Tian Shuirou could not be bothered to reply. Instead, she picked up the baton to hit Su Ruijin.

The moment the baton landed on her body, the woman let out a painful scream. Despite so, Mo Lan did not stop Tian Shuirou because he knew the woman was furious over the matter. If he stopped her, how else would she be able to vent her anger?

Besides, he was only a subordinate - he was in no position to stop her. So, he thought it would be better for him to watch the scene unfold quietly. After all, Tian Shuirou regarded Han Jingru as her brother, and it was only natural for her to do her best in his place.

"Shuirou, if you're tired, there are many other subordinates that can help you beat her up," Mo Lan suggested.

Unmistakably, the woman was indeed tired, but it was to be expected because she did not exercise often. She had low stamina because of it.

Flinging the baton aside, Tian Shuirou walked to

Su Ruijin and kicked her squarely in the face. The former then sneered, "I want you to listen to what I have to say. You wanted to know what's going on, right? I will make it clear for you now so that you can die in peace."

Tian Shuirou took Chen Yi's phone and played a recording.

It was hard proof that Su Huiqi had been the one to leak the rumor.

Startled by what she heard, Su Ruijin fell into despair. With this piece of evidence, she will surely not let me off.

"Su Huiqi, what the hell did you do?" she growled.

Originally, she had been living her life. Now that this had happened, why would she step forward and take responsibility for it?

Su Huiqi argued, "I would not have done something like this if not for you. How dare you question me when you are the one who destroyed my life!"

Regarding Su Yimo's sickness, Su Ruijin was the one responsible for it. However, it was Su Huiqi who had wanted to slander Su Yimo. Looking at the situation, the woman had no other choice but to blame it all on Su Ruijin, hoping that she could turn things around for herself.

Su Ruijin refused to take the blame and scoffed, "Su Huiqi, you're a piece of trash. You were the one who suggested that we spread rumors, yet, you want to blame it on me now? Did you forget that you wanted to do it?"

"Stop spouting nonsense! It wasn't me. You never liked Han Jingru and were upset that he had a higher status than you. Therefore, you wanted to spread rumors among the people in Yun City that Su Yimo cheated on Han Jingru. You even mentioned that you looked forward to seeing Han Jingru make a fool of himself," Su Huiqi retorted, skillfully cooking up stories and trying to shift the blame.

The other woman chuckled. Now that the truth is known, Su Huiqi is dumpin

g all the blame on me so she can shirk responsibility. What a joke!

At this point, no matter how much we argue, it will not change anything. Is it really that important to know who is at fault?

They did spread rumors to slander Su Yimo and could not avoid taking responsibility for their actions.

"Su Huiqi, after pushing the blame to me, do you think they will let you off?" Su Ruijin asked.

"Mo Lan, I seriously had nothing to do with it. I was only an insider; I swear I did nothing else. Su Ruijin was the one who ordered someone to spread the rumors and also the one who came up with the idea," Su Huiqi desperately clarified.

Mo Lan looked at Tian Shuirou, knowing that the matter was out of his hands. In Han Jingru's absence, the woman was now in charge. Her words were the rule; she would have to make the decision on how to proceed.

"Shuirou, how do you intend to deal with them?" the man asked.

"Jingru is not here, so I shall handle this in his place. After all, Yimo was not the only one affected - Han Xiang was too. I bet Jingru would not tolerate such things happening either," Tian Shuirou replied. Previously, many people had speculated Su Yimo cheating on Han Jingru. Currently, the rumor had evolved. People were questioning if the latter was Han Xiang's biological father. From Tian Shuirou's perspective, the matter had gone out of hand, and Han Jingru would have lost his patience by now if he were present.

After a short pause, she continued, "I never want to see them again. It's best if they disappear."

"I will handle it then," Mo Lan acknowledged.

By then, Su Huiqi and Su Ruijin had lost all hope. No matter how much the former pleaded or apologized while on her knees, Tian Shuirou did not waver.

The woman even mentioned that the two women should never have been born; there was no way she would change her mind.

"I was wrong, and I know I've made a grave mistake. Tian Shuirou, Mo Lan, please give me another chance," Su Ruijin begged as she kowtowed repeatedly. She was regretting every decision she had made.

Su Ruijin finally realized how stupid her rivalry with Han Jingru was at that moment. Time and time again, he had let her off. It was not because he was afraid of her, but rather, he did not want to stoop to her level.

A nobody like her would never be able to deal with someone as powerful as Han Jingru.

It was a pity that she had realized it too late. Besides, the man would not forgive her actions even if he were here.

Su Yimo and Han Xiang were the two women he loved most. He would never allow them to suffer like this.

Tian Shuirou left the basement with no trace of compassion in her eyes after saying her piece. It was her first time dealing with such matters, and she had personally given the order to get rid of them. Regardless, she did not feel bad for doing so. The whole situation only showed that she could control Tian family's future.

She had started to emit the aura of a strong, independent woman.

"Jingru, if you ever blame me for this, I will make sure Yimo teaches you a lesson," she playfully muttered under her breath.

When she returned home, her grandfather did not ask about the outcome of the matter - he could already guess what had happened. From the getgo, Tian Shuirou's temperament had changed.

Tian Jingshuo had watched Tian Shuirou grow into the woman she was today, so he could easily sense any changed in her behavior.

She announced, "Grandfather, I'm going to return to my room to get some rest."

With a smile, Tian Jingshuo nodded and reminded her to take care of her health.

After she left, Tian Honghui commented, "Dad, Shuirou seems different."

"Indeed, she is different. I can finally hand over my position as the head of Tian family to Shuirou in peace." Tian Jingshuo grinned.

Upon hearing that, Tian Honghui froze. He knew his father had been trying to find a husband for his daughter. The man wanted her husband to become the head of the Tian family. Although Tian Jingshuo viewed Han Jingru with great importance, the latter was already married. Therefore, Tian Jingshuo did not push for them to get together.

Tian Honghui still found it inappropriate to leave the Tian family's future to a female. Besides, he did not want his granddaughter to be involved with such dirty matters and see all the dark sides of society.

"Dad, will Shuirou be able to handle it?" he

asked worriedly.

Tian Jingshuo glanced at his son with disdain and stated, "I'm sure she will do better than you. I rather you worry about yourself instead."

At that, Tian Honghui could only awkwardly look down, not another word coming out from him.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

At Apocalypse's Four Gates, everyone thought Han Jingru was dead since the big news broke out. Although it was a regrettable incident, the dead no longer had any value to those alive. As such, the discussion that surrounded the man gradually ceased.

Despite it dying down, Mr. Yi was still brooding over the matter. He had placed too much hope on Han Jingru to accept that the latter was dead.

He still had faith that Han Jingru was alive. However, as more time passed, the man started to lose hope. He knew very well that no one could survive fighting against the creatures in Devil's Cave.

As his hope morphed into despair, Mr. Yi felt himself grow more and more lost.

He had initially planned to hand over the reins of Four Gates to Han Jingru and go to the second world after the latter achieved the Platinum rank. Without Han Jingru now, there was no one else who could take over him. His plan had fallen through, and he was unsure of what he should do

next.

"Mr. Yi, you haven't been eating nor drinking anything for the past few days. You can't go on like this. A dead cannot come back to life, so you can't give up on yourself over this matter," Mr. Yi's assistant pleaded, knowing how devastated his boss was over Han Jingru's rumored death. It was the most probable outcome, and even if Mr. Yi could not bring himself to accept it, he had to face reality sooner or later.

"How is Lin Tong doing?" Mr. Yi asked.

"I think he's at the Bronze domain. Ever since He Xiaoxiao was assigned the Bronze rank, Lin Tong has been visiting her," Mr. Yi's assistant reported.

Mr. Yi sighed. He had never thought of handing Four Gates over to Lin Tong. Though the man's nickname was the Chosen One, it was only because people in Apocalypse were merely flattering him. However, how could he be worthy of that nickname if he did not even dare to take the test in Devil's Cave?

Furthermore, Lin Tong had once thought of betraying Four Gates, which gives less reason for Mr. Yi to hand over the reins to him.

Regardless, the head of Four Gates still faced a complicated problem. He had yet to see what was going on in the second world. He could only solve the problem at hand after understanding what kind of place it was.

"Lin Tong betrayed Four Gates. There is no one else we can trust here anymore. Who can I even pass my position to?" Mr. Yi asked his assistant.

"Mr. Yi, I think there's no one else more appropriate for the job than you," his assistant replied with no hesitation. That was the real question, who was more influential than Mr. Yi within Four Gates? Even if one compared abilities rather than influence, there was no one else suitable.

Without question, Han Jingru was the man's best replacement. Han Jingru had broken all previous records in Apocalypse and rose to the Gold rank at the fastest pace. That alone made him better than Lin Tong. Mr. Yi was only worried that h would be able to find no one as good as Han Jingru. It was a pity that the latter was unlucky to be trapped in Devil's Cave this time.

"I can't just sit around and do nothing. Based on Apocalypse's current state, if the second world causes trouble again, we will unlikely be able to withstand it. I have to visit the second world to get a better understanding of the place," Mr. Yi gritted his teeth and seethed.

His assistant let out a sigh. It was true that Apocalypse could not withstand another attack from the second world, and it was a glaring problem. Even so, he did not think Mr. Yi could solve the problem. After all, in prior instances, those who went to the second world did not return and probably died there. Many of them who had gone was as good as Mr. Yi was.

"Mr. Yi, you have to adopt measures that are suitable for the situation if you truly decide to go. Why are you so insistent on this plan?"

"I don't want Apocalypse to collapse while I'm

still in charge of it." Mr. Yi tightened his fists with a stubborn look in his eyes.

His assistant felt exasperated. Although it was an outcome that no one wanted, there was no other choice. Apocalypse was no longer how it was in the past, and it was impossible to strengthen the place within such a short time.

If Han Jingru had not died in Devil's Cave, there would perhaps be a chance for Apocalypse to not be caught in such a situation.

After He Xiaoxiao became a Bronze rank member, Lin Tong had become a frequent visitor. Although his feelings for her were well-hidden, his visits became more frequent, and there were many instances where he had almost exposed his feelings.

The woman could sense it. Though Lin Tong's nickname was the Chosen One, it meant nothing to her. She might be at the bottom rank - the Bronze rank - but she was still He Qingfeng's daughter, and the pride she had never diminished.

"Lin Tong, I know what you're thinking. Although I'm of the Bronze rank now, I'm still the daughter of the head of Three Halls. I hope you aren't thinking of doing anything inappropriate," He Xiaoxiao warned.

"Do you think you will be able to climb up the ranks again?" Lin Tong questioned.

"Yes." He Xiaoxiao gave a one-worded reply before she continued, "My dad was only trying to scare me and teach me a lesson. I'm sure he will invite me back after some time has passed."

Lin Tong shook his head helplessly. He Xiaoxiao is ridiculous. The entire Apocalypse is monitoring the matter. Simply banishing her to the Bronze rank for a few days will not change the fact that she made a mistake.

Everyone in Apocalypse respected each other's strengths, and anyone who wanted to increase their ranks had to prove themselves worthy of such advancement.

Even her father will not be able to change such

rules.

The woman could live in the Three Halls only because no one had dared to bring up this matter. Now that she was a Bronze rank member, even He Qingfeng could not help her.

She had to find a way to prove herself and win the Qualifying Tournament if she wishes to return to Three Halls.

Regardless, it was a pity He Xiaoxiao was unaware of her plight. To say her father was merely punishing her and would take her back personally was ridiculous.

"He Xiaoxiao, I'm the only one that can help you return to Three Halls," Lin Tong purred.

The woman scoffed and looked at him mockingly, sneering, "Who are you to say that? My dad will come personally to pick me up. Why will I need your help?"

"He Xiaoxiao, I'm sure your dad will not dare to defy the rules of Apocalypse. I can bet that he

will never allow you to return to Three Halls unless you win the Qualifying Tournament," he confidently claimed.

Annoyed, He Xiaoxiao cursed, "Nonsense! How could my dad treat me like that?" If I can only return to Three Halls based on my skill set, I will never be able to return there!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

He Xiaoxiao had received all of He Qingfeng's love ever since she was born; he often spoiled her. She had never had to go through any hardships, even in a place like Apocalypse, where a person's skills were of utmost importance.

She thought she could live in comfort in Apocalypse as long as her father was the head of Three Halls.

Since the man was still the head, she saw no need for her to face any challenges.

That was why Lin Tong's words made her heart clench in fear and some degree of pain.

To win the Qualifying Tournament sounded like a joke; it seemed impossible in her eyes.

"You don't have to lash out at me now just because you don't believe me. We shall wait and see what you end up doing. You will soon realize that I am telling the truth." Lin Tong shrugged.

"Get out!" He Xiaoxiao yelled while glaring at him. She did not want to hear anything that

would disappoint her, even if it was indeed the truth.

"I can help you, you know. Though you may not be able to accept the reality now, feel free to look for me when you need help. In return, though, I want you to be my woman." Lin Tong chuckled.

Annoyed, she huffed, "Lin Tong, you may be the Chosen One to the people here, but you're just a peasant to me. You can forget about all that!"

At that moment, a few members of the Bronze rank walked past them, whispering among each other anxiously.

"Stop right there," Lin Tong ordered.

The group stopped immediately, not wanting to disrespect him, the Chosen One.

"What are you all whispering about? Why do you look so anxious?" he questioned.

The group exchanged looks. They had overheard about an incident but were not sure if what was

discussed was true.

"Well, we heard that someone came out of Devil's Cave." One of them spoke up.

Someone escaped from Devil's Cave?

Han Jingru instantly popped into Lin Tong's mind. After all, the former was the only person who had recently entered Devil's Cave after all these years. If someone had come out of there, it must have been him.

How is that possible?

Didn't he die in Devil's Cave? How is it possible that he's alive?

"Where did you hear such news from? How did that happen? You must be spouting nonsense," Lin Tong scolded.

"We heard the news from the Silver rank members, but we don't quite believe it either. I think you can hear more about it from the Gold rank members when you return." Glancing at He Xiaoxiao, who was in a daze, Lin Tong said to her, "I will come back tomorrow, and you can consider my offer in the meanwhile."

With that said, he left in a hurry.

The woman stood rooted to the ground for a long time.

Han Jingru!

He is alive? Didn't he die in Devil's Cave?

She could not quite accept it. Han Jingru would become a Platinum rank member if he survived. It was humiliating for her, especially since she was just Bronze rank now.

How can I face Jingru in this state?

"That bastard! I don't believe he could get out of there alive," He Xiaoxiao gritted her teeth and muttered.

The miraculous news spread quickly throughout

all of Apocalypse's domains. Almost everyone could not believe their ears - most of them were jealous of Han Jingru. They all dreamed of achieving the Platinum rank, yet only he had managed to achieve it in record time.

"It's impossible for someone to come out of there alive!" He Qingfeng was shocked to hear the news too.

As the head of Three Halls, the man knew how dangerous Devil's Cave was. Even though he had managed to come out from it alive, the journey had not been easy. He had needed to carefully avoid all dangers while trying to make his way out, and he had only escaped because the others who had been with him had become his scapegoats.

Based on what he knew about Devil's Cave, He Qingfeng was sure that Han Jingru had met a situation, and under such circumstances, the man should not have survived.

"Let's get to Devil's Cave's exit. I need to know the truth!"

At Four Gates, Mr. Yi was shocked to learn about the incident. Over the past few days, he had lost all hope. However, though there was a glimpse of hope for him now, he knew of the dangers in Devil's Cave. Even if he himself had to face a familiar in there now, he doubted that he would be able to survive, so how could anyone else escape from there?

"Mr. Yi, are you not going to check it out?" His assistant could not help but ask after seeing how perplexed his boss looked.

That question snapped Mr. Yi out of his daze, and he fussed, "Right. Let's head there right now!"

Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying looked unkempt as they stood at the exit of Devil's Cave.
Although the duo looked pitiful, they were unscathed and had indeed come out of Devil's Cave alive.

"Jingru, the fresh air outside is still the best,"
Jiang Yingying announced while grinning at her companion.

"Yes, the fresh air here is so precious. However, there are probably many people who expect us to be dead." Han Jingru smiled.

Although they could have escaped within the first two days, they had been greedy. They ate more fruits than they should have, causing an odd situation to occur.

After the huge amount of fruit entered their stomachs, intense heat flowed through their bodies, and they could not control it no matter what they did. The strange heat flow took two days to disappear.

Although Han Jingru was unaware of what had happened, he could feel his power increasing. Perhaps, the fruit had the ability to increase one's abilities.

The little white snake they encountered was another reason for their delay. It demanded to leave Devil's Cave with them, but Han Jingru did not dare to bring the familiar with them. After all, he did not understand the familiars in Devil's Cave. If he allowed them to leave with him, he

might not be able to bear the responsibility if anything went wrong.

"Jingru, are you really going to come back and take the little white snake out?" Jiang Yingying asked softly.

They had only been able to escape because of this promise the man had made to the familiar.

"I shall consider it once I'm certain of its identity. After all, it was not exactly hostile to me," Han Jingru replied.

The woman nodded in agreement. If not for the little white snake, they would have probably been another familiar's lunch by now.

Soon, people started to appear at Devil's Cave's exit; they were all members of the Platinum rank. All of them had experienced the dangers of Devil's Cave, so they were in disbelief to see Han Jingru alive.

"Look at them! They're so shocked to see us alive and kicking," Han Jingru mocked as he scanned at the crowd's expressions.

Jiang Yingying stuck her tongue out like a little girl and responded, "Jingru, I can barely believe that we came out alive. I thought we would die in there."

He nodded in agreement. Those familiars were very powerful and could have easily killed them in there. Thankfully, the little white snake had unexpectedly saved the duo.

Although it looked like the weakest familiar, it seemed more superior than the other creatures. That was something Han Jingru could not quite understand.

One man suddenly rushed towards him, breaking away from the crowd.

When Han Jingru saw the man running, the corners of his mouth rose slightly, and he could not help but let out a laugh.

"Han Jingru! You... are alive!" He Qingfeng ran toward Han Jingru in shock, looking as though he had just seen a ghost.

"Master He, we haven't seen each other in a while! Are you actually stammering?" Han Jingru laughed.

He Qingfeng tried to take a deep breath to calm himself down. However, he could not do so as he found the entire matter was too shocking.

Looking at his master's shocked face, Han Jingru mused, "Calm down. I'm well and alive. Did you really expect me to die in Devil's Cave?"

The other man shook his head repeatedly.
Although He Xiaoxiao may have thought so, He Qingfeng had never thought that way. The situation of Apocalypse was an important matter - He Qingfeng would never take it as a joke.

"It's extremely shocking news! Mind you, you shocked everyone in Apocalypse. Quickly, tell me what happened in there. What went on over the past few days?" He Qingfeng could not wait

to find out what had happened to Han Jingru in Devil's Cave. He wanted to know how the man had survived after encountering the familiars.

"There's no need to be in such a hurry. Mr. Yi would want to know what happened too, also let's wait for him. I don't want to repeat the story."

As soon as Han Jingru mentioned Mr. Yi, the man arrived.

Mr. Yi ran as quickly as he could. When he saw Han Jingru, his expression morphed into one similar to He Qingfeng's - his mouth wide open in shock.

"Han Jingru...you're actually alive!" the man exclaimed in disbelief.

"What's wrong with all of you? Why are all of you so shocked to see us?" Han Jingru asked cheerfully.

Still in disbelief, Mr. Yi walked two around him twice and scanned him from head to toe. The man

then muttered, "No one can escape unscathed. How is this possible?"

Rolling his eyes in response, Han Jingru replied, "Mr. Yi, were you hoping for me to die in Devil's Cave?"

Mr. Yi shook his head and denied that claim. "Come back to Four Gates. I want to know everything that went on in there."

"Mr. Yi, what are you suggesting? I'm here too, you know. I want to hear his tale," He Qingfeng protested.

Without sparing He Qingfeng a look, Mr. Yi stated, "Han Jingru is part of my division. Do you have any rights to ask him what happened?"

"You..." The other man widened his eyes in anger. His curiosity was at its peak, and if he could not find out what had happened in Devil's Cave, he would not be able to rest in peace.

"Let's go. We can all head back together. There are many questions I want to ask both of you,"

Han Jingru suggested.

Upon hearing those words, He Qingfeng shot Mr. Yi a happy glance. Since Han Jingru suggested it, how could Mr. Yi reject the plan?

Sure enough, the head of Four Gates did not respond.

They soon headed back.

When they returned, Han Jingru told them about his encounter with the gorilla and giant lizard. However, he made it a point to leave out mentioning the little white snake. Instead, he cleverly told them about the fight between the familiars, saying that that was how they had escaped.

Although the story had many flaws, Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng did not raise any questions. After all, Han Jingru should have died. It was already questionable that the man was alive. Fights between familiars were nothing out of the blue compared to that.

"Why do such creatures exist? And why are they in Devil's Cave?" Han Jingru questioned. Since he had risen to the Platinum rank, he had the right to know Apocalypse's secrets.

Mr. Yi glanced at He Qingfeng before responding to him, "Let's go somewhere. I will bring you there, and when we reach, I will explain the whole thing to you."

"I will not join you two," He Qingfeng declared.

So the two headed off with Jiang Yingying in tow, and Mr. Yi told Han Jingru on their way to their destination, "He Qingfeng was present earlier, so I did not ask many questions. Since we're alone now, you can tell me the truth. Were you truthfully telling us the whole story earlier about your encounters in Devil's Cave?"

"Of course." Han Jingru continued without hesitation, "Although I don't know why the two familiars started fighting with each other, I did use it as a way to escape. Otherwise, I would have died then."

Mr. Yi slowly nodded. To go against a familiar alone was not something possible. There was no other way of staying alive.

"After the previous situation in Devil's Cave, everyone thought you had died. I almost gave up hope. I certainly did not expect you to surprise me like this." Mr. Yi chuckled. All the rumors had disappeared after people saw Han Jingru alive and well.

"Mr. Yi, are there still many stories unknown to us? I don't think those familiars are from earth, are they?" Han Jingru questioned.

"I will tell you about it all soon. There's no hurry." Mr. Yi smiled.

After they arrived at the Restricted Area, he told Han Jingru, "This is Apocalypse's Restricted Area, and it consists of Apocalypse's greatest secret. No one is allowed in here without He Qingfeng's and my permission."

"Mr. Yi, please don't stall any longer. I am bursting with curiosity, so please just let me see it," Han Jingru whined.

Mr. Yi then nodded, bringing him and Jiang Yingying into the cave.

The moment Han Jingru entered the cave, he felt strange energy fluctuations. He glanced at Jiang Yingying, who clearly felt it too.

Their jaws dropped when they saw something like a black hole at the entrance.

Within the darkness, there was something Han Jingru could not comprehend.

Just as Mr. Yi was about to explain what was happening, the black hole's power began to surge. It was as though it had reacted to Han Jingru's presence.

Nevertheless, Mr. Yi did not link the situation with the man. His face changed as he exclaimed, "Looks like the creatures from the second world will show themselves soon."

Han Jingru had a different view on the matter. Although it was his first time seeing the black hole, the man felt a connection to it. Instead of feeling scared, he felt a sense of familiarity as though it was part of his affair.

Jiang Yingying felt the same way; something about the black hole attracted her.

"Mr. Yi, what is this?" Han Jingru curiously asked.

Mr. Yi retracted his shocked gaze and tried his best to calm down. He then explained, "This is a black hole that links our world to another. We call it the second world. This has been a protected secret about Apocalypse for years."

## Second world?

Han Jingru had roughly guessed that something like that existed when he was in Devil's Cave because how could familiars exist here? He was beyond speechless that his guess was right.

Who knew another world really existed? All this

information made him question his perception of Apocalypse as a whole.

"The second world... The familiars in Devil's Cave probably came from there," Han Jingru mumbled.

Mr. Yi nodded and continued, "The familiars in Devil's Cave are creatures that were left behind after their last invasion. That's the reason why Platinum members are the only ones who know of this secret of Apocalypse."

Han Jingru took a deep breath. There were still energy fluctuations in the black hole, and his connection with it felt stronger than before, as though something was beckoning him.

However, Mr. Yi's expression started to darken. The man thought this change was an omen that the second world would be returning to Apocalypse. If that happened, it would be the end of their world as the organization no longer had as many fighters as before to go against any enemies.

"It seems like the second world will be attacking our world soon. I have to carry out my plan as soon as possible." After Mr. Yi finished speaking, he turned to Han Jingru with a serious look on his face.

The latter's gaze fixated on Mr. Yi, and he questioned, "What exactly is your plan?"

"Over the years, Apocalypse has sent many people to the second world to understand their environment so we can find a way to defend ourselves against them. I accepted you as my disciple because I want to make you the head of Four Gates. I want you to manage the place while I continue my research."

Upon hearing that, Han Jingru was shocked. He thought Mr. Yi would send him to the second world; he did not expect Mr. Yi to go to the second world and hand the position of head to him.

Han Jingru shifted his gaze to the black hole. He knew it was dangerous; once a person entered it, they might not return. However, he felt a calling from the second world and wanted to go there himself. He was sure that he had a connection with that world.

"If they attack our world, what will happen?" he asked solemnly.

## Our plight?

Mr. Yi chuckled bitterly. Back when the Apocalypse's power was at its peak, there were thousands of Platinum members. However, even with that large number, they had barely managed to stop the creatures from the second world. Apocalypse's power was now nowhere near its previous glory. If the second world launched another attack on them, Apocalypse would not be able to defend against the attacks for long. The second world would soon rule over their world. There would be countless deaths and injuries.

"In the best-case scenario, the second world will rule over Apocalypse while the humans become slaves. In the worst-case scenario, all humans are slaughtered," Mr. Yi told them honestly. Han Jingru's heart sank. There's no other choice but to become slaves or die? Neither of those choices is acceptable!

"Humans in the second world are known to be fierce. They disregard the lives of humans. Therefore, there's a higher possibility of the second outcome to happen," Mr. Yi continued.

The negative news made Han Jingru sigh in frustration. If such a scenario happened, Su Yimo and Han Xiang would be in danger too. He would not allow such things to happen.

"I'm not qualified to be the head of Four Gates," he told Mr. Yi, causing the latter to freeze.

Agitatedly, the man said, "Han Jingru, you're the only person who has the qualifications for it. Don't tell me you're not willing to take up the responsibility. You know that we cannot take the dangers of the second world lightly. I know you want to return to the mundane world to be with your wife and daughter. However, you should know that if the second world attacks, you will have no way of ensuring their survival."

"I know that. And that is precisely why I don't wish to be the head of Four Gates. I don't trust you," Han Jingru explained.

"You don't trust me?" Mr. Yi was confused. What has trust in me got to do with being the head of Four Gates. What is that logic?

"I will go to the second world myself."

Mr. Yi widened his eyes in disbelief.

At that moment, he finally understood what Han Jingru meant about not trusting him. The man did not trust him to find the second world's weakness, so he wanted to go there himself instead.

However, the chances of one's survival were slim after entering the second world, so how could he have such thoughts?

"Jingru, I admire your courage, but you should know that when you enter the second world, you may never come back. This is the entrance, but no one knows how anyone comes back," Mr. Yi advised.

"How can no one know? If so, how did the second world enter our world?" Han Jingru chuckled.

Mr. Yi was shocked at how fast the man's brain worked. Although it sounded simple, he had never asked himself such a question. He had always assumed he would never return after going to the second world, so he never bothered trying to find out how to make his way back.

"Can you bear leaving Su Yimo and Han Xiang behind?" he asked.

"I can't, sand that is why I have to head there. If we wait for them to evade our world, it will be too late," Han Jingru reasoned.

The thought of letting Han Jingru go to the second world had never crossed Mr. Yo's mind, nor had he ever thought Han Jingru would take the initiative to volunteer. Anyone else in Apocalypse would not have made such a decision.

"Jingru, I have a good eye for people, and I'm glad that I was right about you. However, I should handle this. You are still young. There is no need for you to sacrifice your life for such a matter."

Mr. Yi admired the young man very much. From the day Han Jingru entered Apocalypse, he had become a legend; to call him that was not an exaggeration as he had made a name for himself in less than a month. Besides, he even dared to enter the second world, which was not something the other Platinum rank members would willingly opt to do. Han Jingru's future achievements were sure to be limitless.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Apart from wanting to protect Su Yimo and Han Xiang, the other reason Han Jingru insisted on going to the second world was to find out what was going on over there. Something was calling out to him from that world, and he desperately wanted to find out what it was.

"Let's talk about this another time. We should get out of here first," Mr. Yi said. He knew what kind of man Han Jingru was. It was hard to change his mind once he decided on something. However, the head of Four Gates felt that it was a better choice for the man to stay at Apocalypse and become one of the heads.

"No, I've already decided that I'll go," Han Jingru said firmly.

The other man let out a bitter sigh. "It's a dangerous adventure. Why do you want to risk your life? I'm a better choice for this mission. After all, I'm an old man who will die soon. Let me go."

"No. I don't trust you," Han Jingru remarked nonchalantly.

It would be considered the joke of the century if someone else had said such words to Mr. Yi.

However, the words weighed differently when they were spoken by Han Jingru. The man indeed had the ability to say such a crude thing.

He had been promoted to the Platinum rank in such a short time. Even Mr. Yi could not tell where Han Jingru's limits were.

In fact, Mr. Yi had a strong gut feeling that he would not be Han Jingru's match once the man was given more time to train.

Truth be told, it was Mr. Yi's wishful thinking -Han Jingru had long surpassed him. The former was just too slow to realize this terrifying truth.

After fusing the skulls and eating the red fruit from Devil's Cave, Han Jingru's abilities were beyond imagination. Even the man did not know how powerful he himself currently was.

However, he could confirm that the strange movements in his body had thoroughly changed his physique.

He no longer possessed the body of an ordinary man!

After leaving the Restricted Area, the trio returned to the Four Gates. Han Jingru and Jiang Ying then headed back to their rooms to rest.

Mr. Yi, however, remained at the Central Hall of Four Gates. He stood there in a daze. The change of plans was too sudden for him. Initially, he had been the one who was supposed to go to the second world. But now, Han Jingru fought to go as well. Perhaps this is going to be a twist of fate. Or maybe, Han Jingru will resolve the crisis in the second world as a Messiah.

But I suppose these are all just guesses.

"Mr. Yi, what's going on? It's good news that Han Jingru is back alive. Why are you standing out there in a daze?" his assistant asked in a puzzled manner.

Mr. Yi had on the same expression he had when

news of Han Jingru's death in Devil's Cave had broken out. Now that the man was actually alive, Mr. Yi should be happy.

"He wishes to go to the second world," Mr. Yi told his assistant.

Instantly, the latter raised a brow. "Mr. Yi, what means did you use to get him to go? How did he agree to that?"

"Me? Do you think I manipulated him into going? He was the one who suggested it," Mr. Yi scoffed.

He was the one who suggested it?

The assistant gulped nervously.

No one has returned alive from the second world. Han Jingru will surely die during this trip. Why would he suggest going to the second world on his own accord? Is he really that fearless? I can't tell if he's really brave or just stupid.

"Mr. Yi, does he know about the dangers lurking

in there?"

"He knows. I told him everything just now," Mr. Yi replied.

"Well, something doesn't seem right then. Isn't he afraid of dying?" The assistant raised his own doubts. He would never sacrifice himself in this manner. Even if the second world relaunched their attack, the man would rather die right where he was. After all, no one really knew just how scary the second world was. It was not solely about courage and bravery when facing things from that place...

"There will definitely be people who are indifferent to worldly pleasures in the world. However, there will be no one who treats life and death so nonchalantly. Many claim they are not afraid of death, but the fear in their eyes is still unmistakable when they are on the verge of dying. I wouldn't say he isn't afraid of dying. He would just rather sacrifice himself to protect his wife and daughter." Mr. Yi heaved a sigh. He respected Han Jingru for his utmost dedication and courage. No one was like him.

His assistant nodded when he heard Mr. Yi's words. "If I reincarnate into a woman one day, I want to meet someone like Han Jingru. My life will be so blessed if that were to happen."

Mr. Yi threw a disdainful glance at his assistant and mocked, "Do you really think you're going to attract someone like him with a face like yours?"

The assistant was instantly speechless. He was indeed not the most handsome man, so it was expected for him to not be pretty if he turned into a woman either. Not many men would be attracted to his looks.

"Mr. Yi, do you intend to let him go then?" the assistant asked curiously.

"It's not a matter of what I want now. I can't stop him. He is very stubborn; nobody can change his mind once he's decided. Also, I've given it some thought. Perhaps it would be good for him to go instead of me since I treat him like a Messiah. You might say I'm exaggerating, but Jingru really surprises me. Maybe I'll be able to witness one more miracle if he goes," Mr. Yi remarked.

Suddenly, his assistant recalled something and quickly informed, "Mr. Yi, Fang Zhan went back to Yun City. Do you think he already broke the news to his wife and daughter? That Han Jingru died?"

Mr. Yi had totally forgotten about such a matter. He had been too immersed in his own surprise about Han Jingru surviving the Devil's Cave. All color drained from his face when he heard what his assistant said.

"Quick! Tell Jingru to rush back to Yun City this instant," Mr. Yi instructed with a panicked voice.

After taking a short break in his room, Han Jingru headed to the Bronze rank domain.

Han Jingru only trusted Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian in the Apocalypse. Or rather, these two people were the only people he was familiar with. It would be an arduous journey once he went over to the second world, and he needed to ensure that capable people were protecting Su Yimo and

Han Xiang when he was gone.

Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian were his two choices.

Han Jingru was madly worshipped wherever he went. Many would bow in respect or greet him politely, especially since he was now considered a miracle in the organization. Everyone admired him for his remarkable abilities.

"Jingru is so young, yet he is already a fighter in the Platinum rank. Mr. Yi will definitely hand over his position as the head of the Four Gates to him in the future. What a promising young man!"

"I bet nobody can replicate his success. Even supposed the Chosen One, Lin Tong, is no match for him."

"I think Jingru will end up as the strongest fighter in the Apocalypse. I'm so envious!"

The various domains sang praises of Han Jingru. It was such a stark contrast to when he had just arrived – everyone had only mocked him then.

One could say that he deserved such treatment as a true fighter.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian first met Han Jingru, the latter was still an unknown man from a mundane world. That was why they had acted so high and mighty around him back then.

Now when they stood before the man, they both behaved very humbly. In fact, they were so nervous that their palms were full of sweat.

Han Jingru was now already a Platinum rank fighter - their positions were no match for his.

"Jingru, I know we have had our fair share of feuds, but you're now a Platinum rank fighter. Are you still going to bear a grudge?" Gong Tian asked meekly with his head bowed. He feared Han Jingru bringing up the past. A word from such an omnipotent presence would end his career - he might even be kicked out of the Apocalypse!

Meanwhile, Zhuang Tang was not getting younger, and he, too, was very anxious. He would never have the audacity to treat Han Jingru the way he had previously when he was with the Nangong family if he knew that the man would

become this successful.

"Don't worry. I'm not here to cause any trouble," Han Jingru told the two nervous men with a small smile.

"Do you have something for us then?" Zhuang Tang quickly followed up with a question. He would try his best to carry out any orders he received from Han Jingru.

The latter fished out two red fruits he had brought from Devil's Cave. While he did not know exactly what it was, he had felt his body grow stronger after consuming it. Furthermore, the hateful way in which the little white snake had looked at him made him realize that the fruit was probably very valuable.

"What is this?" Zhuang Tang asked, confused.

"I brought these from Devil's Cave. I think I'm the only person in this world who has seen this fruit. You will grow much stronger after you eat it," Han Jingru explained. Zhuang Tang's heart skipped a beat. *Does he want us to become stronger?* 

Why would he help us in this aspect? I don't think I deserve such an honor. Furthermore, I didn't do anything great to deserve such a reward. Why would Han Jingru offer something like this?

"Han Jingru, are you trying to kill us?" Gong Tian suddenly questioned, his voice no more than a whisper. He thought the fruit to be poisonous and had assumed that it was Han Jingru's method of ending both their lives.

"Don't worry; it isn't poisonous. If it were, I would be dead by now. I ate this when I was in Devil's Cave and I personally experienced changes in my body after having it," Han Jingru explained.

"Why would you offer something so precious to us?" Zhuang Tang shot a glare at Gong Tian before raising his question to Han Jingru.

The latter inhaled sharply and told them, "I'm

hoping that you two can protect Su Yimo and Han Xiang no matter what happens in the future, no matter how badly this world turns out to be. I want you two to protect my wife and daughter with your lives."

He had no better options to choose from in the Apocalypse - there was no one else he trusted either. This was why he had approached the duo for help. While they were not as competent as he hoped for them to be, he believed that they would strengthen themselves after eating the fruit he provided. As long as the two trained hard and put in the necessary effort, it was highly possible for them to become a Platinum rank fighter too.

"Aren't you better suited to protect them?" Gong Tian blurted out.

Zhuang Tang gritted his teeth and glared at his disciple, trying to warn him from saying the wrong thing. How can he be so dumb?

"Han Jingru, are you going somewhere dangerous?" Zhuang Tang probed.

"Yes." Han Jingru nodded. "I don't know what's going to happen in the meantime. I don't know when I'll be back. Hence, I hope you two can accede to my request. These fruits will give you powers you cannot imagine, but you cannot tell anyone about it."

Even though Zhuang Tang already warned him twice, Gong Tian could not control himself from asking, "Why would you trust us with such a responsibility?"

At that point, Zhuang Tang almost wanted to kill the man in front of him. The chance to get stronger is right here! Stop spouting rubbish! My goodness!

Plop!

Zhuang Tang got on his knees.

Gong Tian's face changed drastically upon seeing him do that, and he exclaimed, "Master, what are you doing!"

The kneeling man looked at Han Jingru in a

determined manner. "I promise to dedicate my entire life to protecting your wife and daughter. As long as I am alive, I will not let them come into harm's way. That's a promise I'm making to you now!"

Gong Tian finally understood Zhuang Tang's intentions. It was an act of loyalty to Han Jingru. Left with no choice, he followed in his master's footsteps and knelt too. After all, no one could resist the temptation of the fruits in Han Jingru's hands.

"Don't betray my trust. I do not have a habit of forgiving others." Han Jingru then tossed the two fruits on the ground, turned, and walked away.

Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian each picked up one fruit. They made eye contact for a brief moment before swallowing the fruit without further hesitation.

Han Jingru's first stop was the Bronze rank domain. However, he did not stay here for long as there was not much for him to reminisce about. After meeting Zhuang Tang and his disciple, he turned to leave but was blocked by someone.

"He Xiaoxiao, it seems like you really like this place. The Three Halls is a nice place, but you keep coming over to the Bronze rank domain. Don't tell me you're sick of your privileged life and want to experience how the other subordinates live?" Han Jingru was unaware that the woman had been demoted to the Bronze rank. His words were not meant to tease her.

However, they still sounded rather sarcastic to He Xiaoxiao. Needless to say, she thought he was mocking her.

So, she gritted her teeth and huffed, "Han Jingru, I can't believe you're still alive. How lucky."

"Why don't you try your luck too? Maybe you can become a Platinum rank fighter that way. You won't have to ride on the coattails of He Qingfeng then." Han Jingru smiled.

She almost gnawed through her jaw from the anger that was building inside of her. She was not even as good as some of the Bronze rank fighters.

How could she ever survive Devil's Cave? Even if she had the courage to enter, she didn't have the ability to fight, let alone survive. Nor would she ever imagine herself doing it.

"Han Jingru, don't go overboard with your words. Even though I've been demoted to the Bronze rank, I will return to Three Halls one day. You have no right to look down on me. I'm still the daughter of the head of the Three Halls," He Xiaoxiao spat.

The man was momentarily stunned. "Wait, you've been demoted? When did such a thing happen? Doesn't your father dote on you? Why would he allow this?"

"Han Jingru, I swear I'm going to kill you one day." The now infuriated He Xiaoxiao lunged towards him with her fists raised and poised to strike.

Han Jingru dodged sideways and avoided her attack easily. With a grin, he told her, "Don't embarrass yourself. I'm a Platinum rank fighter now. How are you going to defeat me?"

He Xiaoxiao was flushed red with anger by now. He was just a lowly Bronze rank when she first met him. Now, the man was already a Platinum rank fighter. He did the impossible by getting promoted so high up within a month.

Han Jingru was now the hero of the entire Apocalypse. Even Lin Tong could not compare to his fame and popularity.

Meanwhile, He Xiaoxiao was the daughter of the head of the Three Halls. Yet, she had been now demoted to the Bronze rank.

Though she remained He Qingfeng's daughter, she was definitely still far away from achieving what Han Jingru had achieved.

He Xiaoxiao chose not to humiliate herself as she knew that she could not defeat him. She stood rooted to her spot, full of hatred and bitterness, as she stared at the man.

"Han Jingru, this is only temporary. One day, I will make sure you kowtow to me," she scoffed.

He looked at her nonchalantly and replied, "He Xiaoxiao, you're nothing apart from being the daughter of the head of the Three Halls. I know you don't respect me, but I hope you know that words alone cannot bridge the gap between our true abilities."

"I will put in all my time and effort into training from today onward. With my talents, I will surely beat a piece of trash like you!"

Talents? What talents?

Han Jingru grinned.

Even Lin Tong dared not speak about his "talents" in front of Han Jingru.

The latter not only possessed inborn gifts. Now, the combination of the red fruit and the skulls made him stronger than ever. He might even have a chance against Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng. However, nobody knew whether he would win, especially since Han Jingru himself did not know how powerful the two men were. Furthermore, he had not discovered his own limits yet.

"He Xiaoxiao, just give up already. Otherwise, you might lose everything." He shook his head.

At that, He Xiaoxiao became surprisingly determined. She wanted to shut him up using her own abilities and was determined to make herself stronger. This will be the only way to defeat Han Jingru. The cocky bastard.

Just then, Mr. Yi's assistant rushed over to Han Jingru's side.

The assistant had not been able to find him in his room earlier and had panicked. Luckily for him, Han Jingru was now well-known in the Apocalypse - it was easy to find out his whereabouts.

"Han Jingru, what are you doing here?" the assistant asked him.

Such a question was futile as Han Jingru would never reveal his plans to any outsiders. Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian needed to remain in this world at all costs. Even if Han Jingru did not return from the second world, he would rest assured that Su Yimo and his daughter were receiving the best protection from the men he had tasked to protect them.

"Is anything the matter?"

The assistant took one glance at He Xiaoxiao. This was the woman who denounced Han Jingru and even threatened to kill him. I think that's why He Qingfeng demoted her to the Bronze rank. She totally deserved it.

Needless to say, the assistant disliked He Xiaoxiao very much. She's only here because she's He Qingfeng's daughter. Otherwise, someone like her would never have the right to even step into the Apocalypse.

"Follow me; I'll tell you all about it on the way," the assistant said.

Han Jingru nodded. Before he left, he threw He Xiaoxiao a meaningful look and smiled slightly.

He did not mean for it to be a mocking smile, but it turned out that way because he saw the woman as a joke. In fact, he found her oddly familiar - she was just like Mi Xiaoxing.

Mi Xiaoxing and He Xiaoxiao seemed similar. However, the latter was viler. It was as though men were all bad as long as they didn't like her.

"Han Jingru, I will make you kneel in front of me one day!" He Xiaoxiao shouted as she watched him disappear down the corridor.

The assistant almost burst into laughter when he heard her threat. What a crazy woman. She's not even a good fighter. How can she be so confident that Han Jingru will one day kowtow to her?

Dream on!

"That woman is very unreasonable. She was very open about wanting to kill you, which was why He Qingfeng demoted her to the Bronze rank. I can't believe she still hasn't gotten some self-awareness after her demotion," the assistant remarked helplessly.

"Well, there are always extreme people in this world. They think that the world revolves around

them. I suppose He Xiaoxiao falls into that category," Han Jingru responded.

"Come on; you were promoted to the Platinum rank in less than a month. Wouldn't she at least reflect on whether she has similar capabilities? To me, nobody can replicate your success." The assistant smiled.

"Did you look for me just to bootlick?" he retorted.

The other man came to a realization at that and quickly said, "You have to hurry back to Yun City."

"Why? What's wrong?" The color drained from Han Jingru's face. The assistant's slightly panicked face made him think that something bad had happened in Yun City.

He had always been deeply concerned about that place - he did not want bad things to befall the area.

However, he had made sure to give instructions

to his subordinates before he left. Mo Lan was also there to make sure everything was alright. No major occurrence should have happened.

Even if Mo Lan met with difficulties, there was still Nangong Boling.

"When that incident broke out at Devil's Cave, we all thought you were dead. Fang Zhan went to Yun City to inform your family," the assistant explained.

"F\*ck!" Han Jingru could not control himself and cursed out loud. Su Yimo will surely be in despair if she hears such news!

"How long has he been gone?" he hurriedly asked.

"He left a few days ago. He's probably arrived at Yun City."

Han Jingru inhaled sharply. If he's there now, the Genting Villa might already be holding my funeral.

"What the f\*ck is going on? How could you guys assume that I'm dead without a corpse to confirm my death?" Han Jingru was speechless.

"There are no corpses in Devil's Cave," the assistant retorted.

That remark made him immediately recall the spread of bones in the cave. Well, he's right.

There will be no corpse if one died in Devil's Cave. The familiars will devour the meat immediately.

"Tell Mr. Yi I'll be leaving," he instructed.

"Don't worry. It was actually him who advised you to go," the assistant informed.

After that conversation, he dashed back to his room. Even though he was in a rush, he could not leave Jiang Yingying alone at the Apocalypse. After all, Ho Ting was also at Yun City, and the mother-daughter should be presented an opportunity to meet if they returned.

"Yingying, pack your stuff now. We're heading

back to Yun City," Han Jingru announced as he pushed the door leading to the woman's room open.

Jiang Yingying was standing in front of her bed and getting dressed when he barged in. The atmosphere instantly turned awkward.

The duo made eye contact, all the while frozen in their spots, shocked. Han Jingru couldn't help his eyes from trailed down her body.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"I... I'm sorry!" Han Jingru hurriedly retreated out of the room after blurting out an apology.

Jiang Yingying reacted oppositely. Any other girl would be frantic if someone barged into her room while she was changing. However, the woman did not feel that way. In fact, she somehow felt that it was a rather memorable incident, and she did not want Han Jingru to exit the room the way he had.

After putting on her clothes, she opened the door as though nothing had happened and asked, "Jingru, is there something wrong? You seem to be in a rush."

He had expected it to be an awkward conversation. To his surprise, the woman seemed unaffected. She did not look even a bit afraid or bothered by the incident.

"We have to rush back to Yun City," Han Jingru uttered.

That statement made Jiang Yingying tense up immediately. Something serious must have happened if he's in such a rush to go back.

"Did something happen to Yimo? Or Xiang?"

"Let's get going first. I'll explain on the way."

They quickly left the Apocalypse, not taking much luggage with them.

On their way there, he explained everything to her. The latter was quite speechless, as she did not expect Mr. Yi to get Fang Zhan to break the news so quickly.

However, the man's actions were understandable. After all, he had gone through the challenges in Devil's Cave and knew of all the dangers. A man like him would have all the more reason to think that Han Jingru died after such a big incident.

Under normal circumstances, nobody would be able to survive a head-on fight with a familiar.

At the same time, at the Bronze rank domain, Zhuang Tang and Gong Tian had consumed the red fruits given to them. Immediately, they could feel the changes to their bodies too. A mysterious strength surged in their bodies, ready to strike if needed. The two of them had felt this way before.

"Master, I didn't know the fruit was so powerful. I can feel the obvious changes in my body. I definitely feel a lot stronger," Gong Tian told Zhuang Tang excitedly.

"I'm confident that we are at least three times stronger than before." Similar to his disciple, Zhuang Tang was very excited. He could not upskill himself despite trying very hard previously. This was also why he had spent most of his time at the Bronze rank.

To him, promotion was almost a dream. He never expected Han Jingru to offer him this miraculous fruit upon his arrival.

"Master, do you think we can be promoted to the Silver rank with our abilities now?" Gong Tian asked hurriedly. Of course, promotion was coveted by everyone at the Apocalypse. Everybody wanted to become stronger and attain a higher status.

"Perhaps, after we train a little, we might even be promoted to the Gold rank," Zhuang Tang told him.

Gong Tian turned ecstatic. He had once imagined what it would be like to be a Gold-rank fighter. And now, he was this close to actually living like one!

Suddenly, Zhuang Tang knelt on the ground.

Gong Tian immediately followed suit despite not knowing why his master had done so.

First, the man had done so for Han Jingru. Even if he was not physically present, the man deserved the honor.

"From now on, I shall be your subordinate. I will dedicate my life to carrying out your wishes," Zhuang Tang declared in an affirmative tone.

When Gong Tian knelt previously, he had been dissatisfied with Han Jingru. However, he behaved genuinely now. One of the reasons was because Han Jingru made him stronger. The other

reason was that he still needed Han Jingru to push his limits. Only someone like Han Jingru would have the red fruit in the Apocalypse.

Meanwhile, at Yun City.

Fang Zhan finally appeared at the gates of the Genting villa, feeling extremely guilty.

He was in a dilemma these few days. First, he selfishly hid Han Jingru's death from his family to find his own daughter. After finding out about Su Yimo's illness, he hesitated to visit this woman whom Han Jingru treasured so much.

At last, he made up his mind. Even if he could not break the news about Han Jingru's death to his family, he should still visit Su Yimo. At least he could offer some help if she needed any.

Many of Mo Lan's men were gathered at the gates of the villa when Fang Zhan arrived. No strangers were allowed to enter. Even the owner of the estate could not return to his own home for the time being.

Only those who were acquainted with the Genting villa were allowed to enter the area.

Nobody dared to go against the arrangement even though it was quite draconian. Even the neighbors dared not launch any complaints – this was the effect of Han Jingru's influence and power. Any smart person in Yun City would choose to stay in the good books of those who work or stay at the Genting villa.

"What do you think you're doing?" Someone blocked Fang Zhan's way just as he was about to enter.

"Tell Mo Lan that I'm Fang Zhan." After speaking, he waited where he was; he knew he did not need to barge his way through.

Though there were many guards at the gate, it was easy for Fang Zhan to defeat them all if he wanted to. After all, he was one of the top ten elites at the Apocalypse. Such a task would be as easy as a piece of cake for him.

"Mr. Fang, please enter." Mo Lan immediately

instructed his men to let him in upon receiving news that he was at the gates.

Fang Zhan nodded and made his way towards the Genting villa.

He spotted Nangong Boling, who was the key to finding his daughter, at the entrance.

The latter greeted him respectfully. After all, Fang Zhan was from the Apocalypse, and Nangong Boling had spent a great deal of time wondering how to enter the place.

He walked towards Fang Zhan and bowed his head respectfully. "Mr. Fang."

"Mr. Nangong, do you have any news about my daughter?" Fang Zhan looked quite indifferent, but deep down, he was worried sick.

"Mr. Fang, don't worry. We've predicted your daughter's age based on your description. With our global influence, we have gotten your DNA report and are currently continuing the investigation. This might seem like a rudimentary

method, but it is the only way," Nangong Boling explained.

Such a task was truly like finding a needle in a haystack. However, the man had no other way around the situation. Fang Zhan had only given a few details, making it difficult to launch an investigation.

Furthermore, only the Nangong family had the resources to begin a global search. It was no laughing matter.

While it might take millions to find Fang Zhan's daughter, such an amount of money was seen as pocket change to the Nangong family.

"Thank you for helping me, Mr. Nangong. I will forever be indebted if my daughter is found."

After chatting with the man for a while, Fang Zhan finally entered Genting Villa.

Both Shi Yan and Han Xiuzhi were present in the living room, but Su Yimo was nowhere to be seen.

When Su Yimo started aging at a rapid pace, she refused all visitors and smashed every single mirror in the villa.

For a young and beautiful woman like her, such sudden aging was indeed a massive blow. Su Yimo had no idea how she would face Han Jingru in the future. She was afraid that he would return to Yun City out of the blue and see the new, ugly side of her.

The woman was so depressed that she even contemplated suicide to avoid her husband entirely.

But the thought of young Han Xiang stopped her from killing herself. She didn't want her daughter to lose her mother at such a young age. "Mr. Fang."

"Mr. Fang."

"Mr. Fang."

The people in the room got up and greeted Fang Zhan when they noticed his presence.

"Where's Yimo?" he asked.

Shi Yan darted a glance at Han Xiuzhi upon hearing that question. It was a norm in the household to obtain Han Jingru's grandfather's approval before speaking, especially if it was about Su Yimo. Shi Yan herself would never make any comments in regards to her daughter-in-law.

"May I know what brings you here, Mr. Fang?" Han Xiuzhi asked, ignoring the question entirely.

"Jingru didn't come back with you?" Yan Qiong added.

"Han Jingru is now on a mission commissioned

by Mr. Yi himself. I have no idea where he is at the moment. I returned to Yun City alone this time," Fang Zhan replied.

"Is there no way for you to contact him?" Shi Yan asked desperately. Only Han Jingru could solve Su Yimo's problem now. Even if he couldn't treat her sudden disease, he could at least stay by her side and help her face her sudden aging with a better mindset. He was the only one who could encourage his wife to follow up on her treatment.

Meeting their desperate eyes, Fang Zhan felt the guilt in him growing heavier than ever. He couldn't bring himself to tell them that Han Jingru was dead.

"You know the type of man Mr. Yi is and also his status among us. As his subordinates, we have no right to interfere in his matters," he curtly replied.

Shi Yan fell back onto the sofa upon hearing that. If Han Jingru were not coming back, his wife would continue shunning everyone out of her life. The woman would continue refusing her

treatment. At this rate, her illness would worsen further, and it would soon become incurable.

"Mr. Fang, I hope you can do us this small favor. Please tell him everything that has happened to our family once you manage to contact him," Han Xiuzhi requested.

Fang Zhan nodded, forcing down the overwhelming guilt building up in him. "Don't worry; I'll tell him once I hear of him. Where's Yimo? May I go and see her?"

Han Xiuzhi sighed heavily at his request. "Yimo refuses to see anyone now. I hope you understand that, Mr. Fang."

"She has locked herself in her room for the past few days. She refuses to see anyone other than Han Xiang." Due to Fang Zhan's highly respected status, Yan Qiong thought it appropriate to explain the situation in detail. After all, Fang Zhan was an important figure in Apocalypse; he must be given due respect when speaking to him. "If that's the case, I shall not stay on further and disturb you all." Fang Zhan promptly left after hearing Yan Qiong's explanation.

Meanwhile, Su Yimo's room was scattered with the shattered pieces of her smashed mirror. The woman lying on her bed now had silvery-white hair and a sallow face covered with deep wrinkles. Su Yimo looked so old now that it was hard to imagine that she was once the most beautiful woman in Yun City.

Suddenly, the woman's phone rang.

She answered the call and asked, "What's up?"

It was Shen Zhuoman who called. As a woman herself, she knew how devastating such sudden aging could be to Su Yimo. Hence, she would make calls to her friend whenever she was free to chat to calm Su Yimo's emotions.

"I'm getting off work early today. Is there anything you want to eat? I can bring some for you," she kindly offered.

"No need. I don't want to see anyone right now," Su Yimo rejected the proposal without a second thought. She didn't want to see anyone, not even her best friend.

"Yimo, I'm your best friend. You can refuse to see anyone you like, but not me! How could you have the heart to reject me!" Shen Zhuoman pretended to be mad and hurt as she snapped playfully at her friend.

If the call had happened last time, Su Yimo would have given in easily. But she refused to budge from her stance now. The closer the person was to her, the more she wanted to push them away.

"Aren't you dating someone now? Don't waste your time on me. Go ahead and hang out with your boyfriend." Su Yimo ended the call curtly after spitting out that remark.

Like a deflated balloon, Shen Zhuoman sighed in dejection at the woman's rejection. Indeed, she had many pursuers flocking after her, but Su Yimo was more of her priority - dating could wait.

"Damn you, Han Jingru! Where on earth have you disappeared to? Are you going to wait until Yimo locks herself to death?" Shen Zhuoman muttered through clenched teeth.

At that moment, the door of her office opened, revealing her secretary with a stack of documents in hand. "Ms. Shen, these are all the documents that need your signatures."

"I've no time for that now. Just put it there," Shen Zhuoman replied. The company had been running smoothly ever since she was in charge. After all, everyone now knew Su Yimo was the true boss behind the company. No one would dare to mess with a company owned by the woman now, which was why Shen Zhuoman had the freedom to decide on when to sign those documents.

To Shen Zhuoman, it was up to her to sign those documents as she wished, knowing that no trouble would befall her.

After putting down the documents, the secretary was about to leave the office when Shen Zhuoman called out to her, "Yang Meng, are you free tonight?"

The woman she called out to turned around in surprise and replied, "Is there anything you need me to do, Ms. Shen?"

"Someone asked me out for a dinner date tonight. I've agreed to go, but now I'm not in the mood for it. Please go in my stead then," Shen Zhuoman requested.

Yang Meng looked at her boss with a horrified expression. *Goodness! It's a dinner date. How can I go in her stead?* 

"Err... Ms. Shen, I don't think that'll a good idea. It's your dinner date, after all. How could I go for a date in your place?" she answered helplessly.

"Why can't you? You're going to have an expensive dinner in my stead. Doesn't that sound great? It's decided then. Like it or not, you have to go," Shen Zhuoman replied in a final tone,

leaving Yang Meng with no ground to reject.

The latter let out a bitter smile. This was something she had never experienced before, as it was such an absurd request coming from her boss. I wonder what the other party would think if he knows that I was asked to attend the date in my boss' stead.

After a moment of musing over the situation, Yang Meng asked in a soft voice, "Ms. Shen, do you know what happened to Su Yimo?"

Shen Zhuoman was bewildered by her sudden question. I've personally clarified all rumors surrounding Su Yimo, so what's with Yang Meng's sudden concern about her now?

"You're asking this out of gossip or because you have other reasons?" she asked.

"Actually, I know Han Jingru personally," her secretary replied weakly.

Shen Zhuoman widened her eyes at that reply. What? Han Jingru and Yang Meng actually know each other? Don't tell me he had an affair with Yang Meng before?

"How on earth did you come to know Han Jingru? What's your relationship with him?" she immediately interrogated.

"We used to be neighbors. As for why he rented the house beside me, I'm not quite sure either. Since we used to be acquaintances, I thought it would only be polite for me to be concerned about him," Yang Meng explained.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Upon hearing her explanation, Shen Zhuoman finally understood how the two had come to know each other. Han Jingru and Su Yimo had filed for a fake divorce back then, and the man had moved out of Genting Villa. He went to stay in a house he rented. However, Shen Zhuoman was still wary about Yang Meng being his neighbor. Yang Meng was a pretty girl, so Shen Zhuoman couldn't help wondering if he had ever had any affairs with Yang Meng.

Being the straightforward person she was, Shen Zhuoman blurted her question right in Yang Meng's face. "Nothing happened between you and him, right?"

The other woman waved her hands frantically. "What makes you think that, Ms. Shen! Of course not!"

However, Shen Zhuoman frowned at her quick denial. If nothing happened between them, Yang Meng wouldn't have looked so frantic just now. The guilt in her eyes is rather obvious.

"Ah, so nothing happened between you two. Why

do I see flashes of guilt in your eyes, though?" Shen Zhuoman got up and strode towards Yang Meng, her gaze staring sharply into the latter's eyes.

Yang Meng instinctively avoided her piercing gaze. Indeed, nothing had actually happened between her and Han Jingru, but she had harbored some feelings of affection towards him back then. Those feelings were so strong that Yang Meng knew right then she had fallen in love with him. If she didn't come to know of Han Jingru's identity later on, she might have even confessed to him.

"A-Actually..."

"Actually, what? Spill it!" Shen Zhuoman began to grow impatient when she saw Yang Meng stuttering away.

"Actually... I used to have a crush on him."
Biting her lips, the woman finally spilled out her feelings.

Shen Zhuoman could only smile helplessly at her

reply.done in his previous life for him to gain the favor of so many ladies?

When Han Jingru was despised by everyone in Yun City, Su Yimo had already started to slowly fall for him. Even Shen Zhuoman and the extremely gorgeous Qi Bingying had not been immune to his charms. Now, even Yang Meng had developed a crush on him even though she had only been his neighbor for a short time.

Han Jingru must be born with some charisma that appeals to the ladies. Otherwise, why would every woman who has been by his side fall for him without fail?

"So you only had a crush on him? That's all?"
Shen Zhuoman knew Han Jingru's personality well. If he were the type of man who could withstand the seduction of the extremely gorgeous Qi Bingying, he surely wouldn't cheat on his wife with Yang Meng. However, Shen Zhuoman was still curious to know if he was really that steadfast to resist the sensual charms of women.

"Yes, that's all. Nothing happened between us, Ms. Shen. I swear to God about that!" Yang Meng replied.

Nodding her head in approval, Shen Zhuoman replied, "Don't look so scared. I'm just gossiping with you. He would never fall for you."

Yang Meng winced at that snide comment. Of course, she had never expected to have anything going on between her and Han Jingru. After all, his wife was Su Yimo, the most beautiful woman in Yun City. How could she compare herself with that goddess?

"Please don't feel wounded by my words. I'm just stating the truth. I know a woman who's a thousand times more beautiful than you; she's probably more beautiful than Su Yimo herself. Despite her looks, Han Jingru isn't the least bit tempted by her. His love and loyalty towards Su Yimo are unbelievable. In fact, it's so unbelievable that even I sometimes wonder if he's a normal man," Shen Zhuoman explained with a smile. To the best of her knowledge, she knew no man could withstand Qi Bingying's

seduction - Han Jingru was the only exception. Shen Zhuoman couldn't help but find that extremely abnormal about him.

It was common knowledge that Qi Bingying was a gorgeous woman, especially without her glasses. Her beauty would be enough to rival that of Helen of Troy and bring calamity with her charm.

"How great would it be if I can get myself such a husband," Yang Meng uttered enviously.

"Oh, yes. Every woman desires to have such a husband, but a man like Han Jingru is so rare that I believe we can't find another one like him. Men like him have gone extinct a long time ago," Shen Zhuoman mused. Following her rise in status in Yun City, she had been surrounded by more and more pursuers who wanted to court her. But whenever she compared them with Han Jingru, she would always find all sorts of faults in them. In her eyes, these men who coveted her were not even worth mere dandruff from Han Jingru's hair.

"Ms. Shen, now that I've told you everything,

can you tell me how's Su Yimo now?" Yang Meng directed the topic back to Su Yimo. The whole of Yun City had been discussing it, and she herself was growing equally curious.

"It's nothing serious, actually. You should know about the rise in Su Yimo's social status now. With Han Jingru not being in town, her family would definitely worry about every little illness she suffers from and overdo everything. Alright, you may take your leave now." Shen Zhuoman waved her off.

Yang Meng sank into contemplation. She could understand Su Yimo's family's overconcern of her illness, especially with the woman's status now. However, employing all the renowned doctors around the world to treat her illness seemed unnecessary to her.

That could only mean Shen Zhuoman didn't want to disclose the truth. With that assumption in mind, Yang Meng decided to not ask any further on the topic.

"Alright. If you need anything, call me in." She

then retreated out of the office.

Shen Zhuoman leaned back in her chair with a sorrowful expression on her face after her secretary left. I wonder how many women Han Jingru has come into contact with overseas... I wonder how many of them have fallen in love with him. I've always thought that women were the only ones capable of attracting unwanted attention from the opposite sex, but it seems like Han Jingru is also capable of doing such things.

When it was time to get off work, Shen Zhuoman was still not in the mood to meet her date. Hence, she made a call to the man and called off the dinner.

With her current status, it was rather easy for her to crudely call off dates arranged by playboys she had met online. She didn't have to worry about her status and reputation since she was now Su Yimo's representative. Making Shen Zhuoman mad was now equivalent to angering Su Yimo, so no men dared to express their displeasure towards her crudeness.

She had just driven her car into the car park when she suddenly sensed two people sitting in the backseat. From the rearview mirror, she could see two people clad in caps and facemasks. Such accessories shielded their faces, and she could not make out if she recognized them or not. She couldn't help but panic at the sight of their robber-like appearance.

Not daring to turn around, the woman asked in a trembling voice. "What do you want from me? If you want money, I can give you all of it. You can take it all."

The two behind her were actually Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying. The former was worried that news of his death had circulated within Yun City, and he didn't want to cause a ruckus about him returning from the dead, which was why he had to cover himself up.

He had originally planned to go to Mojo first, but the pub was closed. Since he had no way of knowing what events had happened in Yun City during his disappearance, he was left with no other choice - he had to look for Shen Zhuoman for updates.

He had never expected Shen Zhuoman to think of him as a robber, though.

"I don't want money." Han Jingru changed his voice to a gruff one as he grunted out those 4 words.

"Then what do you want!" Shen Zhuoman was terrified by his answer. Does he want to rape me? No... please! I still have my virginity!

"You look pretty. Come spend a sexy night with us, and we'll let you go. How's that?" Han Jingru threatened teasingly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Shen Zhuoman felt her limbs turn into jelly out of fright. The woman didn't mind giving away her money, but she refused to give away her virginity just like that. She was loaded now, anyway. Anything that could be solved with money wasn't a problem in her eyes.

"I can give you money. Just name a price, any price," Shen Zhuoman replied in fright.

"I'm not interested in money. As long as you listen to me, I'll spare you from any pain and sufferings," Han Jingru cautioned.

Poor Shen Zhuoman was so terrified that she began to cry out of fear. "Please let me go, sir. I'm still not married yet!"

Han Jingru didn't expect Shen Zhuoman to be such a scaredy-cat. But for the sake of her, he took off his cap and mask to reveal his face. "I'm just joking, Shen Zhuoman. Do you really need to overreact and cry out of fright?" Han Jingru jested in his own voice.

The poor woman was stunned when she heard his

familiar voice.

She then turned her gaze to the rearview mirror and saw his familiar face. She was stunned for a moment before fury overtook her.

"Han Jingru! Are you bored out of your mind! What did I do for you to frighten me like this!" Shen Zhuoman yelled furiously.

Her reaction made him confused. He turned to Jiang Yingying, who returned the same look of confusion to him.

With Shen Zhuoman's close friendship with Su Yimo, she should've heard wind of his death by now. But her reaction seemed to suggest she didn't know of his "death" at all.

"Shouldn't you be frightened out of your wits after seeing me alive? Shouldn't you wonder why I'm still alive?" he asked in confusion.

"Why should I be frightened that you're still alive? Just tell me if you want to engage in a fight with me. Why must you scare me like that, you cowardly creep!" Shen Zhuoman waved her fists at him in anger.

Her reaction further affirmed his deduction that no one knew about his so-called death yet. Hmm? Did my family hide my death from the public? Or did Fang Zhan never inform them of my death at all?

"Shen Zhuoman, have you visited Genting Villa these days?" he asked.

His question instantly reminded Shen Zhuoman of Su Yimo's illness. "When did you come back? Did you return to Genting Villa?"

"I haven't been there yet."

The woman punched his shoulders wildly upon hearing that. "Why aren't you heading back? Yimo is sick! Nangong Boling has employed all the best doctors from around the world, yet no one has been able to treat her illness!"

What? Su Yimo is sick?

So sick that no doctor could treat her?

Han Jingru's face turned solemn, and he ordered, "Drive us to Genting Villa now."

Shen Zhuoman immediately started the engine, and the trio sped off in the direction of Genting Villa.

Shen Zhuoman, being a frequent guest at Genting Villa, was recognized by all the guards of the villa. She was allowed into the residential area without any hassle.

Han Jingru was bewildered by the huge number of guards by the entrance. "What happened? Why are there so many guards posted around the area?"

"They're all Mo Lan's men. Genting has forbidden everyone other than family members from entering the area. All the other residents have moved out of the area to prevent people from spreading malicious rumors about Yimo's illness," Shen Zhuoman explained.

Hearing that, Han Jingru could feel his heart hanging in fear. It seemed like his wife was seriously ill; Mo Lan would never take such drastic measures otherwise. After all, the Genting area was the home to many influential figures within Yun City. Asking them to move out of their home would definitely offend many of them, yet Mo Lan still chased them away without minding the consequences. That was enough to show how serious Su Yimo's illness was right now.

"What illness is she suffering from?" he couldn't help but ask before they reached the villa.

"Adult progeria," Shen Zhuoman replied.

## Adult progeria?

Han Jingru couldn't help but recall that one incident in the stone house where Fu Yao's well-preserved corpse had deteriorated. It had turned into bones the moment he saw her, leaving a small little capsule in her place. Could that have caused Yimo's illness?

If that's the case, then there is a possibility that reincarnation is indeed real.

When the mini group finally reached Genting Villa, Han Jingru hopped out of the car at the speed of light and dashed towards the entrance. Both Mo Lan and Nangong Boling were present in the courtyard and were stunned in their places when they saw Han Jingru appear.

After all, Fang Zhan had just told them that Han Jingru was out on a mission. The man was supposed to be unreachable but had now appeared out of the blue.

"Jingru! What are you doing back here? Fang Zhan told us you're on an important mission! He said he couldn't reach you!" Mo Lan immediately questioned him.

An important mission?

Isn't he supposed to tell them of my death? Why did he say I'm on a mission instead?

But when Han Jingru shifted his gaze to Nangong

Boling, he suddenly understood why Fang Zhan hid his death from his family. The man must have been worried that the head of the Nangong family would stop the search for his daughter if he broke the news right then. It was out of his own selfishness that he didn't inform them of his fake death.

Nevertheless, such an arrangement was good for Han Jingru. He didn't have to waste his time in explaining his so-called death now.

"Let me check on Yimo first," he stated firmly.

Mo Lan nodded and stepped out of his path.

When Han Jingru entered the living room, all his family members and Su Wenlun rushed over to him. Ho Ting, too, came up to him when he entered.

"You're finally back, Jingru! Yimo has locked up herself for days now! She's been refusing to see anyone."

"Please save my daughter, Jingru! She's my only

child! I cannot afford to lose her!"

"Don't be worried. Let me go and check on her first." Han Jingru comforted them before approaching Su Yimo's room.

He knocked on her door and waited for her response.

A while later, Su Yimo's voice sounded from within. "I'm resting. I don't want to be disturbed now."

"It's me, Yimo."

Tears suddenly welled up in the woman's eyes when she heard her husband's voice. She was in a fragile state of mind and on the verge of a mental breakdown. Su Yimo had been struggling to hide her depression when she was in front of others, but Han Jingru's presence finally shattered whatever restraint she had. He was the man she loved most, and she didn't want to put up a strong façade in front of him.

But at the same time, he was the one person she

didn't want to face - she didn't want to let him see her ugly appearance.

After a long time, she finally spoke up, "You shouldn't look at me now, Jingru. I'm worried you'll be frightened by my horrible appearance."

"You silly girl. What on earth are you talking about? Did you think our youth and beauty would stay with us forever? We will grow old eventually. No matter how you might age and change in appearance, my love for you will never change," Han Jingru coaxed soothingly.

Su Yimo began sobbing when she heard his soft, gentle words. She was still young, yet her face had turned from youthful to that of an old woman within a matter of days. She didn't want the way she currently looked to taint the version of her in Han Jingru's mind. She knew he loved her, but that didn't mean he wouldn't be shocked by her now ugly appearance.

"But, I don't want you to see how ugly I am now," Su Yimo choked out her reply.

"I can cure you! Do you believe that I can do it?" Ever since he received the capsule, he had been wondering if it was related to Su Yimo. Back then, he was worried that Fu Yao's memories would affect the woman mentally. But now, he had to give her the capsule in order to help her restore her youth.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As footsteps approached, the doorknob turned but didn't open.

Han Jingru remained calm as he knew Su Yimo needed some time to mentally prepare herself. After all, she had indeed changed a lot.

"Don't worry, I will find you a cure," Han Jingru continued.

The woman kept her head lowered as the door slowly opened. His heart ached for her when he saw her graying hair.

He pulled her into his embrace the first moment he stepped foot into the room. Just as he said, his love for Su Yimo would never change no matter what happens to her. He vowed to stay by her side and take care of her even if she is old and grey.

Su Yimo couldn't help but hug his waist as familiar warmth engulfed her.

"I'm so scared... I'm scared of losing you and afraid that Xiang will lose her mother." She cried

her heart out in front of him, not able to hold her emotions in anymore.

He stroked her back gently and said, "Don't worry, I will do everything in my power to save you. Xiang will not lose her mother."

He held on to her old and wrinkled hands. He had no doubt it was her even though she didn't look as youthful anymore.

The two of them sat on the edge of the bed after shutting the door.

Su Yimo kept her head lowered the entire time as she dared not show him what had become of her.

Han Jingru reached out and slowly lifted her chin up.

She struggled for a bit before finally giving in, slowly raising her head.

"I'm so lucky," he commented with a smile.

His wife stared at him, confused. "What do you

mean?"

"Aren't I lucky to have such a beautiful wife even when she's old and gray?"

That made her break into a wide smile. She was secretly delighted even though she knew Han Jingru was doing it on purpose to make her happy.

"Where did you learn how to sweet-talk so well?" She glared at him.

"Sweet-talking? I spoke from the heart," Han Jingru said in all seriousness.

"Really? You will still love me even when I'm gray and old?" Su Yimo said disbelievingly.

He placed a hand on the back of her head, leaned forward, and kissed her on the lips. "I would never lie to you. You are my one and only."

Su Yimo pouted. Today was probably the best day for her ever since she fell sick.

"Qi Bingying is still in love with you. Are you really willing to give up such a pretty girl?" she asked.

That remark made him wrinkle his nose awkwardly. He hadn't forgotten Qi Bingying seeing as to how he used to succumb to her pleas. However, he felt unlikely that anything would ever happen between the two of them as having a soft spot for her and actually loving her was two different matters.

"No woman can compare to you," he stated in a serious manner.

Su Yimo nestled in his arms; it made her feel safe. In fact, she loved being in his arms most.

"But can you bring yourself to hurt such a pretty girl? You must have seen how Qi Bingying looked without her glasses, right?" she questioned.

Qi Bingying truly looked stunning without her glasses. She was a beauty unlike any Han Jingru had ever seen, even though she looked entirely different without her glasses on. But even so, Han Jingru was able to hold back his desire for her.

All men struggle with lust, and Han Jingru was no different. The key was to refrain oneself from giving in to temptation. Those who failed to do so were labeled as scumbags.

However, the man was able to resist these temptations because of Su Yimo.

"Do you still remember what I once told you? We should move to a country that allows polygamy. I don't want to burden you with what I've become. I will be satisfied as long as you don't abandon me," his wife continued.

Han Jingru couldn't help but slap her thigh. "Didn't I say I can cure you?"

Su Yimo had assumed he was simply trying to cheer her up with those words. She didn't believe that he truly could make her well again since Nangong Boling had failed to do so. Notorious doctors from all over the world hadn't been able to cure her either.

"Stop trying to make me feel better. False hope is worse than despair." Su Yimo sighed.

Han Jingru took a deep breath and took out the capsule. He didn't know whether it would work on Su Yimo, nor if she would experience any after-effects after taking it. However, it looked like the only thing left for him to do now was to give it a shot. He had a strong hunch Su Yimo's sudden change in appearance had everything to do with Fu Yao. If what he thought turns out to be true, then not even Hua Tuo will be able to save his wife.

"Oooh! What is this? It's so pretty." Su Yimo was in awe of the capsule he presented her.

It was women's nature to be attracted to beautiful things.

He found it hard to explain the capsule's origin to her. Besides, she probably would not believe his words even if he told her about it. "This is a magic pill I got from the Apocalypse. It can cure all kinds of diseases."

## A magic pill from the Apocalypse!

Su Yimo's eyes shone with hope. She was well aware what kind of place the Apocalypse is. She might possibly be well again if this capsule had really come from there.

"It must be very valuable," Su Yimo remarked.

"It's worth nothing compared to you." Han Jingru smiled.

"Mr. Yi must have hoped it will be of use to you during your most dire moments if he gave something so important to you. How could you just hand it to me like that?" The woman quickly shook her head, rejecting his offer of using the capsule on her.

"Now is the direst moment to me. Everything pales in comparison," Han Jingru said.

She lowered her head, feeling touched.

He then continued, "Open your mouth. If you don't, I will leave with our daughter. Don't even

think about meeting our cute daughter ever again."

At that, Su Yimo raised her head and opened her mouth obediently.

Han Jingru was about to feed her the capsule when it suddenly turned into a cloud of mist and entered Su Yimo's throat. That made him even more certain that Fu Yao was somehow involved in Su Yimo's illness.

"Hurry up." She couldn't help but remind him to pour it in when she didn't feel or taste anything after a long while.

"You've already eaten it," he told her with a smile.

The woman looked at him in astonishment. "How is that possible? I didn't feel or taste a thing."

"It melted in your mouth. It is a magic pill, after all. How is it possible for you to feel anything?"

Suddenly, Su Yimo felt groggy, and she stuttered,

"Jingru, I-I feel..."

She collapsed before she could even finish speaking.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru's heart raced when he saw his wife collapse like that.

He feared for her life since he didn't know what was going to happen next. He wasn't sure what the capsule would do to her.

He was engulfed in fear of the unknown. He had never felt so much fear even when he was in Devil's Cave.

He would rather die than put Su Yimo in danger. To him, her life was more important than his own.

"Fu Yao, if you really have anything to do with her illness, please spare her life. I will only know what you want that way," Han Jingru pleaded in a low voice.

Right at the moment, Mo Lan, who was in the living room, suddenly shrieked.

He had rushed to Genting Villa the moment he received news that Han Jingru was back. To him, Han Jingru was the reason he had gotten a second

chance in life, and the reason for the man he was.

Han Jingru had left him to take care of everything when he left Yun City. He felt responsible for Su Yimo's illness since she fell ill when Han Jingru wasn't around.

Mo Lan knelt in front of Han Jingru the moment he stepped out of the room.

"Jingru, it's all my fault. I wasn't able to protect Yimo," the former lowered his head in shame and said.

"Mo Lan, what are you doing?" Han Jingru quickly walked over to help him up. He didn't blame Mo Lan - it had nothing to do with him. Su Yimo's aging was very likely related to Fu Yao. It wasn't something anyone could control.

"Jingru, don't. I will only feel better this way."
Many doctors had discussed how they were going to treat the woman, but no one had been able to guarantee her full recovery. Mo Lan felt guilty about it and thought it was all his fault.

Han Jingru smiled helplessly. *This man has an over-active sense of responsibility.* 

"Mo Lan, what right do you have to kneel when I told you to get up?" Han Jingru said with a smile as he grabbed the man by the collar and lifted him.

Mo Lan felt awkward as he was suspended in the air. Oh my, he's so strong. How could he lift an adult up so easily?

"Jingru, this is humiliating."

"Hear me out if you don't want to be humiliated. This has nothing to do with you, and I have never blamed you for what happened," Han Jingru stated.

"But ... "

Han Jingru cut Mo Lan off before he could even finish. "No buts. I think I know the reason for her illness, but I can't tell you about it."

The reason!

Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong were both taken aback by Han Jingru's words. How does he know the reason for her illness when he was at the Apocalypse when it happened?

Moreover, not even the notorious doctors Nangong Bolin had brought in could find out why the woman had fallen ill. How could Han Jingru know better than these doctors?

Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong shot each other a look, feeling puzzled.

"Jingru, come with me to the courtyard." the former said to Han Jingru.

The latter nodded and patted Mo Lan on his back. "You don't need to blame yourself for this. You had nothing to do with it. Just know that no one could have stopped this from happening."

Mo Lan was confused; he didn't understand what he meant.

Han Jingru's grandfather stared at him when they reached the courtyard. His grandson seemed to

have changed a lot after his trip to the Apocalypse. However, the elderly man couldn't put a finger on what exactly had changed.

"Jingru, how do you know the cause of Yimo's illness?" Han Xiuzhi asked.

"Grandpa, there are some things I must keep secret for now because this is the Apocalypse's rule," replied Han Jingru. Not even Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng were aware of Fu Yao's existence. Han Jingru kept it a secret because he didn't want to cause trouble for Su Yimo.

After all, it was all just his theory. He couldn't prove that Fu Yao and Su Yimo were related at that moment.

Han Xiuzhi nodded. The Apocalypse wouldn't have lasted in secrecy for so long if not for their strict ruling.

"Did you manage to gain anything after your trip to the Apocalypse? Did you get stronger in any way?" Yan Qiong couldn't help but ask. Highly skilled fighters from all over the world would gather at the Apocalypse. It was every warrior's dream to step foot into the Apocalypse's hall. Although Yan Qiong hadn't managed to get in, he was happy Han Jingru had been there. The man would feel even happier if Han Jingru achieved something during his time at Apocalypse.

"Grandpa Yan, Apocalypse is broken down into 4 levels. Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum, with the Platinum rank being the highest. There's a qualifying tournament every year for everyone in Apocalypse to have a shot at leveling up. I got there just in time for the qualifying tournament on my most recent trip there. However, I don't think it was by chance I made it in time for the tournament. I think Mr. Yi had arranged for it deliberately," said Han Jingru. He told Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong about it since it wasn't a big secret.

Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong's eyes burned with a desire for deeper understanding upon hearing that. They wondered what rank Han Jingru was since he had gotten there just in time for the qualifying tournament.

"Are you of the Silver rank now?" Yan Qiong asked excitedly.

Han Jingru nodded with a smile.

Yan Qiong applauded, saying, "Good, you are indeed from the Han family. Good job in protecting the Han family's reputation even at Apocalypse."

"Jingru, you must make sure you always remain humble. Many people must harbor resentment towards you for leveling up upon your arrival. Try to keep a low profile in the future," Han Xiuzhi advised Han Jingru. Although he hadn't been able to experience what kind of place Apocalypse was for himself, he believed it was human nature to compare and fight among themselves. Many would be jealous of those who were better than them. Hence, Han Jingru needed to keep a low profile for now until he had a solid foundation.

"Are you able to participate for the second time in the qualifying tournament next year?" Yan Qiong was more concerned with his capabilities as compared to those schemes and conspiracies. He wanted to know if Han Jingru could continue to level up next year.

Han Jingru shook his head as he smiled quietly.

Yan Qiong was utterly confused. The qualifying tournament was held annually. It doesn't make sense that Han Jingru couldn't participate in next year's tournament since he had leveled up this year. Why did he shake his head?

"Could it be that there are other kinds of rules about the timing for leveling up?" Yan Qiong asked.

"It's not about the timing. I simply can't level up any further because I've already reached the Platinum rank." Han Jingru chuckled.

P-Platinum rank!

Both Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong parted their lips in shock.

Their mouths were hanging open so widely that Han Jingru could see their tonsils clearly.

"If I improve any further, I'd have to take over Mr. Yi's position," he added.

Han Xiuzhi's breathing turned heavy as his chest heaved up and down.

There were four levels—Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. After arriving in Apocalypse, Han Jingru had spent just one month to achieve the top rank. It was unbelievable.

"Jingru, are you kidding us?" asked Yan Qiong, his voice quavering. Apocalypse was the holy destination for all martial arts practitioners. The man had never been there, but he knew that there were plenty of experts living there. Hence, getting through one rank was hard enough. Never in his wildest dreams did he ever think Han Jingru could actually achieve the Platinum rank.

"Of course not. I'm really a Platinum-ranked fighter now," explained Han Jingru.

His grandfather walked to him and grabbed his arms with shaky hands. "Jingru, you..."

The man trailed off, seemingly at a loss for words. Indeed, he wanted to praise Han Jingru, but he didn't know where to start. After all, this situation was beyond his expectations.

"Grandpa, there were people who tried to sabotage me when I first arrived at Apocalypse. But now, those negative factors no longer affect me. Apocalypse is a place where strength reigns above all. Any plans to thwart me would die in the crib." Han Jingru chuckled drily.

Both Lin Tong and He Xiaoxiao wanted to kill him. They had even tried to make things difficult for him in the Qualifying Tournament. However, their plans went awry when Han Jingru showed them how powerful he was.

No one else in Apocalypse dared to scheme against Han Jingru since then. Most of them

viewed him as their idol because he had achieved what could be considered a miracle. He had also replaced Lin Tong as the Chosen One.

"Good, good!" Han Xiuzhi exclaimed, not knowing what else to say.

Yan Qiong came to Han Jingru, curious. "Besides, you, did anyone else achieve such an amazing feat?"

"Nope. I was the first one to do so." Han Jingru let out a chuckle before he continued, "I might very well be the last to do so, too."

Yan Qiong shook his head wearily. "Back then, you were just a little kid. Now, you're the strongest martial arts practitioner in Apocalypse. I'll be of no use very soon."

"Grandpa Yan, don't say that. You'll always be the strongest fighter in my eyes," Han Jingru responded.

Yan Qiong guffawed before saying, "I'm glad you think that way. But, in all seriousness, I need

to remind you to stay low. After all, a successful person is likely to be targeted. Be careful."

Han Jingru knew that well. That was why he had stayed low for all these years. When he was building up his forces back in Yan City, he had never attended any events to satisfy his ego.

Even after arriving at Yun City, he remained unfazed when people started hurling accusations at him. After all, he had trained this way since young. He could no longer hide his ability now, but he was still a cautious man at heart.

"Grandpa Yan, I understand," he assured the old man.

Suddenly, Han Xiuzhi and Yan Qiong fell silent, their eyes shining with desire.

Han Jingru immediately understood what was going on. Both men were curious about the mysterious place. Anyone would be after finding out about Apocalypse's existence. What existed there? What do people there do? And why does the place even exist?

Alas, Han Jingru couldn't reveal anything regarding Apocalypse to them. As the news about the second world was too horrifying, he didn't want them to worry.

"Grandpa, Grandpa Yan, I know you're curious, but Apocalypse has strict rules. I can't reveal anything to you even though I really want to," he explained apologetically.

His grandfather shook his head. "It's fine. I won't ask you to break the rules just to satisfy my curiosity."

"Yes. We're just curious. Don't mind us," Yan Qiong added.

However, Han Jingru saw the disappointment in their gazes and blurted out, "The only thing that I can say is that the world isn't as simple as it seems."

"Jingru."

Right then, Fang Zhan called out his name.

When Han Jingru turned his head, the latter was already on his knees.

Fang Zhan used to be one of the Top Ten Elites in Apocalypse, but he was no longer part of it. Han Jingru was now a Platinum-ranked fighter in Apocalypse. As Fang Zhan felt guilty, he went on his knees willingly.

"Grandpa, you two should head back," Han Jingru said.

The two older men nodded and returned to the villa.

Han Jingru then walked to Fang Zhan and pulled the latter to his feet. "Everyone has their own selfish desires. I can understand why you did so. I owe you a thank you. If you didn't inform others about my death selfishly, they would've been dejected. You saved me some trouble."

He might be grateful, but Fang Zhan had disobeyed Mr. Yi's order. After all, the old man had ordered him to return to Yun City himself.

"I wanted to relay his order, but I couldn't bring myself to do so. Without Nangong Boling's help, I'll never find my daughter," uttered Fang Zhan as he stared at the ground. No one else in this world dared to search for a missing person using the same method the Nangong family did.

The money and effort spent on carrying out DNA tests on every person of similar age in the world was an unholy amount. Only the Nangong family would be wealthy and well-connected enough to do so.

Han Jingru patted the other man's shoulder to comfort him. "I don't blame you. I'll ask Nangong Boling to speed up the search. I hope you get to meet your daughter soon."

Fang Zhan lowered his head guiltily. He was ashamed because Han Jingru was helping instead of blaming him.

The former was also curious. How did Han Jingru make it out from Devil's Cave alive?

The speculation of his death had happened

because Han Jingru had encountered the familiars. Fang Zhan was certain no one could survive after being attacked by familiars.



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Upon noticing Fang Zhan's hesitation, Han Jingru immediately knew what the man wanted to ask him. However, he didn't enlighten the man because he wanted to keep his encounter in Devil's Cave a secret.

Han Jingru was still perplexed as to how the little white snake had been powerful enough to defeat the other familiars. He also wondered why the little fella had nuzzled him so affectionately.

"Jingru, how did you make it out of Devil's Cave alive?" After making sure no one was around, Fang Zhan asked softly.

"I ran out while attacking everything that faced me," the man answered simply.

"What?" Fang Zhan stared at him in shock.

Han Jingru is strong, but the familiars are even stronger. How could he survive after his encounter with the familiars?

"Are you joking? Even Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng couldn't defeat those familiars. How did you

defeat them?" inquired Fang Zhan.

"With my hands, of course. What else?" Han Jingru grinned.

He was obviously brushing Fang Zhan's serious question off. The latter wasn't a fool, so his doubts remained. But since Han Jingru wasn't going to say anything, he wouldn't press on and demand answers.

Nevertheless, he remained curious as ever. Which familiar did Han Jingru meet in Devil's Cave?

"What did the familiar you see look like?" he questioned.

"A huge gorilla. It was too oversized and overweight. It couldn't outrun me," Han Jingru revealed.

"According to the Apocalypse Bible, there are six familiars in Devil's Cave. The gorilla you met wasn't the strongest. Looks like you got lucky," Fang Zhan commented.

Han Jingru's curiosity was piqued at the man's explanation. He had met all six familiars. The little white snake might've strangely defeated the other familiars, but he didn't know if it was the strongest of them all.

If such a Bible existed, the strongest familiar should have been recorded, too.

So, he asked curiously, "Which is the strongest familiar?"

"The ruby-eyed Python. You're lucky you didn't meet it," lamented Fang Zhan.

Ruby-eyed Python?

The little white snake's eyes were red. But it was as thick as my thumb. It couldn't have been even a python!

Did the Bible exaggerate the power of that familiar?

"How big is the Ruby-eyed Python?" he asked.

"Its body is as thick as a dragon. It's almost a hundred feet long."

Han Jingru burst into laughter at that answer. A hundred feet long? Is he joking with me? That little white snake was just a meter long!

"Why are you laughing?" Fang Zhan asked, puzzled.

"No... Nothing. I guess I was really lucky then. If I met the Ruby-eyed Python, I wouldn't be alive right now," Han Jingru responded.

Fang Zhan nodded in agreement. That gigantic familiar would devour everything in its path. If Han Jingru had come across it, he would've been killed on the spot.

"I can't believe you achieved the Platinum rank in less than a month. No one in Apocalypse could exceed your feat," Fang Zhan praised. Back then, if someone had told him a man could start from the Bronze rank and achieve the Platinum rank in just a month, he would've thought it was a joke. However, Han Jingru had definitely achieved it. It was an amazing and unbelievable feat.

"I wish more fighters surpass me." Han Jingru sighed.

Fang Zhan couldn't understand what Han Jingru meant at first. It took him a while to realize that the latter had been to the Restricted Area and found out about the second world. The unknown world would pose a great threat to their planet.

Only elites will be able to defend themselves if the second world launches an attack. No wonder Han Jingru has such an idea in mind.

"Did Mr. Yi decide to go to the second world?" he asked.

"No," replied Han Jingru as he shook his head.

That made Fang Zhan's brows snap together. He knew about Mr. Yi's earlier plan to make Han Jingru the head of the Four Gates before leaving to explore the second world. Now that Han Jingru is a Platinum-ranked fighter, Mr. Yi should've carried out his original plan. Why did he change his mind and decide not to go to the second world in the end?

He was about to ask the reason when Han Jingru continued, "I'll be the one heading there."

Fang Zhan froze in shock.

"Y-You're heading there yourself?" he blurted out.

No one knew what the second world would be like. Mr. Yi had decided to head there because he didn't have much longer to live and could give his all to this mission.

But Fang Zhan hadn't expected Han Jingru to be the one to head there. If he dies in the second world, what will happen to Su Yimo and Han Xiang?

He cares about them a lot. There's no way he'd leave them here!

"Really? Did Mr. Yi order you to do so?" he urged.

The other man shook his head. "I volunteered myself. It has nothing to do with Mr. Yi."

"Han Jingru, have you gone mad? Do you even know what the second world is like? You might die there! Are you just going to leave your wife and daughter here?" Fang Zhan exclaimed.

Han Jingru was firm but calm as he said, "I need to head there myself if I want to protect them. I don't trust Mr. Yi."

It took Fang Zhan a while to understand Han Jingru's intentions.

If the second world launched an attack, their world would be in prominent danger. By then, Han Jingru's wife and daughter would be in danger as well. Hence, he wanted to solve the problem within the second world itself.

Nevertheless, the man was heading into an unknown world with no way of knowing the danger that awaited him there. If he willingly descended into hell, it wouldn't be easy to return to his homeland after.

"Are you sure you're prepared to face the unprecedented dangers?" Fang Zhan asked in concern.

"I am willing to risk my life for my family."

Fang Zhan let out a bitter laugh. "You're indeed an admirable man. If I were in your shoes, I wouldn't have dared to do so. Everyone is afraid of the unknown, but it doesn't faze you at all."

"I'm afraid, just like all of you. But I have no other choice. This is my homeland, where my family resides. I won't allow any aliens to harm them," responded Han Jingru.

"Did Mr. Yi agree to let you go?" Fang Zhan inquired. After all, he knew Han Jingru couldn't head to the second world without Mr. Yi's permission.

"Do you think he'll say no? Even if he says no, can't I just go there on my own accord?" Han Jingru chuckled.

"Well," Fang Zhan sighed. "looks like the head of

the Four Gates doesn't have much of a choice. This is what a fighter should be like. Han Jingru, I trust you to settle the matter there."



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Since Han Jingru wouldn't back down - insisting on heading to the second world - Mr. Yi couldn't persuade him to change his mind. However, the old man refused to agree and had already expressed his affirmation through silence. It was clear that Han Jingru would achieve a lot more than he could in the second world.

After the conversation ended, Han Jingru returned to the villa.

"Jingru, what happened to Yimo? Can you treat her condition?" Shi Yan asked anxiously. She had never been a responsible mother toward her own son, but she wanted to make it up by treating Su Yimo as her own daughter.

She knew how much Su Yimo meant to Han Jingru and vowed to keep her safe.

Han Jingru wasn't sure how the capsule would save Su Yimo, so he couldn't promise to treat her condition.

"Mom, don't worry. Let her rest for the time being. She needs time to draw in the medicine I've given her," he explained.

He couldn't predict what would happen to his wife after she ate the capsule, but he knew she shouldn't be disturbed for the time being.

At that, his mother nodded profusely. "Don't worry. I'll keep watch at home so no one can enter her room."

Han Jingru shot her a grateful smile. He could sense her sincere concern toward him and Su Yimo. The woman was obviously making it up for her mistake, but he had never blamed his mother for what she had done in the past.

He didn't have time to think about such things.

The crisis brought upon by the second world was now lying before him. He barely had time to deal with the problem, let alone grudges from the past.

Right then, a young girl with a ponytail ran into the villa.

"Jingru, when did you come back?" Tian Shuirou

leaped into his arms.

Han Jingru adored this little sister of his, who was lively enough to brighten up anyone's day.

"I just arrived," he told her with a smile.

"Where's Yimo? Can you save her?" the young girl asked, concerned.

"She has just taken her medication. You can't disturb her, okay? She's resting now." Han Jingru reminded her.

She nodded obediently. "Jingru, don't worry. I'll be good."

He smiled faintly at that. Tian Shuirou's innocence could easily make him forget about his worries. But of course, given that she was born in the Tian family, she wasn't totally innocent.

"How's your grandfather?" Han Jingru questioned.

She pouted. "He's healthy. But since you

departed, he's no more fun."

That remark made his lips curve up. "He's your grandfather, not a toy of yours."

"Oh, right. I need to tell you something," said Tian Shuirou as she peeked at Su Wenlun.

Han Jingru understood what she implied at once. "Come on, let's take a walk outside."

She nodded and grabbed his hand; such an action made them look like a couple to the public.

After leaving the villa, Han Jingru asked, "What is it? What couldn't you say in front of Su Wenlun?"

"Jingru, do you know about the rumor circulating Yun City?"

"I just arrived, so no. What rumor is it?" Han Jingru was baffled.

"Someone spread a rumor about Yimo cheating on you and contracting a rare disease as a result. The rumor has spread like wildfire. Now, everyone is talking about it," Tian Shuirou revealed.

A vicious glint flashed across Han Jingru's gaze. How dare someone spread such a malicious rumor to destroy Su Yimo's reputation in Yun City, my territory of all places! Does the culprit have a death wish?

"You've found who the culprit is?" he demanded, anger evident in his tone.

"Su Ruijin and Su Huiqi did it. They spread the rumor on purpose," said Tian Shuirou through gritted teeth. Her fury heightened at the thought of these people who had ruined Su Yimo's reputation. They wouldn't be able to make up for their crime even if they died.

Han Jingru laughed coldly. I thought they would know their situation after I let them off earlier on. Don't they know they don't stand a chance against me?

I'm surprised they refused to stay low. Looks like

I need to teach them another lesson for them to realize their situation.

"I'll take care of them," he promised.

Tian Shuirou stuck her tongue out guiltily. She didn't know Han Jingru would return that swiftly, so in her fit of anger, she had ordered Mo Lan to take care of the matter.

"I've already told Mo Lan to make them disappear into thin air," Tian Shuirou said cautiously.

Disappear into thin air?

Han Jingru frowned. No wonder Tian Shuirou peeked at Su Wenlun earlier. She wanted to keep this a secret from him because both Su Ruijin and

Su Huiqi are from his family.

Han Jingru couldn't blame Tian Shuirou because the two had indeed deserved such punishment.

"It's fine since you've already taken action then."

Upon seeing that Han Jingru wasn't mad at her, Tian Shuirou heaved a sigh of relief.

But she immediately became jumpy when he commented, "You look innocent, but you're really quite brutal, huh?"

Pursing her lips, she retorted, "Jingru, you have no idea how mad I was after hearing the news. How dare they frame Yimo? I can't sit back and do nothing!"

"I wasn't blaming you. That was praise," Han Jingru answered with a grin.

"Mm?" Tian Shuirou was puzzled. There was no hint of praise in that statement of his, though...

He patted her shoulder and said, "You're the only heir of the Tian family. You might be a woman, but you're going to inherit the Tian family. The more ruthless you are, the more capable you are of controlling the Tian family. Isn't that considered praising you?"

"Jingru, there are plenty of other males in my

family," Tian Shuirou returned.

"Your grandfather was the one who brought the Tian family up. Your other relatives can't be compared to you. I truly believe Tian Jingshuo wants you to inherit the Tian family," Han Jingru pointed out.



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Tian Shuirou thought about it earnestly. She had never thought about inheriting her family's business. After all, she had thought that her cousins would inherit it instead.

"Jingru, you really think my grandfather thinks that way?"

"Do you think he'll hand his hard-earned effort to an outsider?" the man answered with a smirk.

She nodded in agreement. "Jingru, if Grandfather thinks that way, I won't disappoint him."

"If that's what you think, let me introduce you to someone," offered Han Jingru.

"Oh, I want to introduce someone to you, too. He's just at the villa's entrance," Tian Shuirou exclaimed.

His mouth twitched. "Young lady, I see that you're here not only to visit Yimo. You have an ulterior motive, huh?"

The girl was honest with her intentions as she

retorted, "I am here to visit Yimo. You can choose not to meet this person. I'll ask him to leave right away if that's the case."

"Since he's here, I might as well meet him. Wait for me."

Han Jingru returned to the villa and reminded everyone there to not barge into the room - no matter what happens. No one could disturb Su Yimo.

Meanwhile, Chen Yi was waiting anxiously at the entrance of the Genting villa.

Tian Shuirou had brought him here to meet Han Jingru. He was nervous because the latter was now known as the top fighter in Yun City.

In Yun City, the Chen family was a minor family in comparison to the top families. Chen Yi knew that no one took them seriously in that city.

But right now, he was about to meet the famous Han Jingru. Such an idea was unimaginable in the past.

When he noticed Han Jingru and Tian Shuirou making their way over to him, he started shifting about and rubbing his hands uneasily.

"Jingru, meet Chen Yi. I wouldn't have found the culprits behind the rumor without his help," Tian Shuirou introduced him to Han Jingru.

Chen Yi swallowed as his throat had gone dry.

"M-Mr. Han," he lowered his head and greeted. He dared not look Han Jingru in the eye.

On the way here, Tian Shuirou had already explained how she had found out the truth and explained what Chen Yi had done to Su Huiqi. It was a great plan as the woman had revealed the truth and got her heart broken by Chen Yi in the end.

Su Huiqi had brought this upon herself. If she hadn't wanted to marry a rich guy, she wouldn't have fallen for Chen Yi's trap.

"Don't be nervous. I'm not a man-eating tiger." Han Jingru chuckled.

## Tiger?

Chen Yi had been bold enough to touch a tiger's butt once. However, Han Jingru was stronger than any ferocious beast in his eyes. Someone as influential as him could shake the entire Yun City easily.

"Mr. Han, I've never met someone as influential as you. I'm sorry... I'm a bit nervous," said Chen Yi shyly.

Han Jingru was amused by his words. He does look nervous. He doesn't even know how to phrase his words anymore.

Tian Shuirou glared at Chen Yi. He's usually an eloquent speaker. Why is he rendered speechless in front of Jingru?

"Chen Yi, you coward. You'll never succeed if you act this way!" she chided and scoffed.

At that, Chen Yi's head drooped so low it was practically touching his chest.

Han Jingru suggested, "Let's meet another day then."

Another day?

Chen Yi knew how hard it was to get to meet Han Jingru. If he missed the opportunity, he might never get to meet the man again.

So he looked up bravely and uttered, "Mr. Han, I'm fine now. Please give me another chance."

"If you say so. Let's head to Rumo Real Estate," replied Han Jingru.

Chen Yi ran to his car and quickly opened the door for the other man.

Three of them hopped into the car and headed off.

Tang Long was the person in charge of running Rumo Real Estate.

After replacing Zhong Ji, he was no longer someone who the entire company despised. He

was now the most popular person. Everyone flocked to him, hoping to flatter him and treat him to a meal.

However, Tang Long remained humble. He knew who had promoted him to the position he was in now. He could be fired by Han Jingru anytime if he made a mistake.

Hence, he was extremely careful when making decisions.

He used to hate Han Jingru after the latter got married to Su Yimo and even tried to make life difficult for the man. However, Tang Long soon realized the difference between him and Han Jingru. Since then, he no longer held a grudge against his current employer. Instead, he was thankful. There was no way he'd be this successful without Han Jingru's help.

He was dealing with some paperwork when the door was pushed open.

His chic secretary walked in and said, "Mr. Tang, someone is here to see you."

"I'm busy. Tell him to leave," ordered Tang Long without looking up.

"Tang Long, I see that you're so arrogant now!"

A familiar voice rang out, causing Tang Long to tense up immediately.

He looked up and met Han Jingru's gaze, his mind going blank as he stood up straight instinctively.

"President Han, I didn't know it was you. I'm sorry," he hurriedly apologized.

Han Jingru chuckled. "Can't I visit the infamous President Tang?"

Tang Long panicked instantly. He wasn't actually being arrogant, it was true that many people wanted to flatter him. To prevent himself from being tempted, the man refused to see anyone. If he had known that the visitor was Han Jingru, he would've waited for him at the door politely.

"President Han, I thought--"

Before Tang Long could finish speaking, Han Jingru dismissed him with a wave. "Save your explanation. I don't mind your behavior. You don't have to explain anything."

The other man sighed in relief and told his secretary, "You can leave now. Shut the door behind you."

President Han must be here to relay his orders. I can't let anyone overhear our conversation.



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Chen Yi's mood had lifted subtly. He thought he had embarrassed himself earlier, but obviously, his reaction hadn't been all that bad.

Tang Long was somewhat influential in Yun City. A lot of prominent families had been trying to establish connections with him. Nevertheless, the man was now stammering nervously in front of Han Jingru.

At that thought, Chen Yi felt much better about his previous reaction.

Look, Han Jingru made Tang Long jumpy just by showing up. He thought enviously. I wonder when I will achieve this level of success?

"President Han, do you have any orders for me?" Tang Long inquired.

Han Jingru had come to Rumo Real Estate on a whelm for an inspection. He wanted to see if Tang Long was doing a good job in handling the business.

More importantly, Rumo Real Estate was

established because of Su Yimo. He could ignore his other companies like Dynasty in Yan City, but Rumo Real Estate was different.

"Tang Long, you seem to be doing well. Have you done anything out of line as of late?" Han Jingru asked.

Tang Long's conscience was clear. Previously, he couldn't decide whether he should use his position to gain more money. He could amass a huge profit alone by receiving gifts from those who wanted to butter up to him.

Nevertheless, Tang Long rejected all the gifts. He knew how easy it was to lose this precious position.

"President Han, I swear on my life that my conscience is clear. I've never used my position to amass wealth," he declared.

At that, Han Jingru nodded. Tang Long used to be someone who'd go through extreme means to earn money, but all in all, he was a clever man. He knew money would come to him in time as long as his position was solidified.

"This is Chen Yi. Introduce yourself," Han Jingru spoke.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Tang Long." Tang Long went up to Chen Yi and greeted the latter. He was polite since Han Jingru himself had initiated the introduction.

Chen Yi turned flustered. The Chen family wasn't influential enough to get to meet Tang Long, but the man was greeting him warmly now.

"Hello, Mr. Tang." Chen Yi bowed deeply.

"You'll be working together in Yun City. But I have to remind you that I can retract my grace anytime. Do ponder over my warning before making any decision," Han Jingru reminded them.

"President Han, don't worry. That will be my motto in life. I'll never forget it," Tang Long assured him.

"A very important man will arrive in Yun City soon. He means a lot to me. He won't be assigned to any position here, so I won't strip you of your power, but you must listen to all his orders," Han Jingru added.

Tang Cheng was the loyal right-hand man of Han Jingru. No matter in Bin County or the U.S., Tang Cheng had always remained loyal to him.

"Got it, President Han." Tang Long nodded. President Han didn't assign him to a proper position, but this man is probably much more powerful than me. I can't be calculative now.

"His name is Tang Cheng. You both have the same surnames. He'll be spending his retirement life in Yun City," Han Jingru explained.

Upon hearing him say that, Tang Long immediately realized that Tang Cheng and Han Jingru were close friends. Otherwise, the latter wouldn't have picked a place for Tang Cheng to retire in peace.

Tang Long made a mental note to treat Tang Cheng as an honored guest.

Having said that, Han Jingru and Tian Shuirou left Rumo Real Estate.

The moment they stepped out of the door, the latter fixated his gaze on Han Jingru adoringly.

That caused Han Jingru to feel uneasy immediately. "Why are you staring at me?" he demanded.

"Jingru, that was awesome. You changed Chen Yi's life easily. The Chen family isn't that influential in Yun City, but from today onwards, they'll be one of the prominent families here." She giggled.

"Ms. Chen, you shouldn't be telling me that. I think you can do that easily, too," Han Jingru told her with a smirk.

Tian Shuirou pouted prettily. "My family influence is nothing compared to yours. Ever since you grew stronger, my grandfather has kept

saying that the Tian family is inferior to you."

"Speaking of him, I haven't seen this disciple of mine in a while. Come, let's go to your house."

Tian Shuirou cheered happily. She used to wait eagerly for Han Jingru to come to her house. She no longer felt that way for him, but his arrival was still considered a delightful event.

After Han Jingru showed himself in Yun City, news of his return soon spread to every major family in the city. Those families immediately ordered their members to stay low lest someone accidentally offended Han Jingru. That would be a disaster. After all, they had all experienced the consequences of doing so themselves.

At the Tian family villa.

As the Tian family was no longer as influential as before, they no longer had frequent guests. Tian Jingshuo wasn't bothered as he could enjoy his life in peace now.

"Dad, I think Shuirou is bringing Han Jingru

back home." Tian Honghui rushed to Tian Jingshuo's study right after receiving the news.

Stunned, the latter rose to his feet and hurried to the entrance to welcome Han Jingru.

A few minutes later, Tian Shuirou appeared with her arm linked to Han Jingru's.

Tian Jingshuo's face wrinkled up as he smiled at the sight of them.

"Jingru, when did you come back?" he welcomed Han Jingru warmly.

The other man sighed and told Tian Shuirou, "Shuirou, what's wrong with our society nowadays? Don't people respect their teachers now?"

Tian Shuirou nodded vehemently. "Jingru, should I help you by teaching him a lesson? I think plucking his beard off should be a great punishment."

Tian Jingshuo's hand shot up to his beard

## instantly.ider to punish her grandfather?



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As Tian Shuirou inched nearer to him, Tian Jingshuo hurriedly corrected himself. "Master, I'm no longer young. Would you stand by and watch as I get tortured?"

At that, Han Jingru shot him a faint smile. This old rascal is still cheeky like usual. He doesn't seem like the head of a prominent family at all.

"Good. You should respect your master's wishes, don't you agree?" He grinned.

Tian Honghui wasn't sure how he should react. Bystanders would think Han Jingru was being rude, but in reality, not everyone could get treated that way.

Tian Honghui used to look down on Han Jingru as he thought the latter wouldn't advance much. Right now, he considered himself lucky that his family was close to Han Jingru.

The man was his grandfather's master, and he treated Tian Honghui's sister as his own. The Tian family's position in Yun City wasn't threatened because of their connections with him.

"Master, I heard you went to a faraway place. Why did you return so soon?" Tian Jingshuo inquired. The public only knew that Han Jingru left Yun City. No one knew he had been to Apocalypse as they didn't even know of its existence.

"This proves that we haven't met in a while. Your brain isn't working well now, is it? Haha! Why else would I return if it weren't for Yimo?" Han Jingru answered.

His disciple inclined his head in acknowledgment. "How is she doing?"

Han Jingru's jaw hardened at the mention of his wife. He wasn't sure how Su Yimo would react to the capsule.

He should be by her side, but he was afraid his doting would only mess things up. That was why he had left Genting Villa.

"I believe she'll recover soon," he responded.

Tian Shuirou noticed the change in Han Jingru's

expression and chimed in, "Grandfather, of course Yimo will recover soon."

That was when the older man knew he had expressed his thoughts mistakenly and changed the topic. "Will you be leaving after this?"

"Yes," Han Jingru returned without hesitation. "When Yimo recovers, I'll leave at once."

The second world had become Han Jingru's main concern. If he couldn't solve the matter soon, Su Yimo and Han Xiang would be in danger. He desperately wanted to explore the second world right now. Even if the unknown world seemed like hell, he wasn't afraid at all.

When one was in a dilemma, one should face the matter head-on. After all, being worried wouldn't solve anything.

"I'm not sure if I should be saying this," Tian Jingshuo spoke hesitantly.

"Say it. There's no need to put up an act," Han Jingru ordered.

"I think," Tian Jingshuo's smile faded away before he continued, "you're bearing a huge responsibility that's related to Yimo and Xiang's safety."

Han Jingru stiffened. This sly fox is indeed smart. He knows nothing about Apocalypse, but he figured something out without any proof. Not everyone can achieve such a sensational feat.

He grew curious. How did the old man come up with that conclusion, though?

"Any basis for that statement?"

Tian Jingshuo chuckled lightly. "Xiang is still a little girl. She needs you to be with her as she grows up. However, you're giving up the chance to be with her. That proves how serious the matter is."

The old man knew how much Han Jingru adored his family. The latter married into the Su family and had endured the insults hurled at him for three whole years for Su Yimo.

Tian Jingshuo couldn't understand why had Han Jingru done such a thing. As the Young Master of the Han family in Yan City, there was no way he needed to endure being humiliated by the Su family.

Han Jingru's identity had now been exposed. He defeated the Tian family and became the most powerful man in Yun City. He should be by Su Yimo and Han Xiang's side, but he was choosing to leave instead. That made Tian Jingshuo sure that the matter was related to Su Yimo and Han Xiang's safety.

"I see. You're a smart and sly fox, aren't you?" Han Jingru lamented. The various clues were so vague. It was a wonder o how Tian Jingshuo had managed to come up with that conclusion.

The older man shook his head. "I'm not that smart. I know how much you adore Su Yimo and Han Xiang. You might not be aware of it, but it is obvious to bystanders how much they mean to you. If you are going to leave them, I believe the matter is related to their safety."

"Really?" Han Jingru touched his nose selfconsciously. He had never realized that. *He indeed* saw right through me.

In fact, Tian Jingshuo wasn't the only one who thought that way. Even Mo Lan had seen through him. Only outsiders would be able to see the situation clearly.

His wife and his daughter were his world. That was true.

"If I tell you I'm going to save the world, will you believe it?" Han Jingru grinned.

Tian Jingshuo's brows knitted at his answer. Saving the world sounds like a serious matter. Han Jingru doesn't seem to be joking, though.

"I believe you," Tian Shuirou responded immediately. The only person in the world who she trusted unconditionally was none other than Han Jingru. She'd believe his words without hesitation.

"This should be a dangerous mission, then?" Tian Jingshuo asked.

"Yes, it is," Han Jingru answered coolly.

Tian Shuirou grew anxious and hurried to his side. She took his arm and inquired, "Jingru, where are you going? Why is the mission dangerous? Can't you stay?"

The man patted her shoulder to comfort her. "I was joking. Don't take it seriously. No one can threaten me now, remember?"

The innocent Tian Shuirou relaxed visibly at his words and gave him a punch, declaring, "Jingru, stop teasing me. You know I'm a coward. If I get a heart attack, you'll lose your beloved sister!"

His granddaughter might've believed Han Jingru, but Tian Jingshuo was worried. Something told him that the man wasn't joking. Both Tian Jingshuo and Han Jingru played a round of chess, and the former ended up losing the game.

After Han Jingru left the Tian family villa, Tian Jingshuo summoned Tian Honghui to his study.

"Dad, you wanted to see me?"

Tian Jingshuo asked, "What do you think of Han Jingru's statement earlier?"

"Didn't he say it was a joke? Saving the world is what superheroes do in movies. We're in the actual world, not a movie." Tian Honghui grinned in reply. He obviously didn't take it seriously.

Most people would scoff at Han Jingru's words as they had seemed ridiculous. After all, saving the world was not a simple matter. Not everyone could do such a thing. Besides, a world war wasn't going to happen anytime soon. Why would one need to save the world?

"You think he's joking, but I think he was telling the truth in a joking manner," Tian Jingshuo expressed his thoughts solemnly.

Tian Honghui smiled helplessly. Is he actually worried about Jingru's casual joke? Ha!

I know how important Han Jingru is to him. Indeed, the man is very capable. But there's no need to worry about something that isn't going to happen!

"Dad, don't think too much about it. You don't have to worry over a mere joke."

Tian Jingshuo rolled his eyes in exasperation. "I know you're forced to admit how capable Han Jingru is because you've seen what he's capable of. But I know you still have your doubts. Tell me. Why do you think he'll leave Yun City soon?"

Her son didn't refute his words. He had to admit he was jealous of the man. Back then, he had thought badly of Han Jingru, but now the tables had turned. He couldn't bring himself to admit that he had been mistaken. "Dad, stop imagining things. If something is going to happen, you'll find out what it is soon enough. It's useless to jump to conclusions now," he finally suggested.

Sighing, Tian Jingshuo fell into deep thought. I can't help but be curious. I even thought of investigating the matter, but our family is only influential in Yun City. It's hard to carry out an investigation outside of Yun City.

"If there's a different world, I hope I get to experience it before I die," he mused.

Han Jingru didn't return to Genting Villa after leaving the Tian family villa. Instead, he roamed around Yun City casually.

Mr. Yi had informed him of the threat the second world posed to Earth so Han Jingru knew that he would be going on a precarious adventure. He had insisted on heading there because he wanted to protect Su Yimo and Han Xiang.

Right now, he was bidding goodbye to this familiar city. If he couldn't make it back alive, at

least he could reminisce about the past.

When he reached the snack bar Mo Lan used to own, he halted in his tracks and lit up a cigarette subconsciously.

Back then, when he first arrived at the Su family, he'd stand and watch Su Yimo at that spot every day. Many people had hurled taunts at him, but he felt blissful enough to see her off to work and welcome her back home every day.

After he was done smoking, he flung the cigarette butt to the ground. A familiar female voice then abruptly sounded, "You'll get fined for throwing cigarette butts around. We're all responsible to keep our city clean."

Stunned, Han Jingru froze as the woman who had spoken approached him. He picked up the cigarette butt and threw it into a nearby bin.

"What's wrong? You never expected to see me here?" Qi Bingying walked up to him and met his gaze.

"No. When did you return?" he questioned. He'd never imagined that he'd see Qi Bingying in Yun City again. Since she had shown up here, it was apparent that she had stalked him for some time. Looks like I was too deep in thought. If someone had tried to kill me earlier, I wouldn't even have put up a fight.

Qi Bingying said nothing, diving right into his arms instead.

"Don't move. Let me hold you for a while," she pleaded.

Han Jingru stood rooted to the spot. They could feel each other's hearts thumping furiously.

After five minutes, the woman released her grip on him.

Her lashes were wet with tears as she said, "Actually, I've been in Yun City for some time. I wanted to visit her, but I wasn't sure how to face her."

The "her" she was referring to was Su Yimo.

She must've returned because Nangong Boling has been searching for doctors all around the world. She doesn't even need to keep an eye on us deliberately.

"Why?" Han Jingru asked even though he already knew the answer.

"I betrayed her by falling in love with her husband. How could I face her?" Qi Bingying bit her lip.

She had always been this straightforward, not bothering to hide her emotions.

Alas, Han Jingru would always reject her every time she confessed. This time, it was no exception.

"It isn't too late to repent," he returned.

Tears rolled down Qi Bingying instantly as she shook her head profusely and declared, "I won't repent. Why would I repent something like that? I love you. I can't go back to not feeling something for you."

Han Jingru sucked in a deep breath and let it out after a moment. "Isn't your friendship with Yimo important?"

The woman answered, "It is." Both her feelings for Han Jingru and her friendship with Su Yimo were equally important to her. That was why she was upset - it was because both relationships couldn't coexist.

After returning to Yun City, Qi Bingying had deliberated on what she should do for a long time. She was about to give up and return to the U.S., but after hearing Han Jingru was back, she chose to stay.

It was clear as day which relationship was more important to her. Alas, Han Jingru did not reciprocate her feelings.

"I've told you again and again. We can never be together." The man had lost count of how many times he had rejected her.

Rejections like these were par for the course for Qi Bingying, but her reaction this time was out of the ordinary.

She wiped away her tears and a determined look slowly formed. "What if Yimo agrees?" She asked Han Jingru.

Han Jingru was astonished. How could Su Yimo agree to something like this?

Even though Su Yimo joked about living in a country that allows polygamy, he was still skeptical.

I'm not falling for this. Why would a woman be willing to share her husband with another woman?

Looking at it from another perspective, it was impossible for Han Jingru to share Su Yimo with any other guy.

However, Qi Bingying would not say something like that without a plan in mind.

"What are you up to?" Han Jingru was wary of her, in case she did something unexpected.

Qi Bingying shook her head. "Don't worry, I'm just blurting out nonsense. Nothing's up"

"I warn you, Qi Bingying. Don't mess around." Han Jingru was serious.

Those words felt like knife stabs on her heart. She had given him all her love but was never reciprocated. For a woman, no pain could ever come close to this.

Nevertheless, Qi Bingying was not someone that would easily give up.

"I'm happy from just seeing you," she said before turning around and left.

Han Jingru let out a deep sigh as he looked at her walking into the distance.

He still had a soft spot for her sometimes. After all, not many women would do what Qi Bingying did for him. Back when Han Jingru was in the U.S., Qi Bingying was the one who stood by his side through thick and thin, despite the consequence her actions might bring to the Qi Family.

Unfortunately, he could never accept her feelings. Han Jingru did not want to do anything that would disappoint Su Yimo.

"Sorry. Maybe in our next lives, I'd do everything I can to make up to you," he muttered.

After the incident with Qi Bingying, he was not in the mood to continue shopping anymore, so Han Jingru got a cab to return to the villa.

The driver was astounded when he heard Han Jingru's destination.

Everyone in Yun City knew what was going on in Genting. All the big families were in a bind, not being able to return to their homes. However, the young man behind him actually wanted to go there.

Is he a foreigner? That would explain why he's oblivious to the situation in Genting.

The driver was concerned. "Young man, what are you doing in that neighborhood? You don't know what's going on over there?"

"I'm going home sir." Han Jingru smiled.

"You live there? Didn't your family tell you not to go back right now?" The driver was confused.

"Sir, I live in the Genting Villa. Rest assured and just take me there."

The Genting Villa! Even the kids in Yun City know who lives there!

All of a sudden, the driver stiffened up.

Even though he never met prominent people like Han Jingru, he knew Han Jingru was really young, about the same age as the passenger at the moment.

If he lives in the Genting Villa, that would mean he's Han Jingru right? The driver's throat dried up as he sweated buckets. He was even struggling to shift gears because his hands were trembling profusely.

Han Jingru could not help himself from laughing at the situation. It was obvious that the driver had figured out who he was, but Han Jingru thought the driver was overreacting. I'm not a monster. Why do people get so nervous?

"Can we go now, Sir? I'm in a bit of a hurry." Han Jingru asked.

"Oh! Yes, of course! Right away. Let's go." The driver was all over the place.

Along the way, the driver constantly took a glimpse of Han Jingru through the rearview mirror. He was the most prominent person in Yun City after all, the driver might not get a chance like this ever again.

As they reached the entrance to the residence, the driver saw the blockade and finally got an idea of what was going on. He had heard about it, but witnessing it still left him flabbergasted.

The neighborhood was home to a lot of big names, not even the Tian Family would do something like that.

"How much is it?" Han Jingru asked.

"N-no need for that. It's an honor to be of service to you," the driver hurried a response.

Han Jingru was not someone that needed money, the driver on the other hand was making a living. Han Jingru refused to accept the free ride so he reached into his pockets but realized that he had no money on him at the moment.

"Sir, you have any kids?" Han Jingru asked.

"I have an incompetent son that's turning twenty." The driver did not know what the question was for, but in front of someone like Han Jingru, there was no reason to hide anything.

"I presume he'll be looking for a job then. Ask him to head down to the Rumo Real Estate and report for duty. Tell the reception that Han Jingru sent him. I believe he'll get a good position there." Han Jingru said before getting out of the car.

The driver was dumbfounded from what he just heard.

Rumo Real Estate was Han Jingru's company, the most prestigious company in all of Yun City. Anyone and everyone would do whatever it took to vie for a spot in that company but to no avail. The driver would have never thought that his son would get a chance of a lifetime like this.

When he came to, he immediately got off the car. Han Jingru was far past the gate at that point but the driver still dropped to his knees because of his overwhelming gratitude.

"Thank you, President Han! Thank you so much! I'll definitely let my son work his butts off for you!"

"Jingru, what's going on? The taxi driver is on his knees right now," asked Mo Lan who was with Han Jingru at the moment. "I didn't have cash on me back there and he had a son. So I asked for the son to report himself to Rumo Real Estate. Help me let Tang Long know about this." Han Jingru explained.

Mo Lan laughed. It was no wonder that the driver got so excited. To be given a position like this by Han Jingru himself meant that his son was no longer an ordinary person. If the son had some capabilities, he would be amongst the most famous people in Yun City soon enough.

"This is his destiny I suppose. Some people will stay in the gutters forever, but some will get lucky enough to give a big shot a ride and change their lives forever." Mo Lan grinned.

"Mo Lan, is that sarcasm I sense? Are you itching for a beating right now?" Han Jingru got serious all of a sudden.

Mo Lan immediately jumped away from Han Jingru, distancing himself as far away as possible. "Hey, I'm just fooling around here. It's a joke. Relax," he said cautiously.

Back at the Villa, everyone was there and was extremely nervous.

Before Han Jingru left, he ordered everyone to stay put and not bother Su Yimo. This gave everyone there severe anxiety. Moreover, the room had been quiet for quite a long while now, and they were concerned.

Su Wenlun was the first to stand up and approach Han Jingru. "Jingru, how's Yimo right now? Can you go and take a look?"

"You don't have to worry, Dad. I promise you nothing's gonna happen." Han Jingru affirmed.

In spite of that, Su Wenlun was still worried since Su Yimo was his only daughter and the only reason he kept moving forward. He did not want anything to happen to her.

But of course, Su Wenlun knew that Han Jingru cared about Su Yimo just as much as he did. Since Han Jingru was confident, Su Wenlun decided to wait patiently.

"Why not you just take a peek?" Shi Yan tried to persuade Han Jingru. Even as his mother, she dared not order him around. She knew she was not qualified for that.

"Let's just wait a bit longer," Han Jingru replied even though he was unsure of how long they would have to wait. It might be due to the sense of fear he had at the back of his head, Han Jingru was reluctant to see Su Yimo at the moment.

Night fell as Ho Ting prepared a feast for everyone, but even when they were all gathered, no one touched their utensils.

Ho Ting wanted to persuade them to eat, but she herself had no appetite as well. Even though she was not related to Su Yimo by blood, she already considered Su Yimo her daughter.

Everyone in the villa was Ho Ting's family now. She would be pained if anything were to happen to any one of them.

"Jingru, let's just eat." Jiang Yingying said to Han Jingru.

"You guys can start without me. I'm not hungry yet," he replied.

The situation at the table remained the same. Everyone had Su Yimo on their minds and no one touched any of the food.

Silence quickly ensued. Unknowingly, time flew by and it was now ten o'clock.

Ho Ting asked Han Xiang to go to bed. As if feeling the tension in the atmosphere, the little girl was very obedient and did not mess around.

When the clock struck eleven, Han Jingru suddenly stood up and walked towards the room.

He was afraid, but he also knew that there was nothing else to do but face his fears. Any further delay is meaningless.

Slowly, Han Jingru pushed the door open. The lights were off but there was a soft white glow filling the room which caught him off guard.

The glow came from Su Yimo's body. When Han

Jingru approached her, he saw that Su Yimo's hair was no longer white, and her wrinkled skin had recovered to how it was. Han Jingru was overjoyed but at the same time concerned.

He was happy that Su Yimo was back to normal, but he could not help but worry that the capsule that Fu Yao left behind would have some side effects on Su Yimo.

Han Jingru squatted at her bedside and watched quietly, not wanting to startle Su Yimo.

Su Yimo was not the most beautiful woman out there, compared to an exquisite beauty like Qi Bingying, they were in totally different leagues. Nonetheless, in Han Jingru's eyes, she was irreplaceable.

Right then, Su Yimo opened her eyes. There was a flash of white light from her eyes and soon after, the glow faded.

"What's the matter?" Su Yimo asked, not realizing what happened as she looked at Han Jingru peculiarly.

"I must have done something amazing in my past lives to be able to marry such a beautiful wife," he teased.

Su Yimo was trilled for a moment but quickly came to her senses. She knew full well that her current self did not deserve that praise.

"I look so old right now, how can anyone call me beautiful like this?" Su Yimo said.

Han Jingru reached out and touched her face. "Your skin's almost the same as Xiang's. It's so soft," he said and laughed.

Su Yimo took a while to realize and proceeded to touch her face. Her eyes immediately widened as her sense of awe took over.

"I-I'm cured?" Su Yimo asked as she was not able to fathom what was going on.

"Look at your hair." Han Jingru answered.

Su Yimo immediately sat up and flipped her hair to the front. Her previously silver hair had

become black as night once again.

At that moment, Han Jingru heaved a sigh of relief. Even though he did not know whether the capsule had side effects or not, from what he was seeing, it did its job. Su Yimo's appearance had gone back to normal.

"Mirror! I need a mirror." Su Yimo was excited.

"You kinda smashed all of them." Han Jingru smiled awkwardly.

Without noticing the astonished faces of everyone outside, Su Yimo hurried over to the washroom at the living area.

When she saw her face in the mirror, she had to touch it just to ease her disbelief.

I'm cured! I'm actually okay now! Adult progeria, a disease that stumped every single doctor we had, was cured within a single day!

This was something Su Yimo could never have imagined.

She thought it was a shot in the dark when Han Jingru gave her the capsule. She had close to no expectations from it.

Lo and behold, Han Jingru had yet to disappoint her.

Everyone in the living area was astonished to see Su Yimo cured and got excited.

"She's cured. Yimo is cured!"

"Who would have thought that it only took a day for her to be cured."

"And those people say they're the best doctors in the world. Jingru's just better."

After a while, Su Yimo came out from the washroom with flushed cheeks. It was apparent that she pinched herself, in case she was dreaming.

When she saw Han Jingru again, Su Yimo dived right into his arms.

"Honey, I'm all cured thanks to you." Su Yimo was really grateful.

Han Jingru smiled and looked at Mo Lan. "Help me book out the best hotel out there. We're sleeping out tonight in case it's too loud."

The crowd was dumbfounded as it was unexpected of Han Jingru for him to speak his mind in such a blunt manner.

Mo Lan gave him a sly grin. "Sure. I'll go get it done right away."

When Su Yimo realized what Han Jingru was talking about, her face immediately turned red and she gave him a forceful pinch on the waist.

Han Jingru felt the excruciating pain, but the smile on his face did not fade. "Honey, this is a great opportunity for us to be intimate. Are you really going to refuse me?"

Su Yimo lowered her head. As a wife, it was only natural for them to do the deed. She would never deny Han Jingru. Nevertheless, she still could not accept the fact that he announced it to everyone there.



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Everyone there smiled and said nothing. Now that Su Yimo was cured, they could finally relax. As for what went on between the couple, it was none of their business.

"I'll head to bed now. I'm too old to be staying up." Han Xiuzhi was the first to leave the scene as he went back to his room.

Yan Qiong followed suit. "Sleep early everyone, I'm going to bed too."

One after another, they dispersed and went to their rooms.

In the end, only Su Yimo and Han Jingru were left.

Now that everyone else was gone, Su Yimo's sense of embarrassment slowly died down.

"Are we really going to a hotel?" She asked with her head down.

"Of course. There are too many people here." Han Jingru grinned.

Su Yimo kept quiet. She decided to just go along with his plans.

The couple left the residence that very night. Mo Lan's efficiency was impeccable as he actually emptied out the best hotel in Yun City in just half an hour.

Soon after, Nangong Boling caught wind of Su Yimo's recovery and was restless ever since. He secretly kept in touch with the doctors that treated her but it sounded like they were out of options. However, with Han Jingru's return, Su Yimo was able to recover. It meant that Han Jingru most likely obtained some miracle herd from Apocalypse.

Nangong Boling had always wanted to go to Apocalypse, but he never told Han Jingru why because he was still unsure whether what he wanted was in fact, real.

Having amassed major authority, Nangong Boling became far more ambitious. He spent all those years figuring out how to access Apocalypse because he knew about the secrets it held. Nangong Boling even thought that, in a mysterious place like that, there was a chance he could discover the secrets to immortality. Compelled by his fear of death, he was willing to do whatever it took to explore this possibility.

Su Yimo's recovery was, in Nangong Boling's eyes, a beacon of hope.

Unable to sleep, Nangong Boling started planning out how he would get to Apocalypse. He knew that Han Jingru was powerful enough to not be threatened, so Nangong Boling needed to find another way else he would suffer significant consequences.

Since Han Jingru had promised him in the past to bring him there when Han Jingru obtained the rights, all Nangong Boling needed to do was to guide their conversation towards that.

On the next day, news about Su Yimo's recovery had spread all across Yun City. Having been seen outside of the residence, all the rumors that surrounded her simmered down.

When the group of doctors heard about this, they gathered at the entrance of the Genting Residence as soon as they could. They were there to verify the news with their own eyes as well as find out how Su Yimo recovered.

In just a short instance, all the well-known doctors had their attentions focused on Han Jingru. They even thought that Han Jingru was some miracle doctor.

Mo Lan had to give a call to Han Jingru even though it was early in the morning.

At the moment, the couple was enjoying their time together in each other's arms. The sudden phone ring annoyed Han Jingru to the extreme as it spoiled the mood.

"Mo Lan, you got some nerves calling me at a time like this," Han Jingru remarked coldly.

Mo Lan himself knew that it was not the right time to call him, but Mo Lan needed to inform Han Jingru about what's going so that he was prepared when he returned. "Jingru, those doctors are camping outside the entrance to the neighborhood. Be careful when you come back. Try to avoid them if possible." Mo Lan said.

Han Jingru wrinkled his forehead. "What do they want?" He was confused.

"News about Yimo's recovery has spread like wildfire. The whole Yun City knows and these doctors think you're the miracle doctor. I suppose they're here to find out how you did it," explained Mo Lan.

Han Jingru burst out laughing.

Miracle doctor?I'm not even an ordinary doctor! If it weren't for Fu Yao's capsule, I don't know what I would have done.

"Let Nangong Boling handle this. I don't want to see them when I get back." Han Jingru replied.

"Understood. I'll call him now."

After Han Jingru ended the call, Su Yimo rested

her head on his arm and said, "You're even a miracle doctor now. How impressive."

"Honey, I don't think teasing me is the way to go right now. I'm fully recharged you know?" Han Jingru teased.

Su Yimo's facial expression immediately changed. "Oh no, I'm sorry! Please just spare me."

"Right, do you feel any discomfort anywhere? Or any weird sensations?" Han Jingru had his fun and knew when to stop. He was more worried about the possible side effects the capsule might have on Su Yimo's body.

"Not really. Why? Does the miracle cure have side effects?" She asked.

"Just asking. Why would a miracle cure have side effects?" Han Jingru acted nonchalant despite the fact that he still believed there would be some changes to Su Yimo down the road. Even if everything was normal at the moment, the capsule was still something from Fu Yao after all.

The effect of his bone on Jiang Yingying was evident, so there was no way the capsule only healed Su Yimo and nothing else.

"When are you leaving again?" Su Yimo asked out of the blue. She did not want to face the truth, but she knew full well that Han Jingru was back because of her illness, not because he wanted to stay.

"I have until tomorrow. Don't worry though, I'll come back immediately after I'm done with everything," he replied.

To Han Jingru, farewells were already common occurrences. Ever since his identity was exposed, the time he could spend in Yun City had reduced drastically. Su Yimo understood that Han Jingru had things he needed to do and it was not for him to decide.

"Me and Xiang will be waiting here for you. Take care of yourself." Su Yimo urged.

Meanwhile, at the entrance of the residence, Nangong Boling arrived and immediately asked the doctors to leave.

However, it seemed like they had no intentions of leaving. To them, Su Yimo's recovery was no less than a miracle in the medical field. They all wanted to know how Han Jingru did it.

"Head of the Nangong Family, we beg of you. Just let us see Mr. Han. We promise, we'll leave Yun City immediately after."

"This is a medical miracle after all. If he shared his treatment method with us, he would be saving a lot of lives all over the world."

"This could be the greatest breakthrough in medical history! Please just let us wait a while longer."

Nangong Boling looked at them disdainfully. *Treatment method? You only want that for your personal gain. Saving lives? What a load of crap.* 

"I'll give you people 10 minutes. Whoever stays, your family dies," he declared.

Everyone there knew of Nangong Boling's drastic ways because they were brought to Yun City by those very same threats. They understood that Nangong Boling would not say something he would not do.

Hearing the declaration, a lot of them immediately turned around and left. Much more followed soon after. Nonetheless, there were still a few left, willing to sacrifice their family for their own benefit.

"Since you guys insist, blame yourselves for what's about to happen." Looking at the few of them, Nangong Boling took out his phone with a cold look on his face.

The doctors frantically got in front of him.

"Mr. Nangong, we just want to witness the grace of the miracle doctor. Please give us a chance."

"Yes, we just want to meet him. Nothing more."

"Mr. Nangong, he may be the greatest genius the medical field has ever had. We just want to talk

with him."

Greatest genius of the medical field?

Nangong Boling smirked. Han Jingru's not from the medical field, but he's definitely capable of going beyond what the medical field can do. Apocalypse is the ultimate destination for all martial artist, and within hid the greatest secrets of the world. I'm certain that Han Jingru will become the head of the Four Gates in the future, a position revered by all. Why would he even entertain the likes of you?

"You people just got to know me not long ago, so you might not know what I'm capable of. You'll find out soon enough though, that defying me only results in death," Nangong Boling remarked calmly.

The few doctors looked at each other. Nangong Boling really is a tough nut to crack, he won't even let us just see Han Jingru.

None of them there wanted to risk their lives any further. Thus, the last of the doctors left after a

brief moment of hesitation.

"So be it then, Mr. Nangong. I'll take my leave now. If you ever need me to do anything again, I'm happy to oblige."

"Farewell, Mr. Nangong."

"I'm leaving too."

Soon after, no one was left.

Nangong Boling snorted and gave Mo Lan a call to inform him that everything was settled.

On the other hand, Han Jingru and Su Yimo just got out of bed and were done washing up. Su Yimo was still reluctant to say goodbye because she and Han Jingru hardly had time together like this. To top it off, there was no telling how long until the next time they saw each other once he left. No words could describe how disinclined Su Yimo felt at the moment.

"Do you have any requests? I'll do whatever you want," Han Jingru offered. He knew it was unfair

to Su Yimo, so the only thing he could do was find ways to make up for it. He did not mind delaying a day for her.

"Go shopping with me. It's been a long time since I bought new clothes," Su Yimo said after a moment of thought.

"Sure, let's go." Han Jingru agreed.

After leaving the hotel, they immediately headed to Yun City's most famous commercial district. Even though Yun City was a small city, all sorts of branded items could still be found there. It was where most of the young people gathered in the city, and so a lot of people were there despite it being a normal workday.

After entering one of the brand stores, Su Yimo immediately lost herself in the process of trying on all the clothes she liked. Shopping was a woman's nature after all.

Han Jingru was always by her side, happily answering the same question over and over again.

"Does this look good on me?"

"Yes."

Su Yimo was having the time of her life and Han Jingru was glad about it. Soon, Su Yimo had tried over ten items of clothing. Even the attendant on the side felt annoyed, but Han Jingru still wore a casual smile on his face.

It was times like these that he treasured the most. After all, Han Jingru was unsure whether he would ever get the chance again.

They spent almost two hours in just that one shop before Su Yimo changed into her own clothes. "Tired?" she asked as she took Han Jingru's arm.

"Of course not. Shopping with the wife is a husband's duty. Why would I be tired?" He smiled.

"On to the next shop then?" she asked tentatively.

Han Jingru nodded and walked straight to the cashier.

"I'll take all of the ones she tried. Please deliver them to the Genting Villa," he told the cashier.

Initially, the attendants were annoyed because they thought that Su Yimo was trying out the clothes just for fun. That was until they heard what Han Jingru said.

In the span of two hours, Su Yimo had tried on more than dozens of outfits, and now they were buying every single one of them!

Even the address given caught the cashier off guard.

Everyone in Yun City knew who lived in the Genting Villa. Han Jingru had inadvertently revealed his identity by telling them where he lived.

"C-can you repeat your address, sir?" The cashier stammered as she was afraid that she misheard.

"The Genting Villa, in Genting," Han Jingru repeated with a smile.

The cashier took a deep breath once she confirmed what she heard.

Any remaining suspicions were cleared up once they saw Han Jingru's name when he was paying with his card.

The number one person in Yun City, Han Jingru, was shopping with his wife. It was rare to see prominent people like him be as passionate about their spouse as that. Thus, the couple received quite a few envious gazes from the women there.

After Han Jingru and Su Yimo left, the attendants gathered together.

"Who knew Han Jingru was this handsome. I'm so jealous of Su Yimo."

"Su Yimo's the city's prettiest woman. Of course Han Jingru needed to have the looks to match her. But still, I envy her. It would take us years of work to even afford all these clothes."

"She's definitely the most deserving of all the envy in Yun City. How I wish I had a husband

like Han Jingru."

"You can stop with the fantasizing and come sort out these clothes. I'll deliver it to the Genting Villa later," the sales manager said to them.

Throughout the day, similar incidents occurred everywhere Su Yimo went. She would try out the clothes she liked, and Han Jingru would buy them all. He actually was not enjoying the shopping spree, but he loved to see Su Yimo's satisfied expression, and that was all that mattered to him.

Time flew by unknowingly and dusk fell.

Han Jingru booked them a meal at the Crystal Restaurant on top of the Pearl Building. This was the place where he first shook Yun City. Even now, people still talked about the rain of rose petals in the Crystal Restaurant. It was a day that sparked a lot of envy as well.

"Do you remember our wedding anniversary?" Su Yimo asked endearingly as they reached the restaurant.

Han Jingru's time with Su Yimo was precious to him and he treasured every moment of it. There was no way he would forget such an important occasion.

"Definitely. I remember you crying your lungs out too," he said.

"It was all your fault." Su Yimo pouted and said, "The surprise almost became a crime scene."

Han Jingru replied with a smile.

Right then, the manager appeared before them.

The last time they met, Han Jingru was still regarded as a useless loser by the public. But now, he had become the number one person in all of Yun City. This time, the manager was polite and served them to the best of his abilities.

"President Han, your seats are ready. Please follow me." The manager bowed.

It was a table by the window with the best view in the restaurant. All of the city's skyline could be seen from where they sat.

Usually, only the most prominent of people had access to the reservations for this particular table. In fact, the table was actually reserved under a different name earlier that day, but Han Jingru's phone call changed everything. The restaurant immediately canceled all their reservations soon after to make way for him.

The customer for the original reservation was furious at first and wanted a word with the boss. However, when he heard Han Jingru's name, he immediately simmered down and said nothing more. This was how influential Han Jingru was in Yun City.

No matter how much authority they had, they would whimper like a cat at the mention of Han Jingru.

"President Han, this is our menu for the night." The manager presented.

Han Jingru shoved the menu towards Su Yimo. "Don't you know that the wife's the one in

charge? Why would you give this to me?"

The manager was stumped for a brief second but apologized right away.

Su Yimo, on the other hand, was thrilled. "Don't mind him. He's just silly," she said to the manager.

Hearing what she said, cold sweat started breaking out on the manager's forehead. Only Su Yimo would be able to say those words so casually, he dared not agree.

If it was anyone else, they'll be gone from Yun City in a blink of an eye.

"Honey, there are strangers here. Can you at least save me some dignity?" Han Jingru smiled.

"You tell me, should I?" Su Yimo asked the manager out of the blue.

The manager almost teared up as he was caught up in a place he did not want to be. The couple in front of him was like deities and he had no right to involve himself in their conversations. One mistake could actually cost him his life.

"Ms. Su, you can take a look at the menu first. I'll be standing right over there. Call me whenever you're ready," the manager mustered up a reply before slipping away.

Su Yimo smiled with her hand over her mouth. "Look at what you've done. Now the manager doesn't even want to talk."

"You're blaming me for that? That's too much. I'm going to get back to you tonight. Just you wait," Han Jingru said with a light threat.

Su Yimo responded by sticking her tongue out. "I want to go back to the villa tonight. I miss our daughter, and you should give her some time too and put her to sleep."

Han Jingru nodded. He was going back to Apocalypse tomorrow. God knew when he would be able to see Han Xiang again, so he wanted to spend some time with her as well. After their orders arrived, the couple started feeding each other in turn. All the staff there got extremely jealous.

"I wonder who it was that said Su Yimo was cheating on Han Jingru. Look at them right now, don't seem to have any hint of cheating here."

"Those were just malicious rumors. Stop talking about it. We're doomed if he hears us."

"They're a match made in heaven. I'm so jealous."

At the villa, Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying were cleaning the dishes. "Will you be leaving again?" Ho Ting said to her daughter.

"Soon." Jiang Yingying replied. She knew what Han Jingru was up to, so it was obvious that he could not stay in Yun City for too long.

Ho Ting let out a sigh. She was unenthusiastic about Jiang Yingying's departure. "Even though I really don't want you to go, I feel more at ease with you there looking after Jingru. Don't let him

overdo things. He has a wife and kid after all. Safety comes before everything else."

Jiang Yingying laughed bitterly inside. Han Jingru was about to depart to the second world soon. The dangers it involved were definitely unimaginable.

But of course, Han Jingru was not overdoing it, Jiang Yingying knew full well why he was doing this.

"Mom, don't worry. I'll remind him from time to time, but don't you think you're more concerned about him than me now? I'm the daughter here you know?" Jiang Yingying pouted at Ho Ting.

"He has done so much for our family and we are forever in debt to his kindness. It's only natural for me to worry about him more. If it weren't for him, we'd still be sleeping in the streets right now." Ho Ting was a grateful person. She prayed for the Han family's well-being day and night because that was, to her, the only thing she could do for them.

"Yeah. If it weren't for Jingru, who knows where we are right now." Jiang Yingying agreed.

"Yingying." Ho Ting suddenly turned to her with a stern look.

Jiang Yingying knew from how her mother looked, that Ho Ting had something important to tell her. So she kept quiet.

"If Jingru was ever in danger, can you take the bullet for him?" Ho Ting asked.

Jiang Yingying nodded without hesitation, "Mom, I'm not afraid."

At that moment, tears welled up from Ho Ting's eyes as she said, "I know this is unfair to you, but we have no real way of repaying Han Jingru for what he did for us. As humans, we should always be grateful to the people that helped us. If the day ever comes, I want you to guarantee his safety even if it means risking your own life."

Jiang Yingying stood in front of Ho Ting and wiped away the tears on her face. "Mom. If that

day ever comes, I'll do whatever it takes."

"I'll make it up to you for all the hardships you've gone through in our next lives." Ho Ting was crying a river at this point. Jiang Yingying was still her daughter after all.

Nevertheless, she wanted Han Jingru to be safe and this was the only way they could repay his kindness.

"Mom, you don't owe me anything. If there was a next life, I'd still want to be your daughter, and continue loving you from there."

They stood there in each other's embrace, quietly letting the tears flow.

At the kitchen door, Shi Yan was rubbing her eyes. She was there to wash Han Xiang's milk bottle at first but overheard their conversation and was deeply touched by it.

It was a warmth she never felt in the Han residence of Yan City. Ho Ting and Jiang Yingying were just ordinary people but the gratitude they showed towards Han Jingru was something that did not exist in Yan City.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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It was almost nine o'clock when Han Jingru and Su Yimo got back to the Genting Villa. As Han Xiang was still in the eating and sleeping phase of her life, most of her time would be spent asleep like what she was doing at the moment.

The couple brought Han Xiang into their own room and watched as she slept. Both of them wore a stupid smile on their face.

The three of them stayed together quietly, enjoying each other's presence. To them, this was the greatest bliss.

Han Jingru had Han Xiang in his arms throughout the night. Nonetheless, he was still as energized as ever the next day even without sleep.

Early in the morning, Han Jingru was summoned by Han Xiuzhi to the backyard. Now that Su Yimo was cured, the issues in Yun City had come to a close, so he wanted to ask Han Jingru when he would be leaving.

"Today." Han Jingru gave Han Xiuzhi a brief and precise answer. Han Jingru actually did not want

to leave so soon, but Mr. Yi told him that energy fluctuation from the dimensional tunnel had intensified. That was why Han Jingru could not delay any further.

"Why the hurry?" Han Xiuzhi knitted his brows.

"There are things I need to handle urgently," Han Jingru replied.

"Dangerous?" Han Xiuzhi asked.

"Yes."

"Life and death situation?"

"Yes."

Han Xiuzhi let out a sigh. He knew there was no talking Han Jingru out of it as Han Jingru never backed down once he had decided on something.

"Be careful then. No matter what happens, remember that you have Su Yimo and Han Xiang waiting for you here," Han Xiuzhi said. "I'll come back alive, Grandpa." Han Jingru was sure of it.

Han Xiuzhi gave his shoulders a pat and said, "I trust that you will. We'll all be waiting for you."

After Han Jingru bid his farewell with Su Yimo, he wanted Jiang Yingying to stay behind. However, Jiang Yingying insisted that she came without giving him a choice. In the end, Han Jingru reluctantly brought Jiang Yingying with him once again.

Apocalypse.

At the Four Gates.

Mr. Yi was restless. His plans were messed up thanks to Han Jingru and now Han Jingru actually wanted to head into the second world himself. Even though Mr. Yi knew that sending Han Jingru in was the better choice, as he could see that Han Jingru had the potential to grow even stronger, he still could not be at ease. Given a few more years and he might actually become strong enough to be the pillar of the whole

Apocalypse.

Once Han Jingru enters the second world, there was a high chance that they would never see him again. This was something that Mr. Yi dreaded.

"Mr. Yi, with how Han Jingru is, I doubt there's any way you could change his mind. Why stress yourself about it?" The assistant told Mr. Yi. Even though he did not have many interactions with Han Jingru, the assistant could tell based on his observations, that he would never back down. Since Han Jingru had already decided, Mr. Yi's concerns were moot.

"I know that. But how can I not worry?" Mr. Yi let out a sigh. He understood what the assistant was saying, but it did not mean he accepted the idea.

"I'm actually quite impressed with Han Jingru. The younger generations here in Apocalypse don't even dare enter Devil's Cave. But he's actually going to enter the second world. I admire his bravery," the assistant sighed. "Being brave doesn't mean you're indestructible. Having bravery alone is not enough," Mr. Yi remarked.

The Assistant smiled. "Mr. Yi, you're wrong there. Han Jingru not only has the bravery, but his capabilities are also undoubted. It didn't even take a month before he completed the challenge and became a Platinum ranked fighter. He's the only one that ever did that. I doubt you can find another who could accomplish what he did."

Mr. Yi was rendered speechless. The miracles that Han Jingru had created are definitely uncontestable and irreplicable. But that's why I don't want him to die in the second world.

"Tell me, how did he escape the attacks of the familiars in Devil's Cave. Was it really as simple as he said?" Mr. Yi thought about this a lot since Han Jingru gave a nonchalant story riddled with loopholes. What exactly happened in that cave?

"Well, if he doesn't want to tell, let it be. Digging any deeper is unnecessary," the assistant said. Han Jingru was definitely hiding something, but since he wanted to hide it, the assistant saw no reason to investigate it.

"Since when did you become his men? Defending him like this!" Mr. Yi stared at the assistant.

The assistant snickered. "Mr. Yi, I definitely have to side with someone as strong as Han Jingru. He deserves the special treatment. Look at He Qingfeng, the old fool had always gone against us the Four Gates. But now, I doubt he would dare say anything bad about Han Jingru."

Mr. Yi laughed. It was true that since Han Jingru came out from the Devil's Cave, the people from Three Halls had stop harassing Four Gates for nonsensical reasons. Even the head of Three Halls, He Qingfeng, talked nothing but good things about Han Jingru. In the past, this would be impossible.

"What you say is true. Han Jingru had soothed the internal conflicts of Apocalypse and made it peaceful here," Mr. Yi agreed. "Lin Tong though, is still devastated. I wonder when will he be able to pick himself back up," the assistant sighed. Lin Tong was remarked as the Chosen One of Apocalypse in the past. But now, Han Jingru was all everyone talked about, no one seemed to care about Lin Tong anymore. It was a big hit on his ego that might actually cause him to give up.

"His title has been eating away at him for years. It's about time he faced reality. As long as he can accept reality, he'll be able to progress further. Besides, he doesn't need our attention right now. From what I know, he will be joining He Qingfeng soon enough," said Mr. Yi.

The assistant grinned. He used to be infuriated by Lin Tong's betrayal back then. Four Gates was very much involved in Lin Tong's growth after all. His betrayal was a humiliation towards Four Gates. However, that was the past. As of now, Han Jingru had completely replaced Lin Tong, and what he did was redundant information.

"Quite true. Where he goes is not important anymore since the whole Apocalypse is only

## looking at Han Jingru right now."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Two days later.

Han Jingru returned to Apocalypse and immediately dropped his bombshell of a news.

He wanted to enter Devil's Cave again.

With that, the whole Apocalypse was riled up, especially the Platinum ranked fighters.

They knew how dangerous Devil's Cave was. Being able to walk out alive or not had always come down to luck. Han Jingru wanting to go back in was a foolish decision that made no sense to them.

Even Mr. Yi saw it as a suicidal decision and refused Han Jingru.

"No. You should know how dangerous Devil's Cave is by now. You were lucky you got out the first time, don't push your luck." Mr. Yi was frustrated. It felt to him like Han Jingru's ego had ballooned out of control.

"Mr. Yi, you're overreacting. Think about it, why

would I want to go back in if I didn't have the confidence to come out alive?" Han Jingru told Mr. Yi nonchalantly.

Devil's Cave was definitely a dangerous place for everyone else, but Han Jingru had the Ruby-eyed Python protecting him, so his safety was guaranteed. Besides, he was not going in for fun, there was something he wanted to do.

Han Jingru was unsure why the python did not attack him, but having it with him in the second world was definitely extra insurance.

Other than the Ruby-eyed Python, the red fruit was also on the list of things he needed as it might come in handy at crucial moments.

"Nonsense! Those familiars aren't something you can deal with, with just confidence. Han Jingru, have you gone mad?" Mr. Yi said as he faced Han Jingru with a twisted expression.

Han Jingru simply shrugged.

Right then, He Qingfeng barged in.

He spotted Han Jingru and immediately confronted him.

"Are you insane? You actually want to go into the cave again? Is this just a game to you?" He Qingfeng asked.

"Master He, this is Four Gates' affair. I don't think it concerns Three Halls," Han Jingru replied.

He Qingfeng turned to look at Mr. Yi menacingly. "This is your man! Control him! He's gonna get himself killed!"

Before Mr. Yi could say anything, Han Jingru stood his ground. "I'm going back whether you like it or not. No one here can stop me, but feel free to try," he declared.

"You got some nerves you brat. How dare you provoke us," He Qingfeng responded.

Han Jingru started marching towards the exit of the hall but He Qingfeng quickly cut him off. Han Jingru swung a punch at him instantly.

He Qingfeng smiled. "You think you're all that just because you reached Platinum rank? I'm the head of Three Halls! I'm stronger than the top ten elites!"

As the punch reached him, He Qingfeng raised his right hand to block Han Jingru and push him back.

However, He Qingfeng was pushed three steps back on impact while Han Jingru stood firmly in place.

Dead silence ensued.

Both Mr. Yi and his assistant stared in disbelief at what just happened.

He Qingfeng himself had his mouth wide open.

Everyone was shocked that Han Jingru's punch was able to push He Qingfeng back.

Moreover, He Qingfeng's hand was still

trembling from the recoil.

He was dumbstruck inside.

Even though it was not his full power, He Qingfeng had thought that he could still fend off Han Jingru's attack easily.

To He Qingfeng's surprise, he was the one that was pushed back instead.

"I told you. No one here can stop me," Han Jingru broke the silence as he exited the hall.

Mr. Yi stared at Han Jingru's back, his breathing was in disarray.

He knew Han Jingru had gotten stronger, but he never thought that Han Jingru had gotten to a point where he could push He Qingfeng back with one punch.

Apocalypse had four ranks to determine a fighter's strength. The top ten elites were stronger than those ranked at Platinum, and Mr. Yi himself, as well as He Qingfeng, reigned supreme

over them.

What Han Jingru demonstrated just now, was proof that he, at minimum, was strong enough to rival the top ten elites.

This is impossible! He's only been here for one month at most!

Mr. Yi went to He Qingfeng and whispered, "How much power did you use?"

"Half," He Qingfeng said without batting an eye.

"Tell me the truth." Mr. Yi gritted his teeth.

He Qingfeng hesitated. "Eighty percent," he answered awkwardly.

Mr. Yi took a deep breath. Eighty percent from this old fart is terrifying enough. And Han Jingru was able to push him back in spite of that.

It was clear that even if He Qingfeng used his full power, chances of him stopping Han Jingru was still quite slim. It was unbelievable for Mr. Yi. "Is this guy actually a monster?" He Qingfeng's pride was hurt. It was the first time he felt like he should reevaluate his capabilities.

"Looks like I was right. He most certainly is our Messiah." Mr. Yi's hands were shivering

"But no matter how strong he is. Only death awaits if he goes back to Devil's Cave, right?"

Mr. Yi shook his head. He had changed his mind because of what just happened. "If he's confident that everything will be fine, then so be it. I don't know where that confidence comes from, but I trust him."

Han Jingru would never just die like this.

Mr. Yi understood how much Su Yimo and Han Xiang meant to Han Jingru. In fact, Han Jingru's fearlessness was only a facade, covering up his fear of death. He needed to be extremely cautious for Su Yimo and Han Xiang's sake.

Since he made the decision, he definitely has something up his sleeves.

Meanwhile, Jiang Yingying and Han Jingru were outside the hall. "Jingru, who knew even He Qingfeng couldn't block your punch. How much power did you pack?"

"Eighty percent." He smiled.

"Really?" Jiang Yingying doubt his word.

Han Jingru touched the tip of his nose and answered, "Would it be too much if I said fifty percent?"

"Of course not!" Jiang Yingying laughed. "But I doubt He Qingfeng would be happy to hear that. If you used full power back there, he might actually be crippled."

"He'd definitely be crippled. But we should lay low, he's still the master of Three Halls after all. We'll leave it at that." Han Jingru smiled.

Jiang Yingying nodded thoughtfully with a big smile on her face. Things would get really awkward if the two masters heard our conversation just now. Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying arrived at the Devil's Cave. Although everyone else could not understand why Han Jingru decided to make a second trip to the place, Jiang Yingying could.

When Han Jingru was there the last time, the little white snake had insisted on leaving together with him. However, Han Jingru did not think that was a good idea, worrying that the little white snake might turn out to be a threat that was capable of endangering the Apocalypse. Thus, Han Jingru deployed some tactics to persuade the little white snake to stay.

But this time, Han Jingru was about to embark on his journey to the second world, and he intended to take the little white snake with him.

"Jingru, are you sure you want to take that snake along? It is, after all, a cold-blooded creature. Will it turn hostile after you free it from the cave?" Jiang Yingying asked worryingly.

In fact, Han Jingru had thought of the same thing too. But for some reason, he had a feeling that the little white snake would not hurt him. Also, even

if the little white snake really became hostile and aggressive, it would only bring damage to the second world, instead of the Apocalypse.

"The second world is a place full of unknown dangers and perils. If the little white snake is willing to be on my side, it can help to ensure our safety in the second world. So, I think it's worth a try," Han Jingru explained.

Jiang Yingying still had her reservations. But as usual, she would not stop or dissuade Han Jingru from doing things that he had decided. That was because she fully trusted him to do the right things.

Without hesitation, the two strode off and entered the Devil's Cave.

Just minutes after Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying walked into the cave, Lin Tong materialized out of nowhere at the same spot where the two were standing just now. His face contorted with rage and bitterness.

Being the most talented youngster in Apocalypse,

Lin Tong used to enjoy the distinguished status as the Chosen One. Nonetheless, no one seemed to remember him anymore ever since Han Jingru arrived. At the moment, people in Apocalypse only had their eyes on Han Jingru, instead of Lin Tong.

Lin Tong was reluctant to accept his defeat to Han Jingru. However, there was nothing much he could do because he did not have what it took to emulate what Han Jingru had already achieved. Therefore, he was eager to prove his worth by visiting the Devil's Cave - a place where countless valiant warriors sacrificed their lives. Still, he couldn't help but be held back by the fear of death at the same time in spite of his ambition.

"Lin Tong, I hope you can see how much of a loser you are in comparison to Han Jingru. You know what, this is Han Jingru's second visit to the Devil's Cave already. What about you? The only thing you do is stand at the entrance and tremble in fear." He Xiaoxiao's voice came from behind.

With an icy expression, Lin Tong spun around and dissed, "He Xiaoxiao, if I'm not mistaken, you've already been demoted to the Bronze rank. So, you have no rights to be here."

He Xiaoxiao was, after all, He Qingfeng's daughter. Although she had no rights to visit the Devil's Cave, no one had enough guts to stop her. That was because everyone was well aware of the repercussions they would face if they offended He Qingfeng.

In fact, He Xiaoxiao was there only to see whether Han Jingru was really going into the Devil's Cave for the second time or not.

At first, she assumed Han Jingru was not going to walk his talk, thinking that he only intended to use it as a gimmick to promote and bolster his reputation. It might even be a scheme of the Four Gates deployed in an attempt to build up their influence in the Apocalypse. Therefore, He Xiaoxiao was rather surprised to see Han Jingru going into the Devil's Cave for the second time.

"Lin Tong, while I'm not qualified to be here,

you don't have the guts to enter the cave. See? We actually belong to the same world. So, there's no point in trying to show off your superiority in front of me. If you really want to prove your worth, Han Jingru is the one you should compete with," He Xiaoxiao remarked disdainfully.

"He Xiaoxiao, I'm shocked to see that you've changed your views on Han Jingru. Since when did you start to do it to the people you loathe?" Lin Tong scoffed.

"Bullsh\*t." He Xiaoxiao rolled her eyes and clarified, "I've never changed how I think of him - he's pretty much still a piece of trash to me."

Lin Tong cackled with laughter.

A trash?

It seems like Han Jingru must be a pretty talented trash then!

Not only did Han Jingru manage to ascend to the Platinum rank from the Bronze rank within a month's time, but he's also going to visit the Devil's Cave, a place dreaded by many, for the second time. It's funny that He Xiaoxiao still thinks of him as a trash.

"He Xiaoxiao, shouldn't you do a self-reflection before you call Han Jingru a trash?"

He Xiaoxiao's expression hardened for a second before she quickly recovered and sneered, "I'm surprised to hear you speaking in Han Jingru's defense after he's stolen your thunder. Seems like you've accepted your defeat huh."

"Since I'm very well aware that I'm no match for him, there's no point in evading that." As much as Lin Tong hated to admit it, Han Jingru was indeed much more talented than him. Also, he knew there was no use in talking bad on Han Jingru behind his back, which was something done by incompetent people. The only way to retrieve his title as the Chosen One was to prove he was better than Han Jingru. Yet, Lin Tong knew he was not good enough to achieve that at the moment.

Lin Tong's righteous speech took He Xiaoxiao by surprise. At first, she thought she could form an alliance with Lin Tong to deal with Han Jingru,

but obviously, the plan was no longer viable now.

"Are you sure you can put up with living in Han Jingru's shadows?" He Xiaoxiao asked tentatively.

"He Xiaoxiao, this is my advice for you - just be more realistic. Trust me, your little plots and schemes are useless in the presence of absolute power and they won't work on Han Jingru. The only way to beat him is to be better than him. Right now, not only Mr. Yi thinks very highly of him, your father too," Lin Tong said.

He Xiaoxiao gasped when she heard Lin Tong. She was shocked to learn that even her father was impressed by Han Jingru too, considering the fact that the Four Gates and the Three Halls had never seen eye-to-eye with each other.

"Lin Tong, I can't accept my defeat to Han Jingru as readily as you can. Sooner or later, I will come up with a way to kill him," He Xiaoxiao said through gritted teeth.

Lin Tong flashed her a breezy smile, thinking that

what she said was hilarious.

She wants to kill Han Jingru?

Does she even have what it takes to do that?

Is it possible that Han Jingru will be defeated by a person of the Bronze rank?

That's ridiculous.

"I'm going back to meditate now. I wish you good luck!" With that, Lin Tong turned around and left.

Meanwhile, He Xiaoxiao clenched her fists tightly with a sinister expression on her face. If it had not been Han Jingru, she would not have been demoted to the Bronze rank, and she would not have had gone through so much humiliation.

The better Han Jingru became the angrier He Xiaoxiao was. For some reason, she believed she would be able to kill Han Jingru one day no matter how powerful he had become.

After all, she was the daughter of He Qingfeng, the head of the Three Halls. Han Jingru would always be inferior to her in the hierarchy.

"Han Jingru, my men are reaching Yun City soon. If you want to keep your girls safe, you'd better apologize to me by kneeling down and offering me kowtows!"

Inside the Devil's Cave, Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying did not feel as terrified and jittery as they had been when they were there the last time. Thanks to the little white snake's company, all the familiars that resided in the cave dared not even make an appearance.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru was eyeing the little white snake suspiciously. According to the information provided by Fang Zhan, the Ruby-eyed Python was the scariest creature in the Devil's Cave. But then again, Han Jingru could not tell there was anything special about the little white snake. It was so small that its flesh would not even be filling. Thus, he wondered whether the information Fang Zhan gathered was inaccurate.

When they reached the part of the cave where the red fruits grew, the little white snake kept hissing and sticking its tongue out to warn Han Jingru of the danger of the fruits.

It had pained the little white snake to see Han Jingru gobbling down several red fruits to fill his stomach last time. This time, the little white snake was determined to stop Han Jingru from getting near the red fruits.

Yet, Han Jingru was unfazed. He decided to bring as many of the fruits as he could to the second world, thinking that they would come in handy.

Frustrated with the little white snake's interference, he smacked its head and snapped, "Just get lost, will you? Can't you just allow me to take some of these gems in return for my effort to bring you out of this cave?"

The little white snake looked dizzy and its head flailed wildly around after being hit by Han Jingru. Jiang Yingying couldn't help but laugh out loud at the comical sight.

"Jingru, this snake seems to be able to understand you! It's so much more fun to be with than dogs and cats!" Jiang Yingying commented.

With a faint smile, Han Jingru continued to talk to the snake, "I'll bring you out of this cave and take you back to your natural habitat. So, why don't you give me the fruits since they will just go to waste if you leave them here?"

The snake's crimson eyes gleamed up with joy at once. Surprisingly, it even took the initiative to fetch the fruits from the vines and handed them to Han Jingru.

In fact, Han Jingru was not taken aback by the snake's ability to understand his words at all "What a pragmatic little guy you are! You're thrilled to be going home, aren't you?"

The little white snake nodded its head vigorously to show its excitement.

The red fruits grew vines that crept all over the wall of the cave. As many had already been consumed by Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying

during their last visit, they only managed to find around ten after a thorough search.

Han Jingru gave half of them to Jiang Yingying.

"Are you sure you wanna travel to the second world with me?" Han Jingru asked. Before this, he had no intention of bringing Jiang Yingying along at all, on account of the fact that the second world was filled with too many uncertainties and unknown dangers. As he was not even sure whether he could survive the trip, he would rather not let Jiang Yingying risk her life.

However, Jiang Yingying was very insistent on joining him, leaving him no space to turn her down.

"Jingru, I've thought about all the pros and cons, and I've already reached a decision. So. there's no use in trying to change my mind now," Jiang Yingying replied.

Han Jingru flashed her a helpless smile. "Aren't you afraid of death?"

"Why should I be afraid of something that is inevitable?" Jiang Yingying answered in a decisive tone.

Han Jingru, who agreed with her opinion, decided to stop dwelling on the issue.

Instead, he turned to the little white snake with a frown on his forehead as he needed to come up with a way to bring the snake out of the cave without being seen by anyone. Otherwise, he would have a hard time trying to keep his experience in the cave a secret.

If people knew that he did not actually suffer any attack from the familiars in the Devil's Cave, people would start pointing fingers and gossiping about him.

The little white snake seemed to be able to read Han Jingru's mind. It slithered and wormed its way into the sleeves of his shirt and stayed on his arm. In that way, no one would notice its existence.

"This little thing is really observant. How I wish

it could talk too, so that it could give us an idea how the second world is going to be like," Han Jingru commented.

"Jingru, there's no way it can talk because it's just a reptile," Jiang Yingying replied with a smile.

Han Jingru nodded, knowing well that it was just his wishful thinking. In fact, he did not really mean what he said too when he made that comment.

"Let's go. After leaving this cave, we'll be entering a whole new world," Han Jingru announced.

Their visit to the Devil's Cave this time only lasted for half a day. However, the fact that Han Jingru survived another visit to the dreadful place still caused quite a sensational stir in the Apocalypse. Those fighters of the Platinum rank couldn't help but be amazed by how Han Jingru was able to go in and out of the Devil's Cave freely like it was his home.

It was a remarkable achievement that would be recorded in the annals of Apocalypse history.

Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng were the first to visit Han Jingru after he came back from the Devil's Cave.

Ever since he sparred with Han Jingru before, He Qingfeng had realized that he should not underestimate Han Jingru anymore. Although he had no idea that Han Jingru did not actually go all out with him, Han Jingru's ability to prevail over him was enough to impress him.

"Do you have any idea what everyone's been saying?" Mr. Yi asked Han Jingru with a mischievous smile.

"Care to enlighten me?" Han Jingru stared at Mr. Yi with confusion in his eyes.

"Everyone's been saying that the Devil's Cave is not as scary as they imagined before because you were able to walk out of the cave alive so easily," Mr. Yi answered. Other than those fighters of the Platinum rank, few people could understand how monumental Han Jingru's achievement was. Inspired by Han Jingru's success, many fighters below the Platinum rank were eager to give the Devil's Cave a try.

"Isn't the situation exactly what you've been aiming for?" Han Jingru asked.

Indeed, Mr. Yi had pinned his hopes on Han Jingru to alleviate the people's fear of the Devil's Cave. Anyone who wished to improve their ranks had to pay the Devil's Cave a visit. Yet, people had been so terrified of the place that no one was able to surmount the challenge in the past ten years. Because of that, the Apocalypse was facing a severe drought of fighters in higher ranks.

Now, Han Jingru had successfully broken the stalemate. Because of him, those fighters of the Gold-rank were galvanized to tackle the Devil's Cave.

"As for your trip to the second world..."

Han Jingru cut Mr. Yi off by saying, "If you're

trying to discourage me from going to the second world, I'll have to stop you right there. For your information, I'll do that trip by hook or by crook."

"Han Jingru, how can you risk your life like that when you represent the future of Apocalypse? Your presence will inspire many to try to make a breakthrough in their skills. You're the only person who is capable of making a difference in Apocalypse!" He Qingfeng said agitatedly.

Han Jingru gaped at He Qingfeng with astonishment written all over his face, taken aback by what He Qingfeng just said.

"Master He, I'm rather surprised that you actually do care about my safety," Han Jingru remarked.

He Qingfeng shook his head and clarified candidly, "In fact, your safety isn't my concern at all; I only care about the future of Apocalypse. In my opinion, the trip to the second world isn't going to worth your while because it's highly likely that you will be killed there."

To emerge as a force strong enough to go against the second world, the Apocalypse needed an abundance of strong fighters. In He Qingfeng's opinion, Han Jingru was going to play a crucial part in the process. Not only could his presence encourage fighters to improve their ranks, but his talents and abilities could also make a huge difference in the upcoming wars too. Thus, He Qingfeng thought it would be a waste if Han Jingru ended up dying during his trip to the second world.

"In my opinion, the best way to stop something from endangering the Apocalypse is to nip it in the bud. Based on the current state the Apocalypse is in, do you think we will be able to nurture around a thousand fighters of the Platinum rank within a short time?" Han Jingru threw the question at He Qingfeng with composure.

A thousand fighters of the Platinum rank?

That only happened when the Apocalypse was in its heyday. But now, it's nigh impossible for Apocalypse to return to such a state.

"Han Jingru, please promise me you will make it back alive," Mr. Yi spoke all of a sudden. Judging from his tone, he was not going to stop Han Jingru from going to the second world anymore.



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