

Young Master 121

Chapter 121: The Final Madness!_3

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh..."

In an instant, numerous marble fragments transformed into a barrage of hidden weapons, swiftly shooting towards Yang Qing.

Although Yang Qing had broken through to the Early Innate Realm and could ignore attacks from the Dark Force, the marble fragments infused with Dark Force were not something he could withstand head-on. Left with no choice, he had to dodge; as a result of the sheer number of fragments, one struck him, slicing off a chunk of flesh.

"Aaaah, I'm going to kill you!"

Seeing that he hadn't managed to land an attack on Ye Fan, but had instead been wounded by Ye Fan's marble fragment, Yang Qing roared furiously like a wild beast, lunging toward Ye Fan once more!

Retreat!

Ye Fan continued to abide by the principle of "If the enemy doesn't move, neither do I; if the enemy shows signs of moving, I move first," avoiding a direct confrontation with Yang Qing.

Unlike the previous two encounters, this time, Yang Qing seemed to have made up his mind to slay Ye Fan, completely descending into madness. Like a vengeful ghost, he relentlessly pursued Ye Fan, his attacks surging like waves, leaving no opportunity to catch a breath.

Perhaps it was his resolute determination to kill Ye Fan that triggered an unprecedented release of his potential. His attacks grew faster with each attempt, and there were even a few occasions when he almost landed a hit on Ye Fan!

"Daddy, make big brother give up!"

Even though she couldn't make out the movements in the fight between Ye Fan and Yang Qing, Situ Ruoshui could see Ye Fan being chased around the arena, clearly at a disadvantage.

"Right, let him give up! Giving up is embarrassing, but it won't result in injuries or death!" Su Liuli's heart was in a tight knot, and she quickly chimed in.

Su Jindi didn't say anything, but his distressed demeanor revealed his stance.

Although he was reluctant to accept that Ye Fan was losing ground, he believed that if Ye Fan continued to fight, he was very likely to end up splattered with blood on the spot.

"He can't give up..." Su Yuxin interjected with a frown before Situ Chen could speak.

"Why?"

Su Liuli, Situ Ruoshui, and Su Jindi asked in unison.

"They signed a life-and-death contract before the match."

Su Yuxin stood motionless, looking intently at the arena ahead with concern: "That means unless one party is willing to spare the other, one of them must die!"

"Um..."

Upon hearing Su Yuxin's explanation, Su Liuli, Situ Ruoshui, and Su Jindi were all stunned into silence.

Once the shock had passed, they simultaneously refocused their gaze on the arena, their hearts leaping to their throats!

Clearly... they all understood that Yang Qing would never let Ye Fan off!

"Jiang Nian, stop the match immediately!"

At the same time, Ye Wenhao once again issued an order to Jiang Nian through the radio.

Initially, he believed Ye Fan had a trump card he hadn't used yet, but as time went on, he not only waited in vain but saw Yang Qing's speed and ferocity increase. Ye Fan seemed to be dancing on the sickle of the Death God, at any moment liable to meet his demise.

"Alright."

Jiang Nian, too, noticed the extreme danger in Ye Fan's close shaves and knew he couldn't wait any longer. Otherwise, once Ye Fan was too slow to dodge or if his power was fully depleted, death was inevitable!

Whoosh!

Moments later, just as Jiang Nian was about to take a second step, Ye Fan and Yang Qing separated once again on the field.

"Huff... Huff... Huff..."

In the sunlight, Yang Qing, because of his rage and eagerness to finish Ye Fan off in one go, had become bloodshot and exhausted all his Gang Jin, not to mention his ragged breathing and profusely open pores oozing sweat that formed mist around his body.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan not only had no need to catch his breath; there wasn't even sweat on his forehead.

Hmm?

He still has power!

Upon noticing this, Jiang Nian's eyes lit up. If Ye Fan were depleted of his inner strength, he would be drenched in sweat just like Yang Qing.

If Jiang Nian could notice this, how could Ye Wenhao not?

"That explains it!"

Ye Wenhao suddenly realized, his heart free of any remaining concerns.

"Uh..."

At the same time, Yang Qing also noticed Ye Fan's dry forehead. His pupils dilated instantly, his face in disbelief: Why... Why does he have so much power left?

Why??

"Have you had enough?"

Ye Fan sprang up from the ground, arriving in an instant before Yang Qing. His right hand swept out abruptly, catching Yang Qing's neck and hoisting him up as if lifting a small chicken, "Tell me, how do you want to die?"

Chapter 122: [Slaying the Hongwu Sect Genius!]

A deep and hoarse roar exploded next to Yang Qing's ear, making his ears buzz, and he instinctively tried to struggle, but it was as if an immobilization spell had been cast on him, rendering him completely immobile.

All this, simply because he no longer had even a trace of Gang Jin in his body!

Without Gang Jin, even though Yang Qing was an Early Innate Martial Artist, he could only rely on his physical strength to fight. How could he possibly break free from Ye Fan's restraint?

At this moment, he was like a little chick being held in the air by Ye Fan.

In the sunlight, his face lost all arrogance, replaced only by shock, as if asking: how could your power be so overwhelming??

"You said earlier, not only did you want to smash my mouth, break my teeth, but also cut off my tongue and ears, right?"

Without an answer, Ye Fan repeated Yang Qing's previous words in a tone that was light and casual, as if discussing an insignificant triviality.

Gulp!

Yang Qing's Adam's apple moved convulsively, and fear was evident in his eyes.

He tried to say something, but because his throat was clamped by Ye Fan, he could only stick out his tongue from his bloodied mouth, unable to speak a word, only managing to make a sound akin to a duck's quack.

"Swish!"

The next moment.

Under Yang Qing's terrified gaze, Ye Fan turned his hand into a blade and suddenly slashed at Yang Qing's tongue that was protruding from his mouth!

This strike, powered by Ye Fan's force, was so fast that, except for Jiang Nian and Ye Wenhao, everyone else could not see his movement, only a blur of his hand.

As the hand blur passed, Ye Fan's fingers, like sharp blades, easily severed Yang Qing's tongue!

"Aow!"

A searing pain instantly invaded Yang Qing's whole body as he trembled violently as if electrocuted, and a painful roar emitted from his throat.

"Next, the ears."

Ye Fan, as if discarding trash, threw the half of the tongue onto the ground and spoke unhurriedly, while slowly reaching out with his left hand and gently grabbing Yang Qing's left ear.

In an instant, Yang Qing's body trembled violently again, his face turning deathly pale!

"Hiss~"

A sound akin to tearing cloth resounded as Ye Fan forcefully tore off Yang Qing's left ear.

"Aow! Aow!"

Yang Qing's body shook violently, his wails unceasing.

"Hiss~"

Without pausing, Ye Fan duplicated the action, tearing off Yang Qing's other ear.

"Aow!!"

Yang Qing's wailing grew even louder, and the intense pain washed over him like a tide, continuously battering his consciousness, shattering his will.

In a moment, he was drenched in sweat, as if he had been pulled out from a pool of water.

"I remember, you also insulted my family and master, right?" Ye Fan spoke again, his voice low and hoarse, his murderous intent completely erupted, like a Killing God descending.

A dragon is vulnerable at the scale beneath its throat, touch it and face death!

Due to his complex love and hate for his biological parents and his gratitude toward Chu Xuanji, in Ye Fan's heart, his unseen biological parents and Chu Xuanji were his taboo!

As Ye Fan's words rang beside him and seeing Ye Fan's murderous aura, Jiang Nian standing not far away suddenly realized everything.

He understood why Ye Fan had suddenly become morose earlier, and why during the sparring session, he chose first to smash Yang Qing's mouth, break his teeth!

Not just him, hidden in the bamboo grove, Ye Wenhao also understood everything.

For a while, his expression was dazed, his heart filled with guilt.

As for Yang Qing, the person concerned, began to struggle violently, the unrestrained fear completely dominating his face.

Scared!

He was truly scared!

Though he was a genius of the Hongwu Sect, taught personally by the Hongwu Sect Leader and possessed notable willpower, this was his first worldly experience and his encounters with life-and-death battles were few. How could he endure such torture from Ye Fan?

At this moment, his psychological defenses completely collapsed, his bladder tightened, and a yellow fluid immediately flowed out from between his legs.

His eyes were filled with terror and pleading, begging Ye Fan to kill him!

Apparently, for him at this moment, death seemed like a release!

"Want to die? Death will become a luxury for you!" Seeing Yang Qing's pleading appearance, Ye Fan spoke coldly and ruthlessly, "I will make you wish you were dead!!"

As his words fell, Ye Fan transformed his hand into a palm, and struck violently towards Yang Qing's Dantian!

"Crack—"

With one strike, the force burst forth, instantly shattering Yang Qing's Dantian!

Yang Qing closed his eyes and fainted, whether from pain or fear.

Seeing this, Ye Fan carelessly threw Yang Qing aside to Lin Ao Feng as if discarding rubbish.

In the sunlight, there was not a trace of mercy on his face; had it not been for his force stored in the nine acupoints of the small cycle route, far more than his peers, he would have been splattered with blood on the spot!

Click!

Seeing the pitiful state of Yang Qing, Lin Ao Feng's heart trembled, and he couldn't help but shudder.

He knew very well that from this point onward, Yang Qing would be completely reduced to a cripple.

Such an outcome, for Yang Qing, was far more terrifying than death—going from a genius of the Hongwu Sect, an Early Innate Martial Artist, to a cripple, this immense disparity would indeed let Yang Qing truly experience what it means to wish for death!

How ruthless!

Realizing all of this, Lin Ao Feng couldn't help but glance at Ye Fan, his eyes no longer filled with arrogance, only panic!

The surprise came because he couldn't understand how Ye Fan, who wasn't even considered a "Half-step Innate", could have a greater storage of power than Yang Qing!

The fear, on the other hand, was due to Ye Fan's ferocity.

As the Crown Prince of Nanqinhong, Lin Ao Feng had killed people before, more than one, and he had even killed quite a few innocent young girls.

Yet—

He was still terrified by the ruthlessness displayed by Ye Fan.

In his fright, Lin Ao Feng felt somewhat relieved that he was using Yang Qing to deal with Ye Fan rather than facing him himself, otherwise, the one lying here wouldn't be Yang Qing, but him!

"You keep going, I'll allow you to use the 'Forbidden Technique'!"

Noticing Lin Ao Feng's thoughts, Ye Fan narrowed his eyes and stared at him, uttering each word slowly.

"Uh..."

Lin Ao Feng's mouth was slightly open, not daring to utter a word. Even if he used the 'Forbidden Technique,' he wouldn't be stronger than Yang Qing, who had entered the Early Innate Realm, and Yang Qing had been crippled by Ye Fan. Fighting Ye Fan would be like plucking hairs from a tiger's head—suicidal!

Though he understood all this, Lin Ao Feng felt too ashamed not to accept the challenge and forced a calm sneer, "Little bastard, you think I'll just obey you? You just want to lure me into using the 'Forbidden Technique' and have Master Jiang deal with me, don't you? Do you think I'm an idiot??"

"If you accept the challenge, I can permit you to use the Forbidden Technique." Jiang Nian suddenly spoke up, agreeing to let Lin Ao Feng use the Forbidden Technique.

On one hand, he had witnessed the life-and-death struggle between Ye Fan and Yang Qing, well aware that Lin Ao Feng wouldn't stand a chance against Ye Fan even with the 'Forbidden Technique'.

Furthermore, Lin Ao Feng, leveraging his identity as the Crown Prince of Nanqinghong, continued to endanger society, making him a malignant tumor. If they could eliminate him today, it would be for the best.

More importantly, Lin Ao Feng calling someone a 'little bastard' repeatedly would certainly annoy Ye Wenhao!

And based on his conjecture, Ye Fan was likely to have a blood relation with Ye Wenhao!

In such a situation, by helping Ye Fan kill Lin Ao Feng, he was indirectly trying to curry favor with Ye Wenhao.

"Master Jiang, you..."

As Jiang Nian's startling words rang in his ears, Lin Ao Feng's face immediately changed!

Obviously... he had never dreamed that Jiang Nian would actually agree to let him use the 'Forbidden Technique'!

"Master Jiang has already agreed to let you use the Forbidden Technique, do you dare fight?"

Ye Fan seemed determined to kill the mastermind Lin Ao Feng, thus he provoked, "I'll use just one hand! I can crush you with one hand!"

"—"

Lin Ao Feng's face turned bright red with frustration, yet he dared not accept the challenge. It felt like Ye Fan and Jiang Nian had jointly slapped him in the face.

Though the slap was silent, it hurt even more!

"Lin Ao Feng, didn't you act all high and mighty? Dare to fight Mr. Ye!"

Previously, Fei Si had scolded Lin Ao Feng for insulting Situ Chen and had been insulted in return, and Lin Ao Feng had even talked Fei Si into a duel to the death with Yang Qing. Now, seeing Lin Ao Feng embarrassed, Fei Si sneered.

"Scoundrel, if you have guts, have a fight with Brother Ye Fan!"

Hearing this, Situ Ruoshui also remembered the arrogant and domineering behavior of Lin Ao Feng in front of her father Situ Chen, and immediately shouted at Lin Ao Feng in anger.

"Acting tough attracts lightning strikes, keep a low profile in the future!" Su Jindi also took this opportunity to kick a man while he was down.

"My goodness, look how scared he is, he's about to wet his pants, how could he possibly dare to fight Ye Fan?"

In stirring up trouble and quips, Su Liuli was streets ahead of Situ Ruoshui and Su Jindi. Her remark almost angered Lin Ao Feng to death, "This is asking him to seek his own death, isn't it? Who would collect his corpse if he died?"

"You...you..."

As the Crown Prince of Nanqinghong, Lin Ao Feng had always been respected wherever he went, accustomed to controlling the life and death of others. Now, continuously humiliated by Su Liuli and others, he felt the pride of the Crown Prince of Nanqinghong being crushed time and again.

It was as if a fire of rage was burning within him, subconsciously wanting to say something.

However—

When he opened his mouth, a glance at the murderous Ye Fan jolted him awake, and he forcibly swallowed the rest of his words—reason and instinct told him if he continued to rant, Ye Fan would definitely make a move against him in front of Jiang Nian.

And should Ye Fan take action, he would end up just like Yang Qing!

"Master Jiang, I will strictly adhere to the terms of the life-and-death contract!"

Eventually, under the deterrent from Ye Fan, Lin Ao Feng didn't dare to retaliate but instead assured Jiang Nian with an ugly expression.

As his words fell, he didn't wait for Jiang Nian to respond, but tucked his tail and walked towards the club entrance like a dog that had lost its home.

In the sunlight, his pace was very fast, as if staying another minute was torture.

"Xiao Fan, after today, you have thoroughly offended both Nanqinghong and the Hongwu Sect, and these two forces will definitely not let you go!"

Watching Lin Ao Feng enter the clubhouse, Situ Chen came over with the others and spoke with some concern, "You should be mentally prepared."

"I know."

Ye Fan nodded, his face unafraid.

Jiang Nian saw this and wasn't surprised.

Because he knew well that whether it was Nanqinghong or the Hongwu Sect, if they abided by the rules set by the Yanhuang Organization, they couldn't pose a threat to Ye Fan!

And if these two organizations decided to break the rules, sending higher-tier Innate Realm experts to assassinate Ye Fan, it would mark the beginning of their nightmares!

Chapter 123: All My Everything, the Best I Can

"Mr. Ye, if Hongwu Sect ever causes you trouble in the future, please report it to the Yanhuang Organization immediately. The Yanhuang Organization will severely punish such behavior!" With a mind as clear as a mirror, Jiang Nian stepped forward and solemnly said to Ye Fan.

On one hand, as the head of the Yanhuang Organization in Jiangnan Province, he absolutely would not allow Hongwu Sect to challenge the authority of the Yanhuang Organization. On the other hand, he had deduced that Ye Fan was related by blood to Ye Wenhao and considered this move an indirect way to show his stance to Ye Wenhao.

"Alright."

Ye Fan nodded, indicating his cooperation.

Seeing this, Jiang Nian did not waste further words and turned to leave.

"Brother Ye is mighty and domineering!"

Watching Jiang Nian depart, Su Jindi exclaimed excitedly. His gaze towards Ye Fan was filled with admiration—as if in his heart, Ye Fan was an invincible War God!

"Yes, Brother Ye Fan was so impressive just now."

Situ Ruoshui quickly nodded in agreement, then remembering the scene from the duel, couldn't help but ask, "Oh, Brother Ye Fan, during the duel earlier, that guy seemed to level up. Did you also level up during the fight?"

Level up?

Ye Fan was slightly taken aback.

"Ruoshui is referring to that Yang Qing from Hongwu Sect, who broke through to the Innate Realm during the duel," explained Situ Chen with a bitter smile.

Hearing this, Ye Fan recalled how Situ Ruoshui had associated martial arts with gaming and explained with a smile in gaming terms, "Ruoshui, I didn't level up; I just drained the opponent's 'mana'."

"So Brother Ye Fan won by a strategy of wits," Situ Ruoshui quickly understood.

"How we won isn't important; it's good that everything is alright."

Su Yuxin breathed a long sigh of relief, and her usually cold face rarely showed a hint of joy. It felt as if she had witnessed her husband returning victorious, reassured and genuinely happy.

Hearing Su Yuxin's words and seeing her uncommonly joyful expression, Su Liuli involuntarily closed her slightly open lips and swallowed the words that were about to leave her mouth.

Yu Xin likes him.

She thought to herself, while burying deep within her the joy that arose from Ye Fan's defeating of an opponent.

Meanwhile.

In the distant bamboo forest, Ye Wenhao hadn't left but stood completely still, watching Ye Fan surrounded by people, his expression fluctuating uncertainly.

He desperately wanted to approach and meet Ye Fan, yet his feet felt as heavy as if they weighed ten thousand pounds, and no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't take that first step.

In truth, he was unable to take that step in his heart!

"Sigh."

Eventually, he sighed deeply and then silently disappeared among the bamboos, leaving no trace behind, as if he had never been there at all.

Not far from the West Lake Club, on a street, Jiang Nian sat in an unremarkable Toyota Prado. Seeing Ye Wenhao approaching, he hurriedly got out of the car to greet him.

"Let's talk in the car."

Ye Wenhao said, quickly moving forward, yanking open the car door, and sliding into the back seat of the car.

The car started, and through the rearview mirror, Jiang Nian clearly saw Ye Wenhao light a cigarette, but he didn't smoke it and instead seemed lost in thought.

This observation further confirmed the deduction in Jiang Nian's mind. He hesitated for a moment, then asked, "Governor Ye, Ye Fan is your child, right?"

Hmm?

Hearing Jiang Nian's question, Ye Wenhao frowned slightly, then pondered for a moment and realized it wasn't surprising Jiang Nian had guessed this. He sighed softly and responded, "He should be."

He should be?!

Jiang Nian's pupils dilated, exhibiting a confused expression.

In his view, it was either a yes or no situation; what did 'he should be' even mean?

Sensing Jiang Nian's confusion, Ye Wenhao couldn't help but grin wryly.

He had used 'he should be' because, up to now, he had only deduced from evidence that Ye Fan was his son but hadn't received final confirmation.

And the so-called evidence was twofold.

First, Ye Fan resembled the woman etched deep in his heart, especially those eyes, which almost seemed sculpted by the same artist.

This was also why Ye Wenhao had been shaken to his core when he met Ye Fan at the Jiangnan Province investment meeting and why he had investigated Ye Fan through various channels afterwards.

Second, Jiang Nian told Ye Wenhao that Ye Fan was a disciple of Divine Doctor Chu Xuanji.

In Ye Wenhao's view, there might be people in the world who resembled the woman deeply etched in his heart, but if Ye Fan looked like her and was also a disciple of Chu Xuanji, there was only one explanation—Ye Fan was his and that woman's child!

With a wry smile, the image of his beloved woman surfaced in Ye Wenhao's mind, and he was caught up in memories of the past.

As circulated in certain circles, Ye Wenhao and Chu Xuanji had a profound connection.

Ye Wenhao had been frail and frequently ill from a young age, constantly medicated but to little effect, and had even faced a life-threatening illness at the age of twenty.

The Ye family had enlisted several Imperial Physicians from Beijing to save Ye Wenhao's life, all of whom were, however, unable to help.

Just when the Ye family was about to give up, one Imperial Physician suggested they seek out Divine Doctor Chu Xuanji for treatment.

At that time, although Chu Xuanji did not have the title of Evil Emperor, he was well-known for his superb medical skills.

Chu Xuanji was known for his eccentric temperament and mysterious actions, rarely associating with people from Jianghu, epitomizing the saying "seeing the head of the dragon but not the tail."

If Ye Wenhao had been born into an ordinary family, he might have died at the age of twenty—he would not have even been able to meet Chu Xuanji!

Fortunately, Ye Wenhao was born into the first affluent Ye family in Beijing!

Following the suggestion of that Imperial Physician, the Ye family utilized all its connections to track down Chu Xuanji, who was living in Mount Tian at that time, and earnestly requested Chu Xuanji to treat Ye Wenhao.

Because Ye Wenhao was critically ill and in poor health at that time, Chu Xuanji, to ensure his full recovery, requested Ye Wenhao to stay in Mount Tian for treatment until he was well enough to return to Yanjing.

This stay lasted three years.

In those three years, Ye Wenhao regained a life that had nearly been claimed by the Grim Reaper.

But... What truly snatched Ye Wenhao back from the hands of death was not Chu Xuanji, but a woman named Ling Yun!

It was this woman named Ling Yun who ultimately eradicated his illness and transformed him from a frail scholar who couldn't even truss a chicken into an Innate Master, even defeating the then number one of "Qing bang" and becoming a legend in Huaxia's Martial Arts World!

This was one of Ye Wenhao's biggest secrets!

It was not, as the outside world claimed, that Chu Xuanji ascended Ye Wenhao's martial arts potential during the treatment, turning him from an ordinary person into an Innate Master in just three years.

...

In the car, Jiang Nian was driving and observing Ye Wenhao, noticing that Ye Wenhao's expression alternated between happiness, regret, and hatred, changing like a chameleon.

Because of this, Jiang Nian understood that Ye Wenhao was very likely lost in his memories, so he tactfully remained silent.

"Jiang, do you think I should meet him?"

After an unknown period, Ye Wenhao suddenly snapped out of his reverie and asked Jiang Nian.

Huh?

Jiang Nian was momentarily startled.

He had not expected Ye Wenhao to ask him such a question.

"If things go as expected, Xiao Fan still doesn't know I'm his father, and I had never met him face to face before I took my post in Jiangnan."

Thinking back to when he and Ye Fan had met at the Jiangnan investment summit, Ye Wenhao thoughtfully added, "Given this situation, do you think it would be better for me to watch him from the shadows, or to approach him directly?"

Seeing Ye Wenhao, the most competent contender for the succession of the third generation of the Ye family, appear so lost and helpless, Jiang Nian felt a pang in his heart, and could not help but lament, "Ah, the hearts of parents world-wide."

"Governor Ye, I don't know what has caused you and your son to meet in this way, but it seems to me that you really want to see him, or rather, recognize each other."

After a sigh, Jiang Nian pondered for a moment and said, "The reason you hesitate is that you can't muster the courage to meet and recognize each other, or perhaps you fear that after meeting him, he won't acknowledge you as his father."

"Ah... you're right, I really do want to see him, and even more to recognize each other, but I'm even more afraid of 'spoiling the broth for a ha'p'orth of tar.'"

Ye Wenhao sighed deeply, "I simply cannot imagine what kind of scene it would be, facing me as a father after twenty years of being an orphan."

Jiang Nian fell silent.

Although he was curious about the reason behind it, he knew it was not his place to ask.

"He might be angry, right? Or perhaps he will hate me?" Seeing Jiang Nian silent, Ye Wenhao laughed self-mockingly, "After all, it's because of what I did that he ended up like this."

"Governor Ye, although I don't know exactly what happened to lead to this situation, based on what you've just said, I suggest it would be better not to approach him now." Upon hearing Ye Wenhao's words again, Jiang Nian hesitated for a while before giving his suggestion.

"Ah..."

Ye Wenhao sighed heavily again, as if speaking to Jiang Nian, but also as if talking to himself, "Yes, I cannot recognize him now, otherwise it would backfire, not only affecting his life, but also stabbing his lonely heart."

"Actually, you could meet and get to know him in some way, and when the time is right, then recognize each other,"

Jiang Nian hesitated for a moment before suggesting, "By that time, his defensive mentality might be much lesser, and he might even readily acknowledge you."

"That's a good idea!"

As Jiang Nian's suggestion resonated in his ears, Ye Wenhao's eyes lit up, the more he thought about it, the more feasible it seemed, and after a moment's thought, he added, "Jiang, you must keep this matter confidential for me!"

"Please rest assured."

Jiang Nian promptly made that assurance, fully aware of the sensation this matter would cause within Huaxia's officialdom and Jianghu once it was leaked.

Upon hearing Jiang Nian's assurance, Ye Wenhao said no more, but leaned back in the seat, seemingly resting his eyes but actually filled with the images of Ye Fan and Ling Yun.

"My child, I owe you and your mother too much, so much that I don't know how to repay it, but now that I have found you, I will do everything I can to make up for past mistakes!"

"Even if it costs me everything and earns me a lifetime of infamy, it is worth it!!"

Thinking thus, Ye Wenhao suddenly opened his eyes, his expression more determined than ever!

Chapter 124: The Landscape in the Heart

Located in the Hanghu City Center, Queen Bar, like CC Bar, is one of the top nightclubs in Hanghu and the entirety of Jiangnan, divided into a music bar and KTV private rooms.

The first and second floors are combined to form the music bar, featuring world-famous DJs and performances by third-tier celebrities every night, while the third to fifth floors house the KTV private rooms.

At ten o'clock in the evening, Queen Bar was bustling with patrons at full capacity, not only in the music bar on the first and second floors but also in the KTV private rooms, which were packed to the brim.

In the corridor on the fifth floor, a mature-looking woman exuding the charm of an experienced lady took a tray from a princess's hand and personally entered a luxurious private room.

In the spacious luxurious private room, only eight or nine people were present. The men were all decked out in branded clothing, sporting either a Patek Philippe or a Vacheron Constantin on their wrists, while the fashionably dressed women flaunted a modest yet not vulgar style, with just their handbags being worth a common household's annual income.

"Mr. Li, I'm truly sorry. Please make do for now. I'll make sure to reserve the 555 private room for you and your friends in advance next time," said the mature woman as she entered the room, carrying the tray with an apologetic smile, adding, "To express our apologies, these two bottles of wine are complimentary, and on top of that, there will be a 40% discount on tonight's bill."

Far from being pleased by the complimentary wines valued in the tens of thousands, Mr. Li was rather holding a grudge for not getting the 555 private room, asking, "Sister Wang, I'm very curious, who exactly booked the 555 luxury Supreme room tonight that even a minimum spend promise of three hundred thousand couldn't persuade you to give it up?"

Not just him, upon hearing Mr. Li speak, everyone else's attention shifted to the mature woman unanimously.

As top socialites in the Jiangnan Prodigal Circle in Hanghu, they had their own networks and private clubs, rarely visiting such public nightlife spots.

Under such circumstances, every major nightclub would treat them like the God of Wealth, always arranging the best private rooms and the most popular 'princesses' and 'young masters' to serve them anytime they paid a visit.

Yet, today, they were relegated to a slightly less luxurious private room, naturally causing some discomfort among them and sparking curiosity about who exactly had usurped their private room.

"Mr. Li, to be completely honest, the 555 private room is not open to the public tonight," the mature woman said with a wry smile, "because the guests inside are friends of the big boss."

Friends of the big boss?

Situ Chen!

The revelation from the mature woman, including Mr. Li, sent shockwaves through the room full of glamorous and wealthy socialites!

Although they considered themselves quite influential in Hanghu and the wider Jiangnan region, they genuinely didn't have the status to compare with top-tier magnates like Situ Chen.

In fact, some of their fathers weren't qualified to sit at the same table as Situ Chen for dinner!

Inside the 555 private room.

Ye Fan, the man the mature woman referred to as 'the friend of the big boss,' sat bored in the central sofa of the private room, sipping red wine from the Bordeaux region of the European Union, while Su Yuxin sat beside him. She seemed to be listening to Su Liuli and Situ Ruoshui sing, but in reality, her mind wandered elsewhere, occasionally stealing glances at Ye Fan beside her.

Sensing Su Yuxin's subtle movements and feeling the love in her eyes, Ye Fan was filled with an odd sensation.

This feeling had burgeoned ever since the day Su Yuxin threw herself into his arms, and he had made a promise to her.

He wasn't sure if this was the feeling of being in love, but he relished it.

"Yu Xin, the two of you have been making eyes at each other all night, isn't it enough yet?"

After finishing the song "Eternal Fate," Situ Ruoshui went to the restroom to take a call, and Su Liuli, her face flushed with alcohol, sat down next to Su Yuxin, deliberately teasing her.

Hearing Su Liuli's words, Su Yuxin's already slightly reddened face turned a deeper shade of crimson, looking as though it would drip water.

On the other hand, Ye Fan remained completely unfazed.

"Despicable and lewd hooligan Fan, although I don't know what kind of love potion you've given to Yu Xin to bewitch her, I warn you, if you dare to wrong Yu Xin, I... I'll duel with you!" Su Liuli deliberately adopted her usual tone while brandishing her small fists threateningly.

Su Yuxin couldn't stand it and tried to intervene, "Liu Li..."

"Sister Liuli, with your scrawny figure, Brother Ye could flip you over with just one finger," teased Su Jindi, who had been in a sour mood all night due to an injured arm that prevented him from drinking.

"Then I'll curse him, especially cursing his 'little brother,' so he suffers from impotence for life," Su Liuli retorted, infuriated to the point of mock ferocity as she pretended to be fiercely vindictive.

"_"

This time, not only Su Yuxin but also Ye Fan and Su Jindi were utterly defeated by Su Liuli's remarks.

"Sister Liuli, what are you guys talking about?" Just at that moment, Situ Ruoshui came out of the restroom, blinking her innocent and curious eyes, wondering what was going on.

"It's... it's nothing."

Perhaps not wishing to corrupt the innocent Situ Ruoshui, or maybe seeing that Situ Ruoshui also seemed to have feelings for Ye Fan, Su Liuli didn't continue with her drunken banter. Instead, she quickly shook her head, sighing inwardly.

"Oh. Sister Liuli, my dad called. He said it's getting late, and I have classes in the morning. He wants me to go back to Dong Hai. Are you coming too?" asked Situ Ruoshui.

After a moment's hesitation, Su Liuli nodded her head.

Seeing this, Situ Ruoshui gazed reluctantly at Ye Fan, "Brother Ye Fan, will you come to Dong Hai to hang out with us sometime?"

Chapter 125: The Landscape in the Heart_2

"Okay,"

Faced with Situ Ruoshui's repeated invitations, Ye Fan found it hard to refuse.

Because Situ Ruoshui and Su Liuli were returning to dong hai, the gathering had to end early.

To save time, Su Liuli took Situ Chen's Rolls-Royce Phantom first, while calling the Su Family's bodyguard to drive her red Land Rover to dong hai.

Ye Fan drove the Bentley RV, taking Su Yuxin and Su Jindi back to Jiuxi Rose Garden.

"It's a good thing you came back with me, or my mom would have had something to say again,"

Back in her boudoir, Su Yuxin thought about Mrs. Su's hesitant expression when they entered the house and, uncharacteristically, she showed a childlike side, winking at Ye Fan.

"Given your current health, it's really not suitable for you to drink alcohol. Aunt's concerns are also reasonable," Ye Fan said with a wry smile. If it hadn't been for him looking after Su Yuxin that evening, she might have drunk too much again, just like at the celebration party.

"I drink when I'm happy,"

In the middle of speaking, Su Yuxin thought about how Ye Fan had looked during the duel, stared at Ye Fan, and said softly, "When you were at a disadvantage, Mr. Situ said you were in danger. We were all really worried, worried that you would be defeated by that guy."

"At that moment, my heart was hanging in my throat, my hand was clenching tightly, sweaty palms and all. I could hardly bear to watch."

"Isn't everything alright now?" Ye Fan felt warmth in his heart from Su Yuxin's genuine outpouring of emotions.

"It's alright this time, but who can guarantee you'll be safe next time?" Su Yuxin sighed helplessly, her eyes full of worry as she looked at Ye Fan.

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan hesitated, about to explain something, but then he saw Su Yuxin suddenly wrap her arms around his neck and press her lips, scented with alcohol and fragrance, against his.

As their lips met, Ye Fan felt the soft, sweet touch. As he was about to respond, Su Yuxin moved her lips away and said tenderly, "I know you must have your reasons for choosing to fight. I'm not asking you to explain why you took on the challenge. I just want to remind you, everyone has only one life, and this is too dangerous. If possible, try not to duel so recklessly in the future."

"Okay,"

Her gentle words and affectionate gaze struck Ye Fan's heart like gentle rain, and he found himself nodding involuntarily. Then, with his right hand, he embraced Su Yuxin's slender waist and gently pulled her close.

"Ah..."

With a soft moan, Su Yuxin's heated body fell into Ye Fan's embrace.

Ye Fan could distinctly feel the softness and warmth of Su Yuxin's body as well as the intoxicating mix of alcohol and body scent, which stimulated him like an aphrodisiac, prompting him to kiss her luscious lips without restraint.

"Mmm..."

Su Yuxin's body tensed instantly, her eyelashes trembling slightly. Instinctively, she held onto Ye Fan's solid waist and closed her eyes, parting her teeth, allowing Ye Fan's tongue to enter.

The next moment,

The two tongues, like two Serpent Dragons long separated, swiftly entwined.

Su Yuxin's breath became heavy, a novel sensation of pleasure spread throughout her body, tingling and itching, as if she were about to float away.

Feeling Su Yuxin's reactions, Ye Fan's hand moved downward, slowly caressing her upturned buttocks.

"Ah..."

In an instant, Su Yuxin felt as though she had been electrified, her body shuddering, subconsciously moving her lips away, as a moan escaped from her mouth.

As the moan capable of driving any man to madness reached his ears, Ye Fan felt a heat flare in his lower abdomen, instinctively lifting Su Yuxin's skirt, trying to reach in.

"No... don't..."

Tense all over, Su Yuxin panted heavily, her face blushing as she looked shyly at Ye Fan and said softly, "My mom and Jin Emperor haven't gone to sleep yet."

"Hmm..."

Ye Fan had initially been taken aback when Su Yuxin suddenly stopped him, and after hearing the rest of her words, he couldn't help but silently blame himself for being too impulsive.

"Could... could we wait until they are asleep?"

Seeing that Ye Fan was silent, Su Yuxin subconsciously felt that he was very uncomfortable, and with a shy face, she whispered, her voice so soft that even she could hardly hear herself.

"Do you think, are we in love?" Seeing Su Yuxin's demure appearance, an unusual feeling grew stronger in Ye Fan's heart, and he couldn't help but ask.

"Uh..."

Startled by Ye Fan's words, Su Yuxin felt as if she had been doused with a bucket of ice-cold river water, extinguishing the fire within her body, making her feel as if she had suddenly fallen into an ice cellar, ice-cold from head to toe.

She suddenly raised her head, her mouth slightly agape, trying to say something, but felt too choked up to utter a word. Only her aggrieved expression spoke for her heart: If we were not in a relationship, how could we possibly be doing these things?

"You may have misunderstood me."

Seeing this, Ye Fan knew that Su Yuxin had misunderstood him and explained with a wry smile, "I have never been in love before, so I don't know what it feels like to be in love, so..."

"Pfft—"

It's said that a woman's face changes like the weather in March, and at this moment, Su Yuxin proved this saying true—after Ye Fan's explanation, she not only did not feel aggrieved, but she was amused instead.

"I haven't engaged in early love either, but I think this should be the feeling of being in love."

Looking deeply into Ye Fan's resolute face, Su Yuxin said with emotion, "Because, I am very happy when I'm with you, I miss you when you are not around, I get worried when you are sparring with someone, and I feel proud of you when you do some amazing things... What about you?"

"I'm an orphan, I grew up with my master, only feeling close when I was with my master and senior sister."

Ye Fan expressed the truest feelings of his heart, "After meeting you, your persistence and strength made me admire you, your care warmed my heart, and over time, I also found a feeling of closeness with you and became willing to do anything for you."

"What about your parents? Where are they?" Su Yuxin was momentarily taken aback, since she had never considered the possibility that Ye Fan was an orphan.

"I don't know."

Ye Fan gave a self-deprecating smile, the smile tinged with bitterness, "I was abandoned by them at birth. I don't know where they are, I don't even know if they are dead or alive."

"I'm sorry, I shouldn't have asked."

Feeling the loneliness and sadness emanating from Ye Fan's words, Su Yuxin quickly stepped forward and took his hand, feeling a burst of coldness.

"It's okay, I've gotten used to it."

Though he said this, Ye Fan's body exuded a sense of desolation, like a wolf cub that had strayed from the pack, who had lost the protection of the she-wolf and lived alone on the prairie.

The desolation made Su Yuxin's heart tremble. She couldn't help but look up, her eyes reddening as she looked at the lonely and desolate young man before her, and said word by word, "Ye... Ye Fan, is it okay if I stay by your side?"

"Okay." Ye Fan nodded gently and pulled Su Yuxin into his embrace.

"For the rest of my life, I'm willing to be with you to admire the splendid starry sky and feel the picturesque landscape in our hearts!" Su Yuxin said affectionately, leaning against Ye Fan's chest.

As her words fell, she wrapped her arms around Ye Fan again, holding on very tight... very tight!

Chapter 126: [A Dream of Yellow Millet]

The night had deepened, with dark clouds masking the face of the moon. The wind, rising at some unknown time, began drifting raindrops across the sky, bringing an autumn rain suddenly upon Hanghu.

Raindrops, carried by the wind, fell upon the bamboo forest at the West Lake Club, producing a 'rustling' sound.

Perhaps the West Lake Club was just too quiet, allowing that sound to be heard so clearly by the Qinghong members in charge of security that they caught every detail.

Gradually, the rain intensified, drenching the garments of the burly men stationed at the entrance of the club, who felt a wave of coldness wash over them.

However—

Compared to the repression in their hearts, the physical coldness seemed trivial.

The tension arose because ever since Yang Qing was crippled by Ye Fan today, Lin Ao Feng had been on edge like a ticking bomb—in the past few hours, several members of Qinghong had become Lin Ao Feng's punchbags, beaten to a state of helplessness.

"Mr. Yang, what do you think we should do next?"

In one of the club's private rooms, Lin Ao Feng, with a cigar between his lips, asked Yang Qing through clouds of smoke, unable to contain his impatience.

No answer came; Yang Qing lay on the bed like a corpse, staring lifelessly at the ceiling, motionless.

Seeing Yang Qing resembling the living dead, Lin Ao Feng grew even more irritable.

Yang Qing turned to look at Yang Qing. His hollow gaze was eerie, as if pleading, "Kill me."

"If I kill you, wouldn't I be taking the blame for that little bastard, thus incurring the wrath of the Hongwu Sect?"

As if understanding Yang Qing's intention, Lin Ao Feng cursed angrily. Then, in a state of panic, he extinguished his cigar and stood up, saying, "Enough of this, the matter can't be covered up. I better report it to my father and see how he deals with it."

As soon as he finished speaking, Lin Ao Feng steeled his heart, left the room, took out his phone, and dialed Lin Tianyi's number.

"I was just about to call you, and you beat me to it."

The call connected quickly, and Lin Tianyi's voice could be heard from the other end, tinged with a subdued excitement, as if something highly beneficial had occurred.

Huh?

Sensing the excitement in Lin Tianyi's tone, Lin Ao Feng realized his father was yet to learn of the incident; otherwise, there would be no such excitement.

While understanding all this, Lin Ao Feng took the initiative to ask, "Dad, do you have any instructions?"

"We are to do a favor for the Bai Family," Lin Tianyi replied.

The Bai Family?!

Hearing that name, Lin Ao Feng's expression couldn't help but shift.

As the Crown Prince of Nanqinghong, he had an understanding of all the major influential clans in Huaxia.

And since Nanqinghong had covert dealings with the Bai Family, he knew them like the back of his hand!

The Bai Family.

This was the only clan in Huaxia capable of contesting the Ye Family on their own!

The reason the Ye Family currently held sway over the Bai Family was solely because the elder of the Ye Family had not yet departed from this world.

Once that highly revered centenarian with tremendous military prestige passes away, the title of Huaxia's top family would be up for contention.

Aside from lacking an elder to stabilize the family, in every other aspect—second, third, and even fourth generation members—the Bai Family was not at a disadvantage compared to the Ye Family, even having a slight edge.

On one hand, the fourth generation of the Bai Family outshone their counterparts in the Ye Family, and on the other hand, there was Bai Guotao.

Currently a Provincial Governor just like Ye Wenhao, Bai Guotao was also once one of the Four Young Masters of the Capital and now the designated successor of the third generation of the Bai Family!

One, the appointed heir, and the other, the strongest contender for succession.

In a sense, Bai Guotao's position within the Bai Family was more important and prominent than Ye Wenhao's in the Ye Family!

Moreover... considering their current positions, Bai Guotao was decidedly above Ye Wenhao!

In such circumstances, many in the political circles unanimously believed that if Old Master Ye could no longer hang on, Bai Guotao would have a greater chance of defeating Ye Wenhao!

"Dad, what exactly are we to do for the Bai Family?"

After the shock, Lin Ao Feng did not rush to report the situation in Hanghu but instead chose to inquire further.

"You should know, over the years, Bai Guotao of the Bai Family and Ye Wenhao of the Ye Family have been competing. The two are the most potent rivals at the peak," Lin Tianyi replied indirectly. "And as the saying goes, two tigers cannot share one mountain. Regardless of which of them ultimately reigns supreme, the other won't have a good ending."

Lin Ao Feng didn't respond but listened attentively.

"The remaining years are the most fiercely competitive and crucially important for both of them," Lin Tianyi continued. "At present, Bai Guotao has a certain advantage, but with that old man from the Ye Family lingering in the world, it's hard to predict the outcome. Now, their competition has reached a fever pitch, and since both are exceptional individuals, it is unlikely that either will make a mistake. They can only try to outperform the other, and the so-called 'trying' means surpassing the other in political achievements to gain the support of some wavering elders."

"Dad, are we supposed to help Bai Guotao boost his political achievements for the Bai Family?"

Though Lin Ao Feng was arrogant and domineering, he wasn't lacking in emotional intelligence; otherwise, he wouldn't have chosen to dodge Ye Fan's edge that day or use Yang Qing's hand to remove Ye Fan later on.

"It's not a request from the Bai Family, but a directive from above!" Lin Tianyi declared.

A directive from above?!

Lin Ao Feng's expression shifted again. As the Crown Prince of Nanqinghong, he knew all too well that his father Lin Tianyi's "above" referred to the headquarters of the Qinghong Organization—Nanqinghong was merely a branch of the Qinghong Organization in Huaxia!

Chapter 127: [A Dream of Yellow Millet]_2

"Helping Bai Guotao brush up his achievements is secondary, the key point is that the higher-ups want us to help them block Ye Wenhao from gaining prestige in Jiangnan!" Lin Tianyi revealed the mystery.

"Block Ye Wenhao from gaining prestige in Jiangnan?"

Startled by Lin Tianyi's words, Lin Ao Feng exclaimed, "Dad, are the higher-ups sending us to our deaths? Not to mention Ye Wenhao's identity in the political realm, his being the former number one on the 'Qing bang' list is already beyond our ability to contend with."

"In the future, use your brain more and your fists less. Do you think the higher-ups would foolishly send us to clash with the Ye Family to the death?"

Perhaps displeased with Lin Ao Feng's presumptuous remarks, or perhaps because Lin Ao Feng had failed to grasp his point, Lin Tianyi's tone carried a hint of dissatisfaction.

Lin Ao Feng was taken aback: "Dad, what do you mean?"

"Every man has his strengths and advantages. For Ye Wenhao, his accomplishments in Martial Arts are his strength, but his work capability is his weakness."

Lin Tianyi enunciated each word: "The Ye Family leveraged the storm in Jiangnan's official and business sectors to swallow up the Bai Family's pieces in Jiangnan and replace them with Ye Wenhao parachuted into Jiangnan to polish his credentials for reaching the peak of power. As the economic powerhouse that Jiangnan is, Ye Wenhao, as the number two man, will have his greatest political achievement in boosting the economy."

"Dad, do you mean to start from the economic field to stop Ye Wenhao from gaining prestige?" Lin Ao Feng's mind raced with a brilliant idea.

"Yes. I'm calling you just to inform you of this matter. The specific implementation plan remains to be discussed."

During the conversation, Lin Tianyi shifted the topic and asked, "By the way, what's the situation on your end? Have you found the killer who murdered Qiao Bazhi and Qu Feng and the others?"

"We found him. It's a little bastard named Ye Fan, with the strength of roughly a Half-step Innate. Judging from his martial arts routines, he's very likely from the Ba Gua Sect." Mentioning Ye Fan, Lin Ao Feng's teeth itched with hatred, wishing he could immediately slaughter Ye Fan to quench his raging fury!

"Ba Gua Sect?" Lin Tianyi was taken aback, "Our Nanqinghong and the Hongwu Sect bear no grudges against the Ba Gua Sect, so why would someone from Ba Gua Sect suddenly take action against us?"

"Dad, you don't know, that little bastard is closely related to Situ Chen, and it's very likely that he's Situ Chen's man!" Lin Ao Feng ground his teeth in anger.

"So that's the case, Situ Chen really did have a fallback plan!" Lin Tianyi's brow instantly knit together, then he asked, "How did you investigate all this?"

"Three days ago, that bastard Ye Fan led people to our turf and deliberately picked a fight, wounding our people. I had Wang Dong take action to teach him a lesson, but Wang Dong ended up crippled by him!"

To avoid being lectured by Lin Tianyi, Lin Ao Feng skirted the important issues and fabricated, "It was through Wang Dong's confrontation with that bastard that I discerned he might be from the Ba Gua Sect. At the time, I had no knowledge of his connection with Situ Chen, so I planned to step back for broader skies, but that little bastard was quite arrogant, even wanting to take me on! Fortunately, the Yanhuang Organization's people arrived in time, and that's how I narrowly escaped!"

"The people from Yanhuang Organization didn't punish him?" Lin Tianyi's smile gradually faded.

"No."

Lin Ao Feng continued, "Afterwards, I reported the incident to Yang Qing, and through various channels, I learned that this little bastard was indeed the murderer of Qiao Bazhi and Qu Feng and others. Yang Qing, always too proud, was furious upon hearing this and had me issue a challenge to the little bastard on his behalf!"

"And then?"

"Yang Qing was crippled, turned into a wastrel."

Although Lin Ao Feng's hatred for Ye Fan had reached a terrifying level, the memory of Ye Fan's life-and-death battle with Yang Qing that evening made Lin Ao Feng shudder, "Yang Qing had broken through to the Early Innate Realm during the duel, yet still ended up dead at the hands of that little bastard!"

"What... what did you say?"

This time, Lin Tianyi was so shocked that he jumped up from his chair, "According to what you've said, that kid is at most Half-step Innate, and Yang Qing had broken through to the Innate Realm, how could he possibly lose? Could it be that the kid also made a breakthrough during the duel?"

"No."

Lin Ao Feng said gloomily, "Although Yang Qing had broken through to the Early Innate during the duel, his bodily functions had not yet been enhanced since he had just broken through. That bastard, relying on his speed advantage, kept dodging without confronting Yang Qing directly. Finally, when Yang Qing's inner strength was exhausted, he took the opportunity to cripple Yang Qing."

"What a cunning kid!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Tianyi's frown deepened, and after thinking, he said, "Therefore, to ensure your safety, you should withdraw from Hanghu. I will send someone else over."

"Dad, there's no need."

Lin Ao Feng rejected Lin Tianyi's suggestion, saying, "Although that bastard is ruthless, during the duel between him and Yang Qing, the Yanhuang Organization's Jiangnan person in charge was present to supervise, and they even warned both parties. Given this, he surely wouldn't dare to attack me; otherwise, he wouldn't have remained indifferent until now."

"That kid is clearly stronger than you, and with Ye Wenhao taking a position in Jiangnan, your chances of regaining our turf are practically nil." Lin Tianyi noticed Lin Ao Feng's unwillingness and said, "Therefore, your staying there would be pointless, better come back."

"Dad, the reason I don't want to leave is partly indeed because I'm unwilling to give up, but on the other hand, I've thought of a way to obstruct Ye Wenhao's efforts to gain prestige in the economic domain!"

Excited by the brilliant idea that had come to him earlier, Lin Ao Feng spoke enthusiastically, "Moreover, this method could also be used to exact revenge on that little bastard and perhaps even kill him, achieving two birds with one stone!"

Chapter 128: [A Dream of Yellow Millet]_3

"Oh?" Lin Tianyi's mind stirred, "What method?"

"Ever since the storm in the Hanghu business district, casting my eyes across the entire Jiangnan, the Su Family stands unchallenged, the undisputed top business clan!"

Lin Ao Feng said with a sinister smile, "If we control the Su Family, although we can't dominate Jiangnan's economy, intervening in Jiangnan's economy will definitely be a breeze! Then, we could obstruct Ye Wenhao's path to gold!"

"That's a good idea, but controlling the Su Family is not an easy task," Lin Tianyi mused.

Unable to hold back, Lin Ao Feng said, "Dad, it's actually not hard. Currently, there are three key people in the Su Family, one is the Su Family Patriarch Su Hongyuan, the others are his son Su Ming and granddaughter Su Yuxin, among whom Su Yuxin is more likely to hold up half of the Su Family. In such a case, if I can make Su Yuxin my woman, then penetrating the Su Family will become much easier, and we can then secretly control the Su Family."

Uh?

Lin Tianyi's eyes lit up, on one hand, he saw high feasibility in this plan, on the other, he was also aware of his son's extensive experience in seduction.

"Dad, with our Nanqinghong's influence and power in Huaxia, if I propose to the Su Family, Su Hongyuan will surely be tempted," Lin Ao Feng declared confidently.

"At that time, just have the Bai Family speak on our behalf, raise the flag of the Bai Family, and Su Hongyuan will definitely not refuse!"

"Ao Feng, it seems you have indeed grown a lot in these two years."

Seeing how flawlessly Lin Ao Feng had planned, Lin Tianyi smiled fondly, then remembering what Lin Ao Feng mentioned about killing two birds with one stone, he couldn't help but ask, "You mentioned earlier about using this matter to take revenge on that Ba Gua Sect boy, how so?"

"Dad, as far as I know, that bastard is currently dating Su Yuxin. If Su Yuxin becomes my woman, it would be like seizing his love with a strike of my sword. Then, given that bastard's arrogant nature, he's likely to act rashly in desperation!"

Lin Ao Feng said with a sinister smile, "If you had Uncle He come to assist me in advance, just when he dares to make a rash move against us, let Uncle He take him down. Then, with the Su Family members as witnesses that it was the bastard who started the trouble, the Yanhuang Organization would have nothing to say!"

"Brilliant, Ao Feng, your plan is impeccably interconnected, seamless!"

Lin Tianyi gave Lin Ao Feng a rare high compliment, then said, "I'll report it up. If it's approved, we'll proceed as you've suggested, but... remember, if you encounter any difficulties along the way, don't act impulsively, inform me immediately!"

"Hmm."

Lin Ao Feng acknowledged as Lin Tianyi ended the call, then said with a look of triumph, "Bastard, the humiliation you've given me, I will return tenfold, a hundredfold—not only will I take your lover, cripple you, but also make you kneel like a dead dog on the ground, watching me play with your woman!"

"Haha...hahahaha...hahahaha!"

As his words fell, Lin Ao Feng laughed uncontrollably, as if he had already seen the scene of Ye Fan's agonized howling.

Chapter 129: [Proposing Marriage]

...

The next afternoon, the first autumn rain in Hanghu had stopped, and the sun revealed its face again. A magnificent rainbow arched across the sky.

In the largest office on the top floor of Yang Guang Mansion, Su Hongyuan stood in front of the huge floor-to-ceiling windows, staring at the rainbow in the sky, lost in thought.

The setting sun shone through the glass, clearly illuminating his furrowed brow and the complete absence of a smile on his face.

The rainbow in the sky was beautiful, but his mood was far from beautiful.

In fact, ever since he had sent Su Yuxin and Ye Fan to the Jiangnan Province investment conference to test Ye Fan's relationship with the Ye Family, his mood had never been beautiful but rather very heavy.

It was heavy because from that day's test, he could confirm that Ye Fan had no connection whatsoever with Ye Wenhao or the Ye Family.

It was heavier because he felt that his clever maneuver had annoyed Ye Wenhao.

Yes, that was what he believed.

In his view, if it had not been for his actions annoying Ye Wenhao, how could Ye Wenhao's secretary have possibly called to scold him, thinking that he did not take Ye Wenhao seriously?

In the past while, he had been pondering how to rectify his mistake, but despite racking his brains, he couldn't come up with any solution.

And with Ye Wenhao recently arriving in Jiangnan, Jiangnan was about to become a stronghold for Ye Wenhao and, by extension, for the Ye Family.

In such circumstances, if Ye Wenhao decided to vent his dissatisfaction on the Su Family, anyone could guess the outcome for the Su Family!

"Sigh."

Thinking back to that day's events, Su Hongyuan couldn't help but sigh, his face filled with regret—for having sent Su Yuxin and Ye Fan to the very first investment conference attended by Ye Wenhao.

After sighing, just as Su Hongyuan was about to turn around, he suddenly saw a black, stretch Rolls Royce Phantom slowly driving into the Lv Hu Group premises.

This discovery slightly puzzled him—a black, stretch Rolls Royce Phantom was a symbol of prestige, not something that money alone could buy as it was limited edition, and across the entire Huaxia, there were very few owners!

Soon, the black stretch Rolls Royce Phantom stopped and a big man in black jumped out of the car, opened the rear door, and Lin Ao Feng, dressed in a black suit, slowly stepped out.

Swish!

Despite Su Hongyuan's advanced years, his body was still quite robust, especially his eyesight which was very good, identifying immediately that the man stepping out from the black stretch Rolls Royce Phantom was the Crown Prince of Southern Nanqinghong, Lin Ao Feng.

This realization made his face pale instantly!

Although Su Hongyuan had reduced his attention on Ye Fan upon determining that Ye Fan had no relations with the Ye Family, he had heard that Ye Fan had helped Su Jindi in a conflict with Lin Ao Feng.

Could it be... Could it be that Lin Ao Feng was here for trouble?

Su Hongyuan couldn't help but silently ask himself, his mood becoming even heavier, convinced that the Su Family had already unintentionally offended Ye Wenhao and if they further offended the ruler of the Southern Huaxia Underground World, Nanqinghong, it would surely be adding insult to injury.

Shortly afterward, before Su Hongyuan could figure out what to do, Lin Ao Feng walked into Yang Guang Mansion alone.

"The black stretch Rolls Royce Phantom, so cool."

"Yes, if I remember correctly, there are no more than twenty of these cars in the Huaxia Region."

"Not just the car is flashy, the guy is very handsome too, those celebrities are nothing compared to him."

...

When Lin Ao Feng drove the black stretch Rolls Royce Phantom into the premises of Lv Hu Group, it drew many gazes, including those of the receptionists at the front desk.

At that moment, watching Lin Ao Feng step out of the black stretch Rolls Royce Phantom and confidently entering the lobby, the receptionists glowed with excitement and couldn't help but quietly converse with each other.

After a brief whispered exchange, the girl stationed on the outermost side of the reception desk took the lead. Without waiting for her colleagues to regain their composure, she went forward and, amidst

the envious and resentful expressions of her colleagues, greeted him with a smiling face, "Respected sir, hello, how may I assist you?"

"Tell Su Hongyuan that Lin Ao Feng, the Vice President of Qinghong Group in the Huaxia Region, wants to see him." Facing the attentively smiling receptionist, Lin Ao Feng held his head high, not even giving her a direct look.

Seeing Lin Ao Feng acting high and mighty, the receptionist felt a twinge of disappointment, but she dared not delay and forced a smile, "All right, please wait a moment."

As soon as she finished speaking, she quickly walked back to the front desk, picked up the phone, and called Su Hongyuan's office, "Hello, Chairman, a gentleman who claims to be the Vice President of Qinghong Group in the Huaxia Region, Mr. Lin, wishes to see you. Will you see him?"

"Bring him to my office."

In the office on the top floor, Su Hongyuan's expression turned extremely ugly upon hearing the report from his staff, and without hesitation, he decided to meet Lin Ao Feng.

Five minutes later, led by the receptionist, Lin Ao Feng entered the Chairman's office on the top floor of Yang Guang Mansion and met Su Hongyuan.

"Mr. Lin, please take a seat."

Perhaps because of Lin Ao Feng's distinguished status, or maybe because Su Jindi had once had a conflict with Lin Ao Feng's people, Su Hongyuan was very polite to Lin Ao Feng, even somewhat reverent—as he gestured 'please', his body tilted slightly, presenting a very low stance.

Su Hongyuan's low posture greatly satisfied Lin Ao Feng, who slightly smiled and then walked straight to the couch, seated himself, and casually crossed his legs.

"Mr. Lin, what would you like to drink? Coffee or tea?" Su Hongyuan gestured for the receptionist to leave and asked with a smile, "I'm good at making tea, but for coffee, I would need to ask my assistant."

"Mr. Su, I generally prefer red wine with added blood; do you have that?" Lin Ao Feng asked askance at Su Hongyuan.

Clang!

Astonished by Lin Ao Feng's words, Su Hongyuan's heart twitched slightly, and his facial expression stiffened a bit.

"Just kidding, just kidding. Please don't mind, Mr. Su."

Seemingly pleased with the intimidation his words caused, Lin Ao Feng slightly lifted the corners of his mouth and said, "I won't drink anything; I just want to have a word with Mr. Su."

"Please speak, Mr. Lin."

Su Hongyuan returned to his seat, outwardly holding himself upright and proud but inwardly feeling uneasy.

"Before coming to Hanghu, I had heard of Mr. Su's deeds, learning that Mr. Su has been invincible in the business world for decades, and recently caused a storm in the Jiangnan official and commercial domain stealthily. Not only did you topple the He Family but also caused many officials to lose their positions, including a promising provincial governor like Han Guodong."

Lin Ao Feng spoke slowly, observing Su Hongyuan's expressions while speaking, and seeing some unrest in him, he continued, "Forbidden City has a friend surnamed Bai who asked me to inquire on his behalf, what exactly had the Ye Family promised the Su Family that led you to collaborate with them to bring down Han Guodong?"

"Mr. Lin, there's been a misunderstanding; those are just rumors. The downfall of the He Family was purely because their dirty secrets accidentally leaked out, and regarding Han Guodong, I am completely unaware."

Decades of experience in business had given Su Hongyuan a heart of steel. He strained to control his emotions, careful not to give anything away.

Although he did not know why Lin Ao Feng mentioned the storm in the Jiangnan official and commercial domain, he knew he absolutely must not let Lin Ao Feng learn the inside story— it would not be good for the Su Family!

"Oh, it doesn't matter if I misunderstood, but the key is that my friend surnamed Bai doesn't think it's a misunderstanding, but rather something done intentionally," Lin Ao Feng said with a smile, believing Su Hongyuan should be able to tell what his friend surnamed Bai represented.

Gulp!

As expected, upon hearing Lin Ao Feng's words again, Su Hongyuan's Adam's apple moved intensely, and the muscles at the corners of his eyes twitched madly.

"Mr. Su, to be honest, originally my friend surnamed Bai thought that the Su Family was playing a bit overboard and planned to do something about it, but I stopped him," Lin Ao Feng said, seeing that the moment was ripe to cut to the chase, and half-truthfully continued, "I did this only because I am enamored with your granddaughter, Miss Su Yuxin."

Huh?!

Su Hongyuan's eyes widened instantly; he never would have dreamed that Lin Ao Feng came today because of Su Yuxin!

"Moreover, a few days ago, Mr. Su's grandson, also Miss Su Yuxin's brother, Su Jindi, caused some trouble at the Yunshan Underground Racing Track."

Seeing that Su Hongyuan remained silent, Lin Ao Feng added another blockbuster, continuing in the same semi-truthful vein, "Surely Mr. Su knows that the Yunshan Underground Racing Track belongs to our Nanqinghong. Normally, according to the rules of the underworld, your grandson Su Jindi would have had to leave something behind that day, but after I learned of his identity, I did not let my men do so; otherwise, he could have lost an arm or a leg before that doctor surnamed Ye could arrive."

"Thank you, Mr. Lin."

Although Su Hongyuan knew about Su Jindi causing trouble at the Yunshan Underground Racing Track and that Ye Fan had intervened, he did not know the details; hence, he thanked Lin Ao Feng without any reaction.

"Mr. Su, now that we are at this point, I will not beat around the bush. Today, I mainly came to ask for your granddaughter's hand in marriage," Lin Ao Feng said, getting straight to the point, "Ever since I first saw Miss Su Yuxin, I have deeply fallen for her. I desire to date her, and even more, I hope she can become my wife!"

"Er..."

Even though Su Hongyuan had already vaguely sensed Lin Ao Feng's intentions, he was still startled upon hearing him mention a marriage proposal.

"Mr. Su, you must know the power of our Nanqinghong, and you should also be aware that the Bai Family strongly supports us!"

Seeing that Su Hongyuan did not respond, Lin Ao Feng directly threw out the 'dowry', "I promise you that as long as you agree to this marriage, Nanqinghong and Qinghong Group will provide substantial support to the Su Family's Lv Hu Group, helping Lv Hu Group develop the market in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

Besides, not only will the Bai Family not trouble the Su Family, but they will also offer substantial assistance to ensure that the Su Family can firmly establish itself in the East Sea!"

Swipe!

As Lin Ao Feng's promises echoed in his ears, Su Hongyuan's eyes brightened, and even his heart rate suddenly increased.

As the head of the Su Family, he was fully aware of Nanqinghong's power and knew that Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan were Nanqinghong's strongholds while also understanding that the East Sea was one of the Bai Family's territories!

In such a case, if what Lin Ao Feng said was true, then this dowry was exceedingly significant!

"Mr. Lin, it's fortunate for Yuxin to be admired by you, and I thank you on her behalf,"

Although Su Hongyuan was deeply moved, he did not immediately agree but began playing coy, "But as you know, this is a significant decision in Yuxin's life. I need to tell her first and listen to her opinion."

"That's only natural."

Lin Ao Feng carelessly smiled, then stood up, expressing confidence, "However, I believe Mr. Su will help Miss Su make the right choice!"

Chapter 130: Grievance

"Bang, bang—"

As Lin Ao Feng's words had just fallen, without waiting for Su Hongyuan to express his stance, the office door was knocked.

"Come in." Su Hongyuan frowned, seemingly dissatisfied with his subordinate interrupting him at this time.

Creak!

At the sound, the door opened, and in walked Su Yuxin, dressed in a professional suit.

"Grandpa..."

Upon entering, Su Yuxin habitually greeted Su Hongyuan, but as she started to call out the word "grandpa," she caught sight of Lin Ao Feng.

In an instant, her complexion changed drastically!

"Lin Ao Feng, according to the content of the life-and-death contract, you and Doctor Ye are not to hold each other accountable after the contest, nor can you seek revenge; otherwise, you would be violating the rules set by the Yanhuang Organization!"

After her shock, Su Yuxin looked at Lin Ao Feng with an icy expression and said coldly, "I warn you, if you dare to cause trouble in our Lv Hu Group, I will report to Master Jiang at once!"

"Lady Su, you've misunderstood; my visit to the Lv Hu Group today is not to cause trouble."

Looking at Su Yuxin's cold demeanor, Lin Ao Feng felt a stronger desire to conquer, yet he did not show it on his face. Instead, he smiled elegantly, like a perfect gentleman.

"Then what are you here for?" Su Yuxin's tone remained icy cold, as if Lin Ao Feng was an enemy in her eyes.

"Your grandfather will tell you."

Lin Ao Feng rose to his feet, walked up to Su Yuxin, and gazed at her indifferent yet captivating face, his smile undiminished, "Additionally, Lady Su, you are very charming when you're angry, and I quite like that."

"Please show some respect, and furthermore, you are not welcome here, so leave immediately!" Though unaware of Lin Ao Feng's purpose, Su Yuxin bluntly issued an eviction order.

"We're about to become one family; why act like this?"

Lin Ao Feng smirked roguishly, then left the office without looking back, but left behind a self-confident and arrogant remark, "Mr. Su, I await your reply."

One family?

As Lin Ao Feng's words echoed in her ears, Su Yuxin stood petrified once more, only regaining her senses after several seconds. With a puzzled look, she turned to Su Hongyuan and asked, "Grandpa, what's going on? What's he here for?"

"To propose marriage," Su Hongyuan said with a complex expression.

"Wha... what?" Su Yuxin was shocked, "He came to you to propose marriage??"

"Yes." Su Hongyuan nodded, "He said he likes you, so he came to propose to me."

"He had someone hurt Jin Emperor, and even attempted to harm Doctor Ye, and now he comes to propose marriage to you?" Seeing Su Hongyuan's nod of confirmation, Su Yuxin trembled with rage and cursed angrily, "He is too shameless, completely outrageous!"

Sensing Su Yuxin's emotions were getting rather excited, Su Hongyuan remained silent.

"Grand... grandpa, have you agreed to him?"

Su Hongyuan's silence made Su Yuxin feel something was amiss, and she asked tremblingly, her eyes filled with horror and rage.

"Not yet." Su Hongyuan shook his head.

"What do you mean 'not yet'?" Su Yuxin was immediately anxious, "Are you actually considering agreeing to him?"

"Yuxin, don't get worked up. Calm down and listen to me," Su Hongyuan frowned.

"Grand... grandpa, you know that I like Ye Fan. Our Su family owes him so much, so much that I don't know how to repay it."

Fearing Su Hongyuan was equivocating and might agree to Lin Ao Feng's proposal, Su Yuxin's eyes reddened with intense emotion, "So please don't force me, okay? If you insist on making me marry that scum..."

"Yuxin, listen to me!"

Seeing Su Yuxin's extreme emotional instability, Su Hongyuan hurriedly interrupted, trying to stabilize her mood first, "I have not agreed to him."

"Then have you rejected him?" Su Yuxin asked, her eyes red, biting her lip.

"Yuxin, you don't understand the true nature of the matter. Let's put it this way, this is of great importance; it could even determine the life and death of our Su family."

Su Hongyuan frowned and said word by word, "We must hold a family meeting to discuss and decide on the final outcome!"

"There's nothing to discuss!"

Hearing Su Hongyuan's words again, Su Yuxin closed her eyes in agony, took a deep breath, and said, "Even if it kills me, I will not marry that scum!"

"Yuxin!"

Perhaps dissatisfied with Su Yuxin's emotional approach, Su Hongyuan suddenly snapped.

Ignoring him, Su Yuxin bit her lip and walked briskly out of the office, letting her tears fall freely.

"Sigh!"

Seeing this, Su Hongyuan, feeling irritated, lit a cigarette to try to calm down with the help of nicotine.

Half a minute later, Su Hongyuan stubbed out the half-smoked cigarette and then picked up his phone to call his son, Su Ming, and said in a tone that brooked no argument, "Get in your car and return to Hanghu immediately, try to get home by eight o'clock tonight; we are holding a family meeting at that time!"

"Dad, what happened?"

On the other end of the line, Su Ming's curiosity surged, as he was in Donghai and wondered what had happened to make Su Hongyuan so serious about asking him to come back to Hanghu in such a hurry.

"I'll tell you when you get back!"

Su Hongyuan said decisively and hung up the phone before dialing his daughter Su Qin's number.

"Dad."

After ten seconds, the call connected, and the voice of Su Liuli's mother, Su Qin, was heard through the receiver.

"Xiao Qin, something big has happened at home. We're holding a family meeting at eight o'clock tonight, and you must hurry back!" Su Hongyuan said sternly.

"Okay."

Unlike Su Ming, Su Qin didn't press for details and simply agreed cleanly and decisively.

After hanging up the phone again, Su Hongyuan had intended to call Su Yuxin's office, but on second thought, he realized that Su Yuxin's emotions were probably still unstable, so he abandoned the idea and decided to wait until it was almost time to get off work to inform her.

Just as Su Hongyuan had anticipated, Su Yuxin's emotions were indeed unstable.

Upon returning to her office, she didn't work with the focused dedication of usual days, but sat powerlessly against the back of her chair, staring blankly at the ceiling as tears slid down freely.

Tears traced paths over her gorgeously pretty face, moistened the light makeup, and dripped into her mouth, tasting a bit salty, but mostly bitter.

She only felt as if someone had stabbed her in the heart, and it hurt... it hurt so much!

So much so that no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't stop the tears streaming from her eyes.

"Bang bang—"

Suddenly, the sound of knocking on the door startled Su Yuxin out of her sadness.

"Huff... Huff..."

Quickly, Su Yuxin wiped the tears from her face, then took two deep breaths in succession, trying to calm herself down in the shortest time possible—she didn't want her subordinates to see her vulnerable side!

"Come in."

A few seconds later, when Su Yuxin had managed to control her emotions, she spoke slowly, although her voice was slightly hoarse.

Creak!

Secretary Yang Miaomiao entered, holding a folder as she always did, walking towards Su Yuxin with a smile on her face: "Mr. Su."

"What is it?"

Within a short time, Su Yuxin had completely reverted to normal, showing no trace of sadness on her face, yet the tear stains remained, and her eyes were faintly red.

Yang Miaomiao stood still, momentarily shocked upon seeing the tear stains on Su Yuxin's face, her expression turning into one of utter surprise!

In Yang Miaomiao's memory, Su Yuxin, known as the Iron Lady, was decisive and resolute in her actions, never hesitating, never shrinking back when faced with difficulties, and never getting downhearted in the face of setbacks. Her toughness was so formidable that even some of the male employees were in awe.

And yet, there was Su Yuxin looking as if she had just been crying, which undoubtedly sent a shock through Yang Miaomiao's heart.

"Assistant Yang, is there something you need?" Su Yuxin asked again, upon noticing Yang Miaomiao's reaction.

"Mr. Su... What's wrong with you?" Su Yuxin's words pulled Yang Miaomiao back from shock, and she looked at Su Yuxin with concern instead of answering.

"I'm alright."

Su Yuxin shook her head, a flash of pain crossing her eyes, while her face was perfectly masked, so convincingly that Yang Miaomiao even questioned whether she had seen incorrectly.

"Mr. Su, this is the progress report for the phase one project of Binhe New District; please have a look."

Half-believing and half-doubtful, Yang Miaomiao handed over the documents to Su Yuxin, seeing the tear stains on Su Yuxin's face more clearly now, confirming that Su Yuxin had indeed been crying.

"Just place it here; you can go now," Su Yuxin said, taking the documents without altering her expression.

"Alright."

Yang Miaomiao hesitated as if wanting to say more, but eventually, she gave up on asking further—although she was a trusted assistant to Su Yuxin, their relationship was still that of a superior and subordinate, not yet to the point where they could share everything.

What exactly happened to Mr. Su?

Why was she crying?

Full of questions, Yang Miaomiao left Su Yuxin's office, walking while pondering the intrigues behind the scene, but she couldn't come up with an explanation.

Should she ask Ye Fan about it?

Shaking her head slightly, Yang Miaomiao decided not to dwell on it. Her attention then shifted as she noticed that Ye Fan's office door was open, and she strode directly into his office.

"Hello, Assistant Yang." Ye Fan had a good impression of Yang Miaomiao since they had shared an office space before, and he greeted her warmly as she entered.

Yang Miaomiao didn't exchange pleasantries with Ye Fan, but got straight to the point: "Divine Doctor Ye, Mr. Su seems to have encountered something upsetting."

"How do you know?"

Ye Fan was curious, wondering not only why Su Yuxin would be upset but also how Yang Miaomiao came to learn about it.

"I just went to deliver documents to Mr. Su, and I saw her eyes were red, her face had tear stains, and she seemed like she just finished crying," said Yang Miaomiao truthfully.

"Oh?" Ye Fan was slightly taken aback and without thinking, he got up and said, "I'll go take a look."

As soon as he finished speaking, Ye Fan didn't wait for Yang Miaomiao to respond and left his office, heading towards Su Yuxin's office.

Soon enough, Ye Fan arrived at the door of Su Yuxin's office, gently knocked, and only entered after hearing Su Yuxin's voice from inside.

Hmm?

In the office, although Su Yuxin had stopped crying, her emotions were still downcast. Seeing Ye Fan enter, she was initially startled, then the sense of grievance she had barely suppressed erupted like a volcano, unable to contain it any longer, her nose tingled, and tears instantly blurred her vision.

"What's wrong?"

Seeing this, Ye Fan quickly moved to Su Yuxin's side, bent down, and gently cupped her face.

Without an answer,

Su Yuxin threw herself into Ye Fan's arms, her face awash with tears.