Pill Maker 1861

Chapter 1861 - 1861 More Complications to Arise

1861 More Complications to Arise

Eldest Elder was still flipping through the contract. The more he got to the back, the more he was awestricken.

He hastily closed the contract, leaned against the conference table, and clenched his fists tightly. He almost could not believe his eyes.

They deliberately made Miss Huo draw the Sangry Town assignment since it had a complicated political scene. They were certain she would never be able to accomplish her task in the short term.

Unexpectedly, Huo Yao not only succeeded in signing the contract, but she also managed to get more projects from them. It seemed as though they were giving them extra business for nothing.

Eldest Elder did not understand what could have gone wrong. He could faintly sense things going out of his control.

When Huo Qing noticed Eldest Elder's reaction, he could not help taking the contract from Eldest Elder to read it swiftly.

"This contract..." Huo Qing's eyes were filled with disbelief as well. When he got to the stamp and signature on the last page, he wanted to claim it was fake, but he was unable to speak.

"Third Councilor, anything wrong with the contract?" asked Xie with a mock look of surprise.

Huo Qing's face turned stiff. Then, he put down the contract. "Everything seems fine."

"I'm glad it's fine." Xie heaved a sigh of relief. "I thought there was a problem for a moment there."

Huo Qing, "..."

The atmosphere in the meeting room became increasingly intense.

Xue looked up and walked back beside Huo Changfeng without saying anything.

Eldest Elder gathered his thoughts. Then, he told the secretary to calculate Huo Yao's points using the formula.

Two minutes later, Eldest Elder took out the results he had calculated and looked at them solemnly.

Huo Yao's results were nearly 1000 points more than the other candidates.

The difference in scores was the outcome of the additional projects inside the contract.

Without the extra scores, Huo Yao and Huo Wanying would only have the same results.

Eldest Elder raised his head and said calmly, "Based on the combined results for the first and second rounds of testing, the top three candidates are, Miss Huo, Miss Wanying, and Young Master Yulin. The heir will be selected from among them."

He paused briefly and raised his hand gesturing for pen and paper to be given out.

Eldest Elder glanced at everyone present before he said, "Your votes will affect the future development of the clan, so I hope everyone will vote wisely."

Although his words sounded official and normal, he was clearly warning everyone.

After all, no one knew if Master Jinfeng was dead or alive and the elders currently held all the power in the clan. The future heir had already been decided.

Even if Miss Huo was good, she could only count herself unlucky for not having a strong backer.

Lots of people took pen and paper and started writing down their votes.

At this moment, some noise could be heard at the conference room door.

The administrative office manager anxiously opened the door.

Eldest Elder frowned and reprimanded him sternly, "Get out. Don't you know we're in a meeting?"

The administrative manager cringed slightly but did not back off. Instead, he put on a bold front and said, "A few important guests have shown up downstairs."

"No matter who they are, we can't see them now." Eldest Elder was very annoyed by the interruption.

Huo Changfeng had already shown up unexpectedly, so he did not want more complications to arise.

Chapter 1862 - 1862 Tokens Representing Power

1862 Tokens Representing Power

The administrative manager shook his head and hurriedly explained, "No. The guests are not here to see you. They wanted to send their tokens over."

Eldest Elder finally noticed the things in the administrative manager's hands, but he remained annoyed. "If you're here just to send something, do you have to overreact? Don't you think it's inappropriate?"

The administrative manager felt indignant. He glanced at Huo Yulin and replied, "They asked me to bring the tokens up and pass them to Young Master Yulin immediately."

If not for the powers those people downstairs represented, he would never have interrupted the meeting rudely.

When Huo Yulin heard his name, he automatically raised his head and looked over.

Were they looking for him?

Eldest Elder could sense his eyelids twitch. He glanced at the things in the administrative manager's hands. For some reason, an ominous feeling rose in his heart as he said, "The meeting will end in ten minutes, so just wait..."

"Bring them in."

Before Eldest Elder could finish his sentence, Huo Changfeng interrupted.

He veered his head slightly and Xie quickly strode over to invite the administrative manager inside.

Eldest Elder promptly looked angry. "Huo Changfeng are you doing this hoping to interrupt the voting process?"

Huo Changfeng smiled ambiguously as he spoke unhurriedly. "Of course not. This is just going to take a minute, so it won't hold us up."

Eldest Elder clutched the edge of the conference table and did not know what to say for a moment.

Owing to this little episode, everyone put down their pens and looked at the objects in the administrative manager's hands out of curiosity.

All of them wanted to know more about the tokens. Why did they have to be sent urgently?

The administrative manager inhaled deeply and placed the tokens on the table without the slightest hesitation.

The first token was hexagonal in shape. It was dark with a gold border and an open bow at the center looking very regal.

"It's the crown prince's token!" Someone already recognized it.

"In the entire royal family, only the heir to the crown has this token. Also, only three pieces are available. Young Master Yulin..."

Everyone was already very shocked. When the second token got placed on the table, everyone's expressions promptly cracked.

Everyone present recognized the token since it was very notable.

It was from the Weapons Bureau.

Everyone was stunned.

The third token was water-drop shaped and looked exquisite. It was impossible to tell what material it was made of. The token looked like there was something inside as the cloud pattern came to life.

The moment Eldest Elder saw the third token, he could no longer keep his composure.

Someone could not help exclaiming, "Isn't this... isn't this Cloud Realm's token?"

Although most people knew nothing about Cloud Realm's token, it did not mean no one in the Huo family recognized it.

"Are you talking about the power with a global presence who controls the dark web?"

"That's the one! No one can forge this water-shaped logo."

Seeing the token representing the crown prince was already shocking enough, but seeing the tokens belonging to the Weapons Bureau and Cloud Realm was simply mind-blowing!

All these tokens were intended for Young Master Yulin... The way they looked at Huo Yulin promptly changed.

Huo Yulin was still at a loss seeing everything unfold before him.

Chapter 1863 - 1863 An Incident

1863 An Incident

Huo Yulin looked at the three tokens sitting on the table. After some time, he suddenly said, "Hang on. Are you sure these were intended for me and not my little sister?"

The crown prince and Cloud Realm's tokens aside, it made no sense for the stupid man, Min Yu, to send his token as well, right?

Huo Yulin looked puzzled and wondered if there was some kind of mistake.

"They just said to hand them to you and did not mention Miss Huo," replied the administrative manager.

Hearing this, Huo Yulin turned his eyes to the table again.

Just anyone of these powers was extraordinary in their own right, but all three tokens were before him. These three tokens meant he could get away with anything in Country M from now on.

Huo Yulin suddenly sensed his eyelids jumping and he was overwhelmed by an ominous sensation.

At this moment, Huo Changfeng's mild tone could be heard. "Enough. Let's continue voting."

Huo Changfeng leaned into the seat backrest nonchalantly, rapping the table casually. He glanced at Eldest Elder with an ambiguous look on his face as he said, "Eldest Elder was right about one thing. Your votes will directly affect the future of the clan. Please consider carefully before writing your votes."

If he brought this up before the tokens were sent, no one would think anything of his words. At this moment, those who promised to vote for Huo Wanying could not help feeling swayed.

Eldest Elder and Huo Qing undoubtedly had high status within the clan, but in comparison to Young Master Yulin who now had the backing of the three major powers in the country, it was clearly like pitting ants against elephants.

Even without thinking, everyone could tell who would bring the clan a brighter future.

Moreover, Huo Changfeng was Master Jinfeng's closest aide. Even though Master Jinfeng was rumored to be in a life-threatening condition, Huo Changfeng did not seem sad about it at all.

People could not help having second thoughts

The people present were able to hold powerful positions in the clan because they were flexible and could size up the situation quickly.

Eldest Elder and Huo Qing's faces turned dark seeing everyone's reaction.

The two of them looked into each other's eyes, gave a signal to each other, and came to a decision.

"Very well. From the looks of it, everyone prefers talking with power." Eldest Elder raised his hands and clapped.

In an instant, dozens of gun-wielding men swarmed into the room and surrounded everyone sitting at the conference table.

The black gun muzzles looked cold and ruthless.

"I think it's time to change the rules in the family." Eldest Elder glanced at everyone. "Why don't we change the leader today? What do you think?"

They had already come up with this backup plan in case anything unexpected happened.

After all, they had planned this for years, so they could not lose just because of three tokens. If anyone was unhappy with the outcome in the future, it was still a family matter and had nothing to do with outsiders.

Otherwise... A sinister look swept across Eldest Elder's eyes. If they let Huo Yulin become the next heir, they would never be able to make a comeback.

"Does this mean Eldest Elder wants to make an open rebellion?" Huo Changfeng remained calm. Even though there was a gun trained on the back of his head, he remained cool.

Chapter 1864 - 1864 Change the Clan Leader

1864 Change the Clan Leader

Eldest Elder looked at Huo Changfeng without taking Huo Changfeng's calmness to heart. Instead, he laughed softly and said, "You're making it sound so serious. We can't go a day without a leader after all. Don't you think?"

Huo Changfeng nodded. "You didn't have to be so tactful about replacing Master Jinfeng as clan leader."

"Since you want to misunderstand my intentions, I don't see a need to explain." Eldest Elder was unafraid about going against Huo Changfeng.

He was unafraid about bringing guns to the meeting, so he naturally did not care what Huo Changfeng had to say.

For time immemorial, whenever dynasties changed hands, heads would roll.

Eldest Elder pursed his lips and said, "Do you really think we know nothing about Master Jinfeng's condition?"

Huo Changfeng narrowed his eyes. "Are you saying you have intel about it?"

"The clan leader has become a vegetable. When word gets out, not only will we have family rife on our hands, but the powers in Country M will also move in on us." Eldest Elder laughed coldly.

He had agents working at the hospital and working for Huo Changfeng, so he had a complete grasp of Huo Jinfeng's condition.

Huo Jinfeng was never going to wake up again. Why should they allow the rest of the clan to be placed at risk?

The moment Eldest Elder finished his sentence, the news came as a bomb.

The word "vegetable" seemed to sound more astonishing than the guns trained on their heads.

This was not a simple matter of voting for the new heir. Instead, they were going to change the clan leader entirely.

As thoughts ran through everyone's minds, Huo Changfeng sighed softly. "Are you so sure Master Jinfeng is now a vegetable?"

Eldest Elder looked at Huo Changfeng. Before he was able to think deeply about those words, the sound of powerful footsteps walking on marble could be heard approaching.

He hastily raised his head and Master Jinfeng dressed in a black coat came into sight.

He looked stern and gave off an imposing aura.

Eldest Elder's eyes constricted. Huo Jinfeng was supposed to be a vegetable, so no one expected him to show up here.

As Huo Jinfeng approached, Eldest Elder's gunmen instinctively gave way and stepped aside.

Eldest Elder and Huo Qing were still overwhelmed with shock, so they were unable to notice this.

Huo Jinfeng glanced at Eldest Elder viciously. "Do you want to be clan leader?"

Eldest Elder felt tense and automatically wanted to explain. When he saw his men armed with weapons from the corner of his eye, he forcibly swallowed the words at the tip of his tongue.

"After all these years, it's time for you to retire."

Eldest Elder gritted his teeth, looked up, and looked straight into Huo Jinfeng's eyes.

They had already drawn their swords, so it was useless to explain. Moreover, considering Huo Jinfeng's cold temperament, would he forgive traitors?

Rather than being obedient, it was far better to take risks.

He had already changed all the men in the union to his own. What did he have to be afraid of?

Eldest Elder composed himself and glanced at Huo Qing.

Huo Qing was a lot calmer than Eldest Elder, so he was only briefly distracted for a few seconds when Master Jinfeng entered the room.

He was thinking the same thing as Eldest Elder. The moment he caught Eldest Elder's hint, he slowly stood up and turned to Huo Wanying. "We have supported you for a long time, so it's time you prove your worth."

They had gone too far for them to turn back. If they did not remove Huo Jinfeng as clan leader today, none of them would be allowed to live.

Huo Wanying was already one of the candidates to be the heir. Naturally, it would sound more legitimate for her to take over as the new clan leader. They could always make some excuse to have her removed in the future. No one would dare to cause any trouble then.

Chapter 1865 - 1865 A Turn of Events

1865 A Turn of Events

Huo Wanying sat in her seat without moving. After everyone turned to look at her, she finally stood up slowly.

She did not answer Huo Qing. Instead, she turned to face Huo Jinfeng.

Huo Wanying composed herself and nodded to Huo Jinfeng reverently. "Master Jinfeng."

Something changed in Huo Qing's expression upon hearing the greeting. Before he was able to fully comprehend the meaning behind it, Huo Wanying walked up to the main seat at the conference table and pulled out the chair respectfully.

Huo Jinfeng sat down on the main seat. Huo Wanying did not return to her seat. Instead, she stood beside Huo Jinfeng with her back straight.

This was a very familiar sight. It looked exactly like the way Huo Wanying used to stand beside him when they talked about work.

Huo Qing and Eldest Elder felt nervous seeing this.

"Wanying, what are you doing?" asked Huo Qing sternly after gathering his thoughts.

Huo Wanying raised her head slightly and looked straight into Huo Qing's eyes calmly. She asked rhetorically, "Third Uncle, what do you think I'm doing?"

Huo Qing looked at Huo Wanying intently. At this moment, he suddenly realized he did not truly know her. She used to be a proud woman, but even that was an act.

The Huo Wanying before him was her true self.

After Huo Qing caught on to her pretense, a scary notion emerged in his mind. "You've been pretending all this time. All along, you've been working for Master Jinfeng."

Huo Wanying pursed her lips. "Even if I'm just acting, I'm not as good at it as you. Otherwise, my father would never have died tragically."

Although her voice was soft, it was filled with hate.

The moment Huo Wanying mentioned her father, an awkward look emerged in Huo Qing and Eldest Elder's eyes.

"Do you know the pain I suffered watching my closest kin die?" Huo Wanying spoke without the slightest warmth in her voice. She had been concealing her pain and hate for over a decade, but she could sense it bursting out of her body uncontrollably.

Huo Qing could sense her immense revulsion, so he did not bother acting anymore. He laughed coldly. "Your father only has himself to blame for being blindly loyal. From the looks of it, like father like daughter. Since you have no intention of dropping it, then it's time for you to meet him in hell." Saying this, Huo Qing raised his hand and gestured at his armed subordinate standing closest to Huo Wanying.

Although his subordinate was armed with a gun, he did not move at all.

Huo Qing's eyes constricted. At this moment, the uneasiness he tried to disregard magnified until Huo Wanying spoke.

"I'm sorry that you're going to be left disappointed." Huo Wanying laughed gently in a mocking tone. "Now that you mention it, I should really thank you for the support. Otherwise, things would not have ended so quickly."

She veered her head. In an instant, the guns trained on the top brass in the room turned toward Huo Qing and Eldest Elder in unison.

The turn of events had happened so quickly that Huo Qing along with the other top brass in the room were unable to catch on.

Before long, Huo Qing and Eldest Elder were apprehended and their weapons were taken from them.

Huo Changfeng looked at Huo Qing as though he was some kind of idiot. "Are you so sure they are really your men?"

"What are you trying to say?" Huo Qing looked at Huo Changfeng with anxiety in his eyes.

Huo Changfeng smiled ambiguously and simply said, "The disciplinary committee can tell you more."

Saying this, he raised his hand and got his men to take Huo Qing and Eldest Elder away.

Before long, the conference room reverted to silence.

Huo Jinfeng sat on the main seat looking formidable as usual. He glanced mildly at the top brass in the room and spoke in an incredibly serious tone, "I agree that it's time for me to retire."

The people in the room had only just relaxed slightly. The moment they heard what he said, they felt tense again. They were unsure if Huo Jinfeng was testing them or something.

"I'm dropping out of the race to be the heir." Huo Wanying had sat back down in her seat. After saying this, she looked relieved.

Huo Jinfeng looked at her and frowned. "Why did you voluntarily pass it up?"

This did not seem like something she would do.

Huo Wanying smiled. This time, she did not call him Master Jinfeng. For the first time in public, she called him her uncle. "In reality, I've never wanted to be the clan leader."

She wanted to uproot Huo Qing and Eldest Elder's powers completely. Otherwise, she would not have agreed to take part in the test.

Huo Jinfeng knew Huo Wanying was not joking, so he eventually sighed softly. "I respect your decision."

Huo Wanying replied, "Thank you, Uncle."

Huo Jinfeng cleared his throat and said, "In that case, we will choose an heir between Yaoyao and..."

Before he was able to finish his sentence, Huo Changfeng, who was here on behalf of Huo Yao, interrupted him.

"Erm... Master Jinfeng, Miss Huo doesn't want to be the heir either. She wants me to tell you that she's dropping out of the race as well."

Huo Changfeng could sense he was standing on the tip of the blade and did not dare to make eye contact with Master Jinfeng the entire time. The moment he finished his sentence, he looked away.

Huo Jinfeng did not know what to say.

Was this position some kind of fire pit to them? Why didn't anyone want to take the job?

Huo Jinfeng promptly felt annoyed.

If people found out, they would probably die from laughing.

At this moment, Huo Yulin could no longer stay quiet. He stood up and made his intentions clear. "Eldest Uncle, I don't want to be clan leader..."

Huo Jinfeng's eyelids twitched before glaring at him immediately. "Shut your gap."

Huo Yulin was at a loss.

Chapter 1866 - 1866 Definitely Meteorite

1866 Definitely Meteorite

Huo Yulin felt like he was floating as he stepped out of the conference room.

The job unexpectedly fell into his lap.

Huo Yulin squeezed the three tokens inside his pocket. He paused briefly, took out his phone, and called Huo Yao.

After the call got through, it rang briefly and got cut off quickly.

Huo Yulin was stunned. He thought his little sister had unintentionally rejected the call, so he tried again.

In the end, it was the same and she rejected the call immediately. The third time he tried, all he got was a cold mechanical automated message saying the phone was out of the service area.

Huo Yulin went quiet.

**

Meanwhile, on the other end.

"Miss Huo, are you busy?" asked Rocco after seeing Huo Yao use the phone.

His face no longer looked pale and sickly. His face looked slightly more pink and healthier.

Huo Yao veered her eyes, raised her head, and smiled. "Nope."

She picked up the pen again and continued writing.

After listing 20 herbs, Huo Yao raised her head and handed the prescription to the bodyguard. "Take this prescription for two more months and you'll recover fully."

The moment Rocco heard the words "recover fully", a suppressed light swept across his eyes. After some time, he composed himself and asked, "Will I really..."

Huo Yao raised her brow. "If you watch your health, you can live for a few more decades."

Rocco leaned into the seat backrest and automatically clenched his fists. He did not know how to thank Huo Yao.

He turned to open the coffee table drawer and retrieved a check he had prepared in advance.

He handed it to Huo Yao, but she did not accept it. She simply stood up and nodded. "Your Highness, you already did me a huge favor today."

The token from the royal family was worth far more than the check. She naturally would not accept medical fees from him.

He was more than happy to align himself with the Huo family anyway.

Huo Yao nodded. "In that case, I won't hold Your Highness up any longer."

"Sure." Rocco sent men to walk Huo Yao out.

After she was gone, Rocco's face reverted to its usual coldness. He contemplated briefly before he took out his phone and made a call. "Continue to keep an eye on Fan Shun. Find out what he wants from Miss Huo."

**

On the way back to the Huo estate, Huo Yao received a call from Min Yu and went to his place instead.

"Did you say you already have the test results for the jade?" asked Huo Yao as she entered the hall.

Min Yu went out recently and only just got back. He still looked a little tired now. He nodded. "Uh huh."

He looked at the black box sitting on the coffee table and said, "It's genuinely a piece of meteorite. Also, it contains a lot of energy. It's probably the main source of power for the floating underground palace. However, they were unable to confirm its composition."

If they wanted to test the jade further, they would have to break it. Min Yu did not do this knowing it was linked to Huo Yao's white jade.

Huo Yao looked in the same direction as Min Yu at the black box.

She did not know what the box was made of, but it gave off a cool aura.

"The energy coming from the meteorite might cause fluctuations in its surrounding magnetic fields, so I got someone to make a box to help block it last minute," explained Min Yu.

Chapter 1867 - 1867 Huo Yulin Settles the Score

1867 Huo Yulin Settles the Score

Huo Yao raised her brow. One word came across her mind. "Was it radiation?"

"Not really." Min Yu narrowed his eyes. He spoke softly with a light in his eyes, "Unless you consider hallucinations radiation..."

Huo Yao did not catch his last sentence clearly, so she veered her head. "Huh? What did you say?"

Min Yu simply smiled. He turned to hold Huo Yao's hand and pulled her to sit down beside him. Then, he lay down with his head on her lap.

"I didn't get any rest in a couple of days," said Min Yu, leaning against Huo Yao.

Huo Yao lowered her eyes, looked at his brows for a couple of seconds, and pulled her hand back from his.

The moment she moved, Min Yu opened his eyes again. His deep eyes looked tired and blurry.

Huo Yao curled her fingers slightly. A second later, her hands landed on his temples. As she rubbed them gently, she said calmly, "You have a lot of things on your mind."

Min Yu smiled and spoke in a languid tone, "With my girlfriend around, she can alleviate all things weighing on my mind."

Huo Yao glanced at him without any intention to continue with the subject.

Min Yu smiled as he enjoyed his girlfriend's uncharacteristic gentleness.

The hall became very quiet.

After some time, Huo Yao stopped massaging his temples. The breathing of the man lying on her lap sounded steady and the frown on his brow seemed to disappear slightly.

Huo Yao's eyes landed on the black box as she pondered.

**

When they got back to the Huo estate, it was already evening time.

The old butler opened the door for Huo Yao. Since he had received happy news, he was smiling. "Miss Huo, welcome back."

Saying this, he handed Huo Yao a pair of fresh slippers.

He finally noticed the black box in her hands, but could not tell what it contained.

The old butler did not probe and simply said, "Oh yes. Master Jinfeng is back as well."

Inside the hall, Huo Yulin was chatting with Shangguan Tong. When he spotted Huo Yao, he stopped. Since he knew nothing about Huo Yao and Shangguan Tong's relationship, he stood up and introduced Huo Yao. "Aunt Tong, this is my little sister, Huo Yao." Huo Yulin raised his head and said, "Yaoyao, this is Aunt Tong. She's Eldest Uncle's..."

"Uh huh. I know, she's our eldest aunt." Huo Yao nodded and spoke casually.

The moment Shangguan Tong heard the salutation, her creaseless face promptly looked uneasy.

Huo Yulin was a little surprised. His little sister looked very calm as though she already knew Shangguan Tong. After some time, he suddenly asked, "Did you already know Eldest Uncle has woken up? Have you already met Aunt Tong as well?"

"Uh huh." Huo Yao responded honestly. Something crossed her mind, so she retrieved her phone from her pocket, tapped on it gently, and put it away.

Huo Yulin did not know what to say.

Did everyone already know the truth? Was he the only person kept in the dark?

When he saw Huo Yao using the phone, he was reminded of something. Huo Yulin had tried calling her a million times today but to no avail. He spoke in annoyance, "Did you blacklist my number?"

"Nope." Huo Yao shook her head. She defended herself with a straight face. "You know how longdistance calls are. Sometimes, they can get rather glitchy, don't they?"

Huo Yulin went quiet.

How could he believe her?

Huo Yulin did not expose his little sister for making excuses. He simply said, "What about the three tokens? Don't you dare say that you had nothing to do with them? I know it was you."

Huo Yao raised her brow. Huo Yulin wanted answers and there was no stopping him.

Chapter 1868 - 1868 A Random Excuse

1868 A Random Excuse

Huo Yao contemplated and said, "Consider it your birthday present."

Huo Yulin's lips twitched. Even though the tokens meant a lot and he ought to be happy...

"My birthday is in October."

It was still May.

Huo Yulin looked at her grudgingly.

Moreover, why would she give him a birthday present during the voting process?

She was clearly making a random excuse!

Huo Yao went quiet for a couple of seconds. She looked at him quietly and spoke in a soft patronizing tone, "Why don't you just treat it as an early present?"

This way, she could save on his birthday present this year.

Huo Yulin went speechless.

Huo Yao looked away and continued, "I'm going upstairs to see Eldest Uncle."

She rubbed the black box in her arm slightly and glanced at Shangguan Tong.

After making eye contact for a couple of seconds, Shangguan Tong stood up. "Your uncle's medicine is probably ready. Let me go fetch it."

Huo Yao nodded and acknowledged softly.

Before long, the two of them went upstairs.

Huo Yulin did not follow them upstairs. As he watched the two of them from behind, a strange notion emerged in his mind.

Why did he have a feeling that Yaoyao and Aunt Tong knew each other from ages ago?

Huo Yulin felt puzzled.

*

Huo Yao went upstairs with Shangguan Tong. They seemed to have a strong mutual understanding. They did not go to Huo Jinfeng's room right away. Instead, they went to the glass room on the balcony.

Shangguan Tong placed the glass porcelain cup on the tea table. The strong scent of Chinese herbs could be smelled inside the glass room. She looked at Huo Yao and waited for her to speak.

Huo Yao handed the box to Shangguan Tong.

"What's this?" The moment Shangguan Tong took the black box, she could sense coldness coming from the unusual material it was made of.

Before long, she opened the box. When she saw the black jade inside the box, she hastily raised her head with a look of astonishment on her face. "Where did you find the black jade?"

She had secretly searched for the black jade and even tried Mirage Base but to no avail.

She did not expect the lass to find it so quickly.

Huo Yao looked at Aunt Tong and reached her hand out to close the black box and replied, "I found the jade at the floating underground palace."

Shangguan Tong was stunned. "Floating underground palace?"

"Uh huh." Huo Yao nodded. She paused briefly before taking out her phone and swiping down to the picture she had taken at the underground palace. "Take a look at this picture."

Shangguan Tong took the phone. When she saw the familiar pattern, her eyes constricted and something changed about the expression on her face.

Huo Yao caught Aunt Tong's reaction. After some time, she said quizzically, "This pattern seems to resemble the ones in the clan's restricted area."

Shangguan Tong gathered her thoughts and handed the phone back to Huo Yao. "Have you gone into the restricted area before?"

"I accidentally went inside before," Huo Yao spoke softly.

Shangguan Tong nodded. "You're right. This pattern is the same as the ones in the restricted area. Where is the underground palace located?"

Huo Yao gave her the underground palace's location and said, "It has already sunken."

"Sunken?" Shangguan Tong was astonished by the news.

"Uh huh. After I retrieved the jade, it sank." Huo Yao narrowed her eyes. She suddenly thought about the dark silhouette she had encountered inside the underground palace.

Chapter 1869 - 1869 Someone Has Their Eyes on Us

1869 Someone Has Their Eyes on Us

Huo Yao was unsure if the dark silhouette had slipped into the underground palace using the archaeological team as a cover or if he was already inside.

However, the man was undoubtedly well-versed in geomancy and formations.

Huo Yao gathered her thoughts, looked out the glass window, and veered her eyes. She looked at Shangguan Tong and said, "Someone leaked the news that the jade was inside the underground palace."

At that time, she had asked Cloud Realm to investigate the matter. Unexpectedly, they received definitive intel about the jade the next day. It felt as though people already knew she needed intel about the jade.

When she took the jade from the underground palace, in hindsight, things went so smoothly that it felt very unusual.

Since it was abnormal, there must be more to this.

"Aunt Tong, someone has their eyes on us," Huo Yao said.

Her voice was very soft. Inside the glass room, the atmosphere felt exceptionally quiet.

Shangguan Tong looked into Huo Yao's eyes. Her eyes looked deep, unsullied and there was also a light in them.

It was the kind of light that would only appear because she had unfinished business.

Shangguan Tong suddenly tightened her grip on the black box. In a split second, many thoughts ran through her mind, but she did not show it on her face. Instead, she said calmly, "Why don't you let me have the jade?"

Shangguan Tong paused and added, "Along with the piece of white jade."

"The white jade isn't with me for now. Why do you want it anyway?" asked Huo Yao, veering her head.

"I just need them." Shangguan Tong did not say more. She simply picked up the Chinese medicine on the tea table. "The medicine is turning cold. Let me send it to your eldest uncle first."

Saying this, she walked out of the glass room without waiting for Huo Yao to speak.

She gradually walked away and disappeared at the turn. After she was gone, Huo Yao finally veered her eyes.

At this moment, her phone rang.

Huo Yao took out her phone to check it. It was a text message from Cool Autumn.

**

Meanwhile, at Mirage Base.

Ever since the mountain gate got blown up, they spent several days clearing the rubble and reverting it to its previous condition.

The base network and security also reverted to its previous state.

He looked annoyed learning of these major incidents, but he was not particularly angry.

He simply asked to see Shangguan Hou.

Shangguan Hou thought King would reprimand him, but did not expect him to ask about the key instead.

Shangguan Hou was unable to find the key, so he wanted to hide the truth from King. Unfortunately, King seemed to already know the truth. When they made eye contact, Shangguan Hou knew it was impossible to make excuses for it.

"The key is inside my bank safe deposit box. Do you want it now?" asked Shangguan Hou cautiously, looking at King.

King sat in the chair holding his hands dressed neatly. "Uh huh."

Shangguan Hou did not understand why he needed it. Before he left, he asked, "Why do you suddenly need it?"

King glanced at Shangguan Hou deeply. "To confirm something."

Shangguan Hou knew King would not tell him the truth, so he simply nodded. "In that case, I'll collect it now."

King waved his hand and closed his eyes to rest.

Before long, Shangguan Hou left the base.

He was the only person allowed access to the bank safe deposit box, so he could only go over personally.

The trip alone took nearly three hours. By the time he got back to the base, it was already nearly midnight.

King was still in the lounge sitting in the same spot. It seemed as though he did not get up the entire time.

Shangguan Hou immediately handed the box to King.

Chapter 1870 - 1870 Fake Jade

1870 Fake Jade

King opened the box and looked at it intently. Then, he reached his hand out to retrieve the jade pendant.

The white jade looked translucent under the light and did not contain the slightest impurity. Before long, he could feel the warm sensation coming from it.

Just based on the jade quality alone, it was undoubtedly high quality, but...

King placed the jade pendant back inside the box. He looked at Shangguan Hou deeply. "Are you sure this is the key that will activate the time travel tunnel?"

Shangguan Hou nodded with a firm look on his face. "I got this piece of jade from Shangguan Yu, so it must be legit."

He had the opportunity to get his hands on it after abducting Shangguan Yu's schoolmates.

Although things did not go as planned and he was unable to capture Shangguan Yu, he was still able to get the piece of jade. It was not an entire loss.

King could tell from the look on Shangguan Hou's face that he was not lying. He narrowed his eyes and simply said, "This jade looks no different from any other warm jade. What kind of special effect does it have?"

Shangguan Hou was not sure of the answer either. After some time, he replied, "To be honest, I have never seen the time travel tunnel either, so I don't know what this piece of jade can do."

King put down the box in his hands and spoke in an ambiguous tone, "Has it ever dawned on you that this might be fake?"

"Fake?" Shangguan Hou was stunned. After gathering his thoughts, he simply assumed that King thought he was patronizing him with a fake piece of jade. He quickly said, "I genuinely took this piece of jade from Shangguan Yu. It's legit."

"Even though you took it from her, it doesn't mean it's real," continued King with a mysterious look on her face.

Shangguan Hou was even more lost. "Why do you think this is fake?"

Didn't he know the Shangguan clan the best?

Why was King acting as though he knew more about the clan?

As these doubts emerged in Shangguan Hou's mind, he automatically glanced at King's face.

He could not detect anything amiss.

King did not take Shangguan Hou's looks to heart. He simply said, "The material seems ordinary. Also, judging from its texture, it doesn't seem very old. Instead, it looks pretty new."

Hearing this, Shangguan Hou took a couple of steps forward, picked up the jade again, and scrutinized it.

Before long, he also noticed something wrong with the jade.

This piece of jade genuinely did not look very old.

Shangguan Hou's face instantly looked angry. His suspicion about King promptly dissipated. "This jade... I was careless."

Also, he should not have managed to steal it from her so easily.

Damn it!

Shangguan Hou tightened his fists as a vicious aura emanated from him.

King glanced at him. "Shangguan Yu isn't stupid. I would be more surprised if you could take something from her."

Shangguan Hou was overwhelmed with fury, so he failed to pay attention to King. He simply gnashed his teeth and said, "Don't worry. She can't escape me anymore."

His little pet loved Shangguan Yu's scent. No matter how far, he could find her.

"It's not a big problem." King looked particularly calm. A thought swept through his mind before he said, "Perhaps it's time we pay a visit to the Shangguan clan."

Shangguan Hou hastily raised his head.

King spoke softly, "After all, I've been waiting too long."

He did not want to wait anymore.

**

The next day, Huo Yao went out.

She had made plans to meet Cool Autumn.

When she got to the agreed location, he was already there.