

Y Master 291

Chapter 291 [Behind the Scenes]

After the clear dawn, the bright sunlight poured into Qinghong Villa, dazzling with golden light and adding a touch of warmth to the villa after autumn.

However—

On such a sunny morning, the members of the Qinghong Gang in Qinghong Villa did not feel any warmth; instead, they had been feeling as if a gloomy aura had enveloped the sky above the villa since the morning, giving them a sense of terror and causing their bodies to shiver with cold.

All of this was because they heard that Young Master Qinghong, Chen Feilian, had dispatched two Black Dragon Guards to assassinate someone named Ye Fan in Huaxia, but the operation had failed.

They were terrified that Chen Feilian would vent his anger on them.

While the Qinghong Gang members in Qinghong Villa were feeling paranoid, Chen Feilian sat in his study with a murderous look on his face.

Although he had learned of the assassination's failure and the loss of the two Black Dragon Guards in Huaxia several hours earlier, his mood had still not improved.

"Dinglingling—"

Suddenly, the ringing of the telephone broke the silence of the study.

Chen Feilian furrowed his brows and glanced at the caller ID, then picked up the phone upon realizing it was Lin Tianyi.

"Young Master Chen..."

"Spit it out if you have something to say!"

Lin Tianyi started to greet him and was about to report the situation when Chen Feilian coldly interrupted him.

"This is the situation—I just received news that our skilled men in Minnan Province have all been taken away by the Yanhuang Organization. In addition, a large number of armed police from the Southern Fujian Armed Police Corps launched a sudden raid on our smuggling business without the police's knowledge, and took away a large number of personnel. Moreover, all the officials involved in our business dealings have been secretly taken away."

Lin Tianyi reported tremblingly, "Also, after all this happened, Ye Fan's damn dog suddenly appeared in Southern Fujian with a group of people, trying to take advantage of the chaos and attempting to seize Southern Fujian!"

"Sss—"

Hearing Lin Tianyi's report, the already bad-tempered Chen Feilian sucked in a cold breath and cursed loudly, "Bai Luo, that idiot!"

Lin Tianyi deeply agreed.

In his view, if it weren't for the pig teammate Bai Luo being secretly monitored by Ye Fan, and thus having the assassination by the two Black Dragon Guards in Huaxia leaked, allowing Chu Ji to ambush them—given the formidable strength of the two Black Dragon Guards, killing Ye Fan would have been like slaughtering a chicken!

If Ye Fan had been assassinated, how could their smuggling business in Southern Fujian be so easily raided?

Yet—

While understanding, Lin Tianyi couldn't help but lament in his heart that Ye Fan, the illegitimate son of the Ye Family who he once looked down upon, was far more cunning and insidious than he had imagined!

"Young Master Chen, there's another matter of even greater importance." Seeing that Chen Feilian had been silent for a long time, Lin Tianyi mustered up his courage and said.

"What is it?"

"Just now, the spokesperson for Yanhuang Organization held a press conference regarding the assassination attempt on that bastard Ye Fan and announced to the global media that from now on, if any underground forces dare to enter Huaxia and engage in illegal activities, Yanhuang Organization will spare no effort to exterminate that organization!" Lin Tianyi said with some fear.

"Damn it!"

Chen Feilian had been considering whether to personally go to Huaxia and crush Ye Fan to death. Hearing what Lin Tianyi said now, he shivered with rage and had no choice but to abandon his thoughts. After thinking for a moment, he said, "Currently, the situation is extremely unfavorable for us. Have the businesses on the mainland that can be stopped paused for now, and remind those below to keep their noses clean and not cause any trouble!"

"Yes, Young Master Chen!"

Lin Tianyi responded quickly, then hesitated before asking, "If that bastard from the Ye Family continues to take advantage of the situation and strikes us elsewhere, what should we do?"

"Fight back," Chen Feilian said darkly. "As long as he dares to make a move elsewhere, hit them hard, and the bigger the commotion, the better."

"Uh..."

Lin Tianyi was taken aback, somewhat puzzled by Chen Feilian's intentions.

"Although Taiwan and the Southeast Asia Special Zone have submitted to Huaxia, Huaxia still has weak control over these two areas. Even if we make a big noise on the mainland, the Ye Family cannot completely drive us out of Huaxia."

Seemingly guessing Lin Tianyi's thoughts, Chen Feilian explained grimly, "And if we can trade our mainland turf for that bastard's leverage and then use the Bai Family's hand to eliminate him, causing Ye Wenhao to act desperately and thus trigger an all-out war between the Bai and Ye families, leading to chaos in Huaxia, it would be a very profitable deal for us!"

"Young Master Chen, you're brilliant!"

Lin Tianyi suddenly realized and quickly offered a compliment.

Chen Feilian did not relish Lin Tianyi's flattery but hung up the phone before Lin Tianyi finished speaking, his expression still frighteningly cold.

Although this assassination operation failed entirely due to his pig teammate Bai Luo, just the thought that his first confrontation with Ye Fan had ended in failure filled him with disgust, as if he had swallowed a fly during a meal!

Because, in his heart, Ye Wenhao was not even worthy to lick the shoes of his father, Chen Daozang, and Ye Fan, being Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son, was simply not on the same level as him!

As noon approached in Los Angeles, the night had already fallen in Yanjing.

Under the night sky, a Hongqi H8 sedan with a Beijing V02 license plate drove steadily along a main road in Yanjing, escorted by a car in front and behind.

The Hongqi H8 is currently the top-of-the-line sedan produced by Huaxia, not cheap, but not uncommon in Yanjing City.

However, a Beijing V02 license plate in Yanjing or even across Huaxia is as rare as hen's teeth!

It represents absolute power—a Supreme license plate!

Ten minutes later, the Hongqi H8 sedan with the Beijing V02 license plate drove into an alley in Yanjing that was no less threshold than the Royal Garden, and under the watch of four discreet members of the Yanhuang Organization's Security Bureau, it made its way unimpeded and stopped in front of the middle courtyard.

As the car came to a halt, a middle-aged man with a strong aura swiftly got out from the driver's side, opened the rear passenger door, took a step back, and bent slightly in welcome.

As the middle-aged man waited, an elderly figure frequently seen on the news broadcasts stepped out of the car and walked towards the courtyard.

"Hello, Commander!"

At the entrance to the Courtyard, a member of the Yanhuang Organization Security Bureau stood on guard, saluting and greeting with head raised and chest puffed.

The elderly man nodded slightly and stepped into the Courtyard.

"Commander, the Old Commander is waiting for you in the study."

As the elderly man entered the Courtyard, a middle-aged man with glasses approached him; he was Old Master Ye's personal secretary, responsible for the Old Master's daily living.

Ye Family Patriarch, Ye Zhen, nodded again and quickly headed towards the study, where the lights were on.

In the study, an old man with graying hair lay back in a rattan chair, eyes gently closed, immersed in Beijing opera, his face marked with age spots, revealing a trace of contentment.

"Dad."

Ye Zhen entered the study, saw Old Master Ye engrossed in the Beijing opera, glancing at the time. Finally, he still decided to call out.

Although he knew that listening to Beijing opera before sleeping was one of Old Master Ye's greatest pleasures other than playing chess, he also knew it was getting late. There was a matter to discuss with Old Master Ye. Waiting any longer would affect the Old Master's rest.

"I'm here."

Old Master Ye slowly opened his eyes and turned off the Beijing opera.

"Uh-huh."

Ye Zhen nodded lightly and quickly stepped forward, trying to help Old Master Ye up.

"I'm not yet at the point where I cannot move," Old Master Ye waved his hand and sat up on his own. Then he added, "Sit down and talk."

"Dad, you asking me to rush over so late must be about Wenhao's illegitimate son's matter, right?" Ye Zhen sat down on a chair next to him and took the initiative to ask.

"Hmm." Old Master Ye smiled faintly and asked, "What's your opinion on this matter?"

"Wenhao's illegitimate son set up a simple but clever scheme. He perfectly captured Bai's young master's psychology and timed it with precision, which wasn't easy to achieve."

Ye Zhen thought for a moment and gave his evaluation. "What's more, he almost involved Bai Guotao and the entire Bai Family. It's a pity that Bai Guotao ruthlessly sacrificed his pawns to save his king; otherwise, it would have been very beneficial for us."

"Throughout history, to become an Emperor, one must be ruthless!" Old Master Ye's gaze flickered.

"Dad, do you mean?" Ye Zhen's heart stirred, thinking of a possibility, almost in disbelief, his expression changing.

"Wenhao is no longer suitable to be an Emperor," Old Master Ye astonishingly declared.

"Uh..."

Ye Zhen's mouth fell open slightly, even with his mental preparation and steadfast composure, at the sound of Old Master Ye's words.

"If that kid hadn't shown up, he would have been quite suitable." Old Master Ye sighed softly.

Ye Zhen was silent for a long while, then spoke with a complex tone: "It seems you intend to pass on the position of Family Head to Wen Yuan."

"It's not passing on; it's a fight, and whoever wins gets it."

As he spoke, a sharp light burst from Old Master Ye's eyes, and his frail body suddenly emitted an intense aura. "Throughout history, there have been no Emperors who stepped down willingly!"

"But..."

"Frankly, none of the third generation of the Ye Family can compare to Bai Guotao in terms of ability," Old Master Ye said, clear as a mirror.

"These descendants have become accustomed to idle under the big tree. Though they have the prestige of a tiger, they lack its ferocity, while Bai Guotao has the ruthlessness of a wolf."

"So, you'd rather risk causing great turmoil within the Ye Family to toughen them up?" Ye Zhen's expression grew serious.

"Hmm." Old Master Ye nodded, then asked, "What do you think of that young man?"

"He's the complete opposite of the rumors from the outside world, not only not reckless but also cunning as a fox, ruthless as a wolf, and said to be a rare genius in Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts." Knowing that Old Master Ye was inquiring about Ye Fan, Ye Zhen pondered for a moment before giving his assessment.

"To receive such praise from you, he's the first among the younger generation."

Old Master Ye sighed and then meaningfully said, "Inform Wenhao, no matter what method he uses, even if he has to bring his son back to the Ye Family in a palanquin."

"Are you planning to use him to create turmoil within the Ye Family?" Ye Zhen felt a surge within.

"A double-edged sword, capable of slaying enemies as well as wounding oneself, destined to be blood-stained."

Old Master Ye looked into the distance, lofty and far-seeing.

Chu Xuanji, it's lonely at the top.

You stand on the bridge to watch the scenery,

The viewers in the tower watch you.

Bright Moon decorates your window,

You decorate someone else's dream.

— Behind the Scenes.

Chapter 292 [Hugging the Thigh]

Dong hai Foreign Language University Affiliated Foreign Language School is located in the Hongkou District, covering an area of thirty-three acres with a total building area of 22,508 square meters. The campus is surrounded by greenery, offers a beautiful environment, and is fully equipped with educational, activity, and living facilities. It has a strong staff and is the best prestigious middle school in Dong hai.

There's none other!

Even when considering Huaxia, Dong hai Foreign Language University Affiliated Foreign Language School ranks among the top prestigious middle schools.

Following Ye Fan's suggestion, after Su Liuli's birthday party, Su Yuxin transferred Su Jindi from Hanghu Zijin Shan Middle School to Dong hai Foreign Language University Affiliated Foreign Language School.

At eleven o'clock at night, the students had mostly returned to their dormitories, some studying or preparing for sleep, while others listened to music or watched movies.

The only exception in the entire dormitory building was dormitory 208.

This was Su Jindi's dormitory.

Ever since Su Jindi returned to the dormitory, those students from notable families who enjoyed socializing had been visiting him one after the other.

In fact, during his first week at the school, because he was an out-of-town student and rumored to have entered through the back door, he was shunned by the other students—neither welcomed in class nor in the dormitory, making him seem out of place with the school's atmosphere.

But today, his reputation resonated throughout the school, and wherever he went people greeted him, turning his dormitory into the most lively one on campus.

All of this, due to one incident, one person.

It happened on his ninth day of school when Ouyang Lingfeng, a prominent figure at Dong hai University and noted as a young prodigy in finance, visited the school and showed great interest in him.

Ouyang Lingfeng's reputation in Dong hai University and the finance sector was so outstanding that his visit caused a huge sensation at the school, making Su Jindi an overnight celebrity, with endless speculations circling about him.

The students were very curious about how Su Jindi from Hanghu came to know a financial prodigy like Ouyang Lingfeng!

The next day, a student who knew Ouyang Lingfeng learned the truth from him: Su Jindi was the brother of Su Yuxin, the head of the Tianshan Group's Dong hai Office, and the brother-in-law of the new godfather of Dong hai Underground World, Ye Fan. Ouyang Lingfeng was trying to curry favor with Ye Fan through Su Jindi!

This truth spread throughout the school on the third day, and Su Jindi became well-known to everyone. The students from scholarly families distanced themselves from Su Jindi, while those whose family members were in politics or business tried to cozy up to him, whether overtly or covertly.

As a result, more and more students gathered around Su Jindi, and to this day, leveraging his identity as Ye Fan's brother-in-law and his exceptional social skills, he had become the leading figure among the children of officials and businessmen in the school.

The children of officials and businessmen considered it an honor to visit Su Jindi's dormitory each night to chat.

And every time they gathered, there was only one topic of conversation: the impressive exploits of Ye Fan.

From Hanghu to Dong hai, Su Jindi recounted the stories of Ye Fan over and over again, almost painting him as an omnipotent deity to these children of officials and businessmen.

"Brother Su, I heard that Young Master Bai Luo of the Bai Family and his fiancée, the president of Hong Ding Club's Dong hai and overseas Chapters, Guan Lin, were both put in prison by Brother Ye. What really happened?" As usual, after entering Su Jindi's dormitory, these children of officials and businessmen brought up Ye Fan.

Swish!

As soon as the words left the student's mouth, the other children of officials and businessmen turned their eyes to Su Jindi, their faces full of anticipation.

Hmm?

Since the school operated a closed management system, where students could only go home on weekends, Su Jindi had stayed at school these past few days and had no contact with Ye Fan and Su Yuxin, unaware of this incident.

At that moment, hearing what the student said and seeing the expectant gazes of everyone else, Su Jindi was slightly taken aback.

"Hey, you're quite well-informed, kid," he responded.

Despite not knowing about the incident, Su Jindi quickly pretended to be calm, displaying a profound and mysterious smile.

"Brother Su, it's not that I'm well-informed, but now the entire upper society of Dong hai, no, the entire upper society of Huaxia, is buzzing with this news," said the official's son.

"Yes, Brother Su, I heard about it too. They say Bai Luo hired assassins to kill Brother Ye, but Brother Ye caught him red-handed."

"Not just that, I heard the Bai Family tried everything to save Bai Luo but failed."

...

Instantly, the dormitory erupted into buzz, with those informed children of officials and businessmen starting a flurry of discussions. After a while, the one who had first mentioned the incident asked again, "Brother Su, what really happened?"

"Isn't it obvious?"

Su Jindi replied irritably, "Bai Luo was like a fly buzzing around in front of my Brother Ye. This time, he just pissed Brother Ye off and got slapped to death."

"Uh..."

Even though many of the children of officials and businessmen in the room had heard about the incident and knew it to be true, hearing Su Jindi describe how Ye Fan swatted Bai Luo like a fly left the whole dormitory silent, everyone staring at Su Jindi with faces as if they had seen a ghost.

In their eyes, even if Ye Fan was a member of the Ye Family and possessed impressive Martial Arts skills, it seemed impossible to just swat the Young Master of the Bai Family, Bai Luo, to death.

"But... but, Brother Su, I heard through a little bird that the two assassins Bai Luo hired were very strong, and if Demon Queen Chu Ji hadn't happened to be at Ao Xiang Villa that night, Ye Fan would have been in grave danger."

"I heard that too, a lot of people are saying that Ye Fan managed to bring down the Young Master of the Bai Family largely due to luck."

"Luck my ass,"

Su Jindi became annoyed and scolded them, "You guys already said it's just a rumor, how can you take it seriously?"

"Ah—"

The two students were startled and asked in unison, "Then what really happened?"

"Isn't it obvious? Of course, Brother Ye took down those two idiot assassins in no time," Su Jindi casually explained.

"Sss~"

As Su Jindi finished speaking, a sound of sharp inhales filled the dormitory, and all the children of officials and businessmen stared at him, absolutely dumbfounded.

"Su... Brother Su, then why hasn't this news spread outside?" someone weakly asked while looking around.

"Ever heard of keeping a low profile? This is what it means to keep a low profile!"

Su Jindi curled his lips, acting as if he himself had accomplished that impressive feat, looking utterly smug, "It's like, if you swat a fly with your hand, would you go around bragging, 'Look how awesome I am, I killed a fly with a slap?' Would you?"

"__"

There was no answer; those children of officials and businessmen were dumbfounded.

For their former selves, the legendary Hong Ding Club was their ambition, and figures like Bai Luo and Guan Lin were the ones they looked up to!

And now, Su Jindi was telling them that to Ye Fan, people like Bai Luo and Guan Lin were just flies, easily swatted dead!

How could they not be shocked?

"Su... Brother Su, you promised us that given the chance, you would introduce us to Brother Ye."

"Yeah, Brother Su, our later life depends on you!"

...

After the shock, those children of officials and businessmen recalled that Su Jindi had promised to introduce them to Ye Fan, and they were thrilled beyond measure, as if injected with adrenaline.

Though they couldn't imagine how powerful Ye Fan needed to be to swat someone like Bai Luo as if swatting a fly, they knew that by clinging to Ye Fan's coattails, their future would be brilliantly paved.

"Do you think I'm the kind of person who doesn't keep his word?" Su Jindi was offended, how dare they question his credibility?

"Of course not!" everyone replied in unison.

"Well, that's settled then, don't worry, I've got this covered."

Su Jindi thumped his chest confidently and then with a dramatic twist added, "But you know, for someone as awesome as Brother Ye, time is very precious, so we need to find the right opportunity, right?"

"Right."

Everyone had been smoothly diverted by Su Jindi.

"Right, then that's it for today. I need to cultivate now, I'm aiming for the next realm tonight," Su Jindi declared with an air of a sage.

After hearing Su Jindi, although those children of officials and businessmen weren't fully satisfied, they reluctantly left.

"These clowns."

Noticing the admiring glances cast in his direction as they left, Su Jindi couldn't help but snicker to himself.

(☉ ○ ☉)

Only when everyone had gone did Su Jindi allow his smile to show, then quickly pulled out his phone to call Ye Fan, only to find Ye Fan's phone was off.

Realizing this, Su Jindi knew Ye Fan must be cultivating again and tossed his phone aside.

Just as Su Jindi assumed, Ye Fan was indeed cultivating.

Ao Xiang Villa, in the courtyard of the central villa.

Ye Fan was sitting cross-legged next to a jade stone, as usual.

However, unlike before, Ye Fan wasn't using the Ghostly Gourd to trigger the "Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array" for meditation cultivation, but instead he was occasionally contemplating, triggering magic, or executing Martial Arts moves, looking utterly crazed, as if possessed.

Perhaps because Ye Fan was acting so abnormally, Little Wolf sat beside the jade stone, tilting its head and blinking its big eyes, seemingly asking, "Bro, what's going on with you?"

"Still not working."

As if responding to Little Wolf, Ye Fan couldn't help but sigh.

Due to the power and mystique of the "Shadowless Yin Demon Slash," ever since returning from the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch, Ye Fan had been immersed in studying it but had failed to grasp its essence. He had also tried to integrate Martial Arts with magic, but every attempt ended in failure.

This was his hundredth failed attempt.

"Forget it, I should focus on enhancing my strength instead."

After repeated failures, Ye Fan shook his head, deciding to temporarily give up on blending magic with Martial Arts and concentrate on meditation cultivation.

Following the recent assassination attempt, Ye Fan was eager to enhance his own power.

Because, he knew, when facing the Shi Feng brothers, if it hadn't been for his cunning move, catching Shi Ling off guard, along with the Ghostly Gourd and the Crimson Gold Crown, he couldn't have possibly matched the Shi Feng brothers!

Hmm?

Shortly thereafter, before Ye Fan could enter into a state of meditation, he suddenly sensed a presence quickly approaching!

Chapter 293 【A Lifetime of Liu Li Bai】

Since Ye Fan had successfully condensed the Mental Power Seed, becoming an Innate Mage, his Spiritual Sensing Power had greatly strengthened, especially in detecting the auras of cultivators, to which he was extremely sensitive.

Sensing that Su Yuxin was rapidly approaching the villa, Ye Fan gently leaped off the jade stone.

A moment later, just as Su Yuxin was about to reach the villa's courtyard gate, her speed slowed down considerably.

In the moonlight, one could see her usually cold and frosty face faintly reveal some hesitation, uncertain whether to go in and look for Ye Fan.

Because she inherently inherited the modesty of Huaxia women, the outer-cold and inner-soft Su Yuxin was the exemplar of a virtuous wife and good mother—when her man was busy, she would not disturb him, but wait until he was done. Then, she would present her most tender side, allowing the man's weary mind and body to relax.

Today, she approached Ye Fan to discuss something, but upon reaching the gate of the villa, she felt she had been too anxious, which made her hesitate.

"Yuxin, why don't you come in?"

Inside the villa courtyard, noticing that Su Yuxin had stopped at the gate, Ye Fan slightly startled and asked.

Click!

Startled by Ye Fan's words, Su Yuxin's heart trembled slightly, her face showing a bit of panic, then she gathered herself and stepped into the villa, saying apologetically as she walked, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to disturb your cultivation..."

"If anyone should be sorry, it's me, I've only been busy with my own matters these days," Ye Fan said.

On hearing this, Ye Fan cursed himself for being silly. He had been too caught up in urgent affairs, completely neglecting Su Yuxin.

"I..."

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Su Yuxin, fully aware that Ye Fan had misunderstood her reason for coming, tried to say something.

However—

Before she could finish her sentence, Ye Fan was already by her side like a gust of wind, taking her hand and gently saying, "From tomorrow on, you should stay here. If you want to practice cultivation, join me in the yard; if not, you can rest on your own."

"Mhm."

Su Yuxin inadvertently nodded, then realizing something, her cheeks immediately flushed red. She lowered her head, her voice as soft as a mosquito, "Act... actually, that's not why I came..."

"I know."

Seeing Su Yuxin's shy expression, Ye Fan couldn't help but feel a mix of amusement and frustration. In his view, even if Su Yuxin wanted to stay with him, she would never bring it up herself, "Then what is it about?"

"It's about Liu Li," Su Yuxin mustered up her courage and looked up at Ye Fan.

"What about her?"

Ye Fan was slightly startled, thoughtfully saying, "Could it be that her body is experiencing some changes? It shouldn't be though, I used my Essence Blood to restore her Primordial Qi and improve her constitution, so her health should be better than before."

"There's nothing wrong with her body," Su Yuxin bitterly smiled.

"Then her?" Ye Fan puzzled.

"Could you help Liu Li, like you helped the Jin Emperor, to cultivate a Power Seed and become a Martial Artist?" Su Yuxin stated her purpose.

"Is this her idea?" Ye Fan was a bit surprised, "Isn't she uninterested in martial arts?"

"No, this is my idea."

In the midst of speaking, Su Yuxin sighed softly and continued, "After the incident last time, although Liu Li was physically unharmed, it seems to have left a shadow on her psyche. That day, she secretly asked me to teach her meditation."

Ye Fan was slightly shocked, as he had been focused on dealing with Bai Luo recently and hadn't noticed these details.

"I saw her desire to learn martial arts, to possess the ability to defend herself, so I taught her the methods of meditation," Su Yuxin continued. "After learning the methods, she has been attempting to practice in recent days, but hasn't managed to master it."

"Although the path of Martial Arts doesn't require as strict a talent as that of a Magician, not everyone can practice it," Ye Fan sighed. "Moreover, learning meditation directly without any basis in Martial Arts is nearly impossible."

"Yes, I overlooked this at first, until today, which is why I came to find you," Su Yuxin nodded, her voice complicated.

"Liu Li has always been strong-willed and hates to lose. Because she hasn't managed to learn meditation, she has been practicing almost day and night. Initially, she practiced in her bedroom and would just fall asleep when tired. Later, perhaps because she saw you practicing outdoors, she also sat at the stone table in the yard to study meditation. As a result, due to excessive mental exhaustion, she fainted on the stone table in the afternoon," Su Yuxin's tone trembled slightly, her face filled with distress.

"Uh..."

Even Ye Fan, knowing how persistent Su Liuli could be, was slightly surprised to hear Su Yuxin say this.

"Not only that, after she fainted in the afternoon and rested for just a couple of hours, she went back out to the yard to study meditation again. I went to remind her once, and she said she would go back to sleep soon, but she has been practicing until now," Su Yuxin's voice shook slightly, a pained expression on her face.

Not just Su Yuxin, but even Ye Fan felt a tightness in his chest, "Let's go find her now. Tonight, I'll help her generate a Power Seed inside her body, and then leave a Spiritual Imprint of meditation in her consciousness. This way, she can practice on her own, like the Jin Emperor in the future."

"Yes!"

Su Yuxin first nodded vigorously, then as if remembering something, she quickly shook her head, "No, I can't go."

"Why?" Ye Fan puzzled.

"Liu Li specifically asked me not to tell you when she asked me to teach her meditation," Su Yuxin explained.

"Why?" Ye Fan was stunned.

"Perhaps because she used to often question and criticize you. Now knowing not only of your great strength but also that you saved her life, she feels guilty and unsure how to face you," Su Yuxin subjectively judged.

Impossible.

As Su Yuxin finished speaking, Ye Fan internally dismissed her guess.

With his understanding of Su Liuli, he could tell that she was not the type to bear grudges, and her verbal sparring with him had always been in jest, never taken seriously.

If it were not so, Liu Li wouldn't have given him a surprise in front of so many people on her birthday!

"To avoid embarrassing Liu Li, you'd better pretend you stumbled upon her meditating accidentally, and give her a way out," seeing Ye Fan silent, Su Yuxin suggested.

"Alright, you wait here for me; I will go find her myself."

Ye Fan nodded in agreement to Su Yuxin's suggestion, and then his figure flashed, darting out of the villa courtyard, heading straight to the villa where Su Liuli and Situ Ruoshui were staying.

Meanwhile.

In villa number 6, where Su Liuli and Situ Ruoshui lived, Su Liuli was just as Su Yuxin had said, sitting cross-legged on a stone table.

"Sister Liuli, you fainted this afternoon due to excessive spiritual exhaustion. Although you've rested for a while, your consciousness is still very weak, and you can't continue to learn meditation," Situ Ruoshui said worriedly to Su Liuli next to the stone table.

Su Liuli gave a strained smile, "I know, Ruoshui, I'll go back to sleep in half an hour."

"Sister Liuli, why don't you let big brother help you learn meditation?" Situ Ruoshui suggested. "Just like the Jin Emperor!"

"No... no way!"

Upon hearing Situ Ruoshui's words again, Su Liuli inexplicably became a bit agitated, then realizing her own abnormality, she explained further, "Liuli, I've heard from Sister Yuxin that learning meditation with the help of someone else, just like the Jin Emperor, although one can become a Martial Artist, the future achievements will be very limited!"

"But... but..."

Situ Ruoshui originally wanted to say that it was difficult for Su Liuli to learn it on her own, but fearing that she would discourage Su Liuli, she swallowed the words that were on her lips.

"Ruoshui, although you are a Mental Body, don't forget, I am Dong University's top scholar this year,"

Su Liuli, feigning pride, puffed out her full blossoms and smiled forcibly, "My head is smart, and my comprehension is good too. Through these past few days of studying, I've almost grasped it, maybe I'll learn it in a bit."

"Really?"

Hearing this, Situ Ruoshui's face lit up with joy; her naive nature couldn't conceive that Su Liuli might deceive her.

"When have I ever lied to you?" Su Liuli said with a feigned proud smile.

"Since you, Sister Liuli, are about to grasp the method of meditation, you should study a bit longer then," said Situ Ruoshui.

Seeing this, Situ Ruoshui thought for a moment and said, "But only for half an hour, okay? After half an hour, whether you have fully grasped meditation or not, you must go back to your room to rest."

"Okay."

Su Liuli nodded, then noticing that Situ Ruoshui hadn't turned to go back inside but was still sitting not far away watching her, she added, "Ruoshui, I can't calm down with you sitting there. Why don't you go back first? I promise I'll return in half an hour."

"Alright then,"

Situ Ruoshui blinked, pondered for a moment, then agreed to Su Liuli and stood up to walk toward the main building of the villa.

"Whew—"

Watching Situ Ruoshui approach the main building, Su Liuli secretly sighed in relief, after which, the fake smile on her face disappeared completely, replaced by an expression of seriousness.

"According to Sister Yuxin, to learn meditation, one must use Spiritual Sense to detect Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and then use Mind Power to draw the Primordial Qi into the body, circulating it through the small cycle,"

On the stone table, Su Liuli carefully recalled the method taught by Su Yuxin, then took three deep breaths in succession, allowing her mood to settle down, before trying to meditate again.

"Hsss—"

Moments later, Su Liuli felt as if needles were pricking her brain, causing her whole body to shiver and gasp in pain. She had no choice but to open her eyes and stop.

"Smack... smack..."

Under the moonlight, she stretched out her hand and started slapping the back of her head forcefully, trying to use this method to alleviate the pain, while she inwardly questioned herself, "Am I really unable to learn meditation on my own, and must I find him to help me?"

"Su Liuli, if Yuxin and Ruoshui can learn it, why can't you? Why are you so dumb??"

Slapping, she inevitably scolded herself inwardly, thus increasing the intensity of her slaps, to the point that the back of her neck below her skull turned red.

"Why not go see him? With his help, I will learn meditation as easily as the Jin Emperor, and become a Martial Artist,"

Ignoring the pain in the back of her neck, a wavering suddenly occurred in Su Liuli's resolve.

"No, Su Liuli, you can't go to him!"

"You just said it yourself, the achievements of a Martial Artist who learns meditation through someone else's help are very limited. Even if you learn meditation and become a Martial Artist with his help, you can't become an Innate Warrior!"

"Then, you won't have the ability to protect yourself like Sister Yuxin and Ruoshui; you would still be his burden!"

"Burden, do you understand??"

"No! I don't want to be his burden! I want to learn meditation on my own!!"

After a brief internal struggle, Su Liuli let out a heart-wrenching cry from deep within herself.

Under the night sky.

Her eyes shimmered with tears, yet she stubbornly bit her lip, refusing to let the tears fall!

Chapter 294 [Entwined Affections, Blending Consciousness]

After the cry in her heart, Su Liuli no longer felt conflicted and regained her determination, but due to the emotional turmoil that had just been too great, she was drained of energy. She was just about to try meditation again when her vision went dark, and she fainted onto the stone table once more.

Whoosh!

At the entrance of the villa courtyard, Ye Fan had been pondering how to create an accident to make it seem like he hadn't come to find Su Liuli on purpose, but before he could come up with anything, he saw Su Liuli faint onto the stone table and his face involuntarily changed!

Immediately, Ye Fan snapped back to his senses, leapt up, and jumped over the villa's iron gate, rushing to Su Liuli's side. He supported her as she collapsed.

Hmm?

As the soft body came into his embrace, the unique scent of a young girl mixed with the faint smell of her hair wafted into Ye Fan's nose. However, Ye Fan harbored no ill thoughts, instead quickly sensing Su Liuli's mental condition, only to find that her mind had been severely overdrawn and slightly damaged.

"Why all this suffering?"

Realizing this, Ye Fan let out a wry smile, but his heart was somewhat touched by Su Liuli's perseverance.

Moved, Ye Fan released Su Liuli's shoulders, letting her lean against him, while his hands quickly formed the handprints for the 'Gathering Essence Array.'

Bare-handed formation!

Once the handprints were made, the formation was activated. The Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth above the villa courtyard fluctuated before being led down by Ye Fan's guidance, flowing towards the Tong Tian Point at the top of Su Liuli's head.

Simultaneously, with his left hand supporting Su Liuli and his right hand open, his palm was placed on the Yintang point of Su Liuli's forehead. Power flowed from his palm, entering Su Liuli's body.

As the Power entered her body, under Ye Fan's control, it spread out, flowing toward Su Liuli's consciousness, her internal organs, and main meridians, forming an invisible barrier that provided protection.

Having done all this, Ye Fan felt the Primordial Qi of Heaven and Earth enter Su Liuli's body without lingering, and he promptly manipulated the qi with his Mind Power.

Previously, when Ye Fan was repairing Situ Ruoshui's consciousness, he used his Essence Blood as the Array Eye to activate the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array, but because the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi was so vast, it was beyond his control.

This time, as the power of the Gathering Essence Array was far less than that of the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array activated with Essence Blood as the Array Eye, and the Primordial Qi drawn was thin, combined with the fact that Ye Fan's Mind Power was several times stronger than before, he could easily manipulate the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi entering Su Liuli's body.

Under Ye Fan's manipulation, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi flowed gently into Su Liuli's consciousness like a stream, quietly nourishing her mind like a silent, moisturizing rain.

Gradually, with Ye Fan's help, Su Liuli's consciousness, like a hungry person being replenished with energy, revived with vigor.

Hmm?

Noticing this, just as Ye Fan was about to stop importing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, he suddenly sensed a faint, thin line on Su Liuli's consciousness.

That line, like a rope, subtly bound and restricted Su Liuli's consciousness.

What is that?

Upon noticing the line's existence, Ye Fan couldn't help but be startled.

There was no answer; Ye Fan had never seen anyone's consciousness bound by a fine line before, nor had he heard of such a thing.

However—

Although Ye Fan didn't know what that thin thread was, he felt that since it was binding Su Liuli's consciousness, it was mostly likely detrimental to her.

With this judgment in mind, Ye Fan pondered for a moment before he acted upon his consciousness, manipulating a thread of telekinetic energy to enter Su Liuli's body, carefully surging towards her consciousness.

Very quickly, that telekinetic energy reached the outside of Su Liuli's consciousness, and then under Ye Fan's control, a filament separated and entered her consciousness.

In an instant, an anomaly suddenly occurred!

In Ye Fan's perception, the thread that was initially binding and restricting Su Liuli perversely transformed into a straight line, shooting through his telekinetic force, extending endlessly, and surging towards his own consciousness!

What's happening?

The unforeseen event caused a jolt of surprise in Ye Fan's heart!

Shortly after, without waiting for Ye Fan to figure out the reason, the invisible thread reached the outside of his consciousness.

At that moment, the crimson golden light around Ye Fan's consciousness flashed. It seemed the Crimson Golden Crown, sensing an attack on Ye Fan's consciousness, suddenly appeared.

However—

Contrary to Ye Fan's expectation, the Crimson Golden Crown did not absorb the thin thread as before, but instead vanished almost instantly!

At the same time, without the obstruction of the Crimson Golden Crown, the thread moved unimpeded, easily entering Ye Fan's consciousness, acting like a bridge that connected his consciousness with Su Liuli's.

Ye Fan's consciousness trembled, and then a vision surfaced in his mind.

In the vision, mist was shrouding the surroundings. Su Liuli, in white flowing robes and with her hair dancing in the air, sat cross-legged with closed eyes, her expression solemn and compassionate, exuding a feeling of clarity, sanctity, and wisdom.

Suddenly, the vision changed—the mist dispersed, and behind Su Liuli, a green tree emerged unexpectedly.

The Bodhi Tree?

Despite the emergence of the vision, Ye Fan's consciousness remained strong and aware, instantly recognizing the green tree as the Bodhi Tree.

The Bodhi Tree, also known as the pipal tree, is an evergreen tree with egg-shaped leaves, a yellow-white trunk, flowers hidden within their covers, and seeds that can be used for prayer beads.

"Could it be that she truly has a connection with the Buddha?"

Seeing the Bodhi Tree suddenly appearing in the vision, Ye Fan thought of how Su Liuli often spoke of her fate with the Buddhist sect, and couldn't help but question himself in silence.

According to what he knew, the Bodhi Tree has a deep connection with Buddhism. Legend has it that over 2500 years ago, the Buddha Shakyamuni was originally Prince Siddhartha Gautama from the ancient Indian Kapilavastu Kingdom. In his youth, to escape the suffering of the cycle of life, aging, sickness, and death and to relieve the suffering of sentient beings, he resolutely gave up inheriting the crown and the comfortable life of the imperial family to become a monk and seek the truth of life. After years of cultivation, he finally sat under the Bodhi Tree for seven days and nights, overcame all sorts of evil temptations, and at dawn, as the morning star rose, he attained great enlightenment and became the Buddha.

Additionally, in the early Tang Dynasty, the Sixth Patriarch, Hui Neng, wrote a widely spread poem about the Bodhi Tree, "The Bodhi is not a tree, nor is the mirror a stand; originally, there is not a single thing—where can the dust alight?"

Many people in later generations believe that there is no such thing as a Bodhi Tree in the world, which established the Buddhist theory of "all is empty."

"The old man once said that Bodhi Wuyin, the number one powerhouse of the Buddhist sect, comprehended the Supreme Skill through the Amitabha Sutra—could it be that the one who wanted to take Su Liuli as a disciple back then was Bodhi Wuyin?" Ye Fan recalled how Su Liuli had once traveled to Southern Tibet, where she chanced upon a high-ranking figure from the Buddhist sect who wanted to take her as a disciple and handed her a copy of the Amitabha Sutra.

The next moment.

Before Ye Fan could figure out the reason, the illusion changed yet again!

In Ye Fan's perception, the thin thread connecting him with Su Liuli suddenly turned into a green wooden vine, which was connected to the Bodhi Tree at its end.

As the vine appeared, Su Liuli, who was sitting under the Bodhi Tree, slowly opened her eyes and stood up.

Beneath the Bodhi Tree, her face, originally pure, holy, and wise, suddenly blossomed into a smile.

That smile was like a spring breeze overnight, making thousands of pear trees burst into bloom.

That smile was identical to the one she shared with Ye Fan at the birthday party, filled with joy and happiness.

Dumbstruck.

Within the illusion, seeing that smile which Ye Fan considered the most beautiful scenery in the world, he was totally dumbstruck.

He stood there as if he were possessed, staring blankly at Su Liuli.

Staring at her joyful and beautiful face, her flowing hair in the wind, her lively big eyes...

As he stared, Ye Fan's consciousness suddenly gave way, and like a man who had lost his soul, he was pulled by the vine and started walking towards Su Liuli.

Seeing Ye Fan approaching, the pure, holy, and wise aura about Su Liuli vanished without a trace, and her face was suddenly full of crimson blush. She lowered her head, fiddling with the hem of her clothes, too shy to look at Ye Fan.

At that moment, she seemed to have transformed from a fairy beyond the mortal realm into a young girl experiencing her first love.

"Ye Fan, what are you looking for me for?"

Later, when Ye Fan walked up to Su Liuli in the illusion, she lifted her head, her face red and her eyes shimmering as she asked shyly.

Without answering, Ye Fan seemed completely lost in the illusion, staring at Su Liuli's exceedingly beautiful face, and softly said, "Su Liuli, I like you."

"You... what did you say?" In the illusion, Su Liuli was shocked, her heart pounding wildly.

"I like you," Ye Fan repeated.

Su Liuli's face turned even redder, but she smiled happily: "Like who?"

"Like you."

"Louder, I can't hear you!" Su Liuli purposefully turned around, glancing back at Ye Fan with a mischievous smile.

"Su Liuli, I like you!" Ye Fan confessed to her retreating figure loudly.

"I still can't hear." Su Liuli laughed slyly like a fox, making a face.

"You're doing this on purpose!" Ye Fan said, frustrated.

"I can't hear you, I really can't, if you can, come catch me, hehe..."

Su Liuli ran backward, proudly speaking, leaving behind a trail of bell-like laughter, and then hid behind the Bodhi Tree.

"Don't run!"

Ye Fan sprang forward, quickly moving to Su Liuli's side. Before Su Liuli could dodge, he grabbed her delicate white hand and pulled her into his embrace.

"Ah—"

Su Liuli let out a cry of surprise, her body stiffening.

But—

Soon, the cry stopped abruptly, as Su Liuli's lips were sealed by Ye Fan's.

In the realm of fantasy beneath the Bodhi Tree, Ye Fan and Su Liuli embraced each other, kissing passionately like a couple in the throes of love.

Above the stone table, Su Liuli nestled against Ye Fan like a little bird relying on others, her face brimming with a happy smile.

"The love thread has appeared, but when will it be cut?"

On the mountain behind Ao Xiang Villa, a white figure saw this scene, frowning slightly as she questioned herself.

"What are big brother and Sister Liuli doing?"

At the window of the second-floor bedroom of the villa, Situ Ruoshui watched Ye Fan and Su Liuli clinging tightly to each other, her eyes widening in shock.

With a cry of surprise, the illusion dissipated.

Ye Fan abruptly woke up!

What happened?

Recalling everything that had happened in the illusion, Ye Fan instinctively looked down at Su Liuli and questioned himself.

"If only I could never wake from this dream."

Awakened Su Liuli thought this to herself yet kept her eyes tightly shut, pretending to be still asleep, greedily enjoying the sensation of nestling against Ye Fan.

Chapter 295 [Grudges and Affections]

The night was deep.

Bai Guotao drove the car assigned for official receptions by the Dong hai Municipal Committee into an upscale residential complex.

After parking the car in a dark, concealed corner, Bai Guotao walked out with a gloomy expression, went to the entrance of the building, and rang the doorbell of the top-floor residence on the east side. He waited until the owner of the house picked up the intercom, then he said in a tone that brooked no argument, "Open the door."

"Okay."

A slightly anxious voice came from the receiver, and soon the entrance door to the building clicked open. Bai Guotao pushed the door and entered, crossed the lobby, and walked to the elevator to ride up to the top floor.

"Ding-dong—"

About a minute later, accompanied by a crisp ding, the elevator door opened and Bai Guotao saw Su Qin standing outside the elevator doors. He frowned and said, "Let's talk inside."

As soon as he finished speaking, Bai Guotao didn't wait for Su Qin to respond and brushed past her, heading straight into the room.

Seeing Bai Guotao's frown and sensing the gloominess in his tone, Su Qin's unease intensified, but she didn't dare say anything. Instead, she followed closely behind Bai Guotao like a shadow.

"Bang—"

The door closed, and Bai Guotao stopped, turned around, and looked at Su Qin displeased: "Who told you to wait for me outside the elevator?"

"I..."

Su Qin was at a loss for words. Because of Bai Guotao's special status, to avoid being discovered, she had always been extremely careful when meeting with Bai Guotao in private.

"Su Qin, all these years, I've let you follow me largely because you knew your place and when to advance or retreat. What's gotten into you today?" Seeing that Su Qin wasn't speaking, Bai Guotao asked sternly.

That evening, after a discussion with his wife, Wang Hong, he was unable to sleep due to his irritable mood and sat alone in the study of his suite, where he received a text message from Su Qin—she wanted to meet him.

He replied to the message succinctly, deciding to sever ties with Su Qin completely from now on.

Originally, he had thought that after replying to the message, Su Qin would discreetly disappear from his life, but unexpectedly, Su Qin uncharacteristically called him directly.

He hung up the phone, but Su Qin kept calling.

After several back and forths, Bai Guotao realized that Su Qin was not giving up, so he decided to meet her one more time. Once Wang Hong fell asleep, he came to Su Qin's house alone.

"I know that Xiao Luo's imprisonment, Liu Li has an inescapable responsibility..." Su Qin said with a face full of self-reproach. She was well aware of what Xiao Luo's imprisonment meant to Bai Guotao.

As if to confirm Su Qin's guess, before she could finish her sentence, Bai Guotao interrupted her coldly, "Shut up!"

Su Qin shuddered with fright and dared not continue.

"I don't want to talk about this matter anymore. I'm here to tell you not to play with fire!"

Bai Guotao's tone was ominously low, making Su Qin in front of him seem not like the lover who had been with him for years, but like a nightclub hostess, void of any emotion.

"After the incident at Tan's Private Kitchen, I looked for Liu Li, prepared to have her apologize to Xiao Luo, and planned to tell her about her origins, but..."

"I told you to shut up!" Bai Guotao stopped Su Qin's narrative once again, his tone even lower.

"I... I don't want to leave you."

Tears involuntarily welled up in Su Qin's eyes as she looked at Bai Guotao with a tearful gaze, as if pleading.

"I don't repeat myself," Bai Guotao said expressionlessly. "You'd better do as I say, otherwise, don't blame me for being heartless!"

"Ah..."

Perhaps not expecting Bai Guotao to be so ruthless, Su Qin was stunned, letting tears roll down her cheeks.

Seeing this, Bai Guotao spared no more words and walked directly towards the door.

Su Qin pursed her lips but ultimately didn't dare to make a sound to retain Bai Guotao. She watched with wide eyes as Bai Guotao pulled open the door and strode away, leaving behind an unfeeling silhouette.

"Why has it come to this?"

As the door closed again, Su Qin slumped to the ground, weakly asking herself.

Because of Su Liuli.

The next moment, the answer emerged in Su Qin's heart.

She knew very well that if it hadn't been for the conflict between Su Liuli and Guan Lin that triggered everything that followed, even if Bai Luo went to prison, Bai Guotao wouldn't have vented his anger on her.

"If I have Liuli go apologize to Guotao, maybe he will forgive us both, mother and daughter?"

Thinking this, an idea dawned on Su Qin. She quickly got up from the ground, rushed to the coffee table, grabbed the mobile phone with trembling hands, and dialed Su Liuli's number.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable."

Soon, the pleasant voice of the automated operator rang out, but to Su Qin, it sounded like the worst sound in the world, stiffening her expression.

Afterwards, she dialled Su Liuli's number several more times, but each time it was unreachable.

"Smack—"

With the calls not getting through, Su Qin in frustration smashed her mobile phone to pieces and then decided to find Su Liuli at Dong hai University the next morning.

Meanwhile.

In a villa within the City Committee Mansion.

Zhao Meng, who had just begun his meditation cultivation, was awakened by a series of "beeping" sounds.

"What's going on?"

Zhao Meng stood up, walked over, picked up the watch-like communicator, connected it, and asked.

"Report, Director, forty minutes ago, Bai Guotao left the Sun God Hotel alone and went to Su Qin's home. He stayed for less than five minutes before driving back to the hotel," a member of the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch reported.

"I understand."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Meng's gaze flickered. As the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch, he had a high status and identity within the organization, possessing S-level access to information. He could access all information except for SS and SSS levels and was well-informed about Bai Guotao, including the fact that Su Qin was Bai Guotao's lover.

"Director, there's another matter I need to report to you," the member of the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch continued.

"What is it?"

"According to reliable information, Murong Gu and his son Murong Sheng from the Wudang Sect arrived in Dong Hai two hours ago and are currently at the Wudang Martial Arts Hall."

"Whoosh!"

Upon hearing his subordinate's report again, Zhao Meng's expression changed dramatically!

Monitoring and managing the major sects, martial arts families, and Jianghu powers of the Huaxia Martial Arts World is one of the responsibilities of the Yanhuang Organization.

Because of this, the organization's database contained the information of nearly all individuals in the Huaxia Martial Arts World.

Murong Gu and his son Murong Sheng were no exceptions.

As the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch, Zhao Meng knew that Murong Gu, mentioned by his subordinate, was an elder of the Wudang Sect. Moreover, he was aware that Murong Gu was the Great Elder, with profound Martial Arts Cultivation. It was rumored that he was one of the martial artists in the Huaxia Martial Arts World who was most likely to break through to the Gang Qi Realm within the next few years!

Murong Gu's son Murong Sheng was one of the Wudang Sect's martial arts geniuses, a leader among the younger disciples, and also a hot favorite to be in the top five of next year's Huaxia Martial Arts World Qingbang competition!

Additionally, Zhao Meng knew that Murong Gu, who ranked first in the Qingbang over twenty years ago, had been defeated by Ye Wenhao and replaced, and had since then stayed out of Jianghu affairs, closing himself off in Wudang Mountain for cultivation, personally teaching his son martial arts.

Now, Murong Gu suddenly descending the mountain with his son Murong Sheng and coming to Dong Hai made Zhao Meng feel that this was no ordinary occurrence.

"Form groups of three and monitor the father and son around the clock, non-stop. Let's see what they're up to."

After a long silence, Zhao Meng made a decision with a frown, "Additionally, before 18:00 tomorrow afternoon, report to me in writing the time they arrived in Dong Hai and their movements on the first day. I need to report this to the headquarters."

"Yes, Director!" The member of the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch immediately accepted the order.

"Murong Gu hasn't left Wudang Mountain for over twenty years. Could he have come down the mountain this time to wash away the shame of the battle from more than twenty years ago?"

After ending the call, Zhao Meng pondered thoughtfully, "But if he wanted to wash away his shame, he should go to Jiangnan to find Ye Wenhao, not Dong Hai. Could it be that he's trying to draw out Ye Wenhao through the younger generation of the Ye Family?"

As he thought, Zhao Meng suddenly envisioned Ye Fan's figure. When he considered that Murong Gu had descended the mountain with his martial arts genius son Murong Sheng, he felt this possibility was very likely.

While Zhao Meng pondered this, over at the Wudang Martial Arts Hall in the Hongkou District of Dong Hai City.

The head of the martial arts hall stood in front of Murong Gu and his son Murong Sheng with a smile of eager courtesy and said, "Great Elder, why didn't you give us a heads up so I could have sent a car to pick you up?"

"What does a martial artist need with a car?"

Murong Gu frowned and scolded, "Zhang Qian, no wonder your Martial Arts Cultivation has stagnated since you entered the secular world. You must have been dazzled by the glitz and glamor, losing your martial focus."

"Thump—"

Shocked by Murong Gu's scolding, Zhang Qian's face paled, his legs softened, and he knelt on the ground, panicking, "Zhang Qian admits his fault."

As the head of the Wudang Martial Arts Hall in Dong Hai, his status in the secular world was esteemed, but within the Wudang Sect, he was just an ordinary Inner Sect disciple, not even close to comparing to Murong Gu, the Great Elder, and even less so to the Martial Arts genius, Murong Sheng, who was also an Inner Sect disciple and was just an insignificant person.

"Enough, with your talent, it's unlikely you will achieve great heights in martial arts anyway. The secular world is more suited for you. You promote the sect and make money in the secular world and also scout for talented youths. In this way, you're contributing to the sect," Murong Gu said indifferently.

"Phew~"

Seeing that Murong Gu's anger had subsided, Zhang Qian breathed a sigh of relief.

"Have you prepared the information I asked for?" Murong Gu asked again.

"Great Elder, it's ready."

Zhang Qian responded respectfully and quickly got up from the ground. He walked over to the desk, picked up a folder, and said, "This is the information I've collected about Ye Fan."

"Give the information to Sheng'er."

Murong Gu instructed and then said to Murong Sheng, "Sheng'er, take a good look."

"Dad, is there anything worth looking at?" Murong Sheng did not take the information about Ye Fan.

"The old saying goes, 'know thyself, know thy enemy, and you will never be defeated in a hundred battles.' You should read the information carefully to get a clear understanding of the boy's strength, personality, and style of doing things to ensure there is no mishap in the life-and-death battle."

Perhaps already accustomed to his son's arrogance, Murong Gu did not get angry but patiently advised, "Besides, it will help you form a good habit of learning about your opponent's details before each fight. Especially for next year's Qingbang competition!"

"Alright."

Murong Sheng, upon hearing this, dared not retort any further, but he casually flipped through the information, not taking a serious interest.

Hmm?

Later, just as Murong Gu was getting dissatisfied with Murong Sheng's attitude, Murong Sheng's pupils suddenly dilated, his eyes shining brightly as he stared at the photo of Su Liuli in the information.

"Little Junior Brother, do you know her?"

Noticing Murong Sheng's abnormal reaction, Zhang Qian asked somewhat puzzled.

"Yes."

Murong Sheng nodded subconsciously and then hesitated: Could it be that she has a good relationship with Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son?

Chapter 296 [Everything is arranged by fate]

"Saint, who do you know?" Murong Gu asked curiously.

"Senior Brother Zhang, I need to discuss something with my father. Please step out for a moment," Murong Sheng didn't immediately answer Murong Gu, instead turning to speak to Zhang Qian.

"Yes, Junior Brother," Zhang Qian nodded in response at once, respectfully withdrawing.

Murong Sheng, holding Ye Fan's information, stood up and walked over to Murong Gu, saying, "Dad, I know her."

"What's the matter?"

Murong Gu was puzzled. His son had grown up on Wudang Mountain since childhood, rarely staying in the secular world; it made no sense that he would know someone from Ye Fan's circle.

"This girl is named Su Liuli," Murong Sheng explained. "She visited Wudang Mountain this past summer and we had a brief encounter."

"Oh?"

Murong Gu's brow furrowed slightly; he vaguely sensed that Murong Sheng was hinting at something.

As if to confirm Murong Gu's suspicion, Murong Sheng soon became lost in his memories, his face radiating a brilliant smile, "That day, I happened to go to the front courtyard and saw her kneeling devoutly on the ground, burning incense, and she captivated me. I felt she was different from the secular girls who come to the mountain to offer incense, very compelling, so I couldn't refrain from approaching her and talking to her, and that's how I learned her name. She mentioned she was there to pray for her sister's blessings."

"That day, she left the mountain, but I couldn't forget that scene of her devoutly kneeling and praying—it haunted my dreams."

By the end, Murong Sheng's expression held a subtle excitement. "Originally, I planned to use this opportunity of the secular experience to find her, but I didn't expect to receive news of her as soon as I came to the Dong Hai."

"You mean?"

Murong Gu's brows furrowed deeper; he sensed something from his son's tone and expression and also realized that his son had repeatedly requested to come down the mountain for experience, mostly because he wanted to find this girl named Su Liuli.

Murong Sheng met his father's gaze fearlessly, stating word by word, "I fell in love with her at first sight."

"Uh..."

Seeing Murong Sheng's love for Su Liuli but witnessing him admitting it so straightforwardly, Murong Gu was somewhat astonished. Besides being astounded, his brows were tightly knit as he pondered deeply.

"Dad, I plan to find her," Murong Sheng said seeing that Murong Gu wasn't speaking.

"You want to pursue her?" Murong Gu's heart stirred.

"Yes, every time I think of her, I silently tell myself that I should leave the mountain to find her and make her my wife," Murong Sheng nodded in acknowledgment.

"Hiss~"

Murong Gu sucked in a breath of cold air, his expression slightly bizarre, "Saint, considering she appears in the dossier, it proves she has a close relationship with Ye Wenhao's illegitimate child. According to our plan to come down the mountain, you're supposed to engage in a life-and-death duel with Ye Wenhao's illegitimate child. Given this, do you think you can win her over?"

"Dad, the reason I asked Senior Brother Zhang to leave was that I wanted to discuss this matter with you,"

Murong Sheng spoke clearly, "As you mentioned, according to the dossier, she and Ye Wenhao's illegitimate child are on good terms; if I kill Ye Wenhao's illegitimate child, she will certainly blame me, despise me, and would not respond to my advances."

"Are you proposing to give up this life-and-death duel?" Murong Gu's expression changed, speaking decisively, "Absolutely not!"

"Dad, you misunderstand; I never considered giving up the life-and-death duel," Murong Sheng shook his head.

Murong Gu was somewhat puzzled, "Then what do you mean?"

"Dad, you have been secluded in Wudang Mountain for years with the aim of finding Ye Wenhao after coming out and avenging the humiliation of that battle years ago. Now, you have reached the Half-step Gang Qi realm and are fully confident of defeating him, but since Ye Wenhao has abandoned martial arts for politics, worried that he won't accept your challenge, you planned this indirect approach—letting me challenge Ye Wenhao's illegitimate child, kill him in a duel and thus provoke Ye Wenhao into accepting your challenge,"

Murong Sheng replied irrelevantly, "You planned accordingly because the various channels informed you that Ye Wenhao places high importance on his illegitimate child. Considering this, I actually don't have to kill him—just crippling him during the duel should be enough to enrage Ye Wenhao, and your goal would be achieved just the same."

Murong Gu remained silent, apparently considering the possibility Murong Sheng had presented.

"Dad, in these past few months, my martial arts cultivation has stalled largely because I've been distracted by this girl named Su Liuli; it's almost become a mental block for me,"

Seeing this, Murong Sheng reminded him, "If I can be with her, the mental block will naturally dissolve, which would greatly benefit my training, and I would be able to increase my strength more quickly, competing in the Qingbang competition next year to bring glory to you and Wudang."

"Alright, we'll do as you suggest,"

Hearing this, Murong Gu's heart was moved, recognizing that what Murong Sheng said was true, adding, "However, Saint, I must remind you. Matters of the heart cannot be forced. Everything must follow fate. If the girl named Su Liuli rejects you, I hope you won't be devastated, as that would have an even greater impact on your cultivation."

"Don't worry, Dad, my will isn't that weak. Moreover, I'm thinking that by sparing Ye Wenhao's son on her behalf, she'll be grateful to me,"

Murong Sheng confidently smiled, feeling as if he had already seen the tearfully grateful expression of Su Liuli towards him. Ye Fan, in his view, represented no threat at all and could be easily defeated.

"Ye Wenhao, I just hope you won't turn out to be a coward."

At the same time, Murong Gu quietly clenched his fists, feeling an intense desire to immediately trample Ye Wenhao underfoot and harshly humiliate him, reclaiming the upper hand from their past encounters.

Unaware of all this, Ye Wenhao was at his residence, Villa No. 1 in the Jiangnan Provincial Committee Family Courtyard.

As usual, after returning from work to the villa, Ye Wenhao stayed alone in his study, flipping through a stack of documents, organizing his thoughts on recent work.

Suddenly, Ye Wenhao's mobile phone, placed on the desk, began to vibrate, making the rosewood desk buzz loudly.

Hmm?

Ye Wenhao, hearing the noise, paused momentarily, then set aside the documents in his hand and picked up the private mobile phone—its number known only to a very few. Immediately, he saw it was a call from Ye Family Patriarch Ye Zhen.

"Dad."

Once the call connected, Ye Wenhao greeted him first, suspecting that Ye Zhen's late call was mostly related to Ye Fan having sent Bai Luo to prison.

"Wenhao, I just went to your grandfather's place and talked about Xiao Fan,"

As Ye Wenhao had guessed, Ye Zhen directly brought up Ye Fan, "We were all wrong about him in the past. He is nothing like the reckless and impulsive man the rumors describe. Instead, he's cunning as a fox, fierce as a wolf, and forceful as a tiger. He managed to send the Bai Family's young man to jail with a mere gesture and almost caused the Bai Family to be implicated as well. This maneuver is truly

astonishing. Compared to him, whether it's the Bai Family's young man or our own youngsters, they fall far short."

Without responding, Ye Wenhao had a face full of proud smiles.

No parent dislikes hearing others praise their child.

Moreover, in Ye Wenhao's memory, Ye Zhen had never given such high praise — 'cunning as a fox, fierce as a wolf, forceful as a tiger' — to any young person before.

"Wenhao, how is your relationship with him now? Have the rifts between you been mended?" Ye Zhen asked after the praise.

"Not yet."

Upon hearing this, Ye Wenhao's proud expression slowly faded, and he cursed himself internally—Ye Zhen's late-night call was definitely not just to praise Ye Fan.

"Wenhao, the last time Xiao Yan went to Dong Hai to find Xiao Fan, you slapped her. Not only did your grandfather not blame you, but he also asked you to bring Xiao Fan to the Ye Family,"

Ye Zhen pondered for a few seconds, then added, "Today, I went to see your grandfather and he brought up the past issue again. In his words, with Xiao Fan's capability, if he rejoins Ye Family, it will be our Old Ye Family's fortune; losing him, however, would be our loss."

Ye Wenhao remained silent, well aware that Old Master Ye's insistence on having Ye Fan return to the Ye Family, apart from Ye Fan's remarkable performance, was much attributed to the backing of Chu Xuanji.

"The reason I'm calling you is partly to tell you that your son is quite exceptional, and partly to encourage you to quickly resolve any misunderstandings with him and to bring him back to the Ye Family,"

Seeing that Ye Wenhao didn't respond, Ye Zhen instructed, "Your grandfather said he wants him back in the Ye Family by this year's spring festival at the latest."

"Dad, you know very well that the rift between him and me is due to me choosing to pursue a political career as arranged by the family, abandoning Ling Yun — he hates me because of that."

Ye Wenhao sighed, saying, "Under such circumstances, asking him to willingly return to the Ye Family will be difficult. Even trying to earn his forgiveness is a tough task."

"He has your blood in his veins, and that of the Ye Family, and he is also a man of deep loyalty and righteousness. I believe if you and the Ye Family treat him with sincerity, he will choose to accept you as his father, and this family, too," Ye Zhen said.

Hmm?

Hearing Ye Zhen's words again, Ye Wenhao vaguely guessed another motive behind Old Master Ye's actions, but he wasn't sure.

"Wenhao, I suggest you go and have a good talk with him soon," Ye Zhen advised: "You are father and son, and the ties that bind you are not easily broken. Once you talk things out, everything else can be put behind."

"Dad, I can only do my best, but I can't guarantee the outcome."

Perhaps due to a deep desire to be forgiven by Ye Fan, or perhaps because of the arrangements by Old Master Ye and Ye Zhen, Ye Wenhao pondered for a moment and then agreed, but he prefaced with a warning, "I won't force him to do anything, and with his temperament, he's unlikely to be forced into doing anything."

"I understand," Ye Zhen was not bothered and instead asked, "When do you plan to go?"

"I'll go in the next few days; otherwise, it will have to wait until the end of the year. There's too much to do."

Ye Wenhao thought for a while, then gave his reply, unaware that his old enemy was waiting for him in Dong Hai!

Chapter 297 The Mystery of Birth Origins

In the early morning, as the dawn light spilled over the streets and alleys of Dong hai, bus stops and subway stations were crowded with anxious office workers and students waiting for their rides, and the streets were filled with fast-moving cars. A new day had begun.

Under the dawn light, a red Range Rover was driving on a main road towards Dong hai University.

As usual, Liu Li was driving, with Situ Ruoshui sitting in the passenger seat.

"Sister Liuli, be careful!"

Suddenly, a cry of alarm rang out, and Situ Ruoshui, looking tense, warned Liu Li.

Hearing this, Liu Li quickly turned the steering wheel, and the red Range Rover narrowly missed the mirror of the car ahead, narrowly avoiding an accident.

"Sister Liuli, haven't you recovered your focus? Why do you keep getting distracted while driving?"

Feeling scared, Situ Ruoshui patted her 36D left chest and couldn't help saying, as this had been the third heart-pounding incident.

"Recove ... recovered."

Liu Li answered somewhat flustered, her pretty face filled with embarrassment, and behind the awkwardness, there was also an unmistakable hint of joy—since leaving Ao Xiang Villa, everything that had happened with Ye Fan in her dreams the previous night kept flashing through her mind like a movie, leaving her sweetly indulged and causing her to lose focus while driving.

"Logically, since it was Big Brother who helped you, he should definitely have been able to help you regain your focus."

Situ Ruoshui nodded and then, either to keep Liu Li from getting distracted again by deliberately starting a conversation or out of curiosity, asked again, "Sister Liuli, Big Brother said last night that he wanted to help you cultivate a Power Seed and teach you meditation, why didn't you accept?"

"I've said before, learning meditation with the help of others would limit my future achievements. I'm determined to become a master," Liu Li said, and inexplicably, she remembered the feeling of being woken from her dream by Situ Ruoshui's cry last night and nestling in Ye Fan's arms.

That feeling, like poison, had addicted her the first time she tried it, causing a faint blush to creep up her cheeks.

"Sister Liuli, you really are persistent," Situ Ruoshui said admiringly.

Proudly lifting her little head, Liu Li felt even more convinced of her own determination. Otherwise, how could last night's scenario have occurred?

Half an hour later, Liu Li drove the red Range Rover into Dong hai University, heading straight for the school parking lot.

Uh?

Suddenly, the sweet smile on Liu Li's face froze, and she stared blankly ahead at a car.

It was a large-displacement Audi A6L, a common car, but it bore municipal government license plates, and according to the plate number, it belonged high up in the ranks, at least to a director-level official's vehicle.

"Sister Liu Li, what's wrong?" Noticing Liu Li's unusual behavior, Situ Ruoshui asked.

"No ... nothing."

Although she said this, the smile had disappeared from Liu Li's face, her expression turned ugly, and her eyebrows inadvertently furrowed together.

Ahead, Su Qin, who had seen the red Range Rover from inside the high-ranking municipal government Audi A6L, brightened up, hurriedly pushed open the car door, and stepped out.

"Sister Liu Li, it seems to be Auntie."

Having met Su Qin once with Liu Li, Situ Ruoshui recognized her immediately.

"Hmm."

Su Qin nodded, thought for a moment, and then told Situ Ruoshui, "Ruoshui, after you get out of the car, go to the classroom first. I'll follow soon."

"Okay."

Situ Ruoshui nodded, got out of the car as soon as it stopped, and cutely greeted Su Qin, "Hi, Auntie."

"Hello, Ruoshui," Su Qin forced a smile.

"You talk with Sister Liuli. I'll head to the classroom now. Goodbye, Auntie." Situ Ruoshui smiled and waved her hand, holding her textbooks as she left.

Meanwhile, Liu Li got out of the car and clearly saw that Su Qin's hair was somewhat disheveled, her normally well-moisturized face was sallow, her eyes were dark-rimmed, and she looked extremely haggard, a stark contrast to her usual image.

For some reason, seeing this scene made Liu Li pause for a moment, and involuntarily, her anger and resentment decreased slightly, compelling her to ask, "What are you doing here? Why have you become like this?"

"Liu Li, whether for your own sake or for mine, you must distance yourself from Ye Fan!" Su Qin stepped forward, grabbed Liu Li's hand as if fearing Liu Li might run away.

Liu Li, initially feeling somewhat sympathetic upon seeing Su Qin's haggard face and not planning to dwell on the previous issue where Su Qin had told her to apologize to Bai Luo, became angry again upon hearing Su Qin's words. Her face immediately turned cold, "Hey, last time you told me that Ye Fan could never stand against Young Master Bai, Bai Luo, and asked me to apologize to Bai Luo. Now, after Bai Luo was personally sent to prison by Ye Fan, never to recover, you come to me again, asking me to distance myself from Ye Fan! Are you suggesting that the Bai Family will make sure Ye Fan meets a horrific end and that they will take their anger out on me as well?"

Su Qin instinctively nodded.

"Huh, you really are a good mother,"

Seeing this, Liu Li felt as if her heart was being stabbed, causing intense pain, her tone becoming much colder, "But I'm curious, where were you, this 'good mother,' when I was being framed and almost bled to death? You didn't even call to comfort me, did you?"

"Liu...Liu Li, I was out of town on a business trip those days, and I only came back yesterday," Su Qin explained urgently.

"A business trip? Alright, let's say you were on a business trip and got back only yesterday. But at least you could have called yesterday to ask if I was feeling better, instead of coming here first thing in the morning to tell me to distance myself from Ye Fan," Liu Li grew increasingly agitated as she spoke, "If it weren't for Ye Fan, I would have been reporting to Yama Palace by now!"

"I... I..."

Su Qin was at a loss for words before she finally took a deep breath, as if she had made a major decision, her body trembling as she said, "Liuli, I asked you to make a clear distinction with Ye Fan, not only because I'm worried the Bai Family would take their anger out on you, but there's another reason."

"What reason?" Su Liuli asked.

"Bai Luo is your brother," Su Qin revealed the secret that had been hidden deep in her heart for many years.

"Uh..."

Hearing Su Qin's words, Su Liuli looked at Su Qin in shock, as if she had heard the most incredible thing in the world, her face full of confusion as she stuttered, "What... what did you say??"

"Bai Luo is your brother, you are Bai Guotao's daughter," Su Qin spoke again, stating the fact.

"This... this... how is this possible?"

Su Liuli widened her eyes, completely dumbfounded, "Didn't you tell me my father died in a car accident? How did I suddenly become Bai Guotao's daughter??"

"The story about your biological father is just a lie, aimed at covering up my relationship with Bai Guotao, with whom I have no relation," Su Qin sighed softly.

"No, this isn't true!"

Perhaps because it all came so suddenly, to the point that Su Liuli was completely unprepared, her emotions became agitated; her eyes reddening as she grabbed Su Qin's arm and shook it hard, "Tell me this isn't true!!"

"It's true," Su Qin said, guilt surfacing on her worn face.

Whoosh!

Hearing Su Qin's confirmation again, Su Liuli trembled violently as if electrocuted, subconsciously letting go of Su Qin, and uncontrollably took two steps back, nearly collapsing to the ground.

In the morning light, she stood motionless like a statue.

If it weren't for the heart-wrenching pain that felt as though her heart was being torn apart, she might even suspect that all of this was a dream!

A nightmare!!

"Liuli, I'm sorry."

Seeing this, Su Qin's guilt intensified and she softly apologized.

No response.

Su Liuli just stood silently, letting tears slide down her cheeks, her heart repeating over and over: I am Bai Guotao's illegitimate daughter, and he is Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son, we can never be together!

"I'm sorry, I should have told you earlier."

Seeing Su Liuli remain silent, Su Qin apologized again and then tried to step forward to hold Su Liuli's hand once more, only to find Su Liuli weakly squatting on the ground, her head buried between her legs, crying silently.

"Liuli..."

Su Qin approached to comfort her.

"Get away, get away!"

Su Liuli, as if greatly provoked, pushed Su Qin away.

"Liuli, I know it's hard for you to accept this fact right now, but Bai Guotao's blood runs through your veins; it's an unchangeable truth," Su Qin sighed and said, "Initially, I wanted to tell you this before you apologized to Bai Luo, but unexpectedly, I didn't get the chance to tell you before something like this happened."

"If I'm not mistaken, the reason you came looking for me, aside from telling me to draw a clear line with Ye Fan, was to have me apologize to Bai Guotao as well, right?" Su Liuli, with tear-stained cheeks, looked at Su Qin with a chilling expression.

Upon hearing this, Su Qin hesitated slightly but finally nodded.

"Heh... Heh heh... Heh heh heh..."

Seeing Su Qin nod, Su Liuli suddenly laughed, a laugh filled with heart-wrenching pain. Then, she looked at Su Qin with deep resentment, her voice hoarse as she said, "Su Qin, all you really care about is

yourself! You are afraid this matter will affect your relationship with him, so you came to me, asking me to admit my wrongs!"

Su Qin was at a loss for words.

"Su Qin, you are too selfish, you don't deserve to be my mother—I hate you!!"

Tears flowed into Su Liuli's mouth, tasting bitterly as she yelled despairingly and hatefully at Su Qin, then without waiting for a reply, turned and ran away.

"Liuli..."

Su Qin tried to follow but slipped, nearly falling to the ground.

Without responding, Su Liuli ran and cried, her heart feeling as if it was being stabbed by a sharp dagger, the pain making it difficult to breathe.

Chapter 298 【Self-important】

Whoosh!

As the new top scorer of Dong hai University and hailed as one of Dong University's Double Beauties along with Situ Ruoshui, Su Liuli enjoyed immense popularity at Dong hai University, almost universally known and recognized.

When she ran out of the parking lot with tears streaming down her face, she instantly caught the attention of the students, and a question arose in nearly every student's mind, "What happened to Su Liuli?"

Ignoring the gazes of the students, and not bothering to wipe the tears from her face, Su Liuli just kept running.

It seemed she wanted to run far away, to get as far away from Su Qin as possible.

It also seemed she wanted to alleviate the pain in her chest through vigorous running.

"Su Liuli!"

As she ran, suddenly a voice called out from beside her.

It was a man's voice.

Hmm?

Upon hearing this call, the heartbroken Su Liuli paused and instinctively looked towards the source of the sound.

What caught her eye was a strange-looking man, with a full forehead, sharp eyebrows, and bright eyes. His temples were slightly bulging, and his skin was as smooth and tender as a baby's. He wore his long hair up, secured with a hairpin, appearing quite unusual.

Furthermore, the man's arms were slightly longer than average, his hands had well-defined joints, and he was dressed in a loose-fitting tracksuit, which looked somewhat out of place on him.

In the morning light, the man watched Su Liuli excitedly and walked briskly towards her, his steps so light that he seemed to almost glide over the ground.

Perhaps because of the man's bizarre appearance, which was out of sync with the atmosphere of Dong hai University, Su Liuli's gaze lingered on him for several seconds before she realized she didn't recognize him. Then, she started running again.

"Please, wait a moment!"

As Su Liuli started to move away, the man called out, his feet shifting rapidly, and in the blink of an eye, he appeared right in front of her.

"Who are you?"

Looking distressed, Su Liuli frowned and asked, obviously displeased by the man's sudden blocking of her path, her tone slightly annoyed.

"I'm sorry, Lady Su, I was too presumptuous."

Seeing that Su Liuli had no recollection of him, and sensing her slight dissatisfaction, Murong Sheng felt a bit disappointed. Despite this, he smiled and said, "I am Murong Sheng, a disciple of the Wudang Sect."

A disciple of the Wudang Sect, Murong Sheng?

Su Liuli was startled, then tried to sift through her extensive memory for any information on this man, but found none.

"You visited Wudang Mountain to offer incense last summer. We met then." Seeing that Su Liuli still didn't recognize him, Murong Sheng had no choice but to remind her again.

With Murong Sheng's reminder, Su Liuli suddenly remembered her trip to Southern Tibet, when she had made a detour to Wudang Mountain to pray for blessings for her cousin Su Yuxin.

Then, she also recalled an instance where a Taoist had tried to strike up a conversation with her. Surprised, she asked, "You... you are that Taoist?"

"Yes."

Seeing that Su Liuli finally remembered him, Murong Sheng felt a sigh of relief internally, and his smile brightened.

"Why are you here?" Su Liuli asked curiously.

"I came specifically to find you." Murong Sheng replied frankly, his eyes gleaming brightly as he looked at Su Liuli, not hiding his admiration and affection for her.

"To find me?"

Hearing Murong Sheng's words and seeing his unmasked adoring gaze, Su Liuli was momentarily taken aback.

"Yes."

Murong Sheng nodded decisively.

"What... what do you want with me?" Su Liuli was full of questions.

"When we met by chance last time, I felt you were very special. After you left, I couldn't forget you and always wanted to come down the mountain to find you. This time, I accompanied my father down the mountain on business and was already planning to look for you. Then I accidentally found your information, so I came here right away," Murong Sheng explained.

Although Su Liuli had never seriously dated before, she had received confessions since middle school, so often that she couldn't even keep track anymore.

In such circumstances, after hearing Murong Sheng's words, Su Liuli discerned his intentions.

After a moment's thought, as she usually did when receiving confessions, she replied apologetically and tactfully, "I'm sorry, I already have a boyfriend."

"Ah—"

Murong Sheng exclaimed in surprise before asking somewhat puzzled, "I've seen your profile, and according to it, you don't have a boyfriend?"

Originally, Su Liuli was in an extremely bad mood because she had suddenly learned that she was the illegitimate daughter of Bai Guotao. She had just spoken to Murong Sheng partly out of politeness and partly because she was curious why a Taoist would come to the school.

At this moment, when she heard Murong Sheng say that he had looked into her background, Su Liuli raised her eyebrows and turned to leave.

"Miss Su Liuli, please wait a moment."

Seeing this, Murong Sheng hurriedly stopped Su Liuli again, and before she could get angry, he took the initiative to explain, "I didn't intentionally investigate your information. In fact, at first, I didn't even know where you were, I came across your information by chance."

Su Liuli frowned, looking at Murong Sheng with a skeptical gaze.

"You should remember what I just said, that I came down the mountain this time following my father on a mission, right?" Murong Sheng added, seeing that Su Liuli did not believe him.

Su Liuli still frowned, "What does that have to do with you investigating my information privately?"

"This time I came down the mountain with my father to engage in a life-and-death duel—I saw your information in my opponent's documents," Murong Sheng said truthfully.

"Who are you going to have a life-and-death duel with? Why would your opponent's information include mine?" Su Liuli's pupils dilated sharply upon hearing this, guessing something in her mind but not daring to be sure, her tone slightly excited.

Murong Sheng said, "According to the information, you are friends with my opponent, Ye Fan."

"You're going to have a life-and-death duel with Ye Fan?"

Although Su Liuli had just vaguely guessed that Ye Fan was Murong Sheng's opponent, hearing Murong Sheng personally confirm it still shocked her immensely.

On one hand, in her eyes, Murong Sheng and Ye Fan were two unrelated parties, it made no sense for them to engage in a life-and-death battle; on the other hand, having witnessed Ye Fan's duel to the death with Hongwu Sect's genius, Yang Qing, she knew well the cruelty of Martial Artist duels—it's either your death or mine!

"Yes..." Murong Sheng nodded, about to say more, but Su Liuli interrupted him.

"Why do you want to have a life-and-death duel with him?"

"It's like this, my father was defeated by his father, Ye Wenhao, years ago, losing the glory of being first on the Qing bang. After that battle, my father returned to Wudang Mountain for seclusion and has only recently left seclusion. This trip down the mountain is to find Ye Wenhao to redeem the humiliation of that battle, and at the same time, he wanted me to engage Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son, Ye Fan, in a life-and-death duel," Murong Sheng further explained.

Hearing the reasons, Su Liuli's eyebrows were deeply furrowed, her gaze flickering, silent and seemingly lost in thought.

"Miss Su Liuli, according to the Martial Arts duel agreement, one party will undoubtedly be killed or completely lose the ability to fight."

Murong Sheng, seeing this, stood straight and chest out, confidently smiled and said, "Originally, my father wanted me to kill Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son in the duel, but since he is your friend, I can spare his life for your sake and just defeat him."

As his words fell, Murong Sheng looked expectantly at Su Liuli.

The next moment.

Su Liuli did not appreciate him as Murong Sheng had hoped. Instead, her expression suddenly turned cold: "Are you sure you can defeat him?"

"Of course."

Sensing Su Liuli's anger, Murong Sheng was taken aback for a moment, then lifted his head, full of arrogance, "I am the most outstanding disciple of the younger generation in Wudang Sect, there's no way he is my match."

"There have been many arrogant people who thought defeating him would be easy, but all of them were sent to Yama Palace!"

Feeling Murong Sheng's arrogance, and recalling Murong Sheng's arrogant offer to spare Ye Fan's life as a favor to her, the already upset Su Liuli felt a surge of anger burning within her heart, she coldly laughed, "If you don't want to die, you'd better leave Dong hai immediately!"

"You... what did you say??"

Initially, Murong Sheng thought that by sparing Ye Fan's life for Su Liuli's sake and just defeating Ye Fan, Su Liuli would appreciate him. But seeing that not only did Su Liuli not appreciate him but also spoke angrily saying he couldn't possibly match Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son and even saying 'if you don't want to die, leave Dong hai immediately,' he was completely stunned.

He knew through information provided by Zhang Qian, the owner of Wudang Martial Arts Hall, that although Ye Fan was a rare practitioner of both Magic and Martial Arts with combat abilities not inferior to an Innate Great Success Martial Artist, and with Magic Cultivation that also might have reached the Early Innate Realm, and had even easily defeated the Lan Hua Sect successor, he didn't take him seriously.

Because, being the Martial Arts genius of Wudang Sect, who led the young disciples and had already reached the Innate Great Success Realm, not to mention due to practicing Wudang Sect's treasured defense 'Taiyin Xuanmen Sword Technique,' in terms of combat power, he was completely not inferior to a typical Peak stage of Innate Martial Artist!

More importantly, for this trip down the mountain, Murong Gu, the Great Elder of the Wudang Sect, especially brought one of Wudang's treasured magical artifacts, the 'Taiyin Xuan Sword.'

The Taiyin Xuan Sword, a Pure Yang Magical Artifact, not only negated the invasion of Evil Yin Qi but also cut through iron like mud. Once Murong Sheng wielded the Taiyin Xuan Sword, combined with the 'Taiyin Xuanmen Sword Technique,' his combat power would multiply several times over, easily slaying Peak stage of Innate Martial Artists!

In such a scenario, for Su Liuli to say he might not be a match for Ye Fan, how could he not be shocked?

In his view, if he wielded the Taiyin Xuan Sword, slaying Ye Fan would be no different than slaughtering a little chick!

"Su... Su Liuli, I will prove that everything I've told you is not just talk, that kid is no match for me—within three moves, I will definitely defeat him!"

Snapping out of his daze, Murong Sheng, while not understanding why Su Liuli trusted Ye Fan so deeply, was extremely indignant and then, fearing that Su Liuli might get angry, he added, "Of course, I will keep my promise to you and spare his life!"

Chapter 299 [Challenge, Fearless!]

Hearing Murong Sheng's arrogant words again, Su Liuli furrowed her brows and, without engaging further in verbal sparring, she snorted coldly and turned to leave.

"You... you don't believe me?"

Murong Sheng yelled after Su Liuli's retreating figure. Seeing that Su Liuli did not stop, his face turned red with anger, his fists clenched so tightly that they cracked, his brows and eyes full of fury. Internally, he vowed fiercely, "Su Liuli, tomorrow, I will show you how utterly he fails in front of me!"

"Snap—"

As his words fell, inner strength surged within Murong Sheng's body, and the road beneath his feet immediately collapsed, with the sounds of breaking echoing ceaselessly.

"Ah—"

Witnessing this scene, which only appeared in TV and movies, all the surrounding students were shocked and stared open-mouthed. Then, they looked at Murong Sheng as if he were a monster, exclaiming incessantly.

"A bunch of mortals!"

Murong Sheng looked down at those students disdainfully, then, with a flicker of his feet, he rapidly vanished from everyone's sight, not at all concerned about the sensation his actions might cause.

Meanwhile, although Su Liuli heard the exclamations behind her, she ignored them, wiped the tears from her face, adjusted her emotions, and ensured her mind went back to calm before taking out her cellphone to call Ye Fan.

She didn't want Ye Fan to know her background nor see her at her lowest, which was why she chose to inform Ye Fan by phone.

"Liuli."

The call connected and Ye Fan's voice came through, calling Su Liuli by her name in a much more affectionate tone, his voice also becoming gentler.

All of this was because of the bizarre illusion from the night before.

Although Ye Fan did not know why he and Su Liuli had experienced that illusion, it had deeply embedded itself in his mind, refusing to fade, substantially closing the distance between him and Su Liuli, far beyond plain friendship.

"I... I have something to tell you."

On hearing the name 'Liuli' and detecting the gentleness in Ye Fan's voice, Su Liuli was momentarily startled, then her frozen heart slightly warmed.

"What is it?"

Ye Fan felt somewhat guilty; although it had all happened in an illusion, he had indeed done those things to Su Liuli but hadn't shown any response or offered explanations afterward. He instinctively thought Su Liuli was about to question him about that incident.

"Do you know Murong Sheng?" Su Liuli asked.

"Uh..."

Seeing that Su Liuli wasn't asking about the previous night's events, Ye Fan was slightly taken aback and asked, "Do not know, who is he?"

"He is a Wudang Sect disciple."

"A Wudang disciple?"

Ye Fan was curious, wondering why Su Liuli was asking him if he knew a Wudang disciple.

Su Liuli quickly explained, "According to what Murong Sheng said, his father Murong Gu was once the top expert of Qing bang, and he lost to your father in a martial contest, causing the title of the number one of Qing bang to be taken by your father."

"Oh?"

Ye Fan was struck by the thought and then remembered the legendary deeds of Ye Wenhao. He felt that Su Liuli wouldn't have brought up Murong Sheng for no reason and promptly asked, "Liuli, how do you know this?"

"During the summer, I went on a trip to Southern Tibet alone. On the way, I went to Wudang Mountain to pray and burn incense for Yu Xin, where I encountered Murong Sheng and had a brief conversation."

Saying this, Su Liuli paused for a moment, then couldn't help but lie, "Just now, I ran into him by chance, and after talking for a bit, I learned all this from him."

"Why would he tell you about his father and my father?" Ye Fan continued asking, almost subconsciously using the words 'my father' instead of Ye Wenhao's name, and it didn't feel the least bit awkward.

Hearing Ye Fan say 'my father,' Su Liuli's heart sank without explanation, but she forcibly hid her emotions and said, "Because he told me he is coming down the mountain to challenge you to a life-and-death fight. I asked him why he would do such a thing, and then he told me about his father and your father."

"I see."

Ye Fan's eyes narrowed slightly.

Given the cruelty and high stakes of a life-and-death fight, typically, martial artists engage in such battles only if they have great grievances with each other. Only very few would rashly issue a challenge over a matter of pride.

Now that he heard Su Liuli say that Murong Sheng wanted to challenge him to a life-and-death fight, Ye Fan understood that the other party intended for the son to fight on his father's behalf, to regain face and wash away the disgrace of that past battle!

"From the tone of that Murong Sheng, he seems quite formidable; you should be cautious, better to investigate his strength thoroughly before deciding whether to accept the challenge."

For Su Liuli, her earlier threat to Murong Sheng was partly because she really had confidence in Ye Fan's strength, and partly because she was feeling downcast and found an outlet. Now that she had calmed down, she was somewhat worried for Ye Fan's safety.

"Yes, I'll find out what I can about him right now."

Though he said that, Ye Fan's eyes were nearly closed tight, a cold light flickered in his gaze, as if he had already made the decision to accept the challenge.

"Good."

Su Liuli initially wanted to talk more with Ye Fan, but hearing that Ye Fan was going to investigate Murong Sheng's strength, she had to give up on what she was about to say and quickly agreed, ending the call voluntarily.

"Beep... beep..."

Seeing the call had ended, Ye Fan pondered temporarily, then dialed Chu Ji's number.

"My dear nephew, what do you need your aunt for?" Chu Ji's saccharine voice quickly sounded.

"Do you know about the martial arts fight between my father and Murong Gu back then?" Ye Fan asked straightforwardly.

"That battle, where your father defeated the then first-ranked Wudang disciple Murong Gu, taking his place and shaking the Martial Arts World, leaving behind a legend, I naturally know about it," Chu Ji replied instinctively, then sensing something amiss, asked, "Why do you suddenly ask about this?"

"Murong Gu's son, Murong Sheng, has come down from the mountain and wants to challenge me to a life-and-death fight," Ye Fan replied truthfully.

"What?"

Upon hearing this, Chu Ji was startled, and then her tone became serious, "When did this happen? Did you accept the challenge?"

"I just heard the news; he hasn't sent the challenge letter yet," Ye Fan replied, "I called you because I want you to help me investigate Murong Sheng's background and see how strong he is."

"I heard that Murong Sheng is a leading figure among the young disciples of Wudang Sect, but I'm not sure what realm his strength has reached. However, he is one of the seed players for next year's Qing Bang competition."

Chu Ji's tone was a bit more solemn. Although Ye Fan's improvement had far exceeded her expectations, she could not guarantee that Ye Fan could defeat Murong Sheng, who was hailed as the new generation Martial Arts genius of Wudang.

Ye Fan raised his eyebrows and asked, "What is a seed player?"

"Seed players are those most likely to fight for the top three spots in the annual Qing Bang competition. There are ten in total, mostly Martial Arts geniuses from various sects and families, all bearing the title of Martial Arts genius," Chu Ji explained.

"I see," Ye Fan murmured thoughtfully.

"Xiao Fan, after your father defeated Murong Gu years ago, he returned to Wudang Mountain and has been in seclusion ever since. Now, his son has suddenly come down the mountain to challenge you. I think he must be prepared."

Chu Ji paused to consider, then cautioned, "To be safe, don't accept the challenge yet. Wait for my reply—I'm going to investigate Murong Sheng's real strength right now."

"Okay."

Ye Fan hesitated briefly but agreed to Chu Ji's suggestion, yet he couldn't help but ask himself: If Murong Sheng's strength is greater than his own, should he play the coward and flee?

No!

Almost without thinking, an answer emerged in Ye Fan's mind.

Shortly after Ye Fan hung up the phone, footsteps sounded outside the villa.

"Mr. Ye, a man named Zhang Qian has arrived at the villa. He claims to be the Wudang Sect Leader and says he has important matters to discuss with you. Will you see him?"

Soon after, a Dong hai Gang member responsible for the villa's security walked into the grand hall, first bowing to Ye Fan, and then asked respectfully.

So soon?

Hearing this, Ye Fan felt a surge of anger and said sternly, "Let him in!"

"Yes, Mr. Ye!"

The Dong hai Gang member promptly took the order, then communicated Ye Fan's instructions to his companions at the villa gate via radio.

Upon receiving the instructions, the Dong hai Gang member at the gate told the seated Zhang Qian in the Mercedes SUV, "Mr. Zhang, Mr. Ye agrees to see you. Please have your driver follow me."

"Fine."

From the back seat of the car, Zhang Qian responded somewhat irritably, seemingly annoyed at being stopped at the gate, but his mood improved significantly when he thought of his purpose for visiting today, and he smirked incessantly.

Ten minutes later, Zhang Qian, driven in the Mercedes SUV, followed the lead vehicle smoothly along the estate's roads, eventually stopping outside Ye Fan's villa.

Hm?

As the car stopped, Zhang Qian immediately sensed the dense Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi above the villa courtyard.

"It seems the rumors are true; this young Mr. Ye is indeed practicing Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts, and his Magic Cultivation is not low," he thought, his mind stirring. Then, remembering that Murong Sheng was not only powerful but had also specifically brought one of the sect's treasures, the Taiyin Xuan Sword, down from the mountain, he smirked inwardly, "This kid is also considered a rare genius in the Martial Arts World, but it's a pity he's going to be nipped in the bud by my junior brother!"

"Mr. Zhang, Mr. Ye is waiting for you in the hall, please!"

As Zhang Qian smirked, the Dong hai Gang member who had reported to Ye Fan stepped forward, gesturing for him to proceed.

Zhang Qian nodded haughtily, pushed open the car door, stepped out with his hands behind his back, carrying an air of superiority.

Seeing this, the Dong hai Gang member looked somewhat displeased but said nothing, silently leading the way ahead.

Whoosh!

As he entered the villa, Zhang Qian swiftly scanned the Essence Qi jade stone in the middle of the courtyard, then followed the Dong hai Gang member towards the main building.

In the hall, Ye Fan was already seated on the sofa waiting. Upon seeing Zhang Qian enter, he did not get up but just watched quietly.

Facing Ye Fan's action, Zhang Qian felt somewhat displeased and snorted, "I am Zhang Qian, an Inner Sect disciple of Wudang Sect, and the leader of Dong hai Wudang Martial Arts Hall."

"If I'm not mistaken, you are here to deliver a challenge on behalf of Murong Sheng, right?" Ye Fan asked expressionlessly.

How does he know?

Startled by Ye Fan's words, Zhang Qian was taken aback and looked at Ye Fan suspiciously, unable to read anything from his face.

"Mr. Ye is right. My junior brother Murong Sheng is a Martial Arts genius of the Wudang Sect. Hearing that Mr. Ye is skilled in both Magic and Martial Arts, he wishes to exchange a few moves with Mr. Ye," said Zhang Qian, as he pulled out the challenge letter personally written by Murong Sheng, provoking, "I wonder if Mr. Ye would accept the challenge?"

"An exchange? Ha, he wants to avenge his father and redeem the shame of that battle years ago," Ye Fan said with a sneer, "Go back and tell him, I'll be waiting for him here at Ao Xiang Villa anytime!"

Whoosh—

As the words fell, Ye Fan's consciousness moved, and the challenge letter in Zhang Qian's hand suddenly flew out, landing in Ye Fan's hands.

"Uh..."

Zhang Qian was stunned, not sure if he was shocked by Ye Fan's words or by Ye Fan's action, but he was completely overwhelmed by a single thought.

Facing the challenge, Ye Fan was fearless!

Chapter 300 The Son Fights for His Father

What right does he have to be so arrogant?

Is it because he's skilled in both magic and martial arts?

Or does he think that my junior brother is as weak as the successors of small sects like the Lan Hua Sect?

In the midst of his shock, a series of doubts surfaced in Zhang Qian's mind.

There were no answers.

But in Zhang Qian's view, with Murong Sheng's strength and wielding the Taiyin Xuan Sword, cutting down Ye Fan with Wudang Sect's treasured Taiyin Xuanmen Sword Technique would be as easy as slicing vegetables.

Thinking this, Zhang Qian sneered disdainfully, "Please rest assured, Mr. Ye, I'll convey your words exactly as you said. Now, please sign here so that in case of any accidents during the duel, the Yanhuang Organization cannot hold anyone accountable."

Whoosh—

Ye Fan expressionlessly unfolded the letter of challenge, taking in its contents at a glance.

I, Murong Sheng, am a disciple of the Wudang Sect. Twenty-three years ago, your father Ye Wenhao defeated my father and took the title of number one in the Qing Gang. As his son, I find this unacceptable and hereby issue a life-and-death challenge to you.

Date of the life-and-death battle: December 5, 2018.

Location of the life-and-death battle: Dong hai Wudang Martial Arts Hall.

Note: Originally, the outcome of a duel is determined by fate. However, in consideration of you being a friend of Su Liuli and out of respect for her, I will spare your life!

Hm?

At the last part of the message, Ye Fan's eyebrows raised and his eyes narrowed once more.

"Mr. Ye, you won't go back on your word, will you?" Seeing Ye Fan's expression, Zhang Qian thought he was intimidated by the content of the letter and, wanting to provoke him, said with a sneer.

Go back on his word?

Swish, swish, swish...

In the blink of an eye, Ye Fan signed his name at the bottom right corner and with a thought, his telekinesis surged again.

"Swoosh—"

Accompanied by a whooshing sound, one of the letters of challenge suddenly sprang up and, turning into a streak of white light, shot towards Zhang Qian.

Swish!

Zhang Qian's face changed color. He didn't dare to catch it head-on and instead hastily retreated two steps in panic, only to find... that the letter had stopped right in front of him.

"You..."

Seeing this, Zhang Qian realized he had embarrassed himself and was quite infuriated, his face turning the color of liver.

However—

Angry as he was, after uttering a 'you', he sensed Ye Fan's seemingly calm but pressuring gaze. A clever thought struck his mind, and he quickly swallowed the words he had at the tip of his tongue, grabbed the letter of challenge, and left.

"This son of a bitch!"

After leaving the villa courtyard and getting into the car, Zhang Qian, recalling his own embarrassing moment, felt more humiliated than if he had been slapped in the face twice. He cursed under his breath and then quickly said to the driver, "Drive, hurry up!"

As soon as he finished speaking and saw that Ye Fan hadn't chased after him, Zhang Qian inwardly heaved a sigh of relief, then quickly took out his cell phone and dialed Murong Sheng's number.

"Senior Brother Zhang, have you delivered the letter?"

The call connected quickly, and Murong Sheng, holding the cell phone prepared by Zhang Qian, answered the phone exactly as Zhang had taught him and immediately asked.

"Junior brother, the letter has been delivered..." Zhang Qian started to say something, but Murong Sheng interrupted him.

"Did he accept the challenge?"

"He accepted the challenge, and he somehow knew beforehand about your life-and-death battle with him. He guessed my intentions before I even presented the letter," Zhang Qian recalled Ye Fan's foreknowledge, somewhat puzzled.

"I told someone else," Murong Sheng replied indifferently.

"I see," Zhang Qian realized, and remembering how he had been startled by Ye Fan just moments ago, felt a bit annoyed. He provoked with exaggeration, "Junior brother, that Ye guy is way too arrogant! He asked me to tell you that he's waiting for you at Ao Xiang Villa anytime and if you don't show up, you're a coward!"

"Sss~"

As a leading figure among the young disciples of Wudang Sect and the son of the Great Elder Murong Gu, Murong Sheng, carrying a high status wherever he went, had long developed an imperious character. Hearing Zhang Qian's embellished words, he was infuriated and inhaled sharply.

Realizing Murong Sheng's reaction, Zhang Qian knew his provocation had worked and added fuel to the fire, "Not only that, but the kid also ridiculously claimed he would defeat you within ten moves..."

"Hah, he's not afraid of his tongue being blown away by the wind?" Murong Sheng said with a sneer, "I was initially only planning to beat him and cripple his Kung Fu, sparing his life. Now it seems that just

cripling his Kung Fu is too easy on him. I'll have to cut his tendons and tongue, making him spend his life with his mouth shut tight!"

"That's exactly what should be done to such delusional people. They need to be taught a harsh lesson," Zhang Qian said, though curious why Murong Sheng intended to spare Ye Fan's life. Hearing the rest of Murong Sheng's remarks, he felt that doing so would be much more satisfying than killing Ye Fan outright, and he concurred obsequiously.

Ye Fan was unaware of all this.

After Murong Sheng left the hall, Ye Fan unfolded the left-behind letter of challenge again, his gaze returning to the last part of the message, his expression somewhat peculiar.

On one hand, if Murong Sheng were only an acquaintance from Wudang Mountain, as Su Liuli had said, then there would be no reason for Murong Sheng to show mercy out of regard for Su Liuli.

On the other hand, he didn't believe Su Liuli would deceive him.

"Buzz... buzz..."

Moments later, before Ye Fan could snap out of his contemplation, the vibrating sound of his cell phone rang out.

With a thought, Ye Fan picked up the phone and saw that it was a call from Su Yuxin.

"Hello."

Ye Fan pressed the answer button, assuming that Su Liuli had told Su Yuxin about the life-and-death battle, which was why she had called.

Contrary to expectation, Su Yuxin did not ask about the life-and-death battle, but spoke with a rather anxious tone, "Liuli is in trouble!"

Swish!

Ye Fan's face changed at the words, "What happened to her?"

"Just now, Liu Li's mother called me and told me that she went to reveal Liu Li's true identity to her this morning. Liu Li couldn't accept it, ran away crying, and hasn't been answering her phone since."

Su Yuxin spoke rapidly, "Just now, I called Liu Li, hoping to ask her what was going on, but as soon as I started speaking, Liu Li said she wanted to be alone. Then she hung up the phone."

"Is there a problem with her identity?" Ye Fan asked pointedly, cutting to the heart of the matter.

"Yes."

Su Yuxin gave a positive answer and then sighed deeply, "She... she is the illegitimate daughter of Bai Guotao."

"What... what?"

Perhaps the answer was too shocking, and Ye Fan leapt up from the sofa, his face filled with disbelief, "How could she possibly be Bai Guotao's illegitimate daughter??"

"Su Qin said that her excuse for not getting married because of Liu Li's biological father's death was all a lie. In fact, she has been Bai Guotao's mistress over these past years, and Liu Li is their child."

Su Yuxin said somewhat irritably, then sighed again, "And with Liu Li's reaction just now, it probably confirms that this is true."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan felt a strange sense of constriction in his heart, as if this matter impacted him far more than Murong Sheng's challenge!

"Liu Li has always had a strained relationship with her mother, and now that she knows of such a heritage, she must be feeling very upset," Su Yuxin's tone was filled with worry, "She hasn't been answering my calls; I'm afraid she might do something foolish in her desperation..."

"I'll call her now, then go find her," Ye Fan couldn't help but interrupt Su Yuxin.

"Yes."

The reason Su Yuxin called Ye Fan was to have him try to talk to Su Liuli, so when she heard him take the initiative, she quickly responded.

Ye Fan didn't waste any more words; he hung up and dialed Su Liuli's number directly.

"Has Murong Sheng issued a challenge?"

Contrary to Ye Fan's expectations, Su Liuli not only answered the phone immediately but also brought up the matter of the life-and-death battle, her tone revealing an unmistakable worry.

Hearing Su Liuli's words and feeling the concern in her tone, and realizing how much she cared about him despite suffering a massive blow, Ye Fan's heart warmed inexplicably, but then felt an intense constriction, involuntarily saying, "I already know about your situation."

Swish!

Upon hearing his words, Su Liuli's face turned pale, her whole body violently shook, and her hand trembled, nearly dropping the phone.

"I know this is a heavy blow for you, and you must be feeling very upset. But I think you should talk about it, tell Yu Xin or Ruoshui, or even tell me. It might make you feel better," he said softly, as Su Liuli remained silent, as if he could envision just how upset she was, his heart aching slightly.

"I'm... I'm sorry."

On the other end of the phone, Su Liuli stood stiffly, her face pale, her eyes reddening, her voice trembling, "I just learned about this myself, and I... I didn't know how to tell you all."

As she finished speaking, her face was filled with worry, seemingly concerned that Ye Fan would distance himself from her because of her background.

That worry caused her nose to tingle, and tears uncontrollably streamed out of her eyes, quietly sliding down her pallid cheeks.

"Are you worried that we will care about your background?" Ye Fan's heart stirred, guessing what might be on her mind.

"Hmm."

Su Liuli squatted on the ground, powerless, biting her lip, and responded in a soft voice.

"You're overthinking it. No matter whose daughter you are, Yuxin will always be your cousin, and Ruoshui will always be your best sister. They won't mind..." Ye Fan said softly, trying to comfort her.

With tears in her eyes, Su Liuli couldn't help interrupting Ye Fan, "I'm worried that you'll mind."

"Me?"

Ye Fan was taken aback; a feeling he could not quite describe or understand rose in his heart. He didn't ponder what that feeling really was and simply explained, "I do have a grudge with the Bai Family, even a life-and-death enmity. But as you said, you only found out the truth about your heritage today. Before that, Bai Guotao and your mother, Su Qin, they all knew this fact, yet failed to fulfill the responsibilities and obligations of parents and never told you! It can be said that you and Bai Guotao have only the name of father and daughter, but not the reality. How could I possibly mind?"

"You... You really don't mind?" Su Liuli suddenly became agitated, to the point where her breathing became rapid, and her heartbeat suddenly quickened.

"I don't mind," Ye Fan replied crisply.

"Sigh~"

Receiving Ye Fan's confirmation, Su Liuli let out a long sigh of relief as if she had been pulled up from the abyss, "Thank... Thank you, Ye Fan."

"Why so formal?" Ye Fan said with a wry smile.

Hearing Ye Fan's words again, and recalling how she couldn't help but express her fear that Ye Fan would mind, Su Liuli's originally pale pretty face not only regained some color but also took on a faint blush.

Later, to avoid the awkwardness, she deliberately changed the subject, "By the way, has Murong Sheng already sent you a challenge?"

"He didn't come; he sent someone instead."

Ye Fan said it and, thinking of the last part of the challenge letter, hesitated for a moment before adding, "Murong Sheng said in the challenge letter that he would spare my life for your sake..."

"I... I have nothing to do with him! We've only met once! He wants to pursue me, so he's deluding himself into getting my favor with this method!"

Su Liuli's emotions flared up again, startled by Ye Fan's words, fearing that Ye Fan might misunderstand her relationship with Murong Sheng.

"I see," Ye Fan said, realizing the truth.

"You... You accepted the challenge?"

Seeing that Ye Fan was neither suspicious nor angry, Su Liuli breathed a sigh of relief, then suddenly became anxious as another thought struck her.

"Hmm."

Looking at the challenge letter beside him, and thinking about everything Ye Wenhao had done for him, Ye Fan couldn't help but close his eyes and said softly, "I don't want anyone to point at his spine and say his son is a coward."