

## Secret Love 2191

### Chapter 2191: Too calm

"It looks like you aren't planning to tell the truth." Ye Wanwan looked at Si Xia.

Si Xia smiled faintly at that. "Worriless Nie, do you really think you can rescue the people on this island? In reality... are you actually saving people or are you killing people?"

Before Ye Wanwan could respond, Si Xia's figure flickered and melded into the dark. He disappeared without a trace in the blink of an eye.

"Worriless... What just happened?"

Haitang asked Ye Wanwan after Si Xia left.

Ye Wanwan seemed to be familiar with the President of the Martial Arts Union.

Ye Wanwan shook her head. This matter was too complicated and couldn't be explained in a few words.

"We need to find Si Xia," Ye Wanwan said.

"Alright," Haitang agreed.

Ye Wanwan and Haitang immediately combed the perimeters of the island in search of Si Xia.

However, this island was too large, and they were unable to find Si Xia.

"Haitang, keep this matter a secret for now so we don't affect everyone's morale," Ye Wanwan instructed Haitang before they parted ways.

If everyone knew the President of the Martial Arts Union was on the island and knew they were about to escape the island...

"I understand." Haitang nodded.

...

The next morning, Ye Wanwan sought out Si Yehan and told him everything that happened last night with Si Xia.

When Si Yehan heard the story, he didn't appear very surprised.

"Ah-Jiu, don't tell me you knew Si Xia was the President of the Martial Arts Union a long time ago." Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows.

The man shook his head. "I didn't."

"..."? *Why are you so calm if you didn't know then?! That's your real nephew!*

"I already told you back in China to not trust him." Si Yehan looked at her.

"What do you know?" Ye Wanwan asked curiously.

"I once looked into him," Si Yehan answered after a moment of thought. "He frequently enters and leaves the Independent State, but I was unable to discover his true identity despite the resources at my disposal."

Si Yehan was suspicious of and took precautions against Si Xia long ago, so he wasn't surprised after learning that Si Xia was the President of the Martial Arts Union.

Moreover, Si Yehan was well aware of how Si Bayi brought Si Xia back to the Independent State years ago and used Si Xia as a bargaining chip to return to the ancient Si clan, but Si Xia didn't pass the exams.

Si Yehan never cared about Si Bayi, but his nephew, Si Xia, concealed himself very deeply.

"What should we do now? Si Xia knows about our plan, so..." Ye Wanwan was somewhat concerned.

Si Yehan wasn't worried about this though and replied, "This island masks all signals completely, and all communication devices are nulled. It takes two days to return to the Independent State from this island, so even if Si Xia knows about our plan and wants to stop it, he can't do it in time."

Only then were Ye Wanwan's worries assuaged.

...

Soon, three days had passed.

Ye Wanwan and many leaders acted according to the plan and lit the entire island on fire. It wasn't long before heavy smoke enveloped the island.

"Say, Bai Feng, you better not harm us. If a ship doesn't come, we'll all be suffocated to death."

### **Chapter 2192: Where's your brother?**

A leader looked at Ye Wanwan with great worry.

Ye Wanwan wasn't concerned though. She accepted the ship ticket money already, so how could there be no ship?

Not long after the island was set aflame, dozens of ships appeared in the sea.

Ships from Asura, the Fearless Alliance, and the Nie family thickly dotted the distance.

The guards the Martial Arts Union placed around the island were scattered within several rounds of attacks.

Although the Martial Arts Union didn't place many guards around the island, they weren't weak. However, they couldn't withstand the surprise attack from three strong groups and were completely overwhelmed in terms of numbers alone.

The process went smoother than Ye Wanwan expected.

Every prisoner on this island successfully boarded a ship and escaped from this island.

After returning to the Independent State, they didn't launch a crusade against the Martial Arts Union though. Everyone was unusually tacit in remaining quiet.

Even the Fearless Alliance didn't retaliate against the Martial Arts Union in any way and didn't interrogate them in any manner.

The return of the missing leaders evoked a major ripple in the Independent State and caused Ye Wanwan to become the most frequently discussed topic of every resident's conversation.

The nefarious President of the Fearless Alliance actually discovered where the leaders were imprisoned and rescued them! This was a hot topic!

As for the Martial Arts Union, they didn't respond in any way, as though they were ignorant of this matter.

For these returning leaders, their biggest priority was to rebuild their strength in the Independent State and recuperate for a while. No one was foolish enough to condemn the Martial Arts Union as soon as they escaped from the island.

Moreover, none of them had concrete evidence that proved it was the Martial Arts Union who imprisoned them.

...

After returning to the Independent State, Ye Wanwan rested for two days before visiting the Ling residence.

In the Ling residence living room:

An austere elderly man's gaze landed on Ye Wanwan, affection filling his eyes.

"Worriless, come to Grandpa."

The elderly man waved his hand at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan obediently nodded and sat down next to the elderly man.

This elderly man was the patriarch of the Ling family, Ling Shichang, and he was Ye Wanwan's grandfather.

"Worriless, is there any news of your parents?"

Ling Shichang asked Ye Wanwan after a long silence.

"No, Grandpa." Ye Wanwan shook her head.

The Nie family, Asura, and the Fearless Alliance had dispatched a lot of people to search for Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie, but they were still empty-handed.

Ye Wanwan previously thought Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie might've been captured to the island, but she didn't discover any traces of them after entering the island herself.

Hence, Ye Wanwan hypothesized that there was a great possibility her parents were in the hands of the Direct Line.

Of course, this was mere conjecture and wasn't proved.

"Then the Ling family will also join the search," Ling Shichang said after some time.

Ye Wanwan's eyes brightened.

The Ling family's intelligence network was immensely extraordinary. If the Ling family joined...

"Woriless, Grandpa has heard about what happened to you, including your time in China and Lord Asura." Ling Shichang abruptly changed the topic. "Grandpa missed you and your brother greatly these past years, but you should know about the situation with me and your parents..."

Ye Wanwan's eyes dimmed several degrees at the mention of Nameless Nie.

"Oh right, Woriless, where's your brother?"

### **Chapter 2193: The battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch**

Ling Shichang looked at Ye Wanwan and asked, "Grandpa... my brother, he recently accepted a mission and hasn't returned yet." Ye Wanwan forced a smile on her face.

Nameless Nie's matter wasn't publicized, and the Nie family locked down the information immediately, so even the Ling family was clueless.

"Alright. When your brother's back, have him come to the Ling residence too," Ling Shichang instructed.

"Okay." Ye Wanwan nodded.

"Oh right, what's the story behind the island? Who was the culprit?" Ling Shichang continued his line of inquiry.

Ye Wanwan mulled over it for a moment before deciding to tell Ling Shichang the whole story.

"It was the Martial Arts Union..."

Ling Shichang frowned upon learning the truth. "What you're saying is that the boy your grandfather rescued back then is the current president of the Martial Arts Union...?"

"Yes." Ye Wanwan nodded.

"I will thoroughly investigate this matter." Ling Shichang looked grim. "The Independent State might not be able to maintain its peace soon."

"Grandpa, what do you mean?" Ye Wanwan was surprised.

"While you were on the island, the Direct Line announced it'll start a war with the Independent State's Collateral Branch and it started to make allies with all the major factions in the Independent State," Ling Shichang replied.

The Direct Line announced it would start a war with the Independent State...

Ye Wanwan really didn't know about this matter.

"Oh right, Grandpa... How is the Collateral Branch differentiated from the Direct Line?" Ye Wanwan asked Ling Shichang.

"To put it plainly, the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line are the descendants of the seniors who first inhabited the Independent State. The major clans like the ancient Si clan and the ancient Jiang clan are considered the Collateral Branch. The Direct Line was once ancient clans from the Independent State, but after the great battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, the Direct Line was defeated and expelled from the Independent State by the Collateral Branch," Ling Shichang explained.

"Then are the four great clans considered the Direct Line or Collateral Branch?" Ye Wanwan inquired.

Ling Shichang smiled faintly. "Ah, Worryless, us four great clans are neither considered the Collateral Branch nor are we related to the Direct Line. It isn't just the four great clans—aside from the ancient clans, none of the factions in the Independent State are members of the Collateral Branch or the Direct Line."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Ye Wanwan finally obtained a rough understanding of the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line.

To put it plainly, this was completely a war between the ancient clans and didn't have anything to do with them.

Since it was unrelated to them, they could let them fight if they wanted. It wasn't like it would affect the rest of them. The worst scenario was the Collateral Branch being kicked out.

"Grandpa, since it doesn't have anything to do with us, why should we get involved?" Ye Wanwan asked in incomprehension.

"It does have something to do with us." Ling Shichang explained, "The Direct Line emphasizes governance while the Collateral Branch emphasizes balance. If the Independent State is controlled by the Direct Line, it wouldn't be a good thing."

"I see."

Realization dawned on Ye Wanwan after her grandfather's explanation.

After carefully thinking about it, the strongest factions in the Independent State were definitely the ancient clans right now.

However, as Ling Shichang said, the ancient clans emphasized balance, so they would never manage business between the other factions, let alone interfere or favor one side.

To put it precisely, the ancient clans were responsible for the rules and structure of the Independent State while the Martial Arts Union was responsible for executing those rules and structures. The other factions were just various residents.

“Grandpa, who do you think has a greater chance of winning in the battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch this time?” Ye Wanwan inquired.

#### **Chapter 2194: Your master’s story**

“The Direct Line,” Ling Shichang answered instantly without taking time to think.

“Is the Direct Line really that strong...? Why were they expelled from the Independent State by the Collateral Branch back then?” Ye Wanwan couldn’t understand.

“During the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch back then, luck actually factored into the Collateral Branch’s win. Furthermore, the Direct Line currently has a major helper—Piece of Sh\*t...” Ling Shichang said.

At the mention of Piece of Sh\*t, Ye Wanwan’s expression became surprised.

Indeed, Yi Shuihan appeared to have some deep enmity with those ancient clans.

“Grandpa, just what happened between Piece of Sh\*t, the Direct Line, and the Collateral Branch?” Ye Wanwan pressed.

“I’m not certain about that. Isn’t Tangtang Piece of Sh\*t’s disciple? You can ask Tangtang about this matter,” Ling Shichang suggested.

...

After eating lunch with Ling Shichang, Ye Wanwan returned to the Fearless Alliance headquarters.

In these past two days, Tangtang had been staying at the Fearless Alliance, so she could ask Tangtang.

Currently, inside Ye Wanwan’s office in the Fearless Alliance, Seven Star and Big Dipper were crowded around Wen Ziran and Big Dipper was especially overjoyed.

“Brother Ziran, you’re finally back! Without you, the Fearless Alliance was a tiger without its wings and a male eagle without its eyes...” Big Dipper rattled on.

Seven Star shot Big Dipper a look.

A male eagle without its eyes...

He was such a good conversationalist.

Wen Ziran merely smiled, showing no care regarding Big Dipper’s description.

“What are you all talking about?” Ye Wanwan asked as she pushed the door open and entered.

“Sis Feng, you’re back...” Visit website our Listnovel.com .They walked up to her immediately.

“Xiao Feng, while I was gone, you’ve taken good care of the Fearless Alliance,” Wen Ziran commented with a smile.

The old Fearless Alliance solely relied on these two pillars

One was President Fearless, Bai Feng, while the other person was Wen Ziran, and neither person was dispensable. Relying on those elders and hall masters was obviously improbable.

In the entire Fearless Alliance, only First Elder and Seven Star were on the normal side—an incontestable point.

Before Ye Wanwan could speak, Wen Ziran suddenly said, "People from the Direct Line came this morning."

"What?!" Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded.

People from the Direct Line visited the Fearless Alliance?

"That's right, Sis Feng, an old man came this morning. He was a member of the Direct Line. If I didn't see how old and infirmed he was, I would've kicked him to the ground," Big Dipper grumbled.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"Brother Ziran, why did members of the Direct Line visit the Fearless Alliance?" Ye Wanwan asked Wen Ziran.

"Since you weren't here, I didn't talk long with them and sent them away. They should be back again soon," Wen Ziran replied.

"Got it." Ye Wanwan nodded.

She was rather curious why members of the Direct Line came here.

After chatting with Wen Ziran and the other two, Ye Wanwan went to find Tangtang.

The Fearless Alliance's 13th Floor:

Tangtang was currently lying on Great White's stomach while Virus kept yawning with his head lowered on Tangtang's left.

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"Mommy."

The drowsy Tangtang was invigorated the second he saw Ye Wanwan entering the room.

"Tangtang, if you don't read more books, Mommy will send you to school," Ye Wanwan said to Tangtang.

"Tangtang has been reading," Tangtang objected.

"Tangtang, you definitely don't want to become uneducated like your Uncle Big Dipper when you grow up, right?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"..."

"Oh right, Tangtang... Mommy has a question for you." Ye Wanwan pulled Tangtang into her arms and sat down on the sofa.

“What is it, Mommy?” Tangtang asked curiously.

“Um, do you know the story with your master, Yi Shuihan?”

### **Chapter 2195: Interested in my story**

“Master’s story...”

Tangtang looked at Ye Wanwan in confusion. “What story about Master, Mommy?”

“Do you know why your master hates the members of the ancient clan so much?” Ye Wanwan inquired.

Although Ye Wanwan knew Yi Shuihan had a tremendous conflict with those ancient clans of the Independent State, she didn’t know about the origin of the conflict.

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Ye Wanwan didn’t think Yi Shuihan’s hatred against the ancient clans was that simple either.

The Independent State had five major ancient clans. They were the ancient Si clan, the ancient Yin clan, the ancient Huo clan, the ancient Jiang clan, and the ancient Ying clan.

Yi Shuihan didn’t hate a single specific ancient clan. He hated all of the ancient clans.

“Mommy, I know a little,” Tangtang responded after a moment of thought.

Ye Wanwan’s eyes brightened. She originally just wanted to give it a try and didn’t expect Tangtang to really have gossip to share.

“Tangtang, tell Mommy,” Ye Wanwan said happily.

“But... Mommy, Master doesn’t like other people knowing about his story,” Tangtang said.

“...” It appeared Yi Shuihan really had some sort of history behind him, and he didn’t want other people to know about it.

However, the more Tangtang acted like this, the more curious Ye Wanwan was.

“Tangtang, your master is right, you mustn’t tell other people. Otherwise, if your master finds out, he’ll definitely be unhappy...” Ye Wanwan paused and smiled at Tangtang. “But... that’s for other people. Is Mommy ‘other people’?”

“...”

“Fine.”

Tangtang finally nodded and spilled everything he knew to Ye Wanwan.

...

This story had to start from the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch.



Yi Shuihan's mother was originally a member of the Direct Line, but she was merely an ordinary woman and cut ties with the Direct Line when she was young, moving to live on the fringes of the Independent State.

After the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch erupted, it persisted for many years until the Direct Line was defeated and expelled from the Independent State by the Collateral Branch.

"If you wanted to hear my story, why didn't you ask me directly?"

As Ye Wanwan became entranced with the story, an aloof male voice came from behind her.

"D\*mn... You scared me to death!"

Ye Wanwan seriously jolted in fright when she saw Yi Shuihan entering suddenly, guilt crawling up on her.

"Master..." Tangtang called.

"Why are you here, Knight-errant..."

Ye Wanwan stared at the man before her, stunned.

"I came to see my disciple," Yi Shuihan replied.

"..."? *What good timing.*

"What? You seem very interested in my story?" Yi Shuihan asked her.

"No way! I was just curious about the relationship between you and the Direct Line, Knight-errant Yi, and why you hate the ancient clans so much..." Ye Wanwan answered with a smile.

The corners of Yi Shuihan's lips turned up with an inexplicable smile.

That was his origin...

The origin of everything...

...

Back then, he hadn't entered the Independent State yet and was living south of the Independent State.

He lived an ordinary life with his mother, depending on each other for survival.

Until one day.

That girl's appearance splashed strokes across his life.

Ye Wanwan keenly listened to Yi Shuihan's recount with relish. Having the protagonist himself tell the story added a better flavor to it.

"That girl... became your girlfriend?" Ye Wanwan asked Yi Shuihan.

**Chapter 2196: Private enmity**

“Mn.” Yi Shuihan nodded.

Ye Wanwan was brimming with curiosity about what that girl was like...

Moreover, right now, that girl didn't appear to be by Yi Shuihan's side anymore.

That girl later moved into Yi Shuihan's home and lived with Yi Shuihan and his mother.

For a whole half a year.

Until one day, Yi Shuihan went out. When he returned home, he saw his mother dead on the dining table, lethally poisoned, and the girl was lifelessly sitting on a stool.

Under Yi Shuihan's intense interrogation, the girl finally spoke the truth.

In truth, she had poisoned the food already, and this lethal poison was originally reserved for Yi Shuihan.

However, at the last moment, the girl hesitated and intended to throw away the poisoned dishes. Unfortunately... Yi Shuihan's mother coincidentally consumed the poisoned food and died.

Ye Wanwan couldn't help but shiver after hearing that. After carefully thinking about it, every time Yi Shuihan ate a meal, he needed to carefully examine the food, as though he was afraid of it being poisoned...

It turned out it was this incident that left behind an indelible shadow in Yi Shuihan's heart.

“What happened to that girl?”

Ye Wanwan stared at Yi Shuihan, wanting to know the ending.

“I killed her,” Yi Shuihan replied aloofly.

Ye Wanwan sank into contemplation. It'd be better if... she listened to these types of stories less often.

On second thought, Ye Wanwan realized something was amiss.

What did this have to do with Yi Shuihan antagonizing the Collateral Branch? Could it be that girl was a member of the Collateral Branch?

Later, Ye Wanwan learned that the girl really was a member of the Collateral Branch.

Back then, the Collateral Branch found out about Yi Shuihan and knew Yi Shuihan's mother belonged to the Direct Line. The Collateral Branch was worried Yi Shuihan would join the Direct Line's camp, so they picked a well-trained assassin from their elites, and that girl was the chosen assassin.

Ye Wanwan was rendered speechless by Yi Shuihan's recount. Wasn't this too melodramatic...?

“So don't you think those ancient clans... all deserve to die?” Yi Shuihan asked as he looked at her.

Ye Wanwan shook her head, dumbfounded. “Not necessarily...”

“Not necessarily?” Yi Shuihan frowned lightly.

“Hard to say...” Ye Wanwan rubbed her chin.

“Really can’t say...” Ye Wanwan sighed. How should she say this...

Although the Collateral Branch really was terrible based on Yi Shuihan’s narration and those ancient clans did deserve the hate...

But... Ye Wanwan realized a fact...

Her man, Si Yehan, was also a freaking member of the ancient clans!

So how should she respond? Should she tell Yi Shuihan, “The Collateral Branch deserves to die, and I’ll support you in your quest to eliminate those ancient clans”?

Wasn’t that a joke?!

In her mind, Ye Wanwan did disdain the ancient clan’s methods, but she couldn’t vocalize anything.

She really couldn’t find a single refutable reason regarding his desire to destroy those ancient clans.

Forget about Yi Shuihan. If Ye Wanwan was in his shoes, she would’ve probably done the exact same thing Yi Shuihan did.

“Aside from visiting Tangtang, I came here today to remind you: Don’t carelessly interfere in the business between the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line,” Yi Shuihan advised.

“You’re definitely going to take action, right?” Ye Wanwan asked with a frown.

“The battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch is unrelated to me. I merely have private grievances against those ancient clans,” Yi Shuihan replied indifferently.

### **Chapter 2197: The Direct Line pays a visit**

“Will there definitely be a battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch?” Ye Wanwan asked Yi Shuihan.

“That’s unrelated to me,” Yi Shuihan aloofly replied. “However, based on the current situation, a battle is unavoidable.”

Ye Wanwan sighed helplessly. It appeared the Independent State was about to bid peace farewell.

After Yi Shuihan left, Big Dipper opened the door and said, “Sis Feng, that old geezer is here again...”

“Which old geezer?” Ye Wanwan glanced at him.

“That old geezer from the Direct Line, the one who visited this morning,” Big Dipper explained.

“Alright, I’ll be right there.” Ye Wanwan nodded.

Ye Wanwan was very intrigued by the Direct Line’s sudden visit too. Just what was the Direct Line’s goal?

“Mommy, I also want to go,” Tangtang spoke up.

“Be good, Tangtang. Mommy is going to take care of business. Play together with Great White and Little Black. Mommy will be back soon.” Ye Wanwan smiled.

“Okay.” Tangtang was compliant and nodded.

A moment later, Ye Wanwan cleaned up a little and followed Big Dipper to the conference room.

Inside the conference room, an elderly man was dressed in a black shirt and black pants, looking very proper. He sat on one side with a cane in hand.

“This is the President of the Fearless Alliance, Bai Feng,” Big Dipper made introductions.

The elderly man nodded and scrutinized Ye Wanwan before using his cane to stand up. He greeted Ye Wanwan with a smile: “President Bai, it’s an honor to meet you at last.”

“No need for the formalities, elderly sir. May I ask what urgent matter you had for visiting our Fearless Alliance?” Ye Wanwan sat down and looked at the elderly man from the Direct Line, cutting straight to the point.

The elderly man smiled faintly. “President Bai is very straightforward, great. Then I won’t beat around the bush either. I came here today to ask President Bai to join the Direct Line’s camp.”

Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows at once. Visit website our Listnovel.com

She never anticipated the objective of this elderly man’s trip would be to rope her to their side.

However, on the other hand, Ye Wanwan understood.

There would definitely be a great battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, and there were many factions in the Independent State. Whether it was the Collateral Branch or the Direct Line, they probably wished to pull these neutral factions in the Independent State to their side. This way, they would have a greater chance when the battle came.

Upon seeing Ye Wanwan’s silence, the elderly man continued with a smile: “In reality, President Bai should know that our Direct Line is the legitimate heir of the Independent State. Moreover, the Direct Line is stronger in strength. Of the Twelve Independent States, our state has become the bottom-most state. Back then, was our state ever this pitiful? What do you think, President Bai?”

“The Twelve Independent States...”

Ye Wanwan looked pensive.

This piece of memory was indeed a part of the memories that Ye Wanwan recalled after the Scarlet Flames headmaster’s hypnosis sessions. It was her grandpa who told her about this too.

In truth, the Independent State was actually the “Independent States” and was composed of 12 enormous islands. The Independent State they were currently in was merely one of the 12 islands, and it wasn’t until these 12 islands combined together that the true Independent States were formed.

However, no Independent States had any mutual interactions, so not many people knew about this.

“President Bai, as long as the Fearless Alliance is willing to support our Direct Line, when the Direct Line gains control in the future, we can guarantee that the Fearless Alliance will definitely become better than you are now. What do you think?” the elderly man from Direct Line proposed amiably.

### **Chapter 2198: The ancient Si clan’s invitation**

“There’s no hurry.” Ye Wanwan shook her head. “I have something to ask you.”

“Please speak, President Bai,” the elderly man said.

“My parents... the madam and patriarch of the Nie family... they were captured by the Direct Line, right?” Ye Wanwan asked him.

“Yes.” The elderly man from the Direct Line nodded frankly.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

Ye Wanwan didn’t expect this old man from the Direct Line to be this honest... he was too honest... She didn’t freaking know how to respond...

“I know President Bai has some misunderstandings toward our Direct Line, and the main cause of this misunderstanding is Nie Linglong.” The elderly man smiled at Ye Wanwan. “In truth, the Direct Line has too many members, and a member like Nie Linglong is merely considered an offshoot and not worth a mention. Our Direct Line can’t demand every member to obey the rules. Someone always acts recklessly and disobey the rules; there’s nothing we can do.”

The corners of Ye Wanwan’s lips twitched. What kind of freaking twisted logic was this?! The Direct Line’s members were disobeying the rules and acting recklessly outside, but it was unrelated to their Direct Line?

Couldn’t he have some shame?!

“In truth, Nie Linglong is extremely ambitious. To be quite honest, the Direct Line doesn’t like overly ambitious people like her, so we’ve already kicked her out of the Direct Line. As for President Bai’s parents, they were captured by Nie Linglong,” the elderly man continued.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

For some reason, Ye Wanwan suddenly started respecting the Direct Line for being able to say something like this without skipping a beat and tossing away all responsibility so cleanly. They truly had thick hides.

After all, Nie Linglong was dead, so they could say whatever they wanted.

“President Bai, if you’re willing to join the Direct Line and persuade your parents to support the Direct Line, we can immediately release them,” the elderly man added.

“Heh... let’s not waste our breaths... Tell me, just who was the mysterious person Nie Linglong reported to? He and Nie Linglong killed my brother, so I will make them pay with their lives!” A cold glint flashed across Ye Wanwan’s eyes.

The elderly man's eyes glimmered. "President Bai, there isn't any mysterious person."

"Nonsense!"

Third Elder shouted coldly. "How could there be no one? When I tracked Nie Linglong that night, she made contact with a mysterious person, and they discussed eliminating Nameless Nie first!"

The elderly man's fingers started tapping on the table. "You're free to consider my suggestion, President Bai."

After saying that, the elderly man stood up and left without waiting for Ye Wanwan's response.

Ye Wanwan's expression darkened.

She was certain that the mysterious person definitely existed...

Furthermore, that mysterious person held an important position in the Direct Line!

The treatment of Nameless Nie alone meant that Ye Wanwan couldn't have any other relationships with the Direct Line! They could only be enemies!

"Sis Feng!"

Not long after the Direct Line left, Big Dipper dashed inside the conference room again. "D\*mn... Si clan, the ancient Si clan sent us an invitation!"

"The ancient Si clan?"

Ye Wanwan was startled.

Big Dipper immediately handed her the invitation.

After reading the invitation, Ye Wanwan was dumbstruck. The Direct Line and the Collateral Branch were truly family and had the same temperament.

The Direct Line just sent people to win her over then the ancient Si clan also sent her an invitation.

### **Chapter 2199: Bound together**

It didn't require much thought to realize that those ancient clans from the Collateral Branch were starting to draw in all the various factions in the Independent State so that those factions could join their side during the Collateral Branch's battle with the Direct Line.

...

That night, Ye Wanwan brought Wen Ziran, several elders, Big Dipper, Seven Star, and several other members to the ancient Si clan.

The ancient Si clan was considered one of the mammoth powers in the Independent State and the scope of their strength was frightening.

Inside the ancient Si clan's conference room, Ye Wanwan immediately caught sight of Si Yehan sitting next to the leader of the ancient Si clan.

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It had to be said that these two people truly looked rather similar.

Since it was an important, solemn meeting and the participants were all leaders from the Independent State, Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan didn't interact too much.

And the leader of the Si Clan's words were simple and easy to understand.

He wanted them to join the Collateral Branch and resist the Direct Line's invasion together.

However, all the major factions were noncommittal, neither agreeing nor disagreeing. No one wanted to be the first one. The second any of them agreed, it'd be the same as becoming enemies with the Direct Line.

Even Ye Wanwan didn't declare whether she would join the ancient clans and the Collateral Branch's camp or not.

Right now, Madam and Patriarch Nie were imprisoned in the Direct Line. If the Fearless Alliance and the Nie family joined the Collateral Branch, it might infuriate the Direct Line, leading to unthinkable consequences.

This was in line with Si Yehan's intentions. He didn't want her to act rashly and wanted them to watch and wait for the right opportunity.

After departing from the ancient Si clan, Si Yehan escorted Ye Wanwan back to the Fearless Alliance's headquarters. The family of three ate dinner there, and Si Yehan didn't leave until Tangtang fell asleep.

Lately, Asura had too many affairs waiting for attention, and Si Yehan needed to personally take care of them.

Two days afterward, both the Fearless Alliance and Prison announced that the Fearless Alliance would join Prison and become Prison's fourth core faction.

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Right now, the Fearless Alliance was tightly bound together with Prison and they could share their resources, especially in an unusual period of time like this.

Furthermore, something occurred that sent shocks throughout the Independent State. Asura single-handedly eradicated three branches of the Martial Arts Union and destroyed six of their vital storehouses in one night.

After that, the Martial Arts Union retaliated, and Heavenly Hatred and Slaughter's Gate also joined. The battle couldn't be stopped.

"Ah-Jiu... why did you start fighting with the Martial Arts Union?"

From the Fearless Alliance, Ye Wanwan initiated a video call with Si Yehan.

“Where’s Tangtang?” Si Yehan asked.

“He just finished eating and he’s playing with Great White and Little Black on the 13th floor,” Ye Wanwan answered truthfully.

“Wait... I was asking you why you started fighting with the Martial Arts Union.”

Lately, the Independent State was in an extremely tumultuous state already, so it would’ve been best if the matter with the Martial Arts Union was stowed aside for now.

“What do you think?” Si Yehan retorted.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

In truth, Ye Wanwan could guess that Asura didn’t attack the Martial Arts Union because of what happened on the island. It was probably because of what Si Xia did to her back then.

However, making anyone from Prison assess the current situation was simply unrealistic. Which one of them didn’t act as their heart desired, including the Fearless Alliance?

“You don’t need to get involved with this matter; it’s just a minor battle,” Si Yehan said.

Ye Wanwan didn’t refute this point.

Both the Martial Arts Union and Prison didn’t exert their whole strength, so it could indeed be considered a minor battle.

### **Chapter 2200: On the verge of breaking out**

After hanging up the video call, Ye Wanwan couldn’t shake off her feeling of unease.

Those leaders they rescued from the remote island announced their unconditional support for the Collateral Branch immediately.

After that, the Direct Line acted and promptly dispatched a lot of assassins after those leaders.

In a short amount of time, a dozen or so leaders were assassinated. If it weren’t for Asura having the foresight to send people to protect those leaders immediately and warn them, the consequences would’ve been inconceivable.

It wasn’t only the Direct Line. The Collateral Branch also acted identically to the Direct Line and dispatched a lot of assassins from the ancient clans, secretly assassinating those leaders who had announced their support for the Direct Line.

However, what no one anticipated were the sudden actions of Piece of Sh\*t, Yi Shuihan. Nearly all of those well-trained assassins sent by the ancient clans died in the hands of Yi Shuihan...

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Right now, the entire Independent State was attempting to stay out of it, and many factions were still observing, including the Fearless Alliance and the two other core factions of Prison. Meanwhile, Asura



had publicized their support for the Collateral Branch long ago and became one of the Collateral Branch's biggest helpers.

Suddenly, the relationships in the Independent State turned tangled and complicated and hard to describe.

Major factions belonged to different camps, and small-scaled battles would erupt nearly every day.

As for the four great clans, they fell to the observer side.

The Direct Line and the Collateral Branch sent someone to visit and lobby the four great clans nearly every day but never received a definite response.

Nonetheless, Ye Wanwan was incredibly aware that it was absolutely impossible for powers at the level of the four great clans to rest easy, maintain neutrality and stay out of the conflict.

The time merely hadn't come yet. Once the time was ripe, the four great clans had to make a decision.

This battle involved the entire Independent State. Not a single power could remain on the sidelines... Even if they were unwilling to join the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, they had no choice.

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Late at night, in the Fearless Alliance:

Ye Wanwan's thoughts raced as she mulled over what road she should take in the future.

Right now, her parents were still in the hands of the Direct Line. If she rashly supported the Collateral Branch and provoked the Direct Line, it would be idiotic.

Ye Wanwan merely wanted to avenge her brother, Nameless Nie, and rescue her parents from the hands of the Direct Line. She truly was uninterested in the overarching war between the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line.

Governing the Independent State and such...? It had nothing to do with her.

"Big Dipper!"

Ye Wanwan suddenly called outside the door.

"Sis Feng, you were looking for me?"

Big Dipper entered the room.

"Call some people. We're going to visit the Direct Line," Ye Wanwan instructed.

"Huh?"

Big Dipper was dumbfounded. "No way right... Sis Feng? We're going to the Direct Line... at this critical time?!"

"Nonsense, what's wrong with going to the Direct Line?" Ye Wanwan asked.

“Eh... If we visit the Direct Line, isn't it the same as supporting the Direct Line?” Big Dipper scratched his head.

“Enough rubbish. Hurry and make preparations,” Ye Wanwan ordered impatiently.

Soon, several elders of the Fearless Alliance (including First Elder), Big Dipper, Seven Star, and top higher-ups like Wen Ziran all departed and headed toward the perimeters of the Fearless Alliance's territory.

...

At a Direct Line branch:

“Heh, your visit this late at night is truly surprising, President Bai,” an elderly man from the Direct Line greeted with a smile as he hastily walked outside to receive them.

Ye Wanwan wasn't unfamiliar with this elderly man. He was the one who had visited the Fearless Alliance these past few days.

“I won't waste time with you. My objective for coming here today is very simple: the Fearless Alliance and the Nie family will support the Direct Line, but you must release my parents first.” Ye Wanwan got straight to the point.