

Rebirth Of The Urban Immortal Cultivator

Chapter 21: The Mighty Linbao

When dusk arrived, the group of seven people took a speedboat to the small island in the center of Yangui Lake.

The island was only the size of a few football fields. However, it was filled to the brim with hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues. This was one of the most expensive places to spend the night in Chu Zhou City.

“Linhao had chosen a convenient spot for him to escape.” Master Guo looked around the island and then said.

“We have you with us this time; he won’t get away. Haha!” Zhou Tianhao laughed.

“Better, be prepared than sorry.” Guo Wei nodded, but the smug smile on his face had betrayed him. Being unchallenged for over ten years, Guo Wei had already gotten used to easy victories. Whether or not the opponent was really an Internal Force user was yet to be seen, and Guo Wei was not concerned about the clash with Linbao at all.

The place where they were supposed to meet was called the Egret House. Zhou Tianhao had rented the entire building for the night and had set up an ambush with hired bodyguards.

So shrewd was Zhou Tianhao that he would never put all of his eggs in one basket.

When they arrived on the third floor, Guo Wei sat down on a sofa. A waitress hurried to fill his teacup with tea. Her hands were trembling out of fear, nearly spilling the tea. The deadly quietness inside the Egret House was a stark contrast with the din outside.

Chen Fan sipped his tea and while appreciating the aesthetics of the traditional style tea house. If not for his duty, he would love to walk to the balcony and enjoy the view of the lake while savoring a cup of tea.

The group waited until midnight, and most people were getting impatient. Guo Wei suddenly announced with a deep, urgent voice:

“Someone is coming.”

Even before Guo Wei’s words receded, a wave of commotion rose from downstairs. Soon Chen Fan heard painful cries and howls, and a few seconds later, all the noise

disappeared. Knowing their opponent was coming, the group on the third floor looked at each other uneasily.

They heard someone coming up the stairs; his footsteps were light but steady.

Zhou Tianhao swallowed hard. He had dispatched over a dozen capable bodyguards downstairs. Did they all get finished so quickly?

Finally, he realized that he had once again underestimated the strength of LinBao.

In a matter of seconds, the footsteps reached the landing on the third floor. Chen Fan looked to the entrance and saw a man in a black exercise suit and a pair of black kung-fu shoes. His face was disfigured by a large scar that ran across his face, which made him look all that much more terrifying.

"How are you doing, Boss Zhou? Why that face? Aren't you happy to see your old friend?" Linbao came over to Zhou Tianhao and sat down on the sofa across Zhou Tianhao. All the while, his face held a cold sneer as he fixed his eyes on his prey.

Zhou Tianhao managed to gather himself and said, "Linbao, why did you come back? Haven't you learned your lesson?"

"Oh, I have! Look at the scar on my face; I wore it like a badge of honor every day." Linbao said pulled the skin on his face, making the disfigurement look even more morbid. That was why I went outside of the country and started learning kung-fu. "

"Can't we sit down and talk?" Zhou Tianhao said placatingly.

"Why yes! But you will have to go bankrupt first." Lin Bao sneered.

"There is no other way around it?" Zhou Tianhao asked under his breath. "You know you can't win every fight even if you have learned how to use Internal Force."

"Oh? You know about the Internal Force as well?" Linbao looked at Zhou Tianhao surprised. He snorted and then continued, "Since you know of the Internal Forces, why don't you tell your dogs to lay down their weapons? "

"Haha, Linbao, do you think that you are the only one who could use the Internal Force?" Zhou Tianhao laughed. He slammed the table heavily and then said, "Master Guo, it's all yours now."

Guo Wei nodded and said to the young man standing next to him, "Dongshan, finish him."

The young man in a tight-fitting training shirt nodded and came up to Linbao and saluted him.

"Dongshan is my senior disciple, and he has been learning by my side for over a decade. He should be more than enough to overcome Linbao." Guo Wei said confidently.

"Haha, is this boy your cannon fodder?" Linbao laughed. He scanned Dongshan for a few seconds and then said: "Get out of my way, kid. You are still at the Entry level. I don't want to kill you."

"You are courting death!" Dongshan was a hotheaded young man, and he threw himself at his opponent.

Everything happened so fast that Zhou Tianhao saw only two shadows converging toward each other. At the moment of impact, one of the shadows bounced off of the other and was sent flying back until it hit the wall. The impact had shaken the traditional-style building.

"Dongshan!" Guo Wei shouted, and his face paled as soon as he saw the two collided.

It wasn't until then that most people realized that the person who got sent flying was Dongshan.

As the young man collapsed lifelessly onto the ground, people noticed a fist-sized depression on his chest.

"Your apprentice has fainted, now it's your turn." Linbao grinned, his eyes held a dark luster that intended to kill.

Guo Wei felt his heart had sunken to his belly. This development had taken the wind out of his sails. Dongshan was the strongest of his disciples, but he couldn't even take a single punch from the opponent. It was very likely that Linbao was much more powerful than him.

The die had been cast; with no way out, Guo Wei would have to face Linbao on his own.

Guo Wei slowly stood up and made his way to Linbao under many pairs of expectant eyes. The martial arts master said:

"I am the master of the Wei Shen martial arts school. Expert of the Xing Yi Fist. People call me Guo Wei the Xing Yi Master. May I have the honor of knowing who your teacher is?"

"Stopping wasting my time. All my teachers are outside of the country and have nothing to do with what's going on here. Let's just do it and get it over with!" Linbao said coldly.

“How arrogant!” Guo Wei flung back at Linbao as he started channeling his Internal Force. Even though Guo Wei knew that his opponent had an advantage in terms of power, Linbao’s arrogant remark riled him up.

“BOOM! Kaboom!”

When the two started fighting, the spectators could only see two black shadows that intertwined with each other into a fast-moving shadowy ball. Every punch and kick would stir up the air and send a powerful wave of energy out from the center of this chaos. In a blink, vases, tables, chairs, and even the sofas were shredded into pieces from collateral damage.

“This is the power of internal force? It is terrifying!” Zhou Tianhao felt cold sweat gliding down the middle of his back.

He finally knew how naive and arrogant he had been. The successful years in the Chu Zhou City had made him soft, and he grew distant from the real world. While he was convinced that no one would harm him, people with incredible power that could squash him like a bug were all around him.

“After this was over, I really need a bodyguard who knows Internal Force. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be able to fall asleep at night ever again.” He told himself. Meanwhile, he wished that Master Guo would win the fight so that he could live to see tomorrow.

Suddenly, a loud noise jerked his mind out of his thoughts. The two fighters had disengaged from each other. One of them still stood unwavering, while the other seemed unsteady.

Everyone was shocked when they realized that the one who got the worst of the fight was Guo Wei.

Master Guo’s body trembled uncontrollably. There was a hint of blood at the corner of his mouth, but he didn’t wipe it away. Master Guo gave his opponent an ugly grin and then said, “I have underestimated your strength. You have already reached the state of Phenomenal Success. Congrats.”

Lin Bao was only slightly winded after the brutal battle. He stood haughtily and then said:

“You will never grow quickly if you keep on hiding under a rock. I have been fortunate enough to find a martial arts grandmaster outside of China, and I have studied under him for over a decade. Under his guidance, I practiced day and night, and I have finally reached the Phenomenal Success stage. City life makes you soft, and soft you are. You have claimed to have practiced Internal Force for so many years, yet, you have only achieved the Initial Success. Even if you could catch up on your training, I will still beat you in a battle.”

“You studied under a grandmaster? No wonder...” Guo Wei’s face paled, and he heaved a sigh of resignation.

Zhou Tianhao was devastated by the turn of events, seeing Linbao had turned his attention back on him, he shouted, “Now!”

The two bodyguards behind him were hired with a large sum of money. They were the elites among bodyguards and were also Zhou Tianhao’s last line of defense.

Both bodyguards reached for their guns; but before either of them had the change to aim at their enemy, Linbao picked up a pair of chopsticks and threw them at the two guns. The chopsticks struck home as they landed squarely at the gunner’s hands.

“AHRR!”

The two gunners let out pained cries as they dropped their weapons on the floor. Both of their hands were skewered by long chopsticks.

It had been less than ten minutes since Linbao had shown up, and he had already defeated most of Zhou Tianhao’s guards. The only two people who were unharmed by Linbao were the crippled A-Biao and Chen Fan who was still enjoying the expensive tea.

Linhao didn’t pay much attention to the two as he walked straight to Zhou Tianhao.

With every step Linbao took, more blood drained away from Zhou Tianhao’s face. His legs trembled, but he still resisted giving in.

“Brother Lin, let the past go. It was nothing personal, you know. I was just doing what’s best for the business. Well, look at yourself now. You have made yourself a master in martial arts! Why don’t you join me? I will give you half of my assets. What did you say?”

“Hehe, do you really think that I am after your money?” Lin Bao’s did not stop closing in.

A-Biao moved to protect Zhou Tianhao, and he was knocked to the ground by a lazy sweep of hand from Linbao.

“I have been overseas for so many years and have made no less money than you. Zhou Tianhao, you have been living under a rock all the while.” Linbao finally came up to him; he gently smacked Zhou Tianhao’s face the back of his hand.

“Brother Lin, Brother! I am sorry. I am SO sorry!” Zhou Tianhao was finally on his last leg, “You know that I work for the Wei family right? I-I work for Wei San-ye. If you kill me, Wei San-ye will not let you get away with it.”

“The Wei family? Wow, I am so scared.” Linbao said sarcastically. “If I beat you up right now and take the next flight out of China, what do you think the Wei Family could do to me?”

“Please, please, Brother Linbao! Let me live; I have learned my lesson. PLEASE.” Taken over by fear, Zhou Tianhao finally gave in. He dropped both knees to the ground and Kowtow to Linbao.

However powerful and ruthless Zhou Tianhao had been as a thuggish boss, he feared death more than anyone else. Having gotten used to the taste of comfort and pleasure, the thought of suffering was even more terrifying.

“Ha ha ha.” Linbao laughed. Seeing his rival had finally kneeled in front of him and begged him to spare his life like a wounded dog, he suddenly felt lighthearted and let the memories of the bad blood between him, and Zhou Tianhao evaporate.

Guo Wei cupped his chest with one hand and wanted to save his employer, but failed to gather enough strength to even stand up. He lamented in his mind: “It’s all my fault; we were defeated because of my oversight.”

A-Biao lay on his belly and struggled to get up but to no avail. Seeing that his boss got down on his knees and begged Linbao, he felt guilty for being unable to protect Zhou Tianhao. If he knew this was going to happen, he would have heeded his teacher’s words and learned to use internal force.

Suddenly, Zhou Tianhao heard a young voice coming behind him: “Zhou Tianhao, I will save you for 10 million yuan. Do we have a deal?”

Chapter 22: Deadly Breath

“Who is that?”

Lin Bao stopped laughing, then looked toward the speaker.

He saw a handsome young boy standing by the window. But he could only see his back since the boy was looking out of the window as if he was enjoying the view of the lake despite the fighting around him.

“Who are you?”

Linhao raised a brow. He had seen this young man when he first got here; he didn’t pay too much attention to him since he was too busy dealing with Guo Wei, Zhou Tianhao and the two gunners.

The fact that the boy dared get involved even after he had displayed his strength told Linbao that this boy had something up his sleeves.

Linbao had been living overseas for many years and had survived many perilous situations thanks to not only his martial arts skills but also sharp wits. Even though the boy in front of him looked ordinary, he wouldn't risk it and lower his guard.

"What do you say, Zhou Tianhao? If we have a deal, I will help you finish off this scar-faced dude!" Chen Fan pressed on.

Zhou Tianhao was shocked by Chen Fan's sudden proposal. His knees seemed to have glued to the floor as he was not sure whether he should agree to the deal or not.

Zhou Tianhao's mind raced. Part of him told him that it was impossible for the boy to save him after Master Guo and the two gunmen had failed, while part of him wanted to believe that however unlikely it was, the boy could be his savior. After all, he was a drowning man, and Chen Fan was the last piece of drift that he could hold on to.

"Oh? Finish me up, you said? Ha-ha!" Despite Linbao's cautious nature, he couldn't help but get riled up by the boy's arrogant remark. Anger contorted his disfigured face, making it look even scarier.

Chen Fan turned around and gave Linbao a look:

"Yes. What level are you at right now? Phenomenal Success? What a joke. Even your teacher might not be able to handle me much less you."

"You asked for it!" Linbao's face suddenly hardened as murderous intent burning in his eyes.

In Linbao's mind, his teacher was so powerful that he might as well be an immortal. He had seen his teacher defeating his opponents with ease while being outnumbered a hundred to one. Regardless of the kind of situation he was in, he could always get out of it unharmed. Thanks to his power, Linbao's teacher was widely respected among overseas Chinese. Linbao was resolved to make the boy pay for his arrogant remark.

"I will chop you into pieces and feed you to the fish in the lake!" LinBao uttered his threat one word at a time, murderous intent in his words made everyone's hair stand on end.

Even Guo Wei couldn't help but grimace at Chen Fan's provocation. "What the hell is this boy doing? Didn't he see how powerful Linbao was?"

A-Biao was outright stunned by Chen Fan's conceit. He knew that Chen Fan was a fearless teenager, but he didn't expect him to be suicidal too.

He watched as Chen Fan got up and said thinly: "Oh, really?"

Before his voice faded, he reached out of the window and snatched something in the wind. Without revealing what was between his fingers, he glided the fingers across his chest as if it were a blade. Suddenly, he yanked his arm, pointed the fingers at Linbao.

A white light spurred out in between his fingers and shot at Linbao. As it traveled through the air, it also carved a groove in the floor.

“Swoosh!”

The table in between Linbao and Chen Fan was sliced into two halves. The cut was so slick that it was almost reflective. The expensive carpet on was also tearing itself open at the seam, opening a long slit that extended all the way to under Linbao’s feet.

Everyone, including Linbao, was shocked by the development.

No one spoke a word as they looked at the ugly scar on the carpet incredulously.

“Shit, is this boy an immortal?” A-Biao’s mouth gaped wide in shock, his voice trembled.

However powerful and swift Guo Wei and Linbao were, their abilities were still within the range of human capability. That was not the case for Chen Fan. No human was able to summon such a deadly force out of thin air to slice through a heavy oaken table and tear apart a thick carpet.

“This is not magic; this is a plus of Internal Force!” Guo Wei stared at the ruined floor and exclaimed.

“I have heard that martial arts grandmasters can disarm their opponents from ten feet away. I always thought it was just a legend. But I finally saw it with my own eyes!”

Suddenly, Linbao turned on his heels and ran toward the exit.

Linhao knew he needed to bug out as soon as he saw Chen Fan turn the parcel of air in between his finger into a sharp blade.

He came back to China to seek revenge, but he had found something else: A Transcendent Master.

Since his teacher was a grandmaster, he had heard all kinds of unimaginable abilities of a Transcendent Master. They could reshape the air flow and turn them into sharp and deadly weapons. Linbao knew that the Transcendent Master would be able to easily defeat him even if he joined forces with ten other fighters as powerful as he was.

“Incredible! His power was already on par of a Transcendent Master, yet he is so young! Even for someone who was as talented as my teacher, it had taken him five decades to reach the Transcendent State. No, I have to let my teacher know about this boy!”

So thinking, Linbao picked up his speed. However, he heard Chen Fan's cold voice behind him: "Don't you think it's too late to call it quits?"

Chen Fan drew large gulp of air, puffing his chest up, and then blew all those stored air out of his lungs.

A ray of creamy white light formed in the air and shot at Linbao like a bullet. The white light glided across the air with incredible speed, and it landed squarely at the back of Linbao's back.

Linhao felt he was dealt a blow by a giant hammer from behind. Suddenly, his world turned dark as he lost balance. After he stumbled a few feet, he hit a wall and collapsed to the ground.

"He formed the plus of the Internal Forces by breathing into the air! How ingenious!" Guo Wei spoke in a trembling voice.

By then, he had no more doubts about the power of this boy.

Although he looked like a high school kid, he had already reached the precipice of martial arts: Transcendent State.

Without seeing it for himself, he would never have believed that a teenage boy would be a Transcendent Master. Even a grandmaster who was under thirty would be considered one in a hundred-year talent, much less a high school boy being the Transcendent Master."

Zhou Tianhao finally managed to gather himself and struggled to his feet. He hurried to Linbao who was still paralyzed by pain, and then he kicked him in the side with an ugly grin.

"Asshole! If I could destroy you years ago, I can do it again now! Hahaha. I will fucking kill you!"

Suddenly, there was a faint voice rose behind him: "Linhao is not dead yet; he simply passed out. Don't wake him up."

Zhou Tianhao's face suddenly paled, and the smile on his face evaporated as quickly as it had appeared.

He turned around and said, "Brother Chen, no, no, I mean Master Chen. Why don't you kill him then?"

Chen Fan rolled his eyes and said: "You have seen how tough he is. How am I supposed to kill him with a single breath?"

He then walked to Linbao and slapped his body calculatedly at a few spots, “Well, I have already dissolved his Qi Sea. He should not be able to use his internal force for a while. I will leave him to you now.”

“Yes, yes, Master Chen! I am in debt to you!” Zhou Tianhao said with a toady smile. The sight of the middle-aged man fawning over a teenage boy made others cringe.

Little did the others know that the secret to Zhou Tianhao’s success in such a tough environment was his shameless brown-nosing skills. He was resolved to keep Chen Fan close to him.

With such a powerful ally on his side, he would never have to worry about pesky martial artists who sought troubles and revenge.

“To hurt me, they would have to cross Master Chen first.” Zhou Tianhao thought to himself.

“Master Chen, are you sure that breaking his Qi Sea would be able to prevent him from using Inner Force?” Guo Wei asked.

The Internal Force in the real world was very different than that in Wu Xia novels. Unlike the popular troupe in TV shows, the Qi in real life was not gathered together in Dantian. Therefore, in theory, there was no effective way to stop the flow of the Internal Forces inside of one’s system.

“Yes. I have used a unique method to block a few critical Qi points on his body so that the Qi in his system would not conjoin.” Chen Fan explained.

Guo Wei was shocked by the revelation. What was the so-called “Critical Qi points?” Why did it sound more and more like a TV trope?

The less Guo Wei understood, the more he started to respect the boy.

“Well, I have fulfilled my end of the bargain; now, it’s your turn.” Chen Fan said with a smile.

“Bargain?” Zhou Tianhao paused a second, and then he slapped his head heavily. “Ah-Right! Our deal!”

“You can rest assured, Master Chen; I will not short on even a penny of that ten million. As a matter of fact, I will double the reward, and I will have the money delivered to you in person!” Zhou Tianhao pounded his chest as he made the promise.

Although ten million was not a small number, he felt the price was well worth it.

An ally such as Chen Fan would be worth more than a trillion much less ten million.

Even Linbao was able to use his talent and accumulate a large amount of wealth; it was hard to imagine the tremendous benefit that Zhou Tianhao was going to get by allying with Chen Fan.

Linhao finally regained consciousness, and he gave Chen Fan an ugly grin.

“I have been defeated today. But I have to warn you that if you kill me, my teacher will unleash his wrath on you!”

Chen Fan cast a curious glance at Linbao, and then he asked, “You mean the Transcendent Master?”

Linhao nodded. However, Chen Fan was unfazed by the threat, he smiled and said: “All the better! I have never seen a Transcendent Master before, but I hope he is not going to disappoint me.”

Chen Fan walked away as soon as he had finished his words.

“Now that’s a real master!” A-Biao exclaimed. He wished that one day, he could be like Chen fan as well.

Chapter 23: Commotions in the Gym

Sitting on the ship that ferried him across the lake back to the shore, Chen Fan heaved a sigh of relief.

“In the future, I should refrain from using these flashy moves. That one attack had used up one-third of my True Essence.”

The move was sleek and swift, shaping air into a blade in the blink of an eye. However impressive it looked, it also came at a very high cost of energy. This attack could only be used by those who had already reached the mid-stage of the Foundation Establishment Level. Even if he was able to wield the technique, he could only use it once or twice.

“If not to convince Zhou Tianhao of my power, I would never have used such a wasteful technique. One arcane spell would be enough to pound Linbao into pulp.” Chen Fan shook his head as he lamented.

“Once I have reached the Ethereal Enlightenment and finished compiling my sword tome, I should be able to summon over ten blade auras at the same time. Even a single ray of the blade aura would be much more powerful than the pulse of the True Essence I had unleashed.”

As Chen Fan thought about his next move, he found that the ship had already reached the shore.

The next morning, Zhou Tianhao had personally come to his door and handed over to him a bank card with 20 million yuan credits: a reward for Chen Fan's help last night.

Chen Fan's mood was unaffected by such a sudden surge of wealth. In the eyes of a cultivator, money was just a string of numbers.

Around noon, Chang Wen came up to Chen Fan again and asked him to help out the school basketball team.

This time Chen Fan refused the request.

"What did you say? I am not asking you; it's an order!" Chang Wen said hotly.

"I said I am not going with you. Let the basketball interest group handle their own chores." Chen Fan flung back at her.

He agreed to help out last time for the sake of team building. But after he had heard the conceited remark Chang Wen made about him, Chen Fan decided that he would never help her out ever again.

Chang Wen had thought that Chen Fan was already gone when she gave the ungracious remark about Chen Fan. Little did she know that all cultivators possessed extremely sensitive hearing and Chen Fan had heard every single word loud and clear.

"You are really not going?" Chang Wen's eyebrows knitted together as anger rolled through her. She shot Chen Fan a cold glance.

"No means no!" A few words managed to escape Chen Fan's tight jaws.

"Are you saying that you don't care about the school's interest group?" Chang Wen asked hotly.

She was born in a wealthy family, and god had favored her so much that she had not only a pretty face but also a smart brain. Since childhood, she was surrounded by a boy's attention, just like a princess. Only someone as handsome and outstanding as Si Yingxia could have tugged her heartstrings ever so slightly. Therefore, she had never taken the ordinary new-boy seriously.

Chen Fan didn't want to waste any more breath on the girl, so he ignored her and buried his head in his book.

"Hey loser, she is asking you a question!" A tall boy rose from the front row and walked over to Chen Fan with an angry gaze.

His name is Ji Xingyu, a member of the sports committee, as well as a substitute player on the school basketball team. He took the honor and reputation of the school basketball team very seriously.

Si Yinxia also noticed the commotion, so he looked at this direction with a scowl.

“So what?” Chen Fan looked up at him with a fake smile.

“You...” Ji Xingyu’s face flushed red and was about to raise his hand to the new boy.

Jiang Tanqiu quickly held him back from behind.

“Brother Yu, Brother Yu! Give me face and don’t hurt him. He is just a silly transfer student; a country boy, that’s all! Don’t even be angered by him; he isn’t worth your time.”

After having placated Ji Xingyu, he berated Chen Fan: “Get your ass out of your chair, I will go fetch the drinks with you! Come on!”

“I am not going, suit yourself if you are so eager to help out.” Chen Fan said calmly, and he rested his back against the back of his chair.

“You think you are special, don’t you, new boy?” Ji Xingyu was amused by Chen Fan’s stubbornness. He then said in a threatening voice: “I wager you already know what happened to the last guy who didn’t respect the school team. I hope you won’t follow his example.”

“Try me.” Chen Fan’s voice was almost lazy.

Everyone was shocked by the boy’s calm reply.

They knew that the school basketball team was not to be messed with. Those boys were not only tall and big, but they were also the cream of the crop at the Ivy League High School. Therefore, no one in their right mind would stand in their way.

“Who would think that the new-boy is so full of himself.”

“He is feisty, so what? Does he have the clout to back himself up?”

“Touche, He needs a mirror to look at himself. How dare he cross Ji Xingyu and Chang Wen.”

Manny people gloated at Chen Fan impending misfortune.

Ever since school started, Chen Fan had been mostly keeping things to himself. His reticent nature had further isolated himself; in other words, he had no friends, except for

Jiang Taniu. Therefore, when Chen Fan and Ji Xingyu were at it, no one had stood up for him. After seeing Chen Fan's stubbornness, even Jiang Tanqiu had given up on his rescue mission.

On that day, the last class was the Taekwondo. It was an elective class, and whoever took this class would have to pay extra fees for the instructor and uniforms.

The leaders of Ivy League High School harbored the great ambitions of exposing their students to international education standards. Therefore, the gym class was reshaped into different sub-categories such as swimming, track and track, and Taekwondo. Chen Fan was interested in none of those subjects, and therefore he decided to pack his books up and leave for work right away.

Although he didn't like Boss Yang, he got along with the rest of his coworkers.

Before Chen Fan could make it out of the classroom, someone blocked his way.

"Hey, where are you going, tough guy? Why aren't you taking the Taekwondo class?" Ji Xingyu said with a smiley mask.

"None of your business." Chen Fan raised his eyebrows.

"Ow... Are you so poor that you can't even afford the extra fee? Don't worry; I will pay it for you." Ji Xingyu said sarcastically.

"Well—" Even as Chen Fan's eyes grew icy cold, someone else caught his attention. It was Chang Wen, the class leader, and she had approached them.

She gave Chen Fan an icy glance and then said: "It has come to my attention that you have been late in the mornings and you leave school in the afternoon before anyone else did. If you dare skip the Taekwondo class, I will let Miss Xue know about your actions."

"Oh?" Chen Fan looked at the two classmates as he weighed his options. Finally, he slowly loosened his knitted brows.

"Sure, sure! I will go to the class!"

The Taekwondo Hall at the Ivy League High School was very spacious and was fully decked out with all kinds of decorations.

The Taekwondo class was held for students from all classes and even those in tenth and eleventh grades.

Jiang Tanqiu filled Chen Fan in about the school Taekwondo team: "Our Taekwondo team is very famous. The founder had won the second prize in a National Taekwondo

Competition. He is a fifth-dan-black-belt. You have to see him when he is in action. He kicks ass!"

He turned to look at Chen Fan and then heaved a sigh.

"You better be careful. Ji Xingyu would not drag you to the Taekwondo class for no reason. He is a blue belt. Maybe he is trying to find a chance to get back at you. Just ignore him when he starts to act like a jerk."

Chen Fan nodded and smiled back at Jiang Tanqiu for his heads up.

The coach came up to them, and Jiang Tanqiu hurried to his feet and bowed deeply at him.

The coach was a second-dan-black-belt. After having led the warm-up exercise, he announced that it was time for sparing.

"Si Yinxia, Please demonstrate the move to everyone," the coach ordered.

Si Yinxia nodded expressionlessly and then broke rank with his classmates.

Chen Fan noticed that his belt was red.

The red belt is second only to the black belt in Taekwondo's ranking system. Red meant danger and aggression. It was an acknowledgment to the practitioner's dedication and years of hard work.

The coach then assigned Si Yinxia an opponent: a blue belt student. The two were to spar with each other while Si Yinxia demonstrates the set of new moves.

The blue belt was one rank lower than the red belt. It required at least one year of hard work. However, Si Yinxia was able to land a roundhouse kick at his opponent and ended the sparing after just ten cautious exchanges of blows.

"I submit!" The blue belt that got sent flying by the kick was Ji Xingyu. He struggled to his feet and raised both hands above his head.

"Si Yinxia had been practicing Taekwondo ever since he was a child." A beautiful girl proudly proclaimed the other girls around her.

"No kidding. Si Yinxia is the best!" Another girl chimed in.

A swell of cheers and applause rose in the gym. The pupils of many girls from the tenth and eleventh grades had already turned into little hearts. When they heard that the boy was the most excellent student in the twelfth grade, their hearts almost skipped a beat.

Si Yinxia seemed unimpressed with his easy victory. He knitted his brows and said, "You have been slacking off. Otherwise, we could fight a little longer."

Ji Xingyu smile mischievously and then said, "I don't take it as seriously as you do."

"Si Yinxia should challenge the black belt so that we could take his red belt spot."

"Who else wants to practice with him?" The coach asked the students with a broad smile. He was very pleased by Si Yinxia's improvement.

"If not, then find your partner and practice with each other."

"Oh fuck!" The boy who was chosen as Si Yinxia's partner grimaced as every one gloated at his luck.

Ji Xingyu was considered the second most powerful Taekwondo fighter right after Si Yinxia among all seven or so blue-belts.

Suddenly, Ji Xingyu raised his hand and asked loudly: "Coach, before we practice with our partners, can I challenge someone else?"

He then looked toward the corner and then said:

"Chen Fan, will you accept my challenge? Let's settle our score the old way."

Everyone looked toward the corner, and they saw a teenager sitting all by himself.

It was Chen Fan, and his belt was white.

Chapter 24: Defeat Ji Xingyu

In the Taekwondo's ranking system, the ranks were denoted by the colors of the belt, and the ranks were as followed: white, yellow, green, blue, red and black, The black belt was the highest rank and the white belt the lowest. In addition, the black belt was further divided into seven "Dans." Once a black belt reached the second dan, the practice would have earned the right to open a Taekwondo school.

Chen Fan's white belt meant that he was a newbie in Taekwondo

"Why does Ji Xingyu challenge a white belt?"

"No kidding! A blue belt up against a white belt, this is not a fair fight."

"Isn't he the transfer student who had ticked off Ji Xingyu?"

Many people were curious about Ji Yingyu's decision. Most of the students at Ivy League Middle School had joined the Taekwondo class either during semesters or summer break. Therefore, it was not uncommon to find someone who was still in the rank of white-belt, such as Chen Fan.

Even the students from 10th and 11th grades were also confused by the development.

Only those who had seen the confrontation between Chen Fan and Ji Xingyu this afternoon knew what was going on. Most of those people were on Ji Xingyu's side.

The coach furrowed his brows and said:

"Are you sure you want to challenge this new student?"

and then he turned to look at Chen Fan and then said:

"Since your rank is way below his, you have the right to refuse the challenge."

Ji Xingyu looked at Chen Fan expectantly. He taunted: "Hey, Kid! Are you afraid? Why don't you come up here, and let's duke it out!"

Si Yinxia knitted his brows and was going to put a stop to this folly. However, Chang Wen stopped him.

"I don't know taekwondo." Chen Fan shook his head.

"That's fine; you can use whatever fighting style you know." Ji Xingyu said confidently.

"Oh?" Chen Fan managed a smile and then said, "So you are not going to change your mind?"

"No. Are you afraid?" Ji Xingyu pointed to his puffed chest and asked.

"If you are afraid of me, then be quiet next time. This is the Ivy League High School, not your little backwater country county. Chen Fan snorted and then said, "Yes, I am afraid. But what I am afraid of is that I would hurt you."

"You will hurt me?" Ji Xingyu wondered if he had heard the boy's words correctly.

He turned around and shouted to the people around him: "This kid said that he was going to hurt me. Isn't that funny?"

Everyone laughed with Ji Xingyu for Chen Fan's absurd claim.

"He is a nut job! He thinks Ji Xingyu is not a worthy opponent!"

“Ji Xingyu is the second best fighter in our class. No one other than Si Yinxia would be so confident in a fight against him.”

“Maybe he is a hidden martial arts master? Haha!”

Sensing the commotion, many students passed their exercise and joined the already swelling ranks of onlookers.

Seeing the new-boy was much smaller and shorter than the hulking blue-belt, most of the audience naturally felt sympathetic for Chen Fan.

However, Chen Fan’s arrogant remarks didn’t sit well with his sympathizers, and many of them switched sides.

Those who have practiced Taekwondo knew that although the color of the belt did not always dictate the outcome of a fight, the gap between a white belt and a blue belt was unbridgeable. Chen Fan was doomed to fail in this match unless he had received other forms of martial arts training elsewhere.

“Come on. Let me fix you up.” Ji Xingyu gestured a provocation at Chen Fan with a hooked finger.

He posed in a standard starting stance in Taekwondo and then volleyed two back-flip-flash-kicks in the air. His snappy and overbearing movement had paled many of girl’s faces.

After gathered himself, he gave Chen Fan a look that read, “You are fucked.”

To his surprise, Chen Fan was unfazed by the display of skills; he simply snorted and then said, “What a pretty move.”

Once Chen Fan blurted out his sarcastic remark, the words stabbed at not only Ji Xingyu, but also at Coach Wu and Si Yingxia. It was not only an insult to one person, but also the Taekwondo community as a whole.

By then, the final shred of sympathy the onlookers had for Chen Fan had disappeared.

No one would sympathize with a weakling who readily threw arrogant insults to invite trouble.

“Go, teach him a lesson!” Someone shouted.

“Kid, you are courting death.”

Unable to suppress his anger, Ji Xingyu threw himself at Chen Fan.

Chen Fan noticed that Ji Xingyu's movement was much faster and more powerful than that of an ordinary person. If he were to land a kick on the head of his opponent, it would be an instant knockout.

However, Chen Fan knew that Ji Xingyu was even weaker than A-Biao much less the elderly man's granddaughter: Wei Ziqin.

Chen Fan linked hands behind his back and evaded a few roundhouse kicks and knee bashes.

Seeing his opponent's hostility, Chen Fan let out a deep growl and lifted his one leg high up into the air before he slammed it down like a giant ax.

Ji Xingyu was not prepared for the sudden counter-attack. He threw two arms out to cushion to blow, but the force of the strike went straight through his arm and collapsed him down to his floor.

Fortunately, the ground was padded cushion. Otherwise, he would have to stay in bed for at least six months.

"WHAT!"

The audience was thrown into disarray by the development.

Jiang Tanqiu was so shocked that he thought his eyeballs were going to pop out.

He had been convinced that Chen Fan was doomed, but he had defeated Ji Xingyu with a single kick.

"I told you Ji Xingyu was overrated. He couldn't even finish off a newbie."

"This new-boy kicks some ass!"

The audience was filled with excitement and surprise. They had already started to view Chen Fan under a very different light.

As reality set in, the audience had to admit that they were wrong. Chen Fan was not a worthless charlatan. Otherwise, he would not be able to defeat Ji Xingyu.

Surprise and confusion were written all over Chang Wen's face. Never had she thought that Chen Fan could win the match so easily.

"Ji Xingyu had always boasted his strength in front of me, but he is weaker than a puddle of water. How dare he fool me to think that he was the second best fighter in the class?" Chang Wen complained to herself.

Si Yinxia, on the other hand, remained calm, but the furrow in his brows deepened.

He walked over to Ji Xingyu and noticed that he had passed out but was unharmed. He then turned around to Chen Fan and castigated him:

“We are all classmates and share the same classroom. Why did you attack him so heavy-handedly.”

“He started it first. It’s just a kick, no big deal.” Chen Fan replied lightly.

Si Yinxia suddenly felt at a loss for words.

He registered that Chen Fan could have landed that kick on Ji Xingyu’s head, but he didn’t. Although such kick would cause only minor injury to an ordinary person, Ji Xingyu’s hulking frame and heavyweight meant that such an attack would give him a severe brain injury.

In that sense, Chen Fan had already shown him mercy.

Nonetheless, he couldn’t just let the matter rest. Ji Xingyu was his best friend, and he had challenged Chen Fan for Chang Wen, the girl whom he was dating.

So thinking, Si Yinxia stood up and said:

“Why don’t you fight with someone who is your equal ?”

Chang Wen’s face paled as she was about to rush to Si Yinxia to stop him. Si Yinxia reached out a hand, willing Chang Wen to remain where she was.

Si Yinxia was very impressed by Chen Fan’s move. It was powerful, swift, and effective. No one without years of martial arts training would be able to deliver such perfect execution.

However, Si Yinxia was confident that he would be able to overcome the new boy.

He had been obsessed with Taekwondo ever since he saw it on TV when he was a child. By now, he had accumulated over a decade of training. If he could get past his laziness and attend the qualification test, he would have already ranked above, even Coach Wu. Of all the teachers and students, only the Taekwondo club’s founder might have a slim chance of defeating him.

“Sure, why not,” Chen Fan replied.

The fact that Si Yinxia dared challenge Chen Fan even after seeing what he was capable of told Chen Fan that Si Yinxia could be a worthy opponent.

“But I have to warn you that I will show you no mercy.” Chen Fan said lightly.

“Asshole! Do you really think that you could defeat Si Yingxia?” Chen Fan’s remark didn’t sit well with most of the girls in the class. Some of them started to protest.

“No kidding! You are just a bit faster and stronger than Ji Xingyu. Si Yinxi, on the other, was not only faster, stronger, but also much prettier than your ugly face” Another girl piped up vehemently.

Half of the girls in the class were ardent admirers of Si Yinxia.

Chen Fan was not sure what to think of the girls’ hilarious remarks. He conceded that he should have provoked their ire.

The fact that these girls brushed so lightly over strength and speed: two of the most critical factors in combat meant that they knew nothing about fighting. Most of the time, skills and forms were irrelevant, and the outcome of the fight came down to only those two factors: speed and strength.

Chapter 25: One Punch Is All It Takes

Although Chen Fan had defeated Ji Xingyu with a single strike, everyone still had their money on Si Yinxia, after all, Si Yinxia had cultivated quite an influence among students.

Even Chang Wen was no longer nervous about the fight.

“I should have faith in Si Yinxia. He had defeated another challenger years ago who had won a medal in the National Martial Arts Academy Tournament. If he could defeat a medalist, he should be able to handle this no account.”

With this in mind, she gave Chen Fan a look of disdain.

“Defeating Ji Xingyu means nothing. Si Yinxia is much more skilled than Ji Xingyu.”

Of all the people inside the gym, only Si Yinxia and Coach Wu knew how powerful Chen Fan really was.

Coach Wu regarded Si Yinxia with a solemn face. Seeing the resolution in the boy’s eyes, he heaved a sigh and then announced, “Fine, there is no rule that forbids the students from challenging each other. Just be careful while you’re at it” Couch Wu gave Chen Fan a chilling glance as he spoke. It was evident that Chen Fan previous remark about Taekwondo had rubbed Coach Wu the wrong way.

Therefore, not only did he not stop the fight, but he also wished that his favorite student would teach the arrogant new-boy a lesson.

“Come on.”

Si Yinxia shouted to Chen Fan as he sauntered to the middle of the stage, and he was greeted by a wave of cheers. While wearing a set of clean and unwrinkled Taekwondo uniform, Si Yinxia looked tall and handsome like a main actor from the “Young and Restless.”

Standing before Si Yinxia, Chen Fan measured only one meter and seventy centimeters and was of ordinary appearance. If he were in the “Young and Restless,” Chen Fan wouldn’t last two episodes.

Those who were not convinced that Si Yinxia was going to be the winner, they wished so. They wanted Si Yinxia to reinstalled some perspective into the boy’s mind by kicking his ass.

“Let’s do it now!”

Chen Fan kept his back straight as he linked his arms behind him, looking as haughty as a martial arts master in the Wuxia movies.

Si Ying snorted out his disdain for Chen Fan’s arrogance.

Although Si Yinxia was not as outspoken as Ji Xingyu, he was as proud of his prowess as the latter, if not more so. He mostly kept things to himself, not because he was a quiet person, but because of his deep narcissism.

Chen Fan’s haughty posture was a blatant taunt, and it spurred Si Yinxia’s anger.

Si Yinxia snarled at Chen Fan and charged out. When he closed in, he suddenly spun his body and delivered a roundhouse kick.

Si Yinxia’s right foot traced a two hundred and seventy-degree arc in the air. Carried by momentum, his waist carried on the motion and drove the kick forward like a whiplash of a dragon’s tail. Even before the kick landed on its target, Chen Fan felt a stinging sensation on his face from the charged air.

“Interesting, Si Yinxia is much more powerful than I thought.” Chen Fan was slightly surprised by the display of power.

Si Yinxia was not only a powerful taekwondo fighter, but he was a player on the school basketball team and had good looks. No wonder, so many girls hearts skipped a beat at the sight of him.

After the girls saw Si Yinxia's perfect execution of a difficult move, they couldn't help but scream in excitement.

Even Coach Wu applauded for Si Yinxia in his mind as he reckoned that even he would not be able to deliver the attack to such a degree of perfection.

"I am afraid Si Yinxia is already at Fourth-Dan of the Black-belt" Coach Wu marveled in his mind.

There were less than five people in Chu Zhou's Taekwondo community that had reached the Fourth-Dan. According to Si Yinxia's current level of skill, he should be able to get into the quarter-final matches at the National Youth Taekwondo Competition.

"How I counter this attack?" Coach Wu calculated his moves vicariously through Chen Fan's body. He wagered that his best option would be to step back to cushion the brunt of the attack. However, he also realized that his defensive strategy was flawed. Once he gave in before Si Yinxia's initial aggression, he would have to deal with insistent follow-up attacks. It would only be a matter of time before he slipped up and let Si Yinxia land a solid blow.

However, to Coach Wu's surprise, Chen Fan didn't back down. Instead, he simply raised an arm and blocked Si Yinxia's kick with ease. All the while, Chen Fan's face held a faint and relaxed smile.

"How is this possible?" Si Yinxia furrowed his brows and was disheveled by the development.

"Again!" Si Yinxia growled under his breath. He jerked his leg back and spun his body to shoot another roundhouse kick at Chen Fan with the other leg. After his second kick was blocked as easily as the first one, Si Yinxia didn't give up. Instead, he kept on kicking and delivering six roundhouse kicks in a row.

These stationary kicks required skills that only a few black-belt fighters possessed.

"Bam! Bam! Bam!"

After the wave of continuous attacks, Si Yinxia was finally exhausted, and he paused to take a breath.

While panting heavily, he saw Chen Fan's stance didn't change at all. He had blocked all the attacks with only one arm.

"Shit!"

Coach Wu's heart sank as he realized that he had underestimated Chen Fan's strength.

The voices of Si Yinxia's supporters were diminishing slowly. Even the onlookers had realized who had gotten the upper hand in the last exchange of attacks.

"Is Si Yinxia going to lose the battle?" The unspoken question was loud and clear in the air.

"You have kicked me so many times, Now it's my turn!"

Chen Fan moved his left hand from behind his back in front of him as he slowly closed his fingers to form a fist.

His body was bent backward, making him look like a powerful bow that was about to release an arrow.

"Be careful."

Coach Wu's face paled, he could sense that the threat in Chen Fan's attack was far more serious than that of Si Yinxia.

Before Si Yinxia could hear Coach Wu's cautions, Chen Fan dashed out and pounded his fist at Si Yinxia at lightning speed.

Like a cannonball being shot out of its chamber, the punch tore apart the very fabric of space from its seams. The attack charged the air with energy until sparks erupted out of thin air, filled the gym with crackling noises. The Punch carried on and threatened to smash anything in its way into smithereens.

Si Yinxia knew the attack was coming and was prepared; at least he thought he was. He crossed his arms in front of his chest and watched his attacker's move cautiously.

However, Chen Fan's punch came so fast and so powerful that Si Yinxia didn't even have the chance to react. The energy in the fist simply went through his defense and slammed into his chest.

Chen Fan didn't want to hurt Si Yinxia, and therefore, he only used one percent of his true strength. However, even at one percent, his power was already too much for a mortal such as Si Yinxia to bear.

Si Yinxia's body was sent flying backward for half a dozen meters before it thudded back onto the ground.

"Arhh!" Si Yinxia fell flat on his butt and was winded. He was suddenly overtaken by a fit of violent coughing, making it even harder to breath. His arms felt heavy, and his chest was so numb that he couldn't even feel the pain.

The gym suddenly fell silent that you could hear a pin drop.

Everyone was dumbfounded, and the only thing they could do was stare.

No one had thought that Chen Fan could have defeated Si Yinxia much less defeating him with such ease. His last attack was plain and simple, but it had overcome the previously invincible Si Yinxia.

“If he had defeated Si Yinxia, does it mean that Chen Fan is the number-one fighter in our school?” Everyone’s asked the same question in their mind.

Those who had openly sneered at Chen Fan instantly regretted their actions, while the rest scraped their mind to find out if they had ever offended the new champion. Meanwhile, some girls started to see Chen Fan under a very different light.

Although Chen Fan’s overall score was not as high as Si Yinxia, his exceptional talent in a few particular areas had made him at least somewhat palatable for girls’ infatuated minds.

Chang Wen’s face hardened, and she rushed to help Si Yinxia to his feet. Seeing Si Yinxia’s wounded body, a pained look flashed across her face.

“Don’t worry; he is just winded; that’s all.” Suddenly, Chen Fan’s voice drifted into her ears.

Chang Wen did not appreciate Chen Fan’s reassurance; she snorted and then shot Chen Fan an icy glance.

Chen Fan shook his head and realized that he would be hated by this girl for the rest of his life. However, he didn’t feel the slightest guilt. He had decided to hold back the brunt of the attack right before the moment he was about to deliver the punch. Otherwise, Si Yinxia would be seriously injured.

After all, Chen Fan could have punched through a steel plate if he wanted to, much less human flesh.

Chen Fan looked around and shouted, “Who else wants to challenge me?”

No one spoke a word.

Not only the students of the 12th grade were stunned by Chen Fan’s display of power, but also those from junior years; they were also enthralled by Chen Fan’s incredible ability. Chen Fan had taught everyone a valuable lesson: there would always be someone more powerful than you.

“Fine. ” Chen Fan shook his head as no one had risen to his challenge. He then looked to Si Yinxia and said:

“I have told you, Taekwondo moves are fancy but useless. Unless you find a real master and learn from him, you won’t stand a chance against me even if you trained ten more years in Taekwondo.”

Si Yinxia didn’t reply, but Chen Fan’s words had taken the wind out of his sail. He had high self-esteem and had never taken Chen Fan seriously. Therefore, being defeated so easily by a no-account had dealt a devastating blow to his confidence.

“Hey, Asshole! Your time will come when the founder of our club is back.” Coach Wu growled at Chen Fan. “The founder of the club was at the National Taekwondo Competition, and he will teach you a lesson when he is back.”

“Ah-right! How could we forget our club’s founder!” The faces of the diehard Taekwondo fans lit up with hope.

“Oh?” Chen Fan said casually. “Sure, tell him that I will be here waiting for him.”

After that, he linked his arms behind his back and started down the stage. He walked to Jiang Tanqiu and then patted him on the shoulder:

“Do you want to go eat something?”

“Of course.” Jiang Tanqiu was startled. He looked at the new-boy whom he had been hanging out with for a month as if he was a stranger.

Never had he thought that his quiet desk-mate was so bad-ass.

“It’s no wonder that he didn’t take Si Yinxia seriously. Whatever he lacked in academic achievement, he makes it up with his fighting skills.”

With that in mind, Jiang Tanqiu reminded himself to take their friendship more seriously. Maybe they could be best friends after all.

The two walked out of the gym under many pairs of watchful eyes. The other students were still trying to come to terms with what had just happened. As everyone had thought that the new-boy was an ordinary no-account, he had pulled the rug from under everyone and defeated the most popular student at the school.

Many students believed that from now on, Chen Fan would finally join the ranks of popular kids.

Chapter 26: Orientation Gala

Ever Since Chen Fan defeated Si Yinxia, everyone's attitude toward Chen Fan had changed significantly.

Many people who didn't like Si Yinxia and lacked the courage to stand up against him now gradually gravitated toward Chen Fan. Ever since Si Yinxia's crushing defeat, he had become even less talkative than before. His reticent greatly worried his supporters.

Many of his supporters remained on his side because they believed that except for Taekwondo, Si Yinxia was much more talented than Chen Fan in every other subject. Let it be basketball, grades, playing piano, and looks; Si Yinxia was the clear winner.

One day, after the basketball training was over, Yang Chao patted Si Yinxia's shoulder and said:

"How are you doing? You seemed distracted."

Si Yinxia managed a smile. He couldn't stop thinking ways of defeating Chen Fan.

Ji Xingyu pipped up indignantly, "It's all thanks to that transfer student. He had put on quite a show during the Taekwondo class. He had not only defeated me, but also Si Yinxia. He was as cocky as a hog on ice, thinking he was a bad-ass and all."

Hearing his comment, other teammates turned around and asked incredulously, "So the Rumor is true? A newly transferred student defeated Si Yinxia!"

"Ji Xingyu, I heard that the new-boy had kicked the snot out of you! Haha!"

"Buzz off!" Ji Xingyu shouted.

"Boss Si and I have simply slipped up and let that kid gain an opportunity to get the best of us. If we have a rematch, I will kick his ass, you just watch!"

He as such, felt indignant for the defeat; the new-boy had sneaked up on him while he was still getting ready. After he was dealt a blow, he passed out and didn't know what had happened to Si Yinxia. Therefore, he was still convinced that the boy's power was on par with his, and he had won because he had caught him by surprise.

Chang Wen put in with an icy voice, "Ji Xingyu is right. No one knows who will win if they match again. He is just a brute animal anyways; what does he have to show for in terms of grades, family, or looks?"

The cheerleaders joined the conversation, and they all nodded in agreement.

In their views, Chen Fan was just a bad boy who stirred up trouble, and he simply couldn't compare with the handsome and smart Si Yinxia.

After a while, Si Yinxia finally spoke.

“Although I admit that Chen Fan was much stronger than me physically, I believe that I will excel in other areas.”

Seeing that Si Yinxia had finally spoken up, Chang Wen beamed from side to side and plied Si Yinxia with more encouragement:” Of course! You should never have doubted yourself!

“Tomorrow is the day of the Orientation Gala. That will be your second chance. I am confident that you will stun that boy with your skills.”

Hearing Chang Wen’s encouragement, Si Yinxia’s face finally lit up with new found confidence.

Yang Chao wanted to say something to his friend, but he thought better of it and only let out a sigh of resignation.

He wanted to warn his friends to not to undermine this trouble maker. His run-in with the new-boy revealed a very dangerous side of him.

However, Yang Chao wagered that the truth would diminish Si Yinxia’s budding confidence, so he decided to keep his silence.

When Chen Fan arrived at school that day, Jiang Taniu spoke to him in an elevated voice, “There is an Orientation Gala tonight, my goddess Xu Rongfei will be performing!”

“The Orientation Gala?” Chen Fan was surprised by the news.

He remembered attending this gala in his past life. Xu Rongfei’s performance was the grand finale of the show. She delivered a stunning solo dance. Ever since then, more boys joined her fan club and considered her their dream girl.

“I recall that Si Yinxia had played the piano for her while she danced. They were therefore dubbed as the Romeo and Juliet of the Ivy League High. Too bad that they weren’t able to stay together happily forever after.”

Deep down, Chen Fan didn’t want to see Xu Rongfei with Si Yinxia, even though Xu Rongfei didn’t knock his socks off either.

“Yes, the Orientation Gala, for the freshmen. We were supposed to have it a month ago, but it somehow got pushed back.” Jiang Tanqiu said.

Even as Jiang Tanqiu spoke, Ji Xingyu came over to the two boys and grunted.

“You think you are even worthy of fancying Xu Rongfei? She is out of your league, and she already belongs to Boss Si.”

Jiang Tanqiu was embarrassed by Ji Xingyu’s words.

He wanted to refute him but was deterred by the thought of the unbridgeable gap between him and Si Yinxia.

Chen Fan cracked a smile and said, “Are you sure? I hear that Xu Rongfei only consider Si Yinxia, a normal friend.”

Ji Xingyu sneered at Chen Fan and said, “Even if Xu Rongfei doesn’t like Boss Si, she would never even look at a country hill-billy such as you!”

Chen Fan asked quietly: “How do you know?”

“No kidding! How did you know that Xu Rongfei will not fall for Brother Fan?” Jiang Tanqiu stood up and flung back at Ji Xingyu. “You have already got your asses handed over to you, do you want to try it again?”

Fear flashed across Ji Xingyu’s face as he turned on his heels with a grunt.

Jiang Tanqiu sat down satisfyingly.

Chen Fan was amused after hearing Jiang Tanqiu calling him Brother Fan with a respectful voice; already, his would-be best friend was improving his reputation in front of everyone.

Chen Fan gave Sister Yin a call and asked for a day off due to the Orientation Gala. Sister Yin approved as usual.

“Look, look, look! There goes my goddess!” The stage was lit up with bright lights, and Jiang Tanqiu looked at the stage expectantly.

The host of the gala was Chang Wen and a boy from the 9th grade. The gorgeous girl and the handsome boy had attracted many of the audience’s attention.

Chang Wen announced, “Without further ado, the next performer Xu Rongfei from class number two of the twelfth grade. The name of her dance is ‘Swan Princess.’”

After the announcement, a swell of cheers rose from the audience.

This was the finale of the gala; the show that everyone had been waiting for!

The floor-light dimmed and the spotlight beamed on a tall, and handsome young man, sitting right next to a white grand piano made by Steinway and sons. Chang Wen

continued her announcement, but this time, her voice sounded bitter. “This is Si Yinxia; I am sure he needs no introduction. He will play the piano for Xu Rongfei. The two of them are long-time partners.”

Chen Fan didn’t pay much attention to Si Yinxia as another beam of stage light grabbed his attention. In it was a girl wearing a ballet tutu that fit tightly around her body.

It was Xu Rongfei who Chen Fan hadn’t seen for many days.

The music started, and Xu Rongfei opened her dance with a sudden bend of the waist, and when she rose again, she was no longer the high school girl as she had transformed herself—both body and soul—into an elegant swan. Silence fell throughout the hall as everyone was gripped by Xu Rongfei’s powerful and affecting performance.

Although Xu Rongfei was not a world-renowned dancer, the students were nonetheless shocked after seeing that one of them was able to deliver such a stunning performance.

If the new students were going to leave the gala with something that would stay with them for the rest of their lives, it was the combination of Si Yinxia’s piano music and Xu Rongfei’s dance.

As the music ended on a high note, cheers and applause erupted from the audience. Si Yinxia stood up from the bench, walked to Xu Rongfei, and held one of her hands as both of them bowed to the audiences.

“Together! Together!” The audience cheered.

Xu Rongfei managed to keep her smile, but she slid her hand out of Si Yinxia’s palm. The light in Si Yinxia’s eyes suddenly dimmed.

After the two had finally retreated to backstage, the show was finally nearing its end.

Jiang Tanqiu said hesitantly, “My goddess is the best! Look at that curves, that waist, and that gracefulness and elegance! She was not any less hot than those professional Ballet Dancer from Russia.

“Urghh! How dare that greasy Si Yinxia touch her hand!” Jiang Tanqiu growled vehemently.

“Alright, it’s time to go.” Chen Fan stood up, started off. He was here just for Xu Rongfei’s dance, now he had seen it, it was time to go home.

Suddenly a swell of commotions arose from the front row. Jiang Tanqiu looked and immediately his eyes were lit up with glee.”Look! Chang Wen and my goddess are heading this way. ”

Chen Fan turned around and saw Chang Wen heading toward him while trailing a boy and a girl behind her.

The boy was wearing an elegant tuxedo; his tall figure complimented his handsome features. The girl was in a set of costume made ballet tutu, and her face was near flawless. The two looked like two superstars straight out of the TV.

They waved at their fans as they walked forth. The boys and girls around them showered them with cheers and screamed.

They were Si Yinxia and Xu Rongfei.

The two exchanged whispers to each other as they walked. Their intimacy was displayed under broad daylight for everyone to see.

Si Yinxia no longer donned his usual cool face. Instead, he beamed from side to side as he whispered something to Xu Rongfei. Xu Rongzhen seems to be amused by what he had said, a bright smile broke over her face, making it look like a blooming flower.

“God damn you, Si Yinxia! He is going to steal my goddess!” Jiang Tanqiu said aggrievedly.

“Come on; let’s go!” Chen Fan did not want to talk to Xu Rongfei; therefore, he patted his friend and willed him to start walking.

Suddenly Chen Fan heard a female voice called to him:

“My oh my! Isn’t it, Master Chen? Why are you leaving so early? Don’t you want to say hi to our stars?”

Chen Fan turned around and saw Chang Wen’s cold sneer. Chang Wen, on the other hand, was enjoying the best moment of her life.

She walked off from the stage like a star, letting her confidence soar on the wind of the scintillating aura that surrounded her. Her brilliance had made her rivals look all that much paler and weaker.

Si Yinxia also regarded Chen Fan with a contemptuous look. The cheers and applauds had brought his confidence back and strengthened his ego.

And then a musical voice gasped in surprise:

“Chen Fan?”

Then, to everyone's surprise, a soft body threw itself at Chen Fan. Chen Fan opened his arms unwillingly as he was immediately surrounded by the breathtaking fragrance that invited more than just intimacy.

Everyone was speechless by the turn of events.

Chen Fan saw surprised faces all around him, Jiang Tanqiu's eyes were wide open, and the confident look on Si Yinxia had also curdled.

Chen Fan could not help but smile wryly.

"Now the situation is finally out of my hand!"

Xu Rongfei quickly realized her faux pas and ran away, but many people in the hall had already witnessed the brief intimate interaction between the two. Si Yinxia's face turned red with anger.

It happened just when Xu Rongfei and Si Yinxia had finished their performance, and everyone's attention was still on them. Countless senior and junior students had watched as the goddess threw herself into the arms of someone other than Si Yinxia.

The news quickly went viral, and by the second day, nearly everyone at the school had heard about it.

"Xu Rongfei is with a transfer student; she had thrown herself into his arms?" Li Yichen was stunned by the news.

He had been courting Jiang Churan, and therefore, he knew very well that Jiang Churan's BFF, Xu Rongfei had very high standards. She didn't even care for Chu Minhui nor Si Yinxia, how would she be interested in an ordinary transfer student?

"That's right; he is the one we had met at the bar." Lou Xiaoxiao said with a smile.

"Princess Xu Rongfei acted like she is too good for anyone, but in the end, she settled for someone who works at a bar. Haha! That's rich!"

Li Yichen furrowed his brows slightly at the mentioning of Chen Fan. He still remembered the look on Jiang Churan's face when she met that boy. It was a look that he had never seen before.

Ever since then, Li Yichen became even warier of Chen Fan.

Lou Xiaoxiao's eyes rolled as she asked, "Why don't we tell Chu Minhui about it? I want to find out what Xu Rongfei is going to do with her pretty place."

Lou Xiaoxiao was the leader of the Arts Interest Group, and she and Xu Rongfei were not on good terms for a long time.

“Hmm...” Li Yichen paused to think.

Seeing Li Yichen’s hesitation, Lou Xiaoxiao knew she should not press him further, and therefore, she changed the topic and started to talk about the student council.

When Chen Fan arrived at the classroom on the second day, he was greeted with many strange looks.

Even as most students had only thought he was just an ordinary transfer student who happened to be a solid fighter, he had surprised them by making the goddess of the school throw herself into his arms. What else was he capable of?

“If I tell you that I really have only met Xu Rongfei once before. Do you believe me?” Chen Fan said candidly.

“Of course not!” Jiang Taniu gritted his teeth and looked at Chen Fan jealously.

“But since you have embarrassed Si Yinxia, I think I can forgive you once.” A smile suddenly broke over Jiang Taniu face as he laughed gleefully. “Did you see Si Yinxia’s face? He was so mad and stunned that he glued himself to the floor and didn’t move for ten minutes. His friends had to basically drag him out of the hall!”

“Anyways, you have my wholehearted support! I wish you could start officially dating as soon as possible. I really want to see that angry face on Si Yinxia again.”

It was evident that Jiang Taniu and Si Yinxia had some bad blood in the past.

Chen Fan shook his head.

There was really nothing between him and Xu Rongfei. He knew that Xu Rongfei had hugged him out of sheer surprise from seeing him. However, he knew that any explanation he offered would be in vain since no one would believe what he said.

“Xiao Qiong is still waiting for me in the city of Ji; how could I waste my time on this girl.” Chen Fan thought to himself.

The mood during the class was unsettling for Chen Fan. He kept on noticing Si Yinxia’s shifting glance on him from time to time. At every break, many students of other classes would stop by the window, trying to take a peek at the boy whom Xu Rongfei was purportedly dating.

However, everyone who saw Chen Fan left with disappointment.

As soon as the last class was over, Chen Fan packed up his books and hurried to get out of the school.

Seeing that the new-boy had left the classroom, Chang Wen spoke in a cold and contemptuous voice, "I bet Xu Rongfei is blind. Why would she choose a loser such as him? He has neither the looks nor the grades, a piss poor country boy!"

After she finished her remarks, she glanced at Si Yinxia and found no expression on Si Yinxia's face. However, she noticed that he had clenched his fists tightly as if he was still grappling with the humiliation last night.

"No kidding! Xu Rongfei wouldn't even choose Boss Si, why would she be interested in a hillbilly from the middle of nowhere?" As Ji Xingyu lamented, but then he suddenly burst out laughing.

"Chen Fan's good days are numbered; Chu Minhui will return to school in a few days. He is not going to let that prick get away with it!"

Chu Minhui was recommended to this school for immediate admission without admission tests due to his exceptional grades and talent. He spent half of the semester away from the school training. Meanwhile, he was one of the most ardent admirers of Xu Rongfei. If he had learned the two's intimate interaction in public, he would not sit on it and pretend nothing had happened.

The promise of Chu Minhui's ire made many male students gloat at Chen Fan's impending doom in their minds. Chen Fan's sudden rise to power didn't sit well with many students, and therefore, they were eager to see Chu Minhui teach him a lesson.

At work, when Chen Fan was delivering a bottle of water to one of the customers, Ziqi came up to him and said, "there is a hottie on the second floor, table number three; she is looking for you."

Ziqi said as she winked at Chen Fan.

Chen Fan rolled his eyes and plodded toward the second floor. He saw an elegant girl leaning over the rail on the landing and was looking down at the singing stage.

On the stage, Sister Ding-Ding was singing a popular love song. Her voice was so affectionate that it evoked cheers for her audiences.

"Why did you come here all by yourself? Where are your friends?" Chen Fan walked over to the girl and asked.

Jiang Churan was wearing a long maxi dress that brought out her innocence and beauty to the fullest extent.

However, Chen Fan's gaze was candid and devoid of lewd intent. He clearly appreciated the girl's beauty, but he wanted nothing of it.

"They didn't come." Jiang Churan said thinly. "I came here alone, just for you."

"For me?" Chen Fan was taken aback. "Did Auntie Tang tell you to come here?"

"No. I am here to talk to you about Xu Rongfei." Jiang Churan turned around to hold Chen Fan's gaze.

"I want to tell you to stay away from her. She is a nice girl and full of potential. Her future is in Yan Jin, on the world's most prestigious stage. She doesn't belong to you, so please don't drag her down with you while you waste your life in this scanty little bar."

Chen Fan's face hardened. "So, you came here to give me a warning?"

"Indeed. I am here to warn you." Jiang Churan's voice was firm as she locked her eyes onto Chen Fan's. "I am very grateful for your help that night. But please, don't take advantage of my appreciation. Xu Rongfei had always been under her mother's protection so she might not have realized that you are taking advantage of her."

"She is out of your league. Don't you see? At best, you can get into a second-tier university, but what good is that? How are you going to provide for her and give her happiness in life?"

Seeing Jiang Churan was convinced that she was on a moral high ground, Chen Fan couldn't suppress a smile.

"What? Did I say anything wrong?" Jiang Churan was not very pleased by Chen Fan's levity.

"Jiang Churan, you think too highly of yourself. You have no idea who you are talking to." Chen Fan said aloofly as he suddenly transformed into a cultivator that looked down on every living being on earth.

He had finally removed his mask and revealed his true persona. As a Celestial Lord, he lived vicariously through the body of Chen Fan as if he was in a role playing game. He couldn't care less about the petty drama that his alter ego was involved in. If he really wanted to, he could have broken the fourth wall and outright eliminated a person, like a programmer would go to an NPC in an RPG game.

Chen Fan continued speaking, but his mouth was not moving. His voice simply drifted into the girl's ears.

"I have tolerated you because of your mother. Remember, your life is no more significant to me than that of an ant."

“Regardless of what happened between Xu Rongfei and me, it was none of your business.

“I don’t like to explain myself to others, and I never explain the same thing twice.”

After that, he turned around and left Jiang Churan in shock.

After a while, Jiang Churan finally gathered herself, and she murmured.

“Chen Fan, talk is cheap, and lies are expensive. You won’t be the first person to be squashed by the weight of reality.

“I don’t care where you have got your confidence from, but you need to go over my dead body if you want to date Xu Rongfei.”

As she thought that, resolution start to glint in her eyes.

Chapter 28: Antique Auction

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A few days later, most people had forgotten about what had happened that night, except for a few who were waiting for the situation to deteriorate so that they could gloat at Chen Fan.

The incident at the gala had spurred Si Yinxia to work much more diligently than before. He engrossed himself in studying, basketball training, and Taekwondo training, trying all he could to prove to Xu Rongfei that he was the right choice for her.

On a Friday afternoon, Chen Fan contemplated if he should head back to Si Shui county to visit. He had been away from home for more than one and a half months, and if he counted the time of his past life, that would have been over five hundred years

Then his cell phone rang; it was Wei Ziqin.

“Hello, is this Mr. Chen? There is going to be an antique auction this evening. I am wondering if you are interested in coming along with me?” Chen Fan heard the voice on the other end of the line. He was slightly surprised by the invitation.

“This auction was also a networking event. The main goal was for similar minded people to meet and mingle. The items for sale are very interesting as well. I have heard that the allegedly cursed diamond: The Blue Hope, was going to appear at the podium.

The schedule of the items also included a few that were called ‘Dharma Artifacts.’ I remembered that you told us that you are a follower of the Dao, so I thought that you might be interested.”

Ever since Mr. Wei explained the power of a Transcendent Master, Ziqin was convinced that Chen Fan was related to all sorts of mysterious forces in the world.

“Dharma Artifact?” Chen Fan furrowed his brows.

Could it be the same Dharma Artifact such as the Flying Swords in the realm of cultivation?

“Bingo! It was said that these Dharma Artifacts were able to help stabilize the Feng Shui around the house and ward off the evil spirit in the world. But no one knows if that’s for real or not.” Wei Ziqin explained patiently.

“Interesting. Yes, I want to go.” Chen Fan said.

“Great, then I will pick you up tonight.” Wei Ziqin said carefully.

“It’s fine; I can go there by myself.” Chen Fan shook his head.

He was already amid an unwanted melodrama. If a beautiful girl appeared at the school and picked him up in a fancy luxury vehicle, his schoolmates were going to spin even more melodramatic tales about how he betrayed Xu Rongfei.

What happened at the Orientation Gala had put him under the spotlight, and he didn’t deign to attract even more attention.

“Just tell me the address, and I will take a taxi.”

“Very well. Tell them my name at the entrance; they will let you in.” Wei Ziqin nodded.

As soon as Chen Fan put down his cellphone, he saw Jiang Tanqiu’s curious gaze on him. “Who was that?”

“No one, just a friend asking me to come over tonight.” Chen Fan answered readily. He made another phone call to Sister Yin to ask for time off.

After the last class was over, Chen Fan packed up his books and left in a hurry.

Seeing Chang Wen was gone, Chang Wen snorted and then said, “Yinxia, why are you still so sad about that woman? She would rather pick a country boy over you. Can’t you tell that she doesn’t even care about you?”

"I have gotten three tickets to an antique auction tonight, why don't you and Xinyu come with me? You need to relax, babe."

Ji Xingyu hurried to chime in.

"Boss Si, I have heard about this party before.

"It was hosted by Fang Sheng International Group. They only reserve tickets for people with over fifty million yuan in assets. The antiques were all like voodoo and shit; it will be fun. Let's go."

"Indeed. Thanks to my uncle, I was able to get three tickets. I bet Chen Fan can't even so much as work at such an event much less attend it." Chang Wen smiled contemptuously.

Si Yinxia nodded. After days of hard work, he felt that he had regained some of his self-confidence; some relaxation wouldn't hurt.

The party was hosted at a high-end club right beside the Yunwu Mountain. It was called "Hidden Dragon Villa." It was a secluded suburb area surrounded by a quiet village.

Chen Fan went home and changed. He then took a taxi to the Hidden Dragon Villa. When he reached the destination, he saw the parking lot was already packed with high-end cars.

Vehicles such as BMW's and Audi's were the cheapest ones in this parking lot. There were many Lamborghinis, Porsches, and he even saw a Rolls-Royce Phantom VII with the license plate of 666-666. This car was worth over six million in 2007.

"There are a lot of rich people in Chu Zhou City." Chen Fan thought to himself.

Upon entering the lobby, he told the receptionist Wie Ziqin's name, and the receptionist welcomed him into the event center.

The interior of the building was lavishly decorated to the smallest detail. It was evident that it was the most high-end club in Chu Zhou City. Under the bright crystal chandelier were groups of well-dressed upper-class guests.

There were many teenagers in the same age as Chen Fan in the event hall. He wagered that they were brought here by their parents to experience the posh life of their future. The teenagers had formed their own flocks and were chatting with each other.

Chen Fan clearly didn't get the memo about the dress code. He walked into the event hall with just business casual shirt and pants, which made him stand out among the others.

The reception had a buffet bar, providing some refreshments for the guest before the auction started. Seeing Wei Ziqing had not arrived yet, Chen Fan decided to hit the buffet table first.

He grabbed himself a plate and started to pile it with Australian Lobsters Salad. Suddenly, he heard a voice calling out to him.

“Chen Fan, why are you here?”

The soft and musical voice was too distinguishable to have mistaken for someone else.

Chen Fan turned around and saw surprise was written all over Xu Rongfei’s face. He cracked a smile and then said:

“Why can’t I be here?”

Xu Rongfei blushed as the memory of what happened at the gala came back to her. She quickly changed the topic.

“I am here with Meng-Meng, she got me a ticket. I have heard that items for sale are very interesting, so I have agreed to tag along. ”

She batted her lashes while staring at Chen Fan with a pair of wide eyes. “Brother Chen Fan, did you come by yourself? Are you planning to buy anything?”

“He can’t even afford this Australian Lobster much less anything in the auction.” Jiang Churan appeared behind Xu Rongfei. She glared at Chen Fan watchfully.

Chen Fan’s smile disappeared, and then he said thinly:” Ran-ran is right, I am too poor to buy anything at the auction. I am just here for some food, and O’ Lord, have I hit the jackpot! They have some really nice desserts too, would you like to accompany me to sample some of those?”

“Oh, of course!” Xu Rongfei giggled.

Seeing the Chen Fan was clearly making a move on Xu Rongfei, Jiang Churan grunted under her breath as she became even more vigilant of the boy’s actions.

Not far from them, a few girls had formed a small circle and were glancing in Chen Fan’s direction.

“Is that Fei-Fei’s friend? Why didn’t she introduce him to us? ”

The oldest one spoke. She was in a low cut nightgown and wore her hair in an elegant high bun.

“That boy looks unfamiliar to me. Did you see how giggly Fei-Fei is? OMG- could that be her new boyfriend?”

“He is ugly. Maybe he is super rich. ”

These girls had grown up with Xu Rongfei and Jiang Churan but haven’t seen the two for ages. To their surprise, Xu Rongfei had ditched them only after a few minutes of reunion for an ordinary-looking boy.

Zhang Yumeng was among the girls as well, and she sneered and then said, “Not a boyfriend. Just a laborer from the countryside. He works part-time at a bar.”

Then she said bitterly, “I have no clue why Fei-Fei is so obsessed with that loser.”

“OMG! So he really is the boyfriend?” Everyone was shocked by the revelation.

Xu Rongfei’s high standards for boys was well known among her friends. Their jaws dropped after having learned that the pedestrian-looking, piss-poor country boy was her final choice.

Some girls were already pitying Xu Rongfei as they heaved sighs and shook their heads.

“Fei-Fei is too naive! It’s not going to end well.”

Most of these girls came from multi-million yuan families. Some of them were sent abroad to study ever since they were little. In their eyes, a laborer from the countryside would never make the cut as their boyfriend.

The girl in the low-cut gown furrowed her brow and said, “As her older sister, I need to talk some sense into her.”

“It’s fine if she uses him just for a while, but she is playing with fire if she ever lets herself fall in love with him. She is way out of his league, and their relationship is doomed from the very beginning.”

After saying that, the girls’ eyes lost focus for a second.

Her name was Han Yun, as the oldest girl of the crowd, she had already graduated from university. When she was in high school, she fell in love with a boy from a poor family. They stayed together despite the outcry from her family. However, as soon as the couple entered university, things took a turn for the worse. They started fighting and arguing every day until the boy left her for another girl.

Meanwhile, outside of the Hidden Dragon Villa. A jeep pulled over, and a strapping young man got off the vehicle.

“Are you sure Xu Rongfei is going to be here tonight?”

He turned around and asked one of his entourage.

“Yes, I heard it from Lou Xiaoxiao. ” A boy in a sleek buzz-cut answered.

With only a second of hesitation, the young man said, “Very well, let’s go in.”

Chapter 29: Chu Minhui

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Attendants of the cocktail reception were divided into two groups. At the center of the hall were the real deals of the Chu Zhou City. They joined each other to discuss the coming government edicts and to make handshake deals that were in the millions.

Around the edge of this main group were small congregations of teenagers and children who had tagged along with their parents to come to see the auction.

Among all the young girls in the hall, Jiang Churan and Xu Rongfei were two of the most beautiful girls, and they had caught many people’s attention.

The moment that Xu Rongfei started to talk with Chen Fan, many curious eyes peered at the two.

“Who the hell is that boy?”

“No clue, I don’t think he is a friend of anyone.”

“An outsider? Oh my! It looks like they are very close to each other. Could he be Xu Rongfei’s boyfriend?”

Everyone was perplexed by the strange development.

Finally, someone who had recognized Chen Fan chimed in.

“He is a student of the Ivy League High School, originally from the Si Shui County. He has a knack for fighting. Rumor had it that Xu Rongfei had given herself into his arms just a few days ago in public.”

“Really? How would Xu Rongfei be interested in someone of his kind?”

“No kidding! Look at that rag he is wearing; those are cheaper than what my servants wore.”

“God damn it! How could we let an outsider come in and have his way with our best girl?”

Most people’s eyes turned green with envy as soon as they heard that he was Xu Rongfei’s boyfriend.

Xu Rongfei and Jiang Churan were two of the most popular girls among the rich kids. Many boys dreamed of becoming either one of the two’s boyfriend. Many older boys missed the two girls even after they had gone to university. They couldn’t stomach the insulting actions of the new-boy, making a move on one of the hotties and get away with it.

“If Chu Minhui was here, that kid would be dead.” Someone said bitterly.

It won’t be the first time that Chu Minhui had to do it. A couple of years ago, he had to chase after one daring competitor and beat him up so bad that his victim had to be bed bound for three months.

As the tanagers concerned themselves with the drama, their parents were having a great time networking with each other.

Li Yichen trailed behind a stately middle-aged man who had introduced one person after another to him. These guests might be insignificant outside of the city, but inside of the Chu Zhou City, they represented the leaders of their fields.

Suddenly, Li Yichen noticed that his sidekick, Mo Hill was winking at him.

Li Yichen excused himself and walked over to Mo Hill. He was not very happy for Mo Hill’s interruption.

“Haven’t you seen that my dad is introducing the minister to me?”

“I was at the food bar, and I saw that boy we met at the bar!” Mo Hill hurried a reply.

“Chen Fan?” Li Yichen’s eyes glinted and then said curiously, “How could he even be able to get in here? A reservation is required for this event calls for a few dozen million yuan.”

“That is why I suspected that he had sneaked in here.” Mo Hill agreed. “He is fast and strong, so I figure that it shouldn’t be too difficult for him to sneak in here. ”

“It’s not impossible.” Li Yichen nodded. “But what does that have anything to do with me?”

Although Li Yichen was wary of Chen Fan, he didn’t think that the new-boy would pose any real threat to him.

Lou Xiaoxiao had been standing next to the two, and she cracked a smile and then said proudly, “I have sent a text to Chu Minhui and told him that Xu Rongfei was here, but who would think that the trouble maker is here as well. If Chu Minhui ever saw him with Xu Rongfei...”

Li Yichen was taken aback by the news. He knew that Chu Minhui’s short temper would very likely prompt him to start a brawl with the new-boy on sight.

“Speaking of the devil! Look, isn’t that Chu Minhui?” Mo Hill gasped.

The other two looked over toward the entrance, and they saw a brawny young man in a gym suit storm into the event hall, pushing people out of his way as he went.

“And so it begins... anyone want some popcorn?” The dramatic development amused Li Yichen.

Even as Chen Fan and Xu Rongfei were gleefully sampling the ensemble of deserts on the table, a man came over to them with a few large strides.

“Fei-Fei, come here for a second, I need to talk to you.”

Chu Minhui didn’t even spare Chen Fan a glance as he fixed his eyes on Xu Rongfei.

“What’s up? Why can’t you just tell me here?” Xu Rongfei fumbled a reply.

“Here?” Chu Minhui scanned around him and then turned to Chen Fan and Jiang Churan and then said with a commanding voice, “Get out, I need to talk to her privately.”

Before Jiang Churan could protest, Chen Fan said with a frown, “Why would we leave?”

“Who are you?” Chu Minhui was not used to people disobeying him. So he studied the boy in front of him with a great measure of displeasure and curiosity. Finally, he put the two and two together.

“You are Chen Fan?”

“Yes.” Chen Fan replied lightly.

“I have heard of you.” Chu Minhui said disdainfully. “I have heard that you are quite a fighter, and you defeated even Si Yinxia.

“But I hope you know that Si Yinxia is just an amateur in Taekwondo. His moves might look fancy, but they are useless in a real fight.”

“Is that so?” Chen Fan said distractedly.

Chu Minhui smiled contemptuously. It was evident that he didn't take this rival in love too seriously. Chu Minhui turned around and spoke softly to Xu Rongfei, "Fei-Fei, can we find another place to talk? I really need to speak to you about something."

When he finished, he reached out to grab Xu Rongfei's arm.

Xu Rongfei was startled by Chu Minhui's sudden move. She ran behind Chen Fan and shivered. "Chu Minhui, what do you want?"

Chu Minhui was going to get closer, but he was stopped by Chen Fan cold in his track. Chen Fan said coldly, "Please stay away from her. "

"Fuck off!" Chu Minhui growled as he pushed Chen Fan. To his surprise, the boy didn't move an inch.

Chu Minhui gave Chen Fan an ugly grin and then said, "Hey kiddo, are you sure you want to mess with me?"

"Are you sure you want to mess with ME?" Chen Fan asked calmly.

"Do you even know who I am?" Chu Minhui seemed to be amused by Chen Fan's determination.

"I started my official training when I was only twelve and was recruited into a high school team at the age of fifteen. A year later, I was guaranteed admission to a university. "

He glared at Chen Fan scornfully, "Now, I am going to ask you one more time, are you sure you want to mess with me?"

"Yes." Chen Fan said firmly.

This corner of the room had caught the attention of many even before Chu Minhui joined in. By then, it was practically under the spotlight.

"Isn't that Chu Minhui? Why is he here?"

"Shit, it looks like he and that new-boy are going to butt each other's heads!"

"Oh, it doesn't look good for the new boy."

The crowd started to conglomerate around the commotion as everyone wanted to see what was going on.

"Who is Chu Minhui?"

A new member of this small circle asked curiously.

“He is the superstar of our school, also a die-hard fan of Xu Rongfei.”

The crowd started to fill the new member in on Chu Minhui’s illustrious achievements.

The new member was shocked by what he had heard. If the rumors about Chu Minhui were true, Chen Fan’s fate would have been sealed.

The promise of a fight kept everyone on their toes, and many wanted to see Chen Fan get served by Chu Minhui.

Meanwhile, Si Yinxia and Chang Wen were chatting with a few friends at the other end of the large hall.

Si Yinxia’s handsome features were a rare sight even among the well dressed rich kids. He had attracted many girl’s attention, and some of them even came to flirt with him.

“Boss Si, guess who I saw?”

Ji Xingyu rushed to him and asked excitedly.

“Who?” Si Yinxia knitted his brows and asked.

“Chen Fan. He is here as well.” Ji Xingyu answered elatedly.

“And I saw Chu Minhui right beside him, and he was arguing with him.”

“You know how bad Chu Minhui’s temper is. They two are going to ruin the event. Oh, oh, and Xu Rongfei is right next to them as well.”

“Really?” interest flashed in Chang Wen’s eyes. She grabbed Si Yinxia and urged him, “Let’s go and take a look at what’s going on.”

And then she cursed under her breath, “Chen Fan that ass hole must have snuck into the party. Finally, he is going to get what he deserves; it’s been long overdue.”

Si Yinxia followed Chang Wen without saying a word.

Although he didn’t openly resent Chen Fan, he was pleased after hearing Chen Fan had gotten himself into trouble.

Chapter 30: Kick Him Out!

Seeing that Chu Minhui and Chen Fan’s conversation was going nowhere, Jiang Churan furrowed her brows and said, “Chu Minhui, we are at an auction reception, if

you want to blow off some steam, I suggest you do it somewhere else, and Fei-Fei is not going with you.”

“Hehe” Chu Minhui didn’t even spare Jiang Churan a glance. He closed in and gave Chen Fan a hot glare.

“Kiddo, you are the first person who dares to challenge me, and you will be the last as well.”

Chen Fan smiled. Even as he was going to utter a reply, an imposing middle-aged man walked over to them and asked hotly, “What’s the meaning of this? Who are you, and how dare you stir trouble at our event?”

“Shit, Manager Zhu is here; someone is going to get hurt.” An older teenager who recognized the middle-aged man murmured.

Zhang Yumeng sneered and said, “I hope he kicks both Chu Minhui and Chen Fan out of here; I don’t like either of them.”

“Manager Zhu, My name is Chu Minhui.”

Chu Minhui took a step back and look to Chen Fan. “I suspect that this man has sneaked into the reception without an invitation. I want you to kick him out right now.”

Manager Zhu paused for a second and realized that it was Chu Minhui who he was talking to. He changed his harsh tone into that of a placating one, “Yes, Young Master Chu.”

He then turned around to Chen Fan and then said, “Sir, please show me your invitation.”

Xu Rongfei piped up indignantly, “Why does he have to show his invitation? Why don’t you check Chu Minhui’s invitation?”

Manager Zhu was unfazed by the question. He said calmly, “Because I know Young Master Chu is a good friend of my boss.”

But I can’t remember who this young gentleman over here is even though I have written all the invitations by myself. May I ask who you are? ”

“His name is Chen Fan, a no account from Si Shui County.” Chu Minhui snorted. “I really don’t think that he is on your invitation list.”

As soon as Chu Minhui fished his words, Xu Rongfei’s mind raced.

She had been wondering the same question. How did Chen Fan get into the auction even if he didn't have any connections in the city? Even she almost didn't make it if not for Zhang Yumeng. Only those who owned tens of millions of assets would have received an invitation.

"I don't think he has one. He must have snuck in." An onlooker jeered at Chen Fan.

"I bet you are right! Look at all the garbage that he is wearing. I can't believe that they let him in." Another one took a jab at Chen Fan.

"He is in knee deep trouble! The owner of the Fang Sheng International Group was not someone he could mess with. Plus he is on Chu Minhui's bad terms too. He is as dead as a doornail." Someone heaved a sigh.

"Sir, please show me your invitation, or else I will have to call the security." Manager Zhu's bleak face was as hard as a rock, and his voice was final.

"I don't have an invitation." Chen Fan paused a second and then confessed.

A swell of surprise rose in the hall.

"I told you so!" An arrogant smile appeared on Chu Minhui's face. He looked down on Chen Fan like he would towards a defenseless insect under the tip of his toe.

"How did you get in without an invitation?"

Manager Zhu's was shocked by the answer. He knotted his brows and looked at Chen Fan suspiciously as if he was a thief. If his supervisor knew that someone had snuck into such a high profile venue, he would be blamed for not doing his job right.

Already, he felt cold sweat slide down in between his shoulder blades. Fortunately, he had intervened before the big wigs in the room caught wind of it.

"Awesome! Now Chen Fan is dead!" The development sent Chang Wen reveling in her mind. Revenge could not have been any sweeter.

Ji Xingyu shook his head and said, "Man, why do you get yourself into shit like this. They are out of your league man; you should have stayed out of it. Otherwise, you will make yourself a laughingstock."

Even Si Yinxia was disappointed to find out that the rival he had cared so much about couldn't even make it past the entrance of the event without cheating. He lamented the fact that he had cared so much about someone who was so worthless.

A hint of disappointment flashed across Jiang Churan's face.

Shocked by the turn of the event, Xu Rongfei stomped the floor anxiously as she pointed a finger at Chen Fan. "Brother Chen Fan, how could you— "

"I am not done yet." Chen Fan cut her short.

"I don't have an invitation, but the person who invited me does. Just check your guest book, and we can clear this out."

"You are invited to come here?" General Zhu murmured doubtfully. "Only the biggest bosses had the privilege to invite others, such as our boss and his son."

"My boss has only one son, are you sure he invited you?"

Chen Fan was at a loss for a second. He didn't recall Wei Ziqin mention that she was the owner of the Fang Sheng International Group. Plus, Manager Zhu had said clearly that his boss had a son, not a daughter.

Seeing Chen Fan had kept his silence, Manager Zhu became hesitant to take any action.

Finally, he decided to ask someone to check the guest book like the boy had suggested, thinking it was better to be safe than sorry.

Suddenly, another voice came out from behind him.

"Although I am not sure if anyone invited him, I had seen this boy just a few weeks ago, and he was working at a bar as a Fruit Boy."

The crowd looked toward the speaker, and they saw a gorgeous girl wearing a painted face and a dazzling dress.

"How could a young master of the Fang Sheng International Group be friends with a Fruit Boy?"

The crowd boiled over as soon as the girl finished her words.

Most people had thought that Chen Fan was just a foolish boy got caught for sneaking into somewhere he didn't belong, but no one had expected that there was so much more than what met the eyes.

"The owner of the Fang Sheng International Group and his son were both influential people in the city; they would never waste their time befriending a laborer, much less inviting him to their event."

"His claims are so blown out of proportion that even a blind man would know he was lying."

“What a shame that Xu Rongfei would fall for someone like him.”

By then, everyone looked at Chen Fan with contempt and disdain.

If Chen Fan would have admitted that he had snuck into the event just to see his lover, people might have more sympathy for him. However, his poor lies had made people question his integrity, and by then, no one was on his side.

Chen Fan didn't mind the accusations, but he looked at the girl who spoke up.

“That is Lou Xiaoxiao... So the person who is behind all of this should be...” Chen Fan calculated his situation in his mind.

Manager Zhu asked the girl in a serious tone, “Young lady, are you telling me the truth?”

“I can vouch for her.” Another voice spoke up.

The speaker managed to give Jiang Churan an apologetic smile before he continued, “I had met Mr. Chen in the bar where he worked. But who knows, maybe he has some connection that we are not aware of. I suggest Mr. Zhu check the guest book just in case. But yes, the young lady told the truth.” Li Yichen said.

“The person behind all of this is Li Yichen!” Realization finally dawned upon Chen Fan.

Jiang Churan furrowed her brows as she wondered if Chen Fan had —unknown to her—offended Li Yichen. However, Jiang Churan conceded that Li Yichen didn't need a “casus belli” in this case since it was Chen Fan that had lied from the beginning.

She looked at Chen Fan and then heaved a sigh of resignation.

“Is this all you got? You sounded so ambitious while we last spoke at the bar, but it seemed that was just empty talk. I was right about you after all.” Jiang Churan was very disappointed with Chen Fan.

“Since Young Master Li had put it this way, I don't think there is any need to check the guest book any longer.” Manager Zhu smiled at Li Yicheng.

Li Yichen was the most influential young man in the city. If he had vouched for the girl, Manager Zhu was in no place to doubt him.

General Zhu didn't even turn around to look at Chen Fan when he gave the order:

“Security! Remove this young man out of this establishment.

“How dare you sneak into our private property, you will regret this!”

Everyone finally started to feel a shred of sympathy for the young boy.

Even if someone wanted to speak up for him, they would have to deal with the combined wrath of Chu Minhui, Li Yichen, and the Fang Sheng International Group. And that would make even the most powerful man in the room think twice of their actions.

Although Chang Wen had kept her silence, her face lit up with satisfaction.

Lou Xiaoxiao snorted lightly as he looked at Xu Rongfei who was already on the verge of breaking down into tears.

Si Yinxia shook his head; he knew that no one would be able to save Chen Fan tonight.

Li Yichen didn't even grace Chen Fan with a glance. He looked away and took a sip of the red wine from his glass.

It was a simple if not lazy move from him, and it was enough to destroy Chen Fan's life once and for all.

All the friends of Xu Rongfei, such as Zhang Yumeng and Han Yun shook their heads in dismay. They thought maybe this was for the best, the relationship between Xu Rongfei and the new-boy would never lead to anywhere anyways.

Xu Rongfei was the only person who pleaded with Manager Zhu to not to kick Chen Fan out. However, her effort yielded no result; Manager Zhu turned on the radio and called for the security.

Chu Minhui stood proudly and sneered at Chen Fan: "Hey, kiddo, I told you so!"

You have messed with the wrong guy, man! I told you I would get you kicked out of here! What can you do now, huh? Are you gonna cry?"

Someone shouted behind Chu Minhui, "Kick him out!"

Chen Fan stood still and didn't move. No one knew what he was thinking at this critical moment.

However, even as Chu Minhui, Ji Xingyu, and Lou Xiaoxiao were convinced that they had avenged their defeat, they then heard an icy voice rise behind the crowd:

"Don't touch him!"