

Madam's 2441

Chapter 2441 The Note's Content

Ye Wangchuan waited outside for 10 minutes. After replying to a message, he looked up and saw the girl walking out of the research institute.

He put the phone away, straightened his legs, and opened the car's door.

Qiao Nian got into the car and buckled her seatbelt. She was thinking about something the entire time and looked a little distracted.

Ye Wangchuan did not ask about it. He walked to the other side to get into the car and handed her the drink he had bought for her. "Here, your lemonade."

Qiao Nian saw the drink that was suddenly magnified in front of her and reached out to take it. Her cold white hand turned the rim of the glass and she lowered her eyes. "Thank you."

Seeing that she was distracted, Ye Wangchuan started the car and placed his hand on the steering wheel. He raised his eyebrows and asked her, "Are you going back home or to the hospital first?"

Qiao Nian thought for a moment and then narrowed her eyes. Her gaze was firm. "Let's go find Gu Hengbo. I have something to ask him."

* * *

In a private hospital in a corner of the independent continent.

Gu Hengbo was locked in one of the wards with a face full of vicissitudes. Other than not being able to go out, a fixed number of people came in to deliver food to him every day.

However, with a double whammy, a blow to both his body and his mind, he uncontrollably lost a lot of weight. It looked like he had aged by more than 10 years.

The Gu family had never given up on looking for him in the one week he disappeared.

The Gu family was not considered a large faction in the independent continent. In the past, relying on Gu Hengbo, they could still interact with large factions like the Ji family, the Chamber of Commerce Alliance, and the Hacker Alliance.

Later on, Gu Hengbo was expelled from the First Research Institute by Feng Yu. The Gu family's status in the independent continent plummeted... They could no longer play with the top circles of the independent continent.

It was also for this reason that after asking so many people in the circle, Gu Fan only got Ji Ziyin's help.

The Gu family had not found any news about Gu Hengbo until now. They didn't know that he was locked up in a hospital not far from them.

When Qiao Nian arrived, Gu Hengbo only raised his eyelids slightly, looking like he was about to give up. He said lightly, "Why are you here?"

"Take a look?" Qiao Nian dragged a chair over to the bed and threw the note in front of him. She raised her chin slightly, indicating for him to take a look.

Gu Hengbo couldn't read her mind. He skeptically picked up the note and looked down. "...Ji Ziyin is contacting the people from the First Research Institute in private. It seems like she's setting up a laboratory to go against the First Research Institute?"

He read out the contents of the note word for word.

Gu Hengbo was slightly stunned after he finished reading. After quickly figuring out the links, his empty eyes began to focus on the light spots.

Qiao Nian saw all the changes in his expression.

She watched as he threw the note away and put on a dead face. She was not angry. She took the note back from him and threw it into the trash can.

The corners of her eyes raised slightly as she placed her hand on the table and said in a casual tone, "Tell me, what does Ji Ziyin want?"

Gu Hengbo's eyes flashed and he shut his mouth tightly, as if he did not want to continue chatting.

Qiao Nian curled her lips and knocked on the table with her left hand. She leaned back and looked at him with her dark eyes. She chuckled. "Don't tell me you think Ji Ziyin still cares about you?"

Seemingly provoked, Gu Hengbo suddenly stared at her.

Qiao Nian let him. She reached out and raised her baseball cap, revealing an arrogant face. "You're no longer useful to her."

Chapter 2442 So, How Did She Die Back Then?

"Based on Ji Ziyin's personality, there's a high chance that she only wants to get rid of you as a burden as soon as possible. She won't let you drag her down." The girl's tone was soothing and a little nonchalant.

"You're talking nonsense." Gu Hengbo emphasized every word as if he was trying his best to prove something.

Qiao Nian changed her posture and sat down. She still looked sloppy, but her eyes did not leave him. "You know very well if I'm spouting nonsense."

Gu Hengbo's expression changed slightly, and his eyes flickered.

Qiao Nian saw that his hand was subconsciously grabbing the blanket. She raised her eyes. "There are only two paths in front of you now. First, continue dreaming, and don't say a word. I'll blame it on you if the First Research Institute suffers losses because of this. You can't afford it. If you can't pay it back, someone else has to. Then, I can only go to your family..."

"Second, cooperate with me. If you say what needs to be said, this matter will have nothing to do with you. The Gu family will not be implicated! As for you... it depends on how my teacher wants to deal with it."

Gu Hengbo was extremely angry. Hatred filled his eyes. He gritted his teeth and whispered, "Are you threatening me?!"

Qiao Nian did not even bat an eyelid. She looked at him frankly. "I'm just stating an outcome."

Gu Hengbo stared at her fiercely. His chest rose and fell, but his mind raced. He had already weighed the pros and cons in his heart.

He had already made his choice, but looking at the girl sitting calmly in front of him, unwillingness gnawed at his heart like locusts.

Every word was extremely difficult to come out of his mouth. "I once gave her the email address of an elder of a reclusive family. She should have contacted that person.

"That person has always been at odds with Martin. Martin agrees with Feng Yu's concept and doesn't want the First Research Institute to become a place where the major factions manufacture weapons...

"But that person's thoughts are the opposite of Martin's! He has always hoped that the First Research Institute could create new lethal weapons for the reclusive families."

Qiao Nian could guess this without him saying anything. Staring at Gu Hengbo, she asked in a slightly hoarse voice, "Ji Ziyin wants to study weapons this time? She doesn't seem to have the ability, so where did she get the method to complete the mission given to her by the reclusive family?"

Gu Hengbo looked at her in surprise, as if he did not understand why Qiao Nian was asking this. "Didn't you already know that she had a notebook?

"Ji Qing was known as a once-in-a-century genius in the research institute. She not only had shocking achievements in biology and physics, but she was also a master weaponsmith."

Gu Hengbo lowered his eyes to hide his complicated emotion before disdainfully continuing, "Right now, the rumor that Xie Tingyun is the number one person in weapon manufacturing is only because the Ji family erased the records related to Ji Qing. Many people in the younger generation don't know the inside story and think that Xie Tingyun's achievements in weapon manufacturing have already reached the peak! Actually, that's not the case... The only person who has really reached the peak in this aspect is Ji Qing."

He was not the only one who thought this, Xie Tingyun also acknowledged that Ji Qing was more skilled than her.

She never said she was the number one weapon manufacturer because, in her heart, she had never been number one.

Qiao Nian stopped beating around the bush and directly asked what she came for today. "So, how did she die back then?"

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

Chapter 2443 Feng Yu Hands the First Research Institute to Sister Nian

Gu Hengbo suddenly looked up.

The girl's eyes were like an endless starry night. The cluster of stars in them could destroy the world. They had always been suppressed and controlled by her. That was why she was nonchalant all the time, as if she didn't care about anything.

In fact, that spark had never been extinguished!

Gu Hengbo suddenly calmed down. He lowered his head and said, "I don't know much. I only know that the K Organization killed her. As for who ordered her death, I'm not sure."

Qiao Nian stood up. "I understand."

Gu Hengbo looked at her again, as if he hated her and wanted to see what she could do. Before the girl left the ward, he raised his voice and said, "Yu Qingliu has a good relationship with the K Organization."

Qiao Nian stopped in her tracks but did not turn around.

The next second, she left the ward under Gu Hengbo's gaze.

Gu Hengbo looked as she walked out and then looked up at the ceiling. His gaze became empty again.

He regretted it now.

This time, it was not just him. The Gu family might also be dragged into the abyss with him!

Gu Hengbo was not in the mood to think about what Ji Ziyin and the reclusive family were up to.

He only hoped that Qiao Nian would do as she said. After he said everything he could, he hoped she would not vent her anger on the Gu family, ensuring the Gu family a chance of survival.

"What did Gu Hengbo say?" Ye Wangchuan was waiting for her in the car.

Seeing the girl get into the car, he thoughtfully handed her the water bottle he had bought.

"He said that Ji Ziyin wants to use my mother's notebook to make weapons." Qiao Nian took the water bottle from him and bit the straw. She took a sip before casually continuing, "Not only is Ji Ziyin still the notebook to climb up the ranks, but she even went to the First Research Institute to poach people. She probably thinks that with the backing of the reclusive families, no one in the independent continent can do anything to her."

"I don't care about her relationship with the reclusive families, but if she wants to use the notebook to climb up the ranks, she's touching my bottom line."

Qiao Nian put the bottle away and casually said, "I'll get the notebook back."

Ye Wangchuan rolled down the window to let in fresh air. Then, he turned the car around and slowly drove towards the villa.

As Feng Yu had successfully woken up in the morning, everyone in the First Research Institute soon learned about his hospitalization.

They had just returned when they saw Shi Fu and Zhou Zhou waiting for them in the living room.

As soon as Qiao Nian entered, Shi Fu put down his teacup and stood up. He looked at the girl and said, "The dean said that before he's discharged, you can decide on all matters in the research institute. A few of my projects are waiting for the dean's

verification. Do you have time to take a look?"

"Ahem." Zhou Zhou also stood up and looked at the girl in embarrassment. She blinked her beautiful eyes and slowly raised her hand.

"Well, I also have two projects to discuss with you." Qiao Nian had just changed her shoes. Shi Fu and Zhou Zhou bombarded her with work before could even enter. She immediately felt a headache coming on.

She walked in and looked at them. "He wants to hand the First Research Institute to me?"

Shi Fu stood upright, not feeling the least bit uncomfortable. Nodding, he said with a serious expression, "The dean hasn't been there for more than a week and work has accumulated. I might need some time to organize the research institute's matters with you later."

Chapter 2444 Master Wang Has Been Investigating the K Organization

Too embarrassed, Zhou Zhou only said, "I don't want to trouble you, either. However, the dean has the final say in the First Research Institute. He's hospitalized now, so I can only come to you."

Gu San walked out of the kitchen with two cups of coffee and placed them on the table. Then, he greeted the girl. "Miss Qiao, you're back. I'll make you a cup of coffee. What flavor would you like?"

Qiao Nian glanced at the thick stack of folders Shi Fu had brought and rubbed her eyebrows. She rejected his offer. "No need. I don't want to drink it."

Going straight to the staircase, she said to Shi Fu and Zhou Zhou, "Follow me."

Shi Fu and Zhou Zhou grabbed their things and followed her.

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Qin Si watched them go up and clicked his tongue. Then, he turned to Ye Wangchuan and Gu San and said, "Sister Qiao is about to become the dean of the First Research Institute."

It was so awesome!

Ye Wangchuan took off his jacket and placed it on the sofa.

Qin Si rolled his eyes and earnestly said, "Master Wang, aren't you going to work harder? Why do I feel that if Sister Qiao continues to thrive, someone will snatch your freeloader job from you?"

"For example, that person from Tian Chen..." He couldn't help but mention Lu Zhi.

Ye Wangchuan was only wearing a black shirt. It was the one Qiao Nian had bought for him in Rao City. He carefully rolled up his sleeves, revealing a strong and fair arm. Hearing this, he gave him a murderous look. "You want to return to Beijing?"

Qin Si sensibly shut his mouth and covered his injured arm, muttering softly, "I haven't wooed that person yet. I don't want to go back now. If I go back, I'll be urged to get married by my family. I might as well stay here and be free. No one will control me."

Gu San made a cup of coffee, placed it in front of Master Wang, and then stole a glance at the bitter Qin Si. He did not understand why he could still persistently provoke Master Wang every time he was detained by him.

"Master Wang, your coffee."

Ye Wangchuan sat down on the sofa and opened the lid of the sugar cube jar. He picked up a sugar cube and threw it into the cup. He stirred it with a spoon with lowered eyes as if he was thinking about something.

Suddenly, he looked up and asked Gu San, "How much have you found out about the K Organization?"

Three days ago, Ye Wangchuan had asked Gu San to investigate the K Organization.

It had been three days.

Gu San put down the tray and stood up straight. His expression turned serious. "The K Organization is the largest mercenary organization in the world. They only take on jobs through the black market. Like the Red Alliance, they don't take on all jobs. They will choose which jobs they're willing to take on. The criteria for choosing jobs do not necessarily involve money."

"Eh, interesting." Qin Si interrupted, "The criteria for a mercenary organization to accept missions is actually not based on money? Then, what are they looking for? Is it based on their mood? Or on the weather?"

Gu San glanced at him before continuing, "I don't know their criteria, either. In the past, the K Organization's style wasn't like this. Like all mercenary organizations, they took on jobs based on money. They worked for whoever gave them more money. However, 20 years ago, their leader suddenly disappeared. For a long time, the K Organization was leaderless and chaotic.

"However, they suddenly changed a few years ago. They have a mysterious leader now. These rules were all set by the new leader. It's also up to him to decide which jobs the K Organization takes on."

Chapter 2445 That's Not Right, The K Organization Is Giving Up Too Easily

Ye Wangchuan relaxed against the sofa. His chest was faintly visible through his shirt.

He rested his arm on the sofa cushion. His legs were straight and long under the fabric of his trousers. He played with the black phone with lowered eyes. His face was hidden in the darkness, and his expression could not be seen clearly. He seemed to be thinking about something.

"However, this person is quite capable. Ever since he became the K Organization's leader, these mercenaries have never failed on a mission.

"Their attack on the dean is the only mission they've failed since he took over.

"It's mainly because Miss Qiao was too fast.

"They just started their attack on Dean Feng, but Miss Qiao already located Gu Hengbo and found them through him..."

However, Gu San did not feel that there was anything wrong.

Who asked them to cross paths with Miss Qiao?

Miss Qiao had directly blown up Victoria Harbor. The K Organization's failure this time was not a small loss!

"That's not right." The man's voice was especially hoarse.

Qin Si and Gu San turned to look at him.

"You said that they've never failed in the past few years." Ye Wangchuan put the coffee cup on the table and raised his eyes. He looked at Gu San elegantly. "Then why did they give up so easily?"

Gu San replied without thinking, "Because Miss Qiao found Gu Hengbo..."

Ye Wangchuan interrupted him before he could finish. "Qiao Nian found Gu Hengbo. Then? Do they care about Gu Hengbo's life?"

The blond man from the K Organization used Gu Hengbo's life to 'apologize' to Qiao Nian without hesitation at the docks. This meant that the K Organization did not take their 'employer' seriously. Gu Hengbo's life was worthless in their eyes!

"Since they don't care about Gu Hengbo's life and death, why would they be willing to stop after their own signboard was destroyed?"

Ye Wangchuan's voice was soothing as if he was just chatting with them.

Gu San and Qin Si looked at each other in shock.

Qin Si asked, "Master Wang, what do you mean?"

Gu San also frowned, realizing that something was wrong. "They didn't want to complete this mission? Then why did they accept it... The K Organization won't accept every mission. They didn't care about completing the mission, but they still accepted it... I don't understand."

"You guys chat."

Ye Wangchuan stood up and walked straight to the study without finishing his coffee.

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His study was in the innermost room of the first floor.

The furnishings were reserved and low-key. The bookshelf was filled with all kinds of books, all of which were thick original copies.

Some were professional books on rare earth materials.

Some were airplane-related books.

Some were scientific magazines.

... For example, the collector's edition of the authoritative scientific journal of the WAL Forum.

The collector's editions of these magazines were very precious. They were rarely sold to the public. The First Research Institute might not even have the full set of magazines.

There were many piles in Ye Wangchuan's study. They were all placed in an inconspicuous corner to collect dust. They looked very ordinary.

In addition, there were some trinket-like handicrafts in his study.

They looked inconspicuous, but those who knew the industry would definitely be shocked by their existence.

Ye Wangchuan walked into the study and took out a tablet from the drawer.

The black tablet was very similar to Qiao Nian's computer. They were both the kind that looked like they had been used for a long time, but their owners could not bear to throw them away. The edges of the metal shell were severely worn out and looked very old...

Chapter 2446 Sister Nian's Shoulder Injury Shows Signs of Tearing Again

Ye Wangchuan sat down and turned his tablet on.

Soon, the tablet lit up and began to connect to a video call.

The video call only took a few seconds to connect.

"Master Wang."

A young man appeared on the screen. Looking to be in his early twenties, he was handsome and had a cold and outstanding temperament.

He greeted Ye Wangchuan respectfully. Then, he asked with concern, "I heard that you went to the independent continent. Have you been well recently?"

"It's alright," Ye Wangchuan said calmly. "Are you still in Country M?"

"Didn't you ask me to keep an eye on the reclusive families? I've always been here..." Ji Lin had parked the sports car in the emergency lane of the highway to answer the video call, so he didn't beat around the bush. He frankly asked, "Master Wang, why did you call me?"

Ji Lin was good-looking.

Qiao Nian would definitely recognize him.

When she went to the Pharmacy Association to look for Zhong Yiliu, the Qi family had once wanted to force her to be a guest at their house.

However, Ji Lin appeared in time to help her.

Ye Wangchuan had ordered him to keep an eye on the reclusive families' base camp in Country M for the past few years. Mo Dong and Mo Xi did not have as high a status as Ji Lin in Bright Gate.

"Help me investigate someone."

"Who?" Ji Lin sat up straight.

Ye Wangchuan knocked on the desk with his knuckles and slowly said, "Lu Zhi."

Ji Lin was stunned. "Tian Chen's boss?"

He continued, "Master Wang, why do you want to investigate him?"

Ye Wangchuan shook his head, his eyes filled with coldness. He was not to be trifled with. "Go and find out his relationship with the K Organization."

Although Ji Lin was surprised, he did not ask any nonsense and immediately nodded. "I understand."

"There's more," Ye Wangchuan added.

Ji Lin looked at him again.

Ye Wangchuan frowned. "Check how Tian Chen rose up the ranks and if there's any shadow of a reclusive family behind its rise."

Ji Lin immediately understood. "Okay, I'll immediately start on it."

Ye Wangchuan nodded and hung up.

The screen went black and the power was automatically cut off.

He sat back in the swivel chair, lowered his head, opened the drawer, threw the tablet inside, and closed the drawer.

Ye Wangchuan sat in his chair for a while before picking up his phone. He stood up and walked to the window to make another call.

"... Go and check Yu Qingliu's background."

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It was already dark outside when Qiao Nian sent Shi Fu and Zhou Zhou off.

The night wind in April was felt in the independent continent.

The weather was quite cold.

She went to the bathroom to take a shower and came out in a bathrobe. She did not tie the belt and only draped it loosely over her body as she took out a tube of green ointment from her backpack and lowered her head to change the dressing on her shoulder.

"Hiss..."

The scab on Qiao Nian's right shoulder showed signs of tearing a second time. The snow-white skin near the wound was slightly red.

These were the symptoms of a second laceration and inflammation.

She applied the ointment and felt a cooling sensation on her shoulder, slightly suppressing the burning pain.

Knock knock.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door.

Qiao Nian put down the ointment and put on her bathrobe. Then, she looked at the door and said, "Come in."

She got up, unzipped her bag, and wanted to put the ointment back inside.

Ye Wangchuan saw the green ointment in her hand as soon as he entered. There was a string of English letters on it, which looked vague from afar.

Qiao Nian quickly put the things away, but he still saw through her.

He frowned. His expression was a little solemn as he walked over, grabbed the girl's wrist, and asked in a low voice, "Your wound is inflamed? How did this happen?"

Chapter 2447 Master Wang Found Information About the Reclusive Families

Qiao Nian suddenly had a headache. She lowered her eyes and casually said, "It should have been from the shock when I drove into the car that day."

Ye Wangchuan pursed his lips and pulled her out. "... Let's go to the hospital to take a look."

Qiao Nian refused to leave. "It's not serious."

Ye Wangchuan could not dissuade her, but he refused to let go. He narrowed his beautiful eyes and seemed to think for a moment. Then, he looked up and said, "Let me take a look."

At her wits' end, Qiao Nian suddenly asked him, "Why are you here?"

"I found something."

Ye Wangchuan let go and handed her the envelope he had found.

Qiao Nian frowned and took it. She opened the envelope and took out the white paper.

On it was information about Yu Qingliu and the reclusive families. Qiao Nian's expression became serious when she saw the words "Yu Qingliu". She dragged a chair over and sat down to read the contents seriously.

There was not much on it.

However, it summarized Yu Qingliu's basic background.

Yu Qingliu and the Yu family were not core members. They were only a small force among the reclusive families.

Therefore, Yu Qingliu found Ji Ziyin. He urgently wanted to create value for the reclusive families through her to prove his ability and replace the Martin family.

Qiao Nian read it quickly and then looked up. She asked with a thoughtful expression, "Where did you get this?"

"I've always had someone keep an eye on the reclusive families. Over the years, he also learned some of their internal situation.

"The reclusive families are composed of royal families and nobles from various countries that have been passed down for hundreds or even thousands of years. Many of them are as rich as countries. It's just that they have learned to keep a low profile over such a long time.

"They won't appear on any wealth list, but their influence on the global situation can't be underestimated."

Ye Wangchuan also dragged a chair to sit opposite the girl. He stared at her with his deep eyes and slowly said, "It's not like no one cares about them. Every few decades, they will nominate a person to represent the hidden families. Now, this person is called... Her Majesty the Empress."

Qiao Nian supported her chin with her hand and listened with relish. Her eyes were sparkling. "So Yu Qingliu is just a small character? There's a big fish behind him."

Seeing that she didn't seem to know what kind of behemoth she was facing, Ye Wangchuan couldn't help but laugh and shake his head. "Although Yu Qingliu is only a small character in the reclusive families, he's still an extraordinary existence to the outside world. This is the scary part of the reclusive families."

It was definitely a success for Ji Ziyin to be able to hook up with Yu Qingliu this time.

Yu Qingliu was not scary.

What was terrifying was the reclusive families behind him.

Feng Yu's status in the independent continent was outstanding. All these years, he had only come into contact with the tip of the iceberg of the reclusive families. To put it bluntly, he only knew Martin.

He had never truly come into contact with the core players of the reclusive families.

He asked Ji Lin to investigate them.

These findings were also internal information that Ji Lin had spent a few years and a lot of manpower and resources to find.

"The reclusive families are definitely not as simple as you think. Otherwise, they wouldn't have stood tall for hundreds of years..."

Chapter 2448 Coincidentally, The Meeting Is At Three in the Afternoon Tomorrow

Qiao Nian looked at him with her dark eyes. After a long time, she lowered her hand and said, "I understand. But I still have to investigate. She gave me my life. I have to give her an explanation."

Ye Wangchuan stopped talking. He already understood what Qiao Nian meant. "Then you can only follow this 'small fish' to the fish pond."

Qiao Nian shrugged. She had no objection.

She had already thought it through. If the reclusive families were related to her mother's death, not only would she have to find the 'fish pond' through Yu Qingliu, but she would probably blow up this old fish pond!

Her cell phone lit up on the table.

She received a message from an unknown number.

[Qiao Nian, shall we meet? Let's meet at the Western cafeteria across the road from the research institute at three in the afternoon. I'll book a private room and wait for you.]

She was about to pick up her phone to see who it was from.

Suddenly, a warm aura approached, trapping her in the chair and making her unable to move. Qiao Nian looked up and saw Ye Wangchuan's magnified handsome face.

"God Qiao, we're done talking."

"Can you show me your wound now?"

His eyes burned, and his arms were like iron hoops trapping her in his arms. His expression was no longer lazy. He looked like a lion that had just woken up.

She felt his hot breath above her head through his breathing.

Qiao Nian tensed up.

At this moment, the cell phone on the table lit up again.

From the corner of her eye, she saw that it was still the unfamiliar number from before. It was still the same matter-of-fact invitation tone: [If you don't answer, I'll treat it as you agreed.]

[See you tomorrow at three in the afternoon.]

Qiao Nian was a little distracted. She still didn't know who it was.

Ye Wangchuan pulled her back to her senses and gently smiled. "Oh, you're still distracted? It seems like I'm... not charming enough."

Qiao Nian felt a heat wave approach her.

Her lips were gently covered by someone.

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Outside.

"Sister Qiao..." Before he could finish speaking, Qin Si's eyes widened as if he had seen a ghost and he quickly fled.

When Gu San saw him fleeing downstairs, he put down what he was busy with and straightened his back. He asked him in a strange tone, "Young Master Qin, what are you doing?"

Looking like he had seen a ghost, Qin Si did not say anything.

Gu San asked again, "Didn't you go look for Miss Qiao? Is Miss Qiao taking a shower?"

Qin Si looked suffocated, but he did not dare to explain himself. He only shook his head. "Don't ask. We're all single. Is there a point in asking this?"

"Uh..." Gu San wanted to say that this had nothing to do with being single.

Even if he was not single, he did not dare to snatch Miss Qiao from Master Wang.

Qin Si ignored him. Depressed, he wondered why he was so unlucky to always catch their public display of affection.

As he was thinking about it, a call came in.

Qin Si immediately perked up. He picked it up and walked toward his room. "Hello? Tomorrow? I'm free. What time?"

"Three in the afternoon?" Qin Si closed the door.

The person on the other end of the call was asking him if he was free. It was as if he was saying, "If you're not free, forget it. I'll look for someone else."

Qin Si beat her to it. "Three in the afternoon. I'm free. Where should we meet?"

Guan Yan gave him an address.

Qin Si happily wrote down the appointment time and location. "Then, it's settled. I'll look for you tomorrow."

Chapter 2449 The Person Who Asked Her Out Is Not Here Yet

The next day.

Three in the afternoon.

Ye Wangchuan came out of the study and looked around the living room. He did not see anyone. Only Gu San was busy tidying up the place.

He walked over and unhurriedly asked, "Where is she?"

Gu San was holding Qin Si's game controller and was about to put it back on the table. Turning around and seeing Master Wang, he quickly replied, "Do you mean Miss Qiao and Young Master Qin? The two of them went out to meet someone."

Ye Wangchuan sat on the sofa and leaned back slightly. He propped up his long legs and looked tired from not sleeping well.

Pinching the bridge of his nose, he looked up at Gu San and asked in a low and hoarse voice, "They went out together?"

"Not really."

Gu San put down Qin Si's game controller and stood up respectfully. "Young Master Qin went out first, then Miss Qiao. They left about half an hour apart... I know what's up with Young Master Qin. Someone called him yesterday. From his tone, it should be Miss Qiao's friend asking him out."

Qiao Nian's friend?

Ye Wangchuan frowned slightly. Then, a figure appeared in his mind.

He knew who it was.

If nothing was wrong, the person Gu San was talking about was Guan Yan. She was considered a subordinate who was close to Qiao Nian.

However, from their interactions, they did not seem to have a superior-subordinate relationship. They were more like friends. This also suited Qiao Nian's lazy personality!

"As for Miss Qiao..." Gu San thought for a moment before looking up and saying with a serious expression, "Miss Qiao only told me that she was going out. She didn't say who she was going to meet. I think she's going to see a friend, right? She said that she's coming back for dinner."

Ye Wangchuan stood up and picked up his car keys, looking like he was about to go out.

Gu San quickly took off his apron and followed. "Master Wang, where are you going? I'll drive."

"Mm."

Ye Wangchuan threw the keys to him. He had a noble and elegant aura around him, making it difficult to associate with being down-to-earth. "To the mall."

Gu San took the car keys and walked to the entrance, thoughtfully picking up the man's jacket. Hearing this, he thought that he was going to buy something.

Unexpectedly, before he could ask, the man met his gaze, raised his eyebrows slightly, and looked at him with his beautiful eyes, then said very naturally, "To buy groceries."

"She's been too tired recently. We'll stew chicken soup tonight."

Gu San immediately understood who he was talking about. He drove with a sad expression after being stuffed with dog food.

...

In a restaurant in the city center.

Qiao Nian arrived at 2:40 PM.

"Miss, do you have a reservation?" a waiter politely asked.

Qiao Nian pressed her baseball cap and showed her her cell phone. "Do you recognize this number? Check if this person has made a reservation."

"Okay." The waiter took out a tablet and checked their reservations for the day.

In less than two minutes, he put away the tablet and respectfully made way for the girl. "Miss, please follow me."

He led Qiao Nian to a seat by the window and then left.

Qiao Nian sat down and ordered a cup of floral tea. Then, she waited for the other party. Looking at the time, she took out her phone and started a game.

Her gaming friends were unusually quiet today. Qin Si, who was always online, was not around. Only Tang Ning was online.

Qiao Nian had just come online and had yet to turn invisible when Tang Ning sent her a team invitation.

[Miss Qiao, do you want to play a round?]

Chapter 2450 Qiao Nian, We Don't Have a Conflict of Interest

Qiao Nian wasn't too familiar with her, but they weren't exactly strangers. She lowered her eyes and nodded in agreement.

She was pulled into a group.

Tang Ning had set up a three-person game.

There were two of them, so Tang Ning pulled in another friend and introduced him to her.

Qiao Nian was outside, so she typed a message saying that it was not convenient for her to turn on the voice chat.

Tang Ning had been around Zhang Yang for a long time and had learned most of his characteristics. She immediately said that it was fine and they could play this round.

Seeing that she didn't mind, Qiao Nian continued to play with them. The game was over.

Qiao Nian looked at the time. It was exactly 3:00 PM. She informed Tang Ning she was leaving and then went offline.

She placed her phone on the table and picked up the glass of tea with her cold white hand. After taking a sip, she looked up and saw a familiar figure walking into the restaurant.

"Qiao Nian, long time no see."

Ji Ziyin was wearing a light yellow dress today, looking dignified and capable. She looked good, much better than when she was down and out.

Confidence filled her eyes. She pulled out a chair and sat down, then called the waiter and ordered a cup of coffee.

Then, she placed her handbag beside her and took the initiative to say, "I didn't expect you to be here so early."

However, Qiao Nian had already stood up and said impatiently, "Oh, I wouldn't have come if I knew it was you."

"Take your time."

She was about to leave.

Ji Ziyin's expression changed slightly and she tried to stop her. "Qiao Nian, I have something to talk to you about."

"I'm not free." Not giving her face, the girl picked up her shoulder bag and was about to leave.

Ji Ziyin could not hold it in anymore. Not caring about her image, she stood in front of the girl, restrained her arrogance, and pursed her lips. "I'm serious. Qiao Nian, I hope we can cooperate and succeed together!"

The girl stuffed her hands into her pockets and narrowed her eyes as if she were amused. There was a rare lack of sharpness in her eyes.

Ji Ziyin heaved a sigh of relief and her expression softened. She smiled. "I have a laboratory now. I hope you can join us. The condition is that you help me complete a few projects. Of course, there are benefits..."

"What are the benefits?" Qiao Nian could roughly guess what the benefits were.

Ji Ziyin narrowed her eyes confidently. "I can introduce you to someone from the reclusive families."

As expected...

Qiao Nian was not surprised. She turned to leave.

Ji Ziyin did not expect her to be indifferent even when the reclusive families were brought up.

She didn't know if Qiao Nian was pretending not to care or if she really didn't care. Taking a step forward and standing in front of the girl again, she gritted her teeth and bluntly said, "Martin, who is on good terms with the dean, has been recalled...

Now, the reclusive families' outside matters are under Elder Yu's control. You won't be able to meet him if not through me!"

Qiao Nian clicked her tongue and raised her eyebrows. "I won't be able to meet him if I don't go through you?"

Ji Ziyin ignored her and continued, "You should have heard about the reclusive families' strength from the dean. In the future, the research institute will also have to rely on their support... It's good for you to build a good relationship with Elder Yu now.

"I hope we can work together.

"Aren't you unwilling to return to the Ji family? I want them and you want the research institute. We don't have a conflict of interest. There's no need to treat each other as enemies."

Her words were reasonable and every sentence was filled with temptation.

It seemed like she had thought about it for a long time before coming to her.