

The Growth 719

Chapter 719 1: He Bo's Return

In the blink of an eye, the National Day holiday was over.

On one side, Li Hao's incarnation at school was still attending classes, while on the other side, Huo Dou seemed a bit restless.

"So, you're saying you brought back another trouble?"

With a sheepish smile, He Bo explained to Huo Dou across from him, feeling a bit unsure.

"Well, it can't exactly be called trouble!"

"Wang Shu is an old friend of mine and a key force in the 749th Bureau."

"Back when I was a wandering child, she brought me back and supported me all the way through college."

Rolling his eyes, Huo Dou retorted irritably.

"So you know Wang Shu's identity, huh?"

"Don't you think it's quite unreasonable for someone of her high position to come to our small bureau as an agent?"

Huo Dou didn't believe that with He Bo's wisdom, he couldn't see through the mystery surrounding Wang Shu.

He didn't even need to open the third eye in his brow; from a distance, Huo Dou could smell the Ancient God aura on her.

Wang Shu is no mere possessor; she's a true Ancient God reborn in another body.

"Wang Shu's temper is a bit bad, often clashing with other higher-ups..."

"So her being demoted to our bureau as an agent isn't all that incomprehensible."

Even though he didn't believe it himself, He Bo's explanation successfully caught Huo Dou's skeptical attention.

"Wait, don't tell me you've fallen for her?"

Lowering his voice intentionally, Huo Dou raised an eyebrow and asked.

"I'm telling you, the gap in status between you two isn't minor."

Huo Dou's words had a double meaning, trusting that He Bo would understand.

The difference between an Ancient God and a mortal isn't just about status and power.

Not to mention, the lifespan difference alone is despairing.

Besides, Huo Dou speculated from a human perspective, it's hard not to suspect Wang Shu's approach to He Bo might have other motives.

After all, Li Hao's situation is an exception; not every Ancient God harbors goodwill towards humans.

Even the seemingly naive idiot like Hua She initially displayed the contempt of a qualified God toward other lives when meeting Meng Yao, Yao Xin, and even Li Hao.

Therefore, when an elephant deliberately approaches an ant, it can only mean that this ant has something the elephant covets.

"Since when did you become as gossipy as the Luo God?"

Avoiding answering Huo Dou's question directly, He Bo swiftly changed the topic.

"Rather than discuss my matters, isn't your situation more dangerous now?"

"I heard when I came that your current bureau is in a 'compliant but not submissive' state?"

"Forcing budget approvals, arbitrarily expanding staff, and even making a 180-degree shift in attitude towards abnormal matters..."

Saying 'compliant but not submissive' might be an exaggeration.

But there's not a bit of exaggeration in what He Bo described otherwise.

During his tenure as acting bureau chief, Huo Dou had taken his duties to the extreme within his scope of responsibility.

It's no exaggeration to say if Huo Dou managed a regular department, its door would likely already be broken down by regulatory authorities.

Even so, Huo Dou's path of ascent was essentially blocked.

Unless some earth-shattering event occurred in the future, the higher-ups would never grant Huo Dou more power.

Huo Dou, of course, didn't care about these things; he never took them to heart anyway.

The real headache was for He Bo, who originally intended to groom Huo Dou as his successor but now had to clean up his mess.

Realizing this made He Bo understand his image in those old friends' eyes.

Equally defiant, equally pretending to comply yet refusing inside...

He Bo even suspected that the reason Huo Dou hadn't been purged yet was because he set a precedent, raising the threshold in the minds of the higher-ups.

"I'm just doing what I believe is right."

"If you're just looking to cultivate an inheritor, I suggest finding someone new!"

"I think He Feng is not bad. He's your adopted son and has extraordinary potential. He should grow to handle things independently before you die."

Shrugging casually, Huo Dou's words left He Bo both furious and somewhat helpless.

By now, He Bo was virtually certain that Huo Dou had indeed discerned his little intentions, which was why he deliberately acted out in various outrageous ways.

"Let's not discuss this for now."

Forcing yet another topic shift, He Bo mentioned the current state of the Luo God.

"Have you been letting that Luo God girl go wild lately?"

"I recently checked her clock-in records, and the report numbers are ridiculously low."

"You know she already struggles with her studies, and now she's so idle. Are you planning for her to join the entertainment industry?"

As He Bo said this, Huo Dou, already sensing what was coming, turned his face away.

As anticipated, the development followed exactly as Huo Dou expected.

He Bo transformed into a nagging old maid, endlessly complaining about Huo Dou and the Luo God's various "accomplishments" during this time.

.....

Meanwhile, in the office next door.

"Xiao Luo, how long has it been since you reported to the agency?"

One hand stroking Ta Xuan's head, the other rubbing He Feng's hair...

Wang Shu merely glanced faintly at the Luo God across from her, scaring him to the point of trembling, losing all of his usual fearless demeanor.

After all, the Luo God may be a mischief-maker, but the woman across from her was the real demoness.

Especially when hearing the other directly call her by surname rather than stage name, Luo God knew she was truly angry this time.

"Say it! You've been living leisurely, haven't you?"

"Now that nobody controls you and you even have backing, have you completely forgotten about me?"

At these words, Luo God immediately shook her head to deny.

"No! How could I!"

"Sister Wang, I was just planning to report to the agency soon!"

"And I saw the texts from my agent too. I was going to attend that audition in a couple of days..."

Before Luo God could finish her excuse, Wang Shu put down the cat and He Feng, stepping right in front of her.

"Go on..."

"If you come up with a good reason, maybe I might reduce your punishment."