

Old Gods 55

Chapter 55: Wooden Man

The dark luxury coupe drove through the streets of Rain Alley, in stark contrast to the old town.

In the passenger seat, Lu Ran gazed out the window, watching the approaching Wu Lie River.

This river runs north to south through the town, nurturing generations of people.

Lu Ran mostly lived in West River, since his home and high school were all located there.

It seems Deng Yuxiang intends to drive to Hedong, which is relatively more bustling, at least there's a central business district.

"Little Lu Ran, shall I tell you a story?" Deng Yuxiang drove onto the bridge, saying casually.

"What kind of story?"

"Once upon a time, there was a person who wanted to file a complaint," Deng Yuxiang said, her eyes twinkling with laughter. "Then he got hungry."

"Good lord." Lu Ran was a bit dazed.

Were they talking about chasing people down to kill them?

"Ha ha ha ha~"

Deng Yuxiang hadn't been this happy in a long time.

Since joining work, everything had been serious.

But Lu Ran's arrival reminded her of the fun times teasing Deng Yutang.

It was a pity that those merry days were gone never to return.

Now Deng Yutang was obedient to a remarkable extent, without a rebellious spirit; no longer fun.

"Actually, jumping from a building is quite thrilling," Lu Ran suddenly said, interrupting the woman's laughter.

Deng Yuxiang: "You didn't say that just now."

Lu Ran shrugged, forced to admit that it was indeed a unique experience.

Not to mention Lu Ran being a Mist Realm believer, even Stream Realm or River Realm believers wouldn't dare to jump down from the rooftop.

Lu Ran hummed softly as he looked at the Wu Lie River flowing southeast:

"We, who do not know how to express gentleness, still think that dying for love is just an ancient myth~"

Deng Yuxiang: ?????

"Cough." Lu Ran gave a light cough, hastily changing the subject. "By the way, what god does Uncle Sun worship? Lord Bi Wu?"

Deng Yuxiang suddenly laughed: "Keep up that spirit."

While she said this out loud, in her heart she added a few more words: Just don't be like Yutang, giving up resistance and surrendering.

That would be too boring.

Lu Ran was puzzled: "What spirit?"

Deng Yuxiang did not answer but said instead: "Captain Sun is a Biwu believer."

Six-class God·Bi Wu resembled a plane tree.

This was a supportive god, capable of defense and control, but particularly known for its healing abilities.

On every fifteenth night of the lunar calendar, every major shelter's shrine housed a statue of Bi Wu.

Surprisingly, a disciple of the six-class god serves as the captain of a squad.

Lu Ran: "So, does that mean your team operates on 'three protections, one attack'?"

Two Prisoner Demon believers and one Biwu believer.

Was Deng Yuxiang the only frontline fighter?

Deng Yuxiang explained: "Wei Hu was specially assigned by HQ to protect you.

Captain Sun is the deputy captain. We have another team leader named Ge Bin, whom you'll meet in a couple of days."

"What god does Captain Ge Bin worship?" Lu Ran perked up with interest.

"Nuosha."

"Nuosha?" Lu Ran was intrigued; Ma Tianchuan, the top student of the school, was a Nuoshasha believer.

Deng Yuxiang nodded and cautioned: "Try to hold your own when you meet our captain. Don't pee your pants with fright."

Lu Ran nodded vigorously: "I'll try my best."

The usually confident he gave such a response for a reason.

Third-class God-Nuosha.

A mighty god with "Sha" (evil or curse) in its name, could it be a gentle and kind deity?

In the 1980s, when the Evil Demon Clan first emerged, people believed they were the most ferocious and brutal.

However, the appearance of God Nuosha completely overturned this conclusion!

Lord Nuosha was much more ferocious than the Evil Demons, even more terrifying than fierce spirits!

Honestly, it's only because Lord Nuosha protected the masses.

Otherwise, given Nuosha's terrifying appearance and methods, people would really categorize him as part of the Evil Demon Clan!

So! Terrifying!

The car slowly came to a stop, and Lu Ran saw the large gilded signboard—Rain Alley.

The floor-to-ceiling windows were clean and bright, and the interior was resplendent with gold and jade.

Here, quite a fancy restaurant for this small county town.

Deng Yuxiang turned off the engine and stepped out, casually saying, "I heard from Yutang that you always wore a blindfold in Evil Dog Village during your training?"

"Yes." Lu Ran's face showed gratitude. "You told me to listen to the wind, and I tried it."

Deng Yuxiang nodded: "Well then, you're treating for this meal."

"Yi...okay!" Lu Ran gritted his teeth and stamped his foot.

Rain Alley wasn't cheap, but indeed, he should pay for this meal.

"Just kidding." Deng Yuxiang smiled. "When you're out with me, it's not your turn to pay."

Lu Ran: "..."

He quietly watched this domineering rich girl.

Why did that remark sound so strange?

Deng Yuxiang continued: "After dinner, let's go back to the Wu Lie River and continue training."

"More training? Haven't I gone through the trial already?"

"You forgot, I haven't warmed up yet."

"Sis, I know a bun shop in West River... uh, do you like tea eggs?"

...

As night fell, in the evening.

Lu Ran, exhausted, returned home.

After a shower, Lu Ran picked up a towel, dried his damp hair, then flopped onto the bed.

He absentmindedly grabbed the phone on the bedside and found that Jiang Ruyi had left him a message that morning.

Jiang: "What material should we choose for upgrading the Green Striped Sword?"

Lu Ran was confused; hadn't she already chosen Rainbow Stone and reported it?

He glanced at the time—7:10 PM—and immediately responded via WeChat.

Lu Ran: "Rainbow Stone it is."

The saying goes: "Fair ladies and fine swords are like rainbows."

Jiang Ruyi deserved that description.

Unexpectedly, she replied quickly.

Jiang: "Mhm."

Lu Ran looked at the words on the screen and couldn't help but grin.

Some people really need to communicate face to face.

They're too aloof in text messages!

Lu Ran didn't respond again, instead, he opened the group chat of the four-person squad, and found they were quite active. They had even been discussing types of Evil Demons that afternoon.

He thought for a moment, then started tapping on the screen.

Lu Ran: "Mr. Deng, what have you been doing today?"

Deng Yutang: "Training nonstop. Can't afford to slack off! What about you? Haven't heard from you all day?"

Lu Ran: "Your sister invited me for breakfast this morning."

Deng Yutang: "Ah?"

As Lu Ran was typing a response, Deng Yutang sent another message:

"My sister?"

Quickly afterwards, Deng Yutang's messages kept coming, showing he was really panicked.

"Weren't you warned not to provoke her?"

"Are you out of your mind, Brother Lu?"

"Is her food something you can eat casually?"

"Then what? What was the price?"

Lu Ran's mouth twitched awkwardly.

True to form as a brother, hitting the nail on the head! What a probing question...

After a while, Lu Ran typed a line.

Lu Ran: "She beat me up all morning."

Deng Yutang: "..."

Tian Tian: (#° Δ°)

Deng Yutang: "It's past seven in the evening now. Were you knocked unconscious and just woke up?"

Lu Ran rolled his eyes in annoyance, fingers clicking quickly on the screen, sending several messages in a row:

"I was out scouting with the Moon Gazer team this afternoon."

"Surveying the neighborhood layout, visiting stores and houses, felt like doing detective work."

"By the way, did you know Chang Ying's family runs an auto repair shop? The one Chang Ying who reads fortunes."

"Her shop was on the street I was responsible for. Ran into her while visiting, she was wearing a white tank top, changing a car's tire!"

"Man, those muscle lines, perfect streamline, cooler than the car! I was so envious..."

Deng Yutang: "It was my sister's squad that took you out on the fifteenth?"

Lu Ran: "Yeah, I couldn't avoid her! Tomorrow morning, your sister wants to invite me for breakfast again. What should I do?"

Deng Yutang: "Brother Lu, listen to me, just act like a block of wood.

Whatever she says, goes. Don't resist whatever she does. In a few days, she'll find it boring.

She's too sadistic, you can't engage with that kind of person!"

Lu Ran: "Screenshot taken."

Deng Yutang: "Brother Lu..."

"Tian Tian" patted "Deng Yutang"

Jiang: "Is this squad tough?"

Seeing the class leader appear, Deng Yutang immediately lit up with hope as if he had found a savior.

Deng Yutang: "Class leader, please persuade Brother Lu. I want to live a few more years!"

Lu Ran: "One River Realm·Fifth Rank Biwu believer, one River Realm·Fifth Rank North Wind Believer, two River Realm·Fourth Rank Prisoner Demon believers.

And one River Realm powerhouse, a Nuoshasha believer.

He's the squad leader, but he's busy. I didn't see him today."

Jiang: "That sounds like a powerful team. Looks like we'll see you on school opening day."

Deng Yutang: "Brother Lu!!"

Tian Tian: