites identified him moving towards the south. He seems to be escaping from you. His ship travels at eighteen nautical miles per hour, making it almost impossible for you to catch up to him. But if you want, I can have the Yamata Sect deploy some ships to stop them so that you can catch up to him within an hour.”

Yang Chen, satisfied with the results, commanded, “Then contact Hannya in my stead and have her take care of it. Just stop them from escaping but do not attack. Send me the coordinates of their predicted location and let me deal with them.”

Sauron responded and carried out his commands immediately. Yang Chen then had the captain speed up to twenty-two nautical miles per hour towards the location of the coordinates he received.

Since it was already noon, Yang Chen decided to have lunch at the restaurant on the ship with Rose in order to kill time.

The members of the Red Thorns Society watched carefully from the side and tried to make themselves invisible. After hearing several stories of Yang Chen from Xiao Zhao, they became extremely wary of him.

About an hour later, the captain announced that the small destroyer was within sight just as Yang Chen had finished his meal. At the same time, four Japanese warships with flags of the Yamata Sect surrounded the small destroyer.

As the cruise ship moved into the region, the outline of the destroyer became clear.

The cannons on the destroyer were positioned and ready to shoot.

On the deck, armed members of the Lapland Rangers stood surrounding the area with stoic expressions on their faces. They emitted an aura of evil and death.

The man surrounded by them was an elderly one with white hair, who seemed to be around sixty years old. He stood with his hands behind his back, wearing loose clothes which fluttered in the wind.

Chapter 818 - Fishing

### **Fishing**

Yang Chen stood on the deck with Rose while everyone else gathered up behind them. Many of the elderly within the Red Thorns Society exclaimed in shock when they recognized the man.

He was the head of the West Union Society who used to be in control of Zhonghai, Situ Mingze!

Rose’s face was cycled through a range of emotions when she saw her biological father. This was proof that he was the true culprit behind her attempted murder. Her eyes were filled with rage and confusion. She did not understand why her own father had ordered her death when she had let him live all those years ago!

When both ships came close enough, the remaining ships from the Yamata Sect retreated to a safe distance. It was not their position to interfere with what would happen next after all.

There were no signs of fear and cowardice in Situ Mingze's eyes. They only shone with disdain and a small trace of malice.

Both sides kept their silence until Situ Mingze initiated the conversation while smiling. "That's my daughter. Able to survive anything anyone throws against her. It would seem that I have lost once again."

Rose took a deep breath and looked towards the man on the deck. He was so close to her yet felt so far away.

"You shouldn't have returned," said Rose.

Situ Mingze threw his head back and let out a laugh. "Do you really expect me to spend the rest of my life in a cold desolate country where I will die alone and forgotten? Are you kidding me?! I may be weak but I am no coward. I do not fear death, I welcome it!"

"Not fearing death doesn't necessarily make you a brave man," Yang Chen stated faintly and leapt upwards into the sky.

He landed on the other deck with one graceful jump.

This was nothing to Yang Chen, but it left everyone else in shock.

Situ Mingze frowned. "It seems that I have underestimated you. You are much stronger than I had imagined..."

Yang Chen questioned him coldly, "Who helped you to hire these soldiers from Sweden? Spill it now and I'll spare you a swift and merciful death."

"No one," Situ Mingze sneered in response. "What makes you think I didn't do it myself?"

"Since you're being so dishonest, I'll have to find a way to make the real clown show himself." Yang Chen said dully and proceeded to speak in Swedish, "I'm going to start killing you one by one so make peace with whatever demons you have left."

Among the mercenaries, a bulky man in a white camouflage uniform holding a heavy machine gun cursed in Swedish, "Who are you?!"

If they weren't for the four ships surrounding them, the mercenaries would have fired their guns.

Yang Chen didn't reply but instead walked towards the bulky man.

"Don't move!" he warned. "If you get any closer, I'll fire! How dare you challenge the glory of the Lapland Rangers?!"

Yang Chen kept his silenced as he took step after step toward the man.

The bulky man cursed and stopped hesitating. If he were to die today, let it be known that he died fighting!

The heavy machine gun on hand started firing shots!

BANG BANG BANG BANG!

His bullets fired at an unprecedented rate toward Yang Chen. The force was strong enough to mow down an armoured vehicle!

All of the bullets flew straight towards Yang Chen's chest. But the thing that stunned all the mercenaries on deck was the fact that none of the bullets reached Yang Chen's body! They seemed to hover centimeters away from his body before falling onto the ground.

As Yang Chen approached his front. The bulky man ceased his fire and stared with his mouth wide open.

Yang Chen was only as tall as the man's chest but it didn't stop him from reaching up to his neck and grabbing a hold of it!

CRACK!

The bulky man's neck was snapped in pieces and the sound of shattering bones echoed throughout the ship!

Yang Chen didn't pause and threw the body into the sea before moving towards the other mercenaries.

Situ Mingze felt a chill run down his spine!

This man's face did not waver as he took the life of another. To him, it looked as if he was stepping on a bug!

Even though he thought of himself as formidable, he had never imagined that he would meet a man who could take another's life without hesitation!

"I can kill everyone else before killing you. Take that time to reconsider my offer."

Yang Chen uttered lightly, not pausing in his tracks.

The mercenaries fired shots towards Yang Chen, forming a rain of bullets around him.

But Yang Chen was left unaffected and continued to move in quick steps. He snapped their necks one by one and threw them into the ocean.

The members of the Red Thorns Society were so scared that their legs got wobbly. All they could see from their boat was a man walking through a rain of bullets while bodies were thrown left and right off the railings and into the water!

Yang Chen's methods of killing them became more cruel as time passed. It went from snapping their necks to smashing their heads and eventually digging a hole through their chests!

As the scene before him became more and more gruesome, Situ Mingze's face turned to ash and his lips started to tremble.

Rose had seen the way Yang Chen killed before so she was left unaffected. Chen Rong and the others who were new to this were left gagging and puking in some cases.

In a just a few moments, the sea breeze was filled with the smell of blood!

Almost everyone present assumed that it was going to be a tough fight but it turned out to be quite the opposite. This was basically becoming a one-sided killing spree!

In just three minutes, Situ Mingze was the only one left alive. His face was deathly pale and his eyes were filled with dread.

Yang Chen wiped his hands clean before asking, "So, do we have a deal?"

Situ Mingze gulped as his lips twitched. "You... you're not even human! You are a devil!"

Yang Chen sneered upon hearing that. "I don't want to hear that coming from someone who tried to kill his own daughter."

Situ Mingze became tongue-tied. He took a deep breath and spoke through gritted teeth, "I already said that this was my plan and my plan alone. I lost and that's on me. If you wish to kill me, do it!"

Yang Chen squinted his eyes and gave a grimacing smile. "Do you know why I chose this area for an attack?"

Situ Mingze shuddered and couldn't help but ask, "Why?"

"Because... something interesting is lurking around here." Yang Chen smiled wickedly.

People on the ship thought Yang Chen was about to quickly and effectively get rid of Situ Mingze, but now it would seem that Yang Chen had other plans for his death.

Yang Chen looked around before moving to one of the ship's compartments. He took a strong rope and walked towards Situ Mingze.

"Wha—what are you trying to do!"

Situ Mingze stumbled backward in horror.

Yang Chen took the rope and looped it several times. And in a flash, he had positioned himself behind Situ Mingze. He wrapped the rope around him and spun him several times before tying the knot!

Situ Mingze was left immobile!

Yang Chen tossed Situ Mingze overboard and dangled him over the edge.

One side of the rope was caught by Yang Chen so Situ Mingze didn't fall straight into the sea but was held very close to the surface of it.

Yang Chen picked up a rifle and shot Situ Mingze from the side of the deck!

The bullets didn't land on any critical body parts, but instead, drew blood from his foot.

"Ouch!" Situ Mingze couldn't help but yelp in pain. "Kill me if you must! Torture me if you want! I have nothing to say to you!"

Yang Chen looked down at him with a wicked smile. "It doesn't matter what you say or don't say. I'm just here to go fishing."

Everyone on the cruise ship realized something that they missed earlier after hearing his words!

There were red pools of blood on the surface of the sea from the bodies that were thrown in earlier. Surrounding the bodies were small sharks that appeared without anyone knowing!

Some were greyish black in color while others were spotted. They were quite small in size. Compared to the great white shark who was able to grow up to six meters in length, these sharks were only one to two meters long.

These sharks were attracted by the scent of blood and they started munching on the dead bodies. Although they were smaller in size, they made up for it in numbers as what was once a watery grave was now a pool of shredded clothing and body parts!

“Oh my god! Are those sharks!?”

“When did they come, and why are there so many of them!”

The Red Thorns Society shuddered in fear when they realized what Yang Chen had meant by ‘fishing’!

Situ Mingze too finally realized what was about to happen as the area around his crotch started to get wet. He was so afraid that he had wet his own pants!

Chapter 819 - My Daughter

### **My Daughter**

Yang Chen grinned in excitement and said, “I knew for a fact that a large school of white-spotted bamboo sharks reside here pretty much all year long. While they aren’t as big as their cousins, the great white shark, they more than compensate for it with numbers.”

Most sharks tend to be pretty docile and keep to themselves until they smell the presence of blood. One whiff of blood is enough to send any shark into a frenzy!

Yang Chen’s laughter continued to unnerve his audience on the other boat. They were already anticipating a gruesome death for Situ Mingze!

The sharks below barred their teeth in anticipation of fresh meat ready for them to devour!

Many of the members from the Red Thorns Society couldn’t help but flee the scene as they started to puke from the sickening thoughts that entered their minds.

Meanwhile, most of the sharks were still feasting on the corpses of the mercenaries and were left uninterested with Situ Mingze’s bleeding leg. Situ Mingze’s heart continued to pound heavily as he watched the sharks swim around him!

“Rose! Rose! My daughter!” Situ Mingze couldn’t help but start screaming. “I’m your father! Are you really going to stand by and watch as I die?!”

Tears streamed down the face of his which was frozen with horror!

Rose stood on the side of the deck with tears forming in her eyes. Her lips curled to form a ghastly smile as she replied, “If it wasn’t for Yang Chen, I would’ve been dead two years ago. I would’ve died by your

hands more times than I could remember. When have you ever thought of me as your daughter? You've been nothing but cruel to me all these years. I gave you one last chance but you took it for granted. You may be my father, but you are also my worst enemy. He may only be my lover, but he has given me the warmth and love you failed to provide. Having said that, why would I stop him for you?"

Rose shut her eyes and blinked back the oncoming tears.

She didn't want to stop Yang Chen but she also couldn't watch him die.

Yang Chen sighed. He thought that Rose would try to persuade him to give her father an easier death, but she was far more resilient than he had expected. Maybe her feelings for her father died the moment he arranged her death.

"Alright, you've had your chance," Yang Chen said nonchalantly. "Why aren't the sharks eating you? I don't have all day. Let's lower you a little more."

Situ Mingze screamed out of fear but the rope continued to loosen and his legs soon came into contact with the surface of the sea!

The salty water further aggravated the wound and shot a searing pain through his leg and into his body!

Situ Mingze screeched in pain and his eyes widened in shock!

A white-spotted bamboo shark caught a whiff of the blood that was oozing out of Situ Mingze's leg. Doing a quick one-eighty, it launched itself towards the source and took one big chomp on it!

"ARGH!"

Situ Mingze's blood curdling screech shook everyone who was still watching to their very cores!

Watching dead bodies get ripped to shreds was already the peak of what some of the members could stomach. Having a live person torn apart by sharks was more than anyone there could really bear!

Some members even fainted at the sight of Situ Mingze with a chunk of flesh missing!

The shark didn't tear off the whole foot but instead left part of his flesh still intact, exposing the bone inside.

Even so, Situ Mingze kept alternating between fainting and staying awake because of the pain!

The constant pain from the seawater and the pain from the bite stopped him from fainting completely!

Yang Chen saw that he was successful and lifted Situ Mingze up. "How was it?"

"You... just kill me..." Situ Mingze's gaze turned blank and his face started to pale from pain and blood loss.

"I'm not done yet. If I don't get an answer out of you, I'll start moving up to your calves and then your thighs before going to your body. I'll make sure that they rip off piece by piece while keeping you conscious enough to witness it happen."

His words gained looks of horror from the crowd.

They were certain that Yang Chen was a devil sent from hell to torture the living!

Situ Mingze could feel his body being lowered as the blood continued to flow from his leg. A couple more sharks had caught wind of the blood and gathered below him.

Once he reached the bottom, there was no doubt that he was going to experience a whole new world of pain!

“No! No! I’ll tell you everything!”

Situ Mingze started weeping. Every last ounce of resolve in him dissolved at the sight of the sharks below.

Despite his bold claims in the beginning, he was still an ordinary man. He wasn’t a god or a cultivator. He wasn’t even trained by the military to resist pain.

When fear overtook his viciousness, he could no longer just wait and scream!

Yang Chen pulled him away from the sharks and grinned while saying, “I’m listening.”

Situ Mingze wailed and asked, “Would... you kill me if I told you who the person was?”

“You have no right to bargain,” Yang Chen replied coldly. “The way I see it, you have two options. Tell me who helped you or die screaming. Also, don’t bother lying to me. I can assure you that there are fates worse than this one.”

Situ Mingze gulped as his eyes flooded with despair and helplessness as he turned his head to the boat opposite him.

The members left standing looked towards each other and realized that the accomplice was amongst them!

Rose opened her eyes at the same time, her eyes filled with mixed feelings as she glanced towards Situ Mingze, waiting for an answer.

Situ Mingze said in a raspy voice, “It’s... it’s... Chen...”

Before he could finish his sentence, Chen Rong who was standing behind Rose had wrapped one hand around Rose’s neck and pointed a handgun to her temple!

“Don’t move! Or else I’ll shoot !”

Her deafening voice broke the silence, exposing the identity of the accomplice!

“It was you?!”

“Shit! Let her go!”

“You were the traitor all along?!”

The members were furious but they didn’t dare to move with Rose being her hostage. One wrong move would result in the blood of their leader splattered all over the deck.

Although she was being held hostage, Rose’s face was calm but her eyes were filled with sorrow.

Yang Chen stared at Chen Rong coldly from the other side. He had expected this all along but needed confirmation before taking action.

“You dumb old man! You deserve to be eaten alive by sharks! You wasted my money by hiring those mercenaries!”

Chen Rong’s face was masked with rage. Her delicate face contorted to one of rage, like a beast begging to be free from its cage.

Situ Mingze seemed to have lost the strength to talk. He was slipping in and out of consciousness as more and more blood started to spill from his legs.

“You thought you could save yourself by doing this?” Yang Chen asked faintly.

Chen Rong ground her teeth. “I failed. I was planning to have Situ Mingze fool the former members of the West Union Society, then have the Swedish mercenary group get rid of the rest of you. But, I underestimated you. I never thought you could survive that bomb. I knew that there was a chance of me being exposed when you wanted to leave for international waters. But how could I have predicted that we would end up like this?”

Yang Chen chuckled. “I remember telling you to not pull something like this again else you face the consequences. I won’t let you go so easily despite my relationship with your brother. Let it be known that I, Yang Chen am a man of my word. Today, I shall deliver you a fate far worse than hell.”

## **Chapter 820 Who Taught You**

“So what?!”

Chen Rong yelled, “Touch me if you dare! Get any closer and I’ll shoot your beloved woman! A life for a life!”

Everyone retreated to a safe distance, afraid that Chen Rong would pull the trigger as she was clearly in an unsteady state.

Rose opened her mouth after being silent for a while. “Before you shoot, can you at least tell me why you’re doing this?”

“HAHA!” Chen Rong snickered. “Reason? Are you so oblivious to the truth?! All you have ever wanted was for me to be a guard dog for the rest of my life! I wanted so much more than that! Why are you the leader of the Red Thorns Society when it is I who toiled so hard to keep it afloat?! HAHA! Others might be clueless, but I am not. If it wasn’t for Yang Chen, you wouldn’t have won over the West Union Society! You tell me that I am smart and you praise my talents. For what? All you ever wanted was to keep me working for you!”

“You’re a shameful woman. How can you stand there so full of pride when it was a man who had brought you through the ranks! I am the one who can truly bring the Red Thorns Society to new heights! Only me! Chen Rong! I was always the one planning strategies against other societies! All you are is stronger and braver than I am! I’m the true leader of the Red Thorns Society!”

“You wanted to cut ties with the Green Dragon Society just because they were dealing with university students. You were so ready to change out our faithful hall master when you found out that their

subordinates were charging protection fees! We're gangsters for god's sake. Screw you! Those rotten government officers take bribes while we sell drugs and sex trafficking! What's wrong with that? Do you think the Red Thorns Society is a charity organization? Are you so deluded as to think that our cashflow is bottomless?

"Other societies do business in fear of the government and their laws. We are above that of the government but still decide to earn petty profits. Are you blind or are you just plain stupid? If it wasn't for me, we would've been losing more money than we were earning. You aren't even involved enough to know that your legitimate business isn't providing enough funds to run out society.

"If you were to pass your post to me, I would have left it like that. I would have respectfully thanked you for bringing me into this world and let you leave in peace as the first-generation leader of the society. I was confident that when I was leader, I could gain control over the surrounding provinces in less than three years! But all you ever let me do was be your deputy! You talk a big game of passing down your post to me but when will that happen?!

"Must I wait until we are both old and grey before I would even see a chance of taking control? I will not live my life as a guard dog for a woman who relies on her man to bring her success!"

Chen Rong's words rang out across the boat to the members who had now gathered several meters away.

Their faces were masked with confusion. Chen Rong's words had struck a chord within them.

When Rose unified the underworld in Zhonghai, she got rid of any operations involved with drugs and women trafficking. This caused a major blow to the profits for many people but they dared not speak up. If their subordinates failed to produce profits, wouldn't that reflect back on the leader as well?

Rose let out a deep sigh. "So... this was what you've always thought of me."

"Why, am I wrong?" Chen Rong sneered. "Sister Rose... I call you sister because you're older than me. But honestly, sometimes I think even a three-year-old is smarter than you!"

Rose's lip curled into a faint smile. "Perhaps I have been too naive to think that things would just play out smoothly once I was gone."

"Enough of your nonsense. Retreat if you want to live! If not, we can both die together!" Chen Rong snapped.

Rose sighed. "Rongrong, I always hoped that one day you would understand. But your impatience will be the cause of your downfall today."

"What are you saying..." Chen Rong frowned.

"Have you ever thought about this? Among the twenty thousand or so members in the Red Thorns Society, how many of them truly wished to enter the underworld?" Rose asked.

This question shocked Chen Rong and it also made everyone else to look towards them.

Rose continued, "Willing to live their lives with illegal doings, to fight and kill in a society where tomorrow was never certain? They might appear fine but is that really how they are? Some of them

can't even return home and look at their family members in the eye because of the things that they have done. Given the chance, wouldn't they give it all up for a good stable income and time with their families?"

"Why should I care?! Retreat immediately!" Chen Rose pushed the muzzle towards her temple.

Rose's face was full of indifference. "Perhaps, to you and most other members, I'm stopping you from earning money by banning drugs and trafficking. But what makes you think that this will last forever? If it wasn't for Yang Chen, or the collaboration with the Yuan and Fang clans and the other wealthy clans of Zhonghai, you really think that we could live under broad daylight so peacefully? The government might turn a blind eye for now but who's to say they will continue to do so in the next ten, twenty years? Once Yang Chen and I are gone, will your measly members really be enough to face the full wrath of the military?"

Everyone's face turned pale and some even blanked out.

Chen Rong's hands started to tremble. "It's too late to turn back the clock!"

"From the moment I founded the Red Thorns Society, I never planned to live in the underworld forever. If it wasn't for my family background, I wouldn't have chosen a life like this. I had to be prepared for the future of not only myself but the people and families who rely on this society to live. I chose not to challenge the country for a small round of temporary profit. Everything you said sounds like you're wishing the best for them. But the truth is, you're jeopardizing their futures to earn a quick buck!"

"Shut up! Nonsense!" Chen Rong trembled with rage. "You... you were the one who brought me down this path! You told me! You said that this was a path of no return! There's nothing left for us to do but get rid of our obstacles and pave a way for our members!"

Rose's gaze turned cold. "Is that so..."

It sounded like a sigh but at that exact moment, Rose initiated a counter-attack against Chen Rong!

Her elbow went to Chen Rong's throat and knocked the wind out of her!

When Chen Rong dropped her hand to gasp for air, Rose slipped behind her and turned the tables!

She snatched the handgun away from Chen Rong and shot near her head!

Yang Chen watched on with a sense of gratification knowing that Rose's body was now perfect for cultivation practice.

The crowd cheered and Rose's supporters were delighted to witness Rose's sudden outburst!

Chen Rong, on the other hand, was shocked at the turnabout!

"Don't forget it was I who taught you what you know. From how to run an empire, to how to hold a simple gun." Rose's gaze was deadly cold.

Chen Rong laughed foolishly as she turned around and stared at Rose. "I lost and there's nothing I can do to change that. You were the one who brought me down this path, now you will be the one to take me out of it. Life in the underworld was always life or death anyways."

Rose emotionlessly replied, "Let me part with you some knowledge for closure before you die. The reason I am in this position is not that I am almighty, but because I am willing to sacrifice my life for my subordinates' futures. But you... you sacrifice them instead for a better future for yourself. The underworld is a path of no return, but I never said it was one of darkness and pain. You chose not to give it a chance and went down the wrong path as a result."

"Also, if you had waited another month, I was ready to pass on my mantle to you."

Chen Rong pupils constricted as she tried not to have a meltdown. "I... don't... believe... you!"

Rose no longer spoke as she gently squeezed the trigger...

"I don't need you to!"

Chen Rong smiled brightly before jumping right into the sea!

Her action surprised everyone, including Rose and Yang Chen.

This simple young woman who came from the outskirts to the city had chosen to end her own life after choosing to walk down a dark path.

No one screamed or shouted. No one felt any pain or joy from her suicide.

Yang Chen let go of the rope with zero hesitation, At this point, Situ Mingze was already a corpse when he fell into the sea due to excessive blood loss.

Yang Chen jumped back onto the cruise ship and pulled Rose into his arms. He stroked her back while saying, "Can you not be so cool in front of me, my heart can only take so much in one day."

Rose glanced at him sweetly before tossing the handgun into the sea. She shifted her gaze to the crowd.

"From the moment I was mature enough to rationalize, my life had been linked with the underworld. I have grown tired and weary of living like this. I'm officially resigning from my post as the leader of the Red Thorns Society and I'll only claim what's rightfully mine and I'll leave the new leader in charge of all operations," Rose announced.

The crowd gasped in disbelief.

Xiao Zhao and the elderly who had been with Rose from the beginning started persuading her to stay!

Rose raised her hand and gestured everyone to keep quiet before saying, "From now on, the leader of the Red Thorns Society will be Xiao Zhao, Zhao Mingbo!"

The crowd immediately fell silent as all their attentions were focused on a panicking Xiao Zhao.

Yang Chen gave a thumbs up to Rose. "I think the fatty is a good candidate too."

Rose was determined to retire, but passing on the post to Xiao Zhao wasn't convincing enough for everyone.

Rose said, "I know many are dissatisfied with my decision, but you guys would soon understand if you would just cooperate for a couple of months. If it doesn't work out, I'm sure we'll find something or someone else. It is not my business if someone chooses to revolt against the new management, but let

me tell you this. It's quite hard to predict what the government would do if Yang Chen and I were to suddenly up and leave."

Everyone shivered in fear when they realized that if Rose were to quit, it meant that Yang Chen would relinquish his protection over the Red Thorns Society!

Rose nodded with a smile when she saw that there were no more signs of complaint.

Yang Chen walked towards Xiao Zhao and placed a hand on his shoulder. "Xiao Zhao, I'm sure you are aware that I hate having my peaceful life disrupted in any way. If a riot ever breaks out due to the Red Thorns Society, I'll be looking for you. You have a wife and kid, correct? So be sure to work hard for your family's sake."

A shiver went down Xiao Zhao's spine when he was reminded of what Yang Chen could do when he was crossed. He quickly nodded a fervent yes.