

PROTEGE 171

Chapter 171: CANNONBALL

After their rigorous training, Chatty, Fatty, and Four Eyes hurriedly showered and set out to find their women. Fatty headed towards the gymnasium, where Lily was immersed in her gymnastic training. Four Eyes made his way to the alchemy room to find Ling Li. Meanwhile, Chatty went in search of Pharsa.

Pharsa, who was with Mushu guarding the alchemy room, saw Chatty approaching. Her brows furrowed as conflicting emotions swirled within her. Despite the short time she had known Chatty, she was acutely aware of his feelings for her. 'However, I am not ready for a relationship,' Pharsa thought. Her lifelong promise to protect Ling Li left no room for distractions. 'Plus, with Ling Li pregnant and the triplets coming, I have more responsibility than ever.'

Deep in thought, Pharsa was distracted by Chatty's cheerful voice. "Honey, what's wrong? Your brows are almost knitted together. Did you miss me?" Chatty called out happily as he pulled Pharsa to his side.

Startled, Pharsa pushed him away. "Who wants to miss you?" she retorted, trying to maintain her composure.

Mushu, who had been observing the exchange, couldn't bear to witness the playful banter and turned away, muttering, "I'll be forced to eat dog food at this rate."

"Bring Murphy to 'Cannonball' and let them form a bond," Mushu instructed Pharsa.

"Who is Cannonball?" Chatty asked, curiosity piqued.

"Follow me," Pharsa said, leading Chatty to another annex not far from the alchemy room. When they arrived, she instructed, "Stay here and wait for me." She entered the door, leaving Chatty wondering, 'What's inside this building that I can't go in?'

After five minutes, Pharsa emerged, carrying an enigmatic creature around her neck. "That... that..." Chatty stammered, eyes wide with surprise.

Pharsa almost laughed out loud. "This is Cannonball. Madam said to endorse him to you, and from now on, he will be yours to cultivate with. Cannonball, this is your Master, Murphy," Pharsa said as she handed the Enfield to Chatty.

Chatty, still recovering from the shock, felt the Enfield wrap itself comfortably around his neck. The creature began to sniff and lick his neck as if trying to know him well.

"Cannonball was rescued by Madam from an evil practitioner and brought home. He's been training rigorously with other trainees, and his cultivation has reached core formation, the fourth level," Pharsa explained. "When you returned from the Mystic Mountain with the animal telepathy, she decided to give Cannonball to you. With him around, your cultivation and breakthrough can be faster."

"Master has animal telepathy? So he can hear and understand me?" Cannonball asked, his voice filled with curiosity.

Chatty, finally snapping back to reality, was satisfied to be called "Master" by Cannonball. "Yes, your Master can hear you," Chatty smugly replied, rubbing the Enfield's little head.

"Master, it is my pleasure to be by your side to serve you," the Enfield said happily, giving Chatty's neck another lick.

"Rule number one, no licking," Chatty declared, wiping his neck.

"Master, I only want to show you my gratitude," Cannonball said, sounding aggrieved.

"This is the only way they express their happiness and appreciation to their master. Do you have to be so stingy?" Pharsa explained with a hint of amusement.

"Oh, then, can I show my happiness this way to you too?" Chatty asked sheepishly, pulling Pharsa close and burying his face in her neck.

Chatty's unexpected hooligan move stunned Pharsa. "You!"

"Honey, I only want to show you my happiness and gratitude," Chatty said sheepishly.

"You! Are you Cannonball? Are you a beast? An animal?" Pharsa reprimanded.

"I'm very much willing to be one as long as I'm allowed to lick your neck!" Chatty shamelessly replied, giving Pharsa another kiss on her neck.

"Ah! I don't know what to do with your shamelessness!" Pharsa exclaimed angrily as she hurriedly walked away, leaving Chatty with a silly smile on his face.

"Master, is Miss your girlfriend?" Cannonball asked.

"What do you think? Isn't my girlfriend pretty?" Chatty asked smugly.

"Miss is truly pretty but also very powerful," Cannonball replied.

"Powerful? Have you seen how powerful she is?" Chatty asked.

"Of course, I've seen how powerful Miss is. She's one of our mentors. She could crash a mountain in half with a single strike! Miss is one step to level 5, the Nascent Soul, also known as Heavenly Realm. Miss already has a Nascent Soul that resides in her and grants her immense power. As a beast, basically speaking, despite her being one level ahead of me, I should be stronger than her; however, this is not the case with Miss," Cannonball explained. "So, Master, you have to work harder; I'll also help you."

Upon hearing how powerful Pharsa was, Chatty couldn't help but shiver and swallow nervously.

"Okay, it's a deal. Your Master will be good to you, and you help me level up my cultivation," Chatty said as he began to walk back to the mansion. Knowing Pharsa had to be with Ling Li, he decided to meditate.

"Sure, Master, I will be happy to serve you!" Cannonball replied merrily and gave Chatty's neck a very long lick, making Chatty's face turn black with frustration.

Fatty sat on the edge of the bleachers, his fingers clenching the metal edge as he watched Lily execute her routine on the balance beam. Each move she made caused his heart to lurch; the sight of her performing a back handspring to layout step-out, followed by a side aerial, left him on the verge of panic. When she finished with a triple twist dismount, he nearly sprang from his seat, his instinct to protect her overpowering. But one stern glance from Coach Carlos rooted him in place, his uneasiness evident in his tight posture. Unable to do anything but watch, Fatty gritted his teeth, forcing himself to stay calm.

Fatty had seen Lily's rigorous training on the uneven bars and floor exercises and had grown accustomed to her routines. But today was different; it was his first time witnessing her on the balance beam. The narrow strip of wood seemed impossibly high and unforgiving, and the danger of her falling haunted his every thought. Each time she teetered, his breath caught in his throat.

Chapter 172: POWER OF AZURE BONE

After several more flawless repetitions, Coach Carlos finally called a halt. "That's it for the day, Lily. You've worked hard. Two more months of training will be tough, but we want you to win the all-around competition and bring glory to the team and our country. So, we need to master your routine with finesse," he declared, his voice firm but encouraging.

"I understand, Coach. Thank you for your trust. I will work harder," Lily replied with unwavering respect, bowing slightly.

"Alright, do your cool-down exercises. I'd like to have a chat with your man," Coach Carlos added, turning his attention to Fatty. Lily glanced over, puzzled by the coach's request. She wondered, 'Why does Coach Carlos want to speak with Quan Ye?'

Coach Carlos walked over to Fatty, his imposing figure casting a long shadow. "Let's talk. Come here," he said, his tone leaving no room for refusal. Fatty stood up, his respect for Lily's coach evident as he faced the renowned mentor.

"I know you're worried about Lil. But your overprotectiveness will only pull her down. Instead of showing her your vulnerability, show her your confidence. Demonstrate resilience and encouragement, making her feel assured of your support rather than worried about your nervousness," Coach Carlos said, his voice steady and authoritative.

“Don’t restrain Lily; inspire her. Give her the encouragement she needs to reach her dreams to be on top—this is the very goal of the competition. Your overprotectiveness will only make her worry and hinder her from giving her all,” Coach Carlos continued, not giving Fatty a chance to respond. With a final nod, he turned and walked away, leaving Fatty deep in thought.

As Fatty watched Lily performing her cooldown exercises, Coach Carlos’ words echoed in his mind. ‘I don’t want to restrain Lily; she deserves to fulfill her dream and soar with her wings wide. I should be her strength, not her weakness. Coach Carlos is right,’ he contemplated his resolve strengthening.

Fatty’s eyes never left Lily as she moved gracefully, the determination and grace in her every motion reminding him of why he admired her so much. He realized that his role was not to shield her from every possible harm but to support her, to be the unwavering pillar she could lean on whenever she needed. With a newfound sense of purpose, Fatty vowed to be the rock that Lily could rely on, providing her with the confidence and encouragement she needed to shine.

Back in the alchemy room, Ling Li was holding the Azure bone, its vibrant blue hues glinting under the soft yellow light. She carefully scraped it with a golden knife, the delicate flakes falling into a crystal bowl with a barely audible hiss. The room was filled with the heady scent of rare herbs and ancient incantations when Four Eyes entered. He moved slowly, his footsteps almost silent, not wanting to disturb Ling Li. He remembered her words from the morning; alchemy required immense focus and energy.

Ling Li, with her keen senses, noticed him immediately despite his silent approach. She looked up with a gentle smile, her eyes softening. "Honey, are you done with your drills? Come here," she called her voice like a soothing melody in the tranquil room.

Four Eyes responded with a simple "Um" and strode over to her side. His presence was a comforting anchor in the room’s mystic atmosphere.

"This is an Azure Dragon bone," Ling Li explained, holding up the shimmering piece of bone. "I only need a little portion of this bone; Otako sent this over along with Ice Lotus and Ruby Corals. Otako is so generous in giving me these precious rare items. This Azure bone is huge; this alone can shake the whole martial arts world." Her voice was filled with marvel, and her eyes sparkled with admiration for the rare artifact.

Ling Li continued, her voice now taking on a lecturing tone, "The Azure Bone does not require any processing. Its power is inherent and can be directly harnessed by the cultivator. The bone’s energy can

be naturally absorbed and integrated into the cultivator's body, granting immense strength and abilities such as 'Enhancing Physical Strength,' where the cultivator exhibits extraordinary physical strength, allowing them to perform feats that are beyond the capabilities of ordinary cultivators. This includes increased muscle power, agility, and endurance."

Ling Li paused to let Four Eyes absorb the information before continuing, "Harnessing Azure Bone power directly often involves a combination of physical, mental, and spiritual practices. The cultivator begins with intense meditation to clear the mind and focus entirely on the Azure Bone power. This involves deep breathing techniques and visualizing the power flowing through their body. The cultivator needs to align their internal energy (often referred to as Qi, Chi, or Mana) with the Azure Bone power. This can be done through specific exercises or rituals designed to harmonize the body's energy with the Azure Bone power."

Four Eyes nodded, his eyes wide with fascination. Ling Li's knowledge always amazed him.

"The next step involves absorbing the Azure Bone power into their body. This might require the cultivator to channel the power through certain points in their body, like chakras or meridian points, and then assimilate it into their energy system.

There are often specific cultivation techniques or practices that help in refining and enhancing the Azure Bone power. These techniques could be martial arts, breathing exercises, or special movements that help in controlling and utilizing the power efficiently. Finally, continuous practice and advanced training help the cultivator master the Azure Bone power. This includes learning to control the power, directing it for specific purposes, and enhancing its effectiveness through discipline and practice."

Ling Li's voice grew softer as she continued, "The Azure Bone can accelerate the cultivation process, enabling the cultivator to progress through the ranks at a much faster rate. This rapid advancement often leads to the attainment of higher levels of power and mastery over martial arts techniques. The Azure Bone also has healing properties, allowing the cultivator to recover quickly from injuries and illnesses. This regenerative ability can be crucial in battles and during intense training sessions."

Chapter 173: I'LL SKIN HIM ALIVE

Ling gazed at the Azure bone with a mixture of reverence and excitement, "Azure Bone grants the cultivator access to unique mystical abilities or techniques that are otherwise unattainable. These abilities can range from elemental manipulation to advanced combat skills. I also attained mine through this process."

Ling Li's eyes gleamed with the memories of her journey. "The Azure Bone, as mystical as it is, has a deep connection to the spiritual realm, allowing the cultivator to communicate with spirits, harness spiritual energy, and gain insights into the mysteries of the universe.

Lastly, there is the so-called 'Aura of Authority' where the possessors of the Azure Bone may exude an aura of authority and dominance, making them natural leaders and respected figures within the cultivation world. This aura can also intimidate opponents and command respect from allies. This is the reason why this rare item is highly sought after among martial artists."

Four Eyes listened intently, his admiration for Ling Li growing with each word. He couldn't help but be amazed at how powerful the piece of bone in Ling Li's hand was. "Why are you scraping it?" he curiously asked.

"Since this is such a big piece, I can scrape a little and make it into powerful pills and will leave the main portion as is," Ling Li said enthusiastically. Her hands moved with practiced precision, each scrape measured and controlled. "We can process the Azure Bone to unlock its full potential, but the procedure could be very intricate; combining this rare bone with other mystical ingredients and other potent elixirs will purify and amplify the bone's energy, making it even more powerful."

"Are you doing it now?" Four Eyes asked, his curiosity piqued. He would like to witness the said process if he is allowed.

"No, honey, I'm just gathering all the materials and preparing them so I can look for other needed ingredients if I don't have them on hand. I would need several days to finish it, and there could be no disruption, otherwise, the entire process can fail." Ling Li clarified, her focus unwavering.

"Um," Four Eyes murmured, sitting silently beside Ling Li. He watched her work, the room filled with a comfortable silence, the only sounds being the soft scraping of the knife and the occasional rustle of herbs.

After almost an hour, Ling Li finally looked up with a satisfied smile on her face. "Honey, I'm done. Let me keep these safe first." She stood up, the bowl of Azure Bone flakes together with the large chunk of Azure Bone in her hands, and walked to an inner room.

When Ling Li returned, her eyes sparkled with excitement. "Hon, let's go and have our dinner," she eagerly said.

However, Four Eyes gently pulled her towards him, his expression serious. He guided her to sit on his lap, his hands warm against her back. "I have something to tell you," he said, his voice low.

Ling Li's heart skipped a beat, a flicker of worry crossing her face. She looked into his eyes, searching for any sign of distress. "What is it? Are you not feeling well? Are you sick?" Ling Li asked, her hand running through Four Eyes' forehead and neck and ultimately checking his pulse.

Four Eyes chuckled, amused by her concern. He grabbed her hand gently, his eyes soft. "I'm not sick, it's about Lily," he said.

"Lily? What's wrong with Lily? Did Fatty bully her? I'll skin him alive!" Ling Li proclaimed, her eyes blazing with protectiveness.

Ling Li's outburst made Four Eyes laugh, the tension easing from his face. "Quan Ye wouldn't dare," he assured her.

Fatty, who was with Lily unexpectedly sneezed. "Quan Ye, did you catch a cold?" Lily asked with concern. Fatty shook his head, 'more likely, something is scolding me,' Fatty silently thought.

"Take care of your health and rest more. You haven't had a proper rest since you came back from Mystic Mountain." Lily worriedly said.

"I'm perfectly fine, it's just a sneeze; my nose was just itchy for a second." Fatty assured Lily.

"Then what is it? Tell me quickly!" Ling Li demanded, her worry turning into impatience.

"Quan Ye told me to inform you that Solaris seems to be not as simple as he looks; Quan Ye feels something is peculiar about this person and he asked if you can help him check. I also told him to guard Lily as much as possible," Four Eyes relayed, his tone serious once again.

Ling Li was stunned. Solaris had been Lily's dance partner since they were young, and he had always been a timid boy. However, she knew better than to disregard Fatty's intuition, especially since she hadn't spent time with Solaris for a while.

"Thank you, Honey. I will look into this matter and thank Quan Ye for me." Ling Li said, her mind already racing with thoughts. "Let's go," she added, her voice determined.

That evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, painting the sky in hues of orange and pink, the family gathered for their herbal baths just beside the Alchemy room. The gentle twilight cast a serene glow over the area, creating a tranquil and almost magical atmosphere. There were portable baths for each member, meticulously arranged and filled with steaming water that promised to improve their cultivation.

Ling Li, with Butler Peng's assistance had prepared the baths with meticulous care, each one infused with a unique blend of herbs tailored to enhance Qi flow, detoxify the body, and strengthen the muscles and bones. The scents of ginseng, lotus, and other rare herbs wafted through the air, creating a soothing and invigorating ambiance that calmed the mind and invigorated the senses.

Ling Li stood by, overseeing the preparations with a focused and attentive demeanor. Her presence was essential, as she had the knowledge and expertise to ensure the correct application of the herbs and monitor their effects. "The herbal baths are designed to help you break through your current cultivation levels," she explained, her voice gentle yet authoritative. "You may feel a variety of sensations—heat, tingling, even a sense of euphoria. It's important to endure these sensations, as they are a sign that the herbs are working."

Chapter 174: I WISH I CAN PLAY DEAD

One by one, the family members entered their baths. The warm water enveloped them like a comforting embrace, and they immediately felt a surge of energy coursing through their bodies. The herbs worked their magic, opening meridians and enhancing the flow of Qi with a gentle yet powerful force.

After some time, Shun, feeling the heat spreading through his limbs, closed his eyes and focused on his breathing. "This heat is intense," he muttered, trying to steady his breath as beads of sweat formed on his forehead.

"Just breathe through it, Shun," Ling Li advised, her voice calm and reassuring. "The heat is a sign that the herbs are working to open your meridians."

Ren, experiencing a tingling sensation in her muscles, smiled with a mix of discomfort and determination. "It feels like my muscles are buzzing," she said, her voice tinged with awe and wonder.

Ling Li nodded, her eyes filled with pride. "That's the herbs working to detoxify and strengthen your muscles. Embrace the sensation."

Ling Li approached Four Eyes, "Honey, how do you feel?"

Four Eyes, always composed, felt a rush of power and clarity. He concentrated on his Qi, channeling it with precision. "I can feel my Qi flowing more freely," he remarked, his voice steady and filled with a newfound sense of confidence.

Chu Yan, feeling the euphoria and warmth, let out a deep sigh of contentment. "This feels incredible," he said, his eyes closed in bliss. "Like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders."

Ling Li nodded in satisfaction, her heart swelling with pride at the sight of her family's progress.

As Ling Li moved from bath to bath, checking on each family member and offering guidance, her presence became a source of comfort and assurance. Her expertise was invaluable in ensuring the baths were effective, and her gentle words of encouragement spurred each member to persevere through the challenges.

As the baths progressed, the intensity of the process began to take its toll on some family members. Shun winced as the heat became almost unbearable, his muscles straining under the pressure. "It's so hot... I don't know if I can take it much longer," he groaned.

"Hang in there, Shun," Ling Li encouraged, her voice firm yet compassionate. "This is when the herbs are most effective. Push through the discomfort, and you'll reap the benefits."

Chatty bit his lip as the pain grew more intense; he felt his bone-crushing in his body on fire, his resolve tested by the fiery pain. "It's like my muscles are on fire," he said through gritted teeth, his determination unwavering.

Ling Li placed a reassuring hand on Chatty's shoulder. "You're doing great, Murphy. The herbs are purging the toxins from your body. Keep focusing on your breathing."

Cannonball, who was attentively watching Chatty from the ground, leaped to Chatty's shoulder, "Master, this herbal bath is clearing your meridians and also eliminating the toxins in your body; after this, you'll be able to absorb all energy at full potential every time you cultivate," he said, trying to encourage Chatty to endure the discomfort. He knew the process was painful but also necessary for Chatty's growth.

Chatty winced but managed a nod. "Thanks, Cannonball. I'll endure it, but I hope next time, they can make it smell less like old socks!"

Only at this time did the group realize the presence of the little Enfield on Chatty's neck. The familiar-looking Enfield surprised the group who had returned from the Mystic Mountain, most especially Four Eyes.

When Ling Li noticed the attention was on the Enfield, she chuckled. "This is not the Enfield that you met. This is Cannonball, and he has been with me for several years now. Cannonball, come over," Ling Li called.

Cannonball, who was on Chatty's shoulder, shivered when he heard Ling Li call him, which Chatty evidently felt. "Cannonball, Madam is calling you, go," Chatty instructed; the Enfield once again shivered. "Are you afraid of Madam?"

"Isn't it obvious? Deity is too scary," Cannonball whispered to Chatty, his eyes wide with fear.

"But I'm afraid she will be scarier if you don't listen to her," Chatty flatly said, raising an eyebrow.

The Enfield swallowed his saliva hard before leaping from Chatty's shoulder, landing perfectly on Ling Li's with a soft thud. "Hello, Deity!" Cannonball greeted nervously, trying to muster some charm.

“He is not called Cannonball for no reason; he can leap and dart long distances.” Ling Li said as she tapped Cannonball’s head, which made him cower. The playful tapping was enough to elicit a small whimper from him.

“I rescued Cannonball from an evil practitioner, and since then, he’s been training and cultivating with the rest. Cannonball is level four; he is more powerful than most of you. Since Chatty had developed animal telepathy, I decided to let him have Cannonball.” Ling Li explained.

Ling Li looked at Cannonball, “Are you satisfied with your new Master?”

Cannonball looked around nervously and stopped his gaze at Four Eyes. “Deity, you could have given me to that person instead; he is more powerful,” he mustered to say despite his voice trembling.

Ling Li followed his gaze and was not surprised to realize Cannonball was referring to Four Eyes; she chuckled. “Do you like my husband instead?”

Learning that Four Eyes was Ling Li’s husband, Cannonball shivered and hurriedly said, “No Deity, my new Master is perfect!” Without waiting for Ling Li’s response, Cannonball leaped back to Chatty, making Ling Li more amused with the Enfield’s silliness.

Once back at Chatty’s shoulder, Chatty couldn’t help asking, “Why do you call Madam Deity?”

“Because she is!” Cannonball replied, his eyes wide with admiration and fear.

“What do you mean she is a Deity?” Chatty asked again.

“Because she is indeed a Deity; Deity is a Deity. She is invincible; and most especially, she is im....” Before Cannonball could finish his words, he heard Ling Li whisper in his ear, “Don’t you dare say it.” If only Cannonball could show his color like a person who turns pale, he would have been colorless from being scared to his wits. He wishes he could play dead.

“She is what?” Chatty insisted for Cannonball to finish what he was saying, his curiosity piqued.

Chapter 175: QUAN YE IS SUSPICIOUS OF SOLARIS

"Can't you see Deity's beauty? She is most beautiful like a celestial being; is it wrong for me to call her Deity?" Cannonball, despite shivering in fear, needed to answer his new Master.

"You're right," Chatty finally returned his focus to his herbal bath, the painful process causing him to grit his teeth but knowing it was worth it. "But next time, Cannonball, let's work on keeping the commentary to a minimum."

"Noted, Master," Cannonball replied, still shaking.

The baths lasted for an hour, and by the end, the family emerged feeling rejuvenated and empowered. Their bodies felt lighter, their minds clearer, and their Qi stronger, as if they had been reborn.

Ling Li smiled with satisfaction, her heart brimming with pride. "You've all done well," she said, her voice filled with warmth and encouragement. "Continue this routine, and you'll see remarkable improvements in your cultivation in no time."

The family members exchanged relieved smiles and words of encouragement.

Ling Li's steps quickened as she made her way back to the main house, determination etched on her face. "Honey, you go back first; I will discuss what you told me about Solaris with Shi Min and Mushu," she said to Four Eyes.

"Um," Four Eyes nodded, understanding the gravity of the situation. He turned and headed back to the house while Ling Li hastened to catch up with Shi Min. Mushu and Pharsa followed closely behind her, their expressions a mix of curiosity and concern.

"Shi Min, come with me; I need to discuss something with you," Ling Li called out.

Shi Min politely said goodbye to Shun and Fatty before following Ling Li. Once they were in Ling Li's study, she turned to Mushu and Pharsa. "Mushu, Pharsa, you two should join us."

The room was filled with a tense silence as Ling Li closed the door behind them. She wasted no time, her voice steady and serious. "Quan Ye is suspicious of Solaris; he sent a word through Chu Yan that we should be wary of this kid. He said Solaris is not as simple and innocent as he looks. What do you think?"

Shi Min's protective instincts kicked in, his brows furrowing deeply. His eyes, usually calm and gentle, now held a fierce determination. "Did Quan Ye say anything that made him suspicious?" he asked, his voice a low growl.

Ling Li shook her head, her expression troubled. "What Chu Yan said was that Quan Ye couldn't exactly tell what is wrong with Solaris, but his instinct tells him that something is quite off with this kid."

Mushu, always the strategist, leaned forward. "We've been very lax with Solaris since we saw him grow up dancing with Young Miss Lily. Maybe we should snoop about what has been happening to him recently."

"Yeah, that's what I have in mind as well," Shi Min agreed, his mind already racing with plans. He turned to Pharsa. "Pharsa, please call Leeroy over."

Pharsa nodded and left the room quickly while Ling Li turned to her son. "What do you have in mind, son?" she asked, her voice filled with both concern and trust.

Shi Min's eyes narrowed in thought. "How is Rockie doing?" he asked Mushu.

Mushu nodded confidently. "He is ready to work; we were only waiting for your orders."

A small, satisfied smile tugged at Shi Min's lips. "That's good. Mushu, find everything you can these past years about Solaris: what he's been up to, who he has frequented with, and where. Then, have Goldie and Rockie follow him secretly 24/7. These are their expertise."

Just then, Pharsa returned with Leeroy. "Madam, Young Master, you called for me," Leeroy said respectfully as he entered the room.

Ling Li wasted no time. "Leeroy, let me ask you, do you find anything about Solaris that is off?"

Leeroy's expression turned serious as he recalled recent events. "To answer your question, Madam, Solaris always maintains an innocent smile, especially in front of Young Miss Lily. However, recently, when Master Quan Ye started attending Young Miss Lily's training, I noticed he would provoke Master Quan Ye. The last time, I was stunned to see his vicious glance while looking at Master Quan Ye walking out of the training room with Young Miss Lily. When he noticed that I was looking at him, he immediately transformed back to his innocent facade as if nothing had happened. It was terrifying."

Shi Min's protective nature flared again, his jaw tightening. "Hm, indeed terrifying if he could make such a vicious act while maintaining his innocent pretense," he said. "Leeroy, you should be more vigilant and attentive to Solaris' movement during the training and keep an eye on Lily; the rest, Mushu, Rockie, and Goldie, will take care of it. Anything unusual, you report immediately."

"Understood, Young Master," Leeroy replied, his resolve evident.

Ling Li's eyes met Mushu's. "Mushu, put a tracker on Solaris' car, better to hack his phone and monitor his every movement."

Mushu nodded, his expression determined. "On it, Madam."

Ling Li took a deep breath, feeling the weight of responsibility on her shoulders. "Alright, let's call it a night. Let us know if there is any update or anything urgent about the situation," she declared, her voice firm and resolute.

The room gradually emptied, each person carrying a sense of purpose and determination. As Ling Li closed the door behind them, she couldn't help but feel a mix of apprehension and hope. The night was long, but she knew they would be ready for whatever challenges Solaris would create.

The next day, right after the group had finished their training with Ling Li, a buzz of excitement rippled through everyone as they noticed a group of people waiting at one of the courtyards. Shi Min approached the group with a proud smile. "They are the people I gathered to prepare for the wedding and the twins' first birthday celebration," he announced, his voice filled with anticipation.

"Let's have breakfast and freshen up before meeting them," he added, his eyes sparkling with joy.

Upon hearing Shi Min's announcement, the group couldn't contain their excitement. Four Eyes, who was walking hand in hand with Ling Li, squeezed her hand affectionately, his heart swelling with love and pride.