

Tang Sect 351

Chapter 351.1: A Terrifying Explosion!

How could Huo Yuhao's abilities not make them fearful? They weren't afraid of Tang Wu on the competition stage, they were afraid of the five formidable evil soul masters beneath the arena, who were just standing there spookily. They were no longer masking their auras!

An evil soul master who was still so young was already so horrifying; he had defeated and murdered that girl, who had an Angel martial soul and possessed the holy element, and swallowed her up entirely. If that was the case, then what kind of abilities did these stronger evil soul masters possess?

Huo Yuhao nodded at Ye Yulin and said, "Since I've won, then please give me the prize, chief judge."

Shadows appeared one after another beside Huo Yuhao; the Holy Ghost Church's vice-founder had taken her four elders onto the competition stage.

The vice-founder stared at Ye Yulin with a sinister look in her eyes. She didn't say anything, but the aura that was rising from her body caused Ye Yulin to recoil in fear.

Transcendent Douluo! She's actually a Transcendent Douluo! She's an evil Transcendent Douluo!

Nangong Wan was very pleased and satisfied at this moment. He raised his voice and said, "The Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament's championship belongs to the Duskwater Alliance. From this moment onwards, our wager is complete. An Litong, Shangguan Wei'er, what else do you have to say?"

The elders from the other two underground organizations were already on their feet at this point. An Litong wore a black face, and he wanted to retort, but he ultimately held himself back as he surveyed the five mighty evil soul masters on the competition stage. He shook his head painfully.

Shangguan Wei'er's dainty face seemed a little slack as her eyes were filled with agony. Ye Guyi's death had dealt a heavy blow to her.

Nangong Wan said proudly, "Alright, since there's nothing else you wish to say, then we will proceed according to the tournament's rules. Come to the Duskwater Alliance's headquarters tomorrow, and we will have a thorough follow-up discussion."

An Litong snorted coldly before he turned and led his company away. Shangguan Wei'er's face suddenly became vengeful as she shot a hateful glare at Huo Yuhao, before she also turned and left.

The tournament was over, concluded in such a shocking and breathtaking fashion, and the aristocrats, the audience, and even the gamblers who had won some money hurriedly got to their feet and swiftly disappeared, one after another. They really didn't want to see that horrifying devil hidden underneath his human-shaped soul tool. Yes, Huo Yuhao was no different from the devil in their eyes at this moment.

Huo Yuhao's prizes were laid out one by one in front of him.

Rare metals were placed in front of him, ton after ton, and then there was the insurmountable Class 9 soul tool, the Sunmoon Divine Needle.

The Sunmoon Divine Needle was actually two ring-shaped soul tools, one larger than the other. The first ring was about one and a half meters in diameter, while the smaller one was roughly one meter in diameter. The larger one was golden, and the smaller one was silver. Sophisticated patterns were engraved all over their surface, and even Huo Yuhao felt a little dizzy just looking at it, even though he could be considered a Class 7 soul engineer!

Ye Yulin heaved a sigh and passed the Sunmoon Divine Needle to Huo Yuhao. He lowered his voice and said, "You need to have at least eight soul rings before you can use it. Otherwise, you won't be able to control it at all, and you won't even have enough soul power to support it. Don't attempt to break and copy my soul tool, because it will rip your body into a million pieces. That's all."

Ye Yulin paused after this. The Starsky Douluo couldn't control himself in the end, and asked, "I'm quite interested in your human-shaped soul tool's structure. If you're willing, you can sell its blueprint to me. The price can be negotiated. This is how you can contact me." He passed Huo Yuhao a card as he spoke.

"Okay." Huo Yuhao said nothing more and took the card.

He Caitou had arrived beside Huo Yuhao, and his shoulder touched Huo Yuhao's shoulder. Huo Yuhao turned around and glanced at him, and a faint smile appeared on He Caitou's face. Five mighty evil soul masters had sealed away every possible escape path beside them at this moment, and every single evil soul master had satisfied smiles on their faces besides the vice-founder, whose facial expression was masked.

Huo Yuhao smiled as well, except his smile was hidden inside his human-shaped soul tool. It's almost time.

Inside the underground warehouse...

Boom!

Countless metal fragments flew in all directions. However, the reinforced underground palace didn't quake too much. Some of the rare metals that were closer to the warehouse's first gate scattered across the ground, triggering several soul rays that fired off randomly.

Xu Guozhong dispelled the smoke in front of him with a somber look on his face. The soul rays were blocked by an invisible barrier a meter from his body.

The underground warehouse's defense system was established too perfectly, so much so that it had taken them an exceedingly long time to destroy the various booby traps before they could attempt to break down the first floor's main gate.

It wasn't hard to imagine how many losses they had already incurred, and the repairs would also cost a tremendous amount of money and time. But Xu Guozhong had no choice, as he had to enter the underground warehouse as quickly as possible so that he could take stock and calculate his losses. Furthermore, nobody else could know about this episode; they would have to try their best to keep this a secret! Otherwise, it wouldn't be too difficult for the crown prince, Xu Tianran, to impeach him! He would be in real trouble if that happened...

Powerful soul rays erupted from behind Xu Guozhong's back in a tight volley, and his soul engineers destroyed all the soul tools on the floor.

One of the Class 8 soul engineers said, "It seems like the booby traps and the defense mechanisms are alright. They can still be triggered, which means they're still operational. Let me scout ahead, my Lord."

Xu Guozhong's complexion became a little better at this show of his subordinate's loyalty. He nodded gently and said, "Be careful!"

"Yes." The Class 8 soul engineer stepped into the warehouse routinely and easily as he swiftly checked out the situation on the first floor. His voice quickly came back from the distance.

"My Lord, nothing has been stolen from the first floor, but the gate leading to the second floor has been destroyed. All the traps and defense mechanisms are intact, and they don't seem like they've been triggered. It seems like somebody familiar with our place has done this."

Xu Guozhong led his company forward, avoiding the miscellaneous traps as they quickly advanced to the gate leading to the second floor. He saw the metal dust and fragments strewn all over the ground, and bent down and pinched some in his fingers to take a look.

Xu Guozhong was a Class 9 soul engineer, so it wasn't hard to imagine how familiar he was with metal. His expression quickly changed as he muttered, "These particles have lost all metallic elements, as if they're just dust. How is that possible? This gate was made from more than ten different alloys, and the gate itself possessed a protective soul barrier. Breaking it down should have triggered the alarm. How did the intruders accomplish this? Li Chong is the mole!"

He had a clear judgment in his head. Li Chong was nowhere to be seen, while the traps and defense mechanisms outside hadn't been triggered, and only certain setups and mechanisms had been destroyed all the way inside. This would be impossible unless the intruders were familiar with this place, so Li Chong was the prime suspect; he fit the bill, and he had been standing guard before this, too!

A vindictive look flickered across Xu Guozhong's eyes as he lowered his voice and said, "On to the second floor." The second floor was where the most precious metals were kept!

At this moment, Xu Guozhong wasn't that worried anymore. In the end, most rare metals were very dense and heavy, so thieves couldn't take that much away even if they had storage-type soul tools for transport. These losses wouldn't be much to the colossal warehouse, compared to the inventory they had accumulated over so many years. Xu Guozhong was confident in his ability to keep this incident quiet if they didn't lose too much...

However, Xu Guozhong's face quickly turned dark and gloomy when they entered the second floor. The piles of rare metals that were originally neatly arranged had disappeared in enormous patches, and his estimate of his losses reached a horrendous level even before he was only ten meters in.

"Bastard! He must have planned this. He's stolen the most valuable metals!" Xu Guozhong's face was so somber it felt like his emotions were dripping down his face.

The color on his face turned a few shades blacker the deeper he went. His losses were far greater than his original estimations, and they couldn't be measured with money at this point. This was especially true because several rare metals had completely disappeared. Among them was the Diamond

Essencegold; they hadn't even had one ton of it in this warehouse, and now not a single speck of it remained!

And that was only one example!

"Oh no! My Lord, the third floor's gate has been opened." One of his subordinate's voices could be heard from far away. Xu Guozhong suddenly felt a little lightheaded, and he nearly fainted. The third floor's gate has been opened? An extremely ominous feeling swiftly rose from his heart.

Xu Guozhong briskly brought his subordinates to the gate leading down to the third floor.

This gate was broken down in the same way that the second floor's gate had been destroyed; the tough door had been converted into dust and nothingness. What helped him relax a little was that soul tools missing from the third floor's immense and vast storage space weren't so obvious.

"Steal them! Steal them, bastard! You're so good, eh! Why didn't you take them all away?!" Xu Guozhong bellowed hysterically. Storage-type soul tools had a limit to the volume that they could contain, but the stolen rare metals still gave him a splitting headache.

"Go check it out and see if we're missing anything from the third floor."

His subordinates' trembling voices quickly travelled back to his ears.

"Your Highness! All the Sealed Milk Bottles and stationary soul cannon shells Class 5 and above have... have been stolen..."

A fountain of fresh blood erupted from Xu Guozhong's mouth, and his face turned ghastly white. Ruthless! Li Chong, that bastard, is too inhuman! He... he actually...

Right at that moment, Xu Guozhong's eyes suddenly floated subconsciously in a certain direction, because a faint red light seemed to be coming from that way.

The red light expanded very swiftly, and it didn't take long before the stationary cannon shells stacked up like mountains beneath it were covered with a layer of red light.

Xu Guozhong was a Class 9 soul engineer, and he quickly discerned what the red light was as a hopeless look flashed across his eyes. He mumbled under his breath, "A timed explosive bomb..."

Red light surged into the sky.

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"Thank you for your contributions to our alliance, Tang Wu! These belong to you." The Duskwater Alliance placed the rewards in front of Huo Yuhao, including the Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell!

Chapter 351.2: A Terrifying Explosion!

Huo Yuhao pocketed everything without acting courteous at all. These rewards were one of his most important goals in this tournament!

"Thank you, sir. If there's nothing else, we'll take our leave." Huo Yuhao was still inside his human-shaped soul tool at this moment. He raised his metal leg and was about to walk away.

“Wait.” The vice-founder raised her hand, and blocked Huo Yuhao and He Caitou’s path.

Huo Yuhao muttered plainly, “What’s up? We’ve helped you clinch the championship. Are you still not letting us go?”

The vice-founder smiled faintly and said, “Of course not, but there are some things that I wish to discuss with you. Judging from your abilities, you seem like an evil soul master.”

Huo Yuhao didn’t respond directly. “What does that have to do with you guys?”

The vice-founder didn’t react emotionally at all because of Huo Yuhao’s cold attitude. She continued amicably, “Of course that has something to do with us... because we are the same.”

An aura that instilled intense fear into Huo Yuhao and He Caitou’s hearts instantly rose from her body as she spoke.

Greyish-blue light expanded from behind her back, and an exceedingly sharp and shrill howl could be heard. The greyish-blue light surged into the sky and condensed into a phoenix, while that eerie evil aura painted the sky above the competition stage greyish-blue with incredible speed.

Such a mighty aura of evil! No matter how powerful Huo Yuhao and He Caitou were, they felt their entire bodies turn cold and stiff as they sensed the aura that emanated from the vice-founder’s body. It was like their spirits had been locked away.

Evil Phoenix! That was actually the Evil Phoenix! It was a formidable martial soul that was almost considered Ultimate Evil!

The vice-founder was undoubtedly a Transcendent Douluo, and she was possibly higher than Rank 95!

The four elders behind her took a few steps back, their faces overcome with respect and admiration.

The vice-founder’s voice was very warm and gentle. “Look, we’re one and the same. Even though I can’t tell what your evil martial soul is, you can have everything you want if you join us.” There was a peculiar charm in her voice, and her voice made Huo Yuhao feel as if his heart was pounding out of his chest.

“You can use the power of light to unleash your abilities as an evil soul master, and I am a big fan of your necromantic summoning abilities. You are the Holy Son that my Church has been looking for, and we are very delighted that you have come to us. Join us, and you will be the future dictator of the world.”

Not everyone in the audience had departed at this point. Those normal citizens who were still here were transformed into greyish-blue statues as the greyish-blue light shone on them from the sky. They couldn’t move at all, and there seemed to be struggling against frightened spirits above their heads.

Huo Yuhao felt his heart sink. The Holy Ghost Church was so unbridled and unscrupulous. What did that mean? It meant they had absolute faith in their strength!

It was at this time that the vice-founder’s eyes suddenly turned toward the city, as if she had felt something.

In the next moment, everyone began to feel the earth trembling faintly beneath their feet.

Elder Xuan also felt this, even from some distance away. He turned around in shock, and he was one step earlier than the vice-founder to realize that something was amiss. However, his perception was different from that of the the Holy Ghost Church's vice-founder. He was far more sensitive, and he could tell that this quake was coming from the location Huo Yuhao had released the green signal from before.

What's happening?

The same doubt arose in everyone's hearts.

The vice-founder soared into the sky and transformed into a greyish-blue light projection as she swept through the air. She was moving way too quickly, and took the greyish-blue radiance that had spread out across the sky with her.

The vice-founder gazed down upon Radiant City from a thousand meters up in the sky. Her initially calm and composed eyes transformed in that instant, and her pupils became as thin as a needle's tip as she witnessed something that she would never forget for the rest of her life.

Something was happening in one corner of Radiant City. There was no warning at all as large masses of structures and buildings suddenly collapsed and sank, while stone and gravel were hurled into the sky from where the ground was collapsing inwards.

The great earth roared furiously in the next moment. The ground that had sunk now began to rise with lightning speed, and a colossal mushroom cloud accompanied by unrivaled explosive power surged into the sky.

The vice-founder was watching from a thousand meters in the sky, but she was still impacted this horrifying scene. She plummeted down at once, and laid down flat on the ground.

Boom, boom, boom, boom...!

The earth was moaning and thundering. Everything was trembling and quaking, and it seemed as if Hell itself had descended upon Radiant City in that instant. An incomparably terrifying explosive impact swept over a third of the greatest city on the Continent in the blink of an eye, and intense shockwaves shook the entire city.

Uncounted tons of gravel and dust flew in all directions as millions of fragments and bits of debris soared into the sky. Soil and earth billowed through the air as the scorching and horrifying shockwaves continued to ripple through the city.

This effect was something that not even Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells could accomplish. The entirety of Radiant City was quivering and groaning from the explosion, and was crumbling before it.

There were more than ten million people from all over the continent here in Radiant City to participate in and watch the tournaments. There were a lot more who were gathered in the western suburbs, all waiting for the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament's results. However, one third of Radiant City had already collapsed; how many lives would those frightening shockwaves take?

The sky was dark and gloomy over the Douluo Continent on this day, and the world was transformed.

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Huo Yuhao was the perpetrator, but even he had had no idea that his actions would lead to something so crazily horrifying.

There was no color on Huo Yuhao's face at this moment. He didn't dare to bring He Caitou and himself into his spectral demiplane because the petrifying explosion that resembled an apocalypse seemed to blow the heterogeneous space around them into smithereens.

A yellow shadow appeared behind Huo Yuhao and He Caitou amidst the hurricane of stone and gravel and picked them up, one person in each hand. The three of them disappeared without a trace amidst a few flickers of light.

"You guys did this?" Elder Xuan's deep voice rang out beside Huo Yuhao's ear.

Huo Yuhao was still inside his human-shaped soul tool, but he subconsciously nodded his head.

"What a massacre!" Elder Xuan's elderly voice was filled with sorrow and astonishment. He lowered his voice and said, "Don't ever speak of this to anyone. Do you understand?"

"Yes." Huo Yuhao's voice was trembling as an indescribable agony rose from his heart. He hadn't expected something like this to happen, that he would trigger an explosion so horrifying that it almost wiped out the entirety of Radiant City.

Huo Yuhao naturally understood the pain in Elder Xuan's voice. An explosion like this would take countless lives, and there were many more who would slowly slip into the void.

This was truly a massacre. The death toll was bound to be counted in tens of thousands, at least.

And he, the Ultimate Soldier, was the perpetrator and the assassin.

Huo Yuhao's lips were tightly pressed against each other as Elder Xuan swiftly brought them away as if they were rag dolls.

The Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament's grand finals were utterly meaningless at this moment.

But there was one thing that Huo Yuhao had achieved. This great explosion, known by later generations as the Day of Darkness and Destruction, had absolutely delayed the Sun Moon Empire's plans to invade the Douluo Continent. Huo Yuhao, an Ultimate Soldier, had achieved a level of destructiveness unmatched across human history.

Huo Yuhao would be known as the Eyes of the Asura in the future, and the "Asura" in his name stemmed from this terrifying explosion.

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The other members of the Tang Sect who had helped to accomplish this feat were also trembling inside. At this moment, their faces were all devoid of color as they lay prostrate on the ground and felt the impact of the cyclone of stone and sand. They felt the earth's moans, and nobody knew what to do.

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The earth split open in another place, and peculiar giant soul tools emerged from the ground, one after another. The Body Douluo, Du Busi, was leading the Star Luo Empire and the Heavenly Soul Empire's company, and they stared with slack jaws and widened eyes at the mushroom cloud looming over Radiant City. They found it hard to believe what had just happened.

In fact, nobody knew what exactly had just happened.

"Did... did Shrek Academy do that?" Xu Jiujiu stared at the mushroom cloud rising through the sky with lackluster eyes. She could feel the ground still shaking intensely where they were, kilometers away from the explosion, and her beautiful eyes were filled with an indescribable fear at this moment.

Wei Na's eyes were also blank with astonishment as she muttered under her breath, "This... what exploded, that can result in something like that? How many people will die?"

Du Busi was equally astounded. "I'll concede if Shrek Academy really did this. It seems like all we can do are parlor tricks in comparison."

Their three companies represented the Sun Moon Empire's greatest enemies in Radiant City at this moment. The Star Luo Empire and the Heavenly Soul Empire had a backup plan, and they had used ground-drilling soul tools that they had specifically researched to escape Radiant City underneath the eastern front. The Sun Moon Empire's army couldn't stop them in the end. However, not in their wildest dreams did they expect to see such a magnificent sight, which was so apocalyptic at the same time.

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Fewer than ten percent of the reinforced structures in the Sun Moon Empire's imperial palace had collapsed. Fortunately, the imperial palace was located in the center of the city, and wasn't encompassed in the one-third that had been annihilated.

There was no color on Xu Tianran's face as Ju Zi carried him on her back and squirmed out from underneath a pile of rubble. She stared at the colossal mushroom cloud in the distance, and at everything that had been destroyed around them. Her eyes grew slack and lifeless.

Right at that moment, shadow after shadow gathered in the sky. Hearty laughter could be heard, and even the mysterious Imperial Tutor had joined them at some point. The Holy Ghost Church's evil soul masters and their sinister auras soared into the sky, one after another.

Destruction was calamity and disaster for normal people, but for them, it was an opportunity that they dreamed of!

"There's so much resentment, and the spirits are so strong! Hahaha!"

Chapter 351.3: A Terrifying Explosion!

Shrek Academy's company began to move after their temporary astonishment. Elder Xuan's face was as gloomy as could be while he took everyone and raced toward the horizon.

Most of Shrek Academy's powerful individuals didn't know what had happened, and nobody knew why this scene had occurred. n-/0velb1n

A handful of people, including Zhang Lexuan, could faintly guess that the Tang Sect had catalyzed and caused that apocalyptic episode in some way.

Wang Dong'er, Wang Qiu'er, and Xiao Xiao were the clearest about the entire process. They were the ones who had installed the timed explosive bomb!

Huo Yuhao had deliberately damaged the elevator and the first floor's gate before they exited the underground warehouse, so that the inevitable inspection to come would take as long as possible. Everything had been within his calculations. He didn't make a single mistake, and he was extremely precise even with their timed explosive bomb.

The only thing he hadn't predicted was the final explosion's force and impact.

The timed explosive was placed beneath all the stationary cannon shells. There had been at least tens of thousands of stationary cannon shells, possibly more, that they hadn't been able to take away.

Huo Yuhao's goal had been simple; he wanted to destroy the underground warehouse, and he wanted the explosion to vaporize all the rare metals that they couldn't take away, along with all the low-level soul tools. That way, the Sun Moon Empire's invasion plans would be delayed by the tremendous losses.

According to Huo Yuhao's estimations of the stationary cannon shells, the explosive impact would only spread for one kilometer because the detonation was one hundred meters beneath the surface. The explosion would trigger an enormous earthquake, and the Illustrious Virtue Hall would take the full force of this disaster, as they were located right next to it!

The Sun Moon Empire would suffer unimaginable losses if this underground warehouse and the Illustrious Virtue Hall were destroyed at the same time, and that had been enough for him.

What Huo Yuhao didn't know was that there was another underground warehouse, dug out beneath the Illustrious Virtue Hall. This warehouse was even more protected and guarded than the one they had found, and a total of sixteen Class 9 stationary cannon shells were stored there. The explosion he had triggered awakened these tools of destruction slumbering deep beneath the ground.

Sixteen Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells, in addition to tens of thousands of stationary soul cannon shells below Class 5... everything compounded to create this calamity within Radiant City.

The Lightless Day of Destruction.

It was a day that the Sun Moon Empire would remember forever.

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Shrek Academy's team finally escaped into the western mountains. However, everyone felt as if their legs were going soft. They couldn't imagine how anybody could survive the core of that frightening explosion.

"Let's take a break," Elder Xuan ordered with a black look on his face.

Elder Xuan was still holding Huo Yuhao, who seemed as lifeless as a zombie inside his soul tool, and quickly pulled him to one side. He lowered his voice and said, "Everyone from the Tang Sect, come here. Wang Qiu'er, Lexuan, come here as well."

Everyone lowered their heads and walked over briskly as they heard Elder Xuan's solemn voice. The other powerful individuals from the academy had the same thought. It can't be. The explosion within Radiant City was actually caused by...

Nobody could stop this thought from flooding their minds, and everyone's eyes turned slack.

Elder Xuan placed Huo Yuhao's soul tool on the ground. He lowered his voice and said, "Open it and come out."

Huo Yuhao opened his human-shaped soul tool like a robot and revealed his ghastly pale face. Wang Dong'er hurriedly came forward and helped him out.

Elder Xuan stared at Huo Yuhao, and then at the others around him. His face seemed as solemn as could be as he said, "Who's going to tell me what happened? Speak now."

The lifelessness look in Huo Yuhao's eyes vanished, and his eyes became focused once more. He raised his head determinedly and said, "I did it, Elder Xuan. I was the one who set everything up. We discovered one of the Sun Moon Empire's underground warehouses, and there were a lot of rare metals stored inside, along with hosts of soul tools and stationary soul cannon shells. I buried a timed explosive bomb beneath the stationary cannon shells."

Elder Xuan drew a cold breath. He had already guessed it, but he could still feel the immense impact when he heard it from Huo Yuhao's mouth. He couldn't help but say, "Yuhao, Yuhao! Do you know how many lives will have been lost, how many innocent citizens have died? We have to be the Continent's guardians, not its executioners. You... you..."

Huo Yuhao lowered his head and clenched his fists tightly. "This was all my fault, Elder Xuan. I will not push away my responsibility, and you can punish me in any way you wish. But can we settle that after we leave the western mountains? My Spiritual Detection should still be useful for everyone."

"Huo Yuhao can't take all the blame, Elder Xuan," Wang Dong'er held Huo Yuhao tightly in her embrace, and sounded very emotional. "We didn't know this would happen. Huo Yuhao discovered that underground warehouse with his Spiritual Detection, and he risked damage to his own spirit by separating his spiritual avatar today so that he could lead us into that underground warehouse, even though he was in a perilous situation himself. He did all that so that we could collect enough rare metals for the Tang Sect and the Academy's future development. At the same time, he wanted to see if we could set the Sun Moon Empire back in some way so that we could disrupt their invasion plans in the future."

"Huo Yuhao led us after we entered the underground palace, and we found where the rare metals were stored. There was just too much in there, so much that the Sun Moon Empire could easily mass produce soul tools for war. We went deeper inside, until we reached the third floor, where the manufactured soul tools were. We took the high-level stationary soul cannon shells and left everything else. Only those things could have detonated."

"Huo Yuhao calculated it carefully. That place was one hundred meters below the surface, and its structure was exceptionally reinforced. The explosive impact wouldn't be that great even if an explosion was triggered inside the warehouse. Yuhao estimated that a small earthquake would occur, and the surface would tremble a little intensely, at most. Our main goal was to destroy the soul tools stored

within that warehouse, and it would be great if the explosive force could destroy some of the rare metals outside. At the same time, the sounds produced by the explosion would give him an opportunity to escape the western suburbs.

“Thus, we went ahead with the plan. We don’t know why the explosive force suddenly became so powerful. Everything has far exceeded our expectations, while the outcome was also very abnormal. Huo Yuhao just wanted delay the Sun Moon Empire’s invasion plans. Think about it, Elder Xuan. This incident that has led to so much bloodshed and so many lives lost is truly an accident. However, such a circumstance only happened because some other unknown explosives were triggered. If those explosives, along with the soul tools and stationary cannon shells that we destroyed, were used in their invasion, so many more people would have died. I’m afraid that number might have been ten times or even one hundred times more than the lives that were lost today. Therefore, I don’t think Yuhao did anything wrong. If you wish to punish him, then punish me too. I support everything that he’s done.”

Wang Dong’er’s voice was unwaveringly determined as she clasped Huo Yuhao’s right hand tightly.

Suffering bred true intimacy. Dong’er is standing with me at such a crucial moment. She wasn’t terrified by that frightening explosion, and she hasn’t chided or scolded me at all. She’s supporting me!

Huo Yuhao’s astonishment, agony, guilt, helplessness, self-blame, and all his other negative emotions receded conspicuously in the face of her stubborn support. His psychological and mental strength had always been superior to the average person’s, and his lover was standing with him at a time like this. Huo Yuhao’s eyes were already determined, but now they began to flare with even more perseverance and fortitude.

Wang Qiu’er walked out and stared at Elder Xuan as she said, “Even if you insist on blaming someone, Huo Yuhao can’t take all the blame. He was only in his spiritual form at the time, and he couldn’t do anything at all. Dong’er, Xiao Xiao, and I were the ones who installed that timed explosive bomb, so we are the perpetrators. And if we are, then so be it. Things have already turned out this way, so there’s no point talking about it anymore.”

Wang Qiu’er’s words displayed her unswerving toughness, in contrast to Wang Dong’er’s reasonable argument. Her personality didn’t change one bit, even though she was speaking to Elder Xuan.

Xiao Xiao nodded and said, “Yes, Qiu’er is right. The three of us are the perpetrators. This has nothing to do with Huo Yuhao. He was just helping us calculate, and only the three of us could execute any actual operations. We were the ones who made the final decision.”

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, “You guys don’t have to help me carry this responsibility. A mistake is a mistake, and now that I think about it, triggering an explosion in that warehouse probably triggered an explosion in another warehouse. Those explosives were likely to be high-level soul tools stored within Illustrious Virtue Hall. I should have thought about that. Our explosion was so close to the Illustrious Virtue Hall, after all! Destroying the Illustrious Virtue Hall was part of our plan, but I was too eager to accomplish that, and being eager for success led to this disaster. Many innocent citizens are probably dead, especially so because the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament was still ongoing. There were surely many travelers in Radiant City.”

He pressed his lips tightly together after this sentence. Even though he didn't like the Sun Moon Empire, the empire's citizens were innocent, and the consequences of this disaster were unimaginable. He had no idea what the actual death count was like inside Radiant City.

Elder Xuan's emotions had settled down a little. He was about to say something when an amiable, but somewhat authoritative voice rang out.

"Elder Xuan, this matter has nothing to do with them at all. Yuhao and I were the ones who planned the whole thing, and I am the Tang Sect's eldest senior brother, so I was the one who had the final say in whether we carried out this operation. All this would never have happened if I hadn't made that decision. I am no longer worthy of staying in the inner courtyard, and I request the Academy expel me as punishment."

Bei Bei's voice was calm, but determined. His face was still a little pale, but he could move now. Bei Bei slowly walked in front of Huo Yuhao and stood between him and Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan's eyes shone as he stared at Bei Bei and waited for him to continue.

Chapter 352.1: Sacrificial Offering

Bei Bei met Elder Xuan's eyes and continued, "If one person has to be blamed for this, then I am the one to blame, because I was the one who approved this operation. Elder Xuan, I'm not trying to take their responsibility away from them, but I will not attempt to lessen my own. No matter how and why this thing happened, I was still the one who made the final decision. The outcome and consequences have far exceeded our judgments and expectations, and it's true that we have taken many lives. Nobody wished to see this happen, because these citizens are innocent even though they reside within our enemy's territory. We will take full responsibility for this. I can only say that over at the Academy, the entire Tang Sect will pull out of the inner courtyard except for Huo Yuhao. This way, the Tang Sect can take full responsibility if word of this incident does get out, and the Academy's reputation won't be affected."

"However, Huo Yuhao cannot leave the academy. You should remember that Elder Mu has instructed us that Yuhao is to be the subsequent generation's Master of the Sea God's Pavilion. This mistake happened because of my inadequate command and leadership, so he shouldn't be the one to bear all the responsibility. Furthermore, you've seen the things he can do with your own eyes; he is the academy's future! If Yuhao is allowed to truly grow up, Shrek will always be the Continent's number-one Academy."

Elder Xuan shook his head and said, "Alright, I know how everything happened, and I trust you guys. Get some rest. We'll get going in fifteen minutes."

Elder Xuan surveyed everyone with calm eyes after that before turning and leaving without saying anything else.

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Xu Sanshi came up beside Bei Bei. They were both quite severely injured, and these two brothers exchanged a look as Xu Sanshi couldn't help but ask, "What's this? Is that it?"

He Caitou touched his round and bald head as he said, "I think there was nothing much to this in the first place, and you guys are overthinking things. What else can happen? Everything has already happened.

"Furthermore, nobody knows that we were the perpetrators. The truth is, I think Dong'er's speech swayed Elder Xuan the most. How many people would have died if such frightening weapons had been used on the battlefield instead? This enormous explosion occurred underground where it was sealed off, and even then it had such a tremendous effect on the surface. What if this explosion went off on the surface instead? I calculated the explosion's force, and I can tell from its impact that this explosion was equivalent to ten or more Class 9 stationary cannon shells going off at the same time!

"What are Class 9 stationary cannon shells? A single one can destroy an entire small city, and it can wipe out an entire legion out of existence! This explosion was intense and violent, but I believe the death count isn't as high as it seems, either."

"Why?" Xiao Xiao asked doubtfully. "That explosion seemed to sweep across the entire city. Dust and smoke billowed throughout the sky, and there were also terrifying shockwaves! It felt like the apocalypse was upon us!"

He Caitou answered, "Trust the professional. Little junior brother was involved, so he couldn't calculate as calmly as I did. Let me ask you, little junior brother... how thick were the warehouse's walls, and what were they made of?"

Huo Yuhao replied without hesitation. "The walls were constructed mainly of alloys and granite. The alloys were more than two meters thick, and the granite behind them was at least fifteen meters thick. Their design during construction probably relied on the alloys' toughness and the granite's thickness and hardness for perfect underground support and defense."

He Caitou nodded. "That's it. Since that's the case, the first instant after the great explosion in this large underground warehouse would have released enormous amounts of heat that would have expanded outwards. However, that expansion process would have been barricaded by so many tough blockades. How much force could leak onto the surface?"

"I believe your calculations are correct. The release of high temperatures that were compressed within the underground warehouse from this vigorous explosion would definitely destroy those soul tools, while most of the rare metals would melt, and some would be mixed with stone and gravel and thus would no longer be usable. I believe we have perfectly achieved our goal, and the only problem that we didn't think about was that the expanding heat caused some Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells stored in another nearby warehouse to detonate!

"That warehouse was used to store Class 9 shells, so that means its defenses and layering must have been a lot tougher and stronger than the warehouse you guys were in. Illustrious Virtue Hall had been robbed before, so they've learned their lesson from that experience. How could they not be careful?"

"Therefore, if the underground defenses were so strong, the explosive impact wouldn't shift horizontally. Instead, it would be pressed to explode upwards, and the explosion caused those vigorous tremors and a minor earthquake, just as Huo Yuhao had predicted. However, those Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells increased this earthquake's magnitude. The hurricane of sand and stone that we saw earlier came from the sand and stone that this explosion carried into the sky, and it swept across the

entire city. But the region at the explosion's epicenter suffered the heaviest losses, and that region is far smaller than one-third of Radiant City.

"People will die, and the number won't be small. However, claiming that one-third of the entire city's population will die is impossible. Destroying those underground warehouses was the real blow that we have dealt the Sun Moon Empire this time."

Huo Yuhao nodded continuously as he listened to He Caitou's analysis. He felt a lot better with his second senior brother's reminders, and his train of thought cleared up. Some of He Caitou's words were shots in the dark, but not everything he had said came from pure conjecture. Huo Yuhao dug into his memory and confirmed He Caitou's analysis.

Xiao Xiao laughed and said, "When did you become so smart, Caitou? Why haven't I felt this way before?"

"Uh..." He Caitou immediately felt as if he had spoken a little too much today. He smiled sheepishly and said, "I was worried that little junior brother would overthink things. I want to take this opinion to Elder Xuan, and I think he will find this matter a lot easier to accept if I do that." He Caitou instantly tucked his tail in and ran away.

Jiang Nannan heaved a faint sigh and said, "War is the cruelest thing. I hope our actions will delay the war, and it would be better still if the war didn't happen at all."

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "That'll be very difficult. The Holy Ghost Church is strong, and Xu Tianran is wildly ambitious. They will sustain heavy losses from this, but what we have done is far from enough to extinguish his wolfish ambitions."

I'm sorry, Radiant City. Fourth senior sister is right; war is the cruelest thing, and what I have to do as an Ultimate Soldier is to rely on just myself in a war against my enemies. Even though many people have died this time, I will not regret my actions, because I have prevented more from being sacrificed in a war, and now we have more time to prepare.

Bei Bei chimed in. "This matter will have nothing to do with the Tang Sect as long as the Academy doesn't speak about it. After all, we are not the Sun Moon Empire's only suspects. The Body Sect is adept at moving through the ground, and they are lot more suspicious than we are."

Xu Sanshi mused, "Pushing the blame to others... that sounds a little evil." He paused for moment before he continued, "But, why do I feel like I like it...?"

Jiang Nannan snapped, "That's because the two of you are equally thick-skinned!"

"Who was it!? Who was it!?" Xu Tianran roared furiously, and his indignant voice echoed throughout the Imperial Palace.

Many people were helping out with the wounded and treating them at this moment, as numbers and data continued pouring in.

Just as He Caitou had predicted, the death count from this incident wasn't that serious. However, the Sun Moon Empire's financial losses were immeasurable!

Uncountable structures inside the Imperial Palace had collapsed, but the servants were all working because it was daytime, and thus hardly anybody was buried in the rubble. Furthermore, the interior structures of soul tools were tough. Even so, voluminous amounts of money would be required to repair and restore the Imperial Palace. Many of the Imperial Palace's soul tools were damaged by the intense shockwaves, let alone its various structures.

Other than that, enormous patches of structures had collapsed, with the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy at the epicenter. The city's death count and injury count continued to rise, and the loss of life and livelihood was severe, even though the losses weren't as high as the mighty explosion should have inflicted.

Xu Tianran wouldn't wince at some of his citizens' deaths. What made him feel so much pain and agony was that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy and Illustrious Virtue Hall had vanished from Radiant City. Large amounts of the resources that were stored in those underground warehouses were gone too!

They represented the basis of his invasion plans. Everything was gone... what did that mean? It meant his plans had been pushed back indefinitely! Furthermore, the Sun Moon Empire had trouble sustaining these losses, even though they were exceptionally wealthy!

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Jing Hongchen almost vomited blood when he discovered that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy was at the explosion's epicenter, and nearly fainted on the spot. The Illustrious Virtue Hall was the basis of everything that he was, and this explosion would push the Sun Moon Empire's research progress back years. There was no need to mention the number of people from Illustrious Virtue Hall who had perished in the explosion.

The only reason why Jing Hongchen didn't pass away from anger was because he had been keeping his grandchildren beside him this entire time, because he had felt that the recent situation was a little unstable. Xiao Hongchen had been heavily wounded, and Xu Tianran took the initiative and brought him into the Imperial Palace for treatment. Because of that, Jing Hongchen's grandchildren survived the blast peacefully.

If his precious grandson and granddaughter had died in the blast, Jing Hongchen would have expelled every single ounce of his life energy in a mouthful of blood.

"Your Highness, Your Highness! It's not good!" A vigorously trembling voice was carried from far away as a servant scrambled towards Xu Tianran. He was clearly grieving and despondent.

Xu Tianran retorted angrily, "What's not good? Everything's happened because of you bastards calling out ominously!"

"Your Highness, the Emperor... the Emperor... he has passed away..."

Chapter 352.2: Sacrificial Offering

Xu Tianran's furious face instantly froze when he heard those words. A strange light flickered beneath his eyes – this seemed to be the only piece of good news amidst his colossal losses today. The emperor's death meant that he, who was the crown prince, had a chance to ascend to the throne. He had enough influence and power to support him in his bid for the throne, and the strongest resistance that he faced came from Xu Guozhong's lineage. But how could Xu Guozhong survive that tremendous explosion?

Suddenly, everything doesn't seem all that bad...

Xu Tianran gritted his teeth as he looked up at the troupe of evil soul masters who had already gathered in the sky. He suddenly cried out painfully, "Father, father! How can you leave just like that?" Two lines of tears streamed down his cheeks, but nobody knew whether they came from grief, or from regret.

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There were mountains all around, and not a single ray of sunlight shone through.

This was the center of the Sun Moon Empire's Western Mountains, and this gigantic valley was more than five kilometers around. This valley was exceptionally spherical.

The valley sank down into a hemisphere, and the bottom was filled with clear lake water. The lake water gleamed, and it was so clear and crystalline that the lakebed could be seen.

Several shadows broke the tranquility of this place right at this moment. They were soaring through the sky, and they quickly arrived above the lake's surface.

One would realize upon closer inspection that there were four people. Two of them had black veils covering their faces, while they each carried someone in their hands – one was a young man, and the other was a young girl.

The young man and the young girl were crying out in alarm and surprise. However, they couldn't move at all, and they couldn't struggle even if they wanted to.

The two people in black swiftly brought them to the center of the lake and hovered in midair.

They stared at the water beneath them, and they raised their captives above their heads.

"You... what are you trying to do?" The young man shouted dismally with a trembling voice.

One of their captors answered him. His voice sounded a little husky as he said, "We want to organize a grand sacrificial rite, and we need a living human as our sacrifice. We happen to have captured the two of you, who also happen to be married to each other. Speak now – who wishes to be sacrificed? We will let the other person go."

"No, please! I beg you, let us go!" Judging by her age, the young girl didn't seem like she had been married for long. Her voice was quivering at this moment, but she stared at her husband with a pleading and begging look in her eyes.

Her husband stared back at her with sluggish eyes. Suddenly, he roared at the top of his voice, "I don't want to die! I don't want to die! Use her! Use her as your sacrifice!"

The wife stared at her husband, who she had had made vows with, and her eyes were filled with disbelief.

“How... how can you do that? Didn't you say that you would protect me with your life? You... you're such a liar!”

Her husband howled hysterically, “We only live once, and this life is gone when we die. What about you? Do you think you're any better? What was that look in your eyes before this? Don't you want me to sacrifice myself for you? I'm so nice and good to you, so why won't you sacrifice yourself for me so that I can live?”

“Nonsense! I... I want to live, but I only want to live with you. Go to hell – you're the one who should die. Kill him, kill him!” The wife's emotions had become a little hysterical and distraught.

Two chilly lights flashed and slashed the couple's throats at the same time. Fresh blood erupted from their gaping wounds like a fountain and poured onto the lake's surface beneath them. n)-O.(V-(E--l(-b-)1--n

The couple's eyes were filled with incredulity and disbelief, and they seemed like they wanted to ask something, but they were just no longer able to do so.

One of their captors muttered disdainfully, “This is the fickleness of human nature, and everyone goes their separate ways when disaster arrives. How many times have we done this? This has never failed before. This place is quite peculiar, though – it can only be primed by the lives and blood of a man and woman who are in love but betray each other in the end.”

The other man in black lowered his voice and said, “Cut the crap. Quickly, drain them of their blood so that we can go back and make a successful report on our task. This place will be activated two hours after it has been primed, and even saints can't escape from this when that time arrives. Any humans inside will be...”

The first man in black seemed to recall something, and said nothing more.

The couple's blood was swiftly drained, and their lives came to an end.

“Kerplunk, kerplunk.” Two corpses plunged into the lake, and the two men in black turned and soared into the sky. They departed rapidly, as if they were running from something, and vanished in the blink of an eye.

In the few minutes after they disappeared, the lake's surface began to ripple and surge. The couple had just dropped into the lake, but their blood undulated and gradually began to lighten as strange colors started to appear.

Those were golden and silver hues. Golden light flickered while the silver light rippled, and they permeated the lake's surroundings at an alarming rate...

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“Let's go.” Elder Xuan instructed the company.

Shrek Academy's company immediately set out once more after their short rest and continued westward. They had no other choice at this point.

The colossal explosion in the middle of Radiant City would undoubtedly end this season's grand competition without proper closure. The Douluo Continent's three main countries' tense relationships with the Sun Moon Empire would undoubtedly be aggravated because of this explosion as well.

The Sun Moon Empire's citizens probably hadn't really supported war before this, but it wasn't hard to imagine what their opinions would be like after this incident.

Elder Xuan's expression seemed a little better after he listened to He Caitou's explanation. If the Sun Moon Empire's death count wasn't as bad as it seemed, then their operation could only be described as impeccable.

The company could only progress through the Western Mountains because they were afraid that flying through the air would draw attacks from the Sun Moon Empire's long-range soul tools. Everyone in the company was relatively powerful, and they scaled hill after hill as they pushed forward. They arrived within the Western Mountains' inner regions in no time.

However, a strange atmosphere appeared right at this moment.

"This place looks very familiar – I think we were here two hours ago." Huo Yuhao was back inside his human-shaped soul tool. He had plugged one Class 6 Milk Bottle in each of the machine's reserve slots – with these two Milk Bottles supporting him, he could spare a lot more energy to recover his spiritual power and his soul power throughout the journey.

The Western Mountain could present unforeseen problems and obstacles, so Huo Yuhao had his Spiritual Detection activated this entire time. He alternated between different directions as he surveyed and scouted far into the distance, searching for problems that might appear.

He hadn't discovered anything throughout their journey so far, but the feeling that something was wrong became stronger and stronger.

Huo Yuhao didn't know why he was feeling that, but he was confident that something bad was about to befall them. The ominous feeling in his mind seemed to mature at this moment.

"Stop, everyone." Elder Xuan drifted over to Huo Yuhao's side. He had always had faith in Huo Yuhao's spiritual power. "Are you saying that we've circled back? Can it be that there is a maze inside the Western Mountains? Such a problem shouldn't occur with our ability to discern direction and our navigational abilities."

Elder Xuan looked up at the stars in the night sky as he spoke. Observing the stars at night had always been a good way of telling direction.

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "I am positive, Elder Xuan, that we've been to this place before. The reason is because I did a single-direction sweep in this place before, and there are still some remnant spiritual imprints of that on the plants around us. That can't be wrong."

Elder Xuan's expression instantly grew solemn. He was a Rank 98 Transcendent Douluo, a powerful being who was almost an Ultimate Douluo, yet not even he had detected anything wrong. They were going around in circles, and this proved that the situation was quite serious.

"What do you think we should do?" Elder Xuan lowered his voice as he asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao answered, "The sky is too dark at this moment. I've attempted to reach far into the distance with Spiritual Detection, but the further I go, the less clear our surroundings become. I can only feel out the rough landscape, but I'm unable to use my spiritual power to do any in-depth observations. Should we rest and wait for daybreak? Dawn is coming soon."

Elder Xuan nodded and said, "Alright, let's wait for daybreak then. Rest where you are everyone, and stay together. Don't get separated from each other – Lexuan, you're responsible for arranging the shifts for night watch. Those who are resting, meditate as soon as possible."

Zhang Lexuan immediately went ahead to arrange the night shifts. She was the inner courtyard's eldest senior sister, and she was also part of the Sea God's Pavilion, so she had always been efficient at arranging such things. It didn't take long before a small-scale campsite was established on a location that was relatively higher than their surroundings. Several Titled Douluo, including the Martial God Douluo Xian Lin'er, rested near the edge of the campsite so that they could protect everyone.

There were five Titled Douluo who were part of Elder Xuan's company, and there were four Transcendent Douluo, including Elder Xuan. However, they had quite a few people to protect. The Tang Sect comprised the largest group – Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Xiao Xiao, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, Ji Juechen, Jing Ziyuan, Nan Qiuqiu, and Na Na. There was also one other person that Huo Yuhao had roped in for the operation last night, and that was Gao Dalou, who possessed a ranked carving knife of his own. Huo Yuhao had used some rare metals to completely bring this self-established soul engineer over to his side.

Besides the Tang Sect's company, the Titled Douluo also had to protect the team from Shrek Academy who had come to participate in the tournament – Wang Qiu'er, Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, Zhou Enchen, Cao Jinxuan, Lan Susu, Lan Luoluo, Wu Feng, Ning Tian, and Xie Huanyue. In addition to their eldest senior sister, Zhang Lexuan, these Titled Douluo had quite a few people to protect.

The six Titled Douluo's most important task was to escort these people – there were more than twenty of them – safely back to Shrek Academy.

Dai Huabin and the others from Shrek Academy's team were full of doubt and suspicion as they watched the mysterious and secretive looks on the others from the Tang Sect. They were deeply shaken by the frightening explosion before this, and they also noticed that Elder Xuan had inquired of the Tang Sect's company in private – did that mean the Tang Sect had something to do with that explosion?

The Tang Sect's company naturally huddled together. They had hustled throughout the night, and Huo Yuhao was naturally the most exhausted one. He almost instantly entered meditation, and his fatigued expression didn't look so good under the firelight.

Chapter 352.3: Sacrificial Offering

Wang Dong'er walked discreetly beside Wang Qiu'er and whispered, "Can I discuss something with you, Qiu'er?"

"What?" Wang Qiu'er replied coldly.

Wang Dong'er continued, "Huo Yuhao is too exhausted today. Furthermore, he'll have reconnaissance duties when dawn comes, so he has to recover his energy as quickly as possible. We can both fuse our martial souls with him, so will he recover faster if the three of us cultivate together? Therefore, I'm asking that you..."

Wang Qiu'er's eyes undulated for a single moment as she gave Wang Dong'er a deep stare. Wang Dong'er was also staring at her, and their gazes met as Wang Qiu'er saw the clarity in Wang Dong'er's eyes. She finally nodded.

Wang Dong'er was elated as she hurriedly said, "Thank you, Qiu'er."

The two girls arrived beside Huo Yuhao. Wang Dong'er sat opposite him, while Wang Qiu'er sat behind him. Wang Qiu'er raised her palms and placed them on Huo Yuhao's back as Wang Dong'er carefully placed her hands on Huo Yuhao's. She channeled their Haodong power before she raised his palms and placed hers against them.

Huo Yuhao was too familiar with cultivating with Wang Dong'er. Even though he was already in meditation, he immediately felt it when their Haodong power began to circulate, and he naturally started to cooperate. His recovery would undoubtedly be a lot faster and more efficient with Wang Dong'er's help.

However, a wave of powerful soul power flowed in from his back at this moment. In the beginning, this soul power seemed a little violent as it barged around, but the three different soul powers quivered when this third soul power interacted with Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er's Haodong power before all three strands began to interact and intertwine.

There were three different entities intertwined together, but they could also be counted as two, because the Haodong power was one body in itself. Wang Qiu'er's soul power came afterwards.

Wang Qiu'er's soul power was still overbearing and felt a little forceful, but this forcefulness didn't carry any impact. Instead, it began to circulate and rotate once it interacted with the Haodong power, and its color also began to change.

Huo Yuhao sensed, to his surprise, that the purplish-golden hues that had reigned supreme on the competition stage and defeated the Bone Dragon, Yan Feng, appeared once more.

This wasn't a martial soul fusion skill. Instead, it was a direction fusion between their soul powers. That purplish-golden soul power began to flow through Huo Yuhao's body, and every passageway felt smooth, as if it had been warmed and ironed. Huo Yuhao's spiritual power seemed like it was being encompassed and boosted within all those purplish-golden colors.

Huo Yuhao's entire body felt transparent, and his circulation was smooth and unobstructed. That sensation was just fantastic, and it didn't take long before Huo Yuhao's passageways became entirely purplish-golden in color, and even his spiritual sea was blanketed with a faint layer of purplish-golden light.

Huo Yuhao wasn't the only person who enjoyed this pleasant and comfortable feeling – Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er shared the same sensations.

Wang Dong'er discovered to her surprise that their cultivation didn't just sublimate when Wang Qiu'er added her soul power into the mix. Furthermore, her soul power fusion with Huo Yuhao seemed a lot tighter and more intimate than before. Their soul power circulated more rapidly when it flowed into her body, and it even expanded her passageways as it boosted her qi and blood.

Wang Dong'er had light-type abilities, while Huo Yuhao's main martial soul was spiritual-type. Wang Qiu'er's forte was strength, and this strength represented the body and the body's blood vessels. These three entities complemented each other as mysterious lights flickered on their faces amidst the emanating purplish-golden colors.

Elder Xuan quickly noticed their transformations, and walked over at once.

On the surface, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, and Wang Qiu'er's faces undulated with a faint and elegant but mysterious purple color, while this purple color became stronger as they continued to cultivate before it gradually turned purplish-gold. This purplish-golden light cocooned them, and the three of them seemed like they had integrated into one body. Elder Xuan could even feel their sublimation through their cultivation from the outside.

Elder Xuan exhaled deeply and nodded in approval inside. A three-way martial soul fusion skill could only be described as miraculous in the world of soul masters. Even though there were many questions and doubts in his mind that he wanted to ask Huo Yuhao, especially about his necromantic abilities and his battle against the Angel, Ye Guyi, now clearly wasn't the time to pose these questions. I'll bring them up in the morning.

One of the most important reasons why Elder Xuan had held Huo Yuhao accountable for the great explosion inside Radiant City before this was because his faith in Huo Yuhao had been shaken, and that was due to Huo Yuhao's display of abilities that only evil soul masters could possess. However, Elder Xuan could feel the vast, righteous, and pleasant soul power undulations from the three of them, and he felt a little ashamed. Could somebody with a heart towards evil possess soul power like this?

Elder Xuan shook his head self-mockingly as he sat down close to the three of them with his legs crossed and personally stood guard for them.

The Martial God Douluo, Xian Lin'er, watched over Shrek Academy's other soul masters. She was the Soul Tool Department's Dean, and she glanced at Huo Yuhao from time to time. That was a human-shaped soul tool, and she would have contended with Elder Xuan if now had been the right time.

Everything seemed quiet and peaceful. However, what Shrek Academy's group of powerful individuals didn't know was that a thick fog was starting to permeate the Western Mountains. The entire mountain range seemed to come alive as peculiar transformations began to take place.

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"How's the situation looking?" The Sun Moon Empire's crown prince, Xu Tianran, was dressed in mourning clothes as he asked with a solemn look on his face.

The empire's defense minister was on one knee in front of him as he lowered his voice and said, "The situation has been stabilized, but we have sustained heavy losses, especially in our structures and buildings. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy has been completely destroyed, and the Illustrious Virtue Hall's underground structures are probably..."

Xu Tianran waved him away and said, "I don't want to hear about our losses. I'm asking you about the citizens' feelings and what they're thinking."

The defense minister replied, "The citizens' emotions are highly unstable, especially so for the families whose members have died or are injured. Many people have no homes to return to. There are many outsiders who came to spectate the tournament that have died or been injured as well."

Xu Tianran nodded and said, "Pass the order – muster our resources in nearby cities and immediately begin providing aid for the victims as much as possible. Assemble our armies and bring them into the city to maintain order. Kill those who dare to cause trouble and take advantage of the chaos. Kill those naysayers and those who try to turn the people against the empire. Kill those who dare to plunder or rape. We have to stabilize the situation as quickly as possible. Mark this day as National Funeral Day, and make sure that the news of the emperor's passing doesn't leak out. You will personally publicize and push the blame for this explosion on the Star Luo and Heavenly Soul Empires."

"Yes." The defense minister acknowledged respectfully. He admired the Prince Regent for settling down as quickly as possible, and Xu Tianran was still able to handle things properly and react accordingly even though so many things had happened one after another. This was the mark of a true ruler!

"How about Shrek Academy, your highness? This matter is likely to be connected to them. When we are announcing to the public..."

Xu Tianran shook his head and said, "Don't mention them. Shrek Academy is just an academy after all, and they are considered spiritual leaders for many soul masters at the same time. Dragging them into the fray will affect our strategy. I have my own plans to deal with them."

"Yes. I'll take my leave, then."

"Go. Providing aid for the victims is our priority, and we have to stabilize them as soon as possible." Xu Tianran reiterated once more.

The defense minister departed, and the mysterious Imperial Tutor dressed in black quickly walked in without announcing his arrival. He seemed to be in a good mood.

"How's the situation looking, Imperial Tutor?" Xu Tianran asked with a concerned look on his face.

The mysterious Imperial Tutor replied, "This incident has been greatly beneficial for my sect, and multiple powerful individuals from my sect have taken this opportunity to break through their bottlenecks. However, there's one issue that hasn't been dealt with properly – the Heavenly Soul Empire, the Star Luo Empire, and the Body Sect have all escaped. They actually prepared large amounts of drilling soul tools, and they used them to send their main members away. According to the holes that we've discovered, they managed to send out hundreds of people. Those that remain are scattered amongst the citizens, and it will be difficult to seek them out." n((o.(v)/e/(I(-b/-1)-n

Xu Tianran's expression became a little contorted as he smacked his left palm heavily with his right fist. "Shit! I should have considered that. Those irritating rodents ambushed the Illustrious Virtue Hall before. When Hallmaster Hongchen wakes up, we have to enhance the entire city's underground monitoring and surveying mechanisms. They must have been the ones who triggered the explosion in the underground warehouses – there's no way to break into those warehouses besides drilling through the ground."

What happened at those underground warehouses had become a mystery after the explosion, and nobody knew exactly how things had played out. Xu Tianran could only push the blame on the Star Luo Empire and the Heavenly Soul Empire because that was most beneficial for him, and so that he could have more reason to launch an invasion against them in the future.

The Imperial Tutor sounded solemn as he said, "You have sustained severe losses this time. Your Highness – oh, no, I should address you as 'Your Majesty' now. Your Majesty, when are you going to mobilize your armies?"

He was the Holy Ghost Sect's founder, and he was the one who controlled those evil soul masters. Nobody was more eager for this war than he was, since the arrival of this war meant there would be uncountable spirits for the Holy Ghost Sect to make use of.

Xu Tianran contemplated momentarily, then said, "This incident was too sudden. Stabilizing the citizens and the city has top priority at the moment. Furthermore, the destruction of the underground warehouses and the Illustrious Virtue Hall was too damaging for us, and most of our soul tools that had been prepared for the war were destroyed. If you are willing to give your sect's full strength, Imperial Tutor, we might be able to launch an invasion earlier. But..."

The Imperial Tutor shook his head decisively and interrupted him. "We can only aid you from the shadows, and we cannot give our full strength. The world of soul masters has never accepted us. Even though we have enough strength to protect ourselves, openly participating in this war will undoubtedly draw out the other sects that have been hiding from the world. If that happens, it will be very difficult for you to execute your strategy and your plan. I think the war can be delayed, but we have to take this opportunity to intensify the citizens' hate for those two empires. We have to continue adding more soldiers and training them, and we have to build soul tools with everything we have so that we can make sufficient preparations for the war. Since we've already antagonized them openly, we have to make sure that our armies are equipped and prepared as early as possible. It's alright if nothing happens, but once we unleash our armies, we have to take them all down in one heavy and fatal blow.

Chapter 353.1: Yin Yang Love Querying Valley

Xu Tianran nodded contentedly and said, "I have the same intention too. To defeat our external foes, we have to pacify opposition within our borders first. I want to take care of the internal situation and take this opportunity to exterminate traitors. For this, I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you, Imperial Tutor." At this point, a cold gleam crossed Xu Tianran's eyes. The corners of his mouth twitched as he betrayed a strong killing intent.

The mysterious Imperial Tutor said plainly, "That's right. Some people must be held accountable for this incident. As for those who are faultless, we can say that they perished in the explosion. I'll follow the list that you gave me earlier?"

“Yes,” said Xu Tiaran as he nodded.

The Imperial Tutor said, “Then, let me take this chance to congratulate Your Majesty on your premature ascension to the throne.”

Xu Tianran said sincerely, “When the Sun Moon Empire unites the continent, the Holy Ghost Church shall be the national religion. At that time, I’ll name the Founder of the Church as the National God. All shall hold you in reference, and you shall be elevated on a divine pedestal.”

“That’s for later, let’s take care of things one step at a time,” the Imperial Tutor said. He did not appear very excited. He nodded at Xu Tianran and then turned to leave.

When he reached the entrance, he stopped and turned around.

“We can’t devote all our strength over at the Western Mountain yet. However, I’ve already activated the Mysterious Land there. We’ll trap them there and then take care of them later. By then, Shrek Academy will be totally drained. It’ll be impossible for them to resist us anymore.”

Xu Tianran said, “I had the same plan. However, can we really trap them?”

The mysterious Imperial Tutor intoned, “That place imprisoned my grandfather for 100 years. He was not weaker than Uncle Long. In the end, he managed to take some things out from there, but they were just a small portion of the Mysterious Land. Mere mortals cannot resist that place. Once something goes wrong, it’ll result in imprisonment spanning decades until death. After I activate it, even a Titled Douluo can’t fly there. He can only leave after going through various trials and tribulations. My grandfather made three errors when he was there, and hence, he was trapped for 100 years. Did we not try it before? Among those whom we threw inside, less than 10% of them survived. I’ve already instructed Little Feng to bypass the Western Mountain, and got four of my elders to guard the exit. Even if they escape, they will still be killed.”

“Good,” Xu Tianran said as he nodded his head. “It’s all up to you, Imperial Tutor.”

.....

The sky gradually lit up.

When Huo Yuhao opened his eyes once more, purple and gold light shone in his eyes. His energy was indescribably vibrant!

The mysterious three-way cultivation had aided him, Wang Dong’er, and Wang Qiu’er immensely. While they only cultivated for around four hours, Huo Yuhao was able to increase his soul power by cultivating the difficult Ultimate Strength martial soul. Furthermore, the combined power of the purple and gold soul power was able to erode the Ultimate Ice, the origin energy of heaven and earth, in his lower limbs at twice the usual speed. It was akin to cultivating after ingesting distilled wine.

Wang Dong’er and Wang Qiu’er opened their eyes too. Their two highly-similar eyes, which reflected vastly different personalities, also shone with a layer of purple and gold light.

Wang Dong’er experienced the greatest increase in soul power because she did not have an Ultimate martial soul. Wang Qiu’er and Huo Yuhao both possessed Ultimate martial souls and hence, their increase was less than Wang Dong’er’s. However, it was still substantial.

The three of them looked at each other. An odd atmosphere permeated their surroundings.

Even Wang Dong'er sensed that something felt wrong. Does this mean that the three of us are 'together'? But, but...

Huo Yuhao touched his nose, nodded at Wang Qiu'er and said, "Thank you."

Wang Qiu'er stared at him, then shook her head as she said, "It's fine. This benefits all of us." With that, she turned and walked away.

Wang Dong'er's gaze turned soft. While Huo Yuhao thanked Wang Qiu'er, he said nothing else to her. It was clear who he was close with, and who he was not. She liked how Huo Yuhao did not try to beat about the bush. This clearly indicated to Wang Qiu'er that there was no chance between Huo Yuhao and her. Hence, she would not develop false notions. While this might appear hurtful, it was better to suffer less in relationships.

Huo Yuhao raised his head to look at the sky. He was instantly surprised, because he realized that the sky was shrouded by fog five meters from the ground. Furthermore, he realized that the fog in the sky was changing color.

"Since you have all woken up, come over." Elder Xuan's voice wafted over. Quickly, assisted by Wang Dong'er, Huo Yuhao entered his human-shaped soul tool. Then, he walked over to Elder Xuan.

The rest had already gathered. There was a solemn expression on Elder Xuan's face.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously released his Spiritual Detection. However, he was soon surprised. Despite having released Spiritual Detection, its radius was no more than 5 meters. Any further, and he felt like a clay cow in the sea. Not only could he not sense anything, but he could also feel something eating away at his spiritual power.

How can this be? My Spiritual Detection can't even see as far as my eyes. Huo Yuhao had never experienced this before. Even in the Setting Sun Forest, which had been saturated with a toxic miasma, he had still been able to use his Spiritual Detection!

Elder Xuan looked at Huo Yuhao and said, "You can feel it too, right? Our sensory abilities have been greatly weakened. The fog above our heads is like a cage, trapping us here. If we can't escape, we'll truly be caught in a rut."

Wang Qiu'er could not help but ask, "Can we not fly?"

Elder Xuan shook his head and said, "I tried, but it doesn't work. When I tried, it was as if the entire sky was resisting me. A powerful pressure forced me to land. The strength of this pressure surpasses what a normal person can resist. Even Long Xiaoyao, an Ultimate Douluo, would find it impossible."

When they heard Elder Xuan's words, everyone could not help but gasp.

The Martial God Douluo Xian Lin'er frowned and said, "This is strange indeed. However, why did we not detect this when we flew over?"

She and Elder Xuan had personally flown over the Western Mountain. In one day, they had surveyed the entire Western Mountain, and yet they did not realize that there was something amiss.

However, this transformation had now trapped everyone here. How could she and Elder Xuan not fault themselves?

Elder Xuan intoned, "This area appears to be enveloped by a mysterious power. Even the ground is different. I tried to control the earth and burrow through the ground, but I failed. We appear to be trapped in an unbreakable prison." n0Vei1b.1n

Elder Xuan's martial soul, the Godly Taotie Bull, was an Earth-type martial soul. It could manipulate the ground very well. He had tried to use his powerful strength to alter his surroundings and break through the obstacles. However, he failed.

"Does anyone have any plans? Speak," said Elder Xuan, who was depressed and perplexed. However, he managed to keep a straight face. At this moment, he could not panic. If he did, these kids would panic even more.

"Elder Xuan, should we split into groups and explore? We can divide ourselves into smaller groups. This may not be a prison, but a maze instead. Perhaps we can walk out?" Dai Huabin asked.

Before he could finish his sentence, Bei Bei spoke, "No, we can't split up at this time. If you're right and this is indeed a maze, this is still a maze the Sun Moon Empire constructed for us. What if evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church are in here with us? The moment we split up, we'll become sitting ducks for them."

Dai Huabin's face twitched. However, he did not dare to say anything to Bei Bei. In the inner courtyard, while Bei Bei's position could not compare with Zhang Lexuan's, he was still one of the more powerful members of the younger generation. In particular, his performance against the Holy Ghost Sect team left a deep impression on everyone.

Elder Xuan looked at Huo Yuhao and said, "Speak, Yuhao."

Huo Yuhao said, "I've just tried it, and the radius of Spiritual Detection is no more than five meters. It's no better than our sight. You're right. Here, we are under the suppression of a mystical power, which can't be resisted by mere humans. However, I don't think that it's purely a cage. It must have its secrets. Since it's not something that humans can resist, it was definitely not built by the Sun Moon Empire. Their soul tools have not yet reached this level. Even a Class 10 soul tool could not cover such a huge mountain. Hence, this is a natural formation. The Sun Moon Empire can only control it. Since its made by nature, it's not a death trap. There's bound to be an escape."

"I agree with elder brother. At this time, we can't split up. Everyone should concentrate on one direction. Even if we return to where we started off, we'll make observations and discover new things. With these clues, we can improvise further. This is our last resort."

"Right," Elder Xuan said as he nodded. "Alright, let's consume some of our rations and set off. Yuhao, come with me, I want to ask you something."

"Yes," Huo Yuhao said as he quickly walked over to Elder Xuan in his human-shaped soul tool.

"How's your recovery?" Elder Xuan asked.

"I'm fine," Huo Yuhao replied.

Elder Xuan nodded and said, "That's good. While I believe you, you need to provide me with an explanation for the powers you revealed yesterday at the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament. Also, what happened to the person who possessed the Holy Angel? Did you really kill her?"

Chapter 353.2: Yin Yang Love Querying Valley

Huo Yuhao was shocked. The explosion last night had left a great impact on him, and he had forgotten about the incident with Ye Guyi.

"Elder Xuan, the power I unleashed yesterday can be said to be my third martial soul. However, I don't think this power comes from our world." Then, he explained Electrolux's origins to Elder Xuan in a way he could understand. At this moment, there was no way he could hide the truth.

Even with Elder Xuan's experience, he was shocked.

"A sorcerer. A profession in another world? This..." Elder Xuan regained his senses after a long while. Helplessly, he patted Huo Yuhao's shoulder and said, "Yuhao, while your power is unique, you should know what it means to be an evil soul master on this continent. The cooperation between the Sun Moon Empire and the evil soul masters infuriates every soul master. Your power, however, appears similar to those of evil soul masters."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Elder Xuan, I understand what you mean. I won't use this power casually. I won't even use it with my original appearance. The participant of the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament was Tang Wu, not Huo Yuhao."

Elder Xuan sighed in relief and said, "It's good that you understand. Your Spirit Eyes and Ice Jade Empress Scorpion are powerful enough. Train them well. Can you release Ye Guyi now?"

Huo Yuhao tried, but then shook his head and said, "The invisible power here is too strong. I can't communicate with the spectral demiplane Teacher Electrolux left me. However, she'll be in no danger inside the demiplane. I've already tried to protect her as much as I could. With her powers, she can go without food for at least half a month."

Elder Xuan nodded and said, "Good job. If we can leave this place, we must protect this child with the Holy Angel martial soul. In the future, she will become one of the main forces of resistance against the Holy Ghost Church. Yuhao, my attitude yesterday was wrong. When I saw such a huge explosion, coupled with your evil soul master-like power, I started to doubt you. Then, I gave it more thought. You were chosen by Elder Mu, how can be there anything wrong with you? However, you must remember that no matter where you are, no matter what you experience, no matter what happens to you, you must be true to yourself. Do you understand?"

Huo Yuhao nodded vigorously and said, "I will, Elder Xuan."

Elder Xuan smiled slightly and said, "Now that we're in a death trap, please be careful. Go and have a bite."

Now that they had resolved this small 'conflict', Elder Xuan was in a much better mood. Together with Huo Yuhao, they walked back into the main camp. Everyone had finished their meals by now, and were re-grouping.

Through Elder Xuan's arrangements, everyone was divided into three groups. Among them, Shrek's Seven Monsters were a group by themselves. They were led by Elder Xuan. The team from Shrek split into two groups. Wang Qiu'er, Zhang Lexuan, and the main fighting force of the team from Shrek were in one team. They were led by the Martial God Douluo Xian Lin'er. The remaining substitutes, along with the Tang Sect's substitutes and Gao Dalou, Ji Juechen, Jing Ziyang, and Nan Qiuqiu, formed the biggest group. The other four Titled Douluo from Shrek Academy were in charge of them. Among these four Titled Douluo, two of them were elders from the Sea God's Pavilion with the strength of Transcendent Douluo. They were the strongest team.

Elder Xuan walked with Shrek's Seven Monsters at the front. Xian Lin'er led the second group in the center. The four Titled Douluo and the third group stayed at the back. All of the groups had to be able to communicate verbally with each other so that they would not be too far apart. They also tried to leave markings on more distinctive plants as they passed.

This was a dumb plan, but it was also their only plan. After they left their marks on all the plants, any plant with no marks would indicate a brand-new direction. This was how they moved forward.

As they moved forward, they had to be careful. They were not fast, and while the area five meters above the ground was not shrouded with a dense fog, there was still a light fog. Coupled with the thick vegetation, they could only see about ten meters ahead.

The entire forest was so quiet it was terrifying. It was as if there was nothing alive there. This silence was so creepy that it terrified everyone.

Dai Huabin now felt that his previous suggestion had been very stupid. The silence would have been a lot scarier had they separated, to the point whereby it might drive them mad.

They walked forward, and soon, two hours had passed.

Huo Yuhao walked directly behind Elder Xuan. This was done upon his request. Suddenly, he turned to Elder Xuan and asked, "Elder Xuan, do you feel that this feels different from last night? We seem to be on a path with no return."

Elder Xuan nodded and said, "I have the same feeling too. Right now, the path is different from the path yesterday, which made us walk in circles."

This could be good news. Now that there was no chance of heading back, they would surely find a possible exit as long as they headed forward.

They continued to walk forward. After two more hours, Elder Xuan was sure they were no longer walking around in circles. Throughout their journey, they did not see any repeated scenery. Furthermore, they did not see the marks which they were leaving on the plants again.

While they could not fly, and they could not use their spiritual power for long-range detection, there was a chance that they could walk out of here. This made them content.

At this moment, it was already noon. The fog made their surroundings extremely blurry. The air felt heavy.

Elder Xuan ordered everyone to take a break here. They set up camp like last night.

The advantage of numbers demonstrated itself. At the very least, the silence of the forest did not terrify them too much.

For those with storage-type soul tools, they brought more than enough food. The only ones with no food were those from the Tang Sect. They only had rare metals in their storage-type soul tools...

They were only able to eat by asking the elders for some food.

Elder Xuan sat with Shrek's Seven Monsters. As he ate his favorite chicken drumstick, he said, "According to the size of the Western Mountain, we should be able to leave this place in one more day if we continue to walk at our current speed."

Bei Bei said, "Let's hope that this is the case, but..."

While he did not say it, everyone understood what he meant. The Sun Moon Empire brought them here for a reason. How could they escape so easily?

Elder Xuan looked at him and said, "There's no 'but'. Right now, we can only walk step-by-step. With our food and water supply, we can last ten days. If we still can't get out by then..."

At this point, Elder Xuan's face turned severe. He raised his head to look at the sky. Everyone knew what he meant. If they still couldn't escape, he would risk it all and attempt to fly. Perhaps there was still a sliver of hope there.

As they spoke, danger suddenly appeared around them.

Everyone subconsciously looked in one direction. Then, a gold and silver light surged toward them like a wave. Instantly, it covered every single one of them.

Everyone unleashed their most powerful protective skills simultaneously. However, this all-encompassing light did not clash with them. In their hearts, however, they all sensed that something was amiss.

What is this?

They looked at each other. They were all covered with a layer of faint gold and silver light. For the younger members of Shrek Academy, their faces turned dismal.

The unknown was the scariest. No one knew what was going on, and hence, there was no way to resist it.

However, they quickly sensed that something was amiss. A powerful attractive force came along with the silver and gold light. The weaker ones were instantly pulled flying in one direction.

Elder Xuan cried out and raised his hands. Thick yellow light surged forth and enveloped everyone within it. However, the attractive force of the silver and gold light became even stronger. Even the yellow light Elder Xuan unleashed was being tugged by it. It started to move in the same direction.

"What is this?" Xian Lin'er, the Martial God Douluo, had a bad temper. She struck out with her right fist, and a powerful cluster of soul power bombarded the silver and gold light.

However, after her soul power entered the fog in front of her, nothing happened.

One had to know that Xian Lin'er was one of the more powerful Titled Douluo in Shrek Academy. Earlier, when she faced off against the Scorpion Tiger Douluo Zhang Peng, she was able to stand her ground.

Huo Yuhao, who was in the human-shaped soul tool, looked surprised. Light flashed in his mind. Something appeared to be moving in it. A thought flashed through his mind.

Gold and silver, attractive force, he had seen something like this somewhere before... n--σ.(v./e--L/)B- /l.)n

However, before he could give it any more thought, the attractive force increased in strength. This time, even Elder Xuan could not resist it.

"Grab onto each other, we can't get separated!" Elder Xuan shouted.

While he could not resist the attractive force, he was still able to ensure everyone stayed together.

The yellow light turned into a huge yellow ball of light which covered everyone. Then, the gold and silver attractive force lifted their huge ball of light into the sky and sent them flying at breakneck speed into the sky. On the bright side, they had resolved their flight problem.

Quickly, everyone was sucked into the thick fog, where they could not even see the fingers on their hands.

Chapter 353.3: Yin Yang Love Querying Valley

A heavy look crossed Elder Xuan's face as he activated all his soul power to protect everyone. The other Titled Douluo were not idle as they also used their pure soul power to form a barrier. After Elder Xuan cast his big barrier, the others cast smaller ones. They were now one step closer to protecting everyone.

These kids were the best soul masters of the next generation. Furthermore, Shrek Academy was ultimately still a school, not a sect. No matter what happened, the safety of their students took precedence. Bringing these kids back safely was more important than anything else!

Huo Yuhao was in a state of deep thought. He searched his memory. This phenomenon seemed similar to something he had seen before...

However, as he was inside the human-shaped soul tool, his friends could not see what he was up to. Everyone else was tense, and no one had the time to look at him.

The attractive energy appeared to be getting stronger. However, it was not destructive. The protective soul barrier Elder Xuan had unleashed separated them from the outside world. Everyone released their martial souls in preparation.

To them, the situation was too odd. Even Elder Xuan, someone with the cultivation of an Ultimate Douluo, could not resist it head-on. What terrifying power! While an Ultimate Douluo was not strong enough to move mountains or drain oceans, it would not be difficult for him to wreck an entire city!

And yet, he could not resist this shapeless gold and silver energy...

"Everyone, make your preparations!" Elder Xuan shouted. His body shook, and his nine soul rings shone brightly. His body started to expand, and he turned into a Godly Taotie Bull, sweeping everyone onto his

back. The light he unleashed became brighter, and they were now being moved at a much slower speed. While they were still moving, it was no longer as quickly as before.

They continued to fly through the air, pulled by the attractive power. As they could not sense their surroundings, and their sight was blocked by the fog, everyone felt as if they were in the clouds...

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After fifteen minutes, the scene before them began to clear up. They had emerged from the thick fog.

“This is...”

Everyone opened their eyes wide and looked in disbelief.

The scene before them was that shocking! None of them could have imagined it.

While they were in the thick fog, they all sensed danger around them. However, at this moment, they were shocked by the majestic water before them. All of their negative emotions from before were gone.

Before them was a wide lake. It was surrounded by mountains, and the water of the lake was so clear that one could see its bottom. Strangely, the water was gold and silver!

At the center of the lake was a round patch of gold. The intense golden light spread outward from the patch as if it were a reflection of the sun.

They could see a moon encircling it, sun and moon connected to one other. The moon gave off a silver light.

The vast lake was completely dominated by these two colors of gold and silver. The two-colored light spread outward non-stop. It crept across the mountain and spread far into the distance. How beautiful, how stunning!

Everyone looked dazedly at the scene before them, rather disbelieving. However, it was real. Furthermore, under the pull of the gold and silver light, they gradually approached the center of the lake.

“I know!” Huo Yuhao shouted. When he saw the shocking scene before his eyes, all the dots in his brain connected. He finally thought of where he had heard about this curious scene.

He said urgently, almost shouting, “Later, no matter what we encounter, if a voice asks you questions, you must reply truthfully! If you lie, you’ll be in mortal danger! Remember, remember, remember to speak the truth, especially when it comes to relationships! You must not lie!”

Right when he finished, they were already in the center of the lake, above the golden sun and the silver moon.

The golden sun and silver moon in the lake became extremely radiant. The radiant gold light and the bright silver light started to rise and engulf all of them, including Elder Xuan, who was still in his Godly Taotie Bull form!

This power was extremely unique. It appeared about them effortlessly. They could feel it, but they realized that they were unable to control it.

Elder Xuan's Martial Soul True Body was forced back into his original shape by the two-colored light before they were all completely covered by it. When they could see other again, they were shocked to discover that they were all placed inside separate gold and silver bubbles, floating in mid-air.

Everyone was split apart, and no two people were together. Many of them were terrified. All they could remember were Huo Yuhao's words.

When Huo Yuhao said that, he had used his spiritual power. His words were imprinted in all of their minds.

Before they could make any more observations, the gold and silver bubbles started to descend into the sun and moon in the center of the lake.

Wang Dong'er looked at Huo Yuhao, and he looked back at her. He nodded at her vigorously and gestured toward her. His meaning was clear: "Don't worry about me, do as I said!"

Wang Dong'er nodded to show that she understood.

Had it been an ordinary person, they may already have collapsed when faced with such a change. However, the students of Shrek Academy were the top of their generation. In comparison, they were taking it all rather well. While they were shocked, surprised, and a bit terrified, they all seemed relatively stable.

There were loud plops as the gold and silver light that surrounded them dropped them into the lake.

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When he fell into the lake, Huo Yuhao did not feel the gold-colored lake around him. Instead, heaven and earth spun around. At this moment, he recalled his source of information about this place.

He had first encountered records of this place from the Icefire Yin Yang Well in the Setting Sun Forest, where he had obtained the Poison Chapter from the ancestor of the Tang Sect, Tang San.

In the Poison Chapter, it stated that the Icefire Yin Yang Well was one of the Three Great Blessed Lands. It contained the power of Ultimate Ice and Ultimate Fire, and was extremely dangerous. However, it contained countless natural treasures as well. Any plant that grew there would grow ten times faster. Those who could enter it would benefit immensely.

When Huo Yuhao actually entered it, he was shocked by the many divine herbs and plants. Then, he was able to retrieve the Yearning Heartbroken Grass to save Wang Dong'er. However, he was also severely injured by the Blazing Sunspring and the Extreme Chill Icespring, and barely made it back alive.

According to Tang San's records, the Three Great Blessed Lands were both dangerous and filled with treasures. He had to surmount countless dangers before he could enter the Icefire Yin Yang Well! If not for his abilities, which were barely enough, there was no way he could have entered. **nove/Lb-In**

The place before him was another of the Three Great Blessed Lands. It was ranked above the Icefire Yin Yang Well, and it was the top Blessed Land among the three.

This place was known as the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley.

In the Poison Chapter, no one knew if the Three Great Blessed Lands were real or not. Tang San had only seen the Icefire Yin Yang Well. No one was sure if the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley actually existed.

The Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley was the first among the Three Great Blessed Lands not because of its riches, but because of its danger. Furthermore, no one knew what kind of danger existed here. To benefit from it was exceedingly difficult.

Legend had it that in the God Realm, after the Goddess of Love was betrayed by her love, her grief made her insane, and she descended into the mortal world. Heaven and earth were inverted, and the sun and moon became a lake.

As the Goddess of Love was betrayed by her lover, she hated all those who betrayed their lovers. Hence, when these kinds of people entered the Sun Moon Lake of the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, it would enrage her, and she would seek to exterminate them.

Only those who were true to their lovers could leave this place alive and reap its rewards. All liars would be severely punished.

Huo Yuhao did not remember all this, because the Poison Chapter was extremely vague in its description. The most important line from it was, "The sun and moon form its lake, the earth shall ask about your love. Those who are true may take the risk, but those who show true love are invincible here."

With such a blurry description, Huo Yuhao would not have been able to remember the short line from the Poison Chapter had he not seen the golden sun and silver moon. Even Tang San doubted the existence of the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. Hence, he only left one tip. "Speak the truth, and be true to your love. Only then could one survive!"

Other than that, there was no other information about it. Hence, while Huo Yuhao knew a bit more than the rest, this was the full extent of his knowledge.

Everything around him swirled like the celestial bodies in the sky. The scenes around him changed non-stop. Even though Huo Yuhao tried to shut his eyes, he still felt dizzy. It seemed to impact someone with stronger spiritual power more.

Finally, when he felt the dizziness subside, he opened his eyes once more.

He seemed to be in a transparent world. Everything around him was made from gold and silver crystals. He remained in his bubble, but he appeared to have landed on a round surface.

This surface was light-gold in color. It was about twenty meters wide, and near its edge were thirteen circles with a diameter of one meter. He had landed in one of these circles...

Chapter 354.1: Do You Have A Lover?

When he looked up, he noticed the golden sun and silver moon shining above them. Everything else around him was blurry shadows. Other than this platform, he could not see any further.

All thirteen spots on the round platform were rapidly occupied. In addition to him, Wang Dong'er, Wang Qiu'er, Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xiao Xiao, Jiang Nannan, Xu Sanshi, Zhang Lexuan, Ning Tian, Wu Feng, Dai Huabin, and Zhu Lu were there.

They each stood in a gold and silver gas bubble. Huo Yuhao tried to shout, but he realized that his voice could not be heard by the others. The others observed their surroundings carefully. From the shape of their mouths, some appeared to be shouting. However, this place was eerily silent.

Calm, I must keep calm. This was ultimately the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. Huo Yuhao made his decision. He opened his human-shaped soul tool and revealed himself. This was so that the others could see his expression.

Wang Dong'er looked at him straightaway. Huo Yuhao quickly raised his hands and waved at her.

Wang Dong'er waved back at him, telling him that she could see him.

After much thought, Huo Yuhao started to gesture with his hands. Due to what he had shouted out earlier, his hand gestures caught everyone's attention. His gestures were simple. He told them to do as he instructed.

At this moment, the golden round platform started to emit fog. Suddenly, a thin sliver of golden light shot out from the center of the round platform. It quickly made one round around the platform. The back of the golden sliver spun around and pointed at the thirteen round platforms.

"The Heavens and the Earth will query you about your love, a heartfelt adventure. Begin!" a voice said calmly. No one could tell if it was a man or a woman as it rang out in the ears of all thirteen of them. They all quieted down because, to their surprise, they realized that all they could see now was gold and silver light.

The sliver of light at the center of the round platform started to spin rapidly. It passed by all of their bubbles, lighting them up in succession. After it passed, their bubbles returned to their normal state.

Suddenly, the golden sliver stopped. It pointed to a smaller, round platform. The person on this platform was Wu Feng.

Wu Feng was chosen by the golden light. She was a little shocked, because the bubble she was in started to light up. She was a proud individual, however, and she showed no sign of fear. She appeared to be shouting something.

The bubble around her disappeared. A column of golden light started to rise from underneath her feet, and soon, it enveloped her whole body. Inside the golden light, her body slowly started to rise. When she was a meter above the ground, it stopped.

Wu Feng felt the changes with a little shock. She discovered that while there was nothing wrong with her, she could not move anymore.

At this moment, the emotionless voice rang out once more. This time, only she could hear it.

"Do you have a lover?"

Wu Feng's heart shook, but she did not open her mouth. In her mind, all she could think of was Huo Yuhao's instructions.

"Do you have a lover? If you don't reply after the third time, you'll be punished with death."

“Yes, I do,” said Wu Feng loudly as she grit her teeth. While the others were paying attention to her, they all appeared slightly confused. She could see that she was the only one who could hear this voice.

“Who is your lover?” the voice asked calmly.

“Ning Tian,” replied Wu Feng without any hesitation.

“That’s her, right?” The golden light underneath her lit up and landed on Ning Tian. Instantly, the bubble around Ning Tian opened, and she too started to float in mid-air.

“Ning Tian!” Wu Feng cried out. However, the bubble around her started to rise, blocking out her voice. However, her bubble was now transparent. Unlike the rest of them, she could still see Ning Tian.

“Do you have a lover?” the voice asked Ning Tian.

Ning Tian frowned and looked at Wu Feng, who appeared to be shouting, shook her head, and said, “No, I don’t.”

“She said you’re her lover, right?” the voice asked once more.

Ning Tian was shocked, and then she replied, “I know she likes me. However, we’re both girls. I can’t accept homosexual love. Hence, I only treat her as a good friend.”

“If you don’t love her, she’ll die. Will you choose to love her?” the voice quickly asked.

Ning Tian paused. This question was difficult to answer.

“If you don’t love her, she’ll die. Will you choose to love her? If you don’t answer after the third time, you’ll be punished with death,” repeated the voice.

Ning Tian gritted her teeth and said, “No, love doesn’t work that way. I can die for her, but I can’t love someone of the same sex.”

When she said that, she did not notice that the bubble around Wu Feng had disappeared. Wu Feng heard everything she had just said.

Wu Feng’s face turned pale. Ning Tian was once again enveloped by her bubble, and her voice was sealed off.

“You heard her words. Do you still love her?” the mysterious and calm voice asked Wu Feng.

Wu Feng bit down on her lower lip, and her eyes shone with a fiery light. “You’re so cruel.”

“You heard her words. Do you still love her? If you don’t reply after the third time, you’ll be punished with death,” the calm voice repeated in a mechanical fashion.

“Yes, I do! She doesn’t love me, but this doesn’t mean I can’t love her. Why can’t this love be one-way?” Wu Feng shouted in rage.

“She just said that she’ll die for you, but she won’t love you. Are you upset?” the calm voice asked in a way that sought to torture the target as much as it could.

“No shit, you bastard!” Wu Feng cursed.

“Pa!” A golden light came from nowhere and hit Wu Feng fiercely. Instantly, the clothes around her waist were torn open, and a bloody wound could be seen.

Her soul power was completely sealed, so she couldn’t release her martial soul. Wu Feng could not help but cry out in pain.

“For the insult, you’re punished with one stroke of the whip. If you do that again, you’ll die.”

“Yes, I’m upset! Does that make you happy?” Tears dripped from Wu Feng’s face. She had always liked Ning Tian, but she knew that Ning Tian could not accept such an unconventional love. If not, she would not have shown her love for Huo Yuhao at the Sea God’s Lake.

“She said that she’s willing to die for you. Now, I have two options for you. You can try and get her to die for you, or you can die. If she’s willing, you’ll live. If you’re willing to die, then she’ll live. Between the two of you, only one of you will live.” The calm voice suddenly turned cold, and brimmed with a strong killing intent. It was enough to make Wu Feng shiver.

However, she made her decision almost instantly. Without hesitation, she said, “Alright, I’ll die. Let her live. Let her leave this place and live out her life. Kill me!”

When she said that, Wu Feng looked deeply at Ning Tian. Tears flowed from her face, but her determination never wavered.

The golden light flashed, a golden blade appeared silently in front of Wu Feng. At the same time, she found that she could move her hands once more.

“Kill yourself,” the calm voice said as if it was nothing.

Wu Feng inhaled and cried out, “Let Ning Tian go!” As she spoke, she grabbed the sharp blade in front of her and pierced her chest with it.

However, at that very moment, time seemed to stop. Wu Feng was frozen, though the tip of the knife was already at her chest. It looked as if it would penetrate her chest at any moment.

The bubble around Ning Tian burst open, and the calm voice said, “To let you live, she’s willing to sacrifice her own life. If I hadn’t stopped her, she would have already died for you. You just said that you’re willing to die for her. If you want, you can die, and she’ll live. This is your last chance.”

As she said that, the same golden blade appeared in front of Ning Tian. Its sharp blade gleamed coldly.

Life and death, this was the hardest question of all for humans. Ning Tian grabbed the knife and looked at Wu Feng, who was suspended in mid-air with tears running down her face. Her blade was almost at her breast. She couldn’t help but take a deep breath as tears trickled down her own face.

“Ah Feng, I know you like me, but we’re of the same sex! I’ve told you many times, but you just won’t listen. For me, you’re willing to offer your own valuable life. I owe you this. Here, maybe only one of us can live. Go and live your life. If we meet again in our next lives, I hope to be a guy. Then, I’ll marry you for sure.”

As she said that, Ning Tian closed her eyes, lifted the golden knife and slashed at her throat.

Two golden rays of light lit up together. Ning Tian suddenly felt a weight disappearing from her hand. On the other side, Wu Feng could move once more. However, the knives in their hands had disappeared.

Two different voices sounded next to their ears. Their frames were enveloped by the bubbles once more.

Over on Wu Feng's side, the voice said, "Love is blind, and may go against human nature, making it impossible. However, true love is willing to sacrifice everything. This kind of love is pitiable. You pass the first round, Sincerity."

Over at Ning Tian's side, the voice said, "Love is not blind. For friendship, you're willing to sacrifice everything you have. This comes from the depths of your heart. You pass the first round, Sincerity."

Ning Tian and Wu Feng looked at each other, separated by their bubbles. Both of them felt slightly disoriented. In their hearts, they felt a strange sensation, as if they had understood something. This place did not appear as frightening as they had thought.

There were now an additional pair of gold and silver rings over their bubbles...

Chapter 354.2: Do You Have A Lover?

The gold and silver light screen rose once more, blocking their view. The sliver of golden light started to spin rapidly once again.

—

When the shining golden light from the central round platform stopped this time, it stopped on Bei Bei's platform.

The bubble opened, and Bei Bei was suspended in mid-air.

The calm voice asked him, "Do you have a lover?"

Bei Bei could sense that there was a light flashing outside, but he did not know what had happened. However, he trusted Huo Yuhao completely. Coupled with his own intellect, he calmed down quickly.

"Yes, I do," he replied calmly.

"Who is she?"

"Tang Ya," Bei Bei replied without hesitation.

"She's not here, right?"

"Correct," Bei Bei replied quickly.

The calm voice paused momentarily, then asked, "What is the one thing you want to do the most for your lover?"

Bei Bei replied, "I want to help her return to normal, so she can be by my side once more."

The calm voice asked, "When she's by your side again, do you think she'll be happy?"

Bei Bei answered, "I'll do everything I can to make her happy."

The calm voice said, "Your words mean nothing. If you could exchange a body part of yours to make her normal again, would you do it?"

"Of course," Bei Bei replied firmly.

A sharp golden knife appeared before him, and the calm voice said, "Then castrate yourself."

Bei Bei paused. He had not expected that this unknown voice would make him do such a thing.

"Are you sure she'll recover?" Bei Bei could not help but ask.

"Do you have a choice?" the calm voice replied, as an image appeared in front of Bei Bei.

It was a face he was extremely familiar with.

Tang Ya sat quietly on a bed. She stared blankly out a window, and her face was extremely pale. Dark-blue patterns of light occasionally glimmered on her face.

"You just said that you would be willing to sacrifice a body part for her. Do you regret it now? You can regret your choice. You can choose not to cut it off," the voice said calmly.

Bei Bei's body was shaking. However, he slowly raised his hand and touched the blade.

"I'm willing to castrate myself for her, but I have one request," he said as he gripped the blade of the knife tightly.

"Speak."

"If you can really cure her from afar, then try your best to erase all her memories. Make her forget me, make her forget everything about me, alright?"

"I can consider that," the voice said plainly.

"Thank you," Bei Bei replied. His eyes turned red as he stared intently at Tang Ya in the image. Suddenly, he shouted, "Xiao Ya, I love you!" A golden light glinted as he brought the sharp blade down.

"Pu!" An intense shot pain through him. Bei Bei felt everything turn white.

"You're willing to sacrifice for love, and you don't want your lover to feel upset. You pass the first round, Sincerity."

The light screen rose, and Bei Bei stared dazedly as he watched the silver-gold light screen blocking his vision once more. He was back in his bubble. He could not help but shout, "I've already cut it off, cure Xiao Ya!"

There was no reply. Furthermore, Bei Bei felt that something was amiss. He lowered his head and felt the pain coming from his leg. There was no sharp knife there. The hand which had gripped the sharp knife had only struck his leg. No wonder he only felt pain...

The golden light started to spin once more. Bei Bei felt as if all his energy had been sucked out of him. He sat down on the floor as cold sweat trickled down his body.

For guys, there was a certain body part that was more important than their lives. He was willing to sacrifice it for Xiao Ya, but it would be best for him not to do it!

Bastard, what if I'm permanently scarred by this??Bei Bei cried out in pain in his heart. He had lost his previous cool.

—

The golden light continued to spin. This time, it stopped rather quickly. Before it even completed a rotation, it stopped. This time, its target was Zhang Lexuan.

The bubble opened, and Zhang Lexuan rose into the air.

When she looked at the changes that were taking place around her, Zhang Lexuan was even calmer than Bei Bei. She had been trying to unleash her martial soul. While she was not successful, she did not slack in her efforts to do so. How could she be the strongest in the inner courtyard without a strong will? While Elder Mu did allow her to enter the Sea God's Pavilion before he died as a form of compensation, it was also in part due to her powers.

"Do you have a lover?" the calm voice spoke up once more, causing her to perk up.

"No," she replied without hesitation.

"Have you loved someone before?" the calm voice asked once again.

"Yes," Zhang Lexuan replied. She remembered Huo Yuhao's words very clearly.

"Who is he?"

Zhang Lexuan took in a deep breath, then said, "Bei Bei."

She did not know that at this time, while Bei Bei's bubble blocked his gaze, he could hear everything Zhang Lexuan said.

Just as he recovered from the previous questioning, he heard Zhang Lexuan's voice. This made him almost jump up from the ground.

"Has he ever loved you?" the calm voice asked Zhang Lexuan.

"No." Zhang Lexuan knew the answer to this question very well.

"How did you fall for him?" The calm voice asked quietly.

Zhang Lexuan paused, and she blushed slightly. However, a look of pain crossed her eyes.

"How did you fall for him? If you don't reply after the third time, you'll be punished with death."

A bitter smile crept onto Zhang Lexuan's face. This question opened the deepest wound in her heart.

"When I came to Shrek Academy, he was still young. At that time, Elder Mu made me swear to become his wife. I had to take care of him, love him, and be his wife in an arranged marriage. Elder Mu saved my life. At that time, I had nowhere to call home, so I agreed.

“Elder Mu treated me well and trained me wholeheartedly. Soon, I became the most powerful soul master of my generation. He made no other requests of me, but I remembered my duty in my heart. I was Bei Bei’s fiancée, his wife in an arranged marriage.

“I watch him grow up day by day. At the start, I tried to play the role as best as I could. I accompanied him every day, protected him, and tried to fulfill all his wishes. This was because I had already made mental preparations to marry him when he grew up and become his wife. Since then, in my heart, he was already my little husband. However, he never treated me that way in return. All that time, he only treated me as his sister, he always called me sister. At that time, we were still young, so I did not give it much thought.

“As Bei Bei grew older, his body started to mature. He finally surpassed me in height. At that time, I finally realized that my future fiancé had become a man. He was very handsome, the corner of his mouth beamed like the sun, and he smiled in a devilishly handsome way. Everything he did attracted me. I felt that the promise I made was not a task anymore. Something stirred in my heart.”

Perhaps she had kept these words inside her for way too long, but in this mysterious unknown world where even Elder Xuan could not resist, Zhang Lexuan started to speak freely. She bared her soul, and at that moment, a slight smile crept across her face as she indulged in her memories.

Bei Bei heard everything from his bubble. He experienced everything that Zhang Lexuan said. He felt that he had returned to that time of his life.

A beautiful elder sister who was always next to him. An elder sister who would protect him and satisfy his requests. When he was young, he was so in love, so dependent on her! Then...

“Then, he turned twelve years old, and finally entered the Academy to study. At that time, I was a disciple of the Inner Courtyard. As my cultivation became more intense, coupled with my split from the outer courtyard, we had no choice but to separate. At that time, I thought, ‘I must continue to cultivate and become stronger so that I can better protect him in the future, and guard him as he grows up.’

“However, I never expected that when he appeared before me again, he was next to a little girl, a beautiful girl around his age. She was extremely pretty, and he treated her very well. I could tell that he looked at her differently from how he looked at me. At that time, I realized suddenly that I’d lost my fiancé.

“I went to find Elder Mu to report this to him and seek his counsel. He thought for a long while, and then told me that his decision back then had been too selfish. He should not have let me make that promise. After all, I was much older than Bei Bei. Even though soul masters don’t age normally, there was still a generational gap between him and me. Elder Mu said that from that moment, I had regained my freedom. After all, Bei Bei did not know about this, and I could choose my future from that moment onward.

“When I left Elder Mu’s room, I felt as if I had lost my soul. Ten years of care and ten years of commitment. In the end, it was not a promise that I had to keep. However, I realized that this young, always-smiling boy was already imprinted in my mind.

“I tried to forget him as quickly as I could. I tried quite intensely. Every day, I trained as hard as I could. I hoped to numb myself with my cultivation. However, after I ended my closed-door cultivation, I met him

by fate once more. At that time, I realized that there was no way I could forget him. I actually fell for a guy who was almost ten years younger than me!”

Chapter 354.3: Do You Have A Lover?

“I found Elder Mu and I told him that regardless of what decision he and Bei Bei came to, I would fulfill my promise. I would become his fiancée, and I wouldn’t betray my vows. When I said these words, I was extremely resolute. However, only I knew that I wasn’t bound by this decade-old promise. Instead, I was bound by the emotions in my heart that had grown over the past ten years. In ten years, I watched as a boy became a man. In my heart, there was no other man but him!”

Zhang Lexuan choked on her words. She finally released all the emotions she had been suppressing in her heart. In all these years, whenever she saw Bei Bei and Tang Ya together, her heart would ache. What pained her even more was Tang Ya’s disappearance. Since then, Bei Bei had changed. However, it was only because she knew him so well that she felt so strongly.

Zhang Lexuan had never fought for his heart. After all, she was older than Bei Bei by almost ten years, and Tang Ya and Bei Bei were closer in age. How would she stand a chance?

Hence, Zhang Lexuan chose to keep quiet. She watched him quietly. At the start, she was unwilling to give up her love just like that. However, over time, she quietly gave up. Sometimes, she would reveal a bit of her emotions to Bei Bei. However, she had never really asked him for anything. Instead, she kept these emotions to herself deep in her heart. Her promise was like an island of refuge for her.

She was exceptional, and had attracted countless men in Shrek Academy. However, she rejected all of them for this one true love.

As Bei Bei listened to Zhang Lexuan’s words, his heart ached with a great agony. In his mind, he started to recall everything he had done with Zhang Lexuan when they were young.

—

“Sister Lexuan, can I eat the fruits on that tree? Pick one for me.”

“Okay.”

“Sister Lexuan, you’re so beautiful. Marry me when I grow up, okay?”

“Okay...”

“Sister Lexuan, I’m tired.”

“I’ll carry you.”

“Sister Lexuan, I’m hungry.”

“I’ll cook something for you.”

“Sister Lexuan...”

—

Tears streamed down Bei Bei's face. At this moment, he finally realized how much Zhang Lexuan had sacrificed for their relationship. Through all these years, she had concealed her truest emotions in the depths of her heart! No wonder he had felt himself growing distant from Sister Lexuan after he met Tang Ya. Sister Lexuan, Sister Lexuan, how can I face you?

At this moment, Bei Bei heard the terrifying voice.

"Since you love him so much, and he doesn't love you, are you still willing to sacrifice yourself for him?" the calm voice asked once more. Its tone was cold.

Zhang Lexuan fell silent for a while. She raised her hands to wipe away her tears, then said with determination, "I am."

"Are you willing to die for him?"

"I said that I'm willing," Zhang Lexuan said calmly and emotionlessly. At this moment, Bei Bei, who heard this voice too, felt as if someone had slammed a sledgehammer into his chest. His face turned pale, and his body trembled. He sat straight down on the floor, and his lips quivered, but he said nothing.

"You're a dumb girl. But your emotions are true, and your love is selfless. You pass the Sincerity round. Your selfless sacrifice shall be rewarded. You are hereby exempted from the second round," said the calm voice with a bit more emotions.

Zhang Lexuan was stunned. Then, she watched as the light screen rose in front of her once more. However, how could she remain calm?

The golden light flashed once more, and circled them again. The warm gold light shone everywhere. It appeared that in the depths of the lake of the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, the iciness and hate were warmed by the many forms of selfless love it had encountered.

The golden light now circled for a longer period of time. When it stopped once more, it stopped at... Dai Huabin!

He floated up, and a clear golden light flashed.

Dai Huabin became visibly tense. Like everyone else selected by the golden light, he knew nothing about what had just happened.

However, as one of the top soul masters of the younger generation, he was no fool. While he hated Huo Yuhao, he recognized his abilities. When Huo Yuhao had shouted those words just then, he heard all of them. No one would ignore life-saving advice because of hate!

"Do you have a lover?" The calm voice asked.

"Yes, I do!" Dai Huabin replied without hesitation. At the same time, Huo Yuhao's words rang out repeatedly in his head. Speak the truth always, no matter what you're asked.

"Who is your lover?"

“Zhu Lu,” Dai Huabin replied. However, he did not know that the moment he said that, Zhu Lu could already hear his voice.

“Is she the one you love the most?”

Dai Huabin paused for a moment. He hesitated.

“Is she the one you love the most? If you don’t reply after the third time, you’ll be punished with death,” the calm voice said coldly.

“No,” Dai Huabin said. When he said that, his voice was rigid.

When Zhu Lu, who was sealed in her own golden light, heard his response, her entire body stiffened. An incredulous look crossed her face, and her tiny frame trembled. She wanted to struggle, to fight, but here, even Elder Xuan was helpless. How could she escape?

“Then who do you love?” The calm voice asked.

Dai Huabin looked prepared as he said solemnly, “Wang Qiu’er.”

At that moment, Wang Qiu’er could hear him too.

“Since you already have a lover, how can you love someone else? How can you face her?” The voice was merciless.

Dai Huabin’s eyes turned dark, and he said, “It’s true, I can’t face her, but I do love her. However, in my heart, I think I love Wang Qiu’er more.”

The calm voice asked, “I’ll give you a choice. Between the two of them, you can choose one to die for. If you do that, she’ll live. Who do you choose?”

This question impacted Dai Huabin greatly. His entire body turned stiff. In his head, the same question replayed itself over and over again. He had never given it much thought, but he had also never expected to face such a problem today. At this moment, his brain ran wild.

This time, the voice did not prompt him. It wanted him to think this through.

After a long while, Dai Huabin finally said with difficulty, “I know. If I had to choose one person to die for, I’d choose Zhu Lu.”

“Eh?” The calm voice was calm. “Zhu Lu? You don’t love her, though.”

Dai Huabin replied, “Yes, but she’s the one who loves me the most in this world. She’s always by my side, and she sacrifices herself for me in many ways. I can’t face her because I am attracted to some other woman. However, I’m clear that Wang Qiu’er doesn’t love me, and there’s no possibility of anything happening with her. All I can do is love her quietly. However, if I were to choose someone to become my wife, I’d choose Zhu Lu. At the same time, I’ll use my life to protect her. If I die and she lives, I won’t have any regrets.”

The calm voice appeared lost as it said, “Your thinking is weird, and your view on love is hard to understand, but your heart is true. You pass the first round, Sincerity.”

When Dai Huabin landed back on the ground, his face had a terrible expression. He had been asked the most painful question of his life, and experienced intense emotional turmoil.

The golden light flashed once more, and landed on Zhu Lu. When it dissipated, Zhu Lu's small frame started to rise. At this moment, her face was streaked with tears.

When she heard that Dai Huabin did not love her the most, her heart was filled with despair. The entire world had turned gray. However, when she heard that Dai Huabin was willing to die for her after he said all those things, her emotions became exceedingly complicated. However, she was not in despair anymore. At the very least, the man she loved still liked her.

"Do you have a lover?" the calm voice asked.

"I... do," Zhu Lu replied, choking on her words.

At that moment, Dai Huabin, who was still in emotional agony, heard her voice. His entire body trembled, and he realized that she had heard everything. It was likely that Wang Qiu'er had heard him too. An indescribable feeling rose in his heart, like he had lost his soul. His entire body went limp. If not for the mysterious power supporting him, he would have already collapsed to the ground.

"Who is he?"

"Dai Huabin," replied Zhu Lu, gritting her teeth.

"Then, you heard everything he just said. What are your thoughts?" The calm voice seemed to ask the questions that would cause the most pain.

"He's a piece of shit!" Zhu Lu cried out. Afterward, she began bawling.

"Do you still love him?" the calm voice continued its questioning.

Dai Huabin opened his eyes and perked his ears up to listen. He was suddenly scared of the answer he would get. However, he could not help but listen.

"Yes..." Zhu Lu did not hesitate. Even though she was bawling her eyes out, she answered the question without a moment's hesitation.

"He doesn't love you, and you called him a piece of shit, so why do you still love him?" The calm voice had no intention of sparing her!

Chapter 355.1: Unparalleled Sincerity

Zhu Lu took a deep breath and tried to calm herself. "Do I need a reason to love? I love him, or at least I do now. Even if he doesn't want me, even if he abandons me, will this love disappear? What kind of shitty questions are you asking? Go to Hell!"

The punishment that had struck Wu Feng appeared once more. A light flashed, and Zhu Lu could not help but scream in pain.

Dai Huabin struggled with all his might. At this moment, he felt an immense pain in his heart. This pain was so immense that the glowing image of the girl with the light-blue hair in his mind appeared to have dimmed by quite a bit.

Only in times of trouble will we realize who truly cares for us. Right now, he was able to see who he truly loved. In his mind, he screamed in a frenzy, "Don't hurt her, hit me instead!"

"This pure love reveals the truth of your feelings. While you insulted me, I shall spare you on account of the truth of your feelings. You pass the first round, Sincerity."

The light faded, and Zhu Lu was returned to her bubble. However, it took a long time for her to steady her emotions.

—

The spinning sliver of light appeared once more. This time, it stopped before it completed a full revolution. Its target was Wang Qiu'er.

The light around her cleared, and Wang Qiu'er rose into the air. Her expression was icy-cold. She had heard everything that Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu had said. However, she was not affected. She just could not understand the nature of this place.

"Do you have a lover?" The same question was asked once more.

"No." Wang Qiu'er said coldly.

"Have you loved someone before?" The calm voice showed no sign of abating.

"Yes," Wang Qiu'er replied coldly.

"Who is he?"

"Huo Yuhao," Wang Qiu'er replied. She had no need to hide her feelings. At this moment, Huo Yuhao was instantly able to hear her voice.

Qiu'er?,?Huo Yuhao thought in his heart, as the exchange between Wang Qiu'er and the calm voice rang out next to his ears.

When she said that she loved him, Huo Yuhao could not help but smile bitterly in disappointment.

Qiu'er, Qiu'er, look at me, how can you...?

"Does he love you?" the calm voice continued.

Wang Qiu'er said, "No."

"And you still love him?"

"Yes," Wang Qiu'er replied. She replied to the questions lazily, and her answers mostly consisted of single words.

"Just now, Dai Huabin said that he loved you. What thoughts do you have?"

"None."

"If you were given a choice once more, would you still choose Huo Yuhao?" the calm voice asked.

"Yes," replied Wang Qiu'er. Her voice started to falter.

“Why?”

Wang Qiu'er inhaled and said, “While I hate how he doesn't reciprocate my feelings, I like the feeling of being in love with him. Love has made me different.”

“If he were to face mortal danger one day, would you sacrifice your life for him?”

Wang Qiu'er replied calmly, “I've already tried, and hence I can tell you confidently that I would.”

Huo Yuhao listened quietly. He was not shocked by Wang Qiu'er's responses until the very last bit. She tried? What did she try? She tried to die for me? When? Why don't I know about it? At this moment, the shock Huo Yuhao was feeling was hard to imagine. He seemed paralyzed.

“Are you willing to die now so that he can live?” The calm voice did not give up.

Wang Qiu'er appeared to be mocking the voice as she said, “Bring it on.”

Her reply was very fast and very resolute. However, these three words were able to render Huo Yuhao breathless.

Qiu'er, she...

Time appeared to stop for a long while. Then the voice rang out once more. “I don't like your tone, but I respect your steadfast nature. You pass the first round, Sincerity.”

Wang Qiu'er descended, and was sealed once more.

—

The golden sliver of light spun once more and instantly, it landed on Huo Yuhao. The light cleared, and he rose into the air.

He could finally see the outside world. However, this did not give him any solace or reassurance. He was still deeply shocked by what Wang Qiu'er had said just now.

“Do you have a lover?” the calm voice asked coldly.

“I do,” Huo Yuhao replied instantly.

“Who is she?”

“Wang Dong'er,” Huo Yuhao said as he took a deep breath to calm himself.

Instantly, Wang Dong'er could hear his voice. Even though she already knew the answer, Wang Dong'er felt her heart melting when Huo Yuhao said that he loved her.

“Is she the one you love the most?” the calm voice pressed.

“Yes,” Huo Yuhao replied without any hesitation.

“Just now, Wang Qiu'er said that she loved you. You should have heard it. What do you think?”

"I..." Huo Yuhao trailed off with a bitter smile on his face. "I don't know. Qiu'er is a good girl. If I hadn't already met Dong'er, I may have fallen in love with her. However, my heart is completely filled with Dong'er now."

"So you didn't leave any space in your heart for Wang Qiu'er? Do you dare to say that you have never considered her as an option?" the calm voice asked as its tone turned audibly harsh.

Huo Yuhao was stunned. "I admit, I did consider her before, because she resembled Wang Dong'er perfectly. However, the reason I considered her then was because I loved Dong'er. Hence, I can only apologize to Qiu'er."

While Wang Qiu'er understood Huo Yuhao's determination, she still felt her heart turn icy-cold when she heard him say those words.

"If you could start all over again, with Wang Qiu'er and Wang Dong'er appearing in front of you at the same time, who would you love?" the voice asked. It showed no sign of abating.

Huo Yuhao paused and said, "I don't know, because there's no possibility of that happening."

"In this world, nothing is impossible," explained the voice. Then, it asked, "Since you love Wang Dong'er so much, would you die for her?"

"Of course I would. I've already tried to before. I'm brave enough. In my heart, Dong'er has always been more important than my own life," Huo Yuhao replied emotionally.

"Hmm, a complicated love life, but you can still stay true to yourself in the face of temptations. You pass the first round, Sincerity."

The gold light faded, and Huo Yuhao was placed back in his original spot.

—

The golden sliver started to move once more, until it stopped at Wang Dong'er, who was not very far away from Huo Yuhao. The light cleared, and Dong'er rose into the air.

"Do you have a lover?"

"Yes," Dong'er replied with a slight smile. She suddenly thought that this place was rather decent. At least to Huo Yuhao and her, it was a rather stress-free place. Just speak the truth. Since this is the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, let it query me.

"Who is he?"

"Huo Yuhao."

"Is he the one you love the most?"

"Yes."

"You should have heard the exchange just now. Another person said that she loves him deeply and is willing to die for him. That person is Wang Qiu'er. Did you know that?"

"I knew," Wang Dong'er replied without any hesitation.

“So what thoughts do you have?” the voice asked.

Wang Dong'er said, “I don't have any thoughts on that. In fact, I once tried to match-make the two of them.”

“Why?” The calm voice was not the only one who wanted to know the answer to that question. Huo Yuhao, who had just calmed down himself, wanted to know too.

Wang Dong'er said, “Qiu'er deserved it. Love can't be shared, and naturally, I don't want to share it. However, ever since I started to interact with Qiu'er, I can sense her love for Huo Yuhao. While I want him for myself, I can't bear to see her in so much pain.”

“Aren't you scared of competition?” the voice asked pressingly.

Wang Qiu'er said, “No, I'm not afraid. I trust that Huo Yuhao's love for me won't change. In fact, both he and Qiu'er rejected my proposal. Qiu'er said that she wasn't willing to take this 'gift', and Yuhao said that his heart only had me in it.” When she said the final bit, her voice brimmed with pride.

Then, she added, “If you want to ask if I'm willing to die for Huo Yuhao, I will say yes. However, sometimes, those who are alive have it worse than those who are dead. If I die, he'd be devastated. I'm willing to die for him, but I don't want to see him in so much pain.

“If we can grow old and die together, I'd be willing to let him die first. Then, I can be with him until the last moment of his life. He can leave his world under my care, and then I'll follow him. I'm willing to face the cold inevitability of death alone, but I don't want him to do so.”

The calm voice sighed and said, “You have it all planned out.”

“Do you have any more questions?” Wang Dong'er asked with a smile.

“You've already answered all of them, so what's left for me to ask? You pass the first round.”

No one knew why, but when Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, and Wang Qiu'er heard this calm voice, they all realized that it sounded sorry. n/-o.-V.-e.-l.(b.)1--n

Huo Yuhao was touched beyond words. Dong'er, Dong'er, my lovely wife! While I don't know what I would have done had you and Qiu'er appeared in front of me together, I know that I'll still choose you to be my wife in our next lives. I want to be with you for all our lives. I don't ever want to be apart from you!

—

The golden sliver spun, and this time, it did not stop instantly. It appeared to have been affected by Huo Yuhao, Wang Qiu'er, and Wang Dong'er. This time, it spun for a very long while.

After a long time, the golden light finally stopped. This time, it paused on Xiao Xiao.

Xiao Xiao rose into the air.

“Do you have a lover?” It was the same question again.

“Yes,” Xiao Xiao replied, blushing.

“Who is he?”

Chapter 355.2: Unparalleled Sincerity

“He Caitou,” Xiao Xiao replied in a low voice. Among all the people here, she was the shyest.

“Is he the one you love the most?”

“Yes,” Xiao Xiao replied softly.

“If only one of you could leave this place alive, would it be you, or him?” the calm voice asked coldly.

Xiao Xiao was stunned. “Can we both not die? I’m still young, I haven’t married anyone yet, I, I... Wa!...,” She burst out into tears.

He Caitou could hear her now. When he heard her crying, an odd expression crossed his face.

“One of you must die. It’s either you or him. Answer me. If you don’t answer me, both of you will die. You have the right to choose. If you let him die, you may live,” the voice said calmly.

Xiao Xiao choked, and her petite face turned white. To her, the terror of death was not something she could deal with easily.

The voice seemed pleased that it had finally found someone who was afraid of death. It did not prompt her.

“Then, I’ll die. But after I die, can you let Caitou tell my father and mother, and then get him to take care of them for me? While he may be ugly, he’s a nice person. I think my parents will like him.” It was difficult, but Xiao Xiao still made her decision.

“We can only live once. Will you really choose death?” The calm voice asked once more.

Xiao Xiao said, “I don’t want to die! However, I don’t want Caitou to die. If I see him die, I might be more afraid. I’d rather die myself. Isn’t it said that once you die, there’s nothing to worry about anymore? Can you let me have a quick death? I’m scared of pain.”

“...”

“You pass the first round.”

The voice did not want to speak with Xiao Xiao any more. The light faded, and Xiao Xiao dropped down back down and was enveloped by her light bubble.

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The sliver flashed, and He Caitou immediately rose into the air.

“Do you have a lover?”

“Yes.”

“Who is she?”

“Xiao Xiao,” He Caitou replied resolutely.

“Is she the one who you love the most?”

“Yes.”

“Between the two of you, if only one of you could live, who would you want it to be?” The questions were highly similar. However, for everyone, it was a question of life and death. At this point, one had to know that He Caitou did not know that Xiao Xiao had passed her round. He only heard her say that she was willing to die for him, and that she wanted him to take care of her family.

At this moment, Xiao Xiao listened intently. She had absolute faith in He Caitou’s love for her. Since they had gotten together, he had protected her and taken care of her as if she were a tiny flower in a greenhouse. His deep love for her had made her forget her initial dissatisfaction with his appearance.

“I’d choose to live,” He Caitou answered after a long silence. The moment he said that, Xiao Xiao’s eyes opened wide in shock. Instantly, her beautiful eyes started to water.

I’m so scared of death, but I still chose death for you...

Caitou, who is normally so honest, and who loves me so much, actually...

Caitou, you...

“Why?” the calm voice asked.

He Caitou took a deep breath and said, “I have yet to avenge the deaths of my family, and hence, I cannot die. So, I’d choose to live. But if Xiao Xiao dies, I’m already a dead man. My heart would be dead. I’d castrate myself to keep my purity for her. After I avenge the deaths of my family, I’d join her in death.

“If there’s a next life, I want to be her pet so that I can protect her quietly. If there really is a next life, I won’t demand her love, but I’ll make up for my mistakes in this lifetime with the love of many lifetimes.

“However, I must have my vengeance. I’ll never forget how my father’s hand went limp right before he died, or the red, grief-stricken look in my mother’s eyes. Death, to me, is a form of release. However, I can’t have this release now. I live for revenge. Loving Xiao Xiao is like a luxury to me.

“I don’t know who you are or why you brought us here, but if possible, can you please let both Xiao Xiao and I live? Even if you force me to give up my love for her, even if you make her forget me, I’d be willing. Furthermore, I’m willing to be a slave for her in my next life. I don’t even mind reincarnating as an animal so that she can live a wondrous life. Please, I beg you.”

He Caitou’s lips were pursed tightly together. Even his voice was different from normal. He spoke with a magnetic and enthralling voice.

Xiao Xiao’s eyes watered. Finally, big, fat tears trickled down her face. At this moment, there was no coldness or despair in her eyes, only intense, red-hot emotions.

He Caitou’s body was stiff. He did not know if Xiao Xiao could hear his voice. He also did not know if Xiao Xiao would forgive him. However, he spoke the truth as it was, without keeping anything to himself.

“Sincerity and truth. Love at its highest and most passionate level. You pass the first round, Sincerity, and you are exempted from the second round. Xiao Xiao is also exempted from the second round.”

He Caitou was lowered gently and returned to his original spot. At this moment, hot tears streamed down his face. He had never cared about the exemption. He was just scared that Xiao Xiao, his beloved Xiao Xiao, would leave him.

At this moment, among everyone who stood around this mysterious wheel, eleven of them had already been chosen. Thanks to Huo Yuhao's reminder, none of them was severely punished. Only Wu Feng and Zhu Lu were whipped because they were discourteous, but it was not severe.

Only two people were left, Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan.

—

The golden sliver spun, and it stopped on Jiang Nannan. The light cleared, and she rose into the air.

As she was one of the last to be selected, she did not look well. She had been trapped for a long time, and did not know what was happening outside. This loneliness was terrifying. At least there was light. The faint golden light made everything less scary.

"Do you have a lover?" the calm voice asked.

Jiang Nannan jumped, but she reacted quickly. "Yes, I do."

"Who?"

"Xu Sanshi."

"Is he the one you love the most?"

"Yes."

"Between the two of you, if only one of you could live, who would you want it to be?"

Jiang Nannan received the same question. Her stunningly-pretty face paled. However, thanks to Huo Yuhao's reminder, she knew that she could not lie. However, she did not know if Xu Sanshi could hear her voice.

"I hope I could live," Jiang Nannan said with much difficulty.

"Reason?"

"I want to take care of my mother. If I die, there'll be no one to take care of my mother. If no one takes care of her, she'll die. My mother and I have relied on each other since I was young. I'm willing to do anything for my mother. I love Sanshi, but I love my mother more. If I had to choose one, I'd choose to live for my mother. I'd take no new lover, and after my mother passes away, I'll look for him in death."

When Jiang Nannan said this, she did not hesitate too much. She did not say it with much emotion. Instead, she recounted it as if it were a fact. Clearly, her mother was the most important thing to her.

"Romantic love and familial love. So, you think familial love is more important? How can you face Xu Sanshi?"

Jiang Nannan smiled bitterly and said, "Without my mother, I wouldn't exist. I can't face Sanshi, but I'll atone for it in my next life. Instead, I want to ask you why you are so intent on tearing us apart? Why is it

that only one of us can live? I don't know who you are, but it serves no other purpose than to cause us pain. Why don't you kill us both? If we both die, my mother will die too, and we can be reunited in the next world."

"You pass the first round, Sincerity," said the calm voice. It had no other questions for her, and it appeared slightly flustered as it made that announcement.

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Jiang Nannan returned to where she was. The golden light landed on Xu Sanshi. As it spun, Xu Sanshi rose into the air.

"You sick pervert!" Xu Sanshi cursed the moment he could speak.

Crack!? A ray of golden light turned into a whip and struck Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi cried out in pain. He felt an intense shock from where he had been whipped. Even his soul was in agony.

"For disrespecting me, you're sentenced to three strokes of the whip."

Crack! Crack!? Perhaps this voice was triggered by Jiang Nannan's attitude, but it whipped Xu Sanshi thrice. Xu Sanshi wailed in pain. This pain was unbearable, and it was impossible not to cry out.

Jiang Nannan could hear him, and panicked, but there was nothing she could do. She could only curse silently. "You idiot, why are you resisting something you can't fight?"

"Do you have a lover?" the calm voice asked coldly once it was done.

"Yes," Xu Sanshi replied. Perhaps it was because of the punishment, but Xu Sanshi was now much more well-behaved, albeit drained.

"Who?"

"Jiang Nannan."

"Is she the one you love the most?"

"Yes."

"If only one of you could live, and you had the option to choose who lived, who would it be?"

"Her. I'll die." Xu Sanshi said tiredly. The three strokes of the whip had come down hard. His entire body was twitching in agony.

"Just now, Jiang Nannan chose you to die. Don't you want to be like her and stay alive to take care of your parents?"

Chapter 355.3: Unparalleled Sincerity

Xu Sanshi said in an unpleasant tone, "My situation is different from hers. Her and her mother rely on each other. While I have parents, I also have siblings who can take care of them. Yes, I will have wronged

them by doing so. However, they never really liked me to begin with. I believe that if I die, it won't bother them too much."

"You're willing to sacrifice yourself for love, but you aren't filial to your parents. You will only be allowed to pass the first round with ten lashes."

"I..."

Crack, crack, crack...

"Ah! Ah! Ah!"

Cries of pain rose in the air. Xu Sanshi was in so much pain that he could not help but cry out non-stop. However, he had no way of resisting it.

At this moment, the bubbles around everyone turned transparent. Everyone could see once more. They all looked at Xu Sanshi, who was being whipped in the air.

They might not be able to hear, but they could see his pained expression! The Eternal Defense, Xu Sanshi, was in such a pitiful state right now. What defense was there to speak of?

After ten strokes of the whip, Xu Sanshi fell back to the ground. His entire body lay there unmoving. He could not even raise a single finger. However, weirdly, the ten strokes of the whip did not leave a single mark on him.

"The first round, Sincerity, is over. The second round, Adventure, shall now begin. All those who are exempted may progress straight into the third round."

Three rays of light shone simultaneously. Zhang Lexuan, He Caitou, and Xiao Xiao disappeared. There were now only ten people left out of the original thirteen. However, their surroundings started to change.

Everyone could sense a powerful killing intent.

The wheel on the ground started to change. Ten boxes appeared on the wheel. However, each box had a different insignia. Each of the ten insignias was different, but they were not hard to identify.

For example, one of them looked like a sword, which should have something to do with fighting. Another one looked like a pair of human lips. There were also other insignias. Some took a bit longer to identify.

The plain voice sounded in their ears, "The second round, Adventure, shall begin. You have all progressed to the second round. After this round starts, the light underneath your feet will shine and the wheel will spin. Depending on what box the light stops at, you will have to fulfil the corresponding task. If you can't do that, you will then progress to the next round, Deep Adventure, which has a possibility of mortal danger. If you still can't pass that, you will die. After your task has been revealed, you have a chance to go straight to the Deep Adventure round. It will start now, beginning with Xu Sanshi."

No one would have expected that Xu Sanshi, the one who had experienced the most pain, would be the first one to start. The round area where he lay lit up, and the huge wheel started to spin. The insignias on top of the wheel started to blur as they spun.

At this moment, no one could talk to each other. All they could do was watch the wheel spin.

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Gradually, the wheel started to slow down. Insignias started to flash visibly in front of Xu Sanshi.

The pain in his body appeared to have decreased, but Xu Sanshi still had yet to catch his breath. Despite facing the second round right now, he did not know what it entailed. However, the clueless one was often the most fearless. Right now, there was nothing he had to worry about.

Finally, the wheel stopped. When it stopped, a fan-shaped light lit up in front of Xu Sanshi, showing the insignia that was chosen for him.

It was in the shape of a pair of lips.

“The Adventure is a French kiss. Now, the wheel shall choose again. Regardless of who is chosen, you have to convince them, or force them, to French kiss you for three minutes. In total, you have ten minutes to complete the task. If you can’t do it, you will move on to the Deep Adventure round. Once again, let me emphasize that the Deep Adventure round has a risk of mortal danger. You may face an opponent whom you cannot resist. The chance of death is more than 50%. The wheel will now choose your target for you.”

The wheel started to spin once again.

Xu Sanshi listened to all this in shock. The others heard it too. Instantly, all the girls except Jiang Nannan turned pale.

Xu Sanshi was stunned too. Then, a look of joy flashed across his eyes. This was mandatory kissing!

Other than him, most of the remaining nine were girls. Only Huo Yuhao, Bei Bei, and Dai Huabin were guys. This meant that there was a 66% chance of a girl being chosen!

Eh, they’re all beauties. Regardless of which one is chosen.... There’s no need to force her, right? After all, we’re all trying to live!

Xu Sanshi’s mood changed, and he forced himself to stand up as he stared at the spinning wheel.

This time, the wheel returned to the spinning gold light of the first round. The golden light flashed quickly, and then slowed until it seemed to be on the verge of stopping.

Xu Sanshi opened his eyes wide. In his heart, he prayed, “Let it be a girl, let it be a girl, anyone will do! Even though they say we should not go after our friends’ wives, this is a matter of life and death. They will understand.”

The light finally stopped. The moment it stopped, Xu Sanshi’s eyes almost popped out of his head.

“You’re fucking with me!” he cried out unhappily.

When the golden light stopped, it landed on the ‘unlikely’ 33%. It stopped at Bei Bei!

“Target has been chosen. Your time starts now.”

The two rays of light shone together. Xu Sanshi and Bei Bei appeared at the center of the round platform, and a golden hourglass appeared in mid-air. Fine, golden granules of sand started to trickle down.

Bei Bei was also shocked by the fact that he had been chosen. The two of them looked at each other. At that moment, neither of them knew what to say.

Xu Sanshi screamed into the air, “Does seeing me fucked makes you happy? Why is it Bei Bei? Why is it him!?”

He really wanted to scream, “I choose the Deep Adventure round!” However, the ten strokes of the whip had left a deep impression on his mind. Xu Sanshi could tell that this mysterious existence would not be kind to him.

If he chose that, he would be faced with death. The existence evidently did not like him!

I just have to kiss him for three minutes, and I will pass this round! This is better than death! However, we have to do it in front of so many people, including Jiang Nannan. At this moment, Xu Sanshi instantly felt that he was in a really painful spot.

“Bei Bei...” Xu Sanshi said with much difficulty as he licked his lips.

Bei Bei jumped like a cat whose tail had been stepped on as he said, “Don’t even think about it!”

“Do you think I want to?” Xu Sanshi said angrily, “I don’t! However, I want to live, you know that! Do you want us all to die here?”

Bei Bei snorted, “I’d rather die than to get kissed by you! If I don’t kiss you, I’ll die. If I kiss you, I might not live. So why would I want to kiss you? Who knows how many more tortures this place has for us?”

“There are three rounds. If you pass all of them, you can leave. Furthermore, according to your situations, you will be given different, customized rewards,” said the voice.

Xu Sanshi gulped and said, “Bei Bei, hear that? It’s only three rounds. While this place is strange, that voice seems to honor its word. Furthermore, while the questions earlier were difficult, it considered our responses from an emotional aspect. Just bear with it. Do it for our future happiness! Don’t you want to save Xiao Ya?”

“I...” When he heard ‘Xiao Ya’, Bei Bei, who was initially as riled up as a fighting cock, softened. That’s right! He did not care about his life, but what about Xiao Ya? If he did not save her, Xiao Ya might become an evil soul master forever.

He thought for a while, then sighed and closed his eyes. He faced Xu Sanshi and said, “Let’s do it.”

Xu Sanshi looked at the hourglass and bit down on his lips. He stepped toward Bei Bei and stared intently at his lips. In his mind, he repeated this thought over and over again, “These are two sausages, two sausages, two sausages...”

Bei Bei had his own mantra too. I’m getting kissed by a pig, kissed by a pig, kissed by a pig...

Finally, Xu Sanshi stood in front of Bei Bei. The two of them were of similar heights. There was no need to trouble either party. However, when they were only inches apart, Xu Sanshi's footsteps stopped. "These aren't sausages!"

"Here I come!" Xu Sanshi said.

Bei Bei kept his eyes closed and said angrily, "Hurry up, pighead."

Xu Sanshi gritted his teeth and closed his eyes. Then, he lunged forward.

"Bleugh..." When Bei Bei felt something touch his lips, however, he could not hold it in anymore. Everything he ate in the morning spewed out of his stomach.

"Bleugh!" Xu Sanshi had lowered his head slightly, and so his nose had hit Bei Bei's lips. But at this moment, vomit was splashed all over his face. His initial determination fell apart. He started to puke furiously too as he vomited all over Bei Bei.

This task, which had seemed easy to complete, turned into a nightmare for Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi. Both of them puked all over themselves.

"For contaminating the valley, you shall both be moved to the Deep Adventure round."

The golden light flashed and cleaned all of their vomit up instantly.

This scene before everyone tugged at their hearts. "What nonsense is this!?" The one who was the most shocked was Jiang Nannan. She was both worried and slightly tickled by it. In her heart, she was rather delighted, too. "If that rascal really did THAT with Bei Bei... However, what does Deep Adventure entail? There's a 50% mortality rate!" Then, she thought about how Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi had trained together all these years. Their coordination was superb. One of them attacked, while the other defended. They should be able to make it...