

Dragon King 241

Chapter 241: The Shock

Wires were hanging everywhere in the shanty area, and the houses were lined up in a mess. It was supposed to be taken down a dozen years ago, but it never happened.

The narrow alleyway, dirty walls, uneven ground, and shadows reminded Hao Ren of his childhood.

Xie Yujia walked beside Hao Ren, and there were two little shadows in front of them – just the same as when she followed Little Older Brother around as Small Carrot.

She didn't know that she would still be following Hao Ren around now that she was older too. It was a bit tiring, but there was no other option. The timely appearance of Little Older Brother had already accomplished her childhood wish.

Romance had nothing to do with intelligence. No matter how smart a woman is, she could turn dumb when she is in love.

Little White hopped out of Xie Yujia's arms to chase after a mix breed puppy nearby. The puppy had never seen something with stronger temperament than a Tibetan Mastiff, so it immediately stayed still. Little White lost its interest in it and returned to Hao Ren's side. It was difficult for it to find a playmate due to its ability.

However, Little White itself was very picky. Many students wanted to hug it when Xie Yujia took it to the game. But it didn't let any guys except Hao Ren touch it. Only girls – only beautiful girls had a chance to hug it.

It hopped around Hao Ren and Xie Yujia like a fluffy white ball as they arrived at the old grandma's shed.

The walls of the shed were shared with the neighbors, and the front wall was only as wide as two doors lined up together. There was a window which seemed to have not been opened for years and an old wooden door. The wall was leaning outside – showing how dangerous it would be to live inside.

'A real hermit lives in this bustling place.' Hao Ren would have never thought that a super master who was as powerful as Lu Linlin and Lu Lili lived in such a place.

"Grandma! Grandma!" Xie Yujia stepped forward to knock on the door.

There was no response after a few minutes.

Xie Yujia was a little worried. She saw the neighbor was cooking so she went over, "Excuse me, Auntie. Is the old Grandma home?"

"I haven't seen her for a few days. Although she usually doesn't come out a lot," the woman answered as she cooked.

"Thank you!" Xie Yujia went back to Hao Ren and looked at him, worried. "Do you think something happened to Grandma? She hasn't been feeling well lately."

Hao Ren had assumed that the old Grandma was not a mortal when he met her at the Trading Convention on Fifth Heaven. But Xie Yujia still wasn't sure if it were a dream. From what she knew, the old Grandma's health condition was very worrisome.

"We can open the door and take a look inside?" Hao Ren asked. On the one hand, he wanted to see what kind of master this old Grandma was; on the other hand, Xie Yujia was truly worried about her.

It was hard to say about an elderly person who lived alone. Xie Yujia felt sorry for her, so she came to visit, keep her company, and take care of her every weekend.

"Um, let's figure out a way to get inside." Xie Yujia frowned and nodded.

Hao Ren put his hand on the door and put a little bit of force on it. Boom! The fragile door opened under the quake.

There were no tiles lined up in the room. The rotten iron lock fell onto the damp dirt ground. Hao Ren picked it up and examined the place carefully.

She was not in the room.

Xie Yujia opened the door to let the humid air out. She once offered the old Grandma some money to renovate the place, but she didn't agree to it.

"Grandma's not here. She probably went out." Xie Yujia was actually a bit relieved seeing that she wasn't in the room.

"Um." Hao Ren nodded and looked around the room. He wasn't sure if it was very rude to intrude into another cultivator's territory. But it shouldn't have been a problem since he came in with Xie Yujia.

A wide wooden bed, a table and set of chairs, a bowl on the table with a crack in it, a pair of black chopsticks, and an old kettle seemed to be everything the old Grandma owned.

She didn't even have a blanket.

"Grandma told me that her son would come to visit her a few days ago. Maybe she is out with him. It would be better for her to live with her son given how old she is," Xie Yujia walked around the gloomy, narrow room and said.

She was surer that it was only a dream now. The old Grandma even had trouble walking, how would she be able to take her into the sky for a visit?

As for the bracelets, she thought maybe she forgot about buying it at the night market last night because of the mess. What one thinks about reflects in one's dream. She even dreamed of obtaining this bracelet from heaven.

The more she thought about it, the more ridiculous it seemed. She felt a sense of alienation when she thought about herself crying in Hao Ren's arms in the dream.

"Where're Grandma's blankets? She doesn't even need it when she sleeps?" Xie Yujia was suddenly concerned about the old Grandma's living conditions.

She patted Hao Ren as he carefully examined every corner of the room. "What are you looking at?"

“Oh, I’m trying to see if the structure of the room is logical,” Hao Ren said.

He read a whole bunch of architectural books lately and had some sense and concept of the “space.” He found the room not as simple as it may seem.

Each tilt seemed to have its reason. Even the little puddle of dirt followed a precise law!

This was an array formation! In other words, it was a Xumi Space built in the real world!

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia entered the old Grandma’s world the second they stepped in the door!

Just like Little White in Hao Ren’s necklace, the two of them were inside the old Grandma’s Xumi Space! Perhaps it was only a little pearl in her hand, and she might have already sensed Hao Ren and Xie Yujia’s entry!

Hao Ren gasped at the thought of it.

“What structure could a broken shed like this have?” Xie Yujia dragged Hao Ren’s arm. “Help me flip the bed board. Grandma’s blanket could be under it. It’s nice outside, so I’m going to hang it under the sun for a while.”

She led Hao Ren to the bedside. Hao Ren used his force to flip the black bed board over.

Boom! A ray of gold light almost blinded them!

After their eyes got used to the intense light, they saw countless treasures, techniques, and elixirs right in front of them.

Chapter 242: Besiege the Nine Dragon Palace

“What are these?” Xie Yujia widened her eyes and asked Hao Ren.

The area into three sections by metal wires which glittered with silver light. In the left section were different kinds of dharma treasures; in the middle section were neatly piled cultivation technique scrolls; in the right section were bottles of elixir pills!

Obviously, Hao Ren’s Five-Elemental Sword Array Formation had been picked out from this collection.

Looking at the dharma treasures emitting overwhelming Nature Essence, Hao Ren sensed they were top-tier dharma treasures which were more powerful than Zeng Yitao’s Dragon Gold Spear!

Any of them could be made into a natal dharma treasure.

Screech. The wood door behind them was pushed open gently.

Xie Yujia who had been alarmed by what she saw was startled by the sound.

She and Hao Ren turned their heads simultaneously and found the old grandma walking into the room slowly with a bunch of vegetables in her hand.

“Grandma... We weren’t trying to peek at your stuff...” Xie Yujia stammered and couldn’t find the right words.

Hao Ren immediately lowered the bed board.

The old grandma walked over and put the vegetables on the table. Pulling out the chair, she nodded at Hao Ren and Xie Yujia and pointed to the bed board.

Hao Ren pulled the surprised Xie Yujia to sit on the bed board.

"I have only a few words to say to you." Looking at Xie Yujia and Hao Ren, she lifted her hand and pointed at Hao Ren. "You must marry Xie Yujia. I have made the decision," she said.

"Ugh?" Xie Yujia was confused.

"That's all. You can go now." The old grandma waved her hand at Hao Ren.

Before Hao Ren could get any words out, a huge force pushed him outward.

Her overbearing attitude was more aggressive than those of Zhao Kuo and Zhao Guang combined.

Just when Hao Ren was out of the shed, the old grandma's voice came out of it.

"Today I paid another visit to the Dragon God Shrine. If they can't solve this problem, I'll take the matter into my own hands! As to the East Ocean Dragon Palace, I'll go visit it in person!"

Bang!

A powerful force exploded behind Hao Ren in the narrow pathway, pushing him forward more than a dozen steps.

It was a small punishment for Hao Ren's ambivalent attitude toward Xie Yujia.

After the pain, Hao Ren felt a pure Nature Essence coming from the explosion and entering his body.

Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu!

Four openings were unlocked in the Dragon Core.

It was a small reward for his attentive care for Xie Yujia in the past two days!

Hao Ren looked back and found that he was at the gate of East Ocean University! The old grandma had tossed him from one space into another!

This technique of manipulating spaces was even beyond the abilities of Zhao Kuo and Su Han.

The old grandma was a more powerful figure than Qian-level Masters.

What was above Qian-level? It was the Heavenly Dragon Realm or the Soul Formation Realm!

Honk! Honk...

The honking of the cars shocked him from the daze.

He looked around and found he was standing right in front of the gate, blocking the cars from entering the school.

He stepped aside. Then he walked to his dorm building and cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll while he walked.

Bang! Bang... Successive explosions appeared in Hao Ren's Dragon Core!

The explosions unlocked more than a dozen openings! By now, 39 openings had been unlocked, and he would reach Zhen-level after unlocking one more.

By giving him a push in the void, the old grandma buried a small explosive in Hao Ren's body. Hao Ren triggered the explosive by cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, and they unlocked those openings!

This unlocking method was quite aggressive, and Hao Ren almost spat out a mouthful of blood under its great force. However, after the temporary discomfort, he felt refreshed.

She had purposefully left one opening for Hao Ren to unlock!

In fact, the old grandma's push was more a reward than a punishment.

She knew the early stage of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was slow and had just given him a boost.

Feeling the changes in his body, Hao Ren was pleasantly surprised. While he was walking toward his dorm building, it suddenly occurred to him that if the old grandma had buried in him a huge explosive instead of a small one, he would have died in pieces instead of getting his openings unlocked.

At this thought, Hao Ren broke out in a sweat.

He got into the No.7 dorm building and at the doorway of his dorm, he heard the yells of card playing coming from the room.

Seeing Hao Ren come into the room, they immediately shouted, "Ren! You owe us a meal!"

"Why?" Hao Ren pretended dumb.

"To celebrate your victory of winning Xie Yujia! If you don't treat us a meal, we'll steal her from you; if you do, we'll help you protect her from any future harassment from other guys!" They threatened.

Looking at their excited faces, Hao Ren was exasperated. "Ok, ok! I'll invite you to supper in a couple of days!"

In fact, with his current strength, he could deal with any ordinary guy who dared to approach Xie Yujia, and the combined force of the guys in the whole room was no match for his.

But Hao Ren was touched by the brotherly friendship in the school, and he guessed that was why Zhao Hongyu sent Zhao Yanzi to study in the school.

After washing up in the bathroom, Hao Ren found Zhou Liren and others were still playing cards. He climbed up to his upper berth to cultivate. The old grandma had unlocked more than ten openings in his Dragon Core with one light strike, and he needed to spend one night to solidify the realm.

Monday morning came in the blink of an eye. Hao Ren got up and walked to the balcony. Looking up, he found countless cultivators had surrounded the Nine Dragon Palace in the sky.

It looked like a beehive surrounded by a dense mass of bees.

"I observed the night sky and felt that something important would happen." In his pajamas, Zhou Liren walked onto the balcony and stood behind Hao Ren.

Hao Ren looked back at him and was startled.

Zhou Liren then changed into his usual teasing expression and leaned close to Hao Ren. "Brother Ren, do you think the twin beauties will make a scene when they find out that you and Xie Yujia are going out?"

It dawned on Hao Ren that this was the important thing he had referred to. Hao Ren glanced at him in resignation.

"Brother Ren, do me a favor and give me a chance with the twin beauties, ok?" Zhou Liren leaned closer to Hao Ren and almost dripped his saliva on Hao Ren's shoulder.

Hao Ren looked at him, speechless. Maybe in the eyes of the guys, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili ignored them because the sisters liked Hao Ren.

Hao Ren looked up at the dark sky again and gave priority to the business of the Nine Dragon Palace. He guessed the reason Zeng Yitao had not come to him to get back his natal dharma treasure was that he was preparing to enter the Nine Dragon Palace.

Today was the day the cultivators would break into the Nine Dragon Palace.

Hao Ren left the dorm building and went to find Su Han in her office. As if she had known Hao Ren would come, her door was open when he got there.

"There are more cultivators than any of the times in the past. Most of the cultivators of the sects in Sixth Heaven have come." Without any ceremony, Su Han got to the point.

In the sky out of the window, the colorful and glittering Realm Shields were like bees flying around the Nine Dragon Palace.

"Should we ask Lu Linlin and Lu Lili to join us?" Hao Ren asked her.

"No. There are too many people who are trying to break into the palace, far more than I expected. I'm afraid I will have too much on my plate if they join us," Su Han said lightly.

"When will we do it?" Hao Ren asked.

"About 10 o'clock," Su Han answered.

"What do we do now?" Hao Ren asked again.

"Cultivate." Su Han threw him this word before sitting down cross-legged and closing her eyes.

"Ugh..." Hao Ren choked back his words and sat down on his usual spot.

The Nature Essence in Su Han's office was more intense than outside, the result of the array formations she built around the room.

Hao Ren concentrated on his cultivation, hoping he could unlock the last opening and reach Zhen-level which was a significant milestone. In the cultivation sects, the Zhen Level was the equivalent of the Core Formation Realm.

However, this one step would take people different lengths of time to reach. It would take some cultivators only a few months or even a few days, but it might also take many years. For some of the cultivators, they would never reach this realm in their whole lives.

With the aid of the Dragon Core, Hao Ren's cultivation speed was almost hundreds of times faster than that of an ordinary cultivator. If an ordinary cultivator practiced the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, he or she would progress like a snail.

The Nature Essence entered Hao Ren's body thread by thread; it traveled to the Dragon Core and nurtured it. The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was not the fastest technique, but it was the steadiest one!

Like hearts beating, the 39 openings vibrated at the same time, connecting themselves with Hao Ren's body.

Was it the feeling of Zhen-level? The so-called Core Formation was the process of forming a gold core in one's body. Zhen-level for dragon cultivators the process of fully activating the Dragon Core in the body!

While Hao Ren was savoring the feelings in his body and trying to find an opportunity to break through, Su Han sitting opposite him said suddenly, "It's time. Let's go!"

With a white flash, Su Han pulled Hao Ren into the high sky in an energy sphere!

Her expression was grimmer than before as if she was determined to make the trip to the Nine Dragon Palace a great success with Hao Ren as her live map!

Countless cultivators flying on swords surrounded the huge Nine Dragon Palace. They were all waiting for the best moment to break into it!

Boom! Su Han released her aura of a middle-tier Qian-level cultivator.

Nascent Soul Realm! The nearby cultivators of Foundation Establishment Realm and Core Formation Realm were startled and moved hundreds of meters away from them.

"Qian-level Dragon Cultivator!" Someone yelled.

Ignoring their comments, Su Han looked back and saw Hao Ren was standing behind her and holding tightly to her arms. Her face turned livid. "Let go!"

Looking down at the land tens of thousands of meters below him, Hao Ren kept his grip on Su Han's soft arms.

"Are you kidding me? You can fly on a sword, but I'll die if I fall."

Under the stare of the cultivators who were hundreds of meters away, Su Han couldn't keep her composure of a master anymore. She bumped Hao Ren's chest with her elbow. "Let go and release your spirit beast!"

"Ugh? Little White?" Hao Ren froze for a moment before letting go of one of Su Han's arms and taking out the furry Little White from his hidden space.

"Toss it out," Su Han instructed.

"Toss it?" Hao Ren was baffled. Although Little White was shameless sometimes, he still liked it.

"This little guy is lazy. It has powers!" Su Han lost her temper, though her frown was very pretty!

Little White looked at Hao Ren innocently, but Hao Ren decided to trust Su Han. He tossed Little White into the sky.

Ruff! Ruff...

Little White dropped like a rock!

"Su Han! Help Little White!" Hao Ren yelled anxiously.

Boom!

Dozens of meters below them, Little White grew large. Flames appeared on its four paws, and it flew up!

Chapter 243: Who Dares to Break into the Godly Palace?!

Little White floated in mid-air with its four paws enveloped by flames before flying to Hao Ren reluctantly.

"Damn dog! You dared to conceal your power from me!" Hao Ren reached out and gave it a hard strike on its head.

It shamed all Snow Lions. Hao Ren guessed that Little White must have been tossed out by the other Snow Lions due to its shameless ways. It must have been a lazy and troublesome cub who had a big appetite.

"After eating so many Essence Replenishment Pills, it's natural that it has elevated," Su Han commented lightly before pushing Hao Ren off her sword.

Hao Ren lost his balance, and he immediately pulled over Little White's back.

With a slight drop, Little White was able to carry Hao Ren on its back.

"Higher-leveled Spirit Beasts need to consume more Nature Essence, which means that it will need more elixirs," Su Han continued.

"Ugh..." Hao Ren hesitated for a few seconds before asking, "Can it degrade to its former level?"

"No," Su Han answered him coldly.

Hao Ren was speechless. Although it was quite dashing to ride on Little White, it was quite a burden to feed it properly. It seemed that the one-month stock of elixirs and celestial herbs he prepared for Little White wouldn't last half a month.

If the nearby cultivators had known that this Spirit Beast cost him over 40 mid-tier Spirit Stones in half a month, they would have been astonished.

"Get out of my way!" Suddenly, an overbearing voice sounded nearby.

Zeng Yitao, the Crown Prince of West Ocean, was sitting on a huge gold weaving shuttle, and he was the one who spoke those arrogant words.

Standing behind him was Qin Shaoyang who was controlling the gold weaving shuttle.

"Who is this kid?" The nearby cultivators were about to teach Zeng Yitao a lesson when they found the aura of Qin Shaoyang who was on low-tier Qian-level.

Nascent Soul Realm! The human cultivators were astonished and backed off hundreds of meters. Even with the background of the cultivation sects, they dared not to mess with a Nascent Soul Realm Cultivator.

In the range of one kilometer, Su Han and Hao Ren, Qin Shaoyang and Zeng Yitao faced each other.

"Mr. Qin, I remember that you were expelled to the bitter cold Northwest. How come you are here?" Su Han said to Qin Shaoyang sarcastically.

"Humph. I wanted to ask you the same question. As an Inspector, how dare you try to break into the Nine Dragon Palace without permission," Qin Shaoyang retorted.

Su Han's face fell, not wanting to argue with him. It was evident that Qin Shaoyang favored West Ocean, and she would ignore him as long as he didn't mess with her.

Sitting on the gold weaving shuttle, Zeng Yitao reached out his hand and said to Hao Ren. "Give it back!"

"Come to me when you have the ability to get it from me." Hao Ren ignored this arrogant young man.

"You'll regret it!" Zeng Yitao glared at Hao Ren and said viciously.

Not caring to argue with Zeng Yitao, Hao Ren steered Little White to another direction to observe the situation.

This time, East Ocean had sent out a team of senior elders, and he believed that the other Three Oceans did the same. Since the Nine Dragon Palace appeared above East Ocean City, the East Ocean Dragon Palace could send a bigger team than the other three dragon palaces.

He didn't see the official teams of the Four Ocean Dragon Clans and guessed that they must be in other areas around the Nine Dragon Palace. Qin Shaoyang must have sensed Su Han with the unique connection between Inspectors, and that was why he came their way.

Besides the Four Ocean Dragon Clans, some mighty River and Lake Dragon Clans came. On top of Water-Elemental Dragon Clans, the other four Elemental Dragon Clans also sent their teams.

So many forces were calculating the time and waiting for the perfect opportunity to break into the Nine Dragon Palace when the palace's defense array formations were at their weakest.

Therefore, no one would waste their energy on fighting outside of the Nine Dragon Palace; they would wait until they had entered it.

"Su Han, it seems that the human cultivators are mostly low-leveled?" Observing the surrounding situation alertly, Hao Ren asked Su Han.

"Right. None of them are above Core Formation Realm," Su Han answered.

When Su Han didn't offer an explanation, Hao Ren had to ask again, "Why don't they send more powerful cultivators?"

"Humph! It would be a declaration of war if the human cultivators on Nascent Soul Realm showed their faces below Fifth Heaven! Currently, they are only cultivators on Foundation Establishment Realm with a handful cultivators on Core Formation Realm. Their target is the Nine Dragon Palace. As long as they don't land on the ground, we'll tolerate them," Su Han explained.

Hao Ren nodded. The dividing line was Fifth Heaven; the dragon cultivators and the human cultivators kept to themselves in peace. Although there were a lot of cultivators on Foundation Establishment Realm and Core Formation Realm here, they didn't pose any threats. But if Nascent Soul Realm Cultivators appeared below Fifth Heaven, especially in First Heaven that was closest to land, the situation would be different.

"It's almost time." Su Han's face turned serious.

Also, the nearby human cultivators began to emit their auras.

The colorful energy spheres gradually formed patterns.

Metal, wood, water, fire, and earth; they were emitting different elemental essences.

Each of the Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators began to move in the sky like a small piece in a game of chess according to their different elemental essences, forming huge array formations in the air.

Obviously, they were very familiar with such array formations. The Core Formation Realm Cultivators flew up to a higher position and directed the movements of thousands Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators.

Since they couldn't place Spirit Stones and Dharma Treasures in the air, the Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators built array formations with their bodies.

Hao Ren looked around and found that the other groups of human cultivators had all formed huge array formations.

Each array formation represented one cultivation sect. He counted and found that there were at least 56 sects around him.

The glittering array formations surrounded the Nine Dragon Palace like pictures that were hovering in mid-air, and it was a magnificent sight!

Some smaller sects had sent all their Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators, trying to gain a better chance of entering the Nine Dragon Palace.

“Su Han, should we make a move now?” Seeing the cultivation sects activating the huge array formations, Hao Ren asked Su Han anxiously.

“Be patient,” Su Han answered coolly.

Boom!

Finally, one of the cultivation sects made the first attack with its array formation.

Hundreds of Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators moved together.

Colorful light beams dashed toward the Nine Dragon Palace like lasers!

Boom! The black mist surrounding the Nine Dragon Palace instantly dispersed a bit.

The force of the array formation built by hundreds of Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators was equivalent to a full-force attack from a Nascent Soul Realm Cultivator. However, it only scattered some thin mist surrounding the palace!

Meanwhile, other array formations began to launch their attacks.

Boom! Boom... The powerful attacks landed on the outer edge of the Nine Dragon Palace, but the palace was still intact; they only scattered some of the mist around it.

Since the Nascent Soul Realm Cultivators couldn't show their faces publicly below Fifth Heaven, the sects had to rely on a large number of Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators to mimic the attack of a Nascent Soul Realm Cultivator.

Under the repeated attacks, the Nine Dragon Palace finally shook slightly.

“The large number of human cultivators are saving us energy,” Su Han said while looking at the group attacks on the palace coldly. She slowly turned to face Hao Ren and continued, “The defense array formations of the Nine Dragon Palace are not stable, and a small crack will appear in it. I will bring you in through one of the cracks, and you must follow me closely!”

Sitting on Little White's wide back, Hao Ren nodded.

When the human cultivators were attacking the Nine Dragon Palace in groups, the dragon cultivators would take the opportunity and slip in. That was why the dragon cultivators tolerated the presence of the human cultivators in First Heaven!

Qian-level and Kun-level dragon cultivators would be the first to enter!

Boom! Boom...

Almost 20,000 Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators were attacking the Nine Dragon Palace together, and their force combined was the equivalent to a dozen Nascent Soul Realm Cultivators. They continued their attacks, trying to break a crack in it.

In fact, the Nine Dragon Palace was basically a huge Xumi Space. If the array formations in it were not stable, a crack would appear.

Finally, beams of white light began to leak from the bottom of the Nine Dragon Palace.

“Move!” Pulling Hao Ren after her, Su Han flew toward one of the cracks, and Little White followed closely.

Without hesitation, Zeng Yitao and Qin Shaoyang also shot toward the nearest crack!

After two more attacks, the Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators followed the Core Formation Realm Cultivators, flying toward the cracks nearest to them.

It was the moment to enter the Nine Dragon Palace.

“Oh, I forgot to tell you that Demon Beasts run wild in the Nine Dragon Palace. It will be very dangerous in there,” Pulling Hao Ren behind her, Su Han suddenly turned her head and said.

“F*uk! Why didn’t you tell me earlier?” Hao Ren shouted.

He knew that he had been tricked by Su Han once again.

“The weakest Demon Beasts in there are at level 9. You better follow me closely after we enter the palace!” Su Han continued.

Hao Ren had no idea about the power structure of Demon Beasts. However, he knew that Little White wasn’t even level 1, so he could only imagine the great power of a level 9 Demon Beast.

Pulled by Su Han, Hao Ren couldn’t back off now.

The crack leaking white light was only a few meters away from them.

An intense prehistoric essence greeted them, and the furious roars of Demon Beasts were deafening.

While half of their bodies were in the crack, a voice overshadowing all Demon Beasts resonated in the air with overwhelming pressure!

“Who dares to disturb my sleep!?”

Instantly, the Demon Beasts in the Nine Dragon Palace fell silent.

Two seconds later, another furious roar sounded from inside, “All of you, get out of here!”

The super powerful pressure spread through all the cracks in the Nine Dragon Palace.

The auspicious white clouds instantly turned to a weird black color, and tens of thousands of cultivators near the Nine Dragon Palace were pushed away!

Sensing the danger, Su Han covered Hao Ren with her body. Despite her effort, she, Hao Ren, and Little White were all blown out of the cracks by the great wind and were knocked away for several kilometers!

“The Nine Dragon Palace will be closed for 500 years! I’m Qiu Niu!”

The city-sized Nine Dragon Palace was engulfed in a black light. It blinked twice before vanishing into the void!

Chapter 244: Severely Wounded!

In the blink of an eye, tens of thousands of cultivators were knocked out and flew in the air like kites with broken strings.

More than half of the Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators died or were greatly injured while some of the careless Core Formation Realm Cultivators got their Golden Cores damaged.

Su Han protected Hao Ren with her body and took on most of the offensive energy. After flying out several kilometers, she steadied herself and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Even as a mid-tier Qian-level Cultivator, which was equivalent to top-tier Nascent Soul Realm, she couldn't safeguard herself from a tiny portion of Qiu Niu's force.

Hao Ren, who had flown out thousands of meters and was about to drop onto the ground, was caught by Little White. Then, it flew back to Su Han with Hao Ren on its back.

Seeing the blood on her lips, Hao Ren knew that she was severely wounded. He immediately flew over to her on Little White and held onto her.

It was fortunate that Little White had just advanced in levels. Otherwise, Hao Ren would have died and wouldn't have been able to help Su Han. Little White was quite useful at critical moments.

Hao Ren looked up and saw the whining cultivators flying in the sky. Their Dharma Treasures were all ruined, falling to the ground like rocks. Obviously, the cultivation sects suffered significant losses.

Although the Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivators were not powerful, they were the foundation of each sect. On the other hand, the Core Formation Realm Cultivators had high power and were the main forces in the sects. For the smaller sects on Fifth Heaven, the great losses in these two groups of cultivators would result in their downfalls.

"Let's go back!" Su Han looked up at the tragic sight and said to Hao Ren.

Without hesitation, Hao Ren helped Su Han onto Little White's back before riding it back onto the land. He released an energy sphere to avoid being seen by ordinary people, and they returned to Su Han's office shortly.

Back in her office, Su Han took out several elixir pills from her Xumi Ring. She swallowed them and immediately sat down to cultivate.

She was not prepared for the attack and experienced most of the damages. With her cultivation strength of Qian-level, she could have dodged the attack. However, she was concerned about Hao Ren and had to protect him. Therefore, she had to be injured.

Little White shrunk to its palm-sized self without being asked. Thinking of its excellent behavior, Hao Ren took out an Essence Replenishment Pill and a Spirit Replenishment Pill and fed Little White.

After swallowing the elixir pills, Su Han began to digest the energy from the pills with a frown.

Afraid of disturbing her cultivation, Hao Ren picked up his cell phone that he left in her office and walked out of the room to call Zhao Guang.

The call was answered after several seconds, and Zhao Guang's firm voice came from the phone. "Ren, how are you doing?"

"We were kicked out before we could enter it. There are large casualties among the cultivators who tried to break into the palace. How about the elders from our East Ocean?" Hao Ren asked.

"Two were seriously injured, and one got some minor injuries. They are all in the Dragon Palace getting treatments. How about you? Are you hurt?"

"I'm fine, but Su Han is now injured. She's healing now, and I don't know how serious her injury is," Hao Ren answered.

"Ok. I'll send Elder Lu to check up on her."

"How is Zi? Is she ok?" Hao Ren asked anxiously.

"The usual. I've reinforced security in her school so that she will be safe for the time being," Zhao Guang said.

Hao Ren hung up with unease. Returning to the office, he saw Su Han still cultivating, but her face was no longer that pale.

Shortly, Lu Qing hurried to the office. After seeing that Hao Ren was ok, he turned to Su Han and asked in a low voice, "Ms. Su, are you ok?"

"I'm ok. My meridians are damaged, and they need some time to recover," Su Han answered with her eyes closed.

"With the order of the Dragon King, I'm here to take you to the Dragon Palace to recover. I hope you will accept his offer," Lu Qing said politely.

Su Han thought for a while and opened her eyes. "Ok."

Her injuries weren't light, and she couldn't activate her Nature Essence for a while. She would be safer in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, for the time being, so she had no choice but to owe another favor to East Ocean.

"Let's go!" Briskly, Lu Qing led the way.

After the disappearance of the Nine Dragon Palace, the cloudy sky had turned clear all of a sudden.

Lu Qing ushered Hao Ren and Su Han into his car that was parked at the entrance of the building, and he drove them quickly to Zhao Yanzi's home.

In the past hundreds of years, all parties had organized their teams to break into the Nine Dragon Palace when it appeared in the mortal world. No one had expected that the situation would be different this time.

They arrived very soon, and they quickly entered the house.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu were both at home, and even Zhao Yanzi was there. She must have been summoned from her school.

In the room, Zhao Guang looked grim. When he saw Lu Qing enter with Su Han, he just gave her a polite smile.

In this situation, even Zhao Yanzi was quiet; she looked at Su Han in concern.

“Let’s go!” Zhao Guang tossed out an ancient-looking black sword. When everyone was on it, the sword shot into the sky.

East Ocean City seemed to be in chaos due to the massive loss of human cultivators. On land, the ordinary people continued with their daily lives, oblivious to what had happened except for the change in weather. However, in the sky, the human cultivators were in a frantic state. Today’s event was a disaster to the human cultivation world!

Comparatively, the dragon cultivators got fewer casualties since most of the cultivators who went there were above Dui-level which was the equivalent to low-tier Nascent Soul Realm. They were a lot more powerful.

“Would the cultivation sects do anything since so many human cultivators died on First Heaven,” Lu Qing said in a low voice on the sword.

Zhao Guang remained silent. After all, the disaster happened on the territory of East Ocean Dragon Clan. If the cultivation sects on Fifth Heaven and up wanted to find someone to blame, the East Ocean Dragon Clan would be the first pick.

“According to the agreement, they should not have come to First Heaven in the first place!” Zhao Hongyu said with a snort.

“We’ll talk about it when we return to the Dragon Palace!” Zhao Guang said, displeased.

The huge sword accelerated, and it submerged into the sea with the transparent energy sphere around it.

The defense array formation of the Dragon Palace had been opened for them, and Zhao Guang led the group into the plaza in front of the main palace and instructed Lu Qing to find a place for Su Han to rest and recover.

Premier Xia jogged to them and greeted, “Greetings to Dragon King, Dragon Queen, Princess and ...”

“Ok, ok!” Zhao Guang interrupted him. “How are the elders doing?”

“They are all resting in their homes. We allocated two godly elixir pills to the two seriously injured elders,” Premier Xia reported.

“Ok. Let’s go and visit them.” Zhao Guang nodded.

Premier Xia took Zhao Guang’s order and led the way.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi followed them. No matter what identities they had in the mortal world, they were the Fuma and Princess in the Dragon Palace.

It was the first time that Hao Ren attended to the business of the East Ocean Dragon Palace as the Fuma.

They visited the three injured elders one by one, and Zhao Guang was relieved to find that they were not in life-threatening danger. Returning to the main palace, he asked Premier Xia, "Where is Su Han?"

"She's in Elder Xingyue's palace," Premier Xia answered politely.

"Lead me to her," Zhao Guang said.

"Yes, Your Majesty." Premier Xia led the way.

They walked along the winding corridors in the East Ocean Dragon Palace before entering a small quiet palace.

In a white robe, Elder Xingyue was preparing and cooking herbs in the yard. The process was not different from that of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She ground the herbs with a small stone mill before boiling them in a stone pot, and the herbs simmered until it was done.

The only difference lied in the herbs she used; they couldn't be found in the mortal world.

"Your Majesty!" At the sight of Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu, Elder Xingyue stood up and greeted.

"Well," Zhao Guang looked at her and asked, "How is Su Han?"

"She is seriously injured. It will take probably one month for her to heal," Xingyue said.

"Can I go in and visit her?" Zhao Guang asked.

"It's not necessary," Xingyue declined his offer. She turned to look at Hao Ren and said, "But she said that the Fuma could go in."

Zhao Guang turned to Hao Ren. "Ren, you can go in and see her."

"Ok." Hao Ren followed Elder Xingyue.

Traveling through a small garden, Hao Ren came to the door of a quiet side room. Xingyue led him inside.

Lying in bed, Su Han lost her usual spirit and looked sick. Obviously, her injury was severe, and she had been holding it in.

"Master," Seeing Xing Yue coming into the room, Su Han greeted her in a low voice.

Xingyue walked over and took out a porcelain bottle from her sleeve, placing it on the small chair beside the bed. "These are top-tier Hundred Flower Pills. Take three pills each day."

Without further ado, she left the room.

Her coldness was identical to Su Han's.

However, Hao Ren had seen her grinding those herbs patiently and knew that she looked cold but was caring. She was worried about her disciple, Su Han, a lot.

The door closed with a click.

The room was dim and quiet.

Lying in bed, Su Han looked at Hao Ren and said, "My injury is severe, and I need to stay in the Dragon Palace to recover. During my absence, I authorize you to manage the business in East Ocean City for me. You will be the temporary Inspector."

"Ugh?" Hao Ren looked at her in surprise.

"As my Assisting Inspector, you have the responsibility to take over the duties from me when it's necessary. If you have any questions, come to me. Usually, the Regional Inspectors do not have a lot of business to handle. But this time, the human cultivators suffered great casualties on our territory, and the cultivation sects on Fifth Heaven and above will probably find someone to blame. You should keep an eye on it."

She took out a white jade pendant and said, "Take this. If it turns red, it means that there's a mission for us, and you must come to see me."

"Got it." Hao Ren took the jade pendant from her. Su Han was severely injured because she took the blow for him; he had the duty to share her burden.

"Another thing. You must be careful with Xie Yujia; there is a grandmaster behind her. The Regional Inspectors can't afford to offend such a figure. Even the East Ocean Dragon Clan and Dragon God Shrine, the headquarter of the Inspector System, can't afford to offend this figure," Su Han thought for a moment before giving him this warning.

Chapter 245: The Weakest Moment!

"Got it." Hao Ren had met the grandmaster, but he refrained from talking about it for fear that it would disturb Su Han's recovery.

"That's all," Su Han looked at him and said coolly.

"Ok..." Hao Ren stood up in embarrassment, feeling her chilly attitude.

He walked out of the room and saw Elder Xingyue was boiling the herbs in the yard. He said goodbye to her and walked out of the small palace.

"How is Sister Su?" Seeing Hao Ren walked out, Zhao Yanzi asked anxiously.

"It's not very serious, but she has to stay in the Dragon Palace to recover," Hao Ren answered, feeling like a doctor coming out of the surgery room.

"Ok." Zhao Guang nodded. He turned to Premier Xia and instructed, "Take good care of Su Han. Provide Elder Xingyue any herbs and elixir pills she needs."

“Yes, Your Majesty.” Premier Xia took the order.

Hearing Su Han’s wound was not serious, Zhao Yanzi was relieved. Then she asked Hao Ren curiously, “What did she say to you?”

“I’m not telling you.” Hao Ren glanced at her and kept his mouth sealed.

Zhao Yanzi was mad at Hao Ren’s attitude towards her, the princess of the Dragon Palace.

“Mom! Look, he is such a bully!” She complained to Zhao Hongyu.

Zhao Hongyu smiled in resignation. “It’s a private conversation between Su Han and Hao Ren. Why do you want to know?”

“I... I...” Zhao Yanzi couldn’t find a good reason.

“It’s nothing important. Su Han just instructed me to temporarily take over her responsibility as the Inspector of East Ocean City,” Hao Ren told Zhao Hongyu. He could ignore Zhao Yanzi’s demand, but he had to respect her parents.

Ignoring the bickering between them, Zhao Guang turned to Lu Qing. “Fortunately, our East Ocean received little damage this time. You should investigate the casualties of the other dragon clans, especially West Ocean.

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Lu Qing cupped his hands.

Zhao Guang thought for a moment. “After today’s event, the land is probably in chaos. To be safe, today everyone stays the night at the Dragon Palace. Elder Lu, you help Premier Xia take stock of the properties in the Dragon Palace. We spent a lot of resources on Elder Zhao’s Heaven Tribulation, and we need to reallocate the remaining resources.”

Zhao Guang looked regretful when he mentioned Zhao Kuo’s Heavenly Tribulation. To help Zhao Kuo pass the Heavenly Tribulation, the East Ocean Dragon Clan had consumed one-third of its resources, but Zhao Kuo still failed.

“Dad, when will Third Uncle come back?” Zhao Yanzi asked Zhao Guang.

“He’s traveling while cultivating. He will come back when he’s ready,” Zhao Guang answered.

“Oh...” Zhao Yanzi pouted, not satisfied with this answer.

Zhao Guang was strict with her while Zhao Hongyu was a loving but stern mother. Only Zhao Kuo spoiled her, satisfying each of her demands. That was why Zhao Yanzi missed him and worried about his safety.

“Premier Xia, take Ren and Zi to the rear of the palace to rest. Then summon the core elders to the Grand Hall for a meeting,” Zhao Guang said.

With a little bow, Premier Xia ushered Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren to the back of the Dragon Palace.

The rear of the palace was, in fact, the places where all of Zhao Guang’s harems should live. However, since Zhao Guang was busy on land and had only one wife, Zhao Hongyu, most of the rooms were empty.

Crossing the cold and quiet palace, Premier Xia led Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi to a beautifully decorated small palace.

Surrounded by the gardens, the palace was exquisite.

On the way, Zhao Yanzi was in a sulky silence, and Hao Ren didn't offer to talk to her. Premier Xia felt something was wrong between them, but he didn't want to be involved in the family business of the Princess and the Fuma.

Leading them into a side room, Premier Xia asked carefully, "Princess, Fuma, do you need one bed or..."

"Of course one bed!" Zhao Yanzi had been sulky all the way here. But at Premier Xia's question, she blushed.

Premier Xia stammered, "And do you want one room or..."

As the manager of the Dragon Palace, he must mind all the trivia stuff.

"Of course... two rooms!" Zhao Yanzi hesitated for a couple of seconds before she gave her answer.

"Ok. Then Princess, please stay in this room to rest. Fuma, please follow me," Premier Xia said.

Hao Ren followed Premier Xia out of the room. He looked back at Zhao Yanzi before stepping out.

Zhao Yanzi glared at him, but her face flushed.

The moment Hao Ren stepped out of the room, Zhao Yanzi blurted out, "Come back!"

With a blush, she looked at Premier Xia. "Place him in my room but put a good distance between the two beds."

Premier Xia took the princess's order immediately.

Hao Ren couldn't contain his smirk when he looked at Zhao Yanzi. He had known that she would be scared of staying in such a big room by herself. Besides, she rarely lived in the Dragon Palace, and the rooms were very distant from each other.

The bedroom in this small palace was luxurious, and there were two beds. The smaller bed was for a maid.

In the Dragon Palace, Hao Ren's "rank" was lower than Zhao Yanzi's, and he offered to sleep on the lower and smaller bed.

The rooms in the palace were well-tended even though they were seldom lived in. Premier Xia found the silence between them quite awkward and backed out of the palace quietly.

Hao Ren walked to the smaller bed and found it was made with incense wood. It was a piece of real antique furniture, much more valuable than those pieces of furniture from the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

However, Zhao Yanzi was used to sleep on a spring mattress and found it quite uncomfortable to sleep in such an ancient style bed. It would be a miracle if she could fall asleep in here.

"Fuma, Princess, dinner is ready!" Two girls' voices sounded outside of the room.

Hao Ren walked over and opened the door. Two pretty maids stood there with platters in their hands. On the platters were beautiful sandalwood dinner boxes.

“Ok.” Hao Ren took the platters. When he saw they were still standing there, he waved at them. “You may go back.”

He walked back into the room and handed one platter to Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Yanzi had been summoned from school by Zhao Guang before lunch and then she had been following Zhao Guang around the Dragon Palace. She was starving.

With a snort, she took the platter.

The dishes and desserts were traditional cuisines. Used to KFC and McDonald’s, Zhao Yanzi found the dishes, not to her taste. She picked some snakes to fill up her belly.

However, Hao Ren found the dishes unique. He savored the delicacies he sure couldn’t find on land. While he finished all the dishes, unsatisfied Zhao Yanzi gave him a dirty look.

“Give me your meal,” seeing Zhao Yanzi had stopped eating, Hao Ren said to her.

“Are you a pig?” Zhao Yanzi accused him immediately.

“I’m not a pig, but there’s a pig in the room,” Hao Ren said.

Zhao Yanzi pouted, “You insulted me!”

“I’m not bold enough to insult the princess.” With a smile, he took out Little White from his hidden space.

The moment Little White landed on the ground, it looked around cautiously. Seeing no danger, it began to roll around like in a circus performer.

“Damn! I’ll send you to a circus if you continue with these antics!” Hao Ren nudged its rump with his toes before placing Zhao Yanzi’s dinner box on the floor.

Smelling the aroma of the meat and vegetables, Little White pounced on the box and began devouring.

By now, Zhao Yanzi had known the “pig” Hao Ren mentioned was not her but Little White. Embarrassed, she gave Hao Ren a dirty look.

Like a pig, Little White devoured the meal in a few seconds!

Zhao Yanzi’s discarded food was not wasted; Little White helped her eat it.

With some food in its belly, Little White was again lively. With a happy grin, Zhao Yanzi clapped her hands at it. “Little White, come here!”

After all, she was a girl and couldn’t be sulky for long. Besides, the cute look of Little White was irresistible for girls.

Jumping up high, Little White leaped into her arms.

Zhao Yanzi laughed. Holding its paws, she began to play with it, ignoring Hao Ren.

“Hey! When will you resume tutoring?” Zhao Yanzi asked Hao Ren abruptly.

“Do you want me to continue tutoring you?” Hao Ren asked.

Zhao Yanzi pursed her lips. “I have lots of stuff that I don’t quite understand.”

“We’ll resume the tutoring session tomorrow. Ok?” Hao Ren said to her.

“Ok.” To his surprise, Zhao Yanzi nodded without hesitation.

“This girl... Really fell in love with studying?” Hao Ren looked at her in surprise.

“Let’s take Little White out for a walk!” Zhao Yanzi put Little White down and suggested suddenly.

She was bored of staying in the room the whole time.

She had been angry with Hao Ren because he ignored her question. Another reason was that he had not contacted her for a while. On second thought, she felt like she would be annoyed if he contacted her too frequently.

Little White skipped happily in front of them without any dignity of being a lion.

It was not long after the celebrations for Zhao Kuo’s success in passing the Heavenly Tribulation, and the Dragon Palace still had many decorations around the place. After the adjustments in the last couple of weeks, Zhao Yanzi was no longer that sad. Looking at the celebratory stuff, she became happy again.

Little White ran in front of them; it looked around curiously and would try to pat the things it never saw before with its paw.

When the Dragon Palace celebrated its holidays, and people would establish a temporary market on the east side of the palace. The maids, families of elders, and some off-duty soldiers would play the role of vendors.

The other people would be the customers of this temporary market. It was a kind of entertainment. Although the East Ocean Dragon Palace had plenty of resources, the market was set up to stave off boredom since many of the people in the palace couldn’t go up to land without permission.

Zhao Yanzi took Little White to the market. Since she rarely came to the Dragon Palace, many people didn’t know her, thinking that she was a family member of an elder.

Strings of lanterns hung on the street walls of the market, and the little shops and booths looked quite real. It was like a cosplay show.

Zhao Yanzi was quite at home in the market. She went to a middle-aged man wearing a torn cotton jacket and asked, “How much is one stick of the Tanghulu?”

(TL NOTE: Tanghulu is sugar-coated haws on a stick.)

“Three cents for one stick!” The man answered her with firmness.

Although he was wearing a torn cotton jacket, his hard muscles and crisp answer showed that he was, in fact, a guard of the Dragon Palace. This low-ranking guard had never met Zhao Yanzi, and it was natural that the guard didn’t recognize her as the princess.

“But I have no money...” Zhao Yanzi looked at him morosely.

“Well, in that case, it’s free.” The guard softened at her cute complaint. He plucked a stick of Tanghulu and handed it to Zhao Yanzi.

The purpose of their “business” was for entertainment instead of profits. People could take the things for free if they liked them.

“Thank you!” Zhao Yanzi said joyously.

“Hehe, no problem.” The man grinned before yelling, “Tanghulu!”

His yelling was so loud and crisp as if he was shouting orders. Oblivious to the fact that he had done a favor to the princess, he turned his gaze to the next customer, a kid of about eight years old.

The red lanterns lined both sides of the streets and the shops and the booths were full of boisterous crowds. Against the dark night, the bright lanterns and lively crowds gave Hao Ren the illusion that he was in an ancient market at the Lantern Festival!

He thought of the holiday activities on land and found that they had nothing traditional in them.

Biting into the Tanghulu, Zhao Yanzi walked happily. Little White looked up at her with greedy eyes, circling around her ankles.

“Haha! I’ll give you one!” In an excellent mood, Zhao Yanzi plucked a haw from the stick and tossed it to Little White.

Little White leaped up and caught it in its mouth. It landed on the ground, wagging its tail and looking more pleased than eating an Essence Replenishment Pill.

Besides food, the booths sold handcrafts which were personally made by the families of the elders. Every piece was pretty, and the materials were pearls and jades that were rarely seen on land.

Zhao Yanzi selected carefully and begged for two sets from the vendors. In fact, if she showed her identity, she could take whatever she wanted. But it would no longer be fun.

Hao Ren followed her around. Occasionally, they tried some snacks; in between they wandered into the clothes shop, diner, tea house, and pawnshop...

Although it was only a temporary traditional market, it felt more authentic than those so-called Cultural Streets on land.

Zhao Yanzi pulled Hao Ren with her when she happily visited each shop. Looking at her happy face, Hao Ren knew her sulkiness was long gone.

Boom!

When everyone was immersed in the lively atmosphere, the whole Dragon Palace suddenly shook violently.

“Enemies!” The guard selling Tanghulu yelled.

Chapter 246: Coming back?!

Everyone was alarmed by his shout. At that moment, the second wave of shaking began.

The Dragon Palace shook so violently that the temporary booths collapsed one by one.

The items on the walls of the booth next to Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi fell to the ground.

Standing upright was difficult. Hao Ren pulled Zhao Yanzi into his arms to protect her from being pushed down by the frenzied crowd or being crushed by the falling items.

“Little White!” Hao Ren shouted.

Understanding Hao Ren’s intent, Little White immediately changed into its big version. Hao Ren pulled Zi up on Little White’s back and patted its rump. With flames appearing around its paws, Little White flew up into the sky.

Hovering in the air above the Dragon Palace, they didn’t have to worry about the shaking. Holding tightly onto Hao Ren’s waist, Zhao Yanzi was frightened since she had never seen such a scene before.

In the air, Hao Ren could clearly see that all the rooms in the Dragon Palace were shaking. Obviously, someone was attacking the defense array formation of the palace.

Teams of guards appeared in the square in the middle of the palace. A general wearing gold armor saw a Spirit Beast hovering in the air. He shouted, “Who’s in the air?”

In the East Ocean Dragon Palace, with the exceptions of the Dragon King and Queen, and several core elders, no one could fly in the Dragon Palace.

On Little White’s broad back, Zhao Yanzi stuck out her face.

The general wearing gold armor saw her and immediately cupped his hands, saying, “Sorry! I didn’t know it was you, Princess!”

Under Hao Ren’s steering, Little White lowered slowly, hovering in the air half a meter to the ground.

Zhao Yanzi looked at the general. “What’s happening?”

“The defense array formation is being attacked. We are investigating,” the general answered respectfully.

He couldn’t give her a definite answer without investigating. As the general of the guards, he knew everything that was happening outside the Dragon Palace.

The attack may have come from West Ocean, the cultivators from Fifth Heaven, the Demon Beasts, or some independent master who had a grudge with the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

It was no secret that the East Ocean Dragon Palace enjoyed great resources. Long, long ago, some super powerful masters even came to the East Ocean Dragon Palace to “borrow” stuff. In fact, they came to rob the palace.

Then, the shaking stopped.

Zhao Guang came out of the main palace with the core elders. "What happened?"

Hao Ren steered Little White to the ground and helped Zhao Yanzi get off.

"The defense array formation on the outer edge of the palace was under attack. I'm waiting for the information from the soldiers in the outer range. I'm sorry that Your Majesty was disturbed." The general wearing gold armor bowed to the Dragon King with cupped hands.

"Do a thorough investigation and find out who dared to attack the East Ocean Dragon Palace!" Zhao Guang looked angry. "From now on, double the patrolling soldiers and kill any intruders who try to break into the palace!"

"Yes, Your Majesty!" The general wearing gold armor took the order in a resonant voice.

Zhao Guang then looked at Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi. "You two go back to your rooms and don't come out without permission. General Zhao, please lead a team of elite guards and station them at Zi's palace."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" General Zhao took the order.

Then under General Zhao's escort, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi returned to their palace. Scolded by her father, Zhao Yanzi stuck her tongue out at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren smiled at her, but he was worried about the attack the Dragon Palace had just received. The Dragon Palace was the home base of East Ocean, so the attack against it was totally different than the battle somewhere else.

Back in the bedroom, Zhao Yanzi yawned and beckoned at Little White which had followed her into the room.

Little White leaped into her arms, and she carried it into her big bed. Lifting its ears, she said, "Turn big!"

Bang! Little White turned into a large lion.

Satisfied, she took the furry lion into her arms and shifted to a comfortable position. Then she slept.

"Well, I didn't know that Little White could be used to warm the bed," Hao Ren thought with resignation.

His bed was only half as big as Zhao Yanzi's, but it was big enough for him to sleep in.

In this super spacious ancient bedroom, incense was burning, reminding him of the ancient times.

Shortly, Zhao Yanzi and Little White were sound asleep. Their breathing was so in sync that Hao Ren highly suspected Zhao Yanzi was also a small demon beast.

He sat down on the bed cross-legged and cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

After circulating the scroll 187 times, Hao Ren opened his eyes and saw the faint morning light leaking into the room through the crack between the engraved wooden doors.

Although the Dragon Palace was concealed on the bottom of the ocean, it also had night and day. The only difference was the climate; it had no change of seasons, and every day was as warm as a day in spring.

Seeing Zhao Yanzi was still sound asleep with Little White in her arms, Hao Ren stretched and got off his bed.

He leaned over and watched her. She slept with pursed lips, and her delicate little nostrils moved slightly, blowing on Little White's fur.

With her arms wound around Little White, it looked like a giant fluffy toy. Due to her small size, her whole body snuggled against Little White's belly.

Leaning closer, he had the urge to pinch her nose, but he controlled himself. At this age, she had a vague understanding of the things between men and women. She was still fascinated with small cute trivial stuff.

Walking out of the bedroom quietly, he breathed in the fresh air of the small garden.

He knew nothing about the strange flowers and herbs in the garden. Suddenly, a mini-sized Little White shot out from the room. It looked around frantically for a while before jumping into a cluster of flowers.

Pu... An intense smell rose from the flowers, neither pungent nor fragrant.

Seconds later, Little White finished its business and trotted out from the flowers to the stone board. It squatted to rub its rump against the board.

"You are shameless!" Seeing Little White doing its business in the garden, Hao Ren was embarrassed for it.

Pretending to be dumb, Little White jumped into Hao Ren's arms with a fawning expression.

"Damn! You just did your business, and you jumped into my arms!" Hao Ren tossed it back to the ground.

Undaunted, it ran around Hao Ren's ankles looking cheerful.

"You are shameless..." Hao Ren sighed and walked out of the palace.

On the square outside of the palace, General Zhao was training a team of soldiers.

Seeing Hao Ren, he immediately cupped his hands. "Good morning, Fuma!"

"Good morning, General Zhao." Hao Ren walked over and saw that the soldiers were practicing. He asked, "What are you practicing?"

"Fuma, it's a set of military boxing techniques. It has no name; if you must have it, you can call it Fundamental Boxing Techniques," General Zhao answered.

Hao Ren nodded, finding the movements sharp and tough.

He thought for a few seconds and said, "General Zhao, can I learn it?"

General Zhao was surprised. "With your high status, I think this set of techniques is a bit crude..."

"No, I think they are very effective. With the current tense situation, I must do my share," Hao Ren said.

General Zhao looked at him again in surprise. After a moment of hesitation, he said, "Ok! I'll show you the movements!"

He made a horse stance in front of the line of soldiers.

Horse stance punch!

Hao Ren took off his jacket and copied his movement. He had been a long-distance runner when he was in the middle school, and horse stance was a part of the basic training. That was why he had great strength in his legs. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to catch Zhao Yanzi falling from the sky.

Gradually, the soldiers paused their practice and watched the general and the Fuma.

As the leader of the palace guards, General Zhao was not rusty with his fundamental techniques. Each kick and punch were on point.

Hao Ren copied each movement in earnest.

Little White squatted on a nearby stone step and looked at Hao Ren with its black eyes, seemingly baffled.

After he finished the whole set of movements, Hao Ren was soaked in sweat.

However, General Zhao in his heavy armor was breathing as evenly as before.

Cultivation could improve his physical strength, but it couldn't bring him fortitude!

Zhao Kuo was the kind of person that cultivated both essence and martial arts. Without using his cultivation strength, he could still be able to kill a fierce tiger with one punch.

Su Han paid more attention to the elevation of realms. Hao Ren wondered if she practiced sword techniques in her home or jogged each morning.

"I need to follow your movements three times before I can memorize them. General Zhao, please show me again," wiping sweat from his forehead, Hao Ren said.

General Zhao was even more surprised. He had thought the Fuma was just curious, but it seemed like he was serious.

The soldiers practiced boxing each day, so they wouldn't get tired if they practiced it three times in one morning. He wondered if the Fuma could withstand the hardship.

"General Zhao, please!" Seeing General Zhao didn't move, Hao Ren urged him.

"Ok!" General Zhao moved into position and showed him the techniques a second time.

It took at least one hour to finish the whole set of the basic fist techniques. And it would take three hours to practice it three times.

Hao Ren walked out of the palace in the dawn and saw the soldier were already there drilling. He knew they were hard-working.

At the end of the third time, Hao Ren felt he was exhausted since he had used his physical strength instead of his cultivation strength.

The soldiers stood there and whispered to each other. If the Fuma had practiced once, it could be called a show, but three times meant that he intended to fight enemies with them, just like Zhao Kuo who always charged at the enemies before the soldiers despite his royal status as the Dragon King's brother.

"Thank you, General Zhao. I'll practice it as often as I can." Hao Ren cupped his hands at General Zhao.

At a loss for words, General Zhao cupped his hands at Hao Ren.

He had secretly thought the Fuma was weak, but he changed his mind when Hao Ren practiced the techniques three times. With the enemies outside, even the Fuma couldn't stay behind.

Hao Ren took Little White back to the palace. When he was crossing the small garden, he noticed some golden fruits dangling among the plants.

But he didn't pay much attention to them, thinking they were part of the unique features of the herbs, which withered in the morning and revealed the fruits inside.

In the bedroom, Zhao Yanzi was still sound asleep. The girl was indeed a master of sleeping.

The soldiers had finished their drills and began patrolling the palace. Last night, they had been stationed near the palace in which Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi stayed to protect them.

A moment later, Lu Qing came with Zhao Guang's order to pick up Zhao Yanzi for school. Zhao Yanzi yawned but didn't dare disobey her father's order.

When they returned to the seaside, Hao Ren saw a car was parked on the roadside about ten meters away.

Ding...

The moment Hao Ren's cell phone received signals again, it rang.

It was from a phone number from another province.

"Hello?" Hao Ren answered it.

"Ren, this is Grandma! I'm coming home from Zhejiang today!" Hao Ren's grandma's voice came through from the phone.

Chapter 247: Um...They All Seem to be Powerful

"Grandma?" Hao Ren was surprised. "You are coming back on your own? Should I come to pick you up?"

“Don’t worry and focus on your studies. I’m coming back with a friend from my hometown who is coming to East Ocean City for some errands; he can accompany me back,” Grandma said on the other side of the phone.

“Around what time will you be back?” Hao Ren was excited.

He had a great relationship with his Grandma, so he missed her a lot after such a long time.

“The train arrives at 5:00 PM and my friend will go ran his errands after dropping me off. You don’t need to come and pick me up,” she said in a pleasant tone. It seemed like she had a great time in Zhejiang.

“Ok! I’ll come back to spend some time with you tonight then!” Hao Ren hung up the phone cheerfully.

Zhao Yanzi came over after he got off the phone, “Grandma is coming back?”

“Ya...” Hao Ren nodded.

His phone rang again.

It was still Grandma, “I forgot to tell you to bring Zi along. I brought her some local specialties.”

“Ok.” before Hao Ren hung up, Grandma added, “Invite Yujia as well! I brought her some too!”

“Um...Grandma...are you trying to start a war?” Hao Ren thought to himself.

Grandma hung up the phone cheerfully before Hao Ren had time to respond.

Zhao Yanzi got closer after the call, “What did Grandma say? Did she bring me gifts?”

“Some local specialties,” Hao Ren answered.

“Ah? Is that right?” she got so excited her eyes were shining, “Did she bring sweet potatoes?”

Hao Ren looked at her and shrugged, “All you know is sweet potatoes...”

“Mr. Hao, Ms. Zi, please get in the car,” Lu Qing opened the door in front of them.

Zhao Yanzi pouted and lightly pulled on the edge of Hao Ren’s shirt, “Uncle, can you ask grandma to bring some sweet potatoes...”

“I’ll ship you a truck of them if you get the first place in your class on the finals!” Hao Ren sat in the car and turned back to her.

“Pttf!” Zhao Yanzi bit her lip and pouted.

Lu Qing drove steadily, not caring about the argument between the two.

It was a bit chilly in the morning at the beach.

The sky above East Ocean City was back to normal, and the Nine Dragon Palace which appeared for a week had disappeared already. Hao Ren was a bit not used to it.

The car arrived at LingZhao Middle School’s gate, and Zhao Yanzi got off the car. She turned back to Hao Ren and snorted three times at him.

She didn't bring her backpack today. Who knew how she would be able to study today.

Lu Qing started the vehicle and headed steadily toward East Ocean University.

"Elder Lu, is there any updates on the attack at the Dragon Palace last night?" Hao Ren asked seriously.

"Not for now, but we suspect that it was West Ocean's trial attack," Lu Qing answered with a serious look on his face. "They sent over a powerful character this time."

"What kind of powerful character?" Hao Ren immediately asked.

"His nickname is Black Wolf, and he is at mid-tier Qian-level. Although he hasn't reached the top-tier yet, other mid-tier Qian-level Masters wouldn't be able to defeat him," Lu Qing said.

"Black Wolf..." Hao Ren repeated this name quietly.

"He showed up in East Ocean City under the mission of protecting Zeng Yitao. However, he is actually a very skilled assassin and intelligence agent. It is very obvious what the West Ocean's intention is by sending him here," Lu Qing continued.

"Is Zi going to be ok?" Hao Ren was a little worried.

"They wouldn't dare to do anything to Miss. Zi yet. Plus, we have arranged some masters in her school to protect her," Lu Qing answered.

Hao Ren was still worried despite Lu Qing's answer. However, it would probably be overly dramatic to hide Zi in the Dragon Palace due to a simple move from the West Ocean.

He landed his hand on the necklace on his chest and felt the Coil Dragon Golden Spear laying quietly inside. It was Zeng Yitao's Natal Dharma Treasure, and it was still in Hao Ren's hands.

Even thinking with Little White's bum would get him the conclusion that Zeng Yitao's would for sure seek for an opportunity to scramble for the treasure. Especially now that the Nine Dragon Palace event had finished, how would Zeng Yitao let his Natal Dharma Treasure stay in someone else's hands?

"Be careful yourself. No matter what, you are a core member of the East Ocean Dragon Palace. And your technique is the weakest," Lu Qing said.

"I know," Hao Ren revolved the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Technique smoothly in his body as the Dragon Core secretly became active as well.

39 of the opening had been broken through, and one more would get him to the Zhen level.

"Though Su Han intended to protect you when she asked you to become her Assisting Inspector," Lu Qing said abruptly.

He continued as he drove, "It is a serious crime to attack an Inspector, even just an Assisting Inspector. The West Ocean wouldn't risk it unless they have to. Plus, Zi is the princess, and East Ocean would fight to the death with them if they harm her. Therefore, they wouldn't dare act rashly.

"Um..." Hao Ren nodded. Reuniting with his Grandma was the most important thing on his mind at the moment.

The vehicle entered East Ocean University. If the students saw Lu Qing, the Managing Vice Principal driving Hao Ren to school, they would be surprised to a point where their eyes would pop out!

"Thank you...Principal Lu," Hao Ren hesitated as he exited the vehicle. It was better to address Lu Qing as Principal in the university.

"Um, go to your classes. I have already let the department know about this. But make sure your grades aren't too bad," Lu Qing said.

"Ok, I know!" Hao Ren headed to the Academic building in a rush.

It wasn't his intention to skip classes, but there was issue after issue with East Ocean. There shouldn't be many things going on after the Nine Dragon Palace event this time.

All his classmates were already in the classroom when he entered.

Xie Yujia was tidying up her notes in the front row. She smiled at Hao Ren when she saw him enter.

"Damn it, Hao Ren, you skipped another day of classes!" Huang Jianfeng shouted from the back.

Hao Ren walked over, "Is everything alright?"

Zhou Liren sat up from his seat, "I have two news, a big one, and a small one. Which one would you like to hear first?"

"Cut the cr*p!" Hao Ren made a mess of Zhou Liren's hair, "Tell me both!"

Although Zhou Liren seemed tall, he was actually the lowest of the food chain in their dorm. He said as he smoothed his hair with his fingers, "The big news is that Xie Wanjun went to the States!"

"Ah?" Although Hao Ren had already heard the gossip, he was still surprised.

"I haven't finished yet!" Zhou Liren was excited, "He announced Zhao Jiayi as the captain of the basketball team right before he left! Zhao Jiayi is now the captain of the team even though he has only been a member for less than a month!"

"Zhao Jiayi will be leading the school basketball team through the rest of the National College Basketball League?" Hao Ren was surprised.

"Yeah, and he is leading training in the sports center right now! How cool is that! The basketball team captain! He was still playing with us a few weeks ago!" Zhou Liren said with excitement as if the captain was himself.

"And what is the small news?" Hao Ren asked.

"The small news is..." Zhou Liren looked ahead, "Xie Yujia resigned her position as the Class President!"

"Oh..." Hao Ren looked at Xie Yujia from the back in surprise. He asked, "Who is the new Class President?"

Zhou Liren pointed to Hao Ren's side, "He's right beside you!"

Hao Ren turned over, "Yu Rong?"

Yu Rong smirked, “Heheheh, you didn’t expect me to become the class president, did you?”

“Damn it! Our class is doomed.” Hao Ren sighed.

“Orders, everyone! Sit down and get ready for the class! Sit down!” Yu Rong pointed to the front as he shouted, standing on his chair.

Nothing about him looked like a Class President. He actually looked like a complete gangster!

Xie Yujia had her head down, looking at her notes; not caring about anything. She felt a lot less pressure without the Class President title.

A day passed by quickly. As the “newly promoted” Class President, Yu Rong misuses his authority a lot. He was even walking with a straighter back.

Xie Yujia was way more low-key in comparison. She paid attention in classes, went to the cafeteria with Ma Lina, and borrowed books from the library...her life was as quiet as a little white flower on campus.

She sure would be sad since her brother just left for the States the day before. The brother who took care of her all along left East Ocean University and left East Ocean City.

Hao Ren sent Xie Yujia a text during the last two classes in the afternoon, “Grandma came back from Zhejiang, and she invited you over tonight.”

Xie Yujia turned back immediately with a surprised look on her face.

She then turned around to type on her cellphone.

Soon enough, Hao Ren received her message, “Ok, let’s leave together after class.”

“Woah! Relationships sure can change a person! You are typing a lot faster on your phone now!” Zhou Liren sneaked over.

“Get out of here!” Hao Ren blocked him away with his hand.

“The two of you! Stop talking during class!” Yu Rong reminded them from behind.

Hao Ren turned back at him and thought, “Come on, you were always the one who talked the most in class.”

“And you! Stop playing on your phone!” Yu Rong reminded another student.

Hao Ren took in a deep breath – he really missed the days when Xie Yujia was still the Class President...

After the two classes, Yu Rong dashed to the podium, “Let me make an announcement now...”

“Oh...” all the students ignored him and left.

“What are we eating for dinner?”

“Soybean noodles?”

“There is probably a movie playing in Building J.”

They chatted as they exited the classroom.

Yu Rong was stupefied on the podium, "Damn it! Do I really lack prestige?"

Hao Ren secretly laughed at him. He patted Xie Yujia's shoulder and left the classroom with her.

"I haven't seen Grandma for a long time," she said happily.

Hao Ren wasn't sure if it was his misconception to think that Xie Yujia was more like a friend without the Class President title.

"Yeah, she insisted that you come over. Let's go," Hao Ren held Xie Yujia's hand as they walked down the stairs.

Yu Rong was still yelling in the classroom, "Come back, everyone! I have an announcement to make!"

But everyone had already left.

The campus twilight was lovely. Xie Yujia walked silently beside Hao Ren.

"Your brother went to the States yesterday?" Hao Ren asked.

"Um, he could have gone before then, but he was worried about the game this year. However, he told me that he could go at ease after the last game," Xie Yujia said.

Hao Ren looked at her and thought, "The 'ease' Xie Wanjun talked about may not be just about the game."

Since it was not a weekend, there weren't many students waiting at the bus stop at the school gate.

"Um...Hao Ren," Xie Yujia said lightly after hesitating on her seat beside Hao Ren for a few seconds.

"Um?" Hao Ren turned to her.

"I resigned the Class President position not only because I was tired. Also...I have more things to do," Xie Yujia said.

"More things?" Hao Ren looked at her, confused.

"Um," Xie Yujia nodded, "Some things beyond my imagination."

"Did...the old Grandma say something to you?" Hao Ren asked timidly.

"Um..." Xie Yujia shrugged at Hao Ren with her hands facing up.

In the middle of her white palms where the Laogong acupoint was, a golden note was slowly moving!

"Are you hiding a lot of things from me?" Xie Yujia took her hand back and asked Hao Ren.

Hao Ren stared at her in surprise, "When did you...have this?"

"After you left her place that day, she taught me a Dharma Spell, and I practiced for a day..." Xie Yujia's voice was getting quieter, to a point she didn't even believe it.

Hao Ren understood her feelings since he felt as if he was crazy when he first entered Zhao Yanzi's life.

But...Xie Yujia achieved a gold godly noted like this in a day...Maybe her gift was even stronger than Su Han's!

"I asked you if you believe in cultivation because that was what she asked me by writing on the paper," Xie Yujia said.

"Did you think the old Grandma was not sane at the moment?" Hao Ren asked.

Xie Yujia nodded, "I thought she was not herself due to her age. But I found it abnormal when I got home. That was why I gave you a call."

She looked up at Hao Ren again, "Does that mean...you are cultivating as well?"

"Mine...mine might be a bit different from yours," Hao Ren shook his head immediately, "It is hard to explain!"

Xie Yujia looked utterly lost. These things were entirely beyond her comprehension.

"What is yours called?" Hao Ren thought for a bit before he asked her.

"Five Elemental Life-Death Note," Xie Yujia bit her lip as she looked up into the sky outside. She whipped out her palm. The entire movement seemed to be very exhausting.

It was still quiet outside. The sunset glow looked very beautiful under the twilight.

Hao Ren was just about to take his eyes back in relief when a loud noise came from the sky!

The bus even shook three times as it drove forward!

Xie Yujia was shy. "I had no idea it is this powerful..."

She gritted her teeth. "Does this bus go straight to your place?"

"We still have to..." Hao Ren found himself stuttering, "To pick up...Zhao Yanzi."

Chapter 248: Hard to Read Others' Minds

"You mean... That little girl," Xie Yujia said quietly.

"Yeah," Hao Ren smiled with a shrug.

The bus soon arrived at the gate of LingZhao Middle School.

The school day was over, so the gate was crowded with students. A Rolls-Royce Phantom parked right in front of the school gate, forcing the students to walk around it.

Zeng Yitao stuck out in the crowd with his arrogant temperament.

"Hey, this is Zeng Yitao. He is charming."

"I heard that he already received many love letters and chocolates on the second day after the transfer."

Two girls from the Middle School Department discussed in excitement as they walked pass Hao Ren and Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia looked at them and smiled. Girls secretly gossiping about cute guys in their class or the classes near them was something that occurred all the time in middle school.

Zhao Yanzi walked out of the gate at this moment.

Then, all sorts of chatter continued.

"I heard that the handsome new student in the High School Department transferred here for Zhao Yanzi. Words are that they are engaged."

"Really?"

"You didn't know? He even went to the Middle School Department to see her, but Zhao Yanzi kicked him out. Maybe they are having an argument. Anyways, I heard that they are engaged."

"It can't be. Isn't Zhao Yanzi in Class Two? Aren't the students in Class Two kind of poor? Look at Zeng Yitao. He rides a Rolls-Royce. How can their families be a match?"

"I am not sure about that. Maybe their families have known each other, and maybe Zeng Yitao is attracted by Zhao Yanzi's charm. Zeng Yitao's family is loaded, so it is a sure thing that Zhao Yanzi's family would like to get connected with them."

Hao Ren was speechless at the students' random gossips.

"How could West Ocean be wealthier than East Ocean? Besides their 'local specialty', West Ocean Mystic Ice, they couldn't compare with East Ocean on other resources. Regarding wealth, West Ocean isn't even half as rich as East Ocean," he thought.

"Do you need a ride, Zi?" Zeng Yitao asked Zhao Yanzi who just walked out of the school gate right before he sat into the Rolls-Royce.

Although he wasn't loud, everyone witnessed the invitation since Zhao Yanzi and Zeng Yitao were both at the center of everyone's attention.

Zhao Yanzi had no interest in talking to him; she walked around the Rolls-Royce to cross the street.

Zhao Guang and the Elders usually wouldn't come to pick her up if it weren't a rainy day. She would take the bus home herself.

"Zi!" Hao Ren waved toward the school gate from the other side of the street.

Zhao Yanzi smiled as soon as she heard Hao Ren's voice. She was glad that she could finally get rid of Zeng Yitao. However, her face froze as soon as she saw Xie Yujia standing beside Hao Ren.

"Who's that guy?"

"I don't know. He came here a few times to pick Zhao Yanzi up."

"No, he came into the school last time as well. Maybe he is from City North First High School. They say that he is Zhao Yanzi's boyfriend."

“Oh! I remember! Was he the one who hugged Zhao Yanzi in front of the Academic Building? Haha! It’s getting interesting! Zhao Yanzi found herself a boyfriend while she is engaged to Zeng Yitao!”

“No wonder Zeng Yitao transferred to LingZhao High School from another city all of a sudden. So, this is the reason! Is his name Hao Ren?”

“Yes. Zhao Yanzi admitted herself that he is her boyfriend. But my brother is at City North First High School, and he said that there isn’t such a person in Grade 11.”

“Tell your brother to ask around more! Hehe, two high schoolers are going to fight for Zhao Yanzi. It’s going to be a good show. Anyways, that Hao Ren is kind of cute too.”

“They are different. Zeng Yitao is a little cool with a mean personality whereas that Hao Ren looks ok but has no unique personality.”

All sorts of chatter sounded, and Hao Ren’s acute hearing caught all the gossip.

“Ah... Personality... I guess pretending to be cool would be the so-called personality in these middle schoolers’ eyes,” he thought.

They combined their imaginations with assumptions, distorting the facts into a complete mess. Hao Ren had to admire these girls’ information combining abilities by which they connected a few irrelevant things and told it as if it were facts.

Zhao Yanzi walked to Hao Ren slowly with a reluctant look on her face.

“She is coming too?” Zhao Yanzi asked while giving Xie Yujia a very unfriendly look.

“Um, she is coming together with us,” Hao Ren said.

Xie Yujia sensed the strong hostility in the little girl’s eyes. Now that she had ruled out the possibility of Su Han being Hao Ren’s girlfriend, she wasn’t sure if Zhao Yanzi was really Hao Ren’s “fiancée”.

The word which only appeared in rich people’s circles along with Zhao Yanzi’s age made the whole thing unrealistic.

The Rolls-Royce went slowly toward them.

All the students near the school gate felt like they were in for a great show. Therefore, they all stood still and looked in Hao Ren’s direction.

“Si...” The window lowered slowly, and Zeng Yitao’s pale yet arrogant face appeared behind the window.

“Zi, I don’t care about what would happen three years later. You will be mine in these three years,” he articulated clearly as he stared at Zhao Yanzi.

“Get lost!” Zhao Yanzi shouted angrily.

“I will come to find you at school tomorrow,” Zen Yitao turned to Hao Ren with the same expression.

The bus came at this moment.

Zhao Yanzi wasn't in the mood to talk to Zeng Yitao any longer, so she stepped onto the bus. Compared with getting upset at Xie Yujia, Zhao Yanzi was more in a rush of getting rid of Zeng Yitao's annoying face.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia followed her onto the bus.

All the students from both the Middle School Department and the High School Department were stupefied...

"Zhao Yanzi went on the bus with her 'boyfriend' Hao Ren instead of getting a ride in Zeng Yitao's Rolls-Royce?" they thought.

"Woah..." Another wave of discussion started.

In their opinion, Hao Ren from the City North First High School won in the first encounter with Zeng Yitao.

Zeng Yitao gritted his teeth with a gloomy face and said to Black Wolf, who was driving the vehicle, "Let's go!"

He thought that the cheerful and charming Zhao Yanzi would be his since West Ocean proposed the marriage aggressively. However, Hao Ren appeared in their way, messing up the entire plan! The East Ocean Dragon Clan was going to let Zhao Yanzi marry a human for the reason of the lost Dragon Core!

How could Zeng Yitao not be mad seeing his future wife falling into another person's hand?

Zhao Yanzi was the princess of East Ocean and a spoiled girl. The more she ignored him, the more Zeng Yitao wanted to get her!

"Uncle Black Wolf, investigate Hao Ren's background carefully! I will make him kneel in front of me and beg!" Zeng Yitao knocked his fist heavily on the leather seat and said to the driver.

Chapter 249: Humph! Bully Her!

Zhao Yanzi sat beside the window when they got on the bus, ignoring Hao Ren and Xie Yujia.

It was the rush hour for students. Because Hao Ren and Xie Yujia were a few steps behind, the seat beside Zhao Yanzi was taken by an excited little boy.

Zhao Yanzi stared out the window quietly as the bus headed forward.

Xie Yujia seemed a bit embarrassed. She actually cared about this little girl from many aspects, but Zhao Yanzi didn't recognize it at all.

It had been cloudy the past few days, and it is finally sunny," Xie Yujia said as she looked at the sunset.

Hao Ren nodded, "Yeah."

Seeing how she was, Hao Ren assumed she didn't know about the Nine Dragon Palace.

After a few stops, Hao Ren shouted at Zhao Yanzi in the front, "Time to make a transfer, Zi!"

She stood up awkwardly with her mouth pouting; apparently, she hadn't forgiven Hao Ren yet.

The three of them got off the bus to wait for another bus.

Hao Ren was taller than Xie Yujia, and Xie Yujia was taller than Zhao Yanzi. The three of them looked interesting standing in line.

If it weren't for grandma's strong request, Hao Ren would never make the two of them meet again.

The bus stopped in front of them. Zhao Yanzi stepped her right foot on it first. Then she suddenly turned back and pulled Hao Ren up.

She dragged Hao Ren to two empty seats. Therefore, Xie Yujia could only sit behind them by herself when she got on the bus.

Hao Ren looked back at Xie Yujia in embarrassment. Zhao Yanzi still had her stern face, not willing to talk. She rested her chin on her arm as she looked into the ocean a few hundred meters away. She bit her lip from time to time as if she was gritting her teeth.

They kept quiet in the awkwardness until the bus arrived by the beach.

There was still some distance to cover from here to Hao Ren's beach house. Hao Ren considered that they were girls and asked, "Do you want to stay here, and I'll go back and come to get you in the car?"

Then, he immediately wondered if they would get into a fight if he left them here.

"That's alright. I'll walk with you," Xie Yujia said.

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth. "I'll walk as well!"

She wanted to wait for Hao Ren to pick her up in his car. But since Xie Yujia wanted to walk, she had to walk with them.

"Ok, let's go then. If you get tired on the way, you can wait for me to get the car," Hao Ren said.

"Um," Xie Yujia nodded. She thought it might be dangerous for her and Zhao Yanzi to wait for Hao Ren on the roadside when it got dark since it was already dusk. Especially when there weren't many vehicles passing by, not to mention pedestrians.

It never occurred to her that her Five-Elemental Note could take care of five to six bad guys easily.

This Five-Elemental Note was planted in her body by the old Grandma. It lived and grew in nature and would never be used up. The so-called "Life-Death Note" was to inject the Five-Elemental Note into someone's body according to their acupoints.

The Life Note could save a life while the Death Note could kill the enemies. The Five-Elemental Note Xie Yujia had in her palm today was the Life Note the old Grandma saved and stored in her Laogong Acupoint. It could help her absorb the Nature Essence and allow her to do half the work with double the results.

The explosion that the old Grandma created in Hao Ren's body was from a Death Note. It had a destructive function but helped Hao Ren to breakthrough over ten openings when used perfectly. But it

was still a painful process, and the old Grandma intended to punish him for mistreating Xie Yujia. Otherwise, the little Death Note was enough to take Hao Ren's life since he wasn't even on the Zhen level.

Xie Yujia had the Life Note given by the old Grandma in person. The power of it was no less than the Dragon Core in Hao Ren's body. However, the Dragon Core could not actively defeat the enemy whereas the Life-Death Note combined cultivation and technique. The old Grandma only taught Xie Yujia one Dharma Spell and gave her a Life Note; that was enough to generate tremendous power to defeat enemies.

Hao Ren didn't waste any time as they both wished to walk with him. So, he led the way in front.

At first, Xie Yujia and Zhao Yanzi were walking behind him. After a little while, they each walked to his side.

Half the sun already sank under the surface of the ocean, and the sunset covered the ocean with a golden blanket. The clouds kept changing in shapes and colors in the sky. They turned from a light gold into dark yellow; the evening glow was magnificent.

The beautiful sun dragged their shadows long. They all kept quiet as they headed towards the ocean.

They walked for a half an hour. Zhao Yanzi's legs got sore, so she wanted a break. But when she saw Xie Yujia walking with ease, she pretended to be okay and kept walking, gritting her teeth.

It was one thing if she liked Hao Ren. But it was another thing if she lost to Xie Yujia!

Zhao Ren slowed down when he noticed Zhao Yanzi frowning, "Are you ok? Do you want to wait here as I go get the car? It might be another while if we keep walking."

"Ah...how much longer?" Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren as if she was wronged.

"Half an hour with this speed," Hao Ren answered.

"How about you go get the car, and I'll wait here with Zi?" Xie Yujia said immediately. She felt it was bizarre that she wasn't tired yet after walking for so long.

But Zhao Yanzi rolled her eyes at Xie Yujia's kindness. "Never mind. We'll get there soon! I'm not tired. Just a little thirsty!"

"Are you...sure?" Hao Ren questioned her.

He remembered when they climbed the mountain she wasn't this weak. Now her physique, as well as her physical power, were both weakened.

"Not a problem! You are so annoying!" Zhao Yanzi shouted out abruptly. Hao Ren was too scared to ask again, so he merely slowed down his speed.

"Or you could carry her for a bit, Hao Ren?" Xie Yujia suddenly suggested.

"Oh?" Hao Ren stopped to turn to Zhao Yanzi, "Want me to carry you?"

"No!" Zhao Yanzi's white little teeth made her look like a small angry shark.

Hao Ren laughed speechlessly and headed forward. However, Zhao Yanzi wasn't following him. He turned back to look at her, scared to ask any more questions in order not to make her mad again. Zhao Yanzi lifted her red face against the sunset. She pointed at Xie Yujia, "I want her to carry me!" Hao Ren looked at her, surprised. Xie Yujia looked at her as well, stupefied.

Chapter 250: Before The Storm

Xie Yujia hesitated for two seconds before she understood what Zhao Yanzi meant. She thought for a while. "Ok, I'll carry you on my back." Xie Yujia knew Zhao Yanzi was hostile towards her, but she believed Zhao Yanzi requested because she didn't want Hao Ren to carry her. She walked to stand before Zhao Yanzi with her back to her, bending slightly. With a flushed face, Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth and placed her hands on Xie Yujia's shoulders. "Come on!" Xie Yujia looked back and smiled at her gently. She didn't hold a grudge against Zhao Yanzi. Instead, she felt Zhao Yanzi was cute. "Humph! Do you think I'm too shy to let you carry me?" Zhao Yanzi jumped onto Xie Yujia's back. Xie Yujia shifted her weight slightly and began walking forward. Hao Ren stood on the side and looked at them curiously, wondering what they were up to. "Let's go!" Xie Yujia said to Hao Ren. Zhao Yanzi bit her lip and leaned on Xie Yujia's back limply. Although Xie Yujia's physical strength had grown recently, she was after all a girl, and it was quite an effort for her to walk with Zhao Yanzi on her back. Hao Ren quickened his steps and walked over to them. "Well, Zi, how about I carry you on my back?" "No! I want her to carry me!" Zhao Yanzi shifted her head from Xie Yujia's left shoulder to the right. Hao Ren was exasperated, but Xie Yujia didn't mind. "It's ok. It's not far, and I can manage. Besides, Zi is a girl, and it doesn't look good for you to carry her on your back." Hearing the last sentence, Zhao Yanzi thought for a while and said abruptly, "Uncle, I want you to carry me." "Ugh?" Hao Ren looked at her in surprise. "Yeah, I want you to carry me on your back!" Zhao Yanzi's face fell.

Hao Ren had no choice. "Ok, ok! I'll do it!"

He went to Xie Yujia's side and bent his back slightly.

Zhao Yanzi reached out one hand and grabbed Hao Ren's shoulder. Without touching the ground with her feet, she moved to Hao Ren's back.

Hao Ren murmured silently, "Are you a monkey, crawling from one person to another?"

But the moment Zhao Yanzi's body touched his back, his feelings immediately changed.

Although in his eyes, she was only a second grader of middle school, her soft skin on his back turned his mind blank.

In fact, Zhao Yanzi was a bit shy, but her blush was not noticeable in the setting sun.

She had meant to make Xie Yujia angry and had not expected she would end up on Hao Ren's back.

"Ok! Let's go!" Without thinking, Hao Ren gripped the inside of her knees and continued to walk in the direction of the setting sun.

Xie Yujia smiled in resignation and walked beside them.

Zhao Yanzi wound her arms around Hao Ren's neck and placed her cheek on his head. All of a sudden, she felt touched.

Hao Ren's steps were steady, and even Xie Yujia noticed that he was trying to adjust his steps to avoid jolting Zhao Yanzi.

She could feel Hao Ren's gentle care for Zhao Yanzi. She wouldn't be so surprised if she saw Hao Ren's anxiety when he searched for medicine for a sick Zhao Yanzi a couple of days ago.

Zhao Yanzi lay quietly on Hao Ren's broad back, knowing a tantrum wouldn't get her anywhere. She pouted and got a little satisfaction by wasting Hao Ren's physical strength.

They finally reached the gate of the villa. Grandma was waiting for them leaning against the door frame.

"Grandma!" At the sight of Grandma, Zhao Yanzi immediately jumped from Hao Ren's back and ran to her.

Hao Ren rubbed his shoulders. He didn't feel any soreness in his back, but his neck ached due to Zhao Yanzi's hard grip.

"Hehe, little Zi!" Grandma spread her arms and took Zhao Yanzi into her arms.

During her stay in Zhejiang, she helped the villagers and worked in the fields each day, reliving her youth with energy. However, she had missed little Zi very much.

Xie Yujia walked over and said gently, "Grandma."

"Oh, my little Yujia!" Grandma reached out her wrinkled hand and took Xie Yujia into her arms, too. She had missed her very much.

She didn't want to let either of the girls out of her arms.

In contrast, she neglected her own grandson, Hao Ren.

“Come on in! It’s cold outside.” Grandma led Zhao Yanzi and Xie Yujia into the house, each hand holding one girl.

Poor Hao Ren followed them inside after the hard labor of carrying Zhao Yanzi on his back all the way home. Grandma gave all her attention to Zhao Yanzi and Xie Yujia and didn’t even spare him a glance.

“Grandma, what local products did you bring me?” Zhao Yanzi asked immediately when they were inside the house.

“Hehe... I brought you your favorite.” In a mysterious air, Grandma opened a bag.

Zhao Yanzi leaned over and cried excitedly, “Wow! Sweet potatoes!”

Hao Ren was speechless. Seriously? Sweet potatoes?

“I knew you liked to eat sweet potatoes. You and Ren stole the sweet potatoes, and the villager told me all about it.” Grandma patted Zhao Yanzi’s head, and her eyes were full of affection.

“Yujia, Grandma didn’t buy you anything; I brought you some wild vegetables from the mountains. I just want to see you.” Grandma looked at Xie Yujia affectionately.

Xie Yujia smiled gently. She had great affection for Grandma, but she was too old to play cute like Zhao Yanzi.

“How come Uncle Wang isn’t here today?” Seeing their excitement, Hao Ren walked over and finally had the chance to speak.

“He doesn’t know I came home today. I guess he is in his own home.” Grandma looked at Hao Ren. “I haven’t seen you for a while, and you seem to have grown again.”

“Grandma, I miss you, too,” Hao Ren said.

“Humph, you little liar, you didn’t call me very often. I guess you will become your father one day,” Grandma scolded Hao Ren with a smile. Her love for her grandson was obvious.

“The three of you live here today, and no one goes back!” Grandma demanded.

She looked at Zhao Yanzi. “I’ll call you parents about it.” Then she turned to Xie Yujia. “Yujia, you make a call and explain your absence tonight.”

“No problem!” Zhao Yanzi was glad since she wouldn’t have to do her homework if she didn’t go home. Immediately she took out her cell phone to make a call.

Not wanting to disappoint Grandma, Xie Yujia sent a message to Ma Lina, telling her that she wouldn’t go back to the dorm tonight.

As to what Ma Lina would reply, Xie Yuja didn’t care.

“I’m hungry. Which of you two is going to cook me dinner?” Grandma looked from one to the other, not able to decide which girl she liked better.

Not able to make even make fried eggs, Zhao Yanzi remained silent when she heard the question.

Xie Yujia nodded. "Grandma, I'll cook some simple dishes."

"Humph!" Zhao Yanzi showed her dissatisfaction with a slight snort.

Ignoring her, Xie Yujia walked into the kitchen and found the fridge was empty. Walking back into the living room, she picked up the sweet potatoes, and wild vegetables Grandma brought home and returned to the kitchen, putting on an apron.

Seeing Hao Ren's gaze followed Xie Yujia into the kitchen, Zhao Yanzi gave him a dirty look before hitting him with her fist. "What are you looking at? It's no big deal to cook meals!"

The words were for Hao Ren and for Xie Yujia as well.

"If no one could cook, all four of us would go hungry." Grandma reached out and pinched Zhao Yanzi's little nose.

She was very fond of Zhao Yanzi and thought she would make an adorable granddaughter-in-law. On the other hand, Grandma liked Xie Yujia's gentleness and thought she would make a considerate and caring granddaughter-in-law.

Looking at her grandson who got more handsome each day, Grandma wanted the best for him.

With one sweet potato, a bunch of wild vegetables and nothing else, Xie Yujia cooked three fragrant dishes and one soup. Hao Ren, who was not a good cook himself, was amazed by the feat. Even Grandma was surprised.

"It's just a sweet potato soup and dishes of fried wild vegetables... I can do it too," Zhao Yanzi mumbled with a pout.

"Hehe, Yujia, thank you." Grandma came to the dinner table, pleased.

"It's nothing, Grandma." Xie Yujia took off the apron and pulled the chair out for Grandma.

Zhao Yanzi didn't want to eat the dishes Xie Yujia cooked, but she was starving. Besides, the house had been empty for more than half a month, and there was no food in the fridge or anywhere else in the house. Finding even a piece of bread or a cookie was impossible.

Reluctantly, she picked up the chopsticks and tasted the dish of wild vegetables and instantly found the difference. It tasted even better than her mother's dishes!

Looking up at Xie Yujia, Zhao Yanzi was struck with a strong sense of threat!

She had thought her mother was the best cook, but it seemed Xie Yujia was a better chef than her mother!

"Yujia, they are delicious." Grandma was full of praises.

"Hehe, Grandma, it tastes good because of the wild vegetables you brought home." Xie Yujia was modest.

Sitting in the house on the seaside, they could enjoy the view of the sea while they ate in the dining room.

Hao Ren admired Xie Yujia's excellent cooking skills; but seeing Zhao Yanzi's sulky face, he didn't dare to express his appreciation. He busied himself with eating.

Happy and excited, Grandma told them about the life she lived in Zhejiang in the past month. She looked several years younger while she talked. By now, Zhao Yanzi revealed her nature as a chatterbox, and her gossips about her school life made Grandma laugh.

Xie Yujia didn't speak much. She was happy to see Grandma was excellent and healthy.

After dinner, Hao Ren offered to stay behind to clear the table.

The dinner was peaceful, but he felt it was the peace before the storm.

"Yujia, Zi! Come up to choose rooms! There are three rooms and four of us; what should we do?"

Walking toward the stairs, Grandma beckoned Zhao Yanzi and Xie Yujia.