

Chapter 181: Returning to Middle School

“How did little Zhumu’s birthday party go?” Returning to Hao Ren’s side, Lu Lili asked in her cute voice.

While Hao Ren didn’t answer her immediately, she apologized in a whisper, “Sorry, I will never speak anything bad about Gongzi ever again.”

Compared with Lu Linlin, she was generally quieter and more careful. Now that she was familiar with Hao Ren, she began to tease him from time to time.

Hao Ren shook his head helplessly.

He didn’t mean to ignore her question. Due to the many things that had happened at Zhao Yanzi’s birthday party, he was thinking about where to start.

“The West Ocean sent a big team to the party and brought 1,000 1,000-year purple corals and ten West Ocean Mystic Ice as gifts. However, East Ocean returned the Mystic Ices. Also, Qin Shaoyang was relocated to the northwest region and will not come to East Ocean City for a while,” Hao Ren told them.

“West Ocean Mystic Ice is a type of water-elemental Mystic Crystal,” Lu Linlin commented.

“Yeah.” Hao Ren nodded. By now, they had arrived at Hongji Square. Glancing at the various small restaurants, Hao Ren asked, “What do you want to treat me to?”

“Mini South Kitchen. My sister and I tried it a couple of days ago. It was quite good,” Lu Lili said.

Hao Ren smiled, thinking that they had gotten used to the life here since they not only came out for meals but also learned to invite people to meals to show their appreciation.

They walked into the restaurant, and Lu Linlin ordered several dishes they had tried last time. Then, she turned to Hao Ren again and said, “But West Ocean Mystic Ice is a Mystic Crystal of the worst quality. The dragon cultivators can reach Kun-level with the help of this Mystic Crystal, but it will be tough if you want to reach Qian-level with it.

“Oh?” Hao Ren was interested. “What kinds of Mystic Crystals do you know?”

“There are so many. Metal, wood, water, fire, and earth are the five categories of Mystic Crystals. In each category, there are about dozens of different kinds. As to Mystic Crystals with multiple elemental attributes such as metal-earth and wood-water, the number is even larger,” Lu Linlin said.

The guys in the restaurant all glanced toward the twins, but Hao Ren ignored them since his attention was now on the topic of Mystic Crystals.

“But these Mystic Crystals are natural treasures with the purest and most violent essences. Even the West Ocean Mystic Ices, the ones with the poorest quality, are hidden by the West Ocean Dragon Palace as treasures and not available to ordinary cultivators. As to Mystic Crystals with better quality, it’s much more difficult to find and get access to them.”

"I cultivate five elements simultaneously, so I'm supposed to use a Mystic Crystal with all five elemental attributes, right?" Hao Ren asked.

"The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll progresses slowly but steadily. The more openings you unlock in the Dragon Core, the more difficult the process will get. The Mystic Crystal is used to stimulate the Dragon Core and gain breakthroughs. In fact, we just have a vague idea about the advancement of the Dragon Core. You'd better consult Su Han about your situation," Lu Lili said cautiously.

"Are there Mystic Crystals that contain all five elements?"

"I've never heard about any Dragon Tribe members cultivating a five-elemental cultivation technique. The most they have are two elements. However," after a moment of consideration, she said, "My sister and I have read from a book that in this world, there are very few, only about seven or eight Mystic Crystals with all five elements. The best one is the Seven-Colored Snow Lotus in the Sky Mountain that is located in the northwest. It takes 10,000 years to take root, 10,000 years to bloom, and another 10,000 years to mature."

"The Sky Mountain? The Northwest?" Hao Ren's heart lurched, realizing that it was now Qin Shaoyang's territory.

Now the dishes were served. Lu Lili rubbed her hands together with satisfaction at the sight of the delicious-looking dishes. It seemed like they had little to eat while they lived in Lu Qing's place.

"Gongzi, you first!" Lu Lili picked up her chopsticks and was about to dig in when she suddenly stopped and said to Hao Ren.

"It's ok. Let's eat together." Hao Ren smiled.

"Good!" Lu Lili grinned with excitement. She immediately put a piece of stewed pork into her mouth and chewed.

Lu Linlin raised her hand to cover her bright smile. Then, she also picked up her chopsticks and began eating with a happy look on her face. They had meant to show their appreciation to Hao Ren with the meal, but it seemed like they were having a good time as well.

"Oh, another thing. What do you think of Natal Dharma Treasures?" Hao Ren asked.

Lu Linlin pouted. "Gongzi, you have so many questions, but none of them are about our lives."

Hao Ren froze for a few seconds and thought for a while. "Ok, I'll stop with these questions. Linlin, Lili, how is your studying going?"

"We have caught up with the class now. As to our daily lives, we live on campus during the weekdays and go back to Elder Lu's home for the weekends and holidays. A couple of days ago, a guy in the class gave my sister a love letter!" Lu Lili said with a sweet smile.

"Nonsense! It was meant for you. It was delivered to me by mistake." Lu Linlin rolled her eyes at Lu Lili.

Lu Lili lowered her head and chuckled. One of them had a ponytail while the other had two pigtailed. It might be hard for others, but it was easy for him tell them apart.

Hao Ren knew that a lot of guys would pursue Lu Linlin and Lu Lili. However, he didn't think that any mortal man could meet their standards.

With more than half of their cultivation strengths being restricted, they still were in the realm of Kun-level. One day when they fully recover their strength, probably even Zhao Kuo wouldn't be a match for them!

They began to chat about the things in their class and the school with pleased expressions, satisfied Hao Ren was showing interest in their life.

After lunch, it was almost time for them to return to school for classes. Lu Linlin stood up without hesitation and paid for the meal with a wallet thick with bills. Obviously, it was the 'pocket money' that Lu Qing had given them.

It was just part of the payments that Lu Qing gave to the two helpers of Kun-level.

Crossing Hongji Square, they walked into the school.

"Gongzi, how about we going to class with you?" Lu Linlin suggested abruptly, blinking her bright eyes.

"Don't. My next class is a professional course in a small classroom." Hao Ren glanced at them in resignation. They looked so carefree.

"Gongzi, give us your hand," Lu Linlin said suddenly.

"What is it?" Alarmed, Hao Ren kept his hands close to his body.

"We'll measure the five elements in your body!" Lu Linlin raised her hand to cover her smile. It felt like she was trying to take advantage of Hao Ren

"Ok." Hao Ren extended his hands.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili each took one hand and held his fingertips. "Metal, 15%; wood, 16%; water, 34%; fire, 20%; earth, 25%."

"Well, your elements became a little unbalanced again. The water element has gained the biggest percentage. You must make more efforts on the absorption of metal and wood elements in the future," Lu Lili released Hao Ren's hand and said.

"Ok." Hao Ren let go of their smooth fingers. Suddenly a thought occurred to him. "You just measured them by holding my fingers. Then why did you make me take off my shirt last time when you did it?"

Standing on either side of him, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili exchanged a look and snickered. Before Hao Ren could ask more questions, they ran away.

Hao Ren smiled in resignation. He got his books before walking to Academic Building D for his professional course given by the college.

Two hours later, the class ended, and so did the day.

"It's my turn! My turn!" When the bell rang signaling the end of the class, Zhou Liren yelled. He wanted to have a taste of sitting in a Ferrari. After all, Hao Ren would return the car at the end of the week, and he would have no chance to sit in it anymore.

"Sorry," Hao Ren stood up with his books. "but the Class President and I need to run an errand."

"The Class President?" Zhou Liren's eyes widened. "Things do change when you drive a Ferrari! Ren, you didn't dare to talk to her for more than one year, but you got her today!"

Bonk! Hao Ren hit him on the head. "We have an errand to run out of the school."

Ignoring the guys who were protesting, he walked to the front of the classroom. "Class President, let's go."

"Ok." Xie Yujia nodded and handed her bag to Ma Lina. "Please take this to the dorm for me."

Ma Lina stared at Xie Yujia with shiny eyes. Although she was not a snob like Wang Jia, she was quite envious when she saw that Xie Yujia was going to take a ride in the Ferrari with Hao Ren.

"Little Li, take it to the dorm for me!" Hao Ren tossed his bag to Zhou Liren.

"F*uk! I'm a delivery boy again!" Zhou Liren complained in a loud voice.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia smiled before hurrying downstairs. Since their classmates had admired the Ferrari at noon, no one was around the car now. Xie Yujia got in the car while Hao Ren started the engine.

"Did your parents buy it?" Xie Yujia turned to ask him.

"We can't afford it. It belongs to Zhao Yanzi's mom," Hao Ren said with a bitter smile.

"Oh, her family is very rich then," Xie Yujia said in a low voice. She knew Zhao Yanzi was the young girl whom Hao Ren was tutoring. In her mind, that little girl was Su Han's cousin and was hostile toward her.

Hao Ren didn't answer. He drove the car out of the main gate of the school smoothly.

In Xie Yujia's eyes, Zhao Yanzi was only a spoiled little princess. She would never think that the girl was actually Hao Ren's fiancée. She wouldn't have believed it even if Hao Ren had told her so.

Instead, she thought Hao Ren was close to Su Han, and Su Han was the one who introduced Hao Ren to Zhao Yanzi's family. After all, without the connections to Su Han, no one would loan a sports car that was worth millions to a college student.

However, after careful consideration, she didn't think Su Han was Hao Ren's girlfriend. When the car arrived at LingZhao Middle School, Xie Yujia got off the car and told the guard the name of the teacher she was going to visit. Xie Yujia looked like such a good student that the guard came over and opened the gate without further questions.

Just when Hao Ren drove past the gate, he accidentally activated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll and suddenly saw the middle-aged guard emit a deep blue aura!

The guard checked everyone who entered the school. Obviously, Zhao Yanzi's plain-clothed bodyguards were everywhere!

Chapter 182: One Big and One Small~~

“Anything wrong?” Xie Yujia got back into the car and asked Hao Ren curiously when she saw him looking back at the guard.

“Nothing.” Hao Ren drove the car into the school, wondering if some of the workers in the school were also plain-clothed bodyguards sent by Zhao Guang.

He parked the car in the parking lot behind the cafeteria and got off the car with Xie Yujia.

Right now, the students were in class, and it was quiet on campus. Xie Yujia was here to visit her former teachers, and Hao Ren came here as her driver, planning to check up on Zhao Yanzi while he was here.

In the academic building of the Middle School Department, Hao Ren and Xie Yujia gentled their steps while they walked up the stairs.

Xie Yujia had gone through both the Middle School and High School Departments. She planned to first visit the teachers of the Middle School Department before going to the opposite building to visit the teachers in the High School Department.

Walking on the familiar stairs and through the corridors, Xie Yujia was reminiscent. When she was in the Middle School Department, she had refused many boys’ public or secret pursuits due to her feelings for “Little Older Brother”. Right now, she had a strange and wondrous feeling inside walking around in the Middle School Department with “Little Older Brother”.

Oblivious to Xie Yujia’s complicated feelings, Hao Ren remembered the last time he was here attending a parent-teacher meeting. When he was sitting in Zhao Yanzi’s classroom, he had imagined the scenario in which Zhao Yanzi was in the class. Today, he finally had the chance to witness it.

They came to the second floor. The left side was teachers’ offices, and the classrooms were on the right. Hao Ren walked directly to the classrooms on the right. He remembered the location of Class Two of the Eighth Grade and decided to go directly to the classroom to check up on Zhao Yanzi.

“The saucy girl must be reading a comic book in class. If she sees me pass by the windows, she will be startled,” Hao Ren thought with some secret enjoyment.

He could even imagine the surprise in Zhao Yanzi’s eyes when she saw him.

“Yujia?”

Suddenly, a voice both familiar and strange interrupted his wandering thoughts.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia both looked back and saw Luo Ying, the Class Advisor of Class Two of Eighth Grade, was standing at the entrance of the staircase.

“Ms. Luo!” Xie Yujia called. Her voice was not loud but very pleasing.

“Well, why are you here today?” Luo Ying looked at Xie Yujia, pleasantly surprised. She walked closer and glanced at Hao Ren, vaguely remembering he was Zhao Yanzi’s “cousin”.

Seeing Luo Ying, Hao Ren dared not loiter at the entrance of the classroom. He stayed by Xie Yujia's side politely.

Casting a glance at Hao Ren, Luo Ying asked Xie Yujia cautiously, "Your boyfriend?"

Xie Yujia blushed. "No. He's my classmate in the university. We came here together."

Luo Ying nodded with a smile as if she was relieved.

"What?! You think I'm not good enough for Xie Yujia?" Hao Ren murmured silently.

"I have to print some tests in the Copying Room. You guys go ahead and sit in my office until I come back," Luo Ying continued.

She said "you guys" which certainly included Hao Ren. Resigned, Hao Ren had to go with Xie Yujia, deciding to check up on Zhao Yanzi in the classroom when Xie Yujia went to visit her teachers in the High School Department.

"Ok, Ms. Luo," Xie Yujia answered with a smile.

Luo Ying nodded with satisfaction before going down the stairs.

Seeing Hao Ren was looking around curiously, Xie Yujia tugged at him and pulled him to the office area on the right.

The Eighth-Grade teachers' offices were all on the second floor for the convenience of management. The teachers of Chinese, Math, and English, the three main courses, shared one big office.

Looking up at the plaque "Eighth Grade Office of Chinese, Math and English" above the room, Hao Ren followed Xie Yujia into the office.

Obviously, Xie Yujia had been a class president when she was in middle school since she was very familiar with the office. However, Hao Ren was reminded of the many times when he was summoned to his teacher's office for lectures, and it was not a pleasant experience for him to enter such an office again.

"Well! It's Yujia!" Many teachers in the office recognized Xie Yujia and called out to her happily.

"Hi! Ms. Sun! Ms. Tian! Ms. Jin!" Xie Yujia greeted them one by one.

Obviously very fond of Xie Yujia, they waved at her happily. Instantly, the quiet office room became lively.

English Teacher Ms. Jin, the youngest among them, was especially happy. She took Xie Yujia's hand, saying, "I've not seen you for years, and you are even prettier now! I still remember the boys writing you love letters and I even caught one in my English Class. It was written in English!"

"Ms. Jin, it happened a long ago..." Xie Yujia lowered her head and said shyly.

Standing in the office, Hao Ren just looked at Xie Yujia and the teachers. He felt a little embarrassed since he had not been a student of LingZhao Middle School and thus didn't know any of the teachers.

“Haha! You’ve brought your boyfriend to visit us?” Ms. Jin saw Hao Ren standing in the office and asked Xie Yujia.

“No! He’s my classmate in the university,” Xie Yujia hurried to explain.

However, the teachers didn’t believe her. They teased her, “You used to study hard, but you are in the college now. It’s natural to have a boyfriend.”

Xie Yujia blushed. She turned to look at Hao Ren, but he didn’t come over to help her explain.

Hao Ren felt it would be weird to talk to them. After all, they were not his teachers.

“Your boyfriend is quite handsome. You two must be going steady since he has agreed to come here to visit your teachers with you,” Seeing Xie Yujia’s blush, the teachers teased her more vigorously

Since Xie Yujia had graduated from the Middle School Department many years ago, the teachers no longer treated her as a kid. Besides, it was quite common for college students to date. Seeing Hao Ren’s solid character and Xie Yujia’s gentleness, they thought it was highly likely that they would stick with each other after graduating from university.

Being teased mercilessly by the teachers and Hao Ren didn’t look like he would come forward to help explain, Xie Yujia had to distract them with another topic. She asked, “Are you quite busy these days?”

“Of course! I’m overwhelmed!” Ms. Jin complained. “The students are getting more and more rebellious! Today I even caught one copying someone else’s homework in class!”

“Oh?” Xie Yujia pulled out a chair and sat down before beckoning Hao Ren to sit beside her.

Just when Hao Ren was dragging a chair over to her side, Ms. Jin turned toward a corner and asked, “Zhao Yanzi, are you finished with your Self Reflection Report?”

Hao Ren turned his head and saw behind the piles of papers on the desk Zhao Yanzi was busy writing a Self Reflection Report with her teeth gritting.

Chapter 183: Unconvinced!!

“Um...” Hao Ren was utterly stunned as he and Zhao Yanzi gazed into each other’s eyes.

Zhao Yanzi suddenly stood up, walk in front of the English teacher with a stern face, and put her written self-reflection report on the desk.

Ms. Jin sat straight and picked up the report. She read it over and turned to Zhao Yanzi. “You don’t sound very sincere here.”

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth and gasped for some air. Her face turned green from the embarrassment.

Hao Ren sat beside Ms. Jin, so he could clearly see Zhao Yanzi’s reaction.

“Why, did I say something wrong?” Ms. Jin put on a serious look after seeing Zhao Yanzi’s reaction. “Was it my mistake to catch you cheating on your homework in class?”

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth and pouted; she looked unconvinced, which made Ms. Jin even sterner. She said to Zhao Yanzi, "Let me tell you. Don't think that you are all perfect just because you did well on the midterm! Your English grade is still one of the lowest in the class!"

Zhao Yanzi suppressed her anger, but Xie Yujia couldn't help but say, "Don't be mad, Ms. Jin. Good grades come gradually and copying someone's homework is only a rare occasion."

"I don't need you to speak up for me!" Zhao Yanzi suddenly yelled as she stared at Xie Yujia.

Ms. Jin knocked her hand on the table. "What kind of attitude is this!"

"There's no attitude whatsoever!" Zhao Yanzi talked back.

Although Hao Ren wasn't a student at this school, he couldn't keep watching anymore. He stood up and pulled Zhao Yanzi to the side.

Zhao Yanzi pouted and stared at Hao Ren as if she was blaming it all on him.

"Save yourself some words." Hao Ren patted her arm lightly.

He used to be scolded by his teachers and knew that the best one could do was to apologize and show regret for the mistake. There would never be a good outcome if one were to talk back to the teacher.

Ms. Jin couldn't hold back her anger and said to Xie Yujia, "Look! Look! This is what the students are like nowadays!"

She looked at Zhao Yanzi and continued, "If you were half as understanding as the students I used to have, I wouldn't be worrying so much!"

"She is a good student, and I'm not!" Zhao Yanzi shouted abruptly.

"What's the matter? What's the matter?" Zhao Yanzi's Class Advisor, Luo Ying, walked in and spotted Zhao Yanzi who was almost about to quarrel with Ms. Jin.

Zhao Yanzi was a bit scared of the Class Advisor. Thus, her toughness suddenly decreased a lot. She kept her mouth shut, pouting.

Hao Ren finally relaxed. He pulled on her arm, but she pushed his arm away immediately.

"Ms. Jin, there's no need to get into an argument with a student even though they don't behave," Luo Ying said to the English teacher. Then, she waved at Zhao Yanzi and said, "Come over here."

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth and walked to her.

"I asked different teachers for your homework, and I know you copied all of this weekend's homework from Xue Ling. Let's put that aside and answer this question first – what did you do this weekend?" Luo Ying seemed to be nice, yet her eyes were staring at Zhao Yanzi sharply.

Zhao Yanzi pouted her mouth and kept quiet, but Hao Ren knew that she went to Zhejiang with him this weekend.

“It is true that you have shown some improvement in your midterms but getting into a relationship while your grades are going up would definitely affect your studies. Do you know that?” Luo Ying continued.

Zhao Yanzi wanted to explain but didn’t know where to start. She wasn’t sure what Luo Ying meant by a ‘relationship.

“Don’t think that I don’t know. That guy named Hao Ren. He climbed over the wall to see you while you were in PE class a few days ago, right?” Luo Ying continued to ask.

Zhao Yanzi and Xie Yujia both shivered at Luo Ying’s words.

Xie Yujia turned to Hao Ren, but Hao Ren didn’t know where to look all of a sudden.

“Now that you are fully committed to the relationship, you don’t even have time to do your homework? Were you hanging out with him this whole weekend?” Luo Ying asked again.

Zhao Yanzi’s anger turned into embarrassment. To her surprise, Luo Ying guessed everything right. Hao Ren’s heart sank at the same time; it sounded like he was the one to be blamed for all of this after all.

“I know a teacher from City North First High School, and I will go find that Hao Ren sometime to talk with him,” Luo Ying said seriously.

“What a Class Advisor... To chase after me across schools.” Hao Ren was stunned as he stood beside Ms. Jin’s desk.

Luo Ying changed back to her friendly tone after the few remarks. “I’ll let it go this time. Go back to class.”

Zhao Yanzi walked immediately toward the office door after hearing that.

Ms. Jin was relatively young, and she didn’t want to let it go.

“Ms. Luo, you are letting her go just like this?” she asked.

“What else can I do? Check out my drawer,” Luo Ying pulled her drawer open and said, “There is a dozen of her self-reflection reports here already!”

Hao Ren sighed slightly, thinking, “Zhao Yanzi is just like me when I was her age. Quite a self-reflection report producer!”

“And you,” Luo Ying turned to Hao Ren and said to him, “As her cousin, you need to tell her to focus on her study more!”

Hao Ren thought, “I tell her to study every day. If it weren’t for me, she wouldn’t have gotten so much better on her midterms.”

Xie Yujia was confused as she heard Luo Ying call Hao Ren Zhao Yanzi’s cousin.

Ms. Jin turned from angry to surprise when she found out that Hao Ren was Zhao Yanzi’s cousin. That meant Zhao Yanzi was the cousin of her favorite student’s boyfriend.

“How are you lately, Yujia? You should be a second-year student now, right?” Luo Ying asked Xie Yujia.

“Yes, I’m in my second year, and midterms have just finished as well,” Xie Yujia answered softly. Good students like her had always been popular among teachers.

Hao Ren felt awkward standing between them. He sneaked to the door and said to Xie Yujia, “I’ll go take a walk outside.”

She gave him a sweet smile and said, “Eh... Don’t go too far. You might get lost.”

Hao Ren nodded and got out of the office. He felt the stress inside the office, and he is a lot more relieved.

While standing outside, he vaguely heard Luo Ying asking Xie Yujia quietly, “Is he really your boyfriend?”

“He is actually pretty nice, and... I know Zhao Yanzi as well. She is a nice girl,” Xie Yujia tried to defend Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

Hao Ren went to the balcony of a classroom ahead of him. He looked into the window when he passed by Class Two of the Eighth Grade and saw Zhao Yanzi doodling on her blank notebook in her seat, which was located in the front of the classroom.

A few students turned to him as they noticed someone at the window. Zhao Yanzi looked over as well. However, she immediately looked down at her notebook as soon as she saw Hao Ren. She put more force on her pen as if she was mad at the pen.

Their Geology teacher was explaining air pressure on the whiteboard, and he noticed the weirdness on Zhao Yanzi’s face. He called out her name and asked her to answer a question, but Zhao Yanzi couldn’t explain it at all since she wasn’t listening.

She looked at Hao Ren by the window and blushed in embarrassment.

Hao Ren smiled, thinking it really was not her day. He walked on to the sports field next.

After a while, he figured it was about time that Xie Yujia finished chatting with her teachers. Therefore, he went back to the office that he was in earlier.

Luo Ying looked up from the homework that she was grading and said, “Yujia is in the office next door.”

Hao Ren stayed at the door and asked, “Could I talk with you for a bit, Ms. Luo?”

Luo Ying stood up in surprise and walked out of the office.

Luo Ren felt strangely nervous facing a middle school teacher like Luo Ying. However, he took a deep breath and said, “Actually, Zhao Yanzi is not a bad kid at all. She is under a lot of pressure at the moment. Please be more patient with her.”

“She skips classes, talks back to the teachers, reads comic books and magazines in class, and causes conflicts with students from higher grades. Aren’t those enough?” Luo Ying asked Hao Ren.

“Maybe she is not as obedient as Xie Yujia, but that doesn’t mean she is not a good person,” Hao Ren said.

Luo Ying stared at Hao Ren as he looked into her eyes sincerely.

“Maybe my way of judging students is one-sided and too simple. However, the improvement in their grades is the best indication of their hard work. If Zhao Yanzi can rank in the top six in the finals, I will change my view of her,” Luo Ying said.

Hao Ren thought for a bit and nodded. “OK!”

Luo Ying added as Hao Ren was about to leave, “Yujia is a very good girl. Although university relationships often end after graduation, I would still like for you to take good care of her.”

Hao Ren looked at her and didn’t know what to say. Luo Ying expression and tone showed her care for her old student.

“She likes you a lot from the way she talked about you. Although you were not my student, I could see that you are not a bad person. So, please be nice to her,” seeing that Hao Ren was quiet, Luo Ying added.

“Um...” Hao Ren mumbled and answered before heading toward the other office.

Xie Yujia pushed the door open and walked out of that office at the same time.

Xie Yujia was surprised to see Hao Ren and Luo Ying outside of the office and asked, “What’s the matter?”

“Oh, he is asking me about Zhao Yanzi. Do you want to stick around for a little while, Yujia? We can have dinner together.”

“It’s ok, Ms. Luo. I still need to go over to the High School Department!” Xie Yujia answered energetically.

“Ok! Go ahead then!” Luo Ying laughed pleasantly.

“Goodbye, Ms. Luo!” Xie Yujia waved and pulled on Hao Ren’s shirt, guiding him downstairs.

Luo Ying watched them and smiled as she shook her head.

She thought Hao Ren was a bit presumptuous when she first saw him at the Parent-Teacher Meeting. But now, she thought that Xie Yujia might have a good pair of eyes for picking out guys.

“But this Zhao Yanzi is like a crooked stone that is difficult to polish. She will have much better grades if she behaves like Xie Yujia...” Luo Ying sighed slightly and went back to her office.

Chapter 184: In Public!!!

Xie Yujia glimpsed at Hao Ren as they got out of the Academic Building.

“I am going to the High School Department to visit some teachers. Are you coming with me, or do you want to take a walk around campus?” she asked.

“I’ll take a walk and take you back later,” Hao Ren said.

“Alright, I’ll treat you to dinner,” Xie Yujia laughed happily.

She walked past the small bridge over the lake and headed toward the Academic Building of the High School Department.

Looking at her, Hao Ren could imagine how youthful and energetic Xie Yujia was during her middle school years.

He thought to himself, "If there were a girl like her in my class, I would probably like her as well."

On the sports field nearby, three classes were having PE. The boys were running while the girls chatted on the railings beside the sports field. It was almost identical to what happened when Hao Ren was in middle school.

He found a step to sit on and silently cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll as he watched the mid-schoolers running on the sports field.

One can put natural treasures in the space in the necklace but not the invisible Nature Essence. Hao Ren wanted to store some Natural Essence in the necklace so that he could make use of it to accelerate his cultivation speed, but it seemed like it wouldn't work that way.

According to test results given to him by Lu Linlin and Lu Lili, Hao Ren especially emphasized the absorption of metal and wood elements. Su Han's Golden Pearl could assist him with the metal elements, but he needed to rely on his own efforts to absorb wood elements.

Although the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll could convert different elements, there had to be a profound foundation. The thin elements inside Hao Ren's body couldn't be converted efficiently. It would be better just to absorb them from nature.

The Nature Essence circulated inside Hao Ren's body according to the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll seven times until it further stabilized the second opening in the Dragon Core.

Soon, the students gathered together on the sports field. The bell rang, and the students were dismissed. The Academic Building behind Hao Ren suddenly got noisy as well.

The students got out of their classrooms and walked around on the balconies and staircases.

Hao Ren wanted to go see Zhao Yanzi, but he didn't want to cause her any trouble. Therefore, he stood up and started to walk around campus.

"Uncle!" Zhao Yanzi called him from behind all of a sudden.

Hao Ren turned back and saw her running out of the Academic Building in her blue school uniform.

Hao Ren stood still until she ran in front of him. Ling, Zhao Yanzi's good friend from school, followed.

[Eighth Grade, Class Two, Zhao Yanzi]. A name tag was pinned under the school badge on Zhao Yanzi's uniform.

"What... Are you doing here?" she asked, panting a little.

"I'm here to see you," Hao Ren said.

"Where is she?" Zhao Yanzi asked aggressively.

Hao Ren knew she was asking about Xie Yujia. He shook his head and said, "She should be in the High School Department."

"Humph, you are here with her, right?" She lifted her head and stared at Hao Ren angrily.

"Ok, ok, ok. Whatever you say." Hao Ren didn't bother arguing with her since he was in her school after all.

Zhao Yanzi got even madder at Hao Ren's attitude.

"You were in the office just to see me in embarrassment, weren't you?"

"I'm neither a student of your school or your teachers' acquaintance. What was I supposed to say?" Hao Ren asked as he thought, "It might be my fault that you have to cheat on your homework, but it was definitely your fault for getting caught."

"When are you going back?" Zhao Yanzi's tone warmed up a little.

"Maybe... In a little while," Hao Ren answered.

"Wait for me by the school gate when school is over," she said.

Hao Ren hesitated for a few seconds before he nodded.

Ling stood beside Zhao Yanzi and examined Hao Ren as they spoke. She felt like something was different about this "uncle" from the first time she saw him.

"Zi! Your boyfriend is here to see you again?" A few girls ran over and shouted beside them.

Zhao Yanzi bit her lips and smiled happily. She turned around to hit them lightly without explaining. The girls laughed louder as they ran away.

Hao Ren looked around and realized that students on the balcony were all leaning on to the railings and looking at him and Zhao Yanzi.

A bunch of mid-schoolers was observing them as they spoke by the Academic Building...

Zhao Yanzi was a popular girl whose name was even brought up regularly in the High School Department. A gossip like 'Her boyfriend from another school came to find her' would undoubtedly quickly spread through the entire Middle School Department.

"Zhao Yanzi, Kiss!" the girls who ran away circled back and shouted together. They had obviously planned this.

"Zhao Yanzi, Kiss!" some guys on the second-floor balcony shouted as well.

"Kiss! Kiss!" The other guys followed their lead.

Zhao Yanzi blushed as she knocked on Hao Ren's shoulder. "Don't come to find me at school again."

"Zhao Yanzi, Kiss! Zhao Yanzi, Kiss!" The yells turned into a chant from the balcony.

"These students are so gossipy." Hao Ren knew that this would for sure lure the teachers out of their offices, so he got ready to leave.

At this time, Zhao Yanzi suddenly stepped forward and said in the quietest voice possible, "A hug should be fine."

"Um?" Hao Ren thought he heard her wrong amongst all the yelling from the students.

"Stupid!" she knocked on Hao Ren's chest and stepped half a step forward into Hao Ren's arms.

"Oh...Oh...Oh..." all the students kicked up a fuss immediately.

Hao Ren's face was blushing down to the neck...

This was the first time he hugged a girl in public.

"What are you yelling at?" A skinny teacher dashed out of his office.

Hao Ren suddenly turned and ran away after seeing how the situation had changed. Since he was on Kan-level, he could run as fast as if he was flying. He disappeared into the trees' shads in no time.

Zhao Yanzi touched her hot cheeks and said to Ling as she lifted her head, "Come on! I'll buy you bubble tea at the school corner store!"

The two of them walked away under everyone's stare. The 'celebrity' of the school finally stirred up a tornado.

The male students all remembered Hao Ren as the guy who had Zhao Yanzi, who wouldn't agree to go out with anyone, in his arms.

Chapter 185: Weakening the Heavenly Tribulation?

Hao Ren had no idea what Zhao Yanzi was planning. However, his heartbeat sped up when she went into his arms. It was not less powerful than that of the 'Small Lightning Cloud Tribulation.'

Hao Ren rushed out of the Middle School Department and headed toward the Academic Building of the High School Department. Xie Yujia was just walking out.

She saw Hao Ren and immediately waved at him.

"Hey, Hao Ren!"

Hao Ren walked over, and Xie Yujia noticed the blush on his cheek. She blinked curiously and asked "Why is your face so red? Is it too hot outside?"

"Oh, it's alright," Hao Ren put his hand on his forehead and replied, "Um... You are done visiting your high school teachers?"

"Yes... Though some of them have been transferred to other schools." Xie Yujia nodded and looked up at the sun. "It's still a bit early for dinner. Why don't we take a walk around the school?"

Hao Ren thought, "There is nothing to do anyway when I get back. Plus, I could kill some time and pick up Zhao Yanzi after school."

He agreed and said, "Let's go."

Xie Yujia smiled pleasantly and walked beside Hao Ren. As another bell rang, the students all went back to their classrooms.

A few high-schooler hastily passed by Hao Ren as they chatted with each other.

“Fatty, remember the mid-schooler, Zi, who you are interested in? Her boyfriend just came here to see her. They hugged on the sports field outside of the building, and they probably kissed too!”

“Damn it! Where did you hear that from?”

“My little sister is in the Middle School Department, and she just texted me! She witnessed the whole thing!”

As they went by, they couldn’t help but peek at Xie Yujia. They were probably wondering why they hadn’t seen this beautiful girl in the school before.

Of course, they didn’t pay attention to Hao Ren. They would never have guessed this was the guy who just hugged Zhao Yanzi in public.

Xie Yujia didn’t pay attention to the discussion because she wasn’t sensitive to the name ‘Zi’ and her hearing wasn’t as acute as Hao Ren. She walked closer to Hao Ren as they moved forward slowly and quietly, checking out the grasses, trees, hills, and small ponds in the school.

The school was quiet. This was the last class of the day, so there were no PE classes. The entire sports field was empty and silent.

The sun in the west was giving out the last warmth of the day and poured a layer of gold on the sports field.

They strolled on the track side by side. Hao Ren looked down at the lines and stepped on the white starting line.

They were both quietly walking in the bright sunset.

The red tracks with white lines reminded Xie Yujia of her middle school and high school years and Hao Ren of the Athletic Games at the university not too long ago.

After taking a walk along the sports field, they went to the library, the music center, the stadium... And everywhere else.

Xie Yujia cherished the memories of her middle school and high school years and having Hao Ren by her side gave her a different feeling.

“I fell here once.” She pointed at the stairs outside of the library as she lifted her right sleeve. “See, the scar is still here.”

Hao Ren looked over and saw a tiny scar on her pale skin. He took another look at the stairs and could imagine what it looked like when she tripped. It made his heart ache a little.

“When I was in middle school and high school, I had always wondered where my Little Older Brother was studying,” Xie Yujia smiled in delight and said, “But I never imagined that you would be just two blocks over at City North First High School.”

Hao Ren could imagine Xie Yujia's quiet yet persistent lifestyle during her middle school and high school years. She probably read books in the classroom during breaks, took sunbaths on the balcony, kept a friendly distance from the guys and never got too close to them, and daydreamed by the side of the sports field during PE class...

The sunshine slowly faded away, and it was about time for the final dismissal.

"I'll treat you to dinner," Xie Yujia said.

"Don't worry. I still need to take Zi back. Let me drive you back to the school first. Actually, I still owe you a meal for the notes you lent to me last time," Hao Ren walked to the parking lot and said.

"You don't have to take me back if you need to wait for her. I'll just take a bus. It's pretty convenient anyways," Xie Yujia walked to the school gate as she said this to him.

Hao Ren called her, but she went through the small door and got out of the school without looking back.

Hao Ren sighed as he watched her leave. He went into the parking lot and started the Ferrari.

The doorman opened the door for him, and he drove the car outside of the school gate and waited on the side of the road.

Ring... The final dismissal bell rang. A few minutes later, all the students walked through the gate.

There were some other cars at the school gate, picking up students. However, none of them were as luxurious as this Ferrari. Zhao Yanzi got out of the school with some of her classmates, and she waved at Hao Ren on purpose when she saw the Ferrari.

Hao Ren was very eye-catching in this flashy car.

Zhao Yanzi ran over cheerfully with her bag on her back and got in the car. Students from both the High School Department and the Middle School Department were gossiping about them when they saw that.

Zhao Yanzi pinched Hao Ren's cheek as soon as she got into the car, acting like they were very close. Hao Ren immediately started the car and dashed out under everyone's stare like a rich kid.

As the vehicle moved forward, Zhao Yanzi glimpsed at Hao Ren and asked, "She left?"

Her tone showed her hostility toward Xie Yujia, who was beautiful and well-developed.

"You hate her that much?" Hao Ren turned to her.

"At least there's nothing that I like about her." Zhao Yanzi pouted.

"It seems like it is very hard for a good student and a bad student to get along." Hao Ren rubbed his head and kept driving.

"You should work harder starting today," Hao Ren said suddenly.

"The reason is?" Zhao Yanzi asked immediately.

"No reason. That's the responsibility your mom gave me," Hao Ren answered.

Zhao Yanzi twitched her nose and kept quiet. She seemed to have already forgotten about the incident in the office today.

“Do you think your Third Uncle can pass the Heavenly Tribulation this time?” Hao Ren asked.

“50/50,” Zhao Yanzi looked a little gloomy. “My dad said that my Third Uncle’s Heavenly Tribulation would play a big part in East Ocean and West Ocean’s relationship.”

Hao Ren thought so as well. Otherwise, why would Zhao Guang stay at the Dragon Palace to supervise the construction of the altar?

“What... Would be the consequences... If he fails?” Hao Ren asked.

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth. “My Third Uncle is very powerful so that he won’t fail!”

However, her facial expression revealed how unconfident she was about it.

“What if...” Hao Ren said, “What if I can weaken the Heavenly Tribulation?”

Chapter 186: Ninth Heaven

“Weaken the Heavenly Tribulation?” Zhao Yanzi opened her eyes wide.

“The Heavenly Tribulation is a Lightning Tribulation, and my Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll is a Five Elemental Lightning Cultivation Technique. I should be able to weaken some of it if I tried my best.”

Zhao Yanzi thought for a bit and shook her head. “We don’t know what kind of tribulation he is faced with this time. If it is the simplest Five Lightning Tribulation, which is the Wind Cloud Thunder Lightning Fire Tribulation, he should be able to pass with his power. However, if it is the Ninth Heaven Purple Cloud Tribulation or something more powerful, he might be in danger.”

Hao Ren thought that the Heavenly Tribulation was a simple Lightning Tribulation, but it seemed like there was more to it. Perhaps it was the case for human cultivators, but for the Dragon Tribe, the Heavenly Tribulation was more complicated than a Lightning Tribulation since it was also a ‘Transformation Tribulation.’

“Your Class President used to have outstanding grades?” Zhao Yanzi suddenly changed the subject.

“It sounded like she was always at the No.1 in her grade when she studied here,” Hao Ren answered.

Zhao Yanzi looked down quietly and suddenly said, “So, I wouldn’t lose to her if I become the No.1 student in my grade?”

“What do you mean by... Lose to her?” Hao Ren asked.

“Nothing.” Zhao Yanzi looked out of the window.

The Ferrari arrived at Zhao Yanzi’s house. Hao Ren parked the car outside and went in with Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Hongyu walked down from the attic and called them for dinner. She was just waiting for them to get back to start dinner.

It was a little quiet since Zhao Guang wasn't there. Zhao Hongyu mentioned that her studio needed some help from Hao Ren again to which Hao Ren agreed.

"Auntie, Third Uncle's Heavenly Tribulation is really a big deal this time, right?" After some small talk, Hao Ren asked.

"Yes. We have been preparing for Zhao Kuo's Heavenly Tribulation for over half a year now. He sensed that it was coming a year ago, and East Ocean has been putting in a lot of effort for the preparation," Zhao Hongyu said.

She thought for a bit and added, "Just the preparation for this Heavenly Tribulation has used up about one-third of East Ocean's treasures and accumulations."

One-third of the East Ocean's treasures and accumulations! Hao Ren was astonished as he knew the East Ocean Dragon Clan had countless treasures. One-third was an enormous amount!

"The Heavenly Dragon Realm is like the Soul Formation Realm for human cultivators; they are all equivalent to the Earthly Immortal Realm. There hasn't been a Heavenly Dragon among the Water Elemental Dragon Clans for over 1000 years.

"Heavenly Dragon..." Hao Ren frowned.

"The most recent one happened 600 years ago when the Metal Elemental Dragon Clan spent thousands of years of their accumulations on helping an elder to get into the Heavenly Dragon Realm. I heard that golden lights came down as countless treasures poured from the sky. Just because of this elder, the Metal Elemental Dragon Clan is much more powerful than the other clans. Plus, another of their privileges is to be able to reach Eighth Heaven," Zhao Hongyu explained patiently.

Zhao Yanzi listened very carefully. She wasn't aware of these things as well.

"The Eighth Heaven?" Hao Ren asked.

"The dragons can fly, but as rules go, we can't exceed Seventh Heaven, or we will be punished. However, the Metal Elemental Dragon Clan has the privilege of flying to Eighth Heaven. Above that would be the Heavenly Immortals' turf, and Ninth Heaven is where we could never step in," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Seventh Heaven, Eighth Heaven... Aren't they just names? What is the use of going that high anyway?" Zhao Yanzi murmured.

Zhao Hongyu laughed, "You think it's just a matter of height? There are all kinds of immortal mountains and immortal clouds on Fifth Heaven and beyond. The cultivations sects live there, and the treasures on Eighth Heaven surely would be better than those on Seventh Heaven. Won't it be a pity if you aren't unable to get them?"

Zhao Yanzi pouted quietly.

Hao Ren was a bit astonished to hear about the immortal mountains, clouds, and human cultivators on Fifth Heaven.

The Metal Elemental Dragon Clan could get to Eighth Heaven. No wonder Qin Shaoyang, who was a Metal Elemental Dragon, was so arrogant.

East Ocean was spending one-third of their savings to help Zhao Guang with his Heavenly Tribulation in order to get an opportunity like this as well. There weren't many dragons in the Metal Elemental Dragon Clan, so they could all get to Eighth Heaven since one of the elders had become a Heavenly Dragon. On the other hand, the Water Elemental Dragon Clan had a lot of members, so not everyone could have this privilege if Zhao Kuo got to ascend successfully; only East Ocean would be able to go to Eighth Heaven.

By that time, East Ocean would be able to quickly recover with all the treasures that were hard to find in the mortal world. They might even get their hands on a lot of Mystic Crystals. If that happened, they wouldn't be afraid of West Ocean at all.

But the reality was that the Heavenly Tribulation was extremely dangerous. Most of the powerful Qian-level Masters couldn't get through it.

Zhao Kuo was fighting to pursue a higher realm as well as a better future for East Ocean.

"What do you mean by the Immortal Cultivation Sects then? How come you never told me about this before, Mom?" Zhao Yanzi blinked.

"You need to focus on your studies!" Zhao Hongyu reached out to press her finger on the tip of Zhao Yanzi's nose.

However, she kept on explaining, "The cultivation sects, which are the remaining human cultivator forces after the Great War a few hundred years ago, used immense array formations and transferred their entire sects onto Fifth Heaven and up from the mortal world. Of course, not everyone was aware of this. The information was of high confidentiality in order to avoid conflict with the Dragon Tribe.

"Um," Hao Ren nodded.

Human cultivators had already handed the land over to the Dragon Tribe. If the Dragon Tribe were to seek more trouble with them, a serious war might break out.

Zhao Hongyu smiled softly at Hao Ren who was frowning. "Don't overthink this. There isn't much that you can help with regarding the Heavenly Tribulation. However, I need your help with some company matters. I'll give you some design and architecture-related books to read over when you have some time."

"Ok, Auntie." Hao Ren nodded.

Zhao Hongyu didn't think that Hao Ren would be helpful with the Heavenly Tribulation, but she still appreciated his attention on East Ocean's future. She saw him as a family member, and Hao Ren started to see himself as a part of East Ocean as well. This was something that she really liked to see.

Zhao Yanzi was still young, but Zhao Hongyu knew that she would have to hand her daughter over and let Hao Ren take care of Zhao Yanzi eventually.

She hoped that her daughter could have a peaceful life.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Zhao Yanzi in pity and glimpsed at Hao Ren. Then, she sighed slightly.

This was none of Zhao Yanzi's concern as the daily homework was already enough for her to deal with. Regarding the fights and wars, she was just curious and wouldn't even keep it in mind.

But the hug from Hao Ren today would for sure bring down the number of love letters she would be receiving. She smiled cheerfully at the thought of this. Then, she suddenly stared at Hao Ren.

Chapter 187: Special Group

After dinner, Hao Ren began tutoring Zhao Yanzi. He planned to give her an overview of the courses in the second term.

He began with Math and gave her an outline for each chapter. After all, the Grade Eight Math was a little tricky. In her pajamas, Zhao Yanzi pursed her lips but listened quite attentively.

Hao Ren sat on the wooden chair next to her. Shoulder to shoulder, they presented an intimate picture if anyone looked at them from behind.

Zhao Yanzi's pink and delicate skin made her face look like a small apple that was just picked from a tree. Hao Ren could even feel the warmth of her shoulder beneath her pajama top.

Now that they were familiar with each other, Zhao Yanzi was no longer alarmed about these small intimacies. When Hao Ren tutored her earlier on, she had always kept a distance of half a meter and was always cautious.

After Math, Hao Ren continued with English. Although languages needed time to comprehend, Hao Ren tried to single out the key points so that she would not be unfamiliar to them on tests. If she mastered the different sentence structures, the English tests in middle school would be a piece of cake.

Zhao Yanzi was quite smart, and her only problem in the past had been her reluctance to study. Since she had listened attentively, when Hao Ren quizzed her at the end of the session, she came up with the right answers promptly.

Knock! Knock! Someone knocked on Zhao Yanzi's door.

"Mom, come in!" Zhao Yanzi called out.

Zhao Hongyu entered with a smile. "Ren, I chose some beginner's books for you. You can take them with you and study them when you are free."

"Isn't he staying here for the night?" Zhao Yanzi asked immediately.

"Do you want Ren to sleep here?" Zhao Hongyu asked her.

Realizing her mistake, Zhao Yanzi curled her lips and didn't know what to say.

"Ren, you can sleep here if you want," seeing Zhao Yanzi's pout, Zhao Hongyu smiled again and said to Hao Ren.

"No, thank you. I better go back," Hao Ren stood up and said.

"Go! Go!" Zhao Yanzi raised her head and yelled.

Zhao Hongyu smiled, giving a small pat on her forehead.

“Auntie, I’m going now. I’ll come over tomorrow to tutor Zi.” Hao Ren picked up the architectural design books Zhao Hongyu gave him.

After Hao Ren walked out of the room, Zhao Hongyu gently pinched Zhao Yanzi’s cheek. “Today, I got another phone call from your class advisor complaining about you.”

“Oh? What did she say?” Zhao Yanzi’s eyes widened.

“She said that when your boyfriend came to the school, you hugged him. The gossips around it had spread all over the school.” Zhao Hongyu looked at her. “It was Hao Ren, wasn’t it?”

“Mom, it isn’t like that...” Zhao Yanzi blushed and tried to explain.

“I don’t want to listen! I don’t want to listen...” Copying Zhao Yanzi, Zhao Hongyu covered her ears with her hands and walked out of her room.

While Zhao Yanzi raged in her room, Hao Ren drove the Ferrari back to his dorm in East Ocean University.

When he got back to the dorm, Zhao Jiayi and the others rushed over and insisted that he should buy them a meal. After all, they were traumatized by Hao Ren, the ‘Winner in Life,’ who had lunch with the Lu sisters at Hongji Square and drove around with the beautiful Class President.

Since all of his defenses were useless, Hao Ren got more than ten dinners delivered to the dorm, treating his buddies and the guys from nearby dorms. Comforted by the food, they stopped their indignant complaints.

“Zhao Jiayi, how are the basketball practices?” Eating a box of fried rice noodles, Hao Ren asked.

“I train every day. Today, I practiced until nine,” Zhao Jiayi said.

“Zhao Jiayi has now become one of the main players on the Basketball Team, and he will become the Captain of the team very soon!” Zhou Liren yelled. He patted Zhao Jiayi on the arm and said, “Then, you can recruit me onto the team. Now, girls are inviting you to meals, but I have nothing.”

“You are not good enough.” Zhao Jiayi lightly slapped his hand off.

“Zhao Jiayi is awesome. The whole Basketball Team is under his command,” Cao Ronghua chimed in.

“Is it because Xie Wanjun is going abroad?” Hao Ren asked.

“How did you know?” Zhao Jiayi asked curiously. Then, it dawned on him. “Oh, Xie Yujia must have told you that. It’s no big deal. Since he has been busy recently, he let me act as the temporary Captain.”

Temporary Captain. Most likely, Zhao Jiayi would be the Captain after Xie Wanjun goes abroad.

“Yeah. Zhao Jiayi is a big figure now. Girls are trying to date him, and some even went to the stadium to watch him practice. I should have joined the Basketball Team, too!” Zhou Liren lamented regretfully.

Hao Ren grinned and asked Zhao Jiayi, “When does this year’s season begin?”

“The first match is next week. We were one of the best last year, so we don’t have to compete with the universities in East Ocean City and have advanced directly to the second round. We’ll have an away match with Sanmu University in Xinan City. Sanmu University got the eighth place last year,” Zhao Jiayi said.

“According to the Class President, our class will book a bus and go to the match, following the school bus that is taking the Basketball Team. Since it’s only a two-hour drive from here, Xie Yujia said the trip would be counted as a class activity and hoped that every one of our classmates could go and cheer on the team. However, she insisted on paying for the bus from her pocket instead of using the class fund,” Cao Ronghua said.

Since Hao Ren hasn’t been living in the dorm recently, he was not aware of the activities of the class. He guessed that Xie Yujia paid for the class trip so that more people would be willing to go and cheer for Zhao Jiayi.

The guys got excited about the topic of the class trip. Xinan City was not far from East Ocean City, and there were several attractions to see. Besides, Sanmu University’s Film Program was said to be full of beautiful girls...

Hao Ren didn’t join their discussion. Instead, he carried the architectural design books to his upper berth to read.

“Below Fifth Heaven is the mortal world, above Fifth Heaven is the world of the cultivators, and above Ninth Heaven is the world of Immortals.” Suddenly, Hao Ren remembered what Zhao Hongyu had told him.

The dragons could move freely in the ocean, on the land, and below Eighth Heaven. However, they couldn’t freely enter the territories of the sect.

The East Ocean Dragon Clan had a history of more than 1,000 years, and the prominent sects probably also had a history as long as 1,000 years. If the six major sects didn’t drag each other into the fierce war which resulted in a substantial carnage of human cultivators, those dominant cultivation sects wouldn’t be forced to ascend to Fifth Heaven and up, and the Dragon Tribe wouldn’t be able to get control over the land.

Su Han said that it had taken great risk for her to get the Metal-Water Mystic Crystal. Now thinking about it, maybe she had ventured into Fifth Heaven and had stolen or grabbed it from one of the powerful sects.

Otherwise, she would never have found such a natural treasure in this mortal world. Here, even West Ocean Mystic Ice, the lowest-grade water-elemental Mystic Crystals, were treated as superior treasures by the West Ocean Dragon Clan.

Due to the large number of dragons and their simple cultivation process, a lot of them had reached Zhen-level which was equivalent to the Core Formation Realm of human cultivators. If a war broke out between the dragon and human cultivators, the Dragon Tribe would prevail since they had more mid-ranked cultivators, and that was why the major cultivation sects went to Fifth Heaven.

“Well, I wonder what these cultivation sects look like.” Hao Ren couldn’t help but wonder.

He dozed off, and the morning came in the blink of an eye.

As usual, Hao Ren went with his roommates to eat breakfast in the cafeteria before going to class. The difference was that his Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was now in constant circulation, and the Dragon Core was automatically absorbing the essence from nature.

He activated his Nature Essence and found that the mid-aged lady selling Youtiao was emitting a pale blue light; the guy drinking soy milk had a bright blue light; the girl in a black dress who was messing with other girls around her had a green light; the guy checking his cell phone had a grey light; a teacher with glasses had a red light; a middle-aged man who was driving on campus had a yellow light; and in the distance, the man doing Tai Chi in the small forest had a green light...

Among the large group of people milling around in the school, they stood out even though there weren't many of them.

After reaching Kan-level, it was the first time Hao Ren realized that dragons surrounded him!

Those masters who were two realms higher than Hao Ren and could conceal their auras from him and those Inspectors who could completely conceal their presence couldn't be detected by Hao Ren. Therefore, there might be even more dragons around him than what he saw.

The dragons merged into the mortal world. If they didn't cultivate techniques of the Dragon Tribe, other cultivators wouldn't be able to tell their identities.

He looked at Zhou Liren, Zhao Jiayi, and Cao Ronghua and found no lights on them. After all, there weren't that many dragon cultivators compared with the number of mortal beings.

Metal, wood, water, fire, earth; white, green, blue, red, yellow.

On his way to the class, Hao Ren didn't see a single person with a white light which proved the rarity of the metal-elemental dragons!

Most of the auras Hao Ren sensed were blue. There were thousands of water-elemental dragons who came from branches of river, lake, and ocean.

The brighter the light, the higher the realm the cultivator was in. Hao Ren looked down at himself and saw that the light on him was very dim.

It meant that the other cultivators could tell that he was only on Kan-level.

No wonder they ignored him!

Although Hao Ren had gotten out of the 'kindergarten' level by breaking through the Spirit Concentration Scroll, Kan-level was actually the level of 'elementary school.'

In the circles of the dragons, if one were lower than Zhen-level, he or she would be ashamed to greet others.

However, Hao Ren was cultivating five elements at once, so he was equivalent to five Kan-level cultivators!

Entering the classroom, Hao Ren glanced around and found no cultivators here besides himself. Xie Yujia walked in with her backpack, talking and laughing with Ma Lina. Hao Ren looked at her carefully and saw no light on her.

“Hey! Did you know that after Lu Linlin and Lu Lili joined the Taekwondo Club yesterday, lots of students swarmed to the club? The President of the Taekwondo Club is exhilarated!” Yu Rong leaned over and said.

“They also joined the Swimming Club, and 300 students joined the club after them!” Gu Jiadong said.

“Damn! They are perverts who just want to see Lu Linlin and Lu Lili in swimsuits!” Huang Jianfeng yelled indignantly.

“Didn’t you join too?!” Yu Rong turned and gave him a dirty look.

“I... I need to lose weight!” Huang Jianfeng explained lamely.

Hao Ren rubbed his forehead, wondering what the girls were up to.

Undoubtedly, the clubs they joined would dim the glamour of Huang Xujie’s club.

“Gongzi...” a crisp voice came from the door.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili entered the classroom hand in hand. They were wearing thin and light long-sleeved floral blouses and jeans that accentuated their long slim legs. The only difference between them was that one had a ponytail and the other had pigtails. Their appearances dazzled the guys.

“What... Are you doing here?” Hao Ren asked.

“We are here to keep you company during class.” They smiled.

Chapter 188: Idiot in Life

Thud!

Xie Yujia who was sitting in the front row suddenly put down her ball-point pen and stood up.

She turned and walked toward the back, looking at Lu Linlin and Lu Lili coldly.

Sensing something was not right, the guys who were crowding around the back rows scattered.

“Sorry, but this is the class for Class Two only, and the class is about to begin. Please leave now,” Xie Yujia said sternly as she walked over.

Lu Lili looked at her and backed off two steps, but Lu Linlin took one step forward. “That sounds weird. We just want to sit in on your class; it is bothering you?”

They glared at each other, and sparks flew between their eyes.

“I’m the Class President, and I asked you not to interfere with the order of our class,” Xie Yujia said calmly, though everyone could see that she was angry.

“Weird. Does the school forbid other students from sitting in on a class?” Lu Linlin wouldn’t back off. She continued to stare at Xie Yujia.

They had similar heights, so they faced each other with livid expressions, leveled.

This confrontation lasted only several seconds, and the guys had all settled down to watch how the drama would unfold. However, Hao Ren couldn’t let it continue. He stood up immediately and pulled them apart.

“Ok! Stop it!”

“Gongzi! Look at her! She’s so mean,” Lu Linlin turned to him and complained.

Xie Yujia gritted her teeth and shook slightly with fury.

“Stop it. You guys should go. If you want to keep me company, please come when we’re in a big classroom when multiple classes are present,” sensing Xie Yujia’s anger, Hao Ren said to Lu Linlin and Lu Lili.

“We didn’t bother her. Why did she come over and mind your business?” Lu Linlin was stubborn, determined to fight with Xie Yujia.

“Lu Linlin! Lu Lili!” Xie Yujia couldn’t contain her anger anymore. “Don’t think that you can do whatever you want just because you are the Principal’s granddaughters!”

Xie Yujia turned to Hao Ren, but before she could open her mouth, Lu Linlin said, “Oh, I get it. You like Gongzi, too, don’t you?”

Xie Yujia’s face fell, looking like she was about to lose her temper.

“Linlin! Lili!” Hao Ren’s tone got stern. “Go back!”

Lu Linlin looked stiff, and Lu Lili tugged at her lightly. “Sister, let it go.”

Xie Yujia stood there and looked at them.

The guys froze with fear, and no one dared to utter a word.

In the past, Xie Yujia had always been calm and never lost her temper. However, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili seemed to have triggered something inside her.

Lu Linlin pulled Lu Lili out of the classroom. Before she left, she gave Xie Yujia a stare.

Xie Yujia didn’t back off. She squinted her eyes and stared back.

The guys were excited since they had never seen two beauties fight over a guy.

Ding... The class bell rang.

Glancing at Hao Ren, Xie Yujia said to him, “Mr. Hao Ren, please conduct yourself!”

Then, she turned and walked to her seat in the front row.

In her white shirt and straight pants, Xie Yujia stomped away.

“You’re finished. Finished!” Zhou Liren leaned over to Hao Ren and gloated over Hao Ren’s misfortune.

The other guys were also excited. After all, it was quite a topic that Xie Yujia, the sister of the top figure Xie Wanjun, had a clash with Lu Qing’s granddaughter during their class.

When the class ended, Xie Yujia, still angry, packed up her bag and left the classroom without a word. Ma Lina followed her immediately, probably trying to comfort her.

Hao Ren thought of sending her a text message or calling her but found both inadequate.

In the next few days, the atmosphere between Hao Ren and Xie Yujia was awkward, even more awkward than when Zhao Jiayi told her that Hao Ren liked her a while back. Even the girls in the class began to cast unfriendly glances at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren continued to tutor Zhao Yanzi each evening and cultivate the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. It seemed like nothing had changed; his cultivation progress was zero.

“This is the knot in my heart.” Hao Ren couldn’t sleep at night and found that he cared about Xie Yujia a lot.

Friday came, and the cold relationship between Hao Ren and Xie Yujia had no sign of thawing. She refused to return his text messages or answer his phone calls, and she ignored him when he walked over trying to talk to her.

Hao Ren had a taste of Xie Yujia’s stubbornness.

When the last class ended, Xie Yujia picked up her things and walked out of the classroom. Ma Lina walked to Hao Ren’s side and poked his forehead with her finger. “You idiot! Xie Yujia almost cried that day.”

“Really? When?” Hao Ren was astonished.

“During class after the confrontation. Why did you think she was silent? She was trying to contain her tears!” Angry at the memory, Ma Lina hit his arm with her fist.

The punch was not forceful, but Hao Ren’s heart ached.

Zhou Liren and the others had all gone out to watch Zhao Jiayi practice basketball. After Ma Lina left, Hao Ren was the only one in the classroom, picking up his stuff in slow motion.

The campus was quiet, except for the occasional yells of the students celebrating the end of the school week.

Hao Ren didn’t know if Xie Yujia would go home and talk her heart out with that old Grandma, but he had no one to talk to. Not wanting to discuss such matter with Zhao Jiayi and his buddies, he had to mull over it himself. He was about to leave the classroom sullenly when he saw Su Han standing at the door in an indigo-colored shirt.

“Upset?” Su Han looked at him and asked.

“Relationship problems,” Hao Ren answered.

“The love affairs of the mortals are of no interest to me.” Su Han looked at him. “You come with me today. I need you to do me a favor.”

Hao Ren couldn't refuse Su Han's request for help; he picked up his bag and walked to the door. Su Han turned and walked out with him.

Downstairs, Hao Ren started the Ferrari while Su Han got in the car.

When the car passed the basketball court, Huang Xujie, who was in his loose sports jersey, was drinking water at the sideline. When he saw Su Han in the passenger seat of Hao Ren's Ferrari, he choked on the water.

Hao Ren saw Huang Xujie as well. However, with his current strength, he no longer thought of Huang Xujie as his rival.

He stepped slightly on the gas pedal, and the Ferrari shot out of the school.

When they were out of the school, it occurred to Hao Ren that he hadn't asked Su Han where they were going.

“To my home in the Flower City on Plum Flower Road,” Su Han said.

Hao Ren's heart lurched, not expecting that they would go to Su Han's home. Then, he remembered that Lu Qing also lived in Flower City.

While Su Han gave directions, Hao Ren drove the car steadily. People in the nearby cars all looked toward the dashing car and pretty Su Han in it.

After entering the high-end residential complex, Su Han directed Hao Ren to park the car in the underground parking lot. She took him into the elevator, which made Hao Ren feel very familiar.

Ding! The elevator reached the eighth floor. Hao Ren walked out of the elevator and saw Lu Qing's apartment. In this building, two apartments shared one floor. Su Han lived right across from Lu Qing!

Hao Ren had spent several nights in Lu Qing's place, and he had never imagined that Su Han was living next door.

Elder Lu Qing was indeed a master of public relations. He not only arranged for Lu Linlin and Lu Lili to live in his place to draw them over but also made Su Han, an Inspector, into a lecturer at his school. On top of that, he got her a place next door to him. He was doing everything he could to make friends for the benefit of East Ocean.

Unlocking the door, Su Han changed into her indoor slippers before walking into the apartment. The smooth wooden floor was spotless, and it mirrored Su Han's white and delicate ankles.

The facilities in the apartment were luxurious, including a super-sized flat screen TV and a huge chandelier. Next to the living room was Su Han's cultivation room which was connected to the balcony.

“What favor do you want me to do?” Hao Ren asked. He imagined that it must be some tricky task that even an Inspector couldn't handle.

Su Han handed a cup of tea to him before pointing upward. "A light bulb was burned out. Can you change a bulb for me?"

Hao Ren almost spat out the mouthful of tea he had just taken.

"I don't want mortals in here, and Lu Qing doesn't know how to do it either. So, I resort to you," Su Han explained lightly.

Hao Ren dried the corners of his mouth and put down the cup of tea he had been drinking. He walked to the door and found the switch before pressing them down. He placed a stool under the chandelier and stood up on it before unscrewing the broken bulb and replacing it with a new one.

His parents were usually not home, and his grandma used to let him do these odd jobs. So, Hao Ren was no stranger to this.

After Hao Ren changed the bulb and pushed up the switch, the new bulb blinked twice and was on. Jumping down from the stool, he asked, "Anything else I can do for you?"

"The kitchen sink is clogged. You may help me unblock it," Su Han responded.

"She is... Quite demanding," Hao Ren thought and sighed before going to the kitchen. He turned on the water and found that the drainage was clogged up. He bent down and pulled out the tube before cleaning the dirty stuff off it.

While he was washing the dirty stuff off his hands, he looked back at her and asked, "Anything else?"

"The dryer rack on the balcony is loose. Can you fix it?" Su Han asked.

Sighing slightly, Hao Ren walked through Su Han's spacious bedroom and got to the connecting balcony to check the dryer rack. Seeing that some screws on the rack were loose, he asked her for the tools and tightened the screws.

"Anything else?" Hao Ren asked her in exasperation. Su Han was obviously like an idiot in ordinary life despite her talent in cultivation.

"That's all. I will cook us some dinner," Su Han said.

Looking at this woman who was extraordinarily beautiful, Hao Ren shook his head immediately and said, "No, thanks."

"Who would dare to eat dinner cooked by someone who couldn't even handle these small jobs in her daily life?" he thought.

"This is our dinner." Su Han dug out two packs of instant noodle from the refrigerator and tossed one at Hao Ren.

"By the way, do you want to join our Inspector System?" Su Han asked abruptly.

Chapter 189: Inspector's Temporary Help?!

"Inspector?" Hao Ren froze.

“In the Inspector System, we have Official Inspectors and Assisting Inspectors. Every Official Inspector can have one Assisting Inspector,” Su Han continued.

While she talked, she tore open the package of the instant noodle, placed all the items into a bowl, and poured hot water into it.

Hao Ren sat down and opened his package of instant noodle. It seemed like Su Han didn't get him here to only fix the stuff for her; she also wanted to talk about this offer.

“What are Assisting Inspectors?” Hao Ren asked.

Su Han poured hot water into Hao Ren's bowl and explained, “Assisting Inspectors don't have to join Dragon God Shrine. The Official Inspectors can choose their own assistants and report to the headquarters. In short, they are unofficial helpers.”

Hao Ren didn't know that Inspectors could have their own assistants. In his mind, Inspectors all operated independently.

“Most Inspectors don't recruit assistants. After all, the Inspectors have passed multiple tests in Dragon God Shrine and have reached Kun-level at least. They didn't need any assistance. On the contrary, the assistants might be burdens to them,” Su Han put the covers on the bowls while she explained.

Hao Ren nodded, thinking that if he were a Kun-level Master, he wouldn't want a low Zhen-level cultivator to help him.

However, from what Su Han had told him, it seemed like she wants him to be her burden.

“The relationship between the Assisting Inspector and the Official Inspector is that of subordinate and superior. If you became my Assisting Inspector, you would be a part of Dragon God Shrine, and anyone who wants to attack you have to consider the potential backlash coming from Dragon God Shrine,” Su Han stared at Hao Ren and said slowly.

“In short, you want to protect me by giving me this identity, right?” Hao Ren asked her directly.

“I don't have to give you special protection. With this identity, you automatically get some protection,” Su Han explained.

“Why would you do that?” Hao Ren continued to ask.

“You look good to me,” Su Han answered.

Hao Ren nodded and thought for a while before asking, “Does this have anything to do with Zhao Yanzi's Third Uncle's Heavenly Tribulation?”

“With Zhao Kuo's strength, he has a 60% chance of passing the Heavenly Tribulation, which is a high success ratio itself. Combined with the careful preparations East Ocean are making, he should have a better chance than all the masters who tried to pass the Heavenly Tribulation in the last few hundred years. However, as an Inspector, I must be prepared if Zhao Kuo fails.” She lifted the cover of her bowl and picked up a pair of chopsticks.

The aroma of the instant noodle floated up. Hao Ren's stomach grumbled, and he also lifted the cover from his bowl in a hurry.

If Zhao Kuo failed to pass the Heavenly Tribulation, West Ocean would take the opportunity to invade East Ocean's territory. If the two sides engaged in a fierce battle, Hao Ren, a low-level cultivator, would be easily killed since no one would care if he was the Fuma or not.

This was what Su Han was worried about. That was why she watched the situation closely and wanted to give Hao Ren the title of 'Assisting Inspector.'

Hao Ren understood Su Han's motive. She looked cold but was quite good to him.

For Su Han, making Hao Ren her Assisting Inspector cost her nothing. Although she didn't have high hopes for his cultivation future, he was quite useful to her, such as changing light bulbs.

"If you want the position, we'll sign the contract. I'll tutor you in terms of cultivation periodically, and you don't have to do anything special for me. You just need to patrol with me when it's necessary," Su Han said, eating her noodles.

She was extremely beautiful, and it was somehow an enjoyment watching her eat the cheap instant noodle.

"Ok. I agree to be your... Assisting Inspector," Hao Ren said.

"Good." Su Han nodded and took out a piece of pale paper from her pocket. She murmured some words, and the paper turned into a beam of white light, shooting through the window.

"I just issued a voice transmission talisman to the Headquarter." Su Han turned her head and looked at Hao Ren. "From now on, you are my Assisting Inspector."

"Ok." Hao Ren nodded, knowing that the so-called Assisting Inspector was just a temporary help for Su Han, not an actual Inspector in the system.

After the instant noodles, Su Han took Hao Ren into her cultivation room to teach him how to use the energy spheres.

To build the energy spheres, one must form a screen with Nature Essence using the Spirit Concentration Scroll. Since people below Kan-level couldn't see through the essence, they also couldn't see through the energy spheres, let alone the potential battles inside.

Under Su Han's instructions, Hao Ren tried several times before finally releasing a layer of essence from his body and forming a solid energy sphere. It was the essential ability of all cultivators. From now on, no matter whom his rivals were, he couldn't fight in front of mortals.

He also learned that the red spheres meant practice fights whereas the white spheres represented death battles.

After he had mastered how to create the energy spheres, Hao Ren sat down to cultivate. Su Han didn't tell him to leave, and that meant she allowed him to stay. After all, even if Hao Ren harbored any bad intentions toward her, he would be no match for Su Han, a Qian-level Master.

They sat facing each other. The purple smoke in the incense furnace floated up gently under the soft lights in the room.

Swoosh! Hao Ren had a feeling of ventilation in his body.

In the Dragon Core, the third opening was unlocked!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Like bubbles, another two openings appeared in the Dragon Core.

Hao Ren was pleasantly surprised. He had made no progress recently with his cultivation, but he had just unlocked three openings in one go.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Before he could savor this moment, another two openings were unlocked in the Dragon Core!

Two plus three plus two. He had unlocked seven openings by now, and five of them happened in quick succession!

The feeling was so wonderful that Hao Ren didn't dare to move. He sat quietly, hoping that more openings would be unlocked.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Hao Ren hoped to hear more of such sounds.

However, the Dragon Core was silent. It was just absorbing the essence from nature at high speed.

Hao Ren opened his eyes and saw Su Han sitting cross-legged across from him. Her posture was so still that she looked like an elegant stone statue.

He observed her closely and found her beauty flawless. Her skin was like polished jade, and her facial features were so exquisite that it looked like they came from a perfect drawing.

Her gorgeous curves were so beautiful that they made her look like the masterpiece of a great artist.

"No wonder the extremely arrogant Qin Shaoyang has fallen for her," Hao Ren thought to himself.

He turned his head to check the time and found that it was already six o'clock in the morning!

They had spent the whole night cultivating.

Su Han opened her eyes slowly.

"Let's have a practice battle. If your sword energies can touch me, you win."

Chapter 190: The Attack of Sword Energies

"What do I get if I win?" Hao Ren asked her immediately.

Su Han froze. She meant to improve his battle experience with this practice and had not thought of the prize.

“You can’t possibly win against me,” Su Han said lightly.

“Ok!” Hao Ren stood up, wanting to take the opportunity to test his strength after unlocking seven openings.

With a bang, he released his Nature Essence and built a red energy sphere. Compared with the state when he had only unlocked two openings, he felt a noticeable increase in the five-elemental essence in his body. The Dragon Core was like an engine and a reservoir for Nature Essence; whenever he unlocked one opening, the absorption power, and the reservoir volume would increase.

Two grey sword energies appeared in Hao Ren’s palms, and Su Han summoned a white jade sword into her hand while looking at Hao Ren.

“Let’s begin.” Hao Ren threw a grey sword energy at Su Han. The hundun sword energy was a combination of five elements or Lightning Power as Lu Linlin and Lu Lili called it.

Su Han stepped aside before shattering the hundun sword energy with the tip of her sword.

Clap! Clap... Like an exploding lightning bolt, the hundun sword energy crackled upon contact with the tip of the white jade sword.

A weak surge of lightning traveled along the sword, numbing Su Han’s fingers slightly.

Before Su Han could make any adjustments, Hao Ren threw out the second hundun sword energy, and Su Han blocked it with the body of her sword.

With another series of crackling sound, the hundun sword energy exploded, and Su Han felt another numbing sensation in her palm.

The hundun sword energy could break all five elements! Su Han’s sword was made with Tianluo Godly Jade from a place of extreme coldness, and it was a very precious material. Otherwise, Su Han wouldn’t have made it her Natal Dharma Treasure!

However, Hao Ren’s hundun sword energy could even break the special power of her jade sword while the lightning traveled along the Tianluo Godly Jade which could fend off all evil energies and all elements!

Su Han was a bit surprised. If Hao Ren were more powerful than Kan-level, she would have been defeated. If Hao Ren were at Kun-level, she would have been forced to let go of her sword in the first round!

However, that was all How Ren could do. In the past, he could only throw out one hundun sword energy; now with seven openings unlocked, he could at most throw out two. After that, he changed to the ordinary five-elemental sword energies.

Swoosh! He tossed out a white sword energy.

White represented the metal element, and Su Han cultivated the metal essences. Her sword arced elegantly in the air, and the special material of the sword turned the white sword energy into nothing.

Hao Ren flickered his wrists and pushed his palms forward, releasing so many sword energies that it looked endless.

The power in the sword energies was weak, but he would win if any one of them touched Su Han.

He drew one thread of essence from each element into each of his sword energies. If the total value of each elemental essence in Hao Ren's body was ten, then the value of each sword energy he released was one.

Su Han had meant to test Hao Ren and give him some battle experience, but she was surprised to see that he has gotten more powerful with each attack. At first, he released one sword energy at a time with only one finger. Then, he could release two with two fingers. Now, he could release sword energies with all ten fingers at the same time!

Each attack contained ten sword energies! Hao Ren didn't care about which elemental essence he released, so the attack was a mix of all five colors; white, green, blue, red, and yellow.

If people were watching, they would see a dizzying cluster of dancing sword energies.

Under his fierce attacks, it felt like Su Han was forced to focus on defending herself and couldn't spare any strength to launch attacks.

Before the first wave of the ten sword energies could reach her, Hao Ren released another ten sword energies.

Su Han could have blocked these sword energies with one defense essence shield, but it wouldn't be a good practice for either of them.

The moment she blocked ten sword energies with her sword, another ten were in the air while ten more were being released from Hao Ren's fingers.

Su Han faced 30 sword energies altogether at the same time.

She wasn't an experienced fighter. Therefore, she looked calm, but her movements became frantic!

Hiss!

Finally, a sword energy went through her defense and shot toward her body.

Su Han tried to dodge, but it pierced through her clothes.

At this sight, Hao Ren immediately stopped releasing more sword energies.

Su Han's sleeve was cut, and her white skin was revealed.

Whoosh! Hao Ren withdrew the red energy sphere, signaling the end of the practice.

Su Han turned her head to look at the cut on her cloth. She withdrew her sword and pulled the sleeves together.

"How was it, Su Han?" Hao Ren asked with sincerity.

“You were ok,” Su Han said lightly. Even though she was defeated, she had to maintain the dignity of a master.

Hao Ren smiled in embarrassment. He didn’t think that his random attacks could break through Su Han’s defense. He thought Su Han had let him win to make him feel good.

“This...” He looked at her. “I’ll buy you a new blouse.”

“No.” Su Han said coldly before walking toward her bedroom.

Knowing that she had gone to her room to change, Hao Ren stood there and thought for a while. Finding it was already seven o’clock in the morning, he went into the kitchen and took out a pan and some eggs. He began to cook.

When Su Han walked out of her room in a bright green dress, she smelled the aroma of breakfast.

She found Hao Ren in the kitchen.

Beside a pot of simple congee was a plate with four fried eggs on it.

“I made a simple breakfast.” Hao Ren poured the congee into two bowls and carried them and the plate of fried eggs to the dining table.

Su Han had always been calm, but she was panicking a little right now.

It was the first time that someone cooked her breakfast.

Usually, she would cultivate unless she got hungry. Then, she would eat instant noodles.

Hao Ren was oblivious to her complicated feelings. He just needed to eat breakfast in the morning, and the most efficient way to go about it was to cook.

Not noticing the emotions in Su Han’s eyes, he took two fried eggs into his bowl of porridge and began to eat.

Su Han sat down. She picked up a pair of chopsticks and began to eat as well. The fried eggs were nothing luxurious, but they were better than instant noodles.

She looked up at Hao Ren and thought about the practice battle, “He is only at Kan-level, but he can now shoot 30 sword energies continuously. If he continues to increase his strength with cultivation, he will be able to control these 30 sword energies and move them around instead of shooting them randomly. Is it possible that I underestimated the power of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll?”

After eating the simple breakfast, Hao Ren picked up his empty bowl and stood up. “If you have nothing else for me to do here, I’ll go home now.”

Su Han nodded.

Hao Ren washed his bowl in the sink. Then, he walked out of the kitchen and headed toward the door.

“Ahem! Ahem!” Looking at his back, Su Han coughed abruptly before saying, “Ugh, if you want, you can cultivate at my place for a couple of days.”

“Thank you, but I’d better go so you can cultivate without interruption,” Hao Ren said as he put on his shoes at the door.

With a fried egg on her chopsticks, Su Han gazed at him.

Hao Ren waved his hand at the door and closed it behind him after walking out. The big apartment was quiet with Su Han in it alone.

Eating the breakfast that was still warm, Su Han was deep in thought, and her long eyelashes fluttering.

In the practice battle, she wanted to instruct him. However, Hao Ren’s unstructured sword attacks inspired her. Since her own sword techniques needed polishing, Hao Ren would be a good partner in training.

“Besides, this guy can cook good breakfasts.”

Hao Ren got to the underground parking lot and drove the Ferrari out of the Flower City Complex. When he got out of Su Han’s apartment, he had toyed with the thought of visiting Lu Qing’s home. On second thought, he decided against it.

He called Zhao Yanzi, but she didn’t answer. Then he called Zhao Hongyu, but the result was the same. Worried, he called Lu Qing and was told that Zhao Yanzi and her family had gone to the Dragon Palace to inspect the altar.

From Lu Qing, Hao Ren also knew that Lu Linlin and Lu Lili had gone out shopping. He congratulated himself on the decision of not visiting Lu Qing’s home. Otherwise, he would be dragged by the girls to go shopping.

He drove the car into the garage of his home on the seaside. He wasn’t planning to drive it in the recent future; it was too eye-catching to drive it around the school.

The house was quiet and lonesome since Grandma was absent while Uncle Wang had also returned to his home. After cleaning the house, he glanced at the cloudy sky before sitting down cross-legged in front of the window and starting to cultivate.

In the sounds of surging sea waves, Hao Ren felt like he had returned to his childhood, and Xie Yujia’s figure flashed in his mind.

It was a little girl with big round eyes, and her hands and feet were dirty with mud.

Hao Ren opened his eyes and glanced at the cell phone by his side. After a moment of consideration, he picked it up and dialed Xie Yujia’s number.

It was about nine in the morning, but he was sure that Xie Yujia was up.

After two rings, the call was connected.

“Is it Ren? Yujia has gone out for groceries. What’s up?” A deep voice sounded on the phone.

After a moment of startle, Hao Ren immediately realized that it was Xie Wanjun. Obviously, Xie Yujia didn’t take the phone with her.

“Well, nothing special. I just wanted to talk to her,” Hao Ren said.

“Why talk over the phone? Take her out on a date!” Xie Wanjun scolded him on the phone.

“Ugh... Ok. When she comes back, tell her I called,” Hao Ren said in a low voice and ended the call.

He closed his eyes again and tried to continue cultivating, but he couldn't concentrate. His mind kept summoning the images of Xie Yujia when she was little. He stopped cultivating and looked at the ocean outside of the window, immersed in his childhood memories.

He didn't have a clear memory of Little Carrot, but the image of her was buried deep in his subconsciousness. At that time, he didn't understand what love or affection was; he just felt like that girl was annoying, following him everywhere.

But when she was gone, he had missed her for a long time.

Buzz... His cell phone vibrated.

Seeing Xie Yujia's name on the screen, he answered it immediately.

“Hao Ren, you called me? What did you want to talk to me about?” Xie Yujia's clear voice came to him over the phone.

“Oh, nothing special. Did you go out for groceries?”

“Yeah. My brother wants to eat Hot Chilli Oil Fish Filets and Chicken fried with Bean Sprouts. I just went out for the ingredients, and I am about to prepare lunch for him,” Xie Yujia said.

Xie Yujia didn't sound cold; instead, she told him the minor details. It meant that she was no longer angry with him.

Holding the phone in his hand, Hao Ren didn't know how to continue.

Xie Yujia hesitated for a few seconds before asking, “Hao Ren, do you believe the stuff like... Cultivation?”