

## R Woman 551

Chapter 551: A Condition

Mo Qianjue patted the little lolita's head, "Don't worry, her body has just recovered. You go back and get some sleep first. When you wake up, she will naturally be awake."

"Daddy, are you telling the truth?" The little lolita's big eyes fluttered, looking very cute.

Mo Qianjue nodded, "Really, when has Daddy ever lied to you?"

The little lolita thought about it and immediately said, "Then I'll go to sleep right now." After saying this, she took her bread and dashed off like a puff of smoke.

She had to hurry back to her room to sleep because once she woke up, Brother Jin would be awake too.

She wanted to talk to Brother Jin as soon as possible.

After the little lolita left, Mo Qianjue sat back by the bed, took her hand, and held it in his large palm.

Her figure was reflected in his pair of phoenix-like eyes.

He didn't know when she had walked into his heart.

And occupied it.

Alas, the timing was wrong.

She was someone else's fiancée now.

But whether it was love or marriage, one had to fight for it oneself.

How could he know for sure he would lose without taking a gamble?

In the realm of love, Mo Zhixuan was nothing more than a defeated subordinate of his.

It was so eighteen years ago.

And it was still the same eighteen years later.

After a while, Mo Qianjue finally stood up from the bedside, carefully tucked her in, then walked towards the study, saying to his assistant on the way, "Call Mu Chen over."

No sooner had his words fallen than Mu Chen's voice appeared in the air; he hurried over, somewhat anxiously saying, "Big brother, I need to talk to you."

Mo Qianjue gave him a look up and down and spoke in a deep voice, "Conveniently, I need to talk to you too. Let's talk in the study,"

With that, he walked in the direction of the study.

Mu Chen followed closely behind.

Once in the study, as soon as the door closed, Mu Chen couldn't wait to say, "Big brother, why did you lock up Mu Lian? And let someone beat her to that state! What did she do wrong to make you so angry?"

Mu Chen was there to seek justice for Mu Lian.

Although they weren't blood siblings, the two grew up together and were closer than real siblings. Seeing Mu Lian beaten up without reason, he naturally couldn't stand idly by.

He was alright not mentioning it, but once he did, Mo Qianjue was filled with a fierce anger as he said, "Since she had the guts to touch my people, she should have expected this outcome!"

Mu Chen was slightly stunned.

He struggled to digest the meaning behind Mo Qianjue's words for a moment.

"Big brother, you mean... you mean... that woman who broke into our Treasures Pavilion is your person?"

If that woman really had something to do with big brother, why didn't he say it at the time?

Instead, she sneaked into the Treasures Pavilion.

What was her motive?

"Of course, she's my person! What? Do you have a problem with that?" Mo Qianjue looked at him, questioning in return.

Getting a definite answer, Mu Chen swallowed in surprise, "No, no problem..." How could the younger brother dare to question his elder?

But the thought of how he had actually flirted with his future sister-in-law, even asking her to be his woman, terrified Mu Chen!

He hoped his future sister-in-law had already forgotten about it.

Mu Chen silently prayed in his heart.

"So, big brother, when can you let Mu Lian go?" Mu Chen asked another question.

After all, it was Mo Qianjue himself who had locked her up, and even he, as the Second City Lord, had no authority to release her.

Only Mo Qianjue nodded in assent.

Mo Qianjue narrowed his eyes slightly, his voice cold as he said, "She injured my people, and yet she thinks she can leave the dungeon alive?"

Mu Chen was shocked, hastily saying, "Big brother, ignorance is not a crime. Besides, this future sister-in-law never claimed to know you, ah. When she broke into the Treasures Pavilion and attempted to take the Soul Resurrection Grass, she was also found with your jade pendant, which naturally led to some misunderstandings. Mu Lian didn't mean to hurt the future sister-in-law; she was thinking of the interests of Lawless City. Moreover, for all these years, Mu Lian has been loyally devoted to you without ever making a mistake. Please reconsider this."

Mo Qianjue did not speak.

Mu Chen continued, "Big brother, I just went to the dungeon to see Mu Lian. She's now injured all over, no less than how the future sister-in-law was hurt at that time. Considering it's her first offense and it wasn't intentional, please forgive her this once. I assure you, she will not dare to do it again in the future."

Mo Qianjue slightly raised his hand, "Enough, take her back later on. Tell her, if there is a next time, I will make sure she won't have the chance to return."

Mu Chen was overjoyed and quickly nodded, "Thank you, big brother. Rest assured, I promise there won't be a next time." Saying this, he turned to leave.

But Mo Qianjue called out to him again, "Wait a moment."

"What is it, big brother? Is there something else?" Mu Chen turned back, wondering if Mo Qianjue had changed his mind.

Mo Qianjue continued, "I have something to ask you."

Hearing this, Mu Chen breathed a sigh of relief, "Of course, big brother, I will conceal nothing."

In another room.

Chu Jin awoke from unconsciousness and, upon seeing the ancient-style surroundings, was momentarily bewildered. She had just been locked up in a dungeon, then whipped by Mu Lian, and what happened after that was a bit hazy.

Logically, she should still be in a cell, so how did she end up here?

The air was filled with the scent of ambergris.

Her wounds had vanished, and as she looked around at the ancient-style decor, Chu Jin was stumped. Could it be that she had traveled through time?

After all, even rebirth was possible.

Time travel was even more so.

At that moment, Zi from the Purple Thunder space suddenly spoke up to clarify, "Jin, you haven't time-traveled. This is still Lawless City; someone saved you."

"Who saved me?" Chu Jin got out of bed, lifting the covers.

Lacking shoes, she had to step onto the floor barefoot.

"I'm not quite sure who exactly," Zi scratched his head, "Just now, in that peculiar basement, I was blocked. But since someone took the initiative to save you, it surely means he must know you."

Chu Jin, with a slight headache, rubbed her temples.

Today's events were indeed not well thought out; she should not have rashly attempted to steal the Soul Resurrection Grass. If no one had come to her rescue, she probably would have lost her life there.

"Don't worry, Jin. Since this is a long-term mission, I'm confident we can get the Soul Resurrection Grass again," Zi reassured.

Chu Jin didn't respond and began walking toward the door. Just as she opened it, two burly men blocked her way, "Sorry, you are not permitted to roam around before the chief returns."

Chu Jin asked indifferently, "May I know who your chief is?"

"Sorry," the burly man said expressionlessly, "I can't say!"

Chu Jin closed the door and walked back inside.

Since someone had bothered to save her, they probably weren't a bad person.

The decor in the room suggested that its owner was a man.

She knew not many people; who apart from Mo Zhixuan would save her?

The chief...

In her memory, she had never encountered such a person.

Chu Jin walked to the window, stretched out her hand to draw back the curtains, letting sunlight pour in, and at the same time, she looked out the window, only to realize that she was situated on an extremely high floor.

The people walking below had become the size of ants.

It seemed jumping out the window to investigate was not really an option.

The breeze from the window blew in, messing up her hair.

At this moment, she was dressed in a plain white Mandarin dress with its hem fluttering in the wind, her feet bare without shoes, exposing her fair and delicate feet.

Just then, the wooden door behind her made a dull noise.

"Creak." It drew out somewhat long.

One could tell that the person pushing the door seemed somewhat hesitant, as if mustering great courage to open it.

At the same time, Chu Jin turned around.

Her black hair traced a perfect arc through the air.

The figure of the person outside the door also emerged into view.

"Is it you?" Chu Jin never dreamed that the person who entered would be Mo Qianjue.

"It is me." Mo Qianjue walked in from outside the door, his voice calm and steady.

The girl stood by the window, backlit, making her features somewhat indistinct; one could make out her facial outline, which had a somewhat cool feeling, yet in this moment, Mo Qianjue distinctly heard his own heartbeat.

At the same time, he became even more certain of the thought in his heart.

Chu Jin began to express her thanks, "Thank you for saving me."

"It's only right. If not for you that day, how would there be a me today?" Mo Qianjue spoke indifferently, his voice revealing no other emotions.

Had it not been for Chu Jin that day, he would likely have died long ago.

Chu Jin slightly curved her lips, "One thing at a time, the debt of saving a life, I will never forget."

She was a person who clearly distinguished between gratitude and grudges.

She would repay kindness and avenge wrongs. Since Mo Qianjue had shown her kindness, she naturally wouldn't forget.

Mo Qianjue, too, smiled, "In that case, based on what you've said, wouldn't we forever be entangled with each other?" His words held a deeper meaning.

Chu Jin did not directly answer him but instead said, "You are the Unparalleled Son of Lawless City." It wasn't a question, but a statement.

The Unparalleled Son was the embodiment of "law" in the legends.

He was also the ruler of Lawless City.

At that time, having been caught by the legendary Second City Lord, basically meant there was no possibility of survival. The only person who could have rescued her from the dungeon, other than the ruler here, was no one else.

Therefore, Chu Jin was so certain that Mo Qianjue was the Unparalleled Son.

Plus, his appearance also quite suited the words "Unparalleled."

That face, truly three parts more delicate than a woman's.

Mo Qianjue nodded slightly, "Correct." She was much smarter than he had imagined.

Chu Jin pursed her lips, then continued, "Regarding the Soul Resurrection Grass, I'm very sorry." It was her first time doing such a thing and to be caught in the act was truly quite embarrassing.

"You want the Soul Resurrection Grass?" asked Mo Qianjue.

In fact, he had already asked Mu Chen in the study just now. After learning that Chu Jin went to the Treasures Pavilion and took nothing but the Soul Resurrection Grass, it was clear that she didn't come for wealth.

Chu Jin nodded slightly and directly said, "Yes, but rest assured, I won't go to the Treasures Pavilion of Lawless City again."

There mustn't only be one Soul Resurrection Grass in the world, right? She would find a way to look elsewhere.

Unexpectedly, Mo Qianjue responded as if hearing her thoughts, a smile lighting up his face with myriad charms, "In all the world, apart from Lawless City, there is no second Soul Resurrection Grass anywhere."

Chu Jin's brows slightly furrowed, questioning Mo Qianjue's words internally.

But Zi spoke up, "Jin, he's telling the truth. The Soul Resurrection Grass has been extinct since Ancient Times. Up to now, only one remains. But, the two of you have such a deep connection, why don't you speak more kindly to him and have him give you the Soul Resurrection Grass?"

Since the Soul Resurrection Grass was so precious, Mo Qianjue certainly wouldn't part with it easily.

Chu Jin sighed softly, then said, "Can I buy it from you?"

"Lawless City is exceedingly wealthy and doesn't lack that bit of money," Mo Qianjue walked to the table, poured a cup of tea, and handed it to Chu Jin. His gaze dropped to her feet, and his expression changed slightly, "Why aren't you wearing shoes?"

Even though it was now June, the floor wasn't carpeted, and the air conditioning was on, making it easy to catch cold with bare feet.

Chu Jin also looked down at her feet, casually saying, "It's fine, it's actually more comfortable this way."

It wasn't that she didn't want to wear shoes, but that she hadn't seen them.

Mo Qianjue had already saved her once; she didn't want to trouble him again.

What's more, in the heat of summer, going barefoot wasn't a big deal, right?

Mo Qianjue also realized this and called his assistant over, instructing, "Prepare a pair of size 35 shoes for Miss Chu."

Chu Jin paused slightly, looking at Mo Qianjue in surprise. How did he know her shoe size? Was it just a guess?

"Go and have a seat on the sofa. The shoes will be brought to you shortly," Mo Qianjue turned his gaze toward Chu Jin.

Chu Jin brushed the hair from her forehead behind her ear, "Actually, there's no need to go to such trouble."

"Would you prefer me to carry you there?" Mo Qianjue raised an eyebrow slightly, a teasing glint in his eyes, his voice somewhat deep and contrasting sharply with his stunning appearance.

Chu Jin hadn't expected him to say something like that and quickly sat down on the sofa. Wasn't that joke a bit too much?

Mo Qianjue approached her and said indifferently, "Don't be nervous, it was just a joke. Come, have some tea." After speaking, he passed her the teacup he was holding.

Chu Jin reached out to take it, "Thank you."

The assistant was very efficient and soon brought a pair of white sneakers to the room.

She chose them based on the shoes Chu Jin had worn before.

"Chief, the shoes are here."

Mo Qianjue lifted his chin slightly, "Give them to Miss Chu to try on."

The assistant immediately turned to Chu Jin and crouched down, looking ready to personally put the shoes on for Chu Jin.

Chu Jin quickly stood up, "Thank you, but I can do it myself."

She was not accustomed to having someone else put shoes on her feet.

"You may leave," Mo Qianjue said with a light gesture of his hand.

The assistant hurried out of the room.

Chu Jin quickly put on the shoes, and Mo Qianjue asked, "Do they fit well?"

"They're very comfortable," Chu Jin said with a light smile, "it's just that you've gone to quite some trouble on my behalf."

Mo Qianjue gently smiled, "It was nothing more than a simple request, where's the trouble in that?"

Chu Jin continued, "I left in a hurry and didn't inform my friends, they might be worried by now, so I'll take my leave first. Thank you for today, Mr. Mo. If there's ever anything that I, Chu Jin, can assist you with in the future, please don't hesitate to ask. I will go through fire and water without any hesitation."

Mo Qianjue slightly lifted his brows, "You saved me once, and I've saved you once, so let's call it even. Let's not speak of this matter in the future. Are you leaving right now?"

A life for a life, neither owing the other, that was indeed the best.

"It's getting late, I don't wish to impose any further. I have friends waiting for me down the mountain, farewell." As soon as Chu Jin finished speaking, she turned to leave, surely Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi must be worried about her disappearance by now.

However, Mo Qianjue spoke softly to her retreating figure, "Don't you want the Soul Resurrection Grass anymore?"

Chu Jin's steps halted, and she looked back at him, "Are you willing to give it to me?"

Mo Qianjue nodded his head.

Chu Jin was stunned for a moment, not expecting that Mo Qianjue would give her the Soul Resurrection Grass. Logically, Mo Qianjue shouldn't so readily part with something so precious.

As expected, the next second, Mo Qianjue spoke again, "I'm willing to give it to you, but there is one condition."

"What condition?" Chu Jin asked in return.

Mo Qianjue just looked at her, his eyes deeply shaded, and after a while, he slowly said, "Pengpeng is very fond of you."

What kind of answer was that?

Chu Jin was puzzled by the meaning of his words and said flatly, "I'm also very fond of her," she paused, then continued, "So what?"

The little girl liked her, but what did that have to do with Mo Qianjue's condition?

Mo Qianjue spoke again, "She wishes to have a mother like all other normal children."

At this point, Chu Jin was starting to understand what Mo Qianjue meant. He couldn't possibly want her to become Pengpeng's stepmother, could he?

Chu Jin was struck by this thought. Surely it wasn't what she was imagining!

"So what?" Chu Jin suppressed the turmoil in her heart and asked the three words once more.

Mo Qianjue's lips curved slightly, "Pengpeng only accepts you as her mother." He paused, then continued, "So, that is my condition."

Chapter 552: not blessed enough

Chu Jin was utterly shocked by Mo Qianjue's words.

She almost thought she was hallucinating.

Like father, like daughter—these two really were cut from the same cloth.

But Chu Jin's face remained calm, her lips slightly curving as she said, "I can do that," those simple three words sounded like the most beautiful music in Mo Qianjue's ears.

He just knew that if Mo Zhixuan had lost to him once, he could lose to him a second time.

The little girl wasn't blind, after all—how could she take a fancy to such a cold and lifeless block of wood!

Even Zi, who was in the space, was taken aback.

She hadn't expected Chu Jin to agree to Mo Qianjue so readily.

This was so not the style of Brother Jin!

But then again, when it came to life and love, the latter was insignificant by comparison, barely worth mentioning. Moreover, Brother Jin had been hurt by love once before, so it was only natural to choose life over love.

After all, if she couldn't complete that long-standing task, her life would gradually fade away.

As Mo Qianjue's lips began to curl up, Chu Jin slowly spoke up, adding, "I am honored to be Pengpeng's godmother."

This plot twist froze the smile on Mo Qianjue's face.

Godmother? The hell's a godmother?!

Hadn't he made himself clear enough?

Zi couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Brother Jin's emotional intelligence was truly peerless!

This was the Brother Jin he knew.

If she had really compromised, she wouldn't be Chu Jin!

But after laughing, Zi's face turned gloomy.

The meaning of Mo Qianjue was all too obvious—he didn't want Chu Jin to become the little girl's godmother.

He was using the Soul Resurrection Grass as leverage to make Chu Jin marry him.

If Chu Jin couldn't get her hands on the Soul Resurrection Grass...

The consequences...

He and his host lived or died together; selfishly, he did hope Chu Jin would agree to Mo Qianjue's demands.

After all, only then would he have a chance to survive.

Mo Qianjue's expression quickly returned to normal, and he spoke indifferently, "Pengpeng lacks not for a godmother, Miss Chu. You're a smart woman; you should understand the subtext of my words."

Out of male pride, he hadn't expressed his own stance from beginning to end.

Only speaking of how the little girl liked her.

The little girl became a perfect excuse.

Even he himself didn't know whether it was liking or just accursed possessiveness at play.

For her, he should like her, right?

"Thank you for your esteem, but I'm afraid I'm not so fortunate. Goodbye." As soon as she spoke, Chu Jin turned and walked out, her departure decisive, without any hesitation or drag.

Chu Jin was well aware of the consequences of not obtaining the Soul Resurrection Grass.

Life was just a matter of death, after all.

She was someone who had already died once.

There was nothing to be afraid of.

To betray herself and her feelings for Mo Zhixuan just to cling onto life was absolutely impossible!

Mo Qianjue hadn't expected Chu Jin to reject him.

Usually, it was he who looked down on others; never had someone looked down on him!

Being rejected by Chu Jin today was quite a bitter pill to swallow.

Compared to that iceberg Mo Zhixuan, wasn't he a thousand times better?

Could the little girl really understand people?

What's so great about that block of ice?

Even the block of ice's ex-fiancée knew that a good bird chooses the tree to nest in.

Why didn't she understand?

Mo Qianjue was somewhat gloomy, somewhat puzzled where exactly things had gone wrong.

"Miss Chu, won't you reconsider? Just give me a nod, and the Soul Resurrection Grass is yours, as is Lawless City," Mo Qianjue threw out a bigger temptation, believing that no woman could resist such allure.

After all, even the number one beauty in Superpower World couldn't resist this temptation, he refused to believe Chu Jin could!

Chu Jin paused in her steps, raised her eyebrows slightly and said, "There's nothing to consider, Mr. Mo, I think I've made myself clear enough."

Perhaps, there were millions of women who would want to marry Mo Qianjue.

But, she was certainly not one of them.

In her love, there was no betrayal, nor any exchange of equivalent value!

Love was sacred, and even after having been through the baptism of a great fire, she still believed in love.

If there was no love in this world, then there would be no difference between humans and zombies.

Upon hearing this, Mo Qianjue's expression remained unchanged as he asked indifferently, "Shouldn't a life-saving grace be repaid with a life-long commitment?" His eyes contained an indissoluble darkness.

He was clear about what he wanted at that moment.

Ah, hey!

Mo Qianjue really had some thick skin!

Chu Jin's lips slightly curled as she said, "As Mr. Mo said, I also saved your life once." Hadn't we agreed that we would owe each other nothing?

"Should I commit to you with my life then?" Mo Qianjue lifted his handsome eyebrows, a playful glint in his eyes, admitting that Chu Jin had once again aroused his desire to conquer.

The subordinates nearby were all stunned; their chief was really setting the pace for a forced marriage!

Someone was actually refusing their chief, who was so beautiful that it could startle the heavens and move spirits to tears!

If this were to be told, no one would believe it!

If not for seeing with their own eyes and hearing with their own ears, even they wouldn't believe it!

Who on earth was this girl? So impressive! She actually made their one and only chief push for a marriage.

Truly a rare sight!

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin's expression remained unchanged, she uttered calmly nine words, "One life for another, we owe each other nothing." After saying this, she walked forward without looking back. Mo Qianjue's expression visibly shifted at that moment; it was as if he could hear the sound of a heart breaking, a heaviness and a slight pain where his heart was. He steadied his emotions and then said, "Go see Pengpeng before you leave, she's been worried about you."

Chu Jin stopped in her tracks.

Mo Qianjue said to his assistant, "First, take Miss Chu to see Pengpeng, then personally escort Miss Chu out of the city."

"Yes," the assistant nodded respectfully, then approached Chu Jin, "Miss Chu, this way please."

Chu Jin didn't speak but followed the assistant downstairs.

Meanwhile, Mo Qianjue stood motionless in his original spot, becoming like a statue, sinking into his own world, unable to extricate himself for a long time.

It took quite a while for Mo Qianjue to come back to his senses.

Narrowing his eyes slightly, he was not afraid.

As long as he had the Soul Resurrection Grass in his hands, there was still a chance to salvage the situation.

Chu Jin followed the assistant to the little loli's room.

She and the bread loaf were snuggled up on the cashmere carpet, sleeping soundly with her little face flush and red.

After several months of not seeing her, she seemed to have gotten even more adorable.

Chu Jin looked at her and her lips curved unconsciously.

The assistant had quick eyes and left the room immediately, standing guard outside the door.

The bread loaf had a very sensitive nose and soon noticed the unusual scent in the air. Its eyes snapped open, and it stood up abruptly, leaping toward Chu Jin, placing its front paws on her shoulder, frantically licking her face with its pink tongue, and wagging its tail non-stop.

The little loli was also awakened by the bread loaf, rubbing her sleepy eyes, and the moment she saw Chu Jin, she burst into joyous excitement.

"Jin Brother!" She rushed over, pushing the bread loaf aside to hug Chu Jin's legs.

The forlorn bread loaf could only stand beside, shaking its head and wagging its tail, whimpering softly.

Chu Jin bent down to pick up the little loli and planted a kiss on her face, "Have you missed Jin Ge in all these days?"

"Missed, I've missed you a lot," the little loli nodded frantically, "Jin Ge, I've even been dreaming about you."

Chu Jin pinched her little nose, "Really? Or are you just saying that?"

"Of course it's true," the little loli reached out and pinched Chu Jin's nose too, then, as if she remembered something, she said very anxiously, "Jin Ge, you're all right now, aren't you? Does it still hurt anywhere?"

Remembering the sight of Jin Ge covered in blood made the little loli's heart race with panic.

It was as if Jin Ge, in that state, could leave her at any moment.

Chu Jin smiled lightly, "I'm fine now, it doesn't hurt at all. Look, I can even pick up you, little fatty."

"I'm not a little fatty, I'm called Pengpeng." The little loli corrected him, pinching Chu Jin's cheeks.

During the visit, the little loli took Chu Jin on a tour of her very own amusement park and also her pets.

The whole morning passed with the two of them laughing and talking cheerfully.

After having lunch with the little loli, Chu Jin proposed leaving.

He had already delayed long enough—Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran would probably be very worried if they discovered he wasn't at the inn.

Although the little loli was reluctant to let Chu Jin go, she knew she couldn't keep her.

She just stood on the city tower, waving at her, "Jin Ge, see you in Capital City."

Chu Jin stood below the city tower, waving back, "See you in Capital City."

Soon, her figure disappeared in the direction where the sun was rising.

Yet the little loli still stood on the city tower, gazing in the direction where she had vanished.

Right then, Mo Qianjue emerged from behind her, his face filled with gravity.

He picked up the little loli and kissed her on the face, whispering softly, "Do you want Chu Jin to be your mother?"

The little loli turned her head and nodded seriously, "Yes." Very much so.

Mo Qianjue's lips curved up ever so slightly, "If you do, then be a good girl and listen to Daddy."

The little loli looked at Mo Qianjue, a mysterious smile on her face, "Daddy, are you planning to take her by force?"

Mo Qianjue tapped her head, "Don't talk nonsense. Am I that kind of person?"

The little loli nodded earnestly, "Yes, very much so." After a pause, she added, "But Daddy, I support you! I heard Jin Ge's fiancé is an old grandpa, and how can an old grandpa deserve the ravishingly beautiful Jin Ge? So, Daddy, I am with you on this."

Chu Jin successfully left the enchantment and made his way down the mountain.

South Mountain Town was bustling as usual.

The quaint streets were bustling with endless streams of tourists.

In contrast to the hustle and bustle outside, the inn seemed rather deserted.

In the lobby, only a handful of guests were seated.

Chu Jin went to his room, freshened up, and then knocked on the doors of Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran, but unusually, neither of them were in.

With no other option, Chu Jin took out his phone to make a call.

But an icy electronic voice came from the phone, "The number you have dialed is out of service."

Chu Jin tried several more times, but still, the phone only returned the same icy electronic sound.

Chu Jin frowned slightly; could it be that they went out looking for him after discovering his absence?

But there had been no missed calls on his phone, and if they had noticed his absence, they would surely have called him first, not gone out blindly searching.

All of this was too abnormal!

With no other options, Chu Jin had to communicate with Zi in the Purple Thunder space, "Zi, help me check the whereabouts of Qingyi and Xinran."

"Okay, Jin Ge." Zi immediately put down her sunflower seeds and sprang into action.

Chu Jin walked downstairs.

"How strange," Zi said while holding a tablet, "This is really odd! I can't find them..."

"You can't find them?" Chu Jin asked.

Zi furrowed her brow, clearly confused, "I've searched all of South Mountain Town but I can't find any trace of them. It's as if... they vanished into thin air."

Chu Jin's frown deepened, and a bad premonition arose within him. If they weren't in South Mountain Town, where could they be? Moreover, the phones had no signal! Could they have encountered some bad people, or kidnappers?

Chu Jin's urgency grew the more she thought about it.

Seeing her like this, Zi quickly comforted, "Jin, don't panic, I'm still checking."

Chu Jin nodded in response, then walked towards the inn's bar counter. The landlady sat in front of the counter, engrossed in the rural tragic romance drama "Temptation to Return to the Village" and was so addicted that she didn't even notice Chu Jin's arrival.

"Madam," Chu Jin spoke softly.

Only then did the landlady snap back to reality, raising her eyes to look at Chu Jin with surprise, "Oh, young lady, you've returned!" As she spoke, she glanced around Chu Jin, curiously asking, "Where are the other two girls? Didn't they come back with you?"

Because the three of them usually came and went together, it was inevitable that the landlady was curious today when she saw only Chu Jin.

Chu Jin shook her head slightly, "I wanted to ask you if you have seen the two of them today?"

"I haven't seen them since they went out last night. What, you weren't with them?" the landlady asked, somewhat puzzled.

Last night, when a group sat together, the landlady had thought Chu Jin was among them.

Seeing that the landlady knew something about the situation, Chu Jin quickly asked, "Do you know where they went?"

The landlady had a deep impression of what happened last night and told Chu Jin about the process of several people going to play a game of hide and seek that involves seeing ghosts.

As she listened to the landlady's account, Chu Jin's brows furrowed deeper and deeper.

These people were really too daring!

To even dare to play such a game!

These spiritual games are not something to be played with casually; a slight mistake can invite spirits.

If Chu Jin wasn't mistaken, Mo Qingyi and the others must have been trapped in a different space.

That's why Zi couldn't find any trace of them in South Mountain.

"These kids really, what's wrong with playing other games, they have to play such ominous ones. Now they might have gotten lost. I heard them saying they were going to play in a small grove. I mean, in the dead of night, with the woods pitch-dark, it would be strange if nothing happened!"

"Thank you, madam, I understand now." After thanking her, Chu Jin started heading upstairs.

Now that she knew the reason for their disappearance, Chu Jin needed to go upstairs to prepare some tools.

Fortunately, this wasn't her first time handling such matters.

Ten minutes later, Chu Jin walked down the stairs with a backpack slung over her shoulder.

She also held a crystal pendant in her hand.

The silver chain, with a crystal ball dangling from it, shimmered with rainbow light as it caught the sun.

If there were knowledgeable people around, they would realize that what she held was not a crystal pendant but a pendulum.

It is a mysterious divination tool, originating from the West.

It is also an ancient detection technique.

In ancient times, the West frequently used it to find people, water sources, gold mines, and so on.

Even now, many people have become wealthy through the use of pendulums.

Chu Jin held the pendulum, letting it swing freely in the air, and then followed its swinging frequency and direction to analyze the specific location, making her way out of the inn's front door.

As she walked, her lips were pressed tightly together, her expression solemn, attracting many curious glances.

In the sunlight, the crystal ball on the pendulum refracted dazzling light.

"Hey, hello, that accessory you're holding is really nice. Can you tell me where you bought it?" A man with a digital camera around his neck approached to strike up a conversation. Dressed in sportswear and wearing a friendly and natural smile, he had been watching Chu Jin for a while. The moment she came out of the inn, he noticed her and, seeing that she was alone, mustered the courage to approach her.

"Just bought it randomly," Chu Jin replied indifferently, quickening her pace as she spoke.

Finding Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi as soon as possible was the only way she could be at ease.

Noticing her attention was focused on the pendulum, the man asked again, "Are you also here for a vacation in South Mountain?"

Chu Jin nodded without saying much more.

"I'm here in South Mountain on vacation too," the man kept pace with Chu Jin, "Seeing as you're alone and I am too, why don't we travel together? I've been here in South Mountain for a few days and am quite familiar with the place."

The man was intent on having a beautiful encounter with the girl before him.

Chu Jin quickened her steps, saying in a light tone, "No need, I didn't come here alone."

She was walking so fast! The man almost had to jog to keep up with her.

It was odd, how fast this girl walked!

Chapter 553: a bit dizzy and disoriented

But this girl was clearly not as tall as him!

How could she walk so fast?

"Then, are you with friends?" the man continued to ask.

Chu Jin stopped in her tracks, glanced at him sideways, and said steadily, "I came with my fiancé."

Fiancé?

The man halted, watching her retreating figure, a look of regret crossing his face, originally thinking a beautiful encounter could be formed, but unexpectedly, she was already someone else's fiancée.

What a pity! What a pity!

Following the Pendulum's instructions, Chu Jin successfully found the small grove.

The trees in the grove grew very densely.

Even during the day, the sunlight could not penetrate, creating a very sinister feeling.

Nobody usually set foot in the little grove, and as Chu Jin walked around, she found footprints on the ground and signs of tree branches having been broken.

In front of a grave, she found the corpse of a black cat.

Chu Jin frowned slightly, the death of the black cat was not a good sign.

"Qingyi, Xinran, can you hear me talking?" Chu Jin called out standing amidst the trees.

No one responded to her.

In the silent woods, there wasn't even a bird in sight.

"Jin, it's no use calling out like that, they won't be able to hear you," Zi reminded her.

Chu Jin also knew it was futile to shout, so she took out the tools from her backpack and began setting up an array.

Right at that moment, a sudden gust of wind blew violently through the once silent grove.

Whirling up the fallen leaves.

The trees also swayed chaotically.

The wind produced a mournful wail in the air, this gust was too eerie, as the weather outside was clear and sunny, yet a strong wind blew only within the grove.

Chu Jin, though puzzled, did not pay attention and continued setting up her array.

This was the evil spirits deliberately trying to attract her attention away to foil her array set-up.

As expected, the wind quickly died down.

And Chu Jin's array was completed.

She had set up a Geo-load array.

The Geo-load array was one of the twelve, its shape square, commanding four angles, difficult for enemies to confront, its form unfathomable, with endless utility, it could not stand alone but when paired with yang!

It was derived from the eight trigrams of the Geo-load array.

Full of killing intent.

One could enter another space through this array.

Only by doing so did Chu Jin have confidence in rescuing the people trapped inside.

By this time, the sky had also gradually darkened.

Chu Jin threw the Pendulum in her hand into the sky, where the chain conveniently caught on a tree branch, and the Crystal Ball emitted a white light, enveloping the entire forest.

Seen this way, the small grove looked even more terrifying.

Especially that lone grave.

Speaking of Mo Qingyi, she, along with Li Jiaqi and Chen Li, walked together, but because of Ghost-covered Eyes, Mo Qingyi could not see the others, and they could only communicate through writing as they went.

The three of them had already searched the small grove seven times over, but still had not seen Miao Xinran or the others, "Xinran, where are you? Xinran!" Mo Qingyi's voice was already hoarse.

During the eighth pass by the grave, Mo Qingyi tripped over something, falling to the ground.

It was as if she was tripped up, or as if she had been pulled down by a pair of hands.

Who knows what sort of things lurked in the pitch-dark grove.

Could it have been a ghost hand?

Mo Qingyi was terrified, so scared that she didn't even have the strength to get up for a moment.

Chen Li and Li Jiaqi wanted to help her up, but their hands would pass right through Mo Qingyi's body whenever they reached out, leaving them feeling helpless.

After a while, Mo Qingyi finally got over her shock and slowly regained her strength. She clenched her phone tightly, mustered her courage, and shone the flashlight on the pile of things that had tripped her.

Her heart felt like it was about to jump into her throat.

Mo Qingyi took a deep breath and turned her gaze toward the pile! She saw that the thing that tripped her was a person! And looking further, there were two more people!

In total, there were three people.

They were precisely Wang Keke, Li Yong, and another boy who had left earlier.

They lay there on the ground, ashen-faced!

Chen Li and Li Jiaqi were also startled.

They lay there on the ground! Could it be they were dead?

Mo Qingyi swallowed, reached out tentatively with her finger, and prodded Wang Keke's nose.

Exhale—

Thank goodness, there was still breath.

Mo Qingyi checked the other two as well, and found they were all still alive, merely unconscious. She breathed a sigh of relief and dragged the three under a pine tree to lean on, and even found some banana leaves to cover them.

The three boys were quite heavy, and it took a lot of effort for Mo Qingyi.

Chen Li and Li Jiaqi had not expected Mo Qingyi to do this, especially since these three had abandoned her earlier. Now, there was no reason for Mo Qingyi to concern herself with them.

Just then, a rustling noise came from the surroundings.

Mo Qingyi instantly became alert.

Chen Li and Li Jiaqi tightly held hands, also very panicked.

The noise grew closer, as if someone was running.

But curiously, in the dark night, nothing could be seen, only the sound of footsteps could be heard.

Mo Qingyi still called out with a chilling feeling in her scalp, "Xinran, is that you?"

The whole forest echoed with her voice.

But nobody responded to her.

Just at that moment, a figure rushed over to their side, panting hard.

With the light of the phone, Mo Qingyi finally saw clearly; it was Miao Xinran.

When Mo Qingyi saw Miao Xinran, her whole body relaxed, and her heart returned to its place. She hugged Miao Xinran and said with a tearful voice, "Xinran, I thought I'd never see you again."

Seeing Miao Xinran return, Li Jiaqi and Chen Li also smiled.

Although they still hadn't found a way out, at least, of the nine people, seven were now together.

Right then, Li Jiaqi remembered the rules of the game. A light flashed in her eyes, and she quickly picked up a twig and began to write on the ground.

"Here I am, back safe and sound!" Miao Xinran patted Mo Qingyi's back, "Don't cry, don't cry. I think I just encountered a ghost hitting the wall; no matter which way I went, I couldn't find my way out. It scared me to death!"

As soon as Miao Xinran finished speaking, she saw the moving twig on the ground and stepped back in fright, her face paling, "What is that?"

Mo Qingyi looked to the ground and explained, "That's Li Jiaqi and Chen Li. For some reason, although they are in the same space as us, they can see us, but we can't see them. So, we can only communicate by writing."

Li Jiaqi's writing on the ground was already halfway through.

Hearing this, Miao Xinran grabbed Mo Qingyi's hand and said darkly, "Anyway, nobody can see them now. Let's just pretend they're dead! Forget them!"

Mo Qingyi frowned slightly and shook off Miao Xinran's hand, "Xinran, how can you say that? They are our classmates!"

"Why can't I say that?" Miao Xinran's eyes widened, and she said fiercely, "You have no idea how these bitches talked behind your back! Just now, they were hiding behind the tombstone, pretending to be ghosts to scare you! People like that are better off dead! They don't deserve to be our classmates!"

Hearing this, Li Jiaqi and Chen Li hung their heads in shame.

Miao Xinran was right, they truly didn't deserve to be their classmates.

"They already know they were wrong. We're all classmates; why do you have to be like this? Xinran, you weren't like this before." Mo Qingyi looked up at Miao Xinran, and when she did, she was completely shocked, her pupils dilating in fear.

She saw that there was no Miao Xinran in front of her at all! Instead, there was a girl with disheveled hair, wearing something like a school uniform, clutching an old doll, her face utterly devoid of color, as if it were coated with white powder, chilling to the bone!

But the most terrifying part was her eyes, hollow, pitch-black as if they lacked any whites, and the corners of her mouth were curled into a strange, eerie smile!

"Ah!"

The three of them screamed at the top of their lungs!

They tried to run, but their legs felt as though they were filled with lead, unbearably heavy and unable to move at all!

Scared out of their wits, they could only cover their faces tightly, shivering uncontrollably.

Acting on instinct, when faced with something terrifying, one's subconscious choice is to flee, thinking that by doing so, they might escape the calamity.

Just then, a glimmer of light appeared deep within the woods.

The female ghost suddenly turned her head, revealing a horrifying face, and drifted toward the source of the light.

Chu Jin had just entered the array when she encountered this female ghost.

She was holding a doll, her eyes utterly vacant. Although her body was pervaded by ghost Qi, there was no sign of malice. From this, one could ascertain that she had not harmed any human lives. It was uncertain why she had trapped them this time.

She looked at Chu Jin, revealing her ghastly ghostly visage, and warned, "I advise you not to meddle in affairs that aren't your business! Otherwise, I'll make sure you never return!"

Chu Jin curled her lips slightly, took up the Life Umbrella, and with a flick of its tip, she pressed it against the ghost's temple, "Do you believe I can obliterate your soul right now?"

The female ghost didn't reply.

She just laughed—a cold, miserable laugh that sent chills down one's spine.

Chu Jin increased the pressure on the umbrella, "Speak up, where did you take those students?"

The female ghost remained silent.

Just as Chu Jin was about to dispose of the ghost, Zi reminded, "Jin brother, don't be rash! If you kill her, these illusions will vanish along with her, and then we'll really be unable to find those students."

Chu Jin pursed his lips then eventually withdrew the Life Umbrella.

The female ghost's laughter grew even more sinister.

"Hahaha——"

At that moment, countless dolls began to crawl up from under the ground. They kept growing larger, much like zombies, with sharp teeth baring at Chu Jin, advancing toward him like a tidal wave.

"Momma! I didn't see this little ghost had such tricks! Go, Jin brother." Zi propped up her legs in a casual style, picked up a side of sunflower seeds, and, while cracking them, said.

Chu Jin was speechless, quickly pulling out a stack of talisman papers from his backpack! He tossed them into the air, and in an instant, the talisman papers came to life, flying onto the heads of these dolls, igniting a flame that turned them instantly to ash.

But these dolls were like regenerating creatures, continuously crawling up from underground. No matter how many talismans Chu Jin had, he couldn't exterminate so many dolls!

Chu Jin was furious! He leaped forward, standing right in front of the female ghost. When his gaze landed on the doll in her hand, he almost reached out to snatch it when the female ghost, as if realizing his intent, let out a strange cry and burrowed away underground!

With the female ghost's escape, those eerie dolls also disappeared without a trace.

Encountering such a female ghost left Chu Jin somewhat helpless.

He could neither capture her nor attack her!

Therefore, he had no choice but to seek another method.

Chu Jin furrowed his brows slightly, pacing a few steps on the spot, then his gaze suddenly fell on a solitary grave.

To be precise, it was on the black and white photograph affixed to the gravestone.

The girl in the photo was clearly the female ghost!

The girl's name was You Jia.

The tombstone recorded her birth details and the date of death.

She had died at the age of 16.

Know yourself and know your enemy, and you shall win a hundred battles.

If one could understand the cause of this girl's death, perhaps the remaining problems could be easily solved.

By using her birth details, one could calculate her cause of death. Chu Jin hurriedly took out Tarot cards from her backpack, set them up in an array - a standard Universal type array - then closed her eyes and drew one.

The Five of Swords in reverse.

The card depicted five people arguing, yet only three people were visible to the naked eye. The tallest person had won the battle, but who would ultimately win the war remained undecided.

Because the problem had not been truly resolved.

The card reflected a mood of anger, terror, and betrayal.

Very oppressive.

Moreover, the problem goes far beyond what's presented on the face of the Tarot cards, as there are many hidden potential crises.

Looking at the card, Chu Jin sighed, put away the upgraded umbrella, and walked toward the formation.

Yu Jia is such a child of misfortune.

Zi looked at Chu Jin with a confused face and asked, "Jin, what did you see? What on earth happened to this Yu Jia?" He could no longer figure out what Chu Jin was thinking.

Chu Jin slightly curved his lips, "Want to know?"

Zi nodded eagerly, "Yes, yes."

"I'm not telling you."

Zi: "... Are you happy now that you've teased me like that?"

Chu Jin raised an eyebrow, "Yeah, quite happy."

Zi immediately stuffed melon seeds into his mouth, still caring, such a fearsome host, isn't it?

Chu Jin continued walking inside.

After what had just happened, Mo Qingyi, who was inside, was scared stiff and lay on the ground, no longer daring to run around; Li Jiaqi and Chen Li were the same, clinging to each other, trembling with fear.

"Li Jiaqi, Chen Li, are you still there?" After a moment, Mo Qingyi called out with a shaky voice.

The two were so scared they were out of their wits, and it took a while before Chen Li wrote a word on the ground, "Here."

Just then, the sound of footsteps echoed through the air again.

Startled, Mo Qingyi backed away a few steps, "Who... who's there?"

"Qingyi!" A clear female voice called out through the air, "Is it you, Qingyi?"

The voice was all too familiar.

Mo Qingyi suddenly started crying, "It's me! Jin, it's me."

Chu Jin comforted her on hearing her cry, "Qingyi, stop crying for now. I'm trying to figure out how to get you out. Are you and Xinran together?"

Chu Jin's voice seemed to be laced with a magical power, soothing to the heart, and Mo Qingyi calmed down instantly, "Jin, I can't find Xinran. I'm with the other classmates right now."

The other two students weren't as scared as before, at the very least, someone from the outside had noticed them now.

"Jin, why can't I see you?" Mo Qingyi continued to ask, having been tricked once before, she feared that this might be the ghost-woman again!

Chu Jin explained faintly, "The space is different, so you can't see me, and I can't see you. By the way, if you want to leave here, remember my words. You must stick together, never abandon any classmate at any time! By the way, how many are you all together?"

Mo Qingyi replied, "Nine people."

"How many people are with you right now?" Chu Jin asked next.

Mo Qingyi answered truthfully, "Six in total, Xinran and two other classmates haven't been found yet."

"Okay, I got it. Just stay there for now, don't go anywhere. I will look for the other three, and we'll regroup here,"

Mo Qingyi nodded, "Okay."

For the nine people trapped here, this space might be an endless loop.

But for Chu Jin, it was no different from any other place.

Moreover, she could switch to any space using the Geo-load array.

Before leaving, Chu Jin specifically left a special marking here, then traversed to another space.

"Xinran." As Chu Jin walked, she continued calling out Miao Xinran's name.

Finally, she found Miao Xinran in one place.

Miao Xinran's situation wasn't much better than Mo Qingyi's; she was scared half to death, all dirty and in a sorry state. She had been walking in circles in the same spot, but couldn't find her way out.

Moreover, she had discovered that time seemed to be forever frozen at 20:48.

The moment she heard Chu Jin's voice, it was as if she saw light and hope.

"Jin, I'm here," Miao Xinran said joyfully.

Once Chu Jin pinpointed Miao Xinran's location, she instructed, "Follow the direction you're facing, first walk 7 steps south, then 5 steps north, and then..."

"Jin," Before Chu Jin could finish, Miao Xinran interrupted her, "Can you just tell me forward, backward, left, right instead?" She was getting dizzy with east, south, west, north.

Chu Jin had no choice but to repeat the directions using forward, backward, left, and right.

Chapter 554: from now on you are my goddess

Miao Xinran was completely baffled, and although she was somewhat unclear about Chu Jin's true intentions, she complied with what Chu Jin had told her to do.

Because she knew that Chu Jin genuinely had such abilities.

"What's next?" Miao Xinran continued to ask.

Chu Jin's voice came again, "Next, follow me to the left and let's find your other two classmates."

Miao Xinran nodded, "Okay, I understand."

As long as Chu Jin was there, she felt reassured.

After a few steps, Miao Xinran stopped, "Jin, there are thorns ahead, what should I do if I can't get through?"

Chu Jin replied calmly, "These are all illusions, close your eyes and you will be able to pass through."

Upon hearing this, Miao Xinran closed her eyes and indeed managed to pass through the thorns, then immediately exclaimed with joy, "Jin, you're amazing."

Chu Jin spoke in a light tone, "Move quickly, we can't afford to delay here for too long."

Several hours later, Chu Jin and Miao Xinran successfully found the other two classmates and brought the three of them to meet with Mo Qingyi.

"Xinran, you're finally back." Mo Qingyi hugged her excitedly upon seeing Miao Xinran.

Miao Xinran apologized proactively, "Qingyi, I'm sorry."

If it weren't for her insistence on playing this game, none of this would have happened.

"It's okay, it's all right now that you're back." Mo Qingyi broke into a smile through tears.

By then, all nine people had gathered.

However, Chen Li and Li Jiaqi were still isolated in another layer of space, invisible to the other seven people.

This made the two of them anxious since the other seven could see each other, but not them. They hastily asked, "Sage, why can't everyone still see us two?"

Although the other seven couldn't hear the two of them, Chu Jin could, and upon hearing their words, she frowned slightly, "You two wouldn't have violated some taboo, would you?" Otherwise, this Yu Jia wouldn't specifically target the two of them.

This sudden voice frightened the other seven people. Mo Qingyi swallowed hard and asked, "Jin, who are you talking to?"

Chu Jin told the truth.

Mo Qingyi was taken aback, "You can hear them talking? Can you see them too?"

Chu Jin shook her head slightly, "I can't see them." Then she continued, "If they remain unseen, they might never be able to leave..."

Upon hearing this, the color drained from the faces of the other seven, with Chen Li and Li Jiaqi turning particularly pale.

"What should we do? I don't want to stay here forever, I want to go home..." Li Jiaqi cried out in fear.

Chen Li collapsed to the ground, "Sage, sage, please save us..."

Being trapped forever in one place is a fate more dreadful than death.

It was pitch black all around.

You never know what might suddenly appear around you.

Chu Jin remained composed as she said indifferently, "If you want to live, tell me everything that happened to you here, without leaving out a single word."

"Yes, yes," Chen Li nodded frantically.

The two recounted everything that had led to their current situation in full detail to Chu Jin.

When Chu Jin heard about them hiding behind tombstones and scaring Miao Xinran by pretending to be ghosts, her expression changed; she knew the reason.

Yu Jia despised being isolated and ostracized in her life.

It was because she was ostracized and isolated by her classmates that she took her own life.

Seeing Li Jiaqi and Chen Li, she must have felt as if she were seeing the students who once bullied her, thus infuriating the Ghost Qi within her. This led to all of them being trapped here, unable to ever leave this vicious cycle.

Seeing that Chu Jin was silent, Chen Li hastily knelt down to the empty air, "Sage, I know I was wrong, I shouldn't have done that, please save us..."

Chu Jin looked at her and slowly recounted Yu Jia's story.

Jia was born in South Mountain Town; her mother was a mental illness patient, and her father was a sanitation worker, which could be said to be among the lowest in society.

Moreover, when her mother fell ill, she would often hit people randomly.

Because of this, no children were willing to befriend her throughout her childhood, and they ridiculed her as the daughter of a madwoman.

But the young Jia remained naive and optimistic, unaffected by others' gazes, and without friends, she befriended her dolls, taking them to and from school each day and talking to them.

Over time, Jia's personality became reclusive, and some of her actions were considered odd, which only led to even fewer people willing to engage with her, with everyone saying she was like her mother—mentally ill.

At the age of sixteen, she was in her second year of high school.

With outstanding grades, she was admitted to the best high school in South Mountain Town, which waived her miscellaneous fees and textbook costs.

Although Jia was reclusive, she was attractive and slender, making her quite popular among the boys at school, often receiving love letters and lollipops. This, however, incurred the displeasure of some of the girls in her class.

A few girls as a group bullied her, isolated her, and ostracized her.

The others laughed heartily and returned the doll to her.

She thought that this incident would pass, but to her surprise, a few days later, a video appeared on the school network.

It was the video of Jia being bullied by the girls and made to crawl between their legs.

Suddenly, Jia became the 'celebrity' of the entire school.

Initially only ostracized in her class, she now faced exclusion by all the students in the school.

People are like that, everyone pushes a falling wall.

Blindly joining in.

Jia was overwhelmed with humiliation and could no longer bear the strange looks of others; finally, one night, she chose to slit her wrists in the dormitory and commit suicide.

Not long after her death, her father was struck and killed by a car while crossing the street, distraught with grief for his lost daughter.

And her mother drowned in a well because there was no one to care for her.

It began with tragedy and ended with tragedy.

Chu Jin told this story to everyone in a subdued tone, and after hearing it, their eyes were all red, unable to imagine how such things could happen in this world.

Yet, regrettably, that was the reality.

After hearing the story, everyone's sense of fear lessened considerably, and instead, they felt sympathy for Jia.

Chu Jin continued, "Fortunately, you didn't give up on each other and kept searching, which showed Jia the most genuine side of human nature, moved her; otherwise, you would have long been reporting to the underworld by now."

While Jia was alive, she never felt such warmth and never believed in it; unexpectedly, after she died, a group of students let her see such pure, genuine affection, which is why she never harmed any of them.

Li Jiaqi wiped her tears and said, "We have to thank Mo Qingyi; it's because she never gave up searching for us."

The other three boys, after hearing Chu Jin's words, lowered their heads in shame and apologized to Mo Qingyi of their own accord.

Mo Qingyi magnanimously forgave them.

In that situation, their choice to leave was only human; to know one's errors and correct them is most commendable.

"Jin, what do we need to do to get out of here now?" Miao Xinran asked, as staying there indefinitely wasn't an option.

Chu Jin's brows furrowed slightly, "I haven't thought of a way yet; for now, look around and see what's nearby."

Hearing this, everyone began to survey their surroundings.

"There are trees..."

"There are thorns."

"There're banana plants."

"And rocks..."

Everyone spoke over each other, but none hit the mark.

"Jin, there's also a grave ahead of us," Mo Qingyi suddenly remembered, because no matter which way they walked, they always ended up circling back to that grave.

In this small grove, there seemed to be only one grave.

Chu Jin had a flash of inspiration, as if she thought of something, and hurriedly said, "Then you all hurry to the front of that grave now, and listen to my arrangements for what comes next."

Her tone was measured and her voice clear and melodious, without a trace of panic.

Everyone felt reassured by her presence.

The remaining seven were all very curious about what the owner of the voice looked like.

It was because of this grave that Li Jiaqi and Chen Li had fallen into the illusion. Clearly, this grave was the only real thing here and also the true exit.

The nine people quickly arrived in front of the grave, with the gravestone dimly visible under the cover of night, looking especially eerie.

"Jin, we're here," they called out.

"Now, the seven of you form a circle and stand together, let Chen Li and Li Jiaqi stand in the middle of the circle to form a Tai Chi Diagram, and then close your eyes," Chu Jin said in an indifferent tone.

The nine people quickly formed a Tai Chi Diagram.

Unsure of what Chu Jin had done, everyone just felt a bright flash before their eyes and the chill around them lessened a lot, but they still didn't dare open their eyes.

"All right, you can open your eyes now." It wasn't until Chu Jin's voice came again that everyone dared to open their eyes.

This time, the nine could finally see each other, and the previously pitch-black woods were now shrouded in a layer of white light. Standing in front of the light source was a girl with delicate and elegant features.

The crowd erupted in excited cheers.

"Jin," they called out.

"Jin," echoed another.

Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi hugged Chu Jin, their eyes red.

If it hadn't been for Chu Jin this time, they might never have been able to get out.

"It's okay now," Chu Jin said, patting their backs.

The others hadn't expected that the person who had been guiding them all this time was Chu Jin. Chen Li's face flushed with embarrassment when she thought of the bad things she had said about Chu Jin previously.

Just when everyone had let out a sigh of relief, a fierce wind started up around them, and that creepy laughter came again.

Countless dolls began to emerge from the ground.

The scene was absolutely terrifying.

The group, scared stiff, clung to each other and cried out desperately.

No one had ever seen such a sight before.

Everyone instinctively hid behind Chu Jin.

Some were even so scared they wet their pants.

Chu Jin nonchalantly took up the Oil-paper Umbrella, snapped it open with a "pop," and instantly, a blaze of golden light shone forth, red plum blossoms blooming across the umbrella's surface. She tossed the Oil-paper Umbrella into the air, drawing a circle on the ground and instructing everyone to stand inside it.

The dolls burned up as soon as they approached the circle.

Only then did the crowd breathe a sigh of relief.

Chu Jin stood outside the circle, her red lips parting slightly, "You Jia, stop this and turn back while you can." Although her tone was light, every word was tinged with a sharp frostiness that cut through the moving air and reached You Jia's ears.

You Jia was stunned for a moment, perhaps not expecting someone to know her name.

Tears of blood trailed down from her eyes, and without speaking, she just looked at Chu Jin with a sorrowful expression.

Chu Jin intended to help her find peace and gently pursed her lips before continuing, "You Jia, these students are innocent. Don't let a moment of confusion lead you down a path of no return. The people who bullied you in the past have already received their due punishment..."

At those words, You Jia's face twisted into a hideous snarl in an instant, clearly not believing what Chu Jin said.

Innocent? Who in this world is innocent?

Especially those students! Selfish and heartless! They all deserved to die! If it hadn't been for those students, how could she have become a lonely ghost?

"Get out of my way! Don't meddle in my affairs!" She opened her gaping, bloodied maw and let out a roar, her voice hoarse and sinister, chilling to the bone and utterly terrifying.

The crowd clung tightly together, whimpering softly.

Surrounding them were doll-like figures reminiscent of zombies, resembling scenes from catastrophe films, even more terrifying than the apocalypse itself.

Chu Jin gently raised her hand, and the Pendulum hanging from a branch instantly returned to the palm of her hand.

She used the Pendulum to make a decision.

The Crystal Ball emitted a ray of colorful light, and then a transparent barrier appeared in the air.

The scene it displayed left Jin perplexed.

Every person shown on the screen was someone she was very familiar with.

They were the very six who had bullied her back then.

The screen revealed that after her death, the entire floor had been sealed off.

The principal and the homeroom teacher were suspended for investigation.

The six suspects involved in her death were also taken into detention.

As juvenile offenders, they were held in re-education through labor for five years.

But upon their release, they had missed the prime of their lives, missed the college entrance exam, and during those five years of isolation, their faces grew increasingly somber, filled with regret for their past actions more than once.

Plagued by nightmares every day, they eventually developed severe depression, and they did not live to see thirty before they passed away.

Watching these events unfold, Jin's ghost Qi gradually dissipated until she was restored to her appearance before death, dressed in a school uniform, pure and innocent.

The surrounding dolls also scattered into nothingness.

She had thought that after her death, those people were still living comfortably, which is why she had a heavy grudge within her heart, missing the best time to be reborn, yet she had not considered that, in the end, good and evil are rewarded accordingly.

As the last of her resentment vanished, only her soul dispersing awaited her.

Her body instantly turned into a pile of fragments, scattering into the air.

Seeing this, Chu Jin muttered an incantation that others couldn't understand. The incantation transformed directly into golden symbols in the air, gathering Jin's shattered body together again. It was only then that Chu Jin spoke softly, "Go, in the next life you will have a happy family."

Jin's body disappeared into the air.

The air returned to its original calmness.

A beam of sunlight poured through the mottled tree leaves, and the clear sound of bird songs reached everyone's ears.

The grove was instantly enveloped in sunlight.

Light had finally triumphed over darkness, and it was another beautiful morning.

Aside from Chu Jin, everyone else seemed somewhat disheveled.

Stuck in this grove for a full two days, they hadn't felt much while trapped, but now that they saw the sunlight, they felt tired, hungry, thirsty, and utterly exhausted.

Chu Jin pulled out the mineral water and biscuits she had prepared in advance from her backpack and distributed them to everyone.

The backpack didn't look very big, but it was like a treasure chest, from which she could take out various things. It was quite clearly beyond the capacity of a normal bag.

Though the others found it strange, they didn't ask any questions.

"Thank you," Chen Li said, struggling to spit out two words as she took the items Chu Jin passed her, and then she added, "I'm sorry."

Previously, she should not have judged Chu Jin's integrity with a villain's mindset.

From now on, Chu Jin would be her life's compass.

Chu Jin did not say anything, but only patted her shoulder and curved her lips slightly into a smile.

Chen Li felt that it was the most wonderful smile she had ever seen in her life.

So radiant, full of hope.

Chen Li revealed a smile too, looking at Chu Jin and said with steady intonation, "From now on, you are my goddess!"

Chapter 555: no response

Hearing this, everyone chimed in, "Right, right, right, from now on, you are our collective goddess."

"What's your name, goddess?"

"Yeah, yeah, goddess, we still don't know your name."

Chu Jin slightly raised an eyebrow, her red lips parted lightly, "Chu Jin, the Chu from Chu River and Han Border, the Jin from beautiful rivers and mountains, you can call me by my name," she finished speaking, then added, "Of course, you can also call me Brother Jin."

"Brother Jin, can I take you as my master?"

"Me too, I want to as well."

A few people followed behind making a racket without any particular purpose.

"Hey, don't be like that, I'm serious!" the boy became anxious and said to Chu Jin with a sincere face, "Brother Jin, please take me in."

"We are serious too, Brother Jin, please take us in as well."

The group laughed and fooled around as they walked to the inn.

After entering the inn, they all promptly forgot about becoming disciples as they each returned to their rooms and started to sleep deeply.

After all, they hadn't slept for two days.

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran slept in Chu Jin's room.

Chu Jin, however, was sitting at the desk, tapping away at the computer.

While typing on the computer, she was communicating with Zi.

"Brother Jin, we just left Lawless City like that, what about the Soul Resurrection Grass?" Zi asked with a worried face.

Chu Jin was unconcerned, "What's the rush, the boat will straighten as it reaches the bridge, right, what's the end date for the long-term quest?"

Zi stopped munching her beloved sunflower seeds, her face solemn, "Brother Jin, although there's no time limit on long-term quests, leaving it unresolved is always a threat. If we can't find the Soul Resurrection Grass to complete the mission, your life could be in danger at any time."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin still looked nonchalant, her tone casual, "Do you think someone who has already died once would be afraid of that?"

Zi: "... You're the boss, you're not scared, but I am!

"Don't worry," Chu Jin continued, "I won't let myself die that easily."

With those words, it counted as a promise.

Hearing this, Zi's expression finally eased a bit.

Qin Zhurao was seated in the inn's hall, her face filled with unwillingness upon hearing the news that Chu Jin had returned safely.

That ghost was too useless!

It couldn't even deal with these few people! Qin Zhurao's fingers were digging tightly into the couch.

Jia Zhuo came over to pour a cup of tea for Qin Zhurao, his lips curling up as he spoke softly, "Don't be hasty, as long as you and I cooperate, their good days will soon be over."

Hearing this, Qin Zhurao lifted her gaze, exchanged a smile with Jia Zhuo, and both saw cruelty in the other's eyes.

As the saying goes, the enemy of my enemy is my friend, so it wasn't strange for Jia Zhuo and Qin Zhurao to join forces in their desperate situation.

Speaking of which, Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran slept for a whole day and night. By the time they woke up, it was already the next morning.

In the meantime, Chu Jin had received a call from Mo Zhixuan saying that there was a holdup in Capital City and it would be another two days before they could be picked up and taken home.

Upon hearing this, Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran were quite excited, as that meant they could play in South Mountain Town for two more days.

Chu Jin was already very familiar with South Mountain Town and had lost interest in sightseeing. She simply set up a table and chairs on the ancient street and went back to her old trade, fortune-telling for people.

There were few locals in South Mountain Town, mostly tourists drawn by its reputation. The streets were very busy, but very few actually came to have their fortunes told.

It was largely because of Chu Jin's age.

Since she was in a different environment, the reputation of Master Chu hadn't spread here, so everyone was skeptical of her.

Chu Jin's place was deserted.

On the other hand, the white-bearded fortuneteller next door had many clients, some even queued up for his services.

Chu Jin was deeply frustrated, so she took out a piece of white paper and a brush from her backpack. After dipping the brush in ink, she vigorously wrote a line of bold characters, "No need to speak, I know your honorable surname, if wrong I'll give you 500 bucks." She even took out five hundred yuan and placed it under the table.

As expected, after this paper was posted, many people crowded around, pointing and discussing Chu Jin.

They were indecisive, wanting to test if Chu Jin was really as accurate as she claimed, yet they were afraid of being tricked.

"The audacity of the young people these days is truly astonishing! Such a young age, not attending school, and instead deceiving people here! Not even considering whose turf this is!" The white-bearded fortune teller saw his clients being drawn away by the girl next door and immediately became livid, slamming his hand down on the table and standing up.

This kind of trickery was something he had given up on 300 years ago! And today, it had the audacity to resurface and even steal his clients; how could he not be infuriated? He immediately rolled up his sleeves, preparing to expose Chu Jin's scam.

The principle behind this type of trickery was very simple, it relied on the "card method."

The card was filled with characters, and the con artist would have you pick a card that had a character from your surname, then pretentiously take out a ruler to measure your hand.

Actually, your surname had already been revealed to the con artist.

Because all the characters written on that card were irrelevant, except for the one that matched a surname.

For example: "Heaven, person, of, many, a, Zhang, Min, go, surge, release..."

Anyone with clear eyes could tell that Zhang is a surname, who would still need to measure hands?

It was simply the trickster's sweet talk that had confused you.

Pushing through the crowd, the fortune teller stood in front of Chu Jin, "No need to speak, is it? Then you try to guess my surname! If you get it wrong, I'll overturn your stand and prevent you from spreading lies and deceiving people here."

Thinking to himself, the fortune teller was eager to see how he would debunk her when she took out her card.

Chu Jin smiled slightly and pointed to a stool, "Please take a seat, sir."

The fortune teller sat down as instructed.

Seeing that there was an entertaining scene to watch, people crowded around.

Chu Jin calmly took out the Tarot cards and her nimble shuffling caught the attention of the audience, eliciting gasps of amazement.

Her hands were so fast they dazzled the onlookers, the cards seemed to come to life in her grasp.

Chu Jin arranged a Universal type card spread, "Sir, please draw a card."

The fortune teller was a bit confused. This little girl wasn't following the usual tricks. Could this be an upgraded version of deception? As long as it was trickery, it would inevitably show flaws. He had roamed the world for decades; could he not defeat a young girl?

The fortune teller quickly drew a card.

The upright position: "The King of Wands."

On the card, the sky was clear, with high mountains and the sea in the distance, a hand reaching out from the clouds, holding a wand.

"The King of Wands" could be said to be one of the Tarot cards with the simplest imagery.

Both the ace and the wand suggested supremacy, implying the number one.

Chu Jin glanced at it only once, and already had her calculation, her red lips softly parted, "Sir, your surname is Zhao, little Zhao, born into a fisherman's family by the West Sea, the only child. After your parents passed away, you came alone to the south, and it's been 28 years since then."

Chu Jin spoke casually, but the fortune teller was stunned to silence because everything Chu Jin had said was spot on.

He stood there, dumbfounded for a long while, unable to calm himself. Despite studying occult arts for many years, he had only skimmed the surface, yet this young girl had known so much just from a single card! This was simply terrifying!

At this moment, the fortune teller also understood that he had encountered a truly exceptional master today!

It was then that Chu Jin heard the system's notification sound in her mind, [Ding! Faith Value increased by 5%!]

The fortune teller was still in shock, while the onlookers, who couldn't wait any longer, eagerly asked, "Master, is she right?"

"Yes, she is absolutely correct," the fortune teller returned to his senses, lifting his eyes to Chu Jin, "May I ask which master the young lady is a disciple of?"

Upon hearing this, the crowd all wore expressions of disbelief.

Could she truly be that accurate?

If she was really that skilled, why didn't she go buy lottery tickets?

Could it be a setup between two charlatans?

Chu Jin ignored the expressions of the bystanders, merely smiling faintly, "Passed down from my ancestors."

"So..." the fortune-teller opened his mouth, then continued, "May I ask your surname?"

"It's Chu," Chu Jin replied in a calm tone.

The fortune-teller thought for a long time but couldn't recall a master surnamed Chu emerging in the Fengshui community. Even as Chu Jin approached his stall, the fortune-teller was still in a daze. According to reason, a family as proficient in divination and fortunetelling as the Chu should be well-known in the Fengshui community.

How come he had never heard of them before?

"Are you really that psychic? Are you sure you haven't colluded with him to deceive us?" someone directly voiced their skepticism.

Chu Jin's eyes were indifferent as she replied, "Whether I'm psychic or not, you'll know if you try. If I'm not, I'll give you 500 Yuan. Everyone present can be my witness."

Upon hearing this, the young man immediately sat down at the table.

Three minutes later, Chu Jin accurately stated his surname and date of birth.

No one doubted her words anymore, and a long queue quickly formed.

That afternoon, Chu Jin not only collected a hefty amount of money but also earned quite a bit of Faith Value.

In the evening, the three of them ordered takeout and sat down to eat in their room.

Suddenly, the ringtone of Chu Jin's mobile phone rang, and a strange number appeared on the screen, traced back to Capital City.

Chu Jin put down her chopsticks, took her mobile phone out of her pocket, and placed it to her ear.

"Hello, sis, it's me." A somewhat familiar voice came from the other end of the phone.

It was Chu Tian.

"What's the matter?" Chu Jin replied in her usual tone.

Chu Tian's voice sounded a bit anxious as she asked, "Sis, did you go to South Mountain?"

Chu Jin didn't hide the fact, "Yes."

"Sis, you need to come back right now, South Mountain isn't a good place," Chu Tian continued.

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "Why? Tell me the reason."

"Sorry sis, that's all I can tell you. If you believe me, leave there immediately. Goodbye." After saying that, Chu Tian hung up the call.

Looking at the disconnected call, Chu Jin frowned slightly. Was this a well-intentioned warning, or was there another scheme behind it?

"What's wrong, Jin?" Seeing her like this, Miao Xinran asked.

Chu Jin pocketed her phone and stood up, "Let's head back to Capital City overnight."

Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi were both stunned and exclaimed in unison, "Head back overnight?"

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "A friend just called to inform me that something bad might happen in South Mountain. Let's pack up and leave tonight."

"But there aren't any cars at this time of night. How are we supposed to get back?" Mo Qingyi frowned slightly. Surely they couldn't walk back, could they? Besides, what could possibly happen in one night?

Miao Xinran also said, "Yeah, Jin, there aren't any cars now. Since my brother and the others are coming tomorrow, if we have to leave, it's not urgent to go tonight, right?"

Chu Jin stroked her chin, "I'll figure out the car situation. Better safe than sorry, let's go." She chose to take a gamble and trust Chu Tian's words. From what she could tell about Chu Tian's character, she didn't seem like a person capable of great evil.

Mo Qingyi suddenly hugged Chu Jin's arm, "Jin, let's stay one more night, please. I'm exhausted from rowing all day, and all I want to do now is get some good sleep." As she spoke, she even yawned.

Miao Xinran didn't want to leave overnight either. After all, with six hours of travel, they hadn't prepared anything during the day, and leaving so suddenly was too hasty. She still had so many things she wanted to buy.

Leaving during the day meant they could appreciate the scenery along the way, whereas traveling at night was pitch dark, devoid of any charm.

"Jin, let's go tomorrow, I really don't want to bother with this late at night."

"Jin, we'll go with what the majority wants, and I really don't want to leave! I'm not discussing this anymore; I'm going to take a shower." With that, Mo Qingyi slipped into the bathroom, not giving Chu Jin a chance to argue.

Miao Xinran quickly followed Mo Qingyi, "Wait, I'll shower with you."

Chu Jin frowned helplessly. It seemed they couldn't leave tonight. It was just one night; surely nothing would happen?

For safety's sake, the three of them slept in the same room that night.

The night was silent.

Chu Jin stood in front of the window, overlooking South Mountain Town below in the night. It was peaceful and serene, no different from any other day. Chu Jin stood by the window until midnight, while the two people on the bed had long since entered dreamland.

It wasn't until 1 a.m. that Chu Jin, after confirming there were no anomalies, climbed into bed to rest.

The night was quiet.

Chu Jin also quickly fell into a deep sleep.

She didn't know how many hours had passed when Chu Jin suddenly felt a violent shaking. Realizing this wasn't a dream, she abruptly opened her eyes, only to find the entire room trembling violently.

"Bang, bang, bang—" In the darkness, things kept falling down.

The roar in the space-time was like thunder, and the ground underneath felt like a stampede of a thousand horses.

This was clearly an earthquake.

Realizing this, Chu Jin was startled and quickly woke up Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran, "Qingyi, Xinran, wake up quickly, it's an earthquake!"

It was 3 a.m., the prime time for sleep, so how could the two of them wake up easily?

"Wake up quickly!" Chu Jin shook the two of them violently.

"What's going on?" Miao Xinran seemed to be in a dream, rubbing her eyes with a hoarse voice, still unaware of the danger around her.

Chu Jin repeated, "It's an earthquake!"

Miao Xinran suddenly became fully awake, then noticed that the entire bed was shaking. She quickly joined Chu Jin in waking up Mo Qingyi, and without even taking the time to put on shoes, they hurriedly ran outside.

By then, downstairs was already in an uproar, with the inn's staff noticing something was wrong and shouting through megaphones in open areas.

The three of them ran hand in hand, clutching each other's hands tightly. At that moment, no one could let go of anyone's hand.

In the stairwell, many were screaming and running outside.

Some didn't even put on their clothes.

Others were panic-stricken, banging on the doors of their loved ones' rooms.

Elderly people and children were in complete disarray.

The shaking became more and more severe, and the building began to collapse, with tiles and beams starting to fall. The three of them had already managed to run to the second floor when Chu Jin realized she'd lost all her Spiritual Power and couldn't access her space. More importantly, she couldn't even contact Zi!

To have a chance at survival, they had to run out of the inn with all their might.

The three of them ran to the first floor.

Just as they were about to run out of the door, huge rocks began to tumble down, and the whole house began to tilt and collapse.

Under such circumstances, it was impossible for three people to run out together.

In that moment between life and death, Chu Jin suddenly let go of their hands, stopped in her tracks, and used the last bit of her Lightning superpower to push the two of them fiercely towards the outside.

In an instant, the ground cleft and the skies filled with dust, the ancient buildings turned into ruins, and time seemed to freeze in that moment.

Wails, cries, and screams filled the entire town.

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran also lost control of their emotions in that instant.

"Jin brother!"

"Jin!"

The two of them never expected that, in such a situation, Chu Jin would choose to sacrifice herself to save them.

They ran onto the ruins like mad, ignoring the danger of aftershocks, crying as they moved the rubble with their bare hands, bricks and stones...

They now regretted last night's decision unbearably, thinking they should have left with Chu Jin...

"Jin, can you hear me talking?" Miao Xinran's hands were already bloody, but like someone oblivious to pain, she continued to move the debris, tile by tile, the wood.

Mo Qingyi's situation was also very bad, her blood had dyed the rubble red, "Jin Brother, don't be afraid, we're coming to save you."

But beneath the ground, there was no response to them.

Chapter 556: Life is Like a Play

The sky was a dim gray.

Even a fine drizzle began to fall.

The mood of the people was akin to the weather, draped in a layer of dust.

Countless individuals searched through the rubble for their loved ones.

Only in the second before disaster struck did humanity realize how insignificant they are in the face of nature, akin to ants.

The scene was chaotic.

Children cried out for their mothers.

Mothers cried out for their husbands.

Elderly mothers wailed seeking their children.

The air was filled with cries for help and sobbing.

...

The fine rain fell on everyone, bringing an unexpected chill to the hot June air.

It was piercing to the bone.

In just 20 minutes, the news of the earthquake in South Mountain Town had spread far and wide.

The earthquake-triggered landslide had destroyed highways, blocking vehicle access, so many helicopters were dispatched to airdrop food and emergency supplies.

The armed police quickly formed an earthquake disaster relief command.

The inn had three floors.

At this moment, the ruins had almost piled up into a small hill; it was impossible to dig out anyone by hand.

But Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran still persevered.

Seeing people continuously rescued from the surroundings, the two seemed to see hope, their faces soaked, indistinguishable whether from rain or tears.

"Little Treasure, are you in there?" The young mother had lost hope.

She had searched for a long time, but still, there was no sight of her child.

Just then, a faint voice from inside said, "Mommy, I'm in here..."

Voices were hope.

Together, the crowd moved a massive stone to find the little boy trapped below; he was alive but had lost an arm.

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran could hardly bear to watch such a scene.

They couldn't even begin to imagine the pain Chu Jin was enduring inside.

The little boy, despite having a voice, was covered in wounds, whereas Chu Jin was completely out of contact...

"Jin, can you hear me?" Miao Xinran's voice had become hoarse beyond recognition.

Mo Qingyi had turned completely numb, mindlessly moving rocks and debris, like a robot.

At that moment, her only thought was to find Chu Jin quickly.

If only they had left last night.

If anything happened to Chu Jin, they would never forgive themselves for the rest of their lives.

Regret, self-blame, helplessness, panic, sorrow...

These emotions writhed in their hearts.

Soldiers led search dogs in the rescue operation.

To prevent any missteps in the dogs' work, others used life detectors to carefully scan the area.

People continued to be dug out from underneath the rubble.

Watching Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi still kneeling in the ruins, digging with hands already bloody and raw, one of the soldiers, with a hoarse voice, said, "Young ladies, stop digging, there are no signs of life left here..."

He had already passed over the area back and forth ten times with the life detector, but there wasn't a single fluctuation on the device.

The search and rescue dogs had also come over, sniffed, and left.

This meant that even if someone was underneath, they were no longer alive by now.

That sentence completely enraged Mo Qingyi's emotions, she roared loudly, "You're talking nonsense! My Jin is down there! She's still alive! She must still be alive!" Her eyes reddened, and her heart was wounded.

"Yes, I believe Jin is definitely still alive," Miao Xinran also wiped her tears, leaving a long bloody streak on her face, "Please, help us. Jin is down there, just under this huge rock, if we move it, we can see her."

The stone was too large; even if she and Mo Qingyi exerted all their strength, they couldn't move it.

Miao Xinran firmly believed that Chu Jin was definitely trapped under that stone.

If they could just move that stone, they could see Chu Jin.

The soldier sighed, "Our search dogs and life detectors won't fail, the rain is too heavy, you two should go back to the shelter to rest. If we find anyone, we'll inform you immediately." Due to a lack of manpower, they were prioritizing the rescue of those who still had vital signs.

"No! She's still alive! She must still be alive!"

Instead of leaving, the two of them sped up their digging, as if they didn't know pain. These flesh wounds were nothing compared to the agony that Chu Jin was enduring.

Seeing the two so determined, the soldier sighed deeply, shook his head, and left. Ahead, there were many more people waiting to be rescued.

The rain continued to pour down.

The search and rescue teams kept working tirelessly.

Signs of life continued to be detected beneath the ground.

But on Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran's side, after digging for a long time, they still hadn't found Chu Jin.

Both of them were now covered in dirt, their pajamas and hair soaked by the rain, looking very wretched.

Contrary to the persistent rain here, the weather in Capital City was charming and sunny.

Mo Zhixuan was in the middle of an important meeting at this moment.

Suddenly, his phone buzzed once.

When he saw the content of the message, his already stern features instantly frosted over.

Executives seated below instantly became filled with trepidation.

Especially the balding executive who had just spoken, a cold sweat broke out on his back. Had he unwittingly said something to anger the BIG BOSS?

But he hadn't said anything wrong.

Mo Zhixuan looked up and swept his gaze over the crowd below, his voice cold as he uttered two words, "Meeting adjourned." He then swiftly left the conference room.

The remaining people felt like they were pardoned.

Mo Zhixuan rode the private elevator with a very tense expression, his lips pressed into a thin line, and a formidable presence emanating from his entire being, making people dare not come within three feet of him.

On his way, female staff members cast hot, fiery glances at him, but none dared to actually approach him. They suppressed their emotions, trying hard not to scream out loud.

The president was simply the perfect male god of their dreams!

Tall and long-legged, abstinent, handsome, rich, and with zero scandals.

As soon as Mo Zhixuan stepped out of the company building, Qin Jinyong and Duanmu Zhe were already waiting for him in front of the helicopter.

Being located in a bustling area, the sight of a cool, flashy helicopter parked right outside Mo's company, with two attractive men beside it, naturally drew a crowd of onlookers, with some even taking photos nearby.

But when Mo Zhixuan appeared, the entire atmosphere changed; not only did the people stop taking photos, but they also retreated several steps in fear.

Duanmu Zhe hurriedly opened the helicopter door for Mo Zhixuan, his face tense as he said, "The earthquake caused a landslide. The number of deaths discovered has already reached four digits. The signals are down over there, we can't reach Sister-in-law and the others for now."

After a pause, he added, "But don't worry, Brother, Sister-in-law is so skilled, she definitely won't have any problems."

Although Duanmu Zhe said that, he was still quite worried. After all, the incident had occurred in the early hours of the morning, at a time when most people were in deep sleep. What if...

The calmest among them had to be Qin Jinyong.

His demeanor was natural, as if he was not worried about Miao Xinran at all.

Mo Zhixuan stretched out his hand to the airplane door and with a boost, climbed into the cabin with clean and authoritative movements, almost without using the boarding ladder.

Duanmu Zhe and Qin Jinyong followed, one after the other.

Qin Jinyong would pilot the aircraft.

As the rumbling sound started, the plane left the ground and rose into the air.

When the helicopter appeared in the airspace above South Mountain Town, the faces of all three men changed at the sight on the ground, the situation was obviously much more serious than they had imagined.

The usually picturesque South Mountain Town, nestled between the mountains and rivers, had now turned into ruins. Cries for help were heard everywhere, as if from hell on earth.

Mo Zhixuan didn't even wait for the helicopter to land before he pushed open the door and leaped out.

Duanmu Zhe hadn't even reacted before the man had disappeared into the air.

"Nine Bro jumped down! Yong Bro, hurry and prepare for landing."

Qin Jinyong immediately controlled the helicopter to land.

Mo Zhixuan landed with ease, jumping from nearly a kilometer in the air was a piece of cake for him.

Suddenly, his ears twitched, and his powerful brain instantly analyzed the exact location of the sounds. He stepped forward quickly, his stern face showing no excess emotion, his slightly upturned phoenix eyes revealing a depth of black and gravity that was unfathomable.

The chilling aura that emanated from him made people shudder, forming a stark contrast with the chaotic crowd around him.

He passed through the crowd to the front of the ruins, appearing calm, but in reality, he was already panicked.

It was still raining.

A bit cold.

Duanmu Zhe hurriedly followed with a black umbrella, holding it over his head.

Mo Zhixuan slowly walked onto the ruins, and at this moment, Qin Jinyong and Duanmu Zhe, who were following behind, heard the crying and shouting of Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran clearly. While they breathed a sigh of relief, they also tensed up again.

They threw down their umbrellas and ran quickly towards the voices.

"Qing Qing!"

"Xinran!"

Two voices called out from behind them. Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran stopped what they were doing, turned their heads quickly, and then hugged the two men, crying loudly, their tears staining Duanmu Zhe's and Qin Jinyong's clothes with blood.

Mo Zhixuan's face had turned extremely cold, standing behind the four, he looked at Mo Qingyi and asked, "Where's Jin?"

His voice was extremely cold and filled with danger, causing a shudder to the heart.

Around them, they could no longer sense the presence of Chu Jin.

He felt almost unable to breathe, his fingertips trembling slightly.

"Brother, I'm sorry..." Mo Qingyi cried, "Hit me, it's all my fault. If it weren't for me, Brother Jin wouldn't have been in trouble..."

Mo Zhixuan's lips parted slightly, and he asked again, "What happened to her?"

Mo Qingyi told Mo Zhixuan the whole process while crying, including how Chu Jin had urged them to leave South Mountain Town overnight last night.

Right then, Duanmu Zhe found a tarot card on the ruins.

"Nine Bro, do you think this is Sis-in-law's item?" Duanmu Zhe felt the card looked very familiar and immediately handed it to Mo Zhixuan.

Mo Zhixuan's pupils contracted as he took the blank card, suddenly looking up, "Yes, this is hers," he said and regained his composure, continuing, "Duanmu and Jin Yong, take the girls to treat their wounds first. I'll stay here to look for Jin."

As long as the card was still there, it meant that Chu Jin was definitely fine.

The life tarot card shared fate with its host.

"I won't, I want to stay and search for Jin together!"

"I also want to stay, I'm not leaving!"

Qin Jinyong hoisted Miao Xinran onto his shoulder, "Be good! You'll only cause more trouble by staying here."

Mo Qingyi was similarly carried away by Duanmu Zhe.

Mo Zhixuan had set up a barrier on the spot and then used his special ability to start moving rubble and stones, lifting massive stones with just one hand as if it took no effort at all.

However, due to the barrier, no one saw the anomalies on this side.

On this side, Qin Jinyong and Duanmu Zhe carried Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran onto the helicopter, both of them covered in wounds, especially their hands, which were bloody and blurred—such a sight was truly shocking.

The two sat there expressionlessly, letting Duanmu Zhe and Qin Jinyong apply medicine to them without crying out in pain or making a sound, like statues. In their minds, the scene where Chu Jin pushed them out of the door kept replaying.

Suddenly, Miao Xinran stood up abruptly and rushed outside, "I need to save Jin!"

Qin Jinyong grabbed her wrist in an instant, his voice sharp with reprimand.

"Don't you know your own limits? Going now like this will only be a burden to others! Don't you realize how dangerous the aftershocks are, or do you not want your hands anymore? Or do you think your life is too long?"

Miao Xinran coldly pulled her hand back and turned to look at Qin Jinyong, her voice filled with anger, "If it weren't for Jin, I would have been long gone! Do you expect me to just watch as Jin gets buried underground and do nothing? How can you be so heartless and cold!"

Although she knew Qin Jinyong was worried about her and meant well for her, Miao Xinran still found these words extremely repulsive. For the first time, she felt that Qin Jinyong was being incredibly selfish.

"Miss Chu saved you because she had the ability to do so," Qin Jinyong stood up, his words full of conviction, "What about you? Do you have that ability? Not only do you not have it, but you also got yourself covered in wounds! Miss Chu saved you so that you could live properly, not to throw your life away! You're only letting her efforts go in vain by acting like this!"

Another layer to Qin Jinyong's words was that Chu Jin saved them because she had the ability; conversely, if Chu Jin lacked the ability, she certainly would not have saved them, and at a critical moment, she would have prioritized her own life!

His words sounded rather heartless and cold.

Miao Xinran stared wide-eyed and spoke in a hoarse voice, "What do you mean by that? Are you the Qin Jinyong I know?"

Mo Qingyi also said, "Big Brother Qin, Jin risked even his own life to save me and Xinran. How could you say such a thing!"

Qin Jinyong sighed, "Alright, I admit, I was a bit impulsive with what I said just now. Sit down and let's apply the medicine, then I'll go with Ninth Brother to find Miss Chu." How could he tell them that this disaster was brought about by Chu Jin? If it weren't for Chu Jin, there would have been no earthquake here, nor this many casualties and injuries.

It was only right for Chu Jin to have saved them.

Qin Jinyong left the helicopter, but instead of immediately going to find Mo Zhixuan, he turned and walked to another place.

"Come out." Qin Jinyong stopped in front of a building that hadn't completely collapsed and spoke to the air.

At these words, two figures immediately emerged from the building.

It was Jia Zhuo and Qin Zhurao.

"They say a woman's heart is the most poisonous, but I think it's the heart of a man that's truly venomous," Jia Zhuo's lips curled into a cold smirk, "Just to get Chu Jin killed, you even schemed against your own sister. Tsk tsk tsk."

That's right, the entire meticulously planned conspiracy was, in fact, orchestrated by Qin Jinyong himself.

First, he arranged for Mo Zhixuan to leave partway and abandoned the three girls.

Then, he lent the holy relic that suppressed the Empress' spirit to Qin Zhurao. With the holy relic in hand, Chu Jin's spiritual power could be eradicated, turning her into a normal person. But even if Chu Jin became a normal person, with her skills, escaping safely wouldn't be too difficult. Hence, Qin Jinyong arranged for two burdens for her.

Because Qin Jinyong knew that in such a situation, Chu Jin would definitely sacrifice herself to save Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran.

This was essentially killing two birds with one stone, eliminating Chu Jin and ensuring no suspicion would fall upon himself.

After all, who would believe that a brother would gamble with his own sister's life?

The earthquake was caused by the evil art practiced by Jia Zhuo.

The purpose was to kill Chu Jin as revenge for Zheng Chuyi.

Ever since he met Qin Zhurao and Jia Zhuo here and learned that Jia Zhuo had developed a natural special ability to control earthquakes, Qin Jinyong had begun to plot this conspiracy.

A person who defies the natural order shouldn't live in this world.

So, this disaster was all brought about by Chu Jin; without Chu Jin, how could such an earthquake have occurred?

"Heh," Qin Zhurao let out a cold laugh, "What sister? She's just a lowly commoner from the secular world. Otherwise, do you think Jinyong would risk his own sister's life like this?"

Chapter 557: found it

In fact, Qin Zhurao was Qin Jinyong's biological sister. Therefore, after Zheng Chuyi's death, Qin Jinyong wholeheartedly wanted Qin Zhurao and Mo Zhixuan to be together.

Qin Zhurao was somewhat puzzled why Qin Jinyong would be so kind to a commoner.

However, it seems now that his kindness to that commoner was nothing special.

Jia Zhuo nodded thoughtfully, "So she was just a lowly commoner. I should have created an aftershock earlier, let them die together and spare me the eyesore."

Qin Jinyong reached out and grabbed Jia Zhuo's neck, his eyes filled with bloodlust as he said, "If you dare to touch a single hair on Xinran's head, I will send you to hell!"

He took the risk because he understood Jun Huang's character. He knew Miao Xinran would definitely be safe.

Miao Xinran was his! No one but him could touch her!

In that instant, Jia Zhuo's face turned purple and he struggled to breathe, making a 'gurgling' sound in his throat. His eyes rolled back as if he could die at any moment.

After Jia Zhuo practiced the evil art, her previous cultivation had disappeared. Now she only had the natural ability to control earthquakes, and therefore, she had no power to fight back against Qin Jinyong.

"Let go of Jia Zhuo!" Qin Zhurao desperately slapped Qin Jinyong's arm.

It was then that Qin Jinyong released his grip.

Jia Zhuo, as if pardoned, coughed violently and gasped for breath. The feeling of being a step away from the Grim Reaper was terrifying! Had Qin Jinyong lost his mind? To even be willing to harm a partner!

"Hand it over." Qin Jinyong extended his hand towards Qin Zhurao.

Reluctantly, Qin Zhurao pulled out a jade-carved red lotus from her pocket and placed it in Qin Jinyong's palm.

This was the sacred object that could suppress the Empress' spirit.

Qin Jinyong pocketed the red lotus and then said, "Alright, leave this place quickly before Ninth Brother finds out about you two."

"I'll take my leave, until we meet again." Jia Zhuo bowed to the two of them and then turned to leave. Chu Jin surely wouldn't survive, a mere mortal crushed under a pile of rubble was likely already dead.

Zheng Chuyi's great vengeance had been avenged, and now she should immediately return to the Superpower World to offer Zheng Chuyi incense and share the good news with her.

It was just a pity that she couldn't cut off Chu Jin's head to pay tribute to Zheng Chuyi.

Jia Zhuo left swiftly, but Qin Zhurao was somewhat reluctant. She lowered her voice and said, "Brother, aren't you helping me anymore?" They had agreed that he would help her become the mistress of the Mo family; why was he now telling her to leave?

In the past, Mo Zhixuan had been cursed. Qin Jinyong forbade her from getting close to Mo Zhixuan, which was understandable as nobody wanted to die young. Even if Mo Zhixuan was willing to marry her, she wouldn't be willing to marry him.

But now, Mo Zhixuan had recovered, and Chu Jin was dead. How could Qin Jinyong go back on his word?

She was determined to marry Mo Zhixuan.

Qin Jinyong was well aware of her intentions and said in a deep voice, "Appearing here safe and sound will definitely provoke Ninth Brother's displeasure and suspicion. Listen to me, go back to Capital City first. I will notify you to come for Chu Jin's funeral, then you can look for an opportunity to get close to Ninth Brother."

After all, people are most vulnerable when they are weak. As long as Qin Zhurao seizes this opportunity, it should suffice.

"Will that work?" Qin Zhurao was worried; Mo Zhixuan wasn't easy to approach, after all.

"Why wouldn't it work?" Qin Jinyong said with a slight smile, "Don't forget, you saved Aunt Mo's life. You are the Mo family's lifesaver, and besides, Aunt Mo has always liked you quite a lot. It's just unfortunate that, back then, Ninth Brother's health..."

He paused, then continued, "Otherwise, you would have become the Mo family's mistress long ago."

Hearing this, Qin Zhurao smiled, "Brother, you're right. I was the one originally destined to be the Mo family's daughter-in-law. It's that Chu Jin who stole the position that belonged to me. Her death could be considered retribution."

People like Chu Jin deserved to die a hundred times over.

Qin Jinyong nodded, "After you arrive in Capital City, visit Aunt Mo first. If you can manage to stay in the Mo family, that would be even better." The one who is near the water gets the moon first, and this Mo Zhixuan was no longer the Mo Zhixuan of the past.

Many coveted the position of the Mo family's matriarch.

It wasn't just the position of the Mo family's matriarch, but also the supreme position in the Superpower World; a man like him would, sooner or later, reclaim his throne.

"Mhm, I understand, brother." Qin Zhurao's eyes shimmered with smug triumph as if she had already seated herself upon that throne.

Qin Jinyong's face was stern, "How many times have I told you? Do not call me brother! Do you still want the title of Descendant of Medical Ancestor or not?"

It wasn't just the title of Descendant of Medical Ancestor at stake, but also some latent matters that would be exposed alongside it.

Therefore, aside from the two involved, no one knew that these two were actually blood siblings.

"Isn't there no one here?" Qin Zhurao spoke softly, head lowered.

Qin Jinyong's face remained hard, "Even if there's no one, it's not allowed."

If Miao Xinran were present, she would have noticed a peculiar change in Qin Jinyong, who seemed completely unfamiliar, as if he had become someone else entirely.

"Then I'm leaving, goodbye." Qin Zhurao waved her hand at Qin Jinyong.

Qin Jinyong expressed no emotion as he uttered four words, "Be careful on the way."

After Qin Zhurao left, Qin Jinyong also began heading towards Mo Zhixuan's location.

When he arrived, Mo Zhixuan and Duanmu Zhe were inside a barrier, where fragments of debris floated above them, suspended as if paused by an unseen hand.

Meanwhile, Mo Zhixuan and Duanmu Zhe continued to stoop to collect stones and fling them back into the air.

Upon seeing Qin Jinyong approach, Duanmu Zhe asked in surprise, "Jin Yong, where have you been? Why did it take you so long to get here?"

As Qin Jinyong also began to pick up fragments, he replied as if nothing were amiss, "I went to look elsewhere for any trace of Miss Chu." From the beginning, he had referred to Chu Jin as Miss Chu, and that had never changed.

Therefore, it couldn't change now.

"Did you find anything?" Duanmu Zhe continued.

Qin Jinyong's expression dimmed in a flash, "Nothing," he sighed and then lowered his voice, "Do you think Miss Chu might have already..." The unspoken words hung heavy in the air.

"No way!" Mo Zhixuan suddenly looked up at Qin Jinyong, his tone ice-cold, "Jin won't come to harm! She must be alive."

"Ninth Brother," Qin Jinyong also looked at him, sighing softly with a deep sense of regret, "Whether we like it or not, what's happened has happened. You need to accept reality. It's no use running away from it..."

The aura around Mo Zhixuan turned frosty in an instant as he looked at Qin Jinyong, his eyes filled with a chilling intensity, "You, shut up!"

An overpowering force rolled towards Qin Jinyong; his face turned deathly pale, blood spilled from the corner of his mouth, his strength seemed to be drained from him in an instant, rendering him incapable of even producing a single syllable, let alone speaking!

The power Mo Zhixuan possessed was truly terrifying, capable of obliterating heaven and earth!

At that moment, Duanmu Zhe's exclamation sounded from the side, "Ninth Brother, Ninth Brother, I found it!"

At these words, Mo Zhixuan's eyes brightened instantly, and he hurried over to Duanmu Zhe.

However, Qin Jinyong's brows twitched.

Could it be that Chu Jin hadn't died?

Impossible, right? He had already checked; there were no traces of Chu Jin's presence here! She should have been thoroughly dead!

It must be that Duanmu Zhe had discovered Chu Jin's body!

Yes, that must be it!

Qin Jinyong really wanted to walk over and investigate, but the pain all over his body made it impossible for him to move! Mo Zhixuan's attack was too cold-blooded and ruthless!

For the sake of a woman, he actually struck at his good brother of many years!

Underneath the rubble, indeed, there was a person being crushed.

Many things were pressing down on her, and what appeared before the two of them was a slender hand. Although the hand was already covered in dust and grime, the blood-red bracelet on the wrist told him that this person was Chu Jin.

"Jin!" Mo Zhixuan called out softly, quickly reaching to check her pulse, which, although weak, was steady—indicating she was still alive. Fortunately, she was merely unconscious temporarily and had not sustained any serious injuries, allowing Mo Zhixuan's heart, which had been in suspense, to finally relax.

Then, he squatted down and carefully, along with Duanmu Zhe, began to clear away the debris on top of her, moving very gently for fear of causing her secondary injuries.

In less than two minutes, all the debris and rubble on top of her were cleared away.

Only then did Mo Zhixuan notice that a small figure was shielding Chu Jin's body, protecting her from a fatal blow.

The child was about six or seven years old, with very dark skin, just like an African. Although he was clearly a boy, he wore two braids like antelope horns, and his hair was naturally curly like an African's.

The only difference from an African was his lips—they were very red, unlike Africans whose lips are black as well.

Mo Zhixuan frowned slightly; he had never seen this child with Chu Jin before, so who could he be?

Duanmu Zhe stepped forward to pick up the child and checked his nose, saying, "Ninth Master, he's still breathing!"

Mo Zhixuan first carefully wiped the dust from Chu Jin's face, then took out a black handkerchief from his pocket to cover her eyes. He carried her horizontally and then slowly spoke, "Let's take them back."

No matter who he was, since he saved Chu Jin's life, he was Mo Zhixuan's benefactor.

Qin Jinyong was stunned to see Mo Zhixuan carrying Chu Jin out; he had never expected that Chu Jin was still alive! How could her life be so tenacious?

If she's still alive, doesn't that mean his entire plan is ruined?

Qin Jinyong maintained his composure, but his heart twisted into a knot! He knew he should have let Jia Zhuo create another, even bigger aftershock!

Dragging his heavy feet, Qin Jinyong came to Mo Zhixuan's side and said with difficulty, "Ninth Master, Miss Chu, she... is she okay?" pretending to be very concerned about Chu Jin.

Right now, it was important to mend the brotherly bond, to ensure Mo Zhixuan didn't harbor any prejudice against him.

Mo Zhixuan gave him a cold sideways glance, "She's not seriously hurt."

"That's good, that's good," Qin Jinyong sighed with relief, then said, "I'm sorry, Ninth Master, I misspoke earlier. I thought Miss Chu was... Please forgive me."

"Be more careful in the future," Mo Zhixuan said coldly, with just five words.

Qin Jinyong nodded slightly, then slowed his pace to walk with Duanmu Zhe, asking, "Duanmu, who are you holding there?"

Without much thought, Duanmu Zhe replied, "A kid, I don't know him either. But, we owe a lot to this child. If it weren't for her, the ninth mistress might have really been out of luck. He took the lethal blow for her."

Qin Jinyong clenched his fist, then praised, "He truly is a little hero. When he wakes up, we must thank him properly."

Although he said this, in his heart, he loathed the child! Such a meddler! If it weren't for him, Chu Jin would have gone to meet Yama already!

Qin Jinyong had only accounted for the fact that Chu Jin would certainly act to save Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi, but he hadn't anticipated that someone would save Chu Jin!

It was like the mantis stalking the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind!

With mixed emotions, Qin Jinyong followed Duanmu Zhe onto the helicopter.

Seeing Mo Zhixuan returning with Chu Jin in his arms, Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran rushed to greet them excitedly, "Big brother Jin/Jin!" they both exclaimed in unison.

Miao Xinran, swift acting, flattened the seat for them, and Mo Zhixuan gently placed the person on it, pulling a blanket from the storage compartment to cover her.

Mo Qingyi saw Chu Jin's pale face, her eyes still covered with a piece of black cloth, and looked nervously towards Mo Zhixuan, asking, "Brother, is Jin okay?"

Mo Zhixuan's gaze lifted faintly, his eyes filled with a cold light, his voice particularly icy, "You all go out first, I need to treat Jin's injuries."

"What about this one?" Duanmu Zhe asked, pointing to the child in his arms.

Mo Zhixuan looked at him and slowly uttered three words, "Just hold him."

Facing the formidable Mo Zhixuan, Duanmu Zhe had no power to retaliate and had to resign himself to carrying the child out of the cabin. Heaven knows, the child looked so small, yet he was heavier than a rock! So heavy! Could he have been raised on pig feed?

Outside, the rain had stopped.

The sun peeked out from the clouds, casting a layer of golden light on the earth, but the disaster brought by the earthquake had not ceased, and bodies were continuously being carried out from under the rubble.

"Duanmu, how is Jin?" Mo Qingyi, in a rare serious tone, looked towards Duanmu Zhe and asked.

Miao Xinran also hurriedly said, "Yeah, Duanmu, is Jin okay?"

If this were the Mo Qingyi of the past, seeing Duanmu Zhe holding a child, she would definitely have teased him, but now, she just wasn't in the mood.

Duanmu Zhe's expression was equally serious, "You two relax, lady Jin is fine. She's just suffered some superficial wounds and will wake up soon."

"That's good!" Miao Xinran breathed a sigh of relief.

But Mo Qingyi was a bit worried and said, "Are you telling the truth? You're not just comforting me, are you?"

"Everything I'm saying is true!" Duanmu Zhe continued, "If you don't believe me, you can ask Jin Yong."

Miao Xinran didn't want to bother with Qin Jinyong, turning her head away without a word.

Mo Qingyi looked up at Qin Jinyong and asked, "Big brother Qin, is what Duanmu said true? Jin... my sister-in-law, she's really okay?"

Qin Jinyong nodded lightly, "What Duanmu said is true, Miss Chu is fine." His voice remained as gentle as ever. After speaking, he walked up to Miao Xinran's side, extending his hand to her shoulder, "Alright, don't be angry, I apologize to you."

Miao Xinran snorted coldly and said nothing.

Hearing that Chu Jin was truly okay, Mo Qingyi breathed a sigh of relief, then turned to look at Duanmu Zhe and asked, "Who is the child you're holding in your arms? A love child?"

Duanmu Zhe was so annoyed that he kicked Mo Qingyi, "With our looks, could we produce a child that's this dark?"

Mo Qingyi kicked back at him, with one fierce kick, making Duanmu Zhe grunt, "Scram, kid! Who's like you!"

Duanmu Zhe stepped back a few paces, straightened his expression and said, "Stop, stop, stop, let me tell you, this child isn't just anybody, don't injure him by mistake!"

Mo Qingyi, stroking her chin, continued, "He's so dark and ugly! Could he possibly be a foreigner? Where did you pick him up from?"

"Speaking of which, you should thank him," Duanmu Zhe continued, "If it weren't for him protecting lady Jin, I'm afraid you would never see her again."

In that situation, if not for the child, Chu Jin would have long since perished.

"You're saying, he saved Jin?" Mo Qingyi asked in disbelief.

Duanmu Zhe nodded, "Otherwise, what do you think, I'm just hanging out carrying him for no reason! My lord, I'm exhausted!"

Jin's lifesaver was her lifesaver as well!

Hearing this, Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi gathered around Duanmu Zhe, smiling and saying, "Wow, whose child is this, he's so cute, Duanmu, may I hold him, please?"

Duanmu Zhe: "...". Indeed, the most fickle thing in this world is a woman's heart! Just three minutes ago, they were complaining about how dark and ugly the kid was! And in the blink of an eye, the style changed completely, did the little black imp suddenly become cute?

Chapter 558: cooperate with me

Mo Qingyi stretched out her hands to take the child away from Duanmu Zhe's arms.

Although the child was a bit dark, the more she looked at him, the cuter he became.

His facial features were very delicate, and had he been a bit fairer, he also would have been a charming doll.

"He's very heavy! Even I'm struggling to hold him! How could your little frame possibly carry him?" Duanmu Zhe stepped back, rejecting Mo Qingyi's request.

Mo Qingyi eyed Duanmu Zhe from head to toe, squinting her eyes, "With your frail figure, as delicate as a woman's, of course, you can't carry him! Watch me!"

Duanmu Zhe was being too exaggerated! How heavy could such a small child be?

Duanmu Zhe curled his lips, "Then why don't you give it a try?" As he finished speaking, he presented the child in front of Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi extended her hands to receive the child, but as soon as she took him, her body suddenly sank downward! She nearly fell, but fortunately, Duanmu Zhe quickly caught her.

My God!

This wasn't a child at all, but rather a little fat pig!

No!

He was even heavier than a little fat pig! He must be a huge fattened pig!

Duanmu Zhe held him effortlessly in his arms, as if he was not exerting any strength at all.

"I told you that you couldn't carry him!" Duanmu Zhe took the child back into his arms.

Miao Xinran walked over, stroking her chin, "Aren't you two exaggerating a bit too much?"

The child looked to be only six or seven years old, and although a bit chubby, surely he wasn't that impossible to lift?

Mo Qingyi looked to Miao Xinran, "If you don't believe it, you can try."

"I'll just give it a try." Miao Xinran immediately rolled up her sleeves and accepted the child, not convinced.

Then there was a cry of surprise.

She could never have dreamed that the child would be so heavy.

Was he made of iron?

Qin Jinyong stood aside, pondering.

This child was clearly no ordinary person, so who was he exactly?

What was his relationship with Chu Jin?

As far as he knew, there was no record of this child in the guest registration at that inn.

In other words, he had come out of nowhere.

Since no one could carry the child, the task of holding him fell back onto Duanmu Zhe.

Duanmu Zhe sat on the ground holding the child.

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran gathered around, sometimes touching the child's braids, and sometimes pinching his cheeks.

Just then, the unconscious child slowly opened his eyes.

What met his gaze were three curious heads gazing at him intently—one of them joyfully exclaimed, "Xinran, look, he's awake!"

Another said, "Wow, his eyes are so beautiful."

Yet another asked, "Little one, whose child are you? Do you feel unwell anywhere?"

Then the three began to touch him all over, like they had discovered a new continent.

The child blinked and then opened his eyes again, finding that the scene in front of him hadn't changed. He blinked and opened his eyes again, repeating this, his large, deer-like, lively eyes brimming with questions.

Dear heavens! What did these three people want to do? They couldn't possibly be pedophiles with special tastes, could they?

Mmp! I am certainly not any child!

That's right, the child was none other than Zi herself.

"Could this kid be stupid?" Mo Qingyi murmured, beginning to speak. Otherwise, why would she keep blinking at them? And when they asked her a question, she didn't know how to respond.

Hearing this, Zi immediately pushed Duanmu Zhe away, "Stupid humans! You are the fools!"

The three of them: "... " This isn't just a fool but also a chuunibyou!

Mo Qingyi squatted down, revealing a smile like that of a kind old aunt, "Child, what's your name? How old are you this year?"

Zi crossed her arms over her chest and proudly tilted her cute little head up, snorted lightly, and remained silent.

The true being wouldn't stoop to speak with you kids!

She carried herself with aloofness and coolness, and though she had a juvenile face, she behaved like a little adult, which was amusing to watch.

Seeing her act this way, Duanmu Zhe laughed too, "Hey, kid, pretty cocky, huh! You've got the style of your brother back in my days!"

Zi still held her head high, arrogantly ignoring them.

Mo Qingyi didn't give up, continuing with a smile like that of a kind old aunt, "Little treasure, tell sister your name. How old are you this year? Where do you live? Sister will take you home, okay?"

Upon hearing this, Zi glanced at Mo Qingyi askance and said coldly, "Sister? Stop joking. I am over a thousand years older than you; technically, you ought to refer to me as your great ancestor! You bunch of toddlers aren't worthy enough to know my name!"

Her youthful face was filled with a surprisingly mature tone.

She was like an elder who had seen it all.

She didn't take them seriously at all.

Duanmu Zhe, who was next to her, burst into a cough, his laughter bringing tears to his eyes. Maybe this kid was sent by a monkey as a joke?

Mo Qingyi: "... This child might truly be beyond help.

Miao Xinran picked up a sandwich and offered it to Zi with a smile, "Hey kid, are you hungry? Do you want something to eat?"

Zi placed her hands behind her back and just glanced sideways at Miao Xinran, answering coolly, "Even if I starve, I won't eat your food."

"Then you're really great," Miao Xinran gave her a thumbs-up and then tore open a bag of BBQ-flavored chips, starting to snack on them with a crunch. Instantly, the aroma of grilled meat filled the air.

Savory and delightful.

Just from the crisp sound, one could tell those chips must taste incredibly good.

Zi involuntarily swallowed, her throat rolling. The cunning humans! They're actually tempting her with snacks! Does she seem like someone whose principles are so easily swayed?

Three minutes later.

"Wow! This is so tasty! And this too is really good." Zi, with a bag of chips in her left hand and a sandwich in her right, spoke with a face full of satisfaction.

"Wow! Beef jerky! My most favorite beef jerky!" Stars practically sparkled in Zi's eyes.

Miao Xinran struck while the iron was hot, asking, "Kid, what's your name?"

Zi, while stuffing chips into her mouth, replied, "The venerable one is called Zi, and by the way, do you have any sunflower seeds? I want the five-spice flavor."

Mo Qingyi saw through his foodie nature and immediately twisted open a bottle of drink to hand to him, "Have some water first, don't choke. How old are you?"

Zi took the drink and gulped down several mouthfuls, feeling as though her life had been sublimated!

Momma mia! What kind of water is this? It's so delicious!

Before, all she knew was to eat sunflower seeds and snack on chips; she had never known that there could be such delicious water in this world!

At that moment, Zi had forgotten her steadfast stance!

What even is a principle?

Can you eat it?

Zi happily munched on the beef jerky in her hand, then drank her grape-flavored beverage with satisfaction. Life like this was just too damn comfortable...

Humans were really clever, turning grapes into water, beef into jerky.

Not only did she have food and drink, but there were also people waiting on her.

"Sister Miao, you just go ahead and peel some sunflower seeds for me, I want the five-spice flavor."

"Sister Mo, you're in charge of peeling some sugar-fried chestnuts for me."

"Little Mu, come over here and massage my legs."

Duanmu Zhe looked bewilderedly at Zi, "Are you calling me?"

"Who else but you? Is there a second Little Mu here?" Zi tossed a peeled chestnut into her mouth.

"You expect this young master to massage your legs?" Duanmu Zhe said disdainfully, "Dream on!"

This little brat, the nerve of her! To think she had the gall to boss around even him!

"Duan, Mu, Zhe!" Mo Qingyi issued a warning.

"I'll massage, I'll massage!" Duanmu Zhe immediately caved in, resignedly beginning to massage Zi's legs.

Zi lay on the only chair like a lord, enjoying the services of everyone around her.

Because they knew Zi was Chu Jin's lifesaver, Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi wished they could treat her like an ancestor and hold her in reverence.

It was just then, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan pushed open the cabin door and walked out.

She appeared to be in good spirits and didn't look at all like someone who had been injured, dressed in a clean set of white clothes and black pants, standing beside the man, they looked particularly well-matched, like a perfect pair.

Qin Jinyong was the first to react, quickly approach, "Miss Chu, are you alright? We were so worried about you."

"I'm fine," Chu Jin slightly curved her lips and said in a gentle tone, "Don't worry."

"Miss Chu, I also need to thank you for risking your life to save Xinran, if it weren't for you, I really..." Qin Jinyong broke off, choked with emotion, and suddenly kneeled down in front of Chu Jin.

"Brother Qin, don't do this," Chu Jin quickly pulled him up, "Xinran is my good friend; she has helped me a lot. It was only right for me to do this, you don't have to act like this."

Mo Zhixuan frowned slightly and his thin lips parted, "A man's knees are as precious as gold! What are you doing, crying and wailing like this!"

His voice was still as low and cold as ever.

"Ninth brother, Ninth sister-in-law, I'm sorry, I lost control of myself..." Qin Jinyong choking up, finally corrected himself.

"Big Brother Jin!" At that moment, Zi heard the commotion and no longer wanted her favorite sunflower seeds and beef jerky, sprinting towards them!

Just as she was about to embrace Chu Jin in a close hug, she was suddenly scooped up by a cold hand, and her feet instantly left the ground as she was enveloped by a chilling and daunting presence, struggling to breathe.

Duanmu Zhe silently lit a candle for Zi in his heart, the woman of Ninth Brother was not someone you could just touch. Sure enough, she was still too young.

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran were happily hugging Chu Jin and cheering on the spot.

"Big Brother Jin, I'm so glad you're alright."

"Jin, thank you."

A lifesaving grace, a simple thank you was ultimately too pale, but besides thanks, Miao Xinran could not think of any other words at the moment.

She was very grateful that Chu Jin was safe and sound.

In the days to come, she was willing to use her entire life to protect her.

"Big Brother Jin, we're sorry, we should have listened to you and left this place overnight, then none of this would have happened..." The two apologized on their own initiative, heads lowered, eyes rimmed red, evidently they had been through life and death, and at this moment seemed to have matured suddenly, becoming much more composed.

"What's done is done." Chu Jin hugged them both, patting their backs gently.

The scene was inexplicably touching.

"Zi, thank you." Chu Jin squatted down, looking Zi in the eyes, and spoke very seriously.

Zi, uncharacteristically, blushed, "Ah ya, it's no trouble." Then she retreated to a corner, grinning like a 500-pound fatty.

"Big Brother Jin, you know him?" Mo Qingyi asked in surprise.

Chu Jin nodded, her expression unchanged, "Zi is a child from a distant relative's family. I also didn't expect to meet him here."

"Oh, so you're all family. No wonder Zi is so cute."

Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi had always had unwavering faith in Chu Jin, even if Chu Jin claimed 1 was 2, both of them would agree and say, "Then it's a 2!"

Qin Jinyong, on the other hand, frowned slightly.

He knew Chu Jin was definitely lying.

An ordinary child, in such a situation, would have been crushed into a meat patty by now, how could they still be hopping around unharmed! Women really are low in intelligence, so easily deceived!

Qin Jinyong squinted his eyes and slowly walked over to Mo Zhixuan, saying, "Ninth Brother, now that we've found Ninth Sister and the others, let's head back. This place isn't somewhere to stay for long."

Once they got back to the Capital City, he would come up with another plan. He refused to believe that his plan could be destroyed by Chu Jin. Could her luck really be so great every single time?

"That's fine," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, his thin lips slowly exhaling a ring of smoke, a cold dignity seeping through.

Just then, Chu Jin suddenly realized she had lost her Pendulum and her face turned white. She said to Mo Zhixuan, "Hold on, I need to go back and search for something." If she remembered correctly, she should have carelessly left the Pendulum on the bedside cabinet. She hoped it was still there.

Mo Zhixuan looked at her, "I'll accompany you."

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran promptly added, "We'll accompany you too."

Mo Zhixuan cast a cold glance their way.

The two immediately fell silent.

Zi, while the others weren't paying attention, sneaked to the back of the helicopter. His body transformed into a beam of light, entering the Purple Thunder space directly. He had just reached level 2, and there was a time limit for maintaining his physical form. Now that time was up, he had to return to the Purple Thunder space—a shame to leave the delicacies of the human world.

When Miao Xinran and Mo Qingyi noticed Zi was missing, they became frantically anxious, and after a long search to no avail, they reluctantly called Chu Jin for help.

All Chu Jin said was, "Don't worry about him. After he's had his fill, he'll return home on his own," her tone indifferent.

This made Qin Jinyong even more curious.

Who exactly was this Zi, and where had he gone?

Chu Jin quickly found her Pendulum amidst the ruins, breathed a sigh of relief, and prepared to return with Mo Zhixuan.

Suddenly, a few soldiers carrying a stretcher approached. An elderly man, covered in dirt and grimy faced, hunched over, desperately crying out, "Doctor! Is there a doctor? Please come save my daughter! She's dying! Is there a doctor...?"

His voice was close to despair.

There were doctors on the scene.

But everyone was occupied, battling with the Grim Reaper. In the vast disaster area, there were only a handful of doctors, and they simply couldn't spare the time to tend to others.

Moreover, the girl on the stretcher was injured far too grievously—beyond the capability of rescue! Time was precious; they could not waste a single second.

Chu Jin halted, tightening the hand that Mo Zhixuan was holding. She valued her life and was also a doctor, so naturally, she couldn't ignore such a situation.

She pursed her lips, then tugged Mo Zhixuan forward briskly, "I am a doctor, let me have a try."

Upon hearing this, the old man's eyes, which had dimmed, instantly brightened again, "Doctor, please, I entrust my daughter to you, you must save her."

"Don't worry, I'll do my best," she replied in a clear and pleasant voice.

The soldiers carrying the stretcher couldn't help but glance up at her—a very young woman with stunning features—but when their gaze met the man beside her, they quickly looked down again! This man was even more terrifying than their superior officers!

In the presence of the powerful, one has no choice but to bow their head.

They quickly moved the stretcher into the medical team's tent and stopped. Several doctors were performing surgeries for patients.

The emergency medical supplies were very comprehensive.

With the stretcher put down, the soldiers left, and the old man stood by, tearfully wiping his eyes. The other doctors were all busy with their work as Chu Jin quickly donned rubber gloves and handed Mo Zhixuan a surgical mask, "Cooperate with me."

"Alright," Mo Zhixuan took the mask and secured it over his face, concealing most of his handsome features, and the chilling aura around him diminished significantly.

Just as Chu Jin picked up the scalpel, ready to begin, a stern voice came from the side, "What are you doing? You look unfamiliar; you're not part of our medical team, are you?"

Chu Jin slightly raised her eyes, her tone calm, "I am going to perform surgery on her, to remove necrotic muscle tissue and extract the nail from her chest cavity!"

The medical team's space wasn't very large, so the doctors performing surgeries could almost see each other just by looking up.

Hearing this, a doctor who was stitching a wound paused briefly, questioning, "How old are you this year? Do you have any clinical experience? This is a matter of life and death, it's not something to be toyed with!"

Chapter 559:

"Eighteen," Chu Jin said as she cut open the blood-soaked clothes of the young girl, "Don't worry, my family has been practicing medicine for generations, there won't be any loss of life." The girl's condition could no longer be delayed; surgery was imperative, or her life would be in danger at any moment.

"Eighteen!?" The doctor was furious. Was this not toying with a life? "Young lady, this is not a place for you to mess around! Put down the scalpel and leave immediately! Who is the family member of the injured?"

As a doctor, he wouldn't allow anyone to trample on life! Therefore, he had to stop this absurd behavior.

"I, I am, she... she's my daughter," the elderly man stammered as he stood up unsteadily.

The doctor glanced at him, "If you don't want your daughter to die, then please immediately take this reckless young lady out of here. After I've treated this patient's wounds, I will perform surgery on your daughter!"

How could an eighteen-year-old girl, who probably hadn't even attended university, have medical skills? This was surely nothing but folly! Young people these days really don't understand the gravity of the situation!

The doctor was very angry!

If it weren't for another patient beneath his hands in need of resuscitation, he would take matters into his own hands!

The elderly man knew about his daughter's condition. She was already unconscious and couldn't afford to wait. He was very resolute as he said, "No, doctor, I believe this young lady can definitely save my daughter."

As he spoke, he turned to Chu Jin, "Young lady, please go ahead and operate with confidence, don't feel pressured. If anything unfortunate happens, I won't blame you. We do what we can and leave the rest to fate."

It was clear that this was a very rational father.

Though from a small town, he understood the greater good.

Chu Jin looked at the father with a steady tone, "Rest assured, old man, I have done everything in my power."

"Thank you, young lady," the old man sobbed uncontrollably.

The doctor on the side initially wanted to stop her but unexpectedly found that he couldn't get close to Chu Jin at all. He could only watch from a distance as she excised necrotic tissue, removed the rusted nail, stopped the bleeding, and sutured the wound. Her movements were very smooth and highly professional.

Faced with the gore, she didn't even frown.

The doctor's expression went from initial anger to shock now.

She never expected that an eighteen-year-old girl could be so calm and collected in the face of open-heart surgery.

After all, her confidence was not unfounded.

Mo Zhixuan was in perfect sync with her, knowing whether Chu Jin needed forceps or gauze with just a glance.

Perhaps, this was the legendary tacit understanding.

Two hours later, Chu Jin took off her mask and let out a long breath. The old man quickly stood up and asked, "Young lady, how is my daughter?" During the surgery, he had been afraid to disturb Chu Jin, so he hadn't dared to make a sound.

Chu Jin smiled gently, "The surgery went smoothly, your daughter is out of danger now. She'll wake up once the anesthesia wears off."

After the old man thanked her three times, he rushed to his daughter's side.

At that moment, the doctor came over, his face filled with guilt, "I'm truly sorry, young lady. I did not recognize your talent earlier."

Chu Jin gave a faint smile, "I'm young, so it's normal for you to have been concerned."

She was not complacent about the successful surgery, nor did she take the opportunity to mock him. She was a good girl who was neither arrogant nor impetuous, and the doctor nodded with satisfaction. He continued, "I have a somewhat presumptuous request and hope that you might consider it."

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Please speak."

The doctor carefully weighed his words and slowly began, "You've seen the situation. Right now, the disaster area is in dire need of medical staff, and many victims are dying due to untimely rescue efforts. Young lady, your medical skills are exemplary, and I hope you could consider staying with our medical team for the time being. Could you do that?"

After speaking, the doctor added, "You don't need to rush to reply, you can think about it first."

The doctor knew he was asking for a lot. After all, being in the quake zone always involved the risk of life and death, and besides, she wasn't a professional medical worker. Why should she stay?

"It would be my honor to stay and help with the disaster relief," she said.

Under these circumstances, anyone would choose to stay.

Every citizen has a responsibility to his or her country.

If everyone were indifferent, this country would have perished long ago.

The doctor, filled with emotion, grasped Chu Jin's hand, "Thank you. On behalf of every victim in the disaster area, I thank you."

So, in the following days, Chu Jin donned a white coat and a mask, moving through every corner of the disaster area, and by her side always stood a figure, as elegant as a jade tree.

Despite both wearing white coats and masks, they could not fully conceal their grace and dignity.

Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran set up a tent on the outskirts of the disaster area, distributing bottled water, instant noodles, biscuits, and other convenient foods for free.

Duanmu Zhe and Qin Jinyong were in charge of escorting the supplies for them.

Although it wasn't a game, Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran's faces were always adorned with smiles, even happier than they had been during their days of leisure.

Especially when handing these items to each survivor, they felt completely fulfilled inside.

Giving is often more meaningful than receiving.

Everyone contributed their strength to the disaster area.

Disaster area journalists captured every one of their figures on camera, and after the news was published, their simple and unadorned efforts moved everyone. More and more volunteers joined in, and more and more people paid attention to the area.

The most beautiful love story in the world,

Their names are Heroes.

Two kind young ladies, thank you.

These three trending topics even surpassed the National Goddess in popularity.

The first led to a story about a couple who appeared to be doctors. Despite their white coats being stained with mud, they stood firm in the disaster area, working tirelessly to save countless lives from the Grim Reaper's grasp, earning high praise.

The second featured the soldiers and officers fighting in the disaster area, who selflessly risked their lives, often sleeping for only an hour a day to rescue others.

The third showed two young girls with beaming smiles, handing out instant noodles and biscuits to the survivors.

However, none of them was aware of what was happening online.

days later, with everyone working together, the situation in the disaster area had returned to normal, and people's lives had gradually stabilized.

Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi planned to leave a day early without alarming the villagers.

Yet, on the day of their departure, the entire village came out to see them off in a spectacular scene. Not a single person came empty-handed. Despite the recent earthquake, the villagers brought what little they had left from their homes.

They were just very ordinary local products, but what mattered was the sentiment.

True affection indeed exists in this world.

The scene was touching.

A little girl approached Mo Qingyi and Miao Xinran, her voice hoarse as she spoke, "Sister Mo, Sister Miao, I wish you a smooth journey. When I grow up, I will definitely visit you in Capital City."

If it weren't for the kindness of these two sisters, she and her grandmother might have starved to death.

When she grew up, she was determined to become a person like the two sisters.

"Alright, we'll wait for you in Capital City."

"Sister Chu, this is for you and big brother. I wish you eternal happiness." A young girl in a pink dress, supported by an elderly person, walked up to Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan, holding out a hand-crafted double happiness knot.

"Thank you," Mo Zhixuan reached out to take it, and, quite rarely, spoke to express his gratitude.

The three cars gradually moved away, disappearing from view, but the villagers still hadn't left.

Five hours later, everyone safely returned to Capital City.

Looking back on this half month, it felt like a dream.

In the evening, the Mo family matriarch held a dinner to wash away the dust of the road for everyone.

After dinner, the Mo family matriarch excitedly took out a newspaper and pointed at a picture, saying, "Jin, is this you and Zhixuan?" The two people in the photo were dressed in white coats and wearing masks, virtually unrecognizable unless by someone very familiar.

Chu Jin nodded, "Yes, it is."

The Mo family matriarch was so surprised her mouth hung open; it wasn't Chu Jin that surprised her, but Mo Zhixuan! She could never have imagined her son, who was obsessed with cleanliness, tolerating such abhorrent conditions! And he had even personally provided aid!

Until now, the hands of the "Grim Reaper" had been used to take lives!

Chu Jin was indeed the Mo family's lucky star.

"What photo? Let me see." Mo Qingyi also ran over to join in the excitement.

"Oh right," the Mo family matriarch recovered from her shock, spread out the newspaper and continued, "Qingyi, there's a picture of you too, look, is this not you and Xinran?"

Mo Qingyi saw it was indeed a photo of herself and Miao Xinran distributing food. She jumped for joy, "Mom, I'm in the newspaper!" It was her first time being featured in a newspaper, and she was very excited.

Then she hurriedly called Miao Xinran to tell her.

After being on high alert for fifteen days, everyone slept soundly that night.

The next morning, Chu Jin slept until past nine before waking up.

...

About an hour later.

Chu Jin appeared in the bathroom with a serious face, pressed down on the soap dispenser, and washed her hands very carefully; it was either an illusion or something else, but she always felt the scorching warmth linger in the palm of her hands.

Mr. Mo was indeed not as he appeared on the surface, portraying abstinence and coldness outwardly, while inwardly he was wild and turbulent, aligning well with the phrase 'all sizzle and no steak'.

"Why are you washing for so long?" Mr. Mo appeared behind her, refreshed, wearing a smoke-grey shirt, instantly reverting to that abstinent and cold appearance.

Chu Jin looked up at him, "What do you think?"

Mr. Mo slightly raised his lips, his mood clearly cheerful as he took hold of her hand without minding the droplets of water and brought it to his lips for a kiss, "It's already very clean, smells good, no need to wash it."

"Shameless." Chu Jin casually patted his face.

Since they had to report to the university the following day, Mr. Mo took Chu Jin shopping at the mall that day, purchasing some essentials required for school and the military training.

Originally, Mo Qingyi had also clamored to come along, but in the end, she was taken away by Duanmu Zhe.

In the end, the two of them went for hotpot and then saw a movie, not returning to the Mo family home until it was dark.

That evening, Chu Jin discovered that Mr. Mo seemed to have fallen in love with her hand.

Having gained this new skill, he spent the morning meal deep in thought, staring at her hand.

Capital University was in another part of Capital City, a three-hour drive from the Mo family, making it impossible to commute daily. Therefore, Mo Zhixuan had prepared a villa near the university in advance.

As soon as Mo Zhixuan had dropped Chu Jin off at the villa, he received a call that immediately darkened his expression.

Chu Jin pulled her suitcase from the trunk and said to Mo Zhixuan, "You go get busy, I'll be fine on my own." Under the sunlight, the girl's features shone like polished jade, impossible to look away from.

Mo Zhixuan's gaze grew deeper as he took a wide-brimmed straw hat out of the car and placed it on her head. Her jade-like features were instantly half-concealed, and only then did his expression soften. In a low tone, he said, "Wear it properly. Are you sure you'll be alright on your own?"

"I'll be fine, I'll be fine, don't worry. Go back, I might even run into Xinran and Qingyi in a bit." Chu Jin waved at him and turned to walk toward the university.

So decisive and straightforward, Mr. Mo felt an inexplicable pain in his little heart.

"I'll wait for you at the school gate tonight."

Chu Jin didn't speak but simply gave him an "OK" gesture.

This girl, truly heartless. All the caring for her seemed in vain!

Chu Jin, dragging her suitcase, stopped at the entrance of Capital University and looked up at the familiar four characters, feeling almost as if she was in a different world. She slightly curled her lips, whispering to herself, "Capital University, I'm back."

There were many students coming and going. Even though her beauty was half-hidden by the straw hat, people still cast admiring glances at her. With just half of her features visible and already so beautiful, one could only imagine the stunning beauty hidden under the brim of the hat.

Chu Jin watched for a while, then retracted her gaze and pulled her suitcase into the campus. It was the start-of-term season, and students were everywhere. First, she located the new student reception, completed all the procedures, and then dragged her suitcase toward the dormitory.

The university had a rule that no matter who you were, all freshmen had to live in the dormitory for a year before they could move out in the second year.

The dormitory was on the fifth floor with no elevator.

New students usually had company, each treated like a little princess, escorted by family. Parents were sweating profusely from the effort, while the little princesses leisurely sipped their drinks—only Chu Jin was alone, staring blankly at the long staircase with her suitcase in tow.

Behind Chu Jin, a couple was approaching, and the girl softly said to her boyfriend, "Li Zhen, go help that classmate, it must be tough on her alone." She was clearly a kind-hearted girl.

Li Zhen, with black rimmed glasses and a gentle appearance of a typical engineering student, scratched his head and readily agreed, "Sure, I'll go right now."

When they reached Chu Jin's side, the girl was the first to speak, "Classmate, such a large suitcase must be hard for a girl to carry up, right? Hand it over, let my boyfriend help you."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin stuffed her phone back into her pocket and smiled slightly at the two, "Thank you both, but I can manage on my own." Actually, she had not been daydreaming, but replying to her editor's message.

After speaking, she slung the suitcase over her shoulder and briskly climbed the stairs, her coolness to the extreme! The heavy suitcase seemed weightless on her shoulder, drawing the gaze of onlookers!

Good Lord! How fierce is this person!

Chapter 560: Singing Contrarian

The couple watching Chu Jin's disappearing figure were completely dumbstruck, and it took them a long time to come back to their senses.

After a while, the girl finally snapped out of it, involuntarily exclaiming three words, "So handsome!"

Li Zhen beside her touched his nose, realizing if this girl started to show off, he really wouldn't have any part in it!

"Don't space out, let me take you up first." Li Zhen took the initiative to grab her suitcase, imitating Chu Jin's manner. With a 'whoosh', he hoisted it onto his shoulder without a change in his facial expression, but his knees bent involuntarily. Damn, this suitcase was really too freaking heavy!

Did that lady use some kind of cheat just now?

Chu Jin successfully found her dormitory.

All the doors and windows of the dormitory were open.

Standing outside, she could hear the "swish swish" sound of sweeping from inside.

Chu Jin composed herself and then stepped inside.

A very standard four-person room, quite spacious. Everyone slept on the top bunks, while the bottom bunks were used for desks and cabinets and the like, with bookshelves, wardrobes, shoe cabinets, and the like, everything that was needed, and there was even a washing machine in the corner. Compared to other schools, the living environment could be said to be very good.

Chu Jin looked around the place with a calm expression and then pulled her suitcase to a stop in front of her bed.

Just then, the girl who was sweeping the floor turned around, looked at Chu Jin with a shy smile, "Hello, my name is Yin Wu, 'Yin' as in the 'Yin' from 'Yin Jifu', and 'Wu' as in the 'Wu' from 'the cry of the phoenix'. Please take good care of me in the future."

After speaking, she wiped her hands on her sides before reaching out to Chu Jin.

Yin Wu dressed simply, and her skin wasn't very fair. She had an oval face with ordinary looks, yet she had a head of black and shiny hair. Her smile was approachable, and at a glance, anyone could tell she was a girl with good upbringing.

Chu Jin smiled lightly, took her hand, and spoke softly, "Hello, I'm Chu Jin, 'Chu' as in 'Chu River and Han Border', 'Jin' as in 'beautiful scenery of mountains and rivers'. You can just call me by my name or Jin."

Coming to the big city for the first time, Yin Wu was a bit nervous, but her anxiety was quickly dispelled by Chu Jin's disarming smile.

Beautiful and unpretentious.

That was Yin Wu's first impression of Chu Jin.

The people of Capital City aren't as haughty as they're said to be online.

In an instant, Yin Wu's views of all the people in Capital City changed.

"Jin, you must be an art student, right?" Not only was she beautiful, but even her hands were perfect, delicate and boneless, fair and slender, with cool fingertips - clearly the hands of someone involved in art and painting.

Unlike her, who had been working on the farm for years, her hands were extremely rough. Having grown up in the countryside, the people around her were similar, and she had never really cared until now, when she suddenly understood the true meaning of delicate hands.

Chu Jin shook her head slightly, "I'm from the Hua Language and Literature Department, what about you?"

"Ah?" Yin Wu blinked in surprise, scratching her head, "I'm in the History Department. I came a day earlier than you, and I've already tidied everything up. If you need any help, just let me know, don't be shy."

Chu Jin politely expressed her thanks, "Okay, thank you. Actually, I don't have much stuff."

Yin Wu continued, "I cleaned the desk and the bed yesterday, so you don't have to wipe them again. Just arrange your things and you can be set. You do your thing, I'll go take out the trash."

As she finished speaking, she felt that her words might have been inappropriate. After all, the big city is different from the countryside; many people have a mania for cleanliness. Yin Wu added, "However, I might not have cleaned it thoroughly, so you can wipe it again if you want."

Yin Wu was a very clean and industrious girl. Not only had she swept the floor spotlessly, but every item in the dormitory had been wiped by her until it shone.

Chu Jin directly opened her suitcase and began placing her things one by one onto the desk, "It's very clean, you've worked hard."

In that moment, Yin Wu felt warmed by her response. She curled her lips into a smile, turned to go downstairs to take out the trash, not expecting to bump into someone as soon as she stepped out of the dormitory door.

To be precise, a group of people.

She had run into the girl at the front, spilling trash on both of them.

The girl stepped back before turning her face black with anger and snapped, "Oh, my god! Don't you look where you're going? Are you blind or what?"

Yin Wu quickly lowered his head to apologize, "I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to do that." As he spoke, he pulled out some tissues from his pocket and hastily wiped the bits of paper that had stuck to the girl's clothes.

"Don't touch me with your hands!" the girl screamed, unable to stand it.

Yin Wu immediately stopped his actions and sincerely apologized, "I'm sorry!"

The girl was about 19 years old, with fiery red lips, thick eyebrows, and big eyes, her exquisite makeup already disguising her natural features.

She was dressed in a limited edition Chanel suit, stepping on sharp heels, clutching a Chanel handbag, her nails painted with bright red Chanel polish, with diamonds inlaid on her nail caps, casting enchanting reflections in the sunlight.

She emanated an aura of noble and luxurious déjà vu.

Yin Wu subconsciously didn't dare to lift his eyes to look at her.

"Is 'sorry' useful?" The girl clearly did not accept Yin Wu's apology, she lifted her chin and said in an extremely arrogant tone, "If you hit someone to death with your car on the road, is it over just by saying 'sorry'?"

"I..." Yin Wu stepped back and bowed to her, "I really didn't mean it, please forgive me."

"Forget it, forget it," the girl lost her interest and waved her hand dismissively, patting her clothes, "Today is just my bad luck. Be more careful when you walk in the future. If there's a next time, I won't be this nice!"

"Thank you," Yin Wu bowed again.

The girl didn't look at her anymore and murmured "bad luck" before leading the group of people following her, strutting ahead confidently.

Yin Wu tidied up the trash, looked back inadvertently, and then her eyes widened in surprise!

The girl had actually entered her own dormitory.

She pursed her lips, paused for a moment, then picked up the trash and quickly walked downstairs.

When the girl entered the dormitory with a group of people, Chu Jin was tidying up her computer desk.

"You, you, you," she pointed at several people behind her one by one, "and you, can now go downstairs to bring up my stuff. And you and you, get this place disinfected, it's filthy!"

After speaking, she took another walk around the dormitory, pointing to her bed, "This iron bed is just too ugly! I'm not here to serve a sentence! Take it apart right now, then call the butler to get me a new one!"

"Of course, Miss!"

After the girl finished speaking, a chorus of deep and powerful voices came from behind her.

"Go ahead." She waved her hand gently, and the people behind her vanished, each attending to their tasks, followed by the noise of beds being taken apart.

Throughout this, Chu Jin stayed busy with her own things, without looking up at the girl even once.

If it were someone else, seeing such a display of power would at least raise some curiosity if not astonishment, right? But what about this person? She just kept calm the whole time, minding her own business as if she hadn't seen her at all.

The girl frowned slightly. You see, she enjoyed the envious looks from countless students as she arrived at school with her bodyguards.

She hoped to see that kind of envy in her new roommate's eyes as well.

But this person, why hadn't she lifted her head to take a single look at her from beginning to end?

Could she be deaf?

Chu Jin wore white earphones, sitting in front of the computer, her fingers tapping away on the keyboard. The girl stood right behind her, yet she couldn't make out the words on the computer screen.

The girl stood there, squinting at Chu Jin.

The person in front of her sat quietly. From her angle, she could just see her profile, long and thick eyelashes curling like little fans, lips red as if stained by blood, her profile as radiant as jade, and up close, not a single flaw could be found on her snow-like skin.

So delicate, it seemed like it might break at the slightest touch.

On that pure and flawless face, there were no traces of makeup.

Just from a profile view, she could be this beautiful; wouldn't she be even more astonishingly angelic if seen from the front?

However, many people only look good from the side, not so much from the front.

The girl slowly shifted her gaze and cleared her throat, saying, "Are you also a freshman? Living in this dorm room?"

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin removed her headphones and turned her head with a charming smile, her tone light, "Yes."

She was intentionally concealing her sharpness, which made her appear ethereal and harmless, giving a very comforting feeling.

The girl's pupils slightly contracted; even though she had mentally prepared herself, she was still taken aback by the person's appearance. She had seen countless beauties from childhood, but never one that dazzled like this!

Perhaps 'beauty' was no longer an adequate word to describe her.

But when the girl saw Chu Jin's clothing, she quietly breathed a sigh of relief—indeed, God was fair after all! What use was beauty? Living among nobility, she had seen too many young and pretty women cling to wealthy and powerful old men!

At least in material terms, she was one up on her.

Maybe, one day, she could introduce Chu Jin to some greasy, wealthy patron.

With this thought, the girl's unbalanced heart slowly adjusted. No money, no status, she was ultimately beneath her, posing no threat.

The girl tilted her chin up at her and spoke condescendingly, "Hello, I am Qiao Muyan."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin showed little expression and simply nodded slightly, "Hello, Chu Jin." Her voice was light but warm, like a refreshing breeze in April, delightfully new to the ears.

Qiao Muyan sneered inwardly; this Chu Jin was indeed an unworldly commoner who didn't even know of Qiao family's Little Princess, Qiao Muyan.

It was at this moment that Yin Wu, who had been taking out the trash downstairs, pushed the door open and entered.

Just as she entered the door.

A shrill female voice rang out in the air, "Stop right there!"

Yin Wu was so startled she froze on the spot, looking at Qiao Muyan, unsure of what to do.

Qiao Muyan glanced at her sideways, "Who allowed you to come in?"

"I, I live in this dorm room." Yin Wu replied in a low voice, confused as to why she always felt so insignificant in front of Qiao Muyan—perhaps it was their different upbringings, she always sensed an unapproachable oppressiveness about her.

Your superior birth determines your future.

She and Qiao Muyan were not from the same world; the cost of the clothes on Qiao Muyan alone could cover several years of her family's agricultural income back home.

Thus, she tried her best not to offend Qiao Muyan.

In Capital City, after all, power and status reigned supreme.

If she offended her, there would be no good ending for her.

Yin Wu had a very clear understanding of herself and was also clever, well aware of when to yield and when to stand firm.

"You live in this dorm too?" Qiao Muyan's face filled with incredulity! My God, how could the school arrange for her to live with someone like this?

While nodding, Yin Wu moved further into the dorm.

Qiao Muyan pinched her nose and stepped back several paces, pointing at the garbage can in her hand, "Take that thing out!"

"Ah?" Yin Wu was taken aback, somewhat baffled.

Qiao Muyan's brow furrowed, and she spoke in disgust, "You're from the countryside, aren't you!?"

"Yes," Yin Wu nodded, seemingly oblivious to the disgust in Qiao Muyan's tone, and said with a smile, "My home is in Little West Ditch, over a thousand kilometers away from Beijing."

She didn't think there was anything shameful about living in the countryside, so she didn't think much about Qiao Muyan's "You're from the countryside, aren't you?"

"Oh, my God!" Qiao Muyan cursed under her breath. The disdain in her eyes was intense. What was the school thinking? They actually arranged for her to share a dorm with a country bumpkin! She had never had any good experiences with rural people in all her life!

And now they expected her to live with one!

This was truly an insult to her!

But the good upbringing she had received since childhood was restraining Qiao Muyan, preventing her from swearing. Instead, she just took out a pack of women's cigarettes from her pocket, lit one, and began to puff.

If she had known it would be like this, she would have never come to Capital University!

Yin Wu was a smart person and at this point understood the implication in Qiao Muyan's words, so she said no more.

She turned and entered the washroom, recalling her mother's instructions before school. After splashing her face with cold water at the sink, she came out and bent down to take a red plastic bag out from a cabinet.

Inside the plastic bag were homemade raisins, like grapes in bunches. Though they didn't look as fresh and enticing as actual grapes, they had a sweet fragrance that was quite tempting.

She took out two bunches of raisins from the bag and slowly walked over to Qiao Muyan, smiling as she said, "Classmate Qiao, I'm really sorry for staining your clothes earlier. These raisins are from my hometown, sun-dried by my mom personally. Would you like to try some?"

Because everyone's bed had their name and student number, Yin Wu knew this was her third roommate, Qiao Muyan.

This gesture was merely an attempt to bridge their relationship, as they were going to live together for four years.

Qiao Muyan didn't reach out to take any, instead she looked up at Yin Wu with disdain and said, "In the future, just call me Miss Qiao. Thanks for your stuff, but I never eat products without a brand."

Qiao Muyan was very proud, tilting her chin up as if she were some savior, making everyone seem beneath her, and trampling on Yin Wu's self-esteem.

Yin Wu's hand remained frozen in mid-air, her face burning with shame, wishing she could just find a hole to crawl into. For the first time in her life, she felt so strongly that money was such an important thing.

Qiao Muyan was looking at her sideways, with a mocking curl of her lip.

A country bumpkin thought she could come and curry favor with her, what a dream! As if she didn't know her own social status!

It was laughable!

"I love pure natural green food," a pleasant female voice rang out next to Yin Wu, and then, a fair and slender hand took the raisins from her, "Little Wu, give me both bunches, you won't mind, will you?"

"No, not at all," Yin Wu came to her senses, slightly stunned as she turned to Chu Jin.

Chu Jin smiled, plucked a raisin and put it into her mouth. Instantly, a sweet taste spread across her taste buds, refreshing without being cloying, and she complimented, "These are delicious, your mother is quite skilled."

Yin Wu looked at her with eyes full of gratitude. "Thank you."

She was well aware that this kind-hearted girl was helping her out of an awkward situation.

"What silly things you're saying?" Chu Jin smiled lightly, "I should be the one thanking you for the raisins. By the way, didn't you come a day earlier than I did? Could you show me around the campus?"

And just like that, she effortlessly dissolved Yin Wu's embarrassment.

Yin Wu nodded and replied with a smile, "Sure."

Watching the two girls walk out of the dorm hand in hand, Qiao Muyan's brows furrowed deeply. Chu Jin had too much nerve, even that country bumpkin knew to suck up to her, and yet she dared to defy her! Knowing full well that she disliked that bumpkin, she still deliberately got so close to her! This was blatantly making an enemy of her!

Defying her, huh?

It was infuriating! Qiao Muyan felt her dignity was being challenged, biting her lip in anger. Never in her life had she been so humiliated!

"You two, hurry up!" Overcome with rage, Qiao Muyan could only vent her frustration on the two bodyguards dismantling the bed, "Dawdling like that, did you not eat or what?"