

## Ancient 671

Chapter 671: Moon Princess: I'll Kill Him! (3)

This is the first time in his life that Gu Jianlin is living in a big mansion.

Due to the prior circumstances, everyone was busy conquering the Ancient God Realm, completely ignoring matters of power and influence.

As a result, upon returning to the real world, the disparity in resources and power became immediately apparent.

Fortunately, they had already subdued the Si Family in advance.

Truly, an unintentional move that paid off.

This trip to Ying Province was unexpected, but he could also have some fun here.

After all, Gu Jianlin had lived this long without ever having Kobe beef.

If he had time, he could also wander around Akihabara.

Youzhu really liked places like that.

"Judging by the time, she should be arriving soon."

Gu Jianlin admired the cherry blossoms, enjoying a moment of leisure amidst his busy schedule, and sighed softly.

His new phone vibrated, signaling a new message.

Old Master Si: "Boss, the Moon Princess is following the convoy on her way to see you."

Gu Jianlin smiled silently: "With the Moon Princess's personality, did she really agree to this marriage so quickly?"

Old Master Si: "I suspect she's coming with the intent to cut you down."

Gu Jianlin smiled silently; in that case, he'll wait for her, just in time to give her a surprise.

Foolish Aimo, this is the kingdom your oniisan has conquered for you.

The sound of a sports car braking came from outside the courtyard, and someone opened the car door and landed lightly.

Gu Jianlin adjusted his golden mask and stood up to greet her.

The Moon Princess was in a very bad mood today.

Because an unexpected visitor had barged into her home, attempting to snatch away the man she had nurtured for nearly ten years, even declaring sovereignty in front of her parents, while she, the self-proclaimed main wife, had no argument or stance to oppose it.

If it were a legitimate wife slapping a mistress, one slap would suffice.

But she wasn't.

She even had to address that woman as "sister-in-law," how unreasonable.

There was nothing more suffocating than this in the world.

The most disheartening thing, of course, was that her mother had reached forty years old, and the markings of the Vermilion Bird Clan appeared on her wrist, indicating that she hadn't escaped the curse and was still entangled in it.

The teacher's sacrifice back then was half in vain.

But you couldn't say it was completely in vain, because the teacher from back then truly couldn't make her mother happy anymore, and rather than keep this woman by her side to be a living widow, it was better to set her free, to find her own happiness.

Later, her mother didn't hate the teacher anymore, only thought it was a pity.

True adults have their own considerations and can take responsibility for their actions, the only ones who might be hurt are the children, but there's nothing to be done about it, at such a young age, they have no say.

Fortunately, at this moment, the curse of the Vermilion Bird Clan had shown signs.

It wasn't as terrifyingly bizarre as imagined.

If it were with the teacher's condition, it might not be impossible to survive.

What truly made her furious was that a marriage contract had inexplicably appeared on her.

What nonsense, who had the gall to be engaged to her?

This was a condition proposed by the Si Family; as long as the Moon Princess was willing to marry, they would forgive the previous incidents, and welcome her back to the Dark World with the grandest gesture, offering unwavering support thereafter.

Ha!

Eat your dreams.

When she first heard this news, she was silent for a second, then decisively agreed.

Her thoughts were simple, first sending a duplicate to check out who her fiancé was.

Then, cut him down with one stroke.

"Miss Yue Ji, Young Master Xingye is in the courtyard."

The beautiful lady driver respectfully saluted.

The Moon Princess adjusted her cat-face mask, her platinum long hair flowing, the black silk short skirt swaying in the wind, and stepped out of the car on her slender legs. Her shoes made a rustling sound on the soft grass.

In her hand, she held a sword wrapped in bandages, a trophy from the Penglai Fairy Island.

The Heavenly Cluster Cloud Sword!

With a creak, the door opened.

Someone was sitting on the tatami in the courtyard, enjoying tea, appearing quite leisurely.

The Moon Princess suddenly drew her blade, the bandages were torn apart by the wind, and a chilling blade light slashed down!

Clang!

At the critical moment, Gu Jianlin also drew his blade, blocking her head-on. The blood-red ghost knife emanated a chilling killing aura, forcefully halting her incoming slash, the Sword Qi scattering and shattering the cherry blossoms everywhere.

"Hmm?"

The Moon Princess looked at the blood-red ghost knife: "Jiuyin?"

"It's me!"

Gu Jianlin said in a deep voice.

A trace of amazement flashed across the Moon Princess's beautiful eyes as she looked into his deep and calm gaze.

With a meeting of eyes, everything was said without a word.

Excellent!

She stepped back half a step and drew her sword to strike again!

Gu Jianlin was taken aback, what was up with this girl.

Chapter 672: Mysterious Coordinates, Golden House with a Hidden Beauty

After many years, Gu Jianlin once again experienced the joy of hide-and-seek.

Both the siblings followed the Ghost Slayer Path and had reached the Fifth Rank Moon Master. With the blessing of Divine Speed Force, they moved as swiftly as a gust of wind, darting around the courtyard and pool, leaping between cherry blossom tree tops and towering walls. Sometimes they would dash onto the roof or flicker through a few empty rooms.

This is outrageous.

Using the Heavenly Cluster Cloud Sword of the Qilin Venerable to slash at him, its owner.

One must know, the Moon Princess was able to subdue the Heavenly Cluster Cloud Sword relying on his willpower!

Outrageous!

Crack!

The Heavenly Cluster Cloud Sword, seemingly wrapped in Yang Flame, pierced through the tatami.

Gu Jianlin lay on the floor, arms raised above his head, and said helplessly, "Alright, you win."

In fact, after advancing to the Fifth Rank, he, having Dual Core Drive, was twice as fast as others of the same rank.

It would be hard for Youzhu to catch up with him.

But seeing her attack upon meeting, it seemed she had some murderous intent towards him.

Better to surrender first and see what mischief she was up to.

The cold fragrance wafted over as Su Youzhu straddled his waist, yanked off his golden mask, and stared down at the face she had longed to see for ten years, her gaze icy: "Gu Jianlin!"

Gu Jianlin could clearly feel that she was truly angry, her murderous aura overflowing: "What's wrong?"

The Moon Princess leaned down, their eyes meeting, and as her breath carried a faint fragrance, she sniffed him carefully, then gritting her teeth, said, "You have her perfume scent on you!"

Gu Jianlin hesitated for a second: "Is it my nose's fault?"

The Moon Princess released the sword hilt and put her hands on her hips: "Don't play dumb. What did you and Tang Ling do? Don't think I don't know. At that time, your Shadow was with me; did your real body go to find her?"

Gu Jianlin instinctively frowned and corrected: "I went to find the Stairway to Immortality."

The Moon Princess said coldly: "Where is the Stairway to Immortality?"

Gu Jianlin replied: "I ascended it."

The Moon Princess's voice chilled: "You've advanced!"

Thinking about his advancement, Gu Jianlin felt awkward, because what Xu Fu said about the side effects was drowned out by the sound of the glacier falling, and he didn't hear it. Even to this day, he didn't know the intimate scenes during the ascension were spiritual integration.

Moreover, in ancient traditions, there is a meaning of lifelong commitment.

He thought it was an illusion.

But afterwards, the ritual inexplicably completed itself.

How should he explain this?

No matter how he explained, Youzhu would be angry.

Gu Jianlin's mind worked straightforwardly, but he wasn't a fool.

He knew this girl in front of him liked him, but due to various factors, he couldn't consider romantic matters right now, at least not until he had the confidence to face the Vermilion Bird Clan's curse.

Besides, the more beautiful the woman, the more of a poison she is.

She would corrupt his mind.

He prided himself on strong self-control, but this girl before him was clearly a troublesome little witch.

Even an accomplished monk might someday be enchanted by a seductive demoness.

It's like being told not to date in high school, but if you find a beautiful girl in pajamas and fishnet stockings lying on your bed, whispering softly in your ear, would you still have the stability to do your homework?

The Moon Princess didn't care about his thoughts. She drew the Heavenly Cluster Cloud Sword and cut his finger, squeezing out a drop of blood.

Then she pulled out a silver needle from somewhere and inserted it into the drop of blood.

"What are you doing?"

Gu Jianlin curiously asked.

The Moon Princess removed the mask from her face, replying casually: "Checking if you're still a virgin."

What the hell, a virgin?

Gu Jianlin could barely keep it together.

"Eh, you really haven't done that kind of thing."

The Moon Princess looked at the silver needle in her hand, seeing no change in color, she murmured: "This tool was used by ancient empresses to inspect male sacrifices, ensuring they maintained a Pure

Yang Body. If they lost their virginity, then the needle would turn red. It's similar to the Palace Guarding Sand on the wrist of a Female Sacrifice."

Gu Jianlin forced himself up, curiously asked: "Do you have Palace Guarding Sand?"

The Moon Princess said coldly: "Why would I use that thing? Do I want everyone to know I've been with you if it shows on my wrist? Or to let my parents know you've been with me? What then?"

Heaven knows what goes on in this girl's mind every day.

Gu Jianlin simply stopped talking; the best approach now was to play dead.

Not giving her a chance for unreasonable trouble.

"So how did you advance?"

The Moon Princess suspiciously asked.

Gu Jianlin held back for a long time, embarrassed to say what happened before, so he said: "The trait of Jiuyin, I can transform it to the Ghost Slayer Path and then advance through it, sort of like exploiting a bug."

"Really? I remember the teacher told me that essentially, the promotion rituals of each path, though different, all boil down to increasing the strength of the soul. As long as the soul's strength rises, it's no problem." The Moon Princess considered this angle, finding it indeed reasonable but still a bit skeptical.

"Since nothing happened between you two, why did Tang Ling say she is your girlfriend?"

She crossed her arms and questioned: "I never said that."

Gu Jianlin was startled: "She actually said that?"

The Moon Princess's voice chilled: "She thought you were dead!"

Gu Jianlin thought his last action was indeed akin to courting death.

Surviving had been because he awakened the power left by the First Generation Qilin Venerable.

Plus, with the help of Skylark.

"Perhaps she was soft-hearted, thinking I was dead, so she wanted to fulfill filial duties as a girlfriend?"

Gu Jianlin pondered for a moment: "Wait, what about mom?"

The Moon Princess's eyes flickered instinctively for a moment, but he caught it.

"What's happening?"

Gu Jianlin asked in a deep voice.

Moon Princess was silent for a long time, then said softly, "Mom is forty years old."

With just this sentence, Gu Jianlin felt his blood run cold.

"But don't worry, we have already traced the origin of the curse. If we have to face a Primordial, the probability of survival is quite high. Even against the entire Vermilion Bird Clan, there's hope. After all, if such a situation truly arises, it would be a showdown between humans and the Ancient God Clan."

Moon Princess spoke in a soft voice, "Mom has already been sent to Magic City's headquarters, where the President personally received her."

Upon hearing this, Gu Jianlin finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He knew all too well just how powerful the President was.

In a sense, he shouldn't be weaker than the teacher.

Because the final research on Heavenly Personification by the President was terrifying.

Just a projection of spiritual thought could suppress Xu Fu.

Bear in mind, Xu Fu, also a Ninth Rank demigod, possessed three Ancient God genes, strong beyond comparison.

In the end, he didn't even see the real entity and was defeated.

If the curse's origin comes from an attack by the Vermilion Bird Clan,

then the safest place in the world is by the President's side.

This is what Senior Ji mentioned before, leveraging the power of the Heavenly Person Realm to create a new path.

This is entirely opposed to the Evolution Path.

In contrast, it's more suited for humans, though the conditions might be a bit stringent, with few capable of mastering it.

"By the way, during my recent venture into the depths of the Sea of Eternal Life, I discovered crucial intelligence."

Gu Jianlin suddenly remembered something, speaking earnestly, "Gu Ci'an, Tang Zijing, they are all Shadows. Personally trained by the President, they are meant to combat mysterious organizations within The Order of the Hidden. There may be many such individuals, all likely dispersed across different corners of the world, infiltrated within various organizations."

Just as expected, Moon Princess's character was like this; she wasn't just a simple romantic.

Once discussing serious matters, she transformed back into her former ice-cold beautiful girl persona.

"Shadows?"

She murmured softly, "No wonder."

Evidently, she recalled many past incidents, leading to further speculation about the teacher's identity.

"Why no wonder?"

Gu Jianlin asked curiously.

Moon Princess pondered and said, "The tasks the teacher executed in the past weren't all from the Night Watchers. I used to think he was investigating personal matters, but many things didn't add up. If his direct superior was the President, then everything makes sense."

Gu Jianlin was silent for a moment, took out his phone, activated the drawing function, and wrote a cryptic message.

"In the depths of the Sea of Eternal Life, I met Tang Zijing."

He handed the phone to her, "Check, what does this sentence mean?"

Moon Princess took a look, "It's a set of coordinates, located somewhere in Tokyo."

"Before Tang Zijing died, he left me this coordinate?"

Gu Jianlin analyzed, "I suspect this coordinate carries some special significance, likely related to the matter they were investigating. Before he died, he said nothing. I suppose even he didn't know the significance of this coordinate. The last possibility is that this was left by Old Gu on his final exploration of the Ancient God Realm."

He suddenly shivered.

This isn't a bit too coincidental.

Coincidental to the point of resembling fate's arrangement.

Tang Zijing left a set of mysterious coordinates right in Tokyo of Ying Province.

And upon returning from the Ancient God Realm, he happened to arrive here.

Wait.

Is it truly coincidence?

He turned and looked at the tightly closed door.

Skylark was sleeping there.

"By the way, how did you suddenly transform into the young master of the Si Family?"

Moon Princess suspiciously eyed him, "And even want an engagement with me?"

Upon hearing this today, she was furious.

Who would have thought the so-called fiancé was this young man before her?

Gu Jianlin waved his hand, "That was my idea, wanting to bring you back to the Dark World; there must be a suitable reason. Just right, the Si Family can become your umbrella; they have a great and safe influence."

"Oh?"

Moon Princess looked at him skeptically, "Is it really just that simple?"

Gu Jianlin frowned, sensing a bad omen.

"So, what are we now? Are we still siblings?"

Moon Princess leaned closer, her icy, exquisitely beautiful face suddenly bloomed with a radiant smile, she whispered alluringly in his ear, "Or are we now engaged? Young master of the Si Family?"

The alias and such are not important.

The person is what matters.

Ha, this is truly the light at the end of the tunnel.

What's a boyfriend and girlfriend?

An engaged couple is a further step forward, isn't it?

Gu Jianlin put his hand on his forehead, indeed she caught another flaw.

"Your gaze just now kept looking at that door."

Moon Princess keenly picked up on the scandal, turning to look, "Who is inside?"

## Chapter 673: The Mysteriously Disappeared Corpse

Gu Jianlin's heart skipped a beat.

Moon Princess was always sensitive. As a seasoned strategist, she had an exceptionally keen sense of smell, often detecting the scent of blood from hundreds of meters away, not to mention the intense aroma of Lan She.

She immediately grabbed a knife and walked over, expressionlessly yanking open the door.

"Wait."

Gu Jianlin wanted to stop her, but it was too late.

Unexpectedly, when Moon Princess opened the door, she paused: "No one?"

Gu Jianlin was also stunned, because in his line of sight, that stunningly beautiful girl was lying on the bed asleep, her dark hair spread across the khaki pillow, the enticing curves beneath the blanket making one's blood race.

Suddenly, his eyes felt a burning pain, prompting him to gasp instinctively.

He quickly pulled out his phone, using the black screen as a mirror to look at his own eyes, and saw that the depths of his dark pupils were suffused with a bloody hue, as if another bewitching vertical pupil had opened, cold and cruel.

Moon Princess clearly thought of some ghost story, instinctively clutching his sleeve, looking around suspiciously, she said: "Hold on a minute, you wouldn't be haunted by something ominous, would you? What's in this room?"

Bear in mind, Gu Jianlin had returned from the depths of the Sea of Eternal Life, embroiled in Supreme-level intrigue, who knows what happened at the time; encountering some strange entity wouldn't be surprising.

On the contrary, his unharmed state was what seemed unusual.

"Hmm, how should I explain this to you, it's best if you can't see it."

Gu Jianlin was silent for a moment, rubbing his eyes, he sighed: "In some sense, I am indeed a harbinger of misfortune. But it's not a big problem, for the time being, that thing can't harm me. My teacher once asked for a Golden Phoenix Feather for me, I have my grandmaster's protective powers, impervious to evil."

"Leave here for now, and don't talk about her, don't mention her name."

He said seriously: "It's very frightening."

Evidently, even in a comatose state, Skylark maintained a high level of alertness.

Who knows what method she used, only she could see him.

Moreover, she had likely done something to him.

"Is it really that terrifying?"

Moon Princess held his hand, finding his palm icy, his whole body tense.

He definitely wasn't pretending.

Gu Jianlin was truly cautious.

So, the secret within this room wasn't some affair, but truly something monstrous.

Even someone like Gu Jianlin could be frightened to such an extent.

The Lan She-like fragrance, which should belong to an exceptional beauty, now seemed like something eerie and terrifying, turning the courtyard into a sinister, ominous place, exuding a strange murderous aura.

"Hmm, it's beyond the capability of mere mortals."

Gu Jianlin wanted to leave yet felt a bit worried, so finally, he condensed a shadow, leaving it in the room.

Just in case.

Seeing his caution, Moon Princess became all the more curious about this so-called ominous thing.

Because after Gu Jianlin left that room, he visibly shed the tension and vigilance of recent days, instinctively gripping her hand, walking so close beside her, speaking near her.

Usually, Gu Jianlin avoided physical contact.

Today was different, he genuinely needed her.

If Gu Jianlin knew what she was thinking, he'd probably retort with, "Isn't that obvious?"

Compared to the poisonous Mandala Flower.

The harmless house flower was far more soothing, not imposing any stress.

Moon Princess was happy to help relieve some of his burden, her lips curling up inadvertently, swinging an imaginary tail, accompanying him past the cherry blossom trees in the courtyard, walking along the petal-strewn path further and further away.

"You haven't had lunch yet, have you? I'll ask someone to arrange it."

"No, originally Aunt Zijin and I were hiding in Sapporo, where her family, the Lu Family, has properties. My sister called, saying someone arranged a marriage for me, so I took a flight over overnight."

"Has Aunt Zijin advanced to Holy Land?"

"Yes, if need be, she can come here any time."

"It's rare to have a Holy Land Level ally in a foreign country."

"How did you subdue the Si Family?"

"I didn't, I just used a special method to replace the real Si Xingye."

"I see, so won't you be in danger if your identity is exposed?"

"You could say that."

Gu Jianlin did not mention how he had already used Ancient God's Blood to secretly control the head of the Si Family, as speaking of it would serve no purpose and perhaps only add unnecessary trouble.

Moreover, aside from the old master, the Si Family wasn't entirely trustworthy.

Other servants might not maintain absolute loyalty.

Thus, as they walked from the backyard to the front hall, they needed to maintain some distance, donning their masks once more.

Moon Princess resumed her icy maiden demeanor, holding the Heavenly Cluster Cloud Sword, her gaze frigid.

The luxurious front hall, with its simple yet grand decor, sunlight streamed through the transparent skylight, skillfully severing light from shadow, while the long wooden table in the shadows displayed exquisite pastries, fresh fruits, and various beverages.

"Young Master, Miss Yue Ji."

The elderly butler bowed slightly in the front hall, respectfully saying: "Lunch has been prepared for you both, freshly caught bluefin tuna belly with fresh tuna marrow. The other side dishes have been prepared according to your usual menus, and there's a piece of aged Wagyu beef in the kitchen you previously mentioned. Would you like it now..."

Chapter 674: The Mysterious Disappearance of the Corpse (Part 2)

It must be said, the Si family is indeed powerful and influential.

Just this one lunch, with the accompanying wine, is their total family income for a month.

According to the data, Si Xingye is a clean person, but he knows how to enjoy life.

He is indeed the young master of a powerful family.

Gu Jianlin waved his hand, gesturing for the butler to handle it.

"So, does that mean I'm benefiting from you?"

The Moon Princess sat across the table, her sleek black legs swaying under the dress.

She rested her chin on her hand, casually picked up a bottle of chilled orange juice, gently stirred it with a silver spoon, clearly accustomed to the ways of a powerful family and unfazed.

On the contrary, Gu Jianlin was a bit reserved, afraid of revealing his identity.

"None of this matters."

He suddenly said, "What's important is, you are a descendant of the Jiang family, right?"

He had wanted to mention this for a long time.

There just never seemed to be a suitable moment.

The Moon Princess's hand holding the spoon slightly stiffened, she lowered her head, saying nothing.

"This is why you've been keeping it from me, and why you're going to the Dark World. You and your sister's biological mother are direct descendants of the Jiang family, always surviving in the cracks."

Gu Jianlin brought up the topic, finally gaining the upper hand psychologically, fiddling with the table wine, speaking nonchalantly, "If I'm not mistaken, your biological mother often wants to visit you, right? Mom and Uncle Su have mentioned it, she'll even call you from time to time, but you have her number blocked."

The Moon Princess raised her head, pouting, "How did you know?"

"Remember the day school started after Tomb-Sweeping Festival, your biological mother called you?"

Gu Jianlin was silent for a moment, finally explaining, "Later when I went home, I checked your phone and found over a hundred blocked numbers."

The Moon Princess was stunned, "When did you check my phone?"

Gu Jianlin hesitated again, "When you fell asleep in my room during tutoring."

The Moon Princess stared at him, speaking softly, "So I fell asleep in your room, and instead of doing anything to me, you checked my phone? Am I so unappealing?"

Gu Jianlin glanced at her rounded shoulders and delicate collarbone, as well as the pair of beautiful legs under the dress.

It must be said, she was indeed alluring.

But alas, his heart was as solid as a rock, unmoving, "No, I also carried you to the bed."

The Moon Princess puffed her cheeks, muttering, "It's all Aunt Zijin's fault for talking too much."

"Now I've entered your world too."

Gu Jianlin gazed into her eyes, "Are you still planning to hide it from me?"

The Moon Princess snorted, "We're in such a romantic city now, yet you're not taking me sightseeing or shopping under the cherry blossoms, not taking me to Akihabara for photos and figurines, but rather checking my household registration?"

Gu Jianlin shook his head, saying, "Just like you know me so well, I want to know you too."

If this were in anime, it would generally mean a confession.

Unfortunately, the Moon Princess knew him too well; it was just his literal meaning.

Finally, she sighed, conceding.

"That woman is indeed a member of the Jiang family and a member of Dusk."

She said emotionlessly, "When I was very young, she divorced my father and returned to the Jiang family as their young lady, erasing my father's memory and spirituality in the process."

Gu Jianlin's right hand on the table jolted like being shocked, "Uncle Su is an Ascender too?"

"He was, a long time ago, but now he doesn't remember it himself, he's still working in the extradepartmental section of the Ether Association, engaging in research and investigation of ancient artifacts. The Jiang family erased his memory, and also destroyed his physical structure with drugs, turning him into a complete ordinary person."

The Moon Princess's gaze was icy, speaking lightly, "Back then, they wanted to do the same to us."

Gu Jianlin's heart sank slightly.

"My sister awakened early, infiltrated the Zong Family to escape disaster. Later, due to her actions, the main family started targeting me, wanting to snuff me out before I awakened."

The Moon Princess said softly, "But they didn't expect me to awaken myself."

Gu Jianlin mused, "Then you met my dad?"

"Yes, under the teacher's protection, the Jiang family didn't dare do anything to me."

The Moon Princess sipped her orange juice, saying, "Perhaps that woman is also trying to mediate, but ultimately couldn't defy the family. The faith and authority left by the Red King is unshakable, including her. The fact my sister and I survived might be the Jiang family's greatest grace to us."

Gu Jianlin nodded slightly, "I see, I met your sister yesterday."

The Moon Princess was surprised.

"In Yokohama, we almost clashed."

Gu Jianlin thought for a moment, saying, "You can explain my identity to her later, we don't need to exert so much effort fighting with the Si family anymore. I'll find a way to take root in the Dark World, expand quickly. I'm in the Si family, she's in the Zong Family, and you're backed by the Liu family. Sounds promising, right?"

The Moon Princess was stunned for a long while, blinking her beautiful eyes.

"I didn't expect you could replace the Si family's young master."

She complained, "What is all this?"

"There are many bizarre things, slowly get used to it."

Gu Jianlin said lightly.

Their conversation was already shrouded by the Lock of Nonexistence, no need to worry about eavesdropping.

Once the servants brought in the lunch, the siblings enjoyed a long-lost moment of solitude.

The Moon Princess suggested going to Akihabara for a stroll since she has an otaku attribute; at home, she often buys wigs, costumes, and props, snapping photos in the mirror like a real-life figurine.

Akihabara is considered paradise for an otaku like her.

Besides, some drugstores attracted her, as she needed new cosmetics.

Gu Jianlin wasn't interested in these things; he always hated crowded places. Compared to them, Hokkaido appealed to him more, or visiting some anime pilgrimage sites.

It can only be said that the same city holds different meanings for different people.

For some veterans, Tokyo might be most alluring for its singing and dancing clubs and strip clubs, as well as some shops selling teachers' great works on CDs.

Of course, eating and entertainment aren't the focus.

The most important thing is they want to check out that coordinate location.

Perhaps there's a major discovery there.

Yet just as they were preparing to go out, their phones vibrated simultaneously.

"A message from the Think Tank."

The Moon Princess took out her phone and glanced at it, speaking softly, "There's probably a mission."

Gu Jianlin didn't quite understand the rules for Twilight Candidates, somewhat puzzled as he took out his phone.

"Miyamoto Shosuke's body is missing?"

He was slightly stunned.

At that moment, it was as if another pair of enchanting vertical pupils opened in his eyes.

Memories surged back.

The dimly lit long street, the deadly Qianyu Sushi Restaurant, blood everywhere.

His breathing suddenly changed, casually unleashing a strike of All Heavens Divine Thunder.

The man in the kimono drew his blade, pale dragon horns sprouted on his head, a white bone mask spread over his face!

Pseudo Ancestor!

The night's memories surged back.

The last thing he remembered was the entire space-time of the sushi restaurant shattering, blood splattering.

Miyamoto Shosuke was buried in it too.

A Holy Land Level Pseudo Ancestor was instantly killed on the spot.

Of course, this wasn't something he could do.

Skylark was truly terrifying!

This Miyamoto Shosuke was probably a member of The Order of the Hidden.

Gu Jianlin's gaze was solemn, mumbling to himself, "It's true, The Order of the Hidden's influence isn't limited to human Ascender organisations, it even infiltrates various Ancient God Clans. There's something in Tai Zhuo's memory about an incident where an Ancient Ancestor around an old monster inexplicably betrayed, and note that it was the Candle Dragon Clan."

"Back then, the teacher also said, the Candle Dragon Venerable never considered humans her enemy, because there's something in this world she truly fears, so what is the so-called truth, actually?"

The more he thought about it, the more frightened he became, as though plummeting into an abyss.

Soon, the Moon Princess's voice brought him back to reality.

"The Think Tank wants us to go to a meeting."

The Moon Princess said gravely, "Where the body went missing, there's something very terrifying."

Gu Jianlin also pulled up the information on his phone and took a look.

When he saw the photo attached to the message, his eyes shrunk violently.

Chapter 675: Pilgrimage to the Sacred Land, Strange Phenomena Return

An antique grocery store suddenly appeared on the streets of Tokyo's Shinjuku District, with passersby occasionally glancing at it. It's quite rare to find such an inconspicuous little shop in a place where every inch of land is worth a fortune.

However, the people of this nation have been living under oppressive rules for too long and have never developed any extra curiosity, nor do they wish to involve themselves in others' affairs. As long as it doesn't trouble them, even if war breaks out, they probably won't have any additional thoughts, at most they might care about wages and prices.

Occasionally, some passersby go in to buy something and come out, completely oblivious to anything unusual.

Huai Yin sat reclining behind the counter, calmly watching the television.

But what this old television displayed wasn't a program from any of the world's stations. The screen showed a massive volcano spewing terrifying smoke, charred flesh, and blood like molten lava bursting into the sky, with ash falling like a torrential sea tide, accompanied by a terrifying landslide, countless crystal-white bones scattered down.

The image finally froze at that moment, with the collapsing volcano resembling a gigantic carrion bird's corpse.

The rolling smoke eventually condensed into a face of desperate wailing.

"Even the great Ancient Ancestors can't escape this temptation?"

Jing Ci walked in from outside the shop and hung the umbrella on the stand by the door.

He wore an all-black suit today, without a hint of extra color. Even his wristwatch was removed, making him look as if he was attending a funeral, solemn and dignified.

"Back?"

Huai Yin smiled and asked, "Didn't cause any trouble, did you?"

Jing Ci shook his head and replied, "You instructed, the collaboration between the Ether Association and Lishan Tiyan Pavilion is the foundation of the entire Human World. How could I mess it up? Besides, I just went to see her, those Pseudo Ancestors might not like it, but would they really summon a Primordial to kill me?"

"If it really comes to that, then I won't hold back anymore."

He walked into the bathroom, saying, "Just have an itch to scratch."

"Take it easy, okay?"

Huai Yin chuckled, "This time, the Human World indeed achieved an unprecedented great victory. Not only did we completely kill an Ancient Ancestor with no loss, but we also lured out the great divine entity behind it."

Jing Ci washed his hands and casually asked, "Complete death? That's rare for the Ancient God Clan."

"If the Kui Bird Ancestor hadn't been seeking evolution, it wouldn't have completely died. Lin Dong's Strategy Group wouldn't have killed it so easily either."

Huai Yin glanced at the white, gnawed bones and sighed, "Take a look at what this is."

Jing Ci walked over for a look, "Human bones."

"The Kui devoured countless humans, using its own bones and blood to create this body. Unfortunately, none could bear its power. Otherwise, it had a chance of reincarnation. After endless years, Buzhou Mountain might give birth to a new Kui, but it would have no connection with it anymore."

Huai Yin sipped hot tea and said, "Because that would be an entirely new entity."

Jing Ci said softly, "Transplantation, Candle Dragon Venerable also used this method. The difference is that she is a true Supreme. Oddly, in ancient mythologies, only gods of higher rank would manifest in human form, while the lower they are, the more they turn beast-like. Thus, in ancient murals, we often see godly figures in human form sitting in high heavens, with myriad beasts running underneath their seats."

"That's because only the most powerful Supremes are adaptable, but their overwhelming power confines them, forcing them to take risks."

He suddenly said, "But if Candle Dragon Venerable's true identity is indeed who we think it is, then she has truly adapted to human rules, even mastering the Heavenly Person's Breathing. The Stairway to Immortality is a life-and-death checkpoint for Thunder, so what does it mean for Candle Dragon Venerable?"

After a brief silence, Huai Yin sighed, "Evolution."

Jing Ci said expressionlessly, "Even the Ancient Supremes pursue evolution?"

"Of course, it was something my junior and I confirmed after returning from space. In the vast universe, among countless galaxies, the Ancient God Clan is capable of interstellar travel. Why did they choose Earth in the end? It's because this planet is special, forcing them to come here, seeking an opportunity for evolution."

Huai Yin took out a quaint wooden box from a cupboard, containing a golden branch, and said softly, "This planet isn't as simple as we thought. You've seen the true history and should know what happened here billions of years ago. The Ancient God Clan, too, has its enemies."

Jing Ci poured himself a drink, calmly saying, "The Order of the Hidden, right? After this event, I thought the true leader of The Order of the Hidden might be Vermilion Bird Venerate, but based on your suggestion, there's more to it, isn't there?"

Huai Yin shook his head, "Who knows? If there were a divination pathway of my level in this world, it might already be clear, like even your Grandmaster couldn't determine who ambushed her."

Jing Ci drank his wine in silence and asked, "There's something I'm quite curious about."

Chapter 676: Pilgrimage to the Sacred Land, Strange Phenomena Return

Huai Yin raised an eyebrow: "What?"

"Everyone says that Qing and Chi were the earliest humans to discover The Order of the Hidden."

Jing Ci suddenly asked, "How did you discover it back then? Don't tell me it was deduced from historical clues. Although I am not as adept at profiling as my junior, I can still see it. You are indifferent and detached about everything in this world, but when it comes to The Order of the Hidden, there is a profound hatred."

Huai Yin smiled silently.

"Firstly, even if there were no grievances between The Order of the Hidden and me, I would still personally annihilate them. In my view, if one does not live to ascend to the heavens, then life is meaningless. I was not born to look up to others, nor do I want my life to be controlled by others. If there truly were gods in this world, I could not tolerate someone other than me sitting on the throne. Secondly, you are right, there is indeed a feud between me and The Order of the Hidden."

He brewed a new pot of tea and said faintly: "Finally, the ones who initially discovered The Order of the Hidden were not us brothers. Quite surprising, isn't it? The first person to discover The Order of the Hidden was Master."

Jing Ci paused as he held the wine glass, the liquid rippling.

"It was indeed us brothers who ignited this flame called anger in the end."

Huai Yin remarked emotionally: "Just like you did back then."

Jing Ci looked earnestly at the old man, waiting for an answer.

"That is a story from a very long time ago."

Huai Yin said softly, "Let me think, where should I start?"

His thoughts seemed to drift back to the distant past, carried by the wind along with the falling cherry blossoms.

This was Gu Jianlin's first trip abroad in his life, as he had never truly experienced the customs and culture of foreign lands before, especially Tokyo, a city without a doubt the largest in scale and population in the world. It was as if a new dimension had opened before him, yet he found himself lost in the hustle and bustle.

In contrast, Moon Princess was worldly and well-versed in Japanese, quite skilled at having fun.

Leading him through the sprawling city, they were like two mad rabbits.

They had just taken the Shonan Monorail, flying through the city, traversing dark tunnels.

Taking photos at various landmarks.

There were only the two of them on the journey, the Si Family's servants long left behind.

With the Lock of Nonexistence's blessing, they didn't have to worry about being tracked.

Even wearing masks, they didn't have to fear being seen as odd.

After all, in a place like Ying Province, there were plenty of quirky people, with cosplayers frequently seen on the streets.

"I didn't expect you to be so familiar with this place."

Gu Jianlin said, eating chocolate ice cream and leaning on the red railing, overlooking the view below the steps, "The roads are so familiar. When I look at those complex subway lines, I feel dizzy."

Moon Princess took a bite of his ice cream, holding a cup of hot milk tea, lazily leaning against him like a cat, casually saying, "To correct you, I am not familiar with this place at all."

This was a long staircase, surrounded by red railings, located near the Suga Shrine.

A famous animated movie, "Your Name," had its final scene filmed here.

Gu Jianlin was slightly taken aback.

Moon Princess, sipping her milk tea, lazily said, "I've wanted to come here for a long time, so I did a lot of research. I checked every route and every place I wanted to visit, so I am this familiar."

Gu Jianlin was surprised—she must have visited Ying Province many times before.

"Every time I'm here, but I haven't visited the places I wanted to."

Moon Princess glanced at him, a hint of allure in her eyes and brows: "Playing alone is no fun."

Gu Jianlin knew that with her talent and beauty, she could easily find a companion.

She could even bring her sister along for fun.

But he knew she was here today because she only wanted to come with him.

Being with someone you like makes the trip meaningful.

He suddenly felt a bit guilty, because he hadn't even taken her around Peak City.

"I am too boring."

He hesitated: "Sorry."

"Why apologize? Even though you suffer when shopping with me, you performed well." Moon Princess had bought many clothes and cosmetics today, even finding the much-desired figures and street snacks.

Her mood was already very pleasant.

A single afternoon wasn't enough for much; Suga Shrine was the last stop.

Next, they would have to head to the location designated by the Think Tank.

Fortunately, the Think Tank's missions were generally broad in scope, as long as they arrived within the stipulated time.

No cumbersome meetings and requirements.

Gu Jianlin thought shopping with you is indeed painful, but not when watching you try on outfits.

Various breezy little skirts looked pleasing on her.

Of course, the trip wasn't aimless; besides eating and playing, they were searching for the location indicated by the mysterious coordinates in this massive city all along.

However, when they followed the directions to the location, they found nothing.

The place shown by the coordinates was a commercial street; they searched for hours, finding nothing.

"Tang Zijing wouldn't talk nonsense; this coordinate must have another meaning."

Gu Jianlin analyzed, "If it were that easy to find, I'd actually find it strange."

Chapter 677: Pilgrimage to the Sacred Land, Strange Phenomena Return (Part 3)

"That makes sense. A secret they would guard with their lives can't be simple."

Moon Princess nodded slightly, "Anyway, we still have plenty of time, so let's take it slow."

"Let's go. From this moment, I'm going to keep a bit of distance from you."

She grabbed her bags and walked ahead, waving at him.

Gu Jianlin was silent for a moment, then smiled silently.

There's no denying, home is where the heart is.

Being flirted with occasionally without an ounce of pressure.

If it weren't for various reasons and the influence of his parents, he probably would have just gone along with it.

Suga Shrine is located in Shinjuku District, hidden amidst old residential buildings, only five kilometers from the designated hospital, which is nothing for two on the Ghost Slayer Path.

This is also why Suga Shrine was chosen as the last stop of today's trip.

Upon arriving at the hospital, the good mood from the trip was completely overturned.

Because a Barrier is set here, ordinary people without spirituality cannot see the full view; only Ascenders can see the seals at the hospital entrance and the guards from You Ying Group.

"Such a strong smell of blood."

Gu Jianlin waved his hand and then took out his phone to access his messages, showing them to the guard.

Moon Princess did the same, which was their way of verifying their identity.

"Pass through!"

The captain of the security team said.

Then, Gu Jianlin saw the photos he had seen on his phone before.

This is a private hospital under You Ying Group, used to dissect the corpses of the Ancient God Clan and Ancient God Seeds for some unknown research. After Miyamoto Shosuke's death, naturally, his body was brought here, guarded by four Sixth Rank Ascenders, and thus shouldn't cause any problems.

However, just this morning, all four Sixth Rank Ascenders inexplicably died without a trace.

And with them, all the doctors and researchers in the hospital also perished.

The hall was covered in blood, with the shattered ceiling still dripping; bodies lay strewn across the floor, each face frozen in terror, eyes grey and fearful.

Without exception, each chest bore a large gaping hole, their organs already decomposing.

A pungent, fishy odor permeated the air.

The cameras and lights were destroyed, and sparks flew from the open electrical room.

Gu Jianlin attempted to profile, a dark hall appeared before him, the lights extinguishing in an instant, eerie shadows flickering in the darkness, swiftly butchering the people there.

No, that's not right.

He faintly sensed something amiss in the scene from his profiling.

"What's the matter?"

Moon Princess surveyed the surroundings; she wasn't particularly skilled at solving cases.

Gu Jianlin knelt down, carefully examining a deceased female nurse, who was very pretty, with long legs. But after being gutted, she was as horrifying as an Evil Spirit.

Her face, smeared with heavy makeup, was half-drenched in blood, gruesome and terrifying.

As he closed his eyes, trying to deeply profile for clues, a bizarre image suddenly flashed in his mind. The dead nurse opened her eyes, her half face covered by an iron mask, transforming into a hideous fanged ghost, while the other half displayed an eerie smile.

What the hell!

It felt like being inside a horror movie again.

Gu Jianlin wasn't afraid of horror movies anymore but dreaded the sudden shocks in them.

These days, directors aren't that great at creating a spooky atmosphere; they just suddenly scare you with loud noises.

But this time was different.

Because all the corpses in the hospital raised their heads, their half faces rapidly transforming into horrific ghost-like visages, while the unscathed half-face bore a ghastly smile.

It was as if countless grotesque creatures in the darkness were giving him malignant grins.

That terrifying, twisted face seemed familiar.

It looked a bit like... Kui!

"No, Kui is already dead, it's impossible to survive."

Gu Jianlin instinctively stepped back, those eerie corpses seemingly standing up, stepping toward him.

This strange scene was eerily reminiscent because the Pseudo Ancestors of the Heavenly Destiny Pavilion were like this too.

Only this time it was even more bizarre and terrifying.

Just then, Gu Jianlin noticed something.

All these people had a tiny wound on their foreheads.

And it was all in the same spot.

Chapter 678: First Encounter with the Jiang Family, Moon Princess's Compensation

Gu Jianlin held his hand to his forehead, this kind of deep profiling gave him a terrible feeling, especially after awakening his spirituality, the images he imagined out of thin air were more impactful, like a dream.

"So, any discoveries?"

Moon Princess leaned in, looking up at her, her eyes bright and moist.

Who knows what shampoo she used, but there was a faint chill among the strands of her hair, like the scent emitted by honeysuckle, calming and soothing just by inhaling.

"There's something strange about these deaths. I suspect they weren't murdered, but tampered with. If we really want to investigate, we'll need to perform a detailed autopsy." Gu Jianlin actually wanted to keep smelling the scent in her hair, but for the sake of his dignity, he could only lean closer and smell it on the sly.

Moon Princess glanced at him and snuggled into his arms, nonchalantly saying, "Studies have shown that girls don't actually have any special body scent. The reason you smell something different is because you like me."

Because of the height difference, when Gu Jianlin lowered his head, the tip of his nose could just reach the top of her hair.

Occasionally brushing against the tip of his nose.

No denying, this girl really understood him well.

"How did you know?"

Gu Jianlin kept a straight face, though he hadn't shown any excessive behavior.

"If you want to smell, just smell, why so shy? Many years ago, when you had a fever, I took care of you, even when you were delirious and having nightmares, you held me up to smell, did you forget?" Moon Princess said indifferently.

Gu Jianlin suspected she was talking nonsense, but he had no evidence.

Because he remembered that when he had a fever as a child, he was indeed often delirious, vaguely dreaming of holding something, then breathing in her scent, calming down gradually.

Ever since meeting this girl in the Extraordinary World, one of the most impressive things was her scent.

The intimate contact on multiple occasions, that fragrance was truly unforgettable.

"Then why couldn't I smell it when I lived with you?"

He frowned and asked.

"Because I used Alchemy Weapon to block it."

Moon Princess said indifferently: "So even when I come out after bathing, you wouldn't think I smell particularly fragrant. Only when I appear before you with the identity of Moon Princess would I leave a deep impression."

Gu Jianlin thought so, that's why when he was held by her in the sea, it felt so familiar, because it had already happened countless times without him knowing.

"You were more interesting as a child, an insecure little boy, even subconsciously holding me not knowing my existence. That's why you naturally feel favorable towards women who are mature, independent, and caring, even if I'm actually a few years younger than you."

Moon Princess earnestly said: "Furthermore, most girls with such a personality would be attracted to guys like you, who are stoic, quiet, highly competent, have no bad habits, and constantly get yourself hurt. So, your title of Sister Killer isn't just for show."

"Stop, stop saying that."

For once, Gu Jianlin was embarrassed, having no choice but to focus his attention on the corpse in front of him.

He took out his phone, sent a message, ordering the Si Family to send someone to take the corpse back for a detailed divination and autopsy, to find out how that tiny wound came about.

Profiling was no longer useful.

Unless using something like a microscope, his vision couldn't observe such tiny wounds carefully.

"How is it?"

Moon Princess asked curiously.

"I don't think these people were killed."

Gu Jianlin recalled the terrifying scene he had just witnessed, shook his head and said, "These medical staff themselves have issues, although there isn't conclusive evidence yet, I suspect they might have been altered. And the mastermind behind altering these people should be The Order of the Hidden. Miyamoto Shosuke is also a member of The Order of the Hidden."

He pointed at the emaciated corpse in front of him, carefully observing it before speaking: "This corpse wasn't attacked from the outside, it was torn apart from the inside."

Like bullets piercing through steel, the irregular area around the bullet hole was protruding.

He took out the Soul Comforting Bell and shook it lightly.

"Mm, the soul residue is already obliterated."

He said softly: "This reminds me of a movie."

Moon Princess felt a chill: "Alien?"

That was a classic movie series, the recent prequel tells the origin of the Aliens, a grotesque and hideous monster with extreme aggressiveness, highly unstable genetic structures, evolving through parasitic hosts, considered a perfect organism in its universe.

The most classic scene is the face hugger, like an octopus, parasitizing a human body, then giving birth to a terrifying alien inside, finally tearing through the host's flesh, breaking free.

"Right, the Gu Masters back then probably had similar abilities, pretty disgusting."

Gu Jianlin turned and went upstairs, whispered: "When I fought Mrs. Yan back then, she nearly disgusted me to death, back then I really thought I was going to die. Not because Mrs. Yan was very strong, but because she was really ugly, that smell still makes me nauseous when I think about it."

Chapter 679: First Encounter with the Jiang Family, Moon Princess's Compensation (Part 2)

The Moon Princess recalled the past and said lightly, "I know it disgusts you, so didn't I accompany you for a long time afterward? Actually, I never planned to interact with you much under this identity, because it was too easy for you to see through."

Gu Jianlin smiled silently, so this is how it was.

They took the elevator to the top-floor morgue, where it was a bit too horrendous to look at.

A scene of destruction lay before their eyes.

Four corpses were nailed to the wall, each in a different state of death.

"Indeed, two of these four corpses suffer the same fate, torn apart from the inside out. The remaining two were killed with a single blow, one with a burst head, the other with a ripped chest. It appears to be a planned internal attack, characteristic of the methods of The Order of the Hidden, no doubt."

Gu Jianlin analyzed: "After the Penglai Ascension Array, they must have developed new tactics. No, rather, the Penglai Ascension Array was just a prelude to this tactic."

"Can you infer so much just from the bodies?"

The Moon Princess was somewhat surprised.

Gu Jianlin didn't mention the visions he saw, as his intuition told him this matter might be deeply related to the events within the Sea of Eternal Life, possibly even concerning the secrets of the Ancient God Clan.

But without evidence, he dared not draw conclusions lightly.

"As for Miyamoto Shosuke's body, it should be a flaw they left behind, so it needs to be recovered promptly?"

The Moon Princess glanced around, but there were no valuable clues left here.

Ding Dong.

A text message rang again on the phone.

"Dear Twilight Candidates, the perspective for investigating clues has arrived, prepare to enter the realm of dreams, we need to hold a brief meeting, relax your mind, do not resist."

The Think Tank's reminder.

The Moon Princess was evidently used to it, put away her phone, and said: "The realm of dreams is a growth-oriented Mythical Weapon, controlled by the Think Tank himself. This person claims to have no combat abilities, but so far, no one has managed to harm him in the slightest, and he can envelop all of Tokyo at any time, dragging people into an illusion."

Gu Jianlin grunted, Old Gu had mentioned before that the Think Tank was rather mysterious.

"This time, we might encounter some people from the Jiang Family, who may give you a hard time."

The Moon Princess hesitated: "Even my biological mother's side might have issues with our marriage. You're now a young master of the Si Family, not the Qilin of the Ether Association, so you need to restrain yourself a bit. After all, this is the territory of the Youying Association, so if you can bear it, bear it."

Gu Jianlin knew she was concerned for his safety, so he responded with a hum.

"If you're uncomfortable, I... can compensate you."

The Moon Princess cleared her throat and said calmly.

Gu Jianlin was taken aback: "Compensate?"

The Moon Princess seemed to give him a playful glance, then suddenly grasped his hand, placing it on her chest.

"Is this okay?"

Soft and yielding to the touch.

Gu Jianlin quickly withdrew his hand, his whole body feeling as if electrified.

Rarely, the Moon Princess burst out laughing. Ever since encountering her destiny reflection on the Penglai Fairy Island, she understood that aloofness was out of style, becoming unusually proactive.

"This is an advance compensation, to prevent you from spewing sarcasm. After all, you're currently impersonating someone, if the Si Family decides to abandon you as their young master, it could be dangerous."

She juggled the large and small bags in her hands, pretending to be calm: "If there's any other compensation you want, it's not impossible. I bought many sets of pajamas and stockings, you can slowly unpack them."

Gu Jianlin felt his scalp tingle from her teasing, and turned his head: "I'm not interested in those things."

Just after he spoke, they could feel their spirits rapidly detaching from their bodies, the world before them growing dark, and everything around them twisting and spinning, turning upside down.

When Gu Jianlin regained consciousness, he found himself in a dim Temple, but what was worshipped here weren't Gods, but two gigantic sculptures, like giants standing in the darkness.

The former clasped hands, while the latter spread its arms.

Majestic as Gods.

These two towering sculptures stood opposed in the darkness, like dead enemies of centuries, both wearing noble and dignified Divine Robes, the distinction being the one on the left was blood-red, and the one on the right was cyan. The walls were adorned with eerie frescoes painted in Gold, depicting a blood-red Ancient Dragon and a dark-cyan Qilin roaring on broken ground.

Without a doubt, this represented Qing and Chi, the two strongest Catastrophes.

To be honest, the points for mockery here were almost too many.

Each time one saw such opposing giant sculptures, it would remind them of a very classic anime scene.

In the darkness, indistinct shadows lingered like ghosts, presumably the Twilight Candidates.

"The more you look, the more it resembles Uchiha Madara and Thousand-Handed Zhujian, right?"

The Moon Princess whispered behind him: "The resemblance is strong."

Gu Jianlin responded with a hum, quipping: "I keep feeling that the statues will come alive in the next moment, then shout Hashirama, Madara. Too much of a megalomania. Did they fight like this too?"

The Moon Princess moved her red lips, speaking in lipspeak: "I don't know, maybe you should ask him next time?"

Gu Jianlin shook his head: "I'm afraid of getting hit."

Not just them, a lot of the Twilight Candidates were also whispering.

Chapter 680: First Encounter with the Jiang Family, Moon Princess's Compensation (Part 3)

"The Think Tank never likes attending meetings. It seems he's really anxious this time, deploying all of Ying Province's manpower, yet still not having found the young miss. At this rate, Ying Province will be turned upside down."

Someone else chimed in with a sneer, "Turned upside down? I fear some heads are going to roll."

"Evidently, everyone connected to Miyamoto Shosuke has been taken away, with some undergoing interrogation and others already reduced to corpses. Even the Zhao Family is in upheaval now, as they're in charge of the entire security of Tokyo, and with this incident, they're bound to be held responsible."

Another added, "The young miss is still alive but her whereabouts are unknown. Her condition is likely not good. I fear either the Ether Association will find her first, or she'll encounter someone from the Orochi Society."

In a shadowy corner, there was an eerily familiar figure.

Xia Yu was elegantly styled with an updo, wearing a pure white long dress reaching the floor, stepping gracefully on slender high heels.

Her face remained composed and beautiful, yet her brows bore an inerasable trace of worry.

Apart from this, among these Twilight Candidates was a particularly special group. They were dressed in identical white long coats, creating an almost vacuum zone around them where no one dared to approach.

Gu Jianlin felt his fingers being subtly tugged.

"Those are people from the Jiang Family."

The Moon Princess whispered into his ear.

Undoubtedly, within the Six Major Families of the Dark World, the Jiang Family held the highest status.

Being direct descendants of the Red King.

Naturally, they had a reason to be proud.

Suddenly, someone approached with a beaming smiling, saying, "Xingye!"

This was clearly someone from the Jiang Family. He had neat short hair and a natural fox-like face, with a radiant and warm smile, saying, "I heard you've gotten engaged, congratulations!"

Many other Jiang Family members followed behind him, looking rather unfriendly.

"I just got the news this morning."

He actually pulled out a red envelope from his pocket: "Although it's something conjured in the illusion with mental Thought, unable to be taken into reality, it's still a token of my regard. This gift money, wishing you a happy engagement."

Gu Jianlin fell into silence, pondering who this person was.

However, when he raised his hand to receive the thick red envelope, he noticed the seal wasn't fully closed.

A stack of banknotes slipped out.

They were Netherworld Banknotes.

The Moon Princess squinted her beautiful eyes, the look in them icy cold: "Jiang Ziyue, what do you mean by this?"

The person before them was a direct line of the Jiang Family.

Also one of the most talented among them.

Jiang Hanyi had once fought to a draw with the Crown Prince of the Omega Sequence, though it was when they were both at the Fourth Rank.

He became famous from that very battle.

Although part of the reason was that the Crown Prince always wavered between being a Heavenly Person and an Evolver.

Failing to make a concrete choice.

But this also indirectly highlighted Jiang Hanyi's strength.

As for the Fifth Rank, they never crossed paths again.

Because there were rumors that the Crown Prince had essentially completed the Sixth Rank ritual, ready to advance at any time.

As for Jiang Ziyue, he rarely made a move.

Yet the ever-arrogant Jiang Hanyi never provoked him.

This explained a lot.

Jiang Ziyue scratched his head, sighing: "Cousin, don't be mad, why so fierce? After all, your marriage couldn't possibly happen. No outsiders can marry a woman from the Jiang Family, even if they have tainted bloodlines. Giving cash gifts is a waste, better to send some Netherworld Banknotes, so that when you pass on, you can live comfortably below."

He hurriedly stepped back half a step: "Whoa, whoa, no need to be so fierce."

Gu Jianlin had not yet spoken when the girl beside him stepped forward to stand in front, her gaze brimming with murderous intent.

Jiang Ziyue pretended to be scared at first, then approached with a smiling face, saying, "I'm just here to remind you, actually I quite like you, my cousin. If it weren't for the family disagreement, perhaps I would..."

He leaned closer and closer until a sheathed blade pressed against his forehead.

"Too close."

Gu Jianlin said expressionlessly, "Get lost."

Si Xingye only felt a force pressing against his forehead, causing him to step back a few steps.

He was also on the Ghost Slayer Path, although he was completely relaxed, the other's speed was too fast.

So fast it was astonishing.

In that instant, the eyes of the Jiang Family members all flashed with a murderous glint.

The majority of Twilight Candidates were watching the spectacle, only a few from the Zong and Liu families frowned.

Because Miss Su and Mr. Liu had ordered them to pay more attention to the Moon Princess.

But after all, these were internal matters of the Jiang Family, no one else could intervene.

Fortunately, this was in the realm of dreams, no one could truly die, at most it would just be embarrassing.

Si Xingye was a low-key figure among the Twilight Candidates, no one knew why he was suddenly attracted to the Jiang Family's woman, even if she carried tainted bloodlines, it was unacceptable.

"Brother Xingye, this is not good."

Jiang Ziyue rubbed his forehead, sighing: "The Si Family was originally our good friends, why the sudden turn of face? Why fixate on my cousin when there are so many women? Brother Wei An once told me, that Qilin from the Ether Association, has all sorts of intricate connections with my dear cousin."

"So are you genuinely in love with my cousin, or merely seeking a political alliance?"

He shrugged: "Although everyone says Qilin is dead, the Ether Association is frantically searching for him, like losing the Crown Prince. Didn't you consider that person's feelings with such boldness?"