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Her declaration of loyalty to Wu Yongzhen was nothing more than an attempt to deceive him and keep him reassured. Once Charlie decided to make his move, she would no longer need to put on an act in front of Wu Yongzhen.

At this moment, Wu Yongzhen had no idea that the young woman sitting before him had already figured him out completely.

Smiling, he said to Rachel, “Oh, your loyalty truly moves me. Rest assured. Starting today, your family will enjoy unprecedented freedom within the territories controlled by the Left Army Command. As long as you complete your assigned mission properly, the other scholars in your family will be allowed to suspend all their current infiltration activities and enjoy their lives to the fullest!”

Rachel’s mother asked excitedly, “Grand Commander, what you’re saying… is it really true?”

Wu Yongzhen nodded and smiled.

“Of course! However, Rachel, you’ve already secured an excellent opportunity within the Rothschild family. During the coming period, you’ll need to spend more time interacting with its members and provide me with insider information that nobody else can obtain.

“At the same time, you must maintain absolute secrecy about everything. As long as you can accomplish these things, I’ll grant your family the greatest possible freedom.”

Rachel immediately stood up, then knelt on one knee. Cupping her fists, she looked at Wu Yongzhen with the utmost respect and said, “Rest assured, Grand Commander. I will devote myself wholeheartedly to this mission!”

Wu Yongzhen nodded with great satisfaction. Waving his hand generously, he declared, “Excellent! Since you have this attitude, I hereby announce that, starting right now, the other scholars in your family are free to live whatever lives they wish!

“If they’re still studying, they may choose to drop out. If they’re in relationships with people they don’t love, they can break up immediately. And if they’re undergoing any specialized training they dislike, they can stop that as well!”

After spending two days relaxing on the Antarctic ice fields, Charlie decided to travel to the United States once again with Lin Wan’er.

Once he had made his decision, he said to Yun Ruge and Song Ruyu, “Wan’er and I are planning to leave for a while. The two of you can stay here and cultivate in seclusion without worrying about anything. We’ll return before the shipping route reopens. Once the research teams and tourists begin arriving, we’ll leave Antarctica together with you.”

Song Ruyu asked in surprise and confusion, “Mr. Ye, where are you and Miss Lin going? Antarctica is so cold. Last time, you were away for ten days or even half a month. This time, you might be gone even longer. Aren’t the conditions a little too harsh?”

Yun Ruge, who was standing nearby, quickly gave her a subtle signal before smiling and saying, “Ruyu, there’s no need to worry about Mr. Ye. With his cultivation level, dealing with Antarctica’s climate is naturally no problem. There’s no need to worry about Miss Lin either. Although Miss Lin isn’t a cultivator, she feels as comfortable in the extreme cold as if she were enjoying a warm spring breeze. Unlike you and me, she doesn’t need to constantly expend spiritual energy to protect herself from the cold.”

Song Ruyu stuck out her tongue and smiled.

“Sister Ruge is absolutely right!”

In fact, both women knew that Charlie’s ability to remain away for such a long time on the vast ice fields beneath the polar night meant that he and Lin Wan’er must have another place where they could stay.

However, since Charlie had chosen not to reveal it, they tactfully refrained from asking.

Thus, Charlie and Lin Wan’er said goodbye to the two women once again and drove their snowmobile toward the underground city.

Just as they had done on their previous journey, the two held hands almost the entire way. They made no particularly intimate gestures, simply holding hands to feel and reassure themselves of each other's physical presence.

Over the past few days, Charlie had hardly let go of Lin Wan'er's hand except when sleeping. Lin Wan'er was no different. Not only did she allow Charlie to hold her hand, but most of the time, their fingers were interlocked.

After a long journey, they finally reached the entrance to the underground city. Charlie stored the snowmobile in his spatial storage and, still holding Lin Wan'er's hand with their fingers intertwined, stepped through the hidden teleportation formation. In an instant, they arrived inside the underground city.