

"Hey, he's already gone. You can let go of me now."
Lin Wenjing glared at Tao Sanniang impatiently.

Tao Sanniang widened her eyes and looked at him in disbelief as if she had just met him for the first time.

Lin Wenjing touched his face and asked curiously, "What? Is there something on my face?"

Tao Sanniang stopped staring at him but she did not let him go. On the contrary, she held onto him even more tightly, not caring in the slightest that she might be taken advantage of by Lin Wenjing. With a dramatic expression and a tone full of amazement, she exclaimed, "Wow! You were amazing just now! Are you still the same Lin Wenjing I've always known? You're so cool! I'm in love!"

Lin Wenjing rolled his eyes. Tao Sanniang's dramatic acting really left him speechless. She was already an adult, yet she was acting like a little girl. "You're already pretty old so why are you acting like a little girl? Don't you feel embarrassed?"

The moment Tao Sanniang heard this, the expression on her face immediately stiffened and her dramatic acting faltered. Her pretty face immediately became annoyed and she pinched Lin Wenjing's arm hard as she complained, "Hey! Who are you calling old? I'm only 26 years old, okay?!"

As she spoke, she even purposely puffed her chest out to emphasize her point. It was quite a

sight to behold.

Lin Wenjing was no stranger to sleeping with someone and was easily attracted toward those like Tao Sanniang who were naturally seductive and alluring. With just one glance, his loins were on fire. He quickly coughed and diverted his gaze, pulling his hand out of her grasp as he said, "Enough. I'm not messing around with you anymore. Now that Du Xinli is gone, I've done my duty of getting rid of him so stop bothering me."

"Bothering you?!" The corner of Tao Sanniang's eye twitched. How could Lin Wenjing possibly say that she was 'bothering' him?! Did he know the number of people who would die for the chance to befriend her? She was pissed.

"Well, I want to keep bothering you. What are you going to do about it?"

She had just finished her sentence when Lin Wenjing quickly attacked and pressed on some of her acupoints. Immediately, she was frozen in place.

Lin Wenjing smiled and took his backpack with him before he walked away from her.

Tao Sanniang started to feel a little panicked. She felt as though she had been chained up and she couldn't move an inch, meaning that Lin Wenjing had hit her pressure points. She was a fool for letting her guard down.

"Lin Wenjing, you can't leave! Let me go!" Tao

Sanniang yelled loudly. However, no matter how loudly she tried to shout, her voice was barely a whisper. It felt like someone had their hands around her throat.

When she saw that Lin Wenjing had walked further away, she really started to panic.

There were more and more people arriving and a lot of men were starting to eye her leerily. A few men were even coming over to feel her up, causing her to go into a full-blown panic.

When Lin Wenjing saw that she was starting to regret her actions, he walked over again. In just a few moves, he released Tao Sanniang and said, "You'll behave now, right?"

Tao Sanniang heaved a sigh of relief when she could finally move again. Those few moments where she couldn't move an inch was terrifying.

"You even know how to hit pressure points?" Tao Sanniang looked at Lin Wenjing in shock after stretching out her limbs.

Lin Wenjing said, "Is that surprising?"

Tao Sanniang thought about it for a second. No, it was not surprising. As a Heavenly Realm cultivator, that technique was child's play to Lin Wenjing.

"That trick of yours is much too scary. Just one poke and you can render someone immobile! How many women have fallen victim to that trick of

yours?” Tao Sanniang said meaningfully as she cupped her chin with her hand.

Lin Wenjing almost choked. “I’m not as perverted as you think I am.”

Tao Sanniang said in a quiet voice, “I wish you were a little more perverted.”

Lin Wenjing acted like he hadn’t heard what she said and continued walking forward. They needed to go to the airport and fly to a town at the northern border. Then, they would need to hail a cab to reach their destination.

As for Du Xinli, when he saw Lin Wenjing walking next to Tao Sanniang while chatting like there was no tomorrow, he gritted his teeth in anger. The jealousy and anger in his eyes burned brightly and there was no sign of it abating.

“Xinli, why did you stop us just now? That pretty boy looks rather weak and useless. We could have slammed him on the ground and made him eat dirt. Wouldn’t that be good enough for you to vent your anger?”

“Yeah, Xinli. He was much too cocky. F*ck, he even dared to act all arrogant and call you an idiot. I was so pissed off at that! If we had gone after him, he would have definitely been beaten to a pulp.”

“With that pretty boy’s physique? We would have beaten him senseless and left him begging for mercy in seconds!”

"I feel so unsatisfied at not being able to beat him up."

"Yeah! Even if we had really beaten him up, the people from the Grand Skylight Pavilion wouldn't blame us."

The men following Du Xinli all expressed their annoyance at the situation. They didn't understand why Du Xinli had stopped them.

Du Xinli narrowed his eyes which shone with a murderous light. He said ruthlessly, "What do you all know? If we beat him up now, all he will feel is a little bit of physical pain. That's not enough as it's letting him off too easy. The Reaping Tournament is tomorrow, and if he dares to join, I'll instantly kill him on the spot. I'll make him watch himself bleed to death and let him die in despair."

Those men that had been fired up just now were stunned when they heard Du Xinli say this. They felt a little nervous at his declaration.

All they wanted was to teach Lin Wenjing a lesson. At most, they would maybe break an arm or a leg, but Du Xinli wanted Lin Wenjing's life!

The crazy expression on Du Xinli's face scared them even more.

The moment Du Xinli thought of Tao Sanniang sucking up to Lin Wenjing, all of his anger and jealousy rose like a blazing fire in his heart. He felt especially bitter when he thought of the fact that when they arrived at the northern border tonight,

Tao Sanniang would be sharing a bed with Lin Wenjing. He felt as if he had been cheated on, and it was a terrible feeling.

That was why Lin Wenjing absolutely had to die.

However, unbeknown to him, the reason Tao Sanniang stepped out just now was not to protect Lin Wenjing but himself.

With Lin Wenjing's martial arts abilities, he could torture this ragtag group of bullies with no problem at all.

The journey was rather nerve-wracking. Lin Wenjing had just arrived and airplanes were already starting to take off. Because they still had quite a long way to go, he decided to take the plane instead. If he had taken a helicopter, it would be too slow.

Tao Sanniang followed Lin Wenjing closely throughout the whole journey. This surprised Lin Wenjing and he asked, "Did the Grand Skylight Pavilion send only you to this year's Reaping Tournament?"

"Nope! Most of the team from the Grand Skylight Pavilion had already gone over yesterday. I purposely stayed back so that I could go with you!" Tao Sanniang batted her eyelashes as she said, "How's that? Don't you feel touched and want to thank me?"

Lin Wenjing straightup ignored her.

After a pause, Tao Sanniang said, "Lin Wenjing, can I ask you for a favor?"

"You want me to go easy on Du Xinli tomorrow, right?" Lin Wenjing said with a smile.

Tao Sanniang was taken aback and surprise flashed in her eyes. However, she immediately recovered and nodded. "Du Xinli has a horrid temper but he's not a bad person. He's been doing quite a lot of charity too. I don't think he deserves to die."

Lin Wenjing replied, "If that's the case, why do you keep rejecting him? Du Xinli is a pretty talented guy so he must be good enough for you, right?"

Tao Sanniang rolled her eyes and said, "What use is there being talented? I don't feel anything toward him. I can't live my whole life with a man who I don't love, right?"

"Then what kind of man do you like?" The moment Lin Wenjing asked this question, he started regretting it.

As expected, Tao Sanniang's eyes lit up and she purposely said in a shy manner, "I like men like you. Why don't you get a divorce with your wife and marry me instead? I'm very skilled and I can guarantee that I'll make you happy for the rest of your life."

He wasn't going to continue this conversation.

Lin Wenjing decided to close his eyes and ignore

her.

After about three hours, their plane finally landed. Lin Wenjing had taken a short nap and was feeling rather energized.

He was just about to stretch when he noticed that Tao Sanniang had fallen asleep on his shoulder, and there was even a line of drool coming out of her mouth that had dampened his shirt. This made him absolutely speechless.

Right at that moment, Du Xinli, who had been sitting in front of them, turned behind and saw this intimate moment. The jealousy in his eyes blazed brighter and he made the motion of slitting his throat at Lin Wenjing, full of murderous intent.



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But how could Lin Wenjing possibly be threatened by him? He merely scoffed and lightly shook Tao Sanniang awake. "Wake up. We're nearly there."

Tao Sanniang opened her eyes and realized that she was leaning on Lin Wenjing's shoulder and that her drool had gotten on Lin Wenjing's shirt. No matter how thick-faced she was, her face reddened at this. "I'm sorry I got your shirt wet."

Then, she took out a piece of tissue and started wiping it off.

Lin Wenjun said nonchalantly, "There's no need, just let it air dry."

After a while, the plane landed safely. When they got off the plane, they immediately felt cold wind blowing, causing them to shiver. The temperature here was much lower than that in Hua City.

Lin Wenjing's physique was good, so it didn't affect him. However, Tao Sanniang's physique wasn't that strong, so she couldn't really stand the chill. She sneezed and hugged Lin Wenjing who was next to her, trembling as she said, "It's so cold."

"Hey, why are you holding onto me? If you're cold, put on your jacket," Lin Wenjing said quickly. He felt helpless as he was hugged by Tao Sanniang.

Tao Sanniang was rather popular, thus Lin Wenjing had become the thorn in the side of a lot of men. Among them, Du Xinli especially hated him. All he wanted to do was crush Lin Wenjing on the spot.

Tao Sanniang hugged Lin Wenjing and instantly felt much warmer as his body was as warm as a stove.

That was why she said matter-of-factly, "You're so warm. When I hug you, I'm not cold any more."

Lin Wenjing was exasperated. This woman really didn't know where to stop. She knew he had a wife but she was still flirting with him so shamelessly. Did she really think that he didn't dare to do anything to her?

In retaliation, Lin Wenjing hugged Tao Sanniang back and even placed his hand on her bottom. "Is that so? Just keep hugging me then."

As expected, Tao Sanniang instantly stiffened.

Her expression became one of surprise and panic. She hadn't imagined that Lin Wenjing would actually be so daring. Not only did he hug her, he even placed his hand on her bottom. When she felt the warmth of Lin Wenjing's large hand on her bottom, Tao Sanniang immediately pushed Lin Wenjing away. Her face had blushed a violent red.

"Didn't you say you wanted to hug me? What changed your mind?" Lin Wenjing teased.

He finally realized that Tao Sanniang was all bark and no bite. No matter how much she flirted, the moment he did something, Tao Sanniang immediately retreated.

Tao Sanniang hadn't expected Lin Wenjing to

suddenly become so bold and had gotten a shock. When she saw the mocking expression on Lin Wenjing's face, she finally realized that Lin Wenjing was laughing at her.

When the other men saw this, they were extremely jealous. Among them, Du Xinli's eyes almost bulged out of their sockets, and he kept gritting his teeth. Plenty of times, he wanted to rush over and fight Lin Wenjing to the death.

In the end, his logic won over. Besides, they had already reached the northern border. The Reaping Tournament would start tomorrow, and that was when he could openly beat Lin Wenjing to death. Until then, he would have to hold himself back.

Tao Sanniang glared at Lin Wenjing before she opened her suitcase and took out a fleece jacket to put it on.

As for Lin Wenjing, he didn't feel cold in the slightest so he had no need for an extra sweater.

The moment they walked out of the airport, they saw the bus that was waiting for them. Everything was designed to be low-key and plain.

This type of experience was rather humbling. Most of the attendees of the Reaping Tournament were very rich people who usually had their own personal chauffeurs or private jets to fetch them from place to place. Only the heavens knew when was the last time they had sat on a bus.

From the airport, the bus drove on for about two

"Yeah. I heard that there are a lot of tigers and bears. This year's hunt is going to be so exciting!"

"No matter what, it will definitely be more interesting than last year's!"

"I wonder who's going to catch the grand prize this year? I've heard that the reward for the grand prize is really extravagant this time."

"Why do you care about who can get the grand prize? It's not going to be you anyway."

"Hah, how would you know? I've come prepared this time. Who knows, maybe the grand prize will be mine this year."

Everyone started to discuss the Tournament excitedly. Obviously, this was not their first time joining and they were really looking forward to this year's Reaping Tournament.

This was not surprising. Most of them had grown up in the city and had been living routine and mundane lives so much that the life of materialism no longer satisfied them. Participating in the Tournament allowed them to unleash the passion and craziness that was deep inside them through hunting.

That was also one of the important reasons why sports such as kickboxing and regular boxing had come such a long way and had not lost their popularity.

Honestly, Lin Wenjing was also pretty excited. He

wasn't excited about hunting animals because this was too easy for him. It was more of the fact that he could meet even more talented people here.

To be honest, it did not matter if his opponent was a large tiger or a bear, both were of no threat to him as he could kill them with ease.

What he was really looking forward to was the rules of this place. Murder wasn't prohibited. Apart from that, he would get to interact with even more powerful people.

He could already sense that there were quite some powerful people here.

Du Xinli sat in front of them. At that moment, he turned around and glanced at Lin Wenjing with a cold and cruel smile. In his eyes, Lin Wenjing was already a dead man.

He snorted and commented, "Hah! What's so fun about hunting animals? Animals don't have weapons, nor can they cultivate. They're just beasts with no spiritual powers. The real attraction of the Reaping Tournament are the rules! Here, murder is acquiesced. If you see someone you dislike, you can just stab them in the neck and watch as their blood bleeds out! When they kneel and beg for mercy in front of you before they eventually die in despair, that's when it truly gets exciting!"

When he finished saying this, he even purposely glanced at Lin Wenjing again .

Tao Sanniang saw this too and cursed quietly, "What an idiot. How ignorant!"

Lin Wenjing thought about it and asked, "Since everyone knows that murder is pretty much allowed during the Reaping Tournament, then why do so many people still attend? Aren't they afraid?"

"Of course people are scared. But they would still attend regardless of their fear. If not, nowadays, where else would they get this opportunity?" Tao Sanniang said. "To be honest, the annual Reaping Tournament is also used as sort of a battlefield for rival families. Almost every year, people die during the Reaping Tournament."

Lin Wenjing nodded and said, "That is pretty interesting."

Tao Sanniang wanted to say something more but in the end, she chose to keep it to herself.

After a while, the car stopped. They had reached their destination.



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The first thing that they saw was a hotel that wasn't very extravagant. It was about ten stories high and really stood out from the rest of the old forest.

"We're here! Let's get off the bus," Tao Sanniang said excitedly.

Lin Wenjing nodded and followed her off the bus.

After they got off, they saw some familiar faces including some CEOs or bosses from Hua City. They were regular people but they still dared to compete in the Reaping Tournament. Lin Wenjing really respected them for this.

Apart from that, there were even more people that they recognized from the auction at Grand Skylight Pavilion back then. However, the minute they saw Lin Wenjing, instead of going up to greet him, they looked at him with a pitiful gaze that also seemed excited to see his downfall. Quite a lot of people started to discuss his presence in a low voice.

"My eyes aren't deceiving me, right? Isn't the man standing next to Tao Sanniang the chairman of Purple Jade Studios, Lin Wenjing? He dares come to join the Reaping Tournament under such conditions? He must be crazy!"

"It really is him! He's much too daring. Doesn't he know that Gu Ze registered this year, too? The fact that this year's Reaping Tournament is taking place in the country means that there's a high chance that Gu Ze will be joining! Plus, Lin Wenjing had taught Gu Hanxing a huge lesson back then. I

heard that he even destroyed Gu Hanxing's martial arts foundation, making it impossible for him to reach the Heavenly Realm. This is a huge offense, and with Gu Ze's personality, there's no way he wouldn't get revenge."

"Huh? Gu Ze is joining this year's Reaping Tournament? Damn, then Lin Wenjing really is done for. From what I think, Gu Ze didn't get revenge on Lin Wenjing that time because he was waiting for this opportunity! After all, murder is not prohibited during the Reaping Tournament. It really is a huge loophole in the law."

"Plus, that fellow came here alone? I really don't know if he's being arrogant or just insane."

"I think he's just being completely ignorant and looking for trouble! Gu Ze is the assistant chairman of the Bei Tian Society! The stage of his cultivation is unknown and he was the one who caught the grand prize last year. I still remember how Gu Ze had killed a brown bear weighing almost a few hundred kilograms with just one slap. That power is really terrifying to behold. He's almost like some kind of demon! Looks like Lin Wenjing might not survive."

"Might not survive? He's as good as dead, alright?"

"What a shame. Lin Wenjing is so young and he's pretty skilled. Why did he do such a foolish thing and get on Gu Ze's bad side?"

They were all gossiping rather quietly but Lin Wenjing had heard everything.

It turned out that Gu Ze had joined as well. This didn't make him feel disappointed, though.

Many people failed to realize that even though Gu Ze was coming to get his revenge, he would not sit back and let Gu Ze get his way.

When Tao Sanniang heard that Gu Ze was here too, nervousness flashed in her eyes and she bit her lips before saying, "Oh no, Gu Ze is actually joining this year's Reaping Tournament? Gu Ze is definitely going to take this opportunity to kill you!"

Lin Wenjing looked at Tao Sanniang and said knowingly, "Didn't you purposely invite me to join the Reaping Tournament so that Gu Ze and I could battle it out to the death?"

"Nonsense! I'm not that cruel! If I knew that Gu Ze would attend, why would I invite you here? Do you think I'm that lifeless?" Tao Sanniang was pretty ticked off and was obviously disgruntled that Lin Wenjing did not believe her. She pulled at Lin Wenjing's hand and said nervously, "If it was just Du Xinli, then it wouldn't have been a threat to you. But Gu Ze is way too powerful. No, no way. I think you should drop out of the Reaping Tournament tomorrow. Just lie in bed and say that you're sick so you can't join. If you don't join, Gu Ze can't do anything to you."

Lin Wenjing stared at Tao Sanniang, trying to determine if Tao Sanniang was sincere.

He watched her for a long time before deciding that Tao Sanniang wasn't lying. In the end, he

chose to believe Tao Sanniang because from Tao Sanniang's perspective, she would have no reason to hurt him.

"Gu Ze came just in time. I was planning on looking for him to settle the issue anyway," Lin Wenjing said nonchalantly.

Tao Sanniang's eyes immediately widened. "You're crazy! Do you even know who Gu Ze is? He's the assistant chairman of the Bei Tian Society! He's terribly skilled. Who knows how many skilled fighters have already died by his hand. Also, he's already a mid-tier Heavenly Realm cultivator. Although you're a Heavenly Realm cultivator, you only just reached it. How could you possibly be Gu Ze's match?"

Lin Wenjing didn't say anything and kept smiling faintly. Suddenly, he sensed something and turned to look in a certain direction.

A middle-aged man clad in a gray tuxedo appeared in his line of vision. This person was tall and had a charismatic aura about him. His eyes were bright and lively yet mysterious and scary, striking fear into anyone who took a glance at him. Anyone could tell that he was an extraordinary man.

That man was the infamous Gu Ze.

Gu Ze's appearance caused everyone to quiet down and hold their breaths. Everyone was so terrified by Gu Ze's intimidating aura that they didn't dare make a peep for fear of offending him.

As Lin Wenjing was sizing Gu Ze up, Gu Ze was observing Lin Wenjing, too.

As Lin Wenjing was being stared at by Gu Ze, he actually felt his eyes start to burn as if they were really getting burned by fire.

He wasn't actually getting burned by real fire. It was the pressure from Gu Ze's aura and sheer power which had made Lin Wenjing feel as if his eyes were being lit on fire.

If even Lin Wenjing was feeling this way, then other people weren't taking it any better. They felt as though the temperature of their surroundings had suddenly risen by quite a bit. Despite how cold it had been at first that it was almost 0 degrees, Gu Ze's appearance caused the temperature of the whole place to increase. What sort of strong power was this?

Of course, he had no way of actually doing this. It was just that Gu Ze's aura was too strong and was putting too much pressure on their minds, causing the illusion that the temperature around them was rising. The appearance of Gu Ze had scared them so much that their own bodies had released a large amount of hormones, escalating their body temperature.

Even that was not enough to show exactly how terrifying Gu Ze's level of cultivation was.

Ever since he had been attacked by Qing Shu, Gu Ze had actually benefited from it. From that one hit, he had learned a lot and significantly improved

his level of cultivation.

The moment that he saw Lin Wenjing, his blood immediately boiled and he couldn't help but rush over and beat Lin Wenjing to death.

Lin Wenjing's expression became much more serious too as it was clear how powerful Gu Ze was.

He had already done his research on Gu Ze beforehand and knew that Gu Ze was a professional who had reached the Heavenly Realm and was extremely powerful. He had already prepared himself mentally before this, but he realized that he had possibly underestimated Gu Ze.

However, that was even better. The stronger Gu Ze was, the more Lin Wenjing could unleash his potential!

At that moment, Gu Ze smirked and walked directly toward Lin Wenjing, paying zero attention to the people around him who were waving and greeting him.



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Anyone could feel the heavy tension in the air. They were all set for a showdown.

Some of the regular people who weren't as daring were even having breathing difficulties. They felt as if their throats were being choked by someone and felt terrible!

After Gu Ze appeared, his eyes never left Lin Wenjing. Anyone could tell that Gu Ze had some kind of deep hatred toward Lin Wenjing, and that Lin Wenjing was about to become a piece of dead meat.

When Gu Ze started striding toward Lin Wenjing, many people got excited. Without blinking, they watched the two of them closely lest they miss even a moment of this fascinating interaction.

Gu Ze was a very well-known figure in this community.

Apart from being a very skilled Heavenly Realm cultivator, he was also the assistant chairman of the Bei Tian Society. He also had quite a few businesses under his belt and was the best of the best in terms of finances, skills and status. Many people did not dare to offend him and were all extremely respectful toward him.

Lin Wenjing, on the other hand, was the most talked-about person in Hua City recently. At only 28 years old, he was already the chairman of three companies. Among them, Purple Jade Studios most notably had a market value of almost ten billion.

Moreover, there were even rumors claiming that he had taken the Grade-S Soul Cleansing Pill and had reached the Heavenly Realm.

Lin Wenjing's level of cultivation was also shocking. He had defeated Gu Hanxing with just a single punch during the opening ceremony and had even broken Gu Hanxing's foundation of martial arts, making him just as terrifying.

Since the new champion and the old veteran had met, a historic battle would soon come. They were already extremely awe-inspiring by themselves and the prospect of this battle was very exciting.

Tao Sanniang was just an ordinary person of the Professional Realm. When faced with the pressure of someone so strong, she couldn't handle it at all. At that moment, she was already trembling and her legs were shaking.

It was obvious that she couldn't hold out any longer and was about to collapse. Lin Wenjing didn't let her embarrass herself and lightly patted her shoulders before he stood in front of her, blocking the sheer force that was coming from Gu Ze.

Instantly, Tao Sanniang was greatly relieved from the terrifying pressure and felt much better.

She took deep breaths as she looked at the tall figure that was shielding her and felt a strong tremor in her heart. With Lin Wenjing shielding her, she felt extremely safe and was no longer afraid.

Lin Wenjing was like a great reef. No matter how fiercely the waves pounded against him, he remained firm and guarded those under his protection.

She had not felt such a strong sense of security in a very long time. At that moment, the figure of Lin Wenjing protecting her was deeply engraved in her mind, and she would never forget this moment for a long time.

Finally, Gu Ze had arrived in front of Lin Wenjing under everybody's scrutiny. The distance between the two was only about a meter.

That short distance meant nothing to the two skilled masters. Should they decide to strike, any move would equate to a strike of thunder, so quick and powerful that it would be impossible to block!

However, Lin Wenjing did not retreat. His face was still etched with a relaxed smile, looking like he was not scared by Gu Ze's power at all.

Gu Ze stopped walking, and with a gaze as sharp as swords, he stared into Lin Wenjing's eyes.

At that close distance, Lin Wenjing could feel the lava-like hotness emanating from Gu Ze even more.

But, he had nothing to be afraid about.

At that moment, Gu Ze finally spoke, "Lin Wenjing, you really are very bold. You know that I'm coming after you, yet you dared to join the Reaping

Tournament. Aren't you scared that I'll kill you?"

When Gu Ze spoke, he had a smile on his face. However, there was no mirth in his eyes, making his smile come across as bone-chilling.

To many people, Gu Ze was even scarier than a beast. He had an endless reservoir of power and potential inside him. The moment he released that awesome power, it would be the end of the world!

Lin Wenjing was also strong, but in terms of his aura, he could not compare to Gu Ze. The two of them were not even on the same level.

Many people didn't think too highly of Lin Wenjing since the very beginning. Seeing the two of them together, it further affirmed their belief that Lin Wenjing would have no chance of surviving this battle.

Lin Wenjing smiled and replied, "Why wouldn't I dare to come? Are there other events that will make me regret defeating you tomorrow during the Reaping Tournament?"

When Gu Ze heard him speak, he started laughing loudly as if he had just heard the funniest joke in the world.

His laughter was so hearty that it felt as if a strong blast had come from his mouth. It spread throughout the area and was even louder than the bursting of firecrackers! It sounded like there were countless military-grade explosives being set off in his mouth. His laughter scared away all the

beasts within a hundred-meter radius and even the birds which were perched on the trees flew away in a hurry. It was truly a sight to behold.

The people closer to him felt even worse. They all covered their ears for fear that their eardrums would be punctured.

Tao Sanniang was very near to him and clamped her ears shut. Despite this, she still felt uncomfortable and her ears buzzed painfully.

Only Lin Wenjing remained unaffected. He was still smiling and even scoffed, counteracting the sound waves caused by Gu Ze's deafening laugh. It made the people around them feel much better.

This was akin to the application of the noise-cancelling theory where two sound waves of the same frequency canceled each other out.

That was exactly what Lin Wenjing was doing.

When Gu Ze felt that his sound waves had been canceled out by Lin Wenjing, he squinted his eyes and stopped laughing as he sized up Lin Wenjing closely.

"How young and frivolous you are, Lin Wenjing. From the second you stepped on this piece of land, you were already a dead man. Your life will no longer be under your control." Gu Ze didn't give Lin Wenjing any more trouble and kept away all his aura and power. At that moment, he looked like a normal businessman.

Lin Wenjing laughed again and said, "Gu Ze, you're old and no match for me anymore. Now, all you have to do is apologize for your son's wrongdoings and I'll let this matter rest for the sake of the Bei Tian Society. If not, you will pay with your life and your soul will remain as an eternal spirit wandering endlessly around this forest."

Lin Wenjing didn't say this loudly but everyone around him heard it. They all widened their eyes and stared at Lin Wenjing in shock. Lin Wenjing had to be insane to say such things. Couldn't he read the room? It was unbelievable that he was still being stubborn at such a crucial moment. How could Lin Wenjing possibly measure up to Gu Ze?

Tao Sanniang also felt like Lin Wenjing was crazy, let alone those around them. He was basically asking to be killed.

Gu Ze was well-known for his skill and definitely couldn't be compared with a useless playboy like Gu Hanxing.

It could be said that Lin Wenjing had zero chance of winning.

Gu Ze's eyes darkened. He had already decided on Lin Wenjing's death and was already starting to think about what methods he would use to torture Lin Wenjing to death tomorrow.

As for losing to Lin Wenjing?

Hmph!

Chapter 344 Tit for Tat

He did not consider it because it was simply impossible. If he, the assistant chairman of the Bei Tian Society, couldn't defeat someone like Lin Wenjing, then he might as well never show his face anywhere again.

In the end, Gu Ze decided to stop talking to Lin Wenjing and stared at him coldly before he turned to leave.



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Even after Gu Ze had left for quite a while, no one dared to speak too loudly. They were still nervous as Gu Ze's aura had left quite an impact on them.

However, they felt more excited than anything. This year's Reaping Tournament was definitely not a waste of their time.

Originally, the reason they had come to the old forests deep in the mountains was to look for an adrenaline rush. With this recent development, they could even see a fight unfold. Wasn't that exhilarating?

"Lin Wenjing, are you crazy? How could you talk back to Gu Ze? With his personality, you're as good as dead! What are we going to do? What don't you just go back to Hua City? Sigh, but you don't even have that chance now. You can't leave until the Reaping Tournament is finished. If not, you will be hunted down and killed. Gosh, you're done for... If only I hadn't invited you. It's all my fault, all my fault!" Tao Sanniang's entire being was consumed by anxiety and nervousness and she looked extremely regretful. Her eyes were red and she looked as if she was really blaming herself. As she spoke, she even raised her hand as if she wanted to slap herself.

Lin Wenjing reached out in time and stopped her before he said, "You don't need to blame yourself. I was the one who came willingly. I already knew since the start that Gu Ze would come so this has nothing to do with you."

Tao Sanniang still continued on, blaming herself.

"How can you say that? If I hadn't taken the initiative to invite you, then you wouldn't even have thought about it! In the end, I'm still the one who dragged you into this!"

When he saw that Tao Sanniang's self-blame was not a mere act, Lin Wenjing actually felt rather warm inside. After all the interactions they had, Lin Wenjing could tell that Tao Sanniang was not a cruel and manipulative person. On the contrary, she was rather kind.

"It's fine. I'll be okay. Gu Ze isn't my match. Tomorrow, the unlucky one will be him, not me," Lin Wenjing said seriously. His tone was very calm but his eyes glowed with confidence.

However, to Tao Sanniang, Lin Wenjing was just kidding himself. She just couldn't imagine how Lin Wenjing could defeat Gu Ze.

Gu Ze was infamous in their circle, thus Tao Sanniang had zero confidence in Lin Wenjing.

She decided that tomorrow, she would lock Lin Wenjing in the hotel no matter what. As long as Lin Wenjing did not appear on the hunting grounds, based on the rules, Gu Ze couldn't do anything about it either.

However, doing this would mean that Lin Wenjing's reputation would be completely ruined. But compared to his life, reputation was nothing.

When Lin Wenjing saw how anxious Tao Sanniang was about his own wellbeing, he really wanted to

ask her why she cared so much about him. They had only met a couple of times and were barely acquainted. However, right as he was about to say it, he thought better of it and decided to keep it to himself instead.

There wasn't any need for that. Besides, was the reason why Tao Sanniang cared about him very important?

No, it didn't seem so.

Many of the people who had greeted Lin Wenjing were now feeling extremely regretful. All of them felt like slapping themselves in the face.

If Gu Ze knew about it, they would really be in trouble.

To many people, Lin Wenjing was already a dead man. Greeting him was completely useless and it even ran the risk of offending Gu Ze.

As for those people who had stayed away from Lin Wenjing since the start, they were now feeling extremely relieved and even gloated a little. Luckily they were smart enough to stay away from Lin Wenjing after they had heard that Gu Ze would be coming.

Meanwhile, two people stood at the balcony of the hotel. They drank wine and casually watched Lin Wenjing from above as if they were looking at the scenery or a clown's performance.

"Hmm. To think that those who dare to challenge

Gu Ze's authority really exist. Apart from that, he's just a young man." A man who looked to be in his thirties had a teasing smile on his face as he lay on a chair lazily while holding a wine glass in his right hand. He had a muscular body and was overall extremely eye-catching. At one glance, it was obvious that he was a powerful fighter.

The woman opposite him had a head of short and silver hair and a face decorated with heavy makeup. She was Caucasian and was very tall as well, possibly reaching a solid 1.8 meters. She did not speak Mandarin but instead spoke English. "This man's name is Lin Wenjing. I heard that he bought an S-Grade Soul Cleansing Pill from the Grand Skylight Pavilion and has now successfully reached the Heavenly Realm. He's quite the prodigy so it's normal that he has such a sense of pride."

Amazement flashed across the middle-aged man's eyes and he said, "Being able to reach the Heavenly Realm at such a young age is truly the work of a prodigy. However, him getting on Gu Ze's bad side really does mean that he barely has a chance of coming back alive tomorrow."

The Caucasian woman said, "How would you know? Maybe Gu Ze won't be a match for him after all, and Lin Wenjing will kill him as proof of his skills and become well-known because of that. Then, he'll surely have established himself among the community."

Disdain flitted past the middle-aged man's eyes before he replied, "Killing him as proof of his

skills? Hehe, he and Gu Ze aren't even in the same league."

When he spoke about Gu Ze, fear flashed in the middle-aged man's eyes.

He had battled with Gu Ze before and had lost.

Apart from these two, there was another man standing not far off on a large old tree. He looked very young and dashing. His eyebrows were defined and his eyes shone like stars while his handsome and masculine face looked as if it had been carved out of marble. He stood on a tree branch steadily and looked at Lin Wenjing, eyes slightly squinted as he muttered to himself, "China really is a dark horse. An extraordinary fighter that hasn't even reached the age of 30 has actually appeared. Lin Wenjing, I hope you survive Gu Ze's attacks and don't let me down."

At the same time, there were similar conversations taking place in different locations. Many hidden masters had noticed the rivalry between Gu Ze and Lin Wenjing and had set their sights on Lin Wenjing. Gu Ze was well-known in the community and as long as you were part of it, you would know who he was. However, Lin Wenjing was a newbie. Not many people have heard of him and most knew nothing about him.

This year's Reaping Tournament had attracted many professionals that usually stayed hidden. Among them, a few had come just to see Gu Ze and Lin Wenjing's battle, despite the fact that many of them did not particularly like Lin Wenjing.

Lin Wenjing averted his gaze from Gu Ze. When he turned around, his gaze naturally swept around the area. The corners of his lips raised slightly as he smiled faintly. He could readily sense the many skilled fighters who were hiding themselves.

At that moment, there was no fear or nervousness in his heart. On the contrary, he was feeling rather excited. He had not come all this way for nothing.

Lin Wenjing didn't care about the fact that no one was greeting him. He was carrying his luggage and was about to enter the hotel when he noticed Tao Sanniang following him. With a strange expression, he asked, "Why are you still following me? Aren't you scared that Gu Ze will mark you as an enemy?"

Tao Sanniang bit her lip and fear flashed in her eyes. However, after she thought for a moment, she finally said, "What do I have to be afraid of? I never directly offended him anyway. He can't stop me from making friends with you, right?"

Despite saying this, the fear in her eyes did not dissipate.

Lin Wenjing smiled and said, "Never mind. You should go to your colleagues from Grand Skylight Pavilion. I'll be fine in my room."

"Absolutely not!" Tao Sanniang was very stubborn and was not willing to leave Lin Wenjing.

At that moment, a line of people walked over. The person at the head of the line was Old Master Fan

who Lin Wenjing had seen once at the Grand Skylight Pavilion. They walked over and greeted Lin Wenjing, but they were much more cold and distant. It was a far cry from the friendliness they had greeted him with that day at the Pavilion.

After that, Old Master Fan addressed Tao Sanniang. "Tao Sanniang, I've already arranged for a room for you. Let's not bother CEO Lin any longer, alright?"

Tao Sanniang gritted her teeth and didn't speak.

Lin Wenjing didn't say anything. This was classic human nature. Everyone thought that he would be a dead man by tomorrow so obviously they would distance themselves from him.

Tao Sanniang said, "Old Master Fan, may I spend one last night with Lin Wenjing? Please?"

She obviously sounded like she was begging.



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To be honest, when Lin Wenjing saw Tao Sanniang acting in this way, he really got a shock.

He hadn't imagined that Tao Sanniang would make a request to spend one last night with him under such circumstances.

Was Tao Sanniang really in love with him?

That was not right. Someone like Tao Sanniang had probably met all kinds of men before. Why would she fall in love with him? Besides, after having mixed within the community for so long, she would probably have seen a lot of hypocrites. Tao Sanniang shouldn't be so easily swayed.

However, no matter what, Lin Wenjing still felt rather touched. He could tell that Tao Sanniang was not acting and was really speaking from her heart.

Old Master Fan's face immediately darkened and he glared at Tao Sanniang fiercely. How could Tao Sanniang be so unreasonable and bring trouble to the Grand Skylight Pavilion?

"You can chat to Lin Wenjing for a little while longer but then you have to leave with me. This Reaping Tournament is very important and there are plenty of tasks waiting for you to complete them," Old Master Fan scolded loudly.

Tao Sanniang bit her lip. She was still very obedient and listened to Old Master Fan. Her gaze landed on Lin Wenjing once again. At first, she wanted to say something more, but in the end, she

chose to stay silent instead. All she did was hug him for about five seconds before she let him go and walked off with Old Master Fan and the others.

Old Master Fan took a few steps before he turned to Lin Wenjing and sighed, "Young man, you really shouldn't have made an enemy of Gu Ze. How pitiful."

Lin Wenjing just smiled and did not reply.

When Old Master Fan saw him acting in this way, he didn't say anything else either. He just shook his head and strode away. In his eyes, Lin Wenjing was a dead man walking.

He was a cultivator that had reached the Heavenly Realm before the age of thirty. Those like him were extremely rare. As long as he had enough time, maybe ten or twenty years, then reaching the peak of the Heavenly Realm wasn't impossible.

He could perhaps even breach the legendary Invincible Realm.

However, that was all for naught. Lin Wenjing had made an enemy of Gu Ze, and there was no way he would leave this place alive. All his efforts had amounted to nothing.

There was one saying that expressed this perfectly: 'Even the most gifted of prodigies were no longer prodigies in death'.

At that moment, everyone looked at Lin Wenjing

with that thought in their minds.

There were those who felt pity for Lin Wenjing and there were those who were ecstatic at his imminent demise. There were truly all kinds of people in this world.

All Lin Wenjing did was smile faintly at them. He had been misunderstood many times by others so this current situation did not affect him in the slightest.

He walked straight to the hotel. He did not have to present any official documents. Instead, a face scanner checked him into the system.

Tao Sanniang was right. There were many people who had come forth to join. However, there was only one hotel so there were not enough rooms for everyone. Many rooms were being shared by two or three people.

Based on the arrangements, Lin Wenjing was supposed to room with two other men. However, the minute they heard that he was their roommate, they got scared and quickly asked to change their rooms. They would rather die than room together with Lin Wenjing. It was as if Lin Wenjing was the God of Plague who would kill anyone he touched.

The hotel couldn't do anything but arrange for other people to share a room with Lin Wenjing. However, everyone who got called upon refused to room with Lin Wenjing.

"Ah, I'm so sorry, CEO Lin. I have a habit of

sleepwalking. In order to avoid disturbing your slumber, I don't think I should room with you."

"CEO Lin, I snore very loudly when I sleep. You definitely won't be able to take it, so I won't bother you, either."

"I have athlete's foot..."

"I'm sick and it's contagious..."

They all stayed away from Lin Wenjing as if he were truly the God of Plague. In the end, the hotel had no choice but to give Lin Wenjing his own room to sleep in. They had never run into this sort of situation before.

Lin Wenjing was happy at not being bothered. He wasn't used to rooming with others anyway. This sort of situation was just his cup of tea.

At night.

In the deepest parts of the forest, all one could see was an endless ocean of trees.

It wasn't silent at all. On the contrary, there were noises everywhere and the whole place was bustling with activity.

At that point in time, there were already five hundred people who had come to join the Reaping Tournament. Adding the workers who were there to maintain everything into the mix, the total number of people had to be over a thousand.

After taking a shower, Lin Wenjing walked down to the banquet hall to eat dinner. It was rather lively here as well.

Lin Wenjing cast his gaze across the room and saw many professionals of the Professional Realm as well as some of the Pinnacle Realm.

However, there weren't many of the Heavenly Realm. There were just a few here and there, and Gu Ze was one of them.

The crowd suddenly quietened down at Lin Wenjing's appearance. After a while, they returned to normal. They didn't pay any attention to him at all and pretended that he was invisible.

Not far off, Tao Sanniang was eating with some people from the Grand Skylight Pavilion. When she saw Lin Wenjing, she instinctively raised her hand to wave at him and call him over. However, the people next to her immediately stopped her from doing so.

All she could do was lower her hand with a sad expression on her face.

Even she believed from the bottom of her heart that Lin Wenjing was dead for sure this time.

Lin Wenjing smiled lightly. He didn't care about these things. After getting his meal, he found an empty seat and sat down. The people who were already sitting at the same table immediately froze before they all stood up and claimed, "Ah, I'm already full."

"What a coincidence. I'm full, too. Let's go take a walk."

In a second, everyone who had been sitting at the table had gotten up and left.

Expressionless, Lin Wenjing started eating. It was as if he was immune to the rejection and hostility those people were treating him with.

After he finished eating, Lin Wenjing left the hotel to go for a walk. No matter where he went, the people at that place would instantly disperse as they were terrified of him.

As he walked, he found a little wooden cottage. He heard some noise coming from inside it.

Suddenly, he heard his name being said. After a bit of thinking, he decided to walk over to determine what exactly was going on.

Very quickly, he understood the situation.

There were about twenty people gathered inside. All of them were wealthy bosses from the city and they were gathering to place bets.

"Everyone! The Reaping Tournament starts tomorrow. It also marks the battle between Gu Ze and Lin Wenjing. Manager Wang, Manager Liao and I will be the dealers so feel free to place your bets. The odds are in Gu Ze's favour by 1.13 times."

Someone responded loudly with a passionate tone

but was immediately shot down by the others.
“F*ck! 1.13 times? Those odds are way too low! If I bet ten million, then I’ll only earn 1.3 million. That’s not even enough for one month of my baby’s allowance!”

“Yeah, 1.13 is way too little! It should at least be 1.2!”

The man who was the dealer said, “What, you think the odds are too low? You can also bet on Lin Wenjing winning. Lin Wenjing’s odds are 1 to 7.3. If you bet 10 million, you can earn 73 million if Lin Wenjing ends up winning.”

“F*ck, that’s even more ridiculous! How could Lin Wenjing possibly win? 1 to 7.3? Even if the odds were 1 to 17.3, no one would bet on him! How ridiculous!”

“That’s right! Anyone with eyes can see that Lin Wenjing is definitely going to lose. Why are the odds 1 to 7.3?”

“Lin Wenjing will be 100% dead tomorrow.”

A lot of people were cursing and shouting as they thought that the odds these three bankers were giving were illogical.

Another banker said, “You all talk too much. Since all of you think that Lin Wenjing will lose, then bet on Gu Ze! Isn’t 1 to 1.13 times also money? However, I must say that the maximum you can put down is 100 million.”

The three bankers laughed and said, "However, we are all old friends here. If you bet on Lin Wenjing, then there's no maximum. You can place down a billion if you want, haha."

"If you place down one billion, you can earn 73 billion!"

Many of them were slightly moved by that amount. However, when they thought about it rationally, it was impossible for Lin Wenjing to win. No matter how much they bet, they were just giving money to the three bankers.

Thus, they all bet on Gu Ze. There were some that bet ten million and there were some that bet twenty million. The highest bidders had bet around 100 million.

There was no fault to it. No one wanted to bet on Lin Wenjing as the odds weren't in his favour at all.

This made the three bankers frown. They feared everyone betting on one side the most. If Gu Ze really won, they would go completely bankrupt.

"Hey, why are all of you only betting on Gu Ze? Do all of you look down on Lin Wenjing that much? I heard that Lin Wenjing has already reached the Heavenly Realm and is young and strong. Perhaps he can really beat Gu Ze to death."

The banker's words were met with disdainful rebuttals from the others. "Hehe, Lin Wenjing beating Gu Ze to death? Hehe, do you really think it's possible?"

“Exactly. Do you take us all for idiots?”

“Even though the odds are only 1 to 1.13, you’re all going to lose big time, haha.”

The bankers were feeling panicked. If they had known this would happen, they would have lowered the odds even further!

At that moment, a voice rang out from behind the crowd. “I’ll bet 2 billion on Lin Wenjing winning.”

When the crowd heard this voice, they were startled and all turned to look back. When they saw Lin Wenjing standing at the doorway with a smile on his face, their expressions immediately turned sheepish.



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