

Young Master 151

Chapter 151: [Thank you, my Guardian God]

Reality and ideals are most often like two parallel lines that never intersect.

Failing to achieve ideals isn't frightful, but what's terrifying is how many people fantasize their ideals too wonderfully without considering the reality,, and thus, they are violated by the harsh reality—a great disparity that cuts into the heart like a sharp knife, shattering their confidence and fighting spirit.

Su Ming was undoubtedly this kind of person.

After Lin Ao Feng proposed, his heart was filled with nothing but excitement.

In his fantasies, once Lin Ao Feng and Su Yuxin's engagement concluded, he would have Su Hongyuan pull strings to release Su Feiyu in advance, then father and son could seize the new opportunities brought by the Lin family to make the Su Family prosper significantly, and ultimately inherit the vast business empire of the Su Family...

Now, all that seemed as unattainable as the reflection of the moon on water or flowers in a mirror.

Su Ming couldn't recall how he had left the West Lake Club, and when he regained his senses from the shock, he found himself sitting in Su Hongyuan's Bentley, facing Su Hongyuan's solemn face.

That solemnity let Su Ming know that Su Hongyuan hadn't wished for things to develop to this point either,, everything had been driven by compelling circumstances.

Realizing all this, Su Ming subconsciously ignited a cigarette and took deep drags, seemingly trying to use the nicotine to completely calm himself down.

"Dad, if I'm not mistaken, changing your mind at the last moment must have been influenced by something more than just Chu Ji, right?"

As the cigarette burned out, Su Ming had thoroughly regained his composure and he resumed speaking to Su Hongyuan before waiting for a reply, then answered his own question: "With Chu Ji's status and power, she indeed could protect our Su Family, enabling us to withstand Nanqinghong's revenge. But Lin Ao Feng had clarified during his proposal that this matter also involves the Bai Family, and Chu Ji simply cannot contend against the Bai Family!"

"You haven't completely disappointed me, at least."

Seeing that Su Ming was no longer as impulsive and irate as before, Su Hongyuan sighed and said, "If it were only Chu Ji backing Ye Fan, I wouldn't have changed my decision at the last moment, and I certainly wouldn't have collaborated with them to kill Lin Ao Feng!"

"Then what was it? Could that boy really be Chu Xuanji's disciple?" Su Ming was puzzled. Then, recalling what Ye Fan had said that day at Su Family's No.1 Villa, he blurted out.

"That, I cannot confirm," Su Hongyuan furrowed his brows and said weakly, "My actions were motivated by one reason—Ye Fan is Ye Wenhao's son!"

"Ye... Ye Wenhao's son?"

Shocked upon hearing Su Hongyuan's words, Su Ming bolted upright from his seat and unintentionally struck his head on the car ceiling with a "thud."

Unmindful of the pain on the top of his head, Su Ming's face wore an expression of disbelief: "How could he possibly be Ye Wenhao's son? If he were Ye Wenhao's son, how could he willingly treat Yuxin's illness and even work at the Lv Hu Group Jiangnan Company?"

"To be precise, he's an illegitimate child."

Su Hongyuan felt like this was some kind of cruel joke fate had played, sighing continuously, "This was something Ye Wenhao personally told me tonight. He was afraid that Ye Fan could not accept him as his father right away, so he didn't come forward directly. Instead, he chose to meet me in the bamboo forest, asking me to assist Ye Fan in killing Lin Ao Feng by using their own tactics against them!"

"So that's how it is..." Su Ming seemed utterly dejected as he slumped back into his seat.

"You must remember not to speak of this matter to anyone!"

Thinking of Ye Wenhao's covert warning, Su Hongyuan looked sternly at Su Ming and uttered each word slowly, "If talking about this prevents them from reconciling as father and son, the Su Family will have to face Ye Wenhao's wrath. If that happens, our family would be completely and utterly ruined!"

No response.

Su Ming simply nodded desperately.

The despair was because he knew that since Ye Fan was Ye Wenhao's son, he and his son Su Feiyu would never be able to wrest back control and ownership of the Su Family's assets from Su Yuxin!

While Su Ming was engulfed in despair due to the insider news, Ye Fan, along with Chu Ji, Su Yuxin, and Su Jindi, approached the unremarkable Audi A6L.

"Alright, kiddo, there's no need for you to take me back. I'll drive myself; you and Miss Su head back to Jiuxi Rose Garden," Chu Ji said with a laugh as she saw Ye Fan pulling out his car keys.

"Okay."

Ye Fan nodded and tossed the car keys to Chu Ji.

"Sister Chu, thank you."

As Chu Ji got ready to get into the car, Su Yuxin quickly stepped forward to thank her. Not only had Chu Ji facilitated her and Ye Fan's relationship smoothly, but she also transferred 80% of the Su Family's assets to her and Su Jindi and intended to offer the Tianshan Group as a bridal gift upon her marriage to Ye Fan, a favor akin to that from a second set of parents.

"Miss Su, I am Xiao Fan's aunt; it's only right that I do all this for him. Besides, the way you care for and love him also makes it worth my while," Chu Ji said, teasingly adding, "No need to be so formal with me; you'd better go enjoy some romantic time with the kiddo."

Shush!

Hearing Chu Ji's insinuating words, Su Yuxin blushed, her cheeks turning red as she shyly bowed her head, not knowing how to respond.

Knowing Su Yuxin was bashful, Chu Ji didn't continue to tease her and instead turned to Ye Fan, "Kiddo, come to Azure Dragon Villa to find me before five o'clock tomorrow afternoon."

"Mmm."

Although Ye Fan did not know why Chu Ji had asked him to visit, he agreed immediately.

Seeing Ye Fan nod in agreement, Chu Ji wasted no more words, started the car, and drove off, while Ye Fan walked with Su Yuxin and Su Jindi toward the parking lot.

"Brother Ye, from here on out, should I start calling you my brother-in-law?"

As Ye Fan drove Su Yuxin's Mercedes S600 away from the West Lake Club, Su Jindi, who sat in the passenger seat, cheekily asked.

"Jin Emperor, don't talk nonsense!"

Having just recovered from Chu Ji's teasing, Su Yuxin, upon hearing Su Jindi say this, deliberately put on a stern face to scold him.

Su Jindi pouted, "Sis, how is that nonsense? Don't you want to marry Brother Ye?"

"I...."

Su Yuxin instinctively opened her mouth, but was too embarrassed to finish her sentence. Instead, she blushed deeply, bowing her head and stealing glances at Ye Fan, her heart feeling as sweet as if she had tasted honey.

...

When Ye Fan and two others returned to Su Family's No.2 Villa, it was already eleven o'clock at night.

Usually at this time, Mrs. Su would have already been asleep.

However, tonight, worried about Su Yuxin's affair, Mrs. Su not only stayed awake but also stood alone at the villa's entrance. Upon seeing Su Yuxin's Mercedes S600 approaching, as if summoned, she ran towards it.

Under the night sky.

She ran so hastily that she accidentally lost a slipper.

Despite losing the slipper, she didn't stop but continued running with red eyes and bare feet.

Seeing Mrs. Su running desperately, Ye Fan was taken aback and quickly pressed the brake.

"Zi~"

Accompanied by a screeching sound as the tires rubbed against the ground, the Mercedes S600 stopped less than five meters from Mrs. Su, and Ye Fan was the first to get out of the car.

As the car stopped, Mrs. Su excitedly halted, tripped by her other slipper, and uncontrollably stumbled forward.

Whoosh!

A swooshing sound rang out as Ye Fan, like a phantom, quickly flashed to Mrs. Su's side and caught her: "Aunt, are you alright?"

Without answering, Mrs. Su looked at Ye Fan with a surprised face.

"Mom!"

At the same time, Su Yuxin eagerly opened the car door and rushed towards Mrs. Su, while anxiously asking.

Mrs. Su's attention was brought back to reality by Su Yuxin's words, and she instinctively looked at Su Yuxin: "Yu... Yuxin!"

"Mom, why are you outside? What happened?" Su Yuxin quickly ran to Mrs. Su's side, helping to support her together with Ye Fan.

"I was worried about you."

Mrs. Su's voice trembled as she spoke, those four words embodying all her feelings.

Having married into the Su family as a commoner, she held no status there; and being of a gentle nature, she was powerless against the dominating Su Hongyuan and Su Ming.

All she could do was worry and pray.

Worry that Su Yuxin could not accept the marriage Su Hongyuan forcefully arranged, praying that tonight a miracle would occur—that Ye Fan would change Su Hongyuan's mind as Su Yuxin had said!

"Mom, I'm fine." As if understanding her mother's feelings, Su Yuxin's eyes immediately turned red.

"It's good you're alright, it's good you're alright."

Mrs. Su reached out to caress Su Yuxin's cheek, gently wiping away the tears on Su Yuxin's face, then pulling her into her embrace, while she herself cried like a child.

Seeing this scene, Ye Fan felt overwhelmed by a sentiment called being moved, and besides that, a deep longing.

Deep inside him, he too wished that one day, he could be held and cared for by his parents, just like Su Yuxin.

Even though, he knew that care and attention might not really help him.

But... he still yearned for it!

"Mr. Ye... was it you who made Yuxin's grandfather change his mind?" After some time, Mrs. Su let go of Su Yuxin, looked up at Ye Fan, her eyes filled with gratitude.

"Please rest assured, Aunt, Su Hongyuan will no longer dare to force you to do things you dislike!" Ye Fan nodded and said, "Also, Aunt, I am now Yuxin's boyfriend, so you can just call me Xiao Fan."

"Uh..."

Although Mrs. Su knew Su Yuxin liked Ye Fan, she was not aware of Ye Fan's feelings; now seeing Ye Fan openly admitting he was Su Yuxin's boyfriend, she was momentarily stunned.

"Mom, Brother-in-law is right, you calling him 'you' makes us feel uncomfortable too." Su Jindi said.

"Xiao Fan, Aunt is uneducated and doesn't know how to speak well, please don't take it amiss." Hearing Su Jindi calling Ye Fan brother-in-law, Mrs. Su recovered from her astonishment, her face beaming.

"Mom, is that how a mother-in-law talks to her son-in-law?" Su Jindi said, somewhat annoyed.

"It's... it's my way of speaking that is wrong, I shouldn't have said that..."

Mrs. Su was still caught up in her excitement and confusion, "Yuxin, being with Xiao Fan is your good fortune, you must treat Xiao Fan well in the future, heed his advice, and change your obstinate nature..."

There was no answer.

And no interruption.

Su Yuxin just quietly listened and watched.

Listening to her mother's rare advice, watching her mother's face wet with tears yet brimming with happiness.

At this moment.

She felt extremely fortunate.

She was fortunate to have met Ye Fan when she felt most desperate.

She was even more fortunate that Ye Fan had allowed her to see her mother's happy smile twice.

"Thank you, my Guardian God."

In her heart, she spoke to Ye Fan.

Chapter 152: [I Want to Be on Top]

Perhaps it was because the outcome of the evening was unexpectedly perfect, or perhaps because Mrs. Su was so pleased with her son-in-law Ye Fan, she spoke nonstop for a full three minutes before she stopped.

"Mom, shall we go inside to talk?" Seeing Mrs. Su stop, Su Yuxin smiled and linked her arm with her mother's, "As long as you're willing, I can stay up and talk with you all night."

"Ah... Right, let's talk inside."

Mrs. Su laughed awkwardly and, with Su Yuxin's assistance, she entered the villa along with Ye Fan and Su Jindi, while the bodyguard Hu Jun considerately came over to drive the car back into the villa's garage.

"Mom, you can chat with my sister at your leisure."

Upon entering the villa's hall, Su Jindi said to Mrs. Su with a grin and then dragged Ye Fan by the arm, saying, "Brother-in-law, let's not disturb them, let's talk upstairs."

"Auntie, let Yuxin keep you company downstairs," Ye Fan said with a wry smile.

Upon hearing this, Su Yuxin bit her lip and stopped herself from speaking, instead casting a somewhat resentful glance at Su Jindi.

Unaware of the resentment in Su Yuxin's eyes, Su Jindi hurriedly pulled Ye Fan upstairs with the eagerness of a groom on his wedding night.

"Brother Ye, now that you are my brother-in-law, isn't it time for you to teach me real Kung Fu?" As he pulled Ye Fan into his room, Su Jindi couldn't wait to ask.

"Sure."

Ye Fan could tell that Su Jindi was genuinely interested in martial arts, so he nodded and added, "Later on, I'll brew some potions for you to first improve your physique, then I'll teach you martial arts."

"Alchemy?" Su Jindi was surprised.

"Brewing potions."

Ye Fan felt a little embarrassed as the word "alchemy" was a term from the "Nine Heavens Mysterious Scripture" in his mind, where brewing potions was called alchemy.

"Brother Ye, does that mean if I take the potions you brew, I'll be reborn and learn martial arts with half the effort, like in the novels?" Su Jindi asked excitedly, as if he felt he would become a martial arts master in no time.

"It's not that exaggerated, but it could help you enter the entry-level faster," Ye Fan laughed, "As for your future achievements, that will depend on your talent and effort."

"With such a powerful expert as you teaching me, I won't fall too far behind," Su Jindi said with confidence, having witnessed Ye Fan defeat Qin Hai of the Yanhuang Organization, cripple Quick Blade Wang Dong and the Hongwu Sect's genius Yang Qing, as well as killing Lin Ao Feng tonight. In his heart, Ye Fan was an invincible master.

Seeing this, Ye Fan didn't want to dampen Su Jindi's enthusiasm. Meanwhile, Su Jindi, like a chicken blood injected, excitedly continued to ask about martial arts, including some badass Martial Arts and their various levels.

"Ye Fan."

Time passed, just as Su Jindi asked about the realm above the Innate Realm, Su Yuxin suddenly appeared at the bedroom door and called out to Ye Fan.

"What's wrong?" Ye Fan turned to look at Su Yuxin.

"I feel a bit uncomfortable, can you check on me?" Su Yuxin said with her cheeks slightly red and her tone a bit odd, her heart beating wildly.

"Okay!"

Hearing Su Yuxin say she was unwell, Ye Fan didn't notice her abnormal behavior, but immediately looked concerned and got up to walk out.

Seeing this, Su Yuxin quickly turned and walked to her own bedroom.

Under the light.

Her cheeks instantaneously turned crimson, and her heartbeat raced at a terrifying speed.

Soon, Su Yuxin was the first to reach her bedroom, standing at the door, taking two deep breaths in an attempt to calm her emotions.

"Where do you feel uncomfortable?"

Simultaneously, Ye Fan entered the room, grabbing Su Yuxin's hand, taking her pulse while caringly asking.

Su Yuxin looked at Ye Fan with a flushed face, hesitating to speak.

"Why is your pulse so fast?" Ye Fan remarked, noticing the rapid pulse of Su Yuxin.

"Because I'm nervous..." Su Yuxin said softly, blushing.

"Nervous?" Ye Fan was surprised.

Su Yuxin nodded slightly, her cheeks red with a mix of shyness, nervousness, and anticipation, as she looked at Ye Fan like a bride on her wedding night gazing at her groom.

Hm?

Seeing Su Yuxin's demure appearance and feeling the profound love in her eyes, something clicked in Ye Fan's mind. He gently pulled her towards him.

Pulled by Ye Fan, Su Yuxin uncontrollably fell into his arms, her heart pounding as if it were about to leap out of her throat. She even held her breath.

With the soft body in his arms, Ye Fan felt a surge of heat in his lower abdomen. The flame of desire lit instantly, and he uncontrollably kissed Su Yuxin's quivering lips.

"Mmm..."

As their lips met, the searing heat also ignited the fire of desire within Su Yuxin. The masculine scent flooded her senses, fuelling her fire like oil poured on a volcano, causing her body to stiffen and then melt into Ye Fan's embrace, letting out a soft moan that was barely audible.

At the sound of that enticing moan, the fire of desire inside Ye Fan flared up even more fiercely. He captured Su Yuxin's wandering tongue and, just like last time, lifted her skirt to reach inside. His hand found the softness of her shapely rear.

"Ah... Mmm..."

Feeling the warmth and firmness of Ye Fan's hand, Su Yuxin felt as if her buttocks were electrified. Her body tensed again, her head tilting back, her hair flying, and a seductive moan escaped her lips, her breathing growing ragged.

Under the light, a captivating blush spread across her stunning face, even reaching her ears and neck, turning them crimson as well.

After a brief tension, Su Yuxin's body softened again, powerless, leaning against the bathroom door behind her.

Click!

The bathroom door was unlocked, and it swung open at Su Yuxin's push.

Without support, Su Yuxin's body instinctively fell backward, and Ye Fan stepped forward, his hands firmly catching her perfectly curved behind, as his steely shaft hit right between Su Yuxin's legs.

"Ah..."

An even louder moan escaped from Su Yuxin's mouth, her body shuddering uncontrollably as if electrified.

Seeing this, Ye Fan didn't hesitate, he stepped forward, his hot lips kissing Su Yuxin's pale, blushing neck, his hands dragging her buoyant behind as they stumbled into the bathroom together.

Feeling Ye Fan's fiery passion, Su Yuxin's hands naturally wrapped around Ye Fan's head, pushing him down as if guiding him lower.

Ye Fan's heated lips followed suit, landing on her twin peaks.

Despite being through clothes, Su Yuxin could still feel the heat and intensity of that kiss, and her body, stimulated, arched, inadvertently hitting the shower switch behind her.

Water poured down, drenching them both, and far from extinguishing the fire of desire within them, it was as if throwing oil on flames, completely overwhelming their senses.

"Hiss~"

The sound of fabric tearing rang out, as Ye Fan ripped a long slit in Su Yuxin's evening gown right where it strained over her peaks.

Without the support of the peaks, the evening gown didn't fall off but clung to Su Yuxin's heated body due to the water, perfectly outlining her S-curve, especially with the half-exposed peaks.

At this moment, she was like a goddess from Heaven who had shed her holy halo, overflowing with endless temptation.

This scene, etched into Ye Fan's eyes, shattered the last bit of his willpower.

He kissed Su Yuxin's wet lips again, his hands instinctively tearing at the evening gown clinging to her body, and Su Yuxin was just as eager, responding to Ye Fan's hot kiss while tearing at his clothes just as he did.

"Hiss~"

The sound of clothes being torn apart rose again.

Crack!

The sound of shirt buttons popping continued.

"Ah... Mmm..."

Su Yuxin's moans of passion were soul-melting.

Somehow, Ye Fan had intuitively unfastened the bra concealing the twin snow-capped mountains;

Somewhere along the way, Su Yuxin had undone Ye Fan's belt, revealing the pitched tent.

Under the lights, both were completely soaked, kissing and tearing at each other with abandon.

On the floor, their clothes, torn to shreds, piled up piece by piece.

After an indeterminable time, when Ye Fan pulled down the t-back blocking the path between Su Yuxin's legs, they stood naked before one another, clinging tightly together like two magnets, deeply drawn to each other.

Suddenly,

Ye Fan lifted one of Su Yuxin's jade legs, his shaft ready to charge, causing Su Yuxin pain, her body writhing uncontrollably.

With her movements, Ye Fan was unable to aim his shot, needing to adjust the angle.

The next moment,

Just as Ye Fan was about to aim again, Su Yuxin moved her jade leg from the pain, causing him to miss the mark once more.

Once, twice, thrice...

After several misses, even Ye Fan, with his excellent composure, was becoming frustrated.

"Let's... change positions..."

With her face flushed, Su Yuxin looked at Ye Fan with seductive charm and whispered.

Moved by her suggestion, Ye Fan held Su Yuxin's round buttocks, lifting her up before plunging in once more.

"It hurts... it hurts..."

Su Yuxin cried out in pain, her body twisting wildly beyond control, thwarting Ye Fan from taking accurate aim, the steel gun blindly crashing around.

Sweat covered Ye Fan's forehead in his agitation.

"Pfft—"

Perhaps it was the first time Su Yuxin saw Ye Fan looking so helpless, she leaned on his shoulder, wrapped her arms around his neck, and couldn't help but laugh, then lightly bit his earlobe and softly suggested, "Let's move to the bed..."

"Mm."

Having failed to make a precise hit repeatedly, Ye Fan realized it wasn't his poor skill, but the too frequent movement of the target. He agreed to Su Yuxin's suggestion and decided to aim for a fixed target on the bed.

Soon, Ye Fan carried Su Yuxin to the edge of the bed, laying her down before pressing onto her slick body.

"Wait... wait..."

Just as Ye Fan was about to make his move, Su Yuxin spoke up again.

"Is it... not okay yet?" Ye Fan was on the verge of tears, beginning to consider whether it was time to use the 'Woman Controlling Techniques' of the Lan Hua Sect.

"I want to be on top..."

Su Yuxin blinked her eyes, then suddenly flipped over, pinning Ye Fan beneath her.

Chapter 153: [Secret, Weakness]

Unlike the laughter and joy in Su Family's No.2 Villa, Su Family's No.1 Villa conveyed a gloomy, deathlike aura. Including Uncle Fu, the Su Family's bodyguards all felt an immense pressure on their chests, as if a massive mountain weighed them down, creating an extremely oppressive atmosphere.

Perhaps knowing the significance of today's events for the Su Family, Uncle Fu saw that the study's light was still on but did not remind Su Hongyuan to sleep as usual.

In the study on the second floor of the villa, Su Hongyuan sat limply in his chair, his eyes lifelessly staring at the ceiling, unmoving.

If not for his abdomen gently rising and falling with his breath, one might think he had already passed away.

He wasn't dead, he was still alive, but it seemed as if he had aged decades in just a few hours. His hair had turned completely white, his forehead was lined with wrinkles, his eye sockets deeply sunken, with a faint redness around his eyes and more pronounced crow's feet.

"Ding-a-ling—"

Suddenly, the telephone rang, shattering the silence of the study and snapping Su Hongyuan out of his daze.

He turned his head in a daze towards the telephone on the desk, but did not reach out to answer it until the ringing stopped.

Only—

Soon, the telephone rang again, hauntingly echoing in Su Hongyuan's ears, provoking an inexplicable irritation in him.

Amidst his irritation, he leaned forward, subconsciously wanting to cut the telephone line, but the corner of his eye caught the number on the caller ID – it was Su Qin's mobile number.

This realization made him pause for a moment, and after thinking it over, he still answered the call.

"Dad, I just received a message saying you called off the engagement at the scene and enraged Lin Ao Feng. Lin Ao Feng went to hit you, but was killed by Ye Fan?" As soon as the call connected, Su Qin asked, her voice filled with confusion, "Is that true?"

"It's true," Su Hongyuan sighed softly.

"Why did you do that?" Su Qin continued, "Could it be that Ye Fan has concealed his identity and is really Chu Xuanji's disciple?"

"He isn't."

Having said this, and realizing Su Qin seldom cared about the affairs of the Su Family, he added, "Xiao Qin, you don't need to worry about this, I have my own plans."

"Dad, by doing this, you've completely offended Nanqinghong. Lin Tianyi won't let the Su Family go!" Su Qin argued somewhat fretfully, "Moreover, this will also offend the Bai Family!"

"At this point, I had no other choice."

Su Hongyuan spoke gravely, "By the way, what did you mean the other day when you said you had a way to stop Lin Ao Feng from daring to swallow our Su Family and from treating Yuxin too harshly?"

"Dad, if you tell me the reason you changed your decision, I'll tell you the inside story," Su Qin hesitated slightly, wanting to exchange secrets with Su Hongyuan.

"Ye Fan is Ye Wenhao's son," Su Hongyuan revealed openly upon hearing this.

"What... what?"

On the other end of the phone, Su Qin, upon hearing Su Hongyuan's words, jumped up from the sofa as if she had heard the most unbelievable thing in the world, "How... how is he possibly Ye Wenhao's son?"

"This is what Ye Wenhao told me personally—Ye Wenhao also went to the West Lake Club tonight, though he did not show himself," Su Hongyuan sighed.

"Ye Family does not acknowledge Ye Fan at all. Could he be Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son?" Su Qin thought for a moment before asking again.

"Mm. You're right, he is Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son."

Su Hongyuan still felt some chills recalling Ye Wenhao's anger in the bamboo forest when mentioning the insults Ye Fan faced, "But he's not like any ordinary illegitimate son; Ye Wenhao seems to care deeply about him. In fact, if not for fearing that Ye Fan might not be able to accept it at the moment, Ye Wenhao would have directly made an appearance to support him."

"Uh..."

Having her father's confirmation, Su Qin was stunned and then said somewhat angrily, "Dad, why didn't you call to inform me before making that decision?"

"In that situation, how could I have had the chance to make a call? Besides, you usually don't care much about the family affairs, and even if I had informed you, what good would it have done?" Su Hongyuan said weakly, then suddenly felt something amiss, "Xiao Qin, you..."

"I'm Bai Guotao's lover," Su Qin interrupted Su Hongyuan, her voice complex as she revealed the mystery.

"What... what??"

Now it was Su Hongyuan's turn to be shocked. Despite his extremely strong heart and the emotional roller coaster he had endured that evening, Su Qin's admission still left him standing up abruptly, stunned to the point his hand almost dropped the phone.

"I have always been his lover,"

Su Qin's face was grim as she revealed a secret hidden deep in her heart for nearly twenty years, "That's also the reason I've remained single all these years."

"When did it start?" Su Hongyuan took a deep breath to calm himself down, feeling an ominous premonition rising in his heart.

"Twenty years ago, before I had Liu Li," Su Qin disclosed without any concealment, "And at that time, that grassroots was just a cover to shield me and him."

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Su Hongyuan, upon hearing this, almost fainted from anger. In his view, if Su Qin had disclosed this to him earlier, the Su Family wouldn't be in its current predicament—their family would have leveraged the Bai Family to become one of Southern Hua Xia's top business clans long ago.

"He forbade me from telling anyone about our relationship; otherwise, he said he would cut ties with me. He also told me he won't help the Su Family," Su Qin sighed softly, "Because of this, I never told you."

"Xiao Qin, oh Xiao Qin, you're really muddled,"

Su Hongyuan was furiously spun, "If he could maintain a relationship with you for twenty years, he definitely has feelings for you. Even if you were foolish at first and didn't tell me, you should have told me later. Especially during the family meeting about Yuxin's engagement, you should have been upfront!"

"Dad, even if I had been upfront at the family meeting that day, would you really have changed your mind?" Su Qin gave a bitter smile and said, "I'm just Bai Guotao's lover, but Ye Fan is Ye Wenhao's son; we're incomparable."

"_"

Su Hongyuan was at a loss for words, just as Su Qin had said, she was merely Bai Guotao's lover, while Ye Fan was Ye Wenhao's son, and the Ye Family was still firmly holding the seat of the wealthiest clan.

After a moment of silence, Su Hongyuan sat back down in his chair and said thoughtfully, "Xiao Qin, then your current situation must be extremely awkward? How do you plan to talk to Bai Guotao?"

"I will tell him the truth."

Su Qin said wisely, "He is an extremely proud man, his pride even surpasses that of Ye Wenhao. Because of his pride, he hasn't taken this matter to heart at all. If I tell him the real inside story, he won't blame me, nor will he blame you."

"But... but I promised Ye Wenhao that this matter must not be leaked." Su Hongyuan felt somewhat troubled.

"Dad, he is not only extremely proud but also very possessive. If it weren't for that, I wouldn't have remained single all these years."

Thinking of Bai Guotao's terrifying possessiveness, Su Qin couldn't help but warn, "If I choose to hide this from him, then when he finds out the truth, he will think I have betrayed him, and at that time, not only will I have to endure his rage, but our Su Family will also suffer."

"Ah, it really is raining more in times of a leaking roof," Su Hongyuan sighed heavily.

Seemingly understanding Su Hongyuan's helpless and powerless feelings, Su Qin tactfully remained silent.

"You can tell him the truth, but you can't tell anyone else."

After a moment of contemplation, Su Hongyuan gritted his teeth and decided, "That way, even if Bai Guotao uses this against us, we could still argue our case in front of Ye Wenhao. After all, the Bai Family's intelligence network is extraordinary, it's possible that they could find out this inside story."

"Alright."

Su Qin agreed immediately, then said, "Dad, he must know by now, I won't talk more with you, I'll call to tell him right now."

"Mhm." Su Hongyuan responded softly, then hung up the phone.

At the same time, Su Qin first took a deep breath, calmed her emotions, and then dialed the phone number that had long been engraved in the depths of her heart.

"I'm sorry."

The call connected quickly, and Su Qin apologized first, feeling somewhat uneasy.

Based on her understanding of Bai Guotao, because of his pride, whether the Su Family affected Ye Wenhao's achievements was negligible to him—he disdained leveraging his lover's family to do so!

But because of that terrifying possessiveness, Bai Guotao absolutely would not allow his lover's family to serve the rival Ye Family!

"This has nothing to do with you, it must be your father acting on his own, so you don't need to apologize to me."

As Su Qin had predicted, Bai Guotao, residing in Nandong Province. No.1 Villa of the Commission Family Compound, looked somewhat displeased, his tone was so low it made one's heart tremble, "I just want to know the reason. What exactly made your father bold enough to risk completely offending Nanqinghong and even our Bai Family, and stage tonight's drama?"

"My dad was also driven to despair."

Su Qin hurried to explain, "Ye Wenhao was also there tonight; he secretly met with my dad in the bamboo forest at the West Lake Club..."

"Are you saying, Ye Wenhao made promises to your father and painted a vast blueprint for him, which is why your father suddenly changed his mind?" Bai Guotao's eyes flashed with anger.

"No... not that."

Sensing Bai Guotao's anger, Su Qin quickly denied, "My dad changed his mind because a young man named Ye Fan liked my niece Su Yuxin—they were in love even before Lin Ao Feng proposed."

"Does this young man named Ye Fan have ties to the Ye Family?" Bai Guotao's interest was piqued, sensing something.

"Yes." Xu Qin unraveled the mystery, "He is Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son."

"Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son?"

Astonished by Xu Qin's words, Bai Guotao was also slightly taken aback, then fell silent, his eyes shimmering, thinking about something.

"Could you... could you give Nanqinghong a heads up to not let them involve our Su Family as collateral damage?"

Seeing Bai Guotao not speaking, Xu Qin hesitated then mustered the courage to ask, "Lin Ao Feng was furious enough to strike my father, but instead, he got entangled with Ye Fan; got taken advantage of 'legitimate self-defense' and ended up killed by Ye Fan..."

"If it weren't for your father's spectacular performance, that Lin kid wouldn't have acted so rashly."

Bai Guotao's expression was unreadable as he interrupted Xu Qin's words, providing no clear response but shifting the topic, "What do you know about this young man named Ye Fan?"

"I can't say I know him well, but I'm aware of some events that transpired after he arrived in Hanghu." Xu Qin replied bleakly.

"Let's hear it."

"Alright."

Guessing that Bai Guotao was leveraging the fact that Ye Fan was Ye Wenhao's son, Xu Qin detailed everything Ye Fan had done since arriving in Hanghu to Bai Guotao.

"So, this son of Ye Wenhao is inherently arrogant and vengeful, hence his continuous troublemaking?" Bai Guotao asked.

Xu Qin nodded, "Yes. Anyone who has offended him has not ended well."

"Good, good, good, I never expected Ye Wenhao to have such an exceptional illegitimate son, and what's more, to care deeply about him."

Realizing Xu Qin's confirmation, the displeasure in Bai Guotao's heart vanished without a trace, replaced by excitement, "Heaven truly helps me!"

At those words, something clicked for Su Qin, and she instantly grasped the implication in Bai Guotao's words—Ye Fan would become the biggest stumbling block for Ye Wenhao's ascension!

A stumbling block?

As the chess game progressed, Chu Xuanji smiled and remained silent.

Chapter 154: [Prelude to the Yin People]

When the midnight bell tolled, Tianyi Villa, situated in the suburbs of Taiwan, was no longer as serene as it usually was.

In the light, one could clearly see the figures of the bodyguards, either standing at the door, patrolling in groups of five, or hiding in the shadows as covert sentries, while surveillance cameras were everywhere inside and outside the villa.

It was evident that such security measures were even stricter than the residence of the Special Administrative Region's chief executive of Taiwan.

"Brother Hu, who has the audacity and sheer nerve to even think of killing Young Master Lin?"

"Yeah, Young Master Lin is Mr. Lin's only son, and now that he's dead, Mr. Lin will surely seek revenge at all costs!"

Under the cover of night, a patrol composed of five people moved across the crossroads in the villa, two of whom curiously questioned their leader, a big man.

"Don't ask questions you shouldn't!" The lead man stopped in his tracks, uttering coldly upon hearing them.

"Brother Hu, the brothers are just a little curious. Not to mention Young Master Lin's identity, but based on his strength alone, at the Postnatal Great Perfection, he is not someone easily killed by others." The

man who had a good relationship with Brother Hu, trying to please him, took out a cigarette and offered it to Brother Hu.

Brother Hu took the cigarette, allowing his subordinate to light it for him, deeply inhaled, and his tense face relaxed noticeably. He spoke in a lowered voice, "It's said that Young Master Lin was killed by a man named Ye Fan. Not only did he kill Young Master Lin, but he also bloodbathed our Nanqinghong Hanghu Branch before crippling Wang Dong and the young genius Yang Qing of the Hongwu Sect."

"Who on earth is this Ye Fan to be so formidable?"

"Yeah, is he not at all afraid of Mr. Lin's fury? Or does he simply not take our Nanqinghong seriously?"

"It's said that he is the nephew of the Demon Queen Chu Ji from the north," Brother Hu relayed truthfully.

"So he has that demoness as his backing, no wonder he's so arrogant. But that said, surely our Mr. Lin won't let that guy named Ye Fan off easily."

"Don't just talk about that guy. In my opinion, Mr. Lin might even take action against Chu Ji."

"Shut up, all of you!"

Seeing his subordinates getting heated in discussion, Brother Hu first looked around vigilantly, then sternly said, "Don't say I didn't warn you. Because Young Master Lin was killed, two unlucky guys ended up being Mr. Lin's venting tools, and by now they've become food for the crocodiles. If you don't want to follow in their footsteps, you'd better keep your mouths shut."

"Sss~"

Brother Hu's warning scared his four subordinates, who all sharply inhaled in fear and swallowed their words.

Seeing this, Brother Hu stubbed out his cigarette and continued leading the patrol.

From a distance, Brother Hu and his men could clearly see that the lights were on in Villa No. 1 of the complex.

Perhaps because they were frightened by Mr. Lin Tianyi's earlier outburst of anger on his subordinates, they did not make a special detour towards Villa No. 1 to show their faces in front of Mr. Lin Tianyi, as they had done in the past. On the contrary, they felt that the villa, which they had once looked up to, had become a hell, and they kept their distance.

There were no lights on in the study of Villa No. 1.

In the dark, Lin Tianyi sat in front of his desk with a cigar in his mouth, sucking on it fervently, the glowing cherry illuminating his face, allowing one to vaguely discern his usually ruddy complexion, which from a breakthrough in realm, was now completely twisted in anger, his eyes bloodshot, a terrifying aura of murderous intent emanating from him, filling the study and causing its temperature to plummet.

"Snap—"

Halfway through the cigar, Lin Tianyi, overcome with rage, snuffed it out, but the force of his action pulverized the remaining half.

"You bastard, you think you can kill my son just because you're Chu Ji's nephew?"

In the darkness, Lin Tianyi's fists clenched, cracking with noise, as the killing intent on his body climbed, wishing he could butcher Ye Fan immediately to avenge his son, Lin Ao Feng.

"Bang—"

As the murderous intent on Lin Tianyi peaked, he slammed his fist onto the desk before him.

Crack—

With a snap, the mahogany desk instantly shattered, sending splinters and debris into the air, with books and a telephone scattering across the floor.

Seeing this, the murderous intent on Lin Tianyi gradually subsided, and his contorted face also slowly returned to normal, as if with that punch, he had vented all the fury within him!

Had it gone?

It had not.

As a great and crafty magnate, Lin Tianyi simply used this 'kick-the-cat effect' to sober up from his anger.

Because he knew that tonight's incident was not just about the tragic death of his son, Lin Ao Feng, it also meant he had failed to complete a task assigned by his superiors.

Therefore, the pressing matter at hand was not how to avenge Lin Ao Feng, but how to give a perfect explanation to his superiors.

Having calmed down, Lin Tianyi bent down to pick up the fallen cigar, just as his hand touched it, the vibrating sound of a phone caught his attention.

Clang!

The sudden vibration startled Lin Tianyi, who instinctively presumed it was a call from headquarters.

"Phew~"

With that thought in mind, Lin Tianyi took a deep breath, tried hard to adjust his emotions, and then reached for the phone.

Hm?

The incoming call on the phone screen was not from headquarters, but an unfamiliar number.

This discovery raised Lin Tianyi's eyebrows—his phone number was highly confidential, only a very few individuals aside from headquarters knew it, and although those numbers weren't saved, he still remembered them by heart.

After a moment's pondering, with a mixture of curiosity and puzzlement, Lin Tianyi pressed the answer button.

"I'm sorry to disturb you so late, Mr. Lin,"

Upon the call connecting, a strange voice came through the receiver; while the words were polite, there was an undercurrent of pride in the tone—a pride that seemed to be branded in the marrow.

"Who is this?" Lin Tianyi asked without a change in his expression.

"My surname is Bai, given name Luo," the caller introduced himself.

"Young Master Bai of the Bai Family, Bai Luo?" Lin Tianyi asked with instantly dilated pupils, seeking confirmation.

"Yes."

Bai Luo readily accepted the title 'Young Master Bai'. Firstly, he was the eldest among the Bai Family's younger generation, and secondly, the children of high-ranking officials and wealthy families usually addressed him in this manner.

"If I remember correctly, I'm not familiar with Lord Bai—only having met twice."

Even though Lin Tianyi suspected that the person on the other end of the phone was the renowned Young Master Bai of the Huaxia Bai Family, he still cautiously inquired, "May I know what urgent matter brings Lord Bai to call me at this late hour?"

"Mr. Lin, I've just heard that your son was killed—is that correct?" Bai Luo cut to the chase without beating around the bush.

"Yes," Lin Tianyi said with a furrowed brow. "What does Lord Bai mean by bringing up this matter?"

"Mr. Lin, Boss Lin, you know better than I the reasons why Nanqinghong could take root in Huaxia. I think we should speak frankly rather than dance around each other, don't you agree?" Bai Luo punctured the pretense.

Lin Tianyi pondered briefly and then said, "It's not so much I'm probing, it's more that I couldn't confirm your identity."

"Five years ago, at my grandfather's birthday, you secretly sent a pair of Jade Lions to establish a connection with us," Bai Luo said with a cold sneer. "Boss Lin, does this prove my identity?"

"My apologies, Lord Bai, I was overly cautious," Lin Tianyi admitted, no longer suspicious, and quickly apologized, while his mind raced, wondering why Bai Luo would call him about Lin Ao Feng's death.

"Boss Lin, I'm calling this late to tell you something you don't know," Bai Luo got straight to the point. "The old fox of the Su Family changed his mind at the last minute not because Demon Queen Chu Ji backed up that guy Ye Fan, but because Ye Wenhao stepped in!"

"Ye Wenhao stepped in?" Lin Tianyi's expression changed drastically.

"Yes. Because that Ye Fan is Ye Wenhao's son," revealed Bai Luo. "To be precise, he's Ye Wenhao's bastard born outside."

Clang!

Upon hearing Bai Luo's words again, Lin Tianyi's heart jolted for no apparent reason, his anger vanishing as if evaporated, leaving uncontrollable fear in its place.

The former number one of the Qing bang, a battle that had shaken the Huaxia Martial Arts World.

The Ye Family's third generation's most powerful successor!

Indeed, any one of Ye Wenhao's identities alone was enough to strike fear into Lin Tianyi.

And now, Bai Luo told him that the killer who murdered his son was Ye Wenhao's son, which explained his shock.

"What's the matter, Boss Lin, are you scared? Or are you saying you don't dare avenge your son now?" Bai Luo, seeming to guess Lin Tianyi's feelings, deliberately provoked.

Hmm?

As Bai Luo's piercing words echoed in his ears, an idea struck Lin Tianyi. Reason told him Bai Luo's call tonight was about more than just disclosing this insider information.

"What do you mean, Lord Bai?" Realizing this, Lin Tianyi asked directly.

"As far as I know, your son's engagement to Su Yuxin served two purposes: first, your son hoped to kill that Ye Family bastard, and second, Young Master Qinghong Chen Feilian wanted to show off in front of his father and create problems for Ye Wenhao indirectly, thereby giving our Bai Family a small gift and deepening the cooperation between Qinghong and the Bai Family," Bai Luo explained.

"Now, your son is dead, and the task Chen Feilian gave you might as well be down the drain. I suppose you're thinking about how to report this to Chen Feilian, right?"

"Please speak plainly, Lord Bai," Lin Tianyi avoided the question.

"Lin Tianyi, I can't believe you don't understand what I'm saying." Bai Luo expressed some dissatisfaction.

This time, Lin Tianyi didn't speak hastily but said thoughtfully, "Are you suggesting that by doing something to that bastard, we can force Ye Wenhao to make a mistake?"

"Lin Tianyi, you indeed live up to the name of a great schemer," Bai Luo couldn't help laughing upon hearing this. "What I should remind you of is that this is not what I meant."

"Could it be?"

"It's no fun if I spill everything out," Bai Luo took the omission route, then continued, "You just act as we discussed earlier. As for Nanqinghong's concerns at headquarters, I'll take care of them—you know Qinghong has always wanted to join forces with our Bai Family to kill Ye Wenhao and break down the Ye Family. If someone speaks kindly of you to him, neither he nor his son Chen Feilian will blame you."

A thought struck Lin Tianyi, but he remained silent.

"If you manage to accomplish what we discussed earlier, not only can you avenge your son, but you will have also made a great contribution to Qinghong. Surely, the head of Qinghong will reward you handsomely!" Bai Luo's voice was strong and clear, "With such a shot at two birds with one stone, it seems you have no reason to refuse."

"Since Ye Wenhao has already stepped in for the engagement, if I send someone to kill that bastard, he will surely not spare me and might even eradicate the entire Nanqinghong!"

Bai Luo's words were indeed tempting, stirring Lin Tianyi's desire to take action, but he felt apprehension—He could not withstand the wrath of Ye Wenhao!

"Boss Lin, there are many ways to kill a man and seize his goods. As a master schemer, you'll surely come up with an excellent plan," Bai Luo flattered with a smile, before saying, "It's getting late, I won't disturb you any longer, Boss Lin. I'll await your good news."

With that, Bai Luo hung up without waiting for Lin Tianyi's response.

Lin Tianyi, however, set down the phone and slowly closed his eyes.

Those familiar with him knew this was the prelude to his scheming!

Chapter 155: [After the Madness, Half-step Innate]

The next morning, just as the sky began to brighten, Ye Fan opened his eyes on time as usual.

With the curtains drawn, the room was pitch black, so dark you couldn't see your own hand in front of you.

Of course, that's for ordinary people.

As a Postnatal Perfect Martial Artist, Ye Fan's bodily functions far exceeded those of ordinary people. In the blink of an eye, he adjusted to the room's light and, turning his head slightly, saw Su Yuxin resting on his arm, clinging to his neck, and one of her jade legs unceremoniously pressing on his, her smooth body curled up in his arms like a well-behaved kitten.

In the darkness, Su Yuxin's breathing was very even, and she was sleeping soundly.

Listening to Su Yuxin's even breathing and feeling the pressure and smoothness of her two little bunnies on his chest, Ye Fan couldn't help but recall last night's madness.

Last night, due to Su Yuxin's initiative, Ye Fan ignited the fire of desire within her with a passionate kiss. The two of them kissed from the door to the bathroom, tearing each other's clothes completely under the shower, turning the bathroom into a battlefield.

Regrettably, because it was Su Yuxin's first time, Ye Fan spent a great deal of effort but failed to hit the target, and had no choice but to move the battlefield to the bed.

Once on the bed, Su Yuxin asked to be on top, and with a flip, she pinned Ye Fan underneath her, combining their bodies together in an exploratory and experimental way.

After the initial pain, Su Yuxin, like an elegant female knight, galloped on Ye Fan, reaching new heights six times before finally collapsing on his body.

Since Ye Fan had been training in martial arts from a young age, he could fully control the leakage of his essence qi. When Su Yuxin was completely relaxed, his steel gun beneath had not yet fired its bullets.

In such a situation, Ye Fan did not pause, but switched from passive to active, starting to counterattack. During the counterattack, he also applied the Dual Cultivation Technique, perfectly merging their "Heart, Spirit, Will" together, tasting the peak of pleasure time and time again.

Whoosh!

Thinking of last night's madness and feeling Su Yuxin's body, no longer cold, Ye Fan's brother below raised its head once more, ready to continue the battle.

Noticing his reaction, Ye Fan gave a bitter smile, quickly steadied his mind, and used his willpower to suppress the fire of desire that flared up again within him.

Meanwhile, his peripheral vision clearly saw the 'red rose' on the bedsheet, and many black impurities as well.

These impurities were all expelled from Su Yuxin's body.

Using the Dual Cultivation Technique, not only did Ye Fan and Su Yuxin taste a bliss unmatched by ordinary people, but he also took this opportunity to introduce his pure Yang Qi into the source of Su Yuxin's yin energy. This not only merged Su Yuxin's yin energy with his yang energy but also significantly improved Su Yuxin's constitution, clearing her small cycle's meridians and acupoints, and leaving a power seed in her Dantian.

In such a situation, Su Yuxin suddenly transformed from a weak and powerless woman into a Postnatal Great Success Martial Artist!

Even, had it not been for the concern that Su Yuxin's meridians and Dantian could not withstand more, he would have transferred more force to Su Yuxin, making her reach the Peak-stage of Postnatal Martial Artists in one go!

Although Ye Fan had transferred force to Su Yuxin, his strength did not decrease. On the contrary, he also benefited sufficiently through the Dual Cultivation Technique—Su Yuxin's pure yin Qi merged with his internal pure Yang Qi and circulated through the route of the small cycle, integrating completely into his meridians, acupoints, sinews, and internal organs, giving his body a complete overhaul, enhancing all its functions.

What's more important, because he opened his heart completely and engaged in physical and mental 'communication' with Su Yuxin, Ye Fan's lonely heart seemed to be warmed, the knot in his heart loosened somewhat, so much so that during the Dual Cultivation, he nearly found the threshold of the Early Innate Realm.

"Am I about to step into the Half-step Innate Realm?"

Thinking of last night's momentary insight and looking at the bedsheet stamped with red roses and stained with black impurities, Ye Fan silently asked himself.

No answer.

Ye Fan thought for a moment, gently shifted Su Yuxin's jade leg stained with blood, then slowly withdrew his arm.

After doing all this and seeing that Su Yuxin was not awakened, Ye Fan sighed in relief and then noiselessly got out of bed and entered the bathroom to wash up.

Fifteen minutes later, the clean and dressed Ye Fan in a tracksuit arrived at the villa courtyard and was surprised to see the bodyguard, Hu Jun, standing at the villa's entrance as usual, like a steel spear.

"Mr. Ye, good morning."

Upon seeing Ye Fan, Hu Jun saluted and greeted him first thing, his attitude more respectful than usual, but also somewhat odd.

Noticing the slight oddity hidden on Hu Jun's face, Ye Fan's mind was as clear as a mirror.

Last night, while engaging in Dual Cultivation with Su Yuxin, he brought indescribable pleasure to Su Yuxin, causing her to twist her body wildly like a wanton woman and moan passionately, quite loudly...

"Morning."

Ye Fan was not embarrassed but, acting as if nothing had happened, smiled and greeted Hu Jun before starting his morning exercise.

Eager to test whether he had reached the Half-step Innate Realm, Ye Fan did not jog around the Jiuxi Rose Garden Noble District as usual but instead headed straight for the woods of the noble district.

Chapter 156: [After the Madness, Half-step Innate]_2

A moment later, Ye Fan arrived at the forest in the wealthy district and saw that the forest was as quiet as ever, empty of people. He leaped forward, becoming a phantom as he entered deep into the forest, walking to the base of a tree as thick as a water barrel.

Ye Fan sat cross-legged under the tree, collected his consciousness, his eyes watching his nose, his nose watching his heart. Once his mind was as still as stagnant water, he suddenly took a deep breath.

"Swoosh——"

With that breath, the air in front of him turned into a stream and surged into his mouth, making his whole body swell like a puffed-up toad. At the same time, streams of air began to form, circulating around his body.

After the air streams entered Ye Fan's body, he did not control the streams to circulate along the "small cycle" as usual but instead, following the inspiration from last night's dual cultivation with Su Yuxin, directly controlled the streams to rush toward the first acupoint of the "Grand Circulation" route!

The next moment.

In Ye Fan's perception, the stream quietly breezed past the invisible barrier in front of the first acupoint and charged into the "Grand Circulation" route.

Success!

Ye Fan felt a burst of joy in his heart.

Soon after, he clearly perceived that after the air streams followed the route of the Grand Circulation, the vital energy in his body was more exuberant than before, and the Essence Qi it spurred also subtly changed.

Although the change was small, Ye Fan captured it.

This discovery filled Ye Fan with great joy!

He knew that if the vital energy in his body was vigorous and the essence Qi dense, then the Power converted would be stronger, transitioning from Dark Force to Gang Jin.

Once he fully stepped into the Early Innate Realm, the Power transformed from Essence Qi would become Gang Jin, and its might would skyrocket by more than tenfold!

After the great joy, Ye Fan quickly controlled his consciousness to become focused again, continued with his meditation, controlling the stream to enter his body, cleansing his body and generating Essence Qi, before expelling the remaining impure air and impurities from his body.

This cycle repeated over and over again.

Before he knew it, the Power in the nine major acupoints in Ye Fan's body was replenished, not to mention the quality of the Power had also changed.

Ye Fan was very clear about this: circulating the air streams along the Grand Circulation route was the first step into entering the Early Innate Realm, also known as Half-step Innate.

Only when the Power could circulate along the Grand Circulation route could one truly step into the Early Innate Realm.

Understanding this, Ye Fan stopped meditating and, with a thought, decided to make a full-powered assault on the Early Innate Realm!

Whoosh!

With a move of his mind, the stored Power in the nine acupoints surged out as if summoned, converging together like a torrent, storming toward the first acupoint of the "Grand Circulation" route with an unstoppable momentum.

Just like before, as the Power charged toward the acupoint, it was as if an invisible gate stood outside that acupoint, blocking all the Power outside, preventing it from advancing any further!

The barrier of the Early Innate Realm once again stopped Ye Fan's assault!

Realizing this, Ye Fan was unwilling to give up and again controlled his Power for another attempt.

Once, twice, three times...

After the fifth failure, Ye Fan had to give up.

He knew he had to completely break through his mental blocks and catch up with his spiritual cultivation to break the barrier of the Early Innate Realm.

"It seems that to break through the Innate Realm, I still need new inspiration," Ye Fan said. As he spoke, he suddenly opened his eyes, stopping the meditation, and the streams of air around his body instantly dispersed.

"Try the attack power of Half-step Innate!"

Although he had failed to breakthrough to the Early Innate Realm again, Ye Fan was not discouraged; instead, he decided to test his current attack power.

Hu!

Without hesitation, Ye Fan's right fist swung out swiftly like lightning, unleashing its full force against the water-barrel-thick tree beside him.

"Bang——"

A dull sound echoed as the Power contained in Ye Fan's fist exploded like an erupting volcano, bursting in an instant and bombarding the trunk, cracking like firecrackers with a continuous pop-pop noise.

With the explosion of Power, a fist-sized black hole instantly appeared in the trunk, while wood chips flew about and cracks spread out from around the black hole like a web, dense and intricate.

"Crack——"

Seconds later, as the cracks multiplied and grew, a crisp noise came from the trunk, which then collapsed thunderously onto the ground, smashing the surrounding little trees and even creating a crater on the ground.

Seeing this, Ye Fan couldn't help but inwardly marvel at the tyranny of Gang Jin—his body's power had not fully transformed into Gang Jin, but the might of this punch was far greater than before.

Even, in Ye Fan's view, if he had possessed such power during his confrontation with Yang Qing, he would not have needed to evade constantly to deplete Yang Qing's power; he could have taken him on in a frontal clash!

Once the barrier was broken and he completely stepped into the Early Innate Realm, converting his inner strength into Gang Jin, killing Yang Qing would be like slaughtering a chicken!

"Early Innate Realm, when will I be able to break through?"

At these thoughts, Ye Fan couldn't help but secretly ask himself, his eyes revealing a hint of anticipation.

No martial artist doesn't wish to become stronger.

Ye Fan was no exception.

He had been at the Postnatal Great Perfection for two years already and was truly impatient to break through to the Early Innate Realm!

Later, Ye Fan buried that anticipation deep in his heart, then walked out of the woods alone and returned to the Su Family's No.2 Villa by the original path.

In the Villa's first-floor hall, Mrs. Su was busy in the kitchen as usual.

"Ye... Xiao Fan, you're back."

Upon seeing Ye Fan enter, Mrs. Su poked her head out and greeted him with a smile. She was about to address him as Mr. Ye, but quickly corrected herself in time to Xiao Fan.

"Yes." Ye Fan nodded with a smile and asked, "Auntie, do you need any help?"

"No need, you go take a shower upstairs, then call Yuxin down for breakfast together."

Mrs. Su spoke, her face revealing a hint of mirth— after all, even Hu Jun, who slept in the gatehouse, heard Su Yuxin's moaning; how could she, sleeping next to Su Yuxin's bedroom, not have heard?

Noticing Mrs. Su's smile, Ye Fan didn't face her with the same composure he showed towards Hu Jun. On the contrary, he felt somewhat guilty, not daring to meet Mrs. Su's eyes. He mumbled a response and went upstairs.

In the bedroom, Su Yuxin slept in because of the excessive physical exertion last night, but when Ye Fan pushed the door open and entered, she seemed to hear the sound and slowly opened her eyes.

"Awake?" Ye Fan said with a smile as he approached the bedside.

"Yes."

Su Yuxin nodded gently, trying to sit up, only to suddenly feel a pain emanating from her mysterious garden.

Amidst the pain, Su Yuxin wasn't alarmed, as it's normal for a woman to feel pain after her first time, especially considering how wild she and Ye Fan had been the previous night—it would be strange if it didn't hurt.

"How... how come there's so much dirt?"

Aside from the pain, Su Yuxin spotted the red rose that symbolized a woman's first time and saw the black dirt on the sheets, asking with a puzzled face.

"It all came from your body," Ye Fan said with a smile.

"Ah..."

At his words, Su Yuxin gasped, shocked, "How can there be so much dirt in my body? Could it be... could it be because of that strange illness?"

"No, everyone's body has dirt; compared to normal people, martial artists have less, so their constitution is a bit better."

Ye Fan shook his head and explained, "Last night, when we did that, I employed a special cultivation technique. Not only did it cure your disease, but it also improved your constitution and stored inner strength in your body. This means that now, you can also be considered a martial artist, and your strength isn't bad either."

"Um... "

For Su Yuxin, martial arts were as esoteric as a heavenly book—completely incomprehensible. Hearing Ye Fan's words left her momentarily stunned.

"If Jin Emperor knew, he'd probably want to die out of envy."

Coming back to her senses, Su Yuxin didn't realize the advantages this could bring her; instead, she thought of how Su Jindi was always eager to learn martial arts from Ye Fan and couldn't help making a jest.

"He doesn't know you've become a martial artist, but he probably knows about the other things," Ye Fan said with a wry smile.

"Ah—"

Startled, Su Yuxin nervously asked with a tense face, "How... how does he know?"

"Last night you were too loud," Ye Fan explained.

Whoosh!

As Ye Fan's words fell, Su Yuxin's cheeks instantly blushed red, and she felt an overwhelming urge to find a hole to crawl into and never come out again.

"By the way, my senior sister asked me to see her this afternoon. Are you going?" Ye Fan, seeing Su Yuxin's embarrassment, deliberately changed the subject.

"No... no, I'm not going."

Su Yuxin replied with a flushed face, hiding her entire self under the quilt, not even daring to glance at Ye Fan.

Seeing this, Ye Fan knew Su Yuxin was shy and couldn't help but smile as he left the bedroom, though his thoughts were occupied: My senior sister called for me; could it be because the old man has found news about my parents?

Chapter 157: Father and Son Reunite, Fate Plays its Hand

Azure Dragon Villa.

This is the wealthy district within the rich areas of Hanghu and the entire Jiangnan Rich District.

To be precise, in the entire Yangtze River Delta, Azure Dragon Villa is also one of the top villa areas, with a total of seventeen villas. Setting aside the astonishing prices that even general wealthy people would find jaw-dropping, it's typically a case of available but unobtainable, beyond the reach of ordinary people.

At five o'clock, as the sun set in the west, its afterglow turned the western sky red, shining with its last radiance.

Beneath the setting sun, Azure Dragon Villa glittered with golden light. The seventeen villas were strategically scattered among the dense woods, partially hidden, exuding a luxurious and high-end atmosphere.

Ye Fan drove a nondescript Audi A6L into Azure Dragon Villa, heading towards villa number 16.

He had learned from a phone call that Chu Ji lived in villa number 16.

If it had been before last night, learning that Chu Ji owned a villa in Azure Dragon Villa would have somewhat surprised Ye Fan, since even with money, one couldn't simply purchase a villa there.

However, after last night's events, Ye Fan had come to terms with it—although he didn't understand how Chu Ji had managed to make Su Hongyuan change his mind at the last minute, he figured that if Chu Ji could make Su Hongyuan take the risk of offending Nanqinghong and even the Bai Family, then owning a villa in Azure Dragon Villa was completely normal.

When Ye Fan drove up to the front of villa number 16 at Azure Dragon Villa, he was surprised to see a woman dressed in office wear standing at the entrance.

Although the woman wore office attire, her skin wasn't the pale white typical of office beauties. Instead, she had a healthy wheat complexion, and while her features might not be delicate, they were appealing.

She had short hair and stood there straight as a steel spear, her expression so serious it seemed a bit cold.

As Ye Fan's car approached, the woman took the initiative to walk up in a calm and steady pace.

Ye Fan stopped the car and rolled down the window.

"Young Master Ye, Chairman Chu is waiting for you in the garden on the east side of the villa."

"How do you know I'm the person she's waiting for?"

Ye Fan was curious, as this was his first meeting with the woman, and it seemed unlikely she should know him.

"I am Chairman Chu's driver," the woman replied expressionlessly. "I have seen your profile; Chairman Chu arranged for me to meet you here."

"I see. However, I'm not any 'Young Master.' Just call me Ye Fan," Ye Fan said with a smile, and amid the woman's odd expression, he rolled up the window and drove into the villa.

Compared to the villas of Jiuxi Rose Garden, the villas in Azure Dragon Villa occupy a slightly larger area, both the main buildings and the courtyards.

A few minutes later, Ye Fan parked the car at the entrance of the garage and walked straight towards the garden on the east side along the crossroads within the villa.

Before reaching the garden, Ye Fan could already see the colorful, multi-colored flowers blooming in the sunset, their fragrance wafting through the air and permeating the entire yard.

Among the vibrant flowers, Chu Ji, clad in a red cloak, somehow attracted dozens of butterflies swirling around her, making her appear like a fairy from Heaven, breathtakingly beautiful.

"Senior sister, I didn't know you had the talent to attract bees and butterflies," Ye Fan joked as he walked into the garden, stopping several meters away from Chu Ji.

Hearing this, Chu Ji waved her hand to shoo away the butterflies, feigning anger as she glared at Ye Fan, "What do you mean by attracting bees and butterflies? Little brat, I think you're asking for a beating."

"Senior sister, as a woman, you can't always be so violent, how will you ever get married?"

In front of Chu Ji, Ye Fan appeared quite relaxed, his speech somewhat frivolous—a stark contrast to how he normally conducted himself with precision outside, reverting to a childlike persona upon meeting his elders at home.

Whoosh—

In response to Ye Fan's words, there was a rapid whizzing sound.

As the sound ended, Chu Ji suddenly appeared in front of Ye Fan, grabbing his ear and scolding, "Little brat, you're becoming more and more disrespectful. Apologize to your aunt, now."

"I'm just telling the truth, aren't you violent?" Ye Fan pretended to dodge, but a smile played across his face, seemingly enjoying the familiar interaction.

Angered by his words, Chu Ji let go, placed her hands on her hips, and glared at Ye Fan like a fierce woman, puffing up her Holy Maiden Summit as she glared: "So I'm violent, what about it? Do you really think I can't find anyone to marry? Just a flick of my fingers and men are ready to kneel and lick my boots from Yanjing to the East Sea."

"That's right, who do you think you are? You're the renowned Demon Queen," Ye Fan chuckled, his words sounding like praise, but his expression seemed to mock Chu Ji.

"You little brat, I just cleared up a mess for you, and you can't even bother to thank me, turning around to mock me instead," Chu Ji scolded irritably. "Touch your left chest, see if you still have a conscience."

"Uh, absolutely not," Ye Fan replied earnestly, shaking his head.

Chu Ji glared at him, then her eyes brightened as if she had discovered something new. Smirking, she looked Ye Fan up and down: "Little brat, you seem different after just one night. It looks like you've stepped into the Half-Step Innate. Come clean, did you have a taste of forbidden fruit with Miss Su last night?"

"Don't you know my talent? What's so difficult about breaking into Half-Step Innate?" Ye Fan replied with feigned composure.

"Keep pretending. Keep it up," said Chu Ji.

Chu Ji curled her lip, clearly disbelieving, yet she understood that if not for the emotional burden brought by Ye Fan's background, and if not for their master deliberately honing Ye Fan, the top spot on the Qing List wouldn't have been monopolized by the Bai family kid!

"Could the old man have any news about my parents?" Ye Fan deliberately changed the subject, his voice falling with a deep sense of longing evident in his eyes.

"Not yet," Chu Ji shook her head.

"So he asked me to go back?" Ye Fan asked again, his face filled with disappointment.

"No."

Chu Ji laughed and scolded, "Do you really think that old man can't live without you? He's been busy concocting some medicine recently and went to look for herbs. He won't have time for you for a while."

"But the old guy promised me that once I completed this mission, he would help me investigate what happened back then," Ye Fan said, somewhat gloomily.

Chu Ji flashed a mischievous smile, "Didn't you tell me you didn't taste the forbidden fruit with Miss Su? Tell your aunt, how did you cure her illness?"

"__"

Ye Fan was left speechless.

"Don't worry, the master is taking care of it. He has already sent someone to handle it. I think there will soon be news," Chu Ji said, slightly guilty as she saw that Ye Fan looked a bit downhearted.

"Really?" Upon hearing this, Ye Fan's face immediately lit up with excitement.

Seeing his reaction, Chu Ji felt a faint pain in her heart for no apparent reason. She also felt a bit of pity, pity for deceiving Ye Fan.

But reason told her that it was not yet the best time for Ye Fan to recognize Ye Wenhao—rashly letting Ye Fan know the truth might not only fail to resolve his inner turmoil, but could also worsen it. In that case, it would be a case of stealing chickens only to end up losing the rice.

With this understanding, Chu Ji felt a bit more at ease and revealed, "I called you here today because I want you to join me for a meal with someone."

"Have dinner with someone? The two of us?" Ye Fan asked, puzzled.

"We will accompany Ye Wenhao for dinner," Chu Ji said with a bitter smile. "Su Hongyuan changed his mind last night, not because I coerced or bribed him, but because Ye Wenhao stepped in."

"Um..."

Ye Fan only knew that Chu Ji's plan was to make Su Hongyuan change his mind at the last minute and then provoke Lin Ao Feng, using the principle of legitimate defense to kill Lin Ao Feng. He did not know the specific details, and now hearing Chu Ji say this, he could not help but be stunned.

"I heard from outsiders that you have a close relationship with Ye Wenhao, you aren't his lover, are you?" After snapping out of his daze, Ye Fan, remembering the conversation he overheard at the Su Family mansion, could not help but ask.

"Lover your big head ghost!"

Chu Ji glared at Ye Fan full of anger and explained, "I do have a good relationship with him, but it's not as lascivious as the rumors suggest. The reason he stepped in this time is partly for himself and also as a favor to me."

"What do you mean?"

"You must have heard, Ye Wenhao strictly forbids any evil spirits in the territories he governs. Lin Ao Feng, being the Nanqinhong Crown Prince and continuously causing trouble with martial artists, has violated Ye Wenhao's taboo," Chu Ji said, lying smoothly and without a heartbeat.

"Moreover, the engagement between Lin Ao Feng and Miss Su is an attempt to secretly control the Su Family, using them to disrupt Ye Wenhao's governance in Jiangnan, delivering a gift to Ye Wenhao's political rivals. In such a situation, Ye Wenhao naturally had to do something," she continued.

"I see."

Ye Fan did not doubt Chu Ji's words and sincerely said, "You did the right thing. Even though he did it largely for himself, he still helped me, and I should be grateful to him."

As Ye Fan's words echoed in her ears, and looking at his sincere expression, Chu Ji thought of Ye Wenhao who would appear soon and couldn't help but sigh inwardly at the irony of fate—it was a father and son meeting but as strangers!

Even Chu Ji had such a sentiment, let alone the person involved, Ye Wenhao?

As Chu Ji was reflecting, Ye Wenhao drove into Azure Dragon Villa.

Perhaps to avoid unnecessary trouble and public attention, he did not drive the high-capacity Audi A6L with a government license plate, but a nondescript Passat instead.

The setting sun shone through the car window, making it clear to see that Ye Wenhao, usually unflappable, was unusually showing a hint of nervousness.

This scene, if seen by the heavyweights within the system, would probably shock them!

Because, in the past years, whether it was Ye Wenhao meeting those at the pinnacle of power during family New Year gatherings, or the few times he met with the Supreme Strongman from the Yanhuang Organization, he had never been nervous.

Not even once!

But now, he was not only nervous, but because of that uncontrollable nervousness, he unconsciously slowed down his driving speed, and even his hands holding the steering wheel were slightly trembling!

All this, just because he was afraid.

He was afraid that Ye Fan would not recognize him.

He was even more afraid that Ye Fan would hate him!

Would he?

Ye Wenhao silently questioned himself.

Chapter 158: "Arrangement and Expectation"

Tension is an emotion innate to humankind, just like birth, aging, sickness, and death—no one is an exception.

What differs is that a minority of people can overcome tension swiftly or conceal their nervousness, facing everything with composure, while most people can't show their true selves because of their anxiety.

Being once the top strong person on the Qing List and now the leading contender for the Ye Family's third-generation succession, Ye Wenhao belonged to the former.

When he arrived at Villa 16 of Azure Dragon Villa, his face bore not a trace of nervousness, but instead, he looked as commanding and unflappable as ever.

"Mr. Ye, Chairman Chu is waiting for you in the villa's hall."

As the car stopped and the window rolled down, the short-haired woman greeting him at the door felt an inexplicable tension upon seeing Ye Wenhao's face, filled with a commanding presence, her gaze towards him full of awe.

"Thank you." Ye Wenhao thanked her without any change in expression, then closed the car window and drove straight into the villa courtyard.

A few minutes later, when Ye Wenhao got out of the car and walked towards the main building, he abruptly saw Ye Fan and Chu Ji standing at the entrance, waiting for him.

This discovery unsettled the calmness in his heart, causing ripples to form, and his gaze involuntarily lingered on Ye Fan for a moment before he forcefully shifted it away, trying to approach as nonchalantly as one would at a normal banquet.

Hm?

Sensing something unusual in Ye Wenhao's gaze, Ye Fan felt that something was amiss but couldn't pinpoint exactly what.

"Previously, when I found him, he told me that he had met you once at a Jiangnan investment promotion conference," said Chu Ji, realizing that Ye Fan had sensed the fleeting oddity in Ye Wenhao's expression, her heart tensing as she spoke somewhat deliberately.

"Mm."

Ye Fan nodded, subconsciously thinking that Ye Wenhao was perhaps struck by the coincidence, which is why he showed a hint of surprise.

"Governor Ye, welcome to my humble home." Seeing that Ye Fan was no longer pondering, Chu Ji relaxed and soon took the initiative to greet Ye Wenhao, feigning politeness.

"Miss Chu, you jest. If the villas of Azure Dragon Villa were considered humble homes, then Huaxia would have no so-called mansions," Ye Wenhao's performance was even more convincing, to the extent that Ye Fan saw no flaws.

"If Governor Ye likes it, then I'll give it to you," Chu Ji laughed, then stepping aside, she introduced, "Xiao Fan, this is Uncle Ye whom I've mentioned to you."

"Uncle Ye, thank you for your help!" Ye Fan bowed respectfully to thank Ye Wenhao.

"You're welcome; I'm friends with your aunt, and since she asked for my help, I naturally had to oblige. Besides, even without your situation, I would have done something."

Ye Fan's words and actions were like an invisible blade thrusting straight into Ye Wenhao's heart, causing him great pain, and his expression was faintly stiff. However, once Ye Fan looked up, he quickly covered it up with a smile, "By the way, if I remember correctly, we've met before."

"Yes, that day you presided over the Jiangnan Province investment promotion conference; I attended the meeting," Ye Fan, unaware of Ye Wenhao's brief lapse, simply nodded.

"Let's go inside to talk."

Perhaps afraid that Ye Wenhao might lose his composure again, Chu Ji interrupted the conversation between the two.

"Alright."

Ye Wenhao nodded and took the lead into the villa's hall, following Chu Ji's gesture.

In the hall of the villa, the servants who had been waiting for a while hurriedly brought the freshly brewed tea to the living room table as soon as they saw the three entering. In the kitchen, the cooks sped up their cooking upon seeing that all the guests had arrived.

Seeing this, Ye Wenhao couldn't help but laugh and say, "Little Chu, you're getting more and more into enjoying life, not only having a driver but a private chef as well."

Perhaps knowing that Ye Wenhao was joking to ease his feelings, Chu Ji laughed but did not respond.

This scene, noticed by Ye Fan, made him feel that today's Ye Wenhao was not as commanding and imposing as he had seemed on the day they first met, but unusually approachable.

"Xiao Fan, I heard you work at Lv Hu Group, and your aunt wants to punish the Bai Yan wolves of the Su Family by acquiring Lv Hu Group."

On the sofa, with his legs crossed, Ye Wenhao sipped the freshly brewed Longjing Tea and casually asked, "Do you plan on entering business to help your aunt manage her affairs?"

"No," Ye Fan shook his head, "I've never studied business, and my position at Lv Hu Group's Jiangnan Company is purely nominal."

"Oh?" Hearing this, Ye Wenhao couldn't help but laugh and blurted out, "So what do you plan on doing?"

"I don't know what I want to do either."

Suddenly questioned by Ye Wenhao in this way, Ye Fan felt a bit lost; amidst his confusion, he shook his head with a bitter smile.

"Governor Ye, though my nephew may not know how to manage business, Miss Su is a business prodigy," Chu Ji hastily changed the subject, fearing that Ye Fan might reveal his intention to find his biological parents, joking, "I plan on sending Miss Su to manage my affairs in Donghai, and he can just rely on her there."

"To Donghai?"

Chu Ji's words echoed in his ears, causing Ye Wenhao's brows to raise, a look of concern flitting across his eyes. As he was about to say something, a glance at Chu Ji made him swallow his words.

Ye Fan, looking surprised, turned to Chu Ji, "You're sending Yuxin to Donghai?"

"Yep."

Chu Ji's expression remained unchanged as she explained, "The Su Family has deep roots in Jiangnan and a robust network. With Uncle Ye looking out for her due to my sake, if Miss Su stays in Jiangnan, she won't grow much. Donghai, being the jewel of Huaxia and attracting business elites from around the world, offers a bigger and broader stage which will be excellent for honing her, allowing her to thrive in the shortest time possible."

"I'm going too?"

Ye Fan asked again, having just indirectly told Chu Ji about his encounter with Su Yuxin, Chu Ji should understand that Su Yuxin's condition had been completely resolved, bringing an end to his mission. By routine, he should be seeking guidance from the old man.

"Isn't it obvious? If you don't accompany her to Donghai, are you planning to abandon her?" Chu Ji, picking up on Ye Fan's drift, chose not to explain.

"Hmm..."

Ye Fan found himself at a loss for words and also remembered that Chu Ji had said the old fellow went to look for herbs and wouldn't be back for a while, so he calmly accepted the arrangement.

"Good afternoon to both the gentlemen."

At the same time, a servant approached Chu Ji, first bowed to Ye Fan and Ye Wenhao to greet them, and then asked Chu Ji, "Miss Chu, the food is ready, would you like to have the meal with the two gentlemen now?"

"Shall we talk while we eat?" Without answering, Chu Ji looked up at Ye Wenhao.

"Sure."

Due to Chu Ji's words earlier, Ye Wenhao was a bit distracted. Hearing Chu Ji's suggestion for mealtime, he instantly snapped back to reality and nodded with a smile.

The dinner consisted of authentic Huaxia cuisine; unlike the delicacies of a five-star hotel, it was almost entirely home-cooked dishes, and very delicious.

Unlike the previous times when she continuously 'saved the day', during the meal, Chu Ji, fearing that Ye Wenhao might give himself away, didn't let him take the lead. Instead, she picked up the thread of conversation, talking about some trivial matters.

"Little Chu, this is the most comfortable meal I've had since coming to Jiangnan, thank you for the hospitality."

Two hours later, as the sky gradually darkened, dinner drew to a close. Ye Wenhao wiped his mouth with a warm towel handed over by a servant and said with a smile.

"If Governor Ye likes it, I can have the chef stay and cook for you every day, as a return for yesterday's favor," joked Chu Ji with a smile.

"If you do that, I might not come for your meals next time."

Ye Wenhao chuckled, then turned to Ye Fan and said, "Xiao Fan, your aunt has my phone number. If you return to Hanghu later, you can call me and bring your girlfriend to have a meal at my place."

"Okay."

Perceiving that Ye Wenhao was sincerely inviting, Ye Fan was somewhat surprised, and after the surprise, he nodded in agreement.

"Little Chu, I still have some work to take care of, so I will have to leave first." Seeing Ye Fan agree, Ye Wenhao was inwardly pleased, but he didn't show it on his face, merely excusing himself to Chu Ji as a formality.

"Work is important, let's meet up another day." Saying so, Chu Ji stood up, accompanying Ye Fan in seeing Ye Wenhao out of the villa.

"Senior sister, I always feel that Uncle Ye is a bit different from the first time I met him," Ye Fan couldn't help but express his feelings as they watched Ye Wenhao drive away.

"How is he different now?" Chu Ji asked, her heart skipping a beat but keeping her composure.

"Well, the first time I met him, he had a commanding presence. The aura of a superior and strong person he carried made one feel a natural respect," Ye Fan said reflectively, "But today, he seemed very approachable. Maybe I'm overthinking it, but I feel like he was rather enthusiastic about me."

"You're quite perceptive," Chu Ji responded, her eyes glinting as she spoke with a laugh, "His life was saved by our master, how could he not be warm to you and me?"

"Uh..." Ye Fan was startled.

"It's not much of a secret. Some special circles are aware of it," Chu Ji explained further, "I didn't reveal your true identity to him because I didn't want to expose you. After all, according to the master's original plan, you were not allowed to leave the mountain until you reached the Innate Realm."

"Why was master so insistent that I reach the Innate Realm before allowing me to leave the mountain?"

No longer dwelling on Ye Wenhao's attitude, Ye Fan asked about his own situation, which he had always found puzzling.

"Little kid, Jianghu is dangerous; the master was afraid you would suffer losses," Chu Ji explained, then changed the subject, "When you go back, tell Miss Su to get ready. She should report to the Lv Hu

Group's Donghai division before the eleventh. By then, the Lv Hu Group should have completed the acquisition of the Su Family's assets."

"Okay."

Ye Fan nodded in agreement, and he couldn't help but remember his promise to Situ Ruoshui to visit Donghai. Going to Donghai with Su Yuxin would also fulfill his promise to Situ Ruoshui.

Half an hour later, Ye Fan drove away from Azure Dragon Villa and headed back to Jiuxi Rose Garden.

"Buzz... Buzz..."

No sooner had Ye Fan left than Chu Ji's phone began to vibrate.

Chu Ji seemed to know who the caller was, not even glancing at the screen, she answered the call.

"Why did you suddenly decide to send him to Donghai?"

As the call connected, Ye Wenhao's voice came through, carrying a hint of reproach, but more so concern, "Donghai is the Bai Family's territory, I can't protect him well there. Not only has he completely offended Nanqinghong, but he also killed Lin Tianyi's son. What if Lin Tianyi becomes desperate and sends someone to assassinate him?"

"He is not as fragile as you think; he's not meant to be a greenhouse flower, nor to live his life under your protection," Thinking of the grand scheme Chu Xuanji had laid out over twenty years, Chu Ji said word by word, "Right now, he's just a little eagle that has left its nest, he must learn to fly on his own."

"What do you mean?"

"When his wings are fully grown and he soars the skies one day, you and I, along with everyone else, will feel proud of him!"

Chu Ji answered rhetorically, her charming face showing deep anticipation.

Chapter 159: 【Liu Li, Ruoshui】

The city of Dong hai, known as the "Dongfang Pearl," is the economic and financial center of Huaxia, a thriving international metropolis situated at the mouth of the Yangtze River and facing the East China Sea. It serves as the core of the economic circle of the Yangtze River Delta.

There is a plethora of universities in Dong hai including the renowned Fudan University, with a history spanning over a century, as well as emerging new institutions represented by Dong hai University.

Since its establishment, Dong hai University has combined the city's unique characteristics, focusing on economics as its draw, and has prioritized building the nation's top school of economic management. It has developed other faculties around the core of the School of Economic Management.

Over the years, Dong hai University has become a perennial fixture among the top ten universities in Huaxia, and its School of Economic Management is regarded as an equal to the very finest, Huaqing University's School of Economic Management, attracting students from both within and outside Huaxia to pursue advanced studies.

After noon, the campus that had been tranquil became bustling as Su Liuli, the top freshman at Dong hai University, stormed out of her dorm building. Ignoring the surprised looks around her, she headed straight for the red Land Rover.

Soon, under the astonished gaze of the surrounding students, Su Liuli got into the car, started it, and floored the accelerator. The red Land Rover roared away like a steel monster unleashed.

Inside the car, Su Liuli was gritting her teeth with rage, her anger evident on her face.

Her fury stemmed from a call she just received from Su Yuxin, who informed her that she was coming to Dong hai. Out of curiosity, Su Liuli inquired and found out about the major incident at the Su Family a few days ago.

Upon learning that her mother, Su Qin, had colluded with Su Hongyuan and Su Ming to treat Su Yuxin as a bargaining chip and marry her off to Lin Ao Feng, and that Ye Fan had almost lost his life as a result, Su

Liuli exploded like a lit keg of gunpowder—she was determined to confront Su Qin and demand an explanation!

About half an hour later, Su Liuli drove the red Land Rover to the municipal government office building, where she was stopped by the armed police on guard duty.

"I'm here to see Su Qin."

Despite the overwhelming anger in her heart, Su Liuli managed to control her emotions and did not attempt to barge through. Instead, she stopped the car and explained to the armed police.

"Hmm?"

Without responding or giving permission to pass, the armed police looked at Su Liuli with a puzzled expression—there was only one person named Su Qin in the city government, a deputy director of a powerful department, a deputy bureau-level official. Yet the young woman before him, who seemed to be about twenty years old, was calling Su Qin by her full name, which was quite astonishingly direct.

"You can call and ask for her, just say I am her daughter Su Liuli." Seeing the perplexed look on the face of the armed police, Su Liuli added.

"Please wait a moment." Upon hearing her words, the armed police saluted, turned around, and went to make a call to report.

"Director Su's office is on the eighth floor, please come in." Half a minute later, having received instructions, the armed police swiftly allowed her entry.

"Thank you."

Su Liuli politely thanked them, then accelerated, and the Land Rover bolted off, accompanied by a roaring sound as it charged towards the imposing office building.

In an office on the eighth floor of the office building, Su Qin stood by the window, and upon seeing this scene, she couldn't help but frown, apparently displeased with Su Liuli's ostentatious behavior.

After her moment of dissatisfaction, she had an inkling, and without changing her expression, she took her seat at the desk, waiting for Su Liuli's arrival.

Five minutes later, a sequence of rapid footsteps could be heard in the corridor. Then, the footsteps came to an abrupt halt, and the door of Su Qin's office swung open—Su Liuli, with a face full of anger, stepped into the office.

Bang—

Upon entering, Su Liuli slammed the office door with a dull thud, then glaring at Su Qin with fury, she said, "What do you mean by this?"

"What's the matter?" Su Qin furrowed her brows at Su Liuli and feigned ignorance as she inquired.

"What do you think is the matter?"

For some reason, hearing Su Qin's counter-question caused Su Liuli's rage to surge uncontrollably.

"Liuli, as a young lady, you should be graceful and reserved, not brash and lacking in manners—especially at your age," instead of answering, Su Qin began to lecture Su Liuli from the position of a mother.

"You're trying to discipline me now? Don't you think it's too late?"

Su Liuli laughed bitterly in her anger; since her childhood, she had been left with her uncle's family and raised single-handedly by Mrs. Su, who she felt was more of a mother to her. Though Su Qin bore the name of mother, she had not fulfilled the responsibilities that come with it.

"__"

Su Qin was at a loss for words.

Back then, her decision to give birth to Su Liuli was merely to avoid being abandoned by Bai Guotao, hoping that the child would tie him to her.

Therefore, to her at that time, Su Liuli was nothing more than a tool to satisfy her own emotional needs.

As she recalled all this, Su Qin's face showed traces of guilt and self-reproach.

"You don't have to feign remorse."

Seeing this, a fleeting look of grievance passed through Su Liuli's eyes, followed by a cold expression as she said, "I'm not here today to question you about your lack of motherly duties."

"Then what is it for?"

Su Qin sighed softly. Accustomed to the ways of politics, she instinctively chose a passive strategy, wanting Su Liuli to say it firsthand.

"Why did you join them in forcing Yu Xin to marry that beast, Lin Ao Feng?"

Su Liuli rushed to the desk in a few strides, hands pressed against the desk as she glared at Su Qin and demanded, "Not only that, but you nearly killed Yu Xin's savior—have you all lost your conscience to dogs?"

Chapter 160: [Liu Li, Ruoshui]_2

"You..."

As Su Liuli spoke such harsh words, Su Qin was somewhat annoyed, but ultimately she refrained from losing her temper because she felt she was in the wrong and frowned, "This matter was decided by your grandfather, I just agreed with his opinion. There's no need for you to be so furious with me."

"No need?"

Upon hearing this, Su Liuli trembled with anger, "Your actions of repaying kindness with betrayal nearly ruined Sister Yuxin's entire happiness, pushing her into an abyss—do you really feel no remorse at all?"

"Do you think she would find happiness marrying that boy called Ye Fan?"

Su Qin heard Su Liuli's words and, as if she found them laughable, scoffed, "That boy keeps offending people, and who knows how he'll end up dead. If Yuxin stays with him, she is destined to be a widow!"

"In my view, being with the person you love for even a second is better than spending a lifetime with a scumbag beast."

Su Liuli seemed moved by her own words, a fleeting desire visible in her eyes, but soon, she looked coldly at Su Qin and scoffed, "Moreover, the dead person now is that scum Lin Ao Feng, and the ones with regrets are Su Hongyuan and Su Ming! Since Ye Fan managed this, who dares say he will definitely be killed by the forces behind that scum Lin Ao Feng?"

"That's all I had to say, believe it or not, it's up to you."

Apparently not wanting to dwell on this issue any further, Su Qin said, "If you came to me just for this, you can leave now."

"I thought you might feel some regret or even guilt because of this, but now I see, I was thinking too much."

With eyes brimming with grievance and resentment, Su Liuli looked at Su Qin and spoke word by word, "Rest assured, I will leave, and I won't step foot in here ever again!"

"You..." Su Qin stood up in anger.

Ignoring her, Su Liuli turned around resolutely and strode out of the office.

This time, she didn't slam the door forcefully; instead, she closed it gently.

Seeing this, Su Qin was deeply shaken.

She knew beginning to slam doors was a child's way of showing petulance towards their mother, but what she did now was a way of conveying something else entirely.

This deepened her feelings of guilt.

For the first time, she felt that as a woman, she had utterly failed in life—not having been a good wife nor a caring mother!

...

Hanghu, Jiuxi Rose Garden.

Ye Fan walked out of the woods, cutting short his training for the day.

Over the past three days, he had immersed himself in cultivation from morning to night—practicing punches to exhaust the inner strength within his body, undergoing body refinement to improve his physical functions, and then meditating to recover strength.

By engaging in this near-mad mode, he was consolidating the Half-step Innate Realm and attempting to breach the Early Innate Realm.

By now, he had thoroughly solidified the Half-step Innate Realm, with the inner strength in his body gradually shifting from Dark Force to Gang Jin, enhancing both power and penetrative force, and

significantly improved his bodily functions. Unfortunately, he was still unable to break through the barrier of the Early Innate Realm.

Ye Fan decided to end his training early today, not because he couldn't maintain such high-intensity cultivation, but rather to accompany Su Yuxin to Dong Hai.

"Finished with your cultivation?"

Inside Su Family's No.2 Villa, Mrs. Su was packing things for Ye Fan and Su Yuxin when she saw Ye Fan return and greeted him with a smile, "Go take a shower first, then we can leave."

"Okay."

Ye Fan nodded and walked toward the stairway entrance.

"Oh, I just called Liu Li and wanted her and Situ Ruoshui to have dinner with us tonight, but halfway through the call, it ended and I couldn't get through again."

As Ye Fan was about to go upstairs, Su Yuxin remembered something and added, "I don't have Ruoshui's number. After you shower, give Ruoshui a call. She should be with Liu Li. We can all have dinner together tonight."

"Hmm."

Ye Fan had promised Situ Ruoshui more than once that he would visit Dong Hai, and hearing Su Yuxin mention it now, he quickly agreed.

Soon, Ye Fan entered his room. Instead of showering first, he took out his phone and dialed Situ Ruoshui's number.

"Big brother?"

The call connected quickly, and Situ Ruoshui's voice came through the receiver, filled with excitement and joy—this was the first time Ye Fan had called her!

"Ruoshui, it's me."

Hearing Situ Ruoshui's pleasant voice at his ear, Ye Fan could almost imagine her excited expression and couldn't help but smile as he said, "Yuxin and I are coming to Dong Hai tonight. Wait for our call with Liu Li, and we'll go out to eat when we arrive."

"Yay!"

Knowing that Ye Fan was coming to Dong Hai, Situ Ruoshui was so happy that she danced around. Then, she suddenly remembered something, and her expression changed as she hastily said, "Big...big brother, could we make it tomorrow instead?"

"Do you have plans tonight?"

"Our school is hosting the 'Welcome Freshmen Performance Evening,' and I'm performing. Liu Li sister is going to be the host."

As Situ Ruoshui spoke, fearing that Ye Fan might not have time, she bit her lip and said, "If big brother's schedule is tight, Liu Li sister and I can discuss not attending the performance."

"That won't do."

Seeing that Situ Ruoshui was prepared to give up performing at the welcome event just to have dinner with him, Ye Fan was taken aback and then said with a bitter smile, "How about this—attend your welcome event today, and we can all eat together tomorrow."

"Big...big brother, are you staying for several days?"

Upon hearing this, Situ Ruoshui felt as if she had heard the best news ever, thrilled beyond compare. She held her breath, full of anticipation, waiting for Ye Fan's confirmation.

"I should be staying for quite some time," Ye Fan replied, thinking that the old guy might not show up for a while.

"Yay, that's great!"

Situ Ruoshui felt like she had been hit by a pie of happiness, jumping around excitedly. Then, with a hopeful heart, she asked, "Big brother, since you're staying for a long time, can you come to watch my performance tonight?"

"Sure."

Ye Fan had always longed to experience university life. Hearing Situ Ruoshui's request, he agreed without a second thought, especially since he had no other plans for the evening.

"Big brother, Liu Li sister and I need to go early this afternoon to do our makeup and get ready. We might not be able to pick you up, so just come directly to our school auditorium, where the welcome event is being held," Situ Ruoshui, excited and blushing with anticipation, said, "You must come!"

"Definitely." Ye Fan smiled and said, "Alright, Ruoshui, let's stop here for now. I need to get ready."

"Okay."

Situ Ruoshui obediently agreed but didn't hang up first. Instead, she waited until Ye Fan had hung up before reluctantly putting down her phone.