

Secret Love 2241

Chapter 2241 Illustrious pas

Nameless Nie's plan was nearly flawless and perfect but also incredibly malicious.

Normally, Nameless Nie disguised himself as a greedy person, and this disguise had a clever effect in reality. No one in the Independent State would set their eyes on a good-for-nothing like him. Even if he once possessed an illustrious past, people only lived in the present.

Moreover, Nameless Nie faked his death in the end and escaped by a nifty vanishing act. No one would expect Nameless Nie to be the single-handed culprit behind this war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch.

"Did Nie Linglong know your identity...?" Ye Wanwan asked a moment later.

Nameless Nie sneered and shook his head. "How could she know? Nie Linglong... was merely one of my chess pieces. In truth... I wanted to let her control the Nie family first then cooperate with the Martial Arts Union to overturn the four great clans so that the four great clans would become my trump cards and help me escape if needed. Unfortunately, Nie Linglong was too stupid."

"So... since you couldn't obtain the four great clans, you could only fake your death to deceive everyone and attempt to escape the Arbitration Council's investigation..." Ye Wanwan surmised.

Nameless Nie smiled. "That's right... I did fake my death to deceive the Arbitration Council, but it wasn't in fear of the Arbitration Council's investigation. It concerns my future plan. If this plan succeeds, I'd target the Arbitration Council. They definitely wouldn't anticipate a dead man in hiding to be their opponent, right?"

Ye Wanwan wrinkled her brows. Because of her, she exposed Nameless Nie's identity...

If she had another chance, she wouldn't have done that.

Regarding the elaborate scheme that Nameless Nie set up, Ye Wanwan wasn't too surprised since she was aware of Nameless Nie and Ling Miao's relationship.

Back then, after Ji Xiuran's hypnotism, Nameless Nie was clueless about that ring's history and didn't like it, so he tossed it at the Nie residence.

Through the mechanisms of fate, Ye Wanwan led the Fearless Alliance to rob the Nie residence and coincidentally stole the ring that Nameless Nie left behind.

Hence, all these years, Nameless Nie was not only searching for her but also searching for the lovers' ring that represented his relationship with Ling Miao.

"Brother... let me ask you again... are you... the one who killed Grandpa?"

Ye Wanwan walked forward so that she stood next to Nameless Nie as she asked him quietly. This was a private conversation between her and Nameless Nie. No one else could hear them.

"Yes or no. Is it still important now?" Nameless Nie gave a vague answer.

“Alright, that’s all I needed,” Ye Wanwan replied.

Before Ye Wanwan could continue, a clan leader from a collateral ancient clan angrily yelled, “Clan Leader Jiang, let’s set aside the conflict between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch. We’ll first eradicate this little b*tard today. He was simply trying to drag every faction in the Independent State down with him while he’d reap the profits!”

Clan Leader Jiang narrowed his eyes and smirked. “Perfect, that’s exactly what I was thinking. No matter what, the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch came from the same source. Even if we want to determine a winner, we won’t tolerate being used by other people!”

Soon, all the factions supporting the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch coldly turned to Nameless Nie, the murderous intent in their eyes frightening.

“Heh... A bunch of garbage and nobodies like you want to take my life? You?” The corners of Nameless Nie’s lips curled up as his eyes swept across the battlefield. Despite becoming the public enemy number one of the entire Independent State, he still didn’t have any fear.

Chapter 2242 **Let me be your hero instead**

At this moment, Nameless Nie looked like he crawled out of the deepest pits of hell. His hatred-filled eyes were akin to Odin’s eyes examining the entire Independent State.

They had to pay a bloody price for that incident!

“It’s time to change the Independent State’s rules,” Nameless Nie expressionlessly said. “Why can’t you marry an outsider? It’s truly absurd. Love is the natural course of things—how can a bunch of idiots and nobodies like you all forcefully stop it...”

“What a joke!” an elder from an ancient clan ridiculed her. “These are rules that have been established since the Independent State was created. Your insolence isn’t allowed!”

“That’s right, we represent the supreme power of the Independent State. We represent God; that’s the rules!” Clan Leader Jiang Ying from the Direct Line proclaimed.

Nameless Nie fell silent.

A long while later, Nameless Nie slowly looked up and ran his eyes over the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch. “If you’re God...”

Nameless Nie’s lips curled up. “Then I am... God’s taboo.”

“Don’t waste words on him! Kill him!”

Various factions from the Independent State screamed angrily.

“Come, show me what you’ve got,” Nameless Nie frostily responded, standing in his spot.

“Brother...” Ye Wanwan’s voice came from the side.

Nameless Nie’s spine stiffened slightly. He didn’t look at his parents and younger sister; he didn’t look at their gazes of extreme disappointment.

After a prolonged silence, Nameless Nie aloofly turned to Ye Wanwan and said, "Go back. Pretend I'm dead."

Ye Wanwan scrutinized Nameless Nie for a few seconds before abruptly laying her hand over his left shoulder. "This time... let me be your superhero instead."

Before Nameless Nie could react, Ye Wanwan yelled toward the crowd, "Are the members of the Fearless Alliance and the Rose of Death here?!"

"Here!"

Ear-splitting shouts were heard.

"Good." Ye Wanwan nodded. "Now, I'll represent the Fearless Alliance and the Rose of Death and announce that we're withdrawing from the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line. Today, we'll unconditionally support Nameless Nie. Whoever dares to touch a hair on him, I'll give them a one-way ticket to hell!"

The elders, higher-ups, Big Dipper, and Seven Star all rushed over to Ye Wanwan's side.

On the other side, the members of the Rose of Death also poured out like a nest of bees and swarmed toward Ye Wanwan.

"You! You're asking for your death..."

Clan Leader Jiang shouted, his expression enraged.

"Is that so? Let's try."

A man's bone-chilling voice resounded through the battlefield.

At some point in time, that glacial man had quietly moved next to Ye Wanwan, and his apathetic eyes were utterly placid.

"Lord Asura..."

The people from the Direct Line looked at each other with a frown.

"Si Yehan, what are you doing?!"

Upon seeing this, the clan leader of the ancient Si clan yelled instantaneously.

"Do I need to ask you before doing something?" Si Yehan retorted indifferently.

"You..." Fear flitted through the clan leader's eyes, and he didn't dare to say anything more.

"Sh*t, Ah-Jiu... He's gone mad, he's gone mad! He's seriously gone mad..." Jiang Lihen was astonished.

"The factions of Prison have always belonged to the same camp. Becoming enemies with the Independent State is my dream." Xie Qianchuan laughed and led Slaughter's Gate out of the crowd.

Jiang Lihen exasperatedly glanced at these two lunatics before languidly strolling forward, his cutting gaze sweeping over the battlefield. "If you want to play, sure... Just give us the word, and our Prison will play until the end!"

Chapter 2243 It's fine even if you pierce the heavens

When Jiang Lihen noticed Si Yehan's glance, he awkwardly harrumphed and said, "Don't thank me too much. I didn't like these lousy rules to begin with!"

Jiang Lihen was the type who enjoyed seeing the world embroiled in chaos, so Nameless Nie's personality surprisingly matched his taste.

Ye Wanwan turned to Jiang Lihen and the others with surprise before looking back at Si Yehan, wishing to speak but she hesitated. "Ah-Jiu..."

Si Yehan patted her on the head and gave her a comforting glance. "It's fine."

He was saying "It's fine" despite it being such a giant matter?

Jiang Lihen dourly glanced at the duo from the corner of his eyes and snorted. "Even if this girl wanted to pierce the heavens, you'd probably be underneath her, handing her a spear!"

"Who dares to touch my children?!"

After a brief silence, Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie abruptly spoke at the same time and marched toward Nameless Nie.

When Nameless Nie heard his parents' voices, his pupils contracted.

"Nameless..." Patriarch Nie looked at Nameless Nie and sighed. "Back then, I did oppose your relationship with Ling family. It's not your fault... Dad was selfish and only thought about the Nie family... Dad let you down!"

Nameless Nie appeared a bit moved.

Back then, for the sake of the Nie family's reputation, Patriarch Nie absolutely refused to let him be with the leader of the Rose of Death, Ling Miao. This ended up creating Nameless Nie's lifelong regret.

"Son... It's Mom's fault..." Madam Nie looked at Nameless Nie with guilt written all over her face.

Although Second Grandma was a distant relative of Patriarch Ling, that was several generations ago. They didn't have much blood relations anymore. Plus, Ling Miao was younger than Nameless Nie.

However, simply because Nameless Nie technically called Ling Miao "Aunt," Madam Nie adamantly rejected any development between the two of them and wouldn't even allow Ling Miao to take a step inside the Nie residence...

Thinking back on it now, they were wrong...

If they were more reasonable, perhaps Nameless Nie wouldn't have spent the rest of his life in regret and hatred!

Nameless Nie turned to Madam Nie and Patriarch, his lips slightly opening as though he wanted to say something but he ended up unable to utter anything.

"I'd like to see who has the guts to touch my grandson and granddaughter!"

At this moment, the silent Patriarch Ling suddenly stood forward.

“Dad...”

Patriarch Nie reflexively called.

“Who’s your dad? Patriarch Nie’s surname is Nie, but my surname is Ling. It’d be best if you didn’t randomly claim relations. I’m just doing this for my grandchildren,” Patriarch Ling said coldly with a glance at Patriarch Nie.

“We support the Nie family.”

At that moment, everyone from the Ji family also stepped forward.

“D*mn! I represent the Shen family and support Worryless Nie, support my goddess! Goddess, I love you!”

Eldest Young Master Shen acted like a loose dog and made to race toward Ye Wanwan.

However, he was frightened into retreating several steps by a bone-chilling gaze.

“Don’t you act so insolently here!”

Patriarch Shen fiercely glared at Shen Tianchen before turning to everyone with a smile. “Heh... the four great clans were comrades to begin with... and the Nie family is also the head of the four great clans, so our Shen family definitely won’t set ourselves against the other three clans... Similarly, to everyone from the Collateral Branch, the Shen family is just composed of businessmen. If you need anything, let us know. We’ll definitely help to the best of our abilities... but if you want us to provide people, we don’t have many.”

However, no one paid any attention to him.

Everyone was fixated on Nameless Nie and Ye Wanwan.

At this moment, in a spot far away, Si Xia was watching every movement with a pair of binoculars, a devilish smile on his face. “So interesting... But the fun part is at the end... See you soon.”

Chapter **2244** You traitor

Even though they possessed four titan factions like the Nie family, the Ji family, the Ling family, and Prison, along with a knockoff Rose of Death...

They were nothing in the face of the entire Independent State.

“Captain!!!”

Several voices were heard from the back.

Ye Wanwan got a good look at the newcomers and saw that it was Taoist Devotee and Spray of Flowers leading several dozen mercenary squads that were under Nameless Nie.

“Captain! You came back alive? Why aren’t you dead?” Spray of Flowers emotionally wiped his tears and snot.

Ye Wanwan looked at Nameless Nie, astonished. "They... didn't know your plan?"

Nameless Nie shook his head. "This is a personal matter—why would I have dragged them into it?"

"Then you're truly a good captain..." Ye Wanwan responded.

"We heard everything, Captain. All of us support you. If anyone touches a strand of your hair today, we'll make them unable to compensate for it even if they become bankrupt!" Brick-moving Foreigner shouted.

"Captain, you concealed yourself really deep. I didn't detect anything strange despite being by your side all these years." Feng Xuanyi walked toward Nameless Nie as he lit a cigarette and puffed out a drag of smoke.

Back then, the Ling family thought Nameless Nie suffered a psychological shock and lived every day in a muddled state, as he had a vastly different personality than before. That was why they sent Feng Xuanyi to Nameless Nie.

Hence, Feng Xuanyi hadn't thought about it too deeply.

"Captain, why do you want to destroy the Independent State?" Taoist Devotee looked at Nameless Nie with a peculiar and uncomprehending expression.

Before Nameless Nie could respond, Feng Xuanyi shook his head and said, "Quack, you're wrong—Nameless Nie doesn't want to destroy the Independent State. He merely wants to make those factions who participated in the murder pay the price. Moreover, the most important point is that Nameless Nie wants to reform the Independent State and shed the ancient passed-down rules."

"Rules?" Taoist Devotee was startled.

"Heh..." Feng Xuanyi smiled. "Every leader of the Rose of Death has existed for the sake of overturning the Independent State's rules and system. Since Ling Miao was the previous leader of the Rose of Death, I think Nameless Nie really wants to fulfill Ling Miao's wish from when she was alive. Of course, it's not only for Ling Miao's sake. Ling Miao wasn't a citizen of the Independent State; her ancestors merely had some relations to the Ling family, so even if Ling Miao didn't die, Nameless Nie and Ling Miao absolutely wouldn't be able to be together with rules like this in the Independent State."

Taoist Devotee nodded. "So it's like that... I understand. One last question... who's Ling Miao?"

Taoist Devotee, Spray of Flowers, and the others didn't know about Nameless Nie's romantic history and definitely didn't know anything about Ling Miao.

Feng Xuanyi glanced at Taoist Devotee and didn't respond.

Feng Xuanyi turned to Nameless Nie and said, "Nameless Nie, I didn't expect you to be so deep. What surprises me more is that you actually want to reform the Independent State."

Spray of Flowers fixed his eyes on Feng Xuanyi. Feng Xuanyi's sense of justice and responsibility was the strongest amongst them.

Furthermore, Captain's current method seemed to make him an enemy of the entire Independent State. Judging from Feng Xuanyi's attitude, he appeared to disagree with Captain.

"Feng Xuanyi, why are you talking so much crap? If you're afraid, then scram!" Taoist Devotee looked at Feng Xuanyi and said irritably, "Captain used to give us everything he had, but you're actually betraying us at the key moment, you traitor!"

Chapter **2245 Submit to me**

Spray of Flowers frowned. "Quack, don't say that. Everyone has their own thoughts, and they merely have different positions. Even if Feng Xuanyi isn't willing to stand on Captain's side, I can understand."

Ye Wanwan looked at Feng Xuanyi. "It's fine even if you don't stand with Brother and me, Feng Xuanyi."

Feng Xuanyi took a big whiff of his cigarette before flicking the butt away and looking at Nameless Nie. "Help? Of course I'll help. He's my captain. If he dies, who'd pay me?"

Feng Xuanyi joined the crowd with a faint smile.

...

A higher-up from the collateral ancient clan said to the leader of the Direct Line: "Clan Leader Jiang, Nameless Nie is a tough nut to crack. How about we ask Yi Shuihan for help?"

Jiang Ying nodded and turned to Yi Shuihan, quietly saying, "Yi Shuihan, help us take care of Nameless Nie."

If Yi Shuihan could lend a hand, the matter would be resolved more easily.

Yi Shuihan apathetically glanced at Jiang Ying. "Do you have some misunderstanding about me?"

Jiang Ying furrowed his brows. Of course he knew that the Direct Line couldn't order Yi Shuihan around. He merely showed up here today in order to slaughter the collateral ancient clans...

Nameless Nie didn't have a lick of connection to the Collateral Branch, so why would he act?

"How about this? I won't touch anyone from the Collateral Branch until you've finished taking care of him. I should be doing my just due for the Direct Line then," Yi Shuihan said expressionlessly.

The expressions of the people from the Collateral Branch didn't look too good.

Yi Shuihan vehemently insisted the Collateral Branch killed his mother, but the Collateral Branch never did anything like that and didn't even know who Yi Shuihan's mother was...

As Ye Wanwan watched the Direct Line, the Collateral Branch, and the other factions of the Independent State setting their sights on them and gearing up, her nerves became taut.

Ye Wanwan was about to place an order when a whistle was heard from the rear.

Everyone reflexively turned to assess the source of the noise behind them.

The newcomer was a young man with an enigmatic smile on his face and a ferocious scar by the corner of his eye.

“Si Xia...”

Ye Wanwan was startled at the sight of Si Xia. Why did he come here at a time like this...

It was very difficult for them to face these groups from the Independent State to begin with. If the Martial Arts Union joined too, a fight wouldn't even be necessary.

“Heh, you're all busy,” Si Xia remarked with a light chuckle as his eyes swept across the battlefield.

“President of the Martial Arts Union, perfect timing—these people are guilty of terrible crimes. The Martial Arts Union is typically responsible for upholding the rules, so let's apprehend them together,” a higher-up from the Collateral Branch said.

Si Xia narrowed his eyes and shook his head with a grin. “Apologies, but I'm not interested in that.”

Everyone was taken aback.

“I came here to inform you all of one matter... I hope you will all become my adorable subordinates and from today on, that we will all be a kind and loving family. Don't you think that'd be nice?” Si Xia asked.

“What did you say?!”

The people were stunned, and some were incredulous. The President of the Martial Arts Union actually wanted them to submit to him?

The tribe leader of the ancient Si clan couldn't help but take a good look at Si Xia. It was already a trial that this child could grow into this. Si Wutian sired quite a nice son.

Chapter 2246 Do you want to know the truth?

“Didn't you hear me?” Si Xia looked confused. “Could it be... I didn't speak clearly enough or does everyone have hearing problems? I said... I want to dominate the Independent State and all of you only have two paths to take: Submit or die. Take your pick.”

Everyone broke into guffaws. Was the President of the Martial Arts Union's head crushed by a door? Wasn't he delusional for saying something idiotic like this here?!

“Who do you think you are?” The Clan Leader of the Direct Line mocked him.

Si Xia didn't respond to him and set his gaze on Yi Shuihan. “How about you come to my side and help me, Yi Shuihan? How about it?”

“What do you think?” Yi Shuihan questioned back.

“I think...” Si Xia's lips turned up. “You should be quite willing to come and help me.”

Before Yi Shuihan could answer, Si Xia shook his head and said, “Don't be in such a hurry to reply... Yi Shuihan, I know your story. Yi Shuihan... I also know you don't know the truth. Do you really think that girl was sent by the Collateral Branch to assassinate you...?”

“What are you saying?” Yi Shuihan's eyes glinted coldly.

“Do you want to know the truth... How about it? Come and help me. In exchange, I’ll tell you the truth of the matter,” Si Xia said with a smile.

Si Xia added, “Oh right, I hope you will take my words seriously. Perhaps you think you can interrogate me under torture and force the truth out of me... I really can’t defeat you, but I’m a lunatic. If you don’t agree, you will never know the truth. How about it?”

Yi Shuihan fell into silence.

It was a long while before Yi Shuihan finally nodded and said, “Alright, if your truth is greatly different from the one I know, I will help you.”

“Deal. You are a man of your words; I trust you.” Si Xia nodded. “Do you think that girl really wanted to poison you but couldn’t bear to do it after falling in love with you, which led to your mother accidentally consuming the poisoned food?”

“What do you mean?” Yi Shuihan asked with a frown.

“Heh. The truth was that the girl didn’t love you at all to begin with... She was merely an emotionless sacrificial soldier trained from the time she was a child. People like her are brainwashed at a young age and won’t fall in love or be moved at all. They only know how to follow orders... Do you know? That girl wasn’t related to the Collateral Branch at all. Everything that happened was a result of the Direct Line’s schemes.”

“Bullsh*t!”

Jiang Ying yelled furiously.

However, the Collateral Branch was strangely silent. They weren’t for anything like this, but Yi Shuihan doggedly chased after them and after all this trouble, it turned out to be a Direct Line scheme...

“Clan Leader Jiang Ying, don’t be so aggravated. Allow me to tell the whole story first,” Si Xia said in good humor.

“He’s here to mislead us! Kill him!” After Jiang Ying said that, several experts from the Direct Line were tempted to attack Si Xia.

However, Yi Shuihan instantly stepped in front of Si Xia and forced the experts back. “Scram!”

“Isn’t this interesting...? Back then, the Direct Line discovered Yi Shuihan and was amazed by Yi Shuihan’s martial talents. If they could obtain Yi Shuihan’s assistance, they would have double the power in making a comeback to the Independent State... Unfortunately, Yi Shuihan didn’t follow that route and never had any contact with the Direct Line... Soon, the Direct Line concocted a scheme, which was to frame the Collateral Branch using a beautiful top-notch female sacrificial soldier. The female sacrificial soldier followed the plan and feigned a chance encounter with Yi Shuihan. At that time, Yi Shuihan was experiencing his first awakening of love, so how could he escape from the hands of this perfectly trained female sacrificial soldier? Then Yi Shuihan brought the sacrificial soldier home... Later, the sacrificial soldier poisoned the food and killed his mother.”

Chapter 2247 Let’s bet bigger

Si Xia snorted. “The sacrificial soldier told Yi Shuihan while sobbing that the Collateral Branch was afraid Yi Shuihan would join the Direct Line, so they purposefully sent her to assassinate Yi Shuihan but she fell in love with Yi Shuihan, so she couldn’t do it at the last minute, which caused Yi Shuihan’s mother to eat the poisoned food coincidentally...”

Si Xia turned to Yi Shuihan. “Did you know? That girl didn’t love you at all. She didn’t have any feelings. She poisoned your mother for the sake of framing the Collateral Branch. This was a plot that was concocted by the Direct Line from the start.”

“What an absurd joke. What proof do you have for saying something like this?” Jiang Ying harshly rebuked.

“Proof? Of course I have proof.” Si Xia immediately snapped his fingers.

A second later, an elderly man from the Direct Line slowly walked out from his hiding spot.

“It’s him...” Ye Wanwan was startled when she saw the elderly man. Wasn’t this old guy Elder Xue, who was angered to the point of being bedridden by her? It appeared he still wasn’t in good health.

Ye Wanwan never expected Si Xia to have bribed even Elder Xue from Direct Line...

“I can bear witness that everything the President said was 100% true. It’s like this—the sacrificial soldier was raised by the Direct Line from a young age and underwent many years of training... I didn’t agree to this plan back then since no matter what, Yi Shuihan and his mother were members of the Direct Line, but... the majority of the higher-ups ignored my disapproval.” Elder Xue sighed.

“You...” Jiang Ying angrily glared at Elder Xue.

“Sorry, Clan Leader... My daughter and son-in-law... they are at the hands of the President, so I can only tell the truth.” Elder Xue shook his head.

Ye Wanwan turned pensive. No wonder a well-esteemed Direct Line higher-up like Elder Xue would side with Si Xia—it turned out Si Xia was threatening him with his daughter and his son-in-law’s lives.

“It was you.”

Yi Shuihan set his gaze on the Direct Line members, his face so dark that ink could drip from it.

“Heh... Don’t be in such a hurry. You’ll have plenty of opportunities to seek revenge in a moment,” Si Xia said to Yi Shuihan.

“I said earlier that I wouldn’t attack until their matter is resolved,” Yi Shuihan returned.

The members of the ancient Si clan started examining Si Xia.

The Clan Leader of the ancient Si clan had a frown on his face. He didn’t expect Si Wutian’s child to turn into such a figure. If he did, he would’ve allowed Si Xia to join the Si clan.

“How about it? I’ve done justice to my position as the President of the Martial Arts Union by clearing the Collateral Branch’s name, right?” Si Xia joked to the members of the collateral ancient clans.

No one answered because they all didn’t know his objective.

Soon, Si Xia's gaze landed on Nameless Nie.

Before Si Xia could say anything, Ye Wanwan shouted coldly, "Si Xia, what do you want?"

Si Xia shook his head. "Patience. I have something to tell him."

"Oh...? I'm all ears," Nameless Nie answered.

"Brother Nameless, how about it? Are you interested in coming over and helping me?" Si Xia asked.

"How about this instead—are you interested in coming over and helping me?" The corners of Nameless Nie's lips turned up.

"No need for the hurry... Let's make a bet. I'll bet that you'll definitely come and help me. How about it?" Si Xia suggested.

"What's the wager? Since we're betting, let's bet bigger. What do you think?" Nameless Nie retorted.

"Sure. Since we're betting, we'll bet bigger... Let me think, what should I use for the bet..." Si Xia rubbed his chin in contemplation. "How about this—I'll use Ling Miao's life to bet with you! What do you think?"

Chapter 2248 This is fake

Nameless Nie's pupils contracted abruptly.

Even Ye Wanwan was astonished.

What did Si Xia's words mean... Using Ling Miao's life as a wager...

Didn't Ling Miao die many years ago?!

Nameless Nie's smile faded. It was a long while before he said to Si Xia, "What do you mean? Ling Miao's dead already."

Si Xia's lips curled up in an inscrutable smile. "Is she really dead? So will you bet or not?"

"Si Xia, enough with your deceptions! Just what the heck are you doing?" Ye Wanwan yelled at him.

Ling Miao's death was a fact, but Si Xia was treating Ling Miao as a joke.

"What's the hurry?" Si Xia's eyes remained fixed on Nameless Nie. "In your heart, Ling Miao's dead already, but... if you're willing to come and assist me, I can bring Ling Miao back from the underworld in exchange and allow you to stay by her side. How about it?"

Patriarch and Madam Nie looked at each other in surprise. Ling Miao... really didn't die?!

If she didn't die, then Nameless Nie wouldn't need to live in hatred and regret...

"So what you're saying is that Ling Miao isn't dead, and you know where she is." Nameless Nie gathered his emotions.

"That's right. I don't think you'll refuse this exchange, Nameless Nie," Si Xia said.

"Brother, you mustn't be deceived! Ling Miao is gone already!" Ye Wanwan said to Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie nodded and didn't say anything.

"Si Xia, you're saying Ling Miao isn't dead, but do you have proof? Take it out and show everyone," Ye Wanwan said sarcastically.

"You want to see the proof?" Si Xia smiled and took out a phone, throwing it at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan caught the phone and looked at the photo on it.

The photo was from a hospital ward—the exact hospital indistinguishable—and the woman lying on the bed... her face was deathly pale and her eyes tightly shut. It was Ling Miao without a doubt.

"Ling Miao...!"

Nameless Nie frowned deeply.

"What do you think?" Si Xia asked.

"Bullsh*t proof." Ye Wanwan pursed her lips and said to Nameless Nie, "Brother, this is fake."

"Fake?" Nameless Nie was startled.

"That's right. It's obviously photoshopped. This is definitely fake," Ye Wanwan replied.

"Mn, now that you mention it, Worriless, it does look rather fake." Nameless Nie nodded quickly and set his icy gaze on Si Xia. "You dared to lie to me..."

"What? You can't even tell whether this photo is real or not? No worries, there's also a video. You can take a look yourself," Si Xia said.

Ye Wanwan opened the video and pressed play.

It was still the hospital room from the photo, and Ling Miao was lying on the bed, her arm hooked to IV fluids. Her eyes were tightly shut and her breathing was even, as though she was merely asleep.

"If the photo was photoshopped, then this video should be adequate proof," Si Xia said.

Ye Wanwan hastily said, "It's fake!"

Si Xia furrowed his brows.

"This video was edited and it's all CGI! It's too fake! I was at least a golden manager back in China, so this kind of video just has mediocre special effects," Ye Wanwan said.

"Nonsense. Do you actually know how to inspect something?" Si Xia asked.

"Of course I do! Like that photo, I'm certain it's fake!" Ye Wanwan retorted.

Chapter 2249 I'll agree

"Hmph, Si Xia. The more you live, the more you regress. You should at least have a bigger budget if you're going to fake something. Something like this? I can make several hundreds of these without a double any time I want!" Ye Wanwan said disdainfully.

Ye Wanwan pulled Si Yehan toward her and gently asked, “Baby, watch this video and see if it’s fake. Tell my brother or else he’ll think I’m deceiving him.”

Si Yehan looked at the phone.

“Replay it,” Si Yehan calmly said.

“Sure!” Ye Wanwan nodded and replayed the video. “What do you think—is it fake?”

“Mn, it’s fake,” Si Yehan answered.

“Of course this is fake. Even Old Seven knows how to make this kind of video.” Big Dipper leaned over and took a look. “But... this girl is seriously pretty... Those looks, tut tut... that figure... She’s seriously like a sleeping beauty...”

“Heh, since it’s like this, there’s no need to bet,” Si Xia said.

“Bet what? If you’re so capable, bring her here and let us see her in person. Or tell us which hospital she’s at and we can go and see for ourselves. If it’s the truth, I’ll kneel down and apologize to you,” Ye Wanwan said.

“That’s right, Worryless Nie is right.” Nameless Nie nodded too.

“No need to see her in person.” Si Xia smiled faintly.

The phone screen suddenly flashed. Someone was video calling them.

Ye Wanwan immediately picked up the call.

The Vice President of the Martial Arts Union instantly appeared on the other end of the call—in that same hospital room.

“Vice President, let them see Ling Miao,” Si Xia shouted.

The Vice President promptly aimed the camera at the young woman on the hospital bed.

“Ling Miao...”

Nameless Nie trembled.

“Baby, this... should also be fake, right? Video calls can also be CGled and faked, right...?” Ye Wanwan turned to Si Yehan.

Si Yehan was silent for a moment before nodding. “Mm.”

“You want me to bring Ling Miao here? Do you think it’s possible?” Si Xia snorted at Ye Wanwan. “I’m not a child.”

Ye Wanwan wanted to say something else but couldn’t utter anything. She really couldn’t continue to smother her conscience.

She originally wanted to trick Si Xia into bringing Ling Miao here, but judging from the current situation, it wouldn’t be an easy feat. If only this guy’s intelligence was the same as Big Dipper’s, it would be a lot simpler...

“Just what happened back then? Why is Ling Miao still alive?” Ye Wanwan questioned before Nameless Nie could say anything.

“In truth, it’s very simple,” Si Xia responded. “The Arbitration Council laid pressure on Grandpa and forced him to eliminate Ling Miao, so Grandpa used Nameless Nie’s life to threaten Ling Miao and made her meet him on her own. He also contacted nearly all of the factions in the Independent State and launched a destructive attack on Ling Miao. After they got their way, everyone thought Ling Miao died. However, Ling Miao was Nameless Nie’s most beloved woman, after all, so Grandpa was soft-hearted in the end and rescued Ling Miao.”

Nameless Nie’s expression shifted.

“Unfortunately, Ling Miao suffered serious injuries, so even though she survived, she’s still lying in a hospital bed and hasn’t woken up,” Si Xia continued.

“Bring me to her.” Nameless Nie looked at Si Xia.

“No need for the rush. I told you I’d let you see her as long as you’re willing to assist me. Her current situation is very stable,” Si Xia replied.

“Alright, I’ll agree.” Nameless Nie didn’t waste his words.

Chapter 2250 Audacious trump card

The Direct Line Clan Leader yelled, “Are you done wasting our time? What can you do with your group alone? Do you think you can be enemies of the whole Independent State?!”

The Jiang clan exchanged looks with the people from the Collateral Branch and went to attack.

However, Elder Xue’s expression shifted. “Don’t act rashly! There are explosives!”

Everyone was shocked.

“The Martial Arts Union... buried explosives everywhere beforehand! And they have heavy weapons!” Elder Xue explained hastily.

“Are you telling the truth?” a higher-up from the collateral ancient clans questioned.

“Nonsense—would I joke about this kind of matter?!” Elder Xue looked anxious. “They made preparations ahead of time!”

Before the collateral ancient clans could respond, Si Xia whistled.

Instantly, dozens of elite members of the Martial Arts Union appeared around them with heavy weapons in hand.

“You’re mad!” Jiang Ying screamed.

“I was a madman to begin with... So what is it? If you don’t submit, I’ll destroy you,” Si Xia said.

“Aren’t... aren’t you afraid of the Arbitration Council’s punishment?!” a higher-up from the Collateral Branch asked Si Xia.

“The Arbitration Council?” Si Xia was derisive. “Don’t be impatient. After I dominate the Independent State, I’ll expand toward the other eleven states, and in the end, I’ll eradicate the Arbitration Council and replace them.”

“You... you’re a lunatic and delusional!!!” Jiang Ying rebuked furiously.

“Whether I’m delusional or not, I don’t need you to waste time here. Of course, if you all don’t agree, I can bomb you all into smithereens.” Si Xia smiled.

Ye Wanwan was pensive as she stared at Si Xia. Is he... carrying out Grandpa’s wish when he was alive...?

She finally understood something. Si Xia previously captured those leaders of the Independent State to that remote island in order to bomb them. If things were like that though, what storm could a lone commander like him wage...

“I’ve planted explosives around everyone’s headquarters. How about I let everyone see some action first?” Si Xia mocked.

“Don’t! My wife and children are there!” A leader turned deathly pale.

Every single one of these Martial Arts Union members held a heavy weapon in hand. If Si Xia was claiming hee planted explosives, it was most likely the truth!

Moreover, various faction leaders were hoping to be lucky and didn’t participate in the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch this time. If this lunatic detonated the explosives... the consequences were unthinkable!

“Si Xia, there are still people in many of the headquarters. If you bomb those headquarters...” Ye Wanwan stared at Si Xia, her brows locked together.

Si Xia shook his head and interrupted her: “That has nothing to do with me. I previously imprisoned these people on the island, but you just had to rescue them. Even if some people die from this, it’s because of you. I’m not to blame.”

“D*mn, I’ve seen shameless people, but I’ve never seen someone as shameless as you? You can shift the blame like this?” Big Dipper cursed.

Nameless Nie looked at Ye Wanwan. “Did you use the ring to summon the members of the Rose of Death?”

Ye Wanwan shook her head and quietly replied, “No... The Arbitration Council loathes the Rose of Death so much. If I summoned the members of the Rose of Death, wouldn’t it be the same as slamming myself into the end of a gun... If the Arbitration Council learned about it, they’d probably pursue me vehemently again.”

Moreover, after Si Yehan learned about the origin of the ring, he warned her multiple times to not mobilize the Rose of Death’s power during this war.