Lin Wenjing watched as Joker drove the car away, and it disappeared from his sight soon enough. Lin Wenjing relaxed significantly now that Chu Ling was safe, and he smiled in relief.

His efforts did not go to waste. He had succeeded in saving Chu Ling, which meant that the work he put in was all worth it.

Finally, he looked away, and there was a sudden change in his aura. Gone was his affection and tenderness; in the blink of an eye, he turned into a warrior that welcomed death without even a backward glance.

Everyone would die eventually, the only difference was whether it would be a meaningful or meaningless death. Lin Wenjing knew that he was doomed for this attempt to escape. His death wouldn't be earth-shatteringly meaningful, but it wouldn't be completely meaningless as well. Dying without regrets would suffice for him.

Jing Rushuang was incredibly fast, and it was obvious that he was extremely angry. He was a master of the ultimate-tier in the Heavenly Realm, who was only a level below the Immortal Realm. Hence, to have a person from Heavenly Realm's top-tier succeed in snatching the Spirit Fruit right under his nose was an extremely embarrassing matter for him. How could he possibly let things slide?

Lin Wenjing soon saw Jian Rushuang, who was dashing down Seven Ridge, and their gazes met with a gap of almost a kilometer.

Lin Wenjing could clearly sense the fury and murderous intent from Jian Rushuang. His aura was like a dam of water, gushing toward Lin Wenjing.

If it had been someone else, they would most probably die of shock to be targeted by a master from the Heavenly Realm's ultimate-tier. Even if the person weren't dead, they would most probably regret their action and tremble in fear.

However, Lin Wenjing was not scared, nor did he regret at all. On the contrary, he started laughing from the depth of his heart.

Jian Rushuang was even more angered when he saw Lin Wenjing's smile. Lin Wenjing obviously disrespects me!

However, Jian Rushuang had to give it to Lin Wenjing for his courage. Putting aside the fact that he snatched the Spirit Fruit right under his nose, there was also the fact that Lin Wenjing was still in the mood to laugh despite seeing him catching up to him. Forget everything else; Lin Wenjing's courage was already on a completely different level from ordinary folks.

"Lin! Wen! Jing! You are rather bold!!"

At that moment, Lin Wenjing heard Jian Rushuang's angry bellows, and despite the distance, Lin Wenjing could still hear him clearly. Hence, it was apparent how advanced and horrifying Jian Rushuang's cultivation level was.

Lin Wenjing did not stay put; instead, he turned around and started running.

After his rest earlier, Lin Wenjing had recovered most of his strength. Hence, although he was injured, it did not affect his speed at all.

Run, run with all I've got!

Lin Wenjing did not want to die yet, and although he was prepared to sacrifice himself as he was mapping out his plan, when it came to actually putting it into action, he was still hoping of not dying just yet. It wasn't that he was afraid of death; it was rather because he wouldn't be able to see Chu Ling upon dying. On the other hand, Chu Ling would also be sad and guilty after his death, and this was something he wasn't prepared for. Furthermore, if he were to die, he wouldn't be able to save his mother from Sumeru Heaven... Hence, he must not die, and even if such a powerful master, such as Jian Rushuang, was chasing after him, he had to make use of his full potential!

"Trying to escape? Hmph, in your dreams!" Jian Rushuang smirked in disdain when he saw Lin Wenjing turning away. He thought that Lin Wenjing was foolish and idiotic. There's a snowball's chance in hell for Lin Wenjing to escape from me. If that truly were to happen, I might as well kill myself!

Suddenly, Jian Rushuang's speed increased rapidly, and he appeared as a glowing phantom, which stretched out for dozens of meters in distance. It was a horrifying scene.

Lin Wenjing sensed Jian Rushuang's speed, and he knew that he was getting nearer. Lin Wenjing's heart was thumping against his chest, and although he was extremely quick, he was still nothing compared to Jian Rushuang's capabilities.

The ultimate-tier of the Heavenly Realm truly is powerful, and with my current abilities, I wouldn't be able to defeat Jian Rushuang at all!

Their distance was shortened with time; it decreased from a kilometer to 900 meters, 800 meters, and in the end, there was only a 500-meter distance between them!

500 meters was just like 5 meters for someone as powerful as Jian Rushuang; in fact, he could easily shave off the distance in the blink of an eye.

Once Jian Rushuang caught up to Lin Wenjing, that would be the death of him!

Lin Wenjing was well aware of that, and that was why he wasn't running idly. Instead, his mind was churning at an insane speed as he tried to figure out a way to escape from Jian Rushuang!

At that moment, the rest of the group arrived at Seven Ridge from behind too.

Qing Shu, Zhong Tao, Peng Zhuo, Luo Hongyang, Fang Xingping, and the rest of the gang...

Their speed was considered fast, but when compared to Jian Rushuang, who was at such a powerful level, there was still a huge difference.

They were all shocked and frightened by Jian Rushuang's speed and capabilities. With him around, the Colorful-origin Fruit would never be theirs

Luo Hongyang cursed immediately, "Sh*t! Lin has just ruined everything just as we got the Colorfulorigin Fruit!"

Fang Xingping scolded as well, "Peng Zhuo! Just look at the type of person you chose! Our mission this time has gone down the drain, thanks to Yellow Thearch Group! A member from Yellow Thearch Group has stolen the Colorful-origin Fruit for his own gains, and the Fruit was even snatched by Jian Rushuang from Sumeru Heaven! You all should just wait for the wrath from the upper-levels to befall you!"

Meanwhile, Zhong Tao yelled angrily, "You can't do anything right! Yellow Thearch Group is just trash, and you are dragging us down with you! The mission has failed, and everyone from Yellow Thearch Group should just wait for their deaths."

Peng Zhuo, Zhao Xia, and the others remained silent while listening to their scolding. To be fair, they were upset as well because they did not expect Lin Wenjing to appropriate the Colorfulorigin Fruit. Technically, he had betrayed them.

Sun Liang broke the silence at that point. "Instructor Lin is not a selfish person. He must have had his reasons, right?"

His voice was soft, and he didn't sound convinced

at all. Soon enough, it angered everyone further.

"What reasons could he have?! He's just taken it for himself! It's all Yellow Thearch Group's fault! What kind of man have you recruited to cause such trouble?!"

"Lin Wenjing is a traitor, and I've known from the beginning that there's something wrong with him. True enough, there's trouble now!"

"All of you from Yellow Thearch Group are done for!"

Peng Zhuo lost his patience and screamed in fury, "Enough! Lin Wenjing is one of us, and he undoubtedly did wrong this time. The mission is a failure, and this is my responsibility, so I am willing to bear the consequences alone!"

Zhong Tao jeered at him. "Peng Zhuo, are you able to bear the consequences?"

Peng Zhuo snorted before replying, "Why wouldn't I be able to bear the consequences? At worst I'd die. I recruited Instructor Lin, and now that he has made a mistake, I will not escape from my responsibilities. No matter what the punishment is, I accept it readily! There is no need for all of you to mock me!"

Sun Liang voiced out loudly as well after hearing that. "Director Peng is right. I was the one who took Lin Wenjing in, and I am willing to bear the responsibilities."



Zhao Xia, Xiao Cangmang, and many from Yellow Thearch Group voiced out similarly.

Their stubbornness and unity was like a splash of cold water on Zhong Tao, Fang Xingping, and the rest of the crowd. All of a sudden, they were at a loss for words.

Peng Zhuo gazed at the direction where Lin Wenjing had disappeared to, and he had a profound glint in his eyes while he mumbled to himself, "Instructor Lin, I hope you have a reason for what you did, and that you're not committing treason..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lin Wenjing was under unprecedented great pressure for the first time!

Jian Rushuang continued chasing him from behind like a dog with a bone, and Lin Wenjing couldn't get rid of him.

However, Lin Wenjing knew that Jian Rushuang was too strong, and he was the most powerful man he had ever come across.

Lin Wenjing knew that he would most probably not be able to escape, and all he could do now was to delay as much time as possible just to see if he could escape to his planned venue in order to save himself from this dead-end!

As the distance between them was shortened steadily, Lin Wenjing was even more pressured; he could almost feel Jian Rushuang's aura.

"Lin Wenjing, you can't escape me."

Lin Wenjing heard Jian Rushuang's mocking voice as he was chasing after him at a frightening speed. Jian Rushuang looked rather relaxed, as though he was barely using a fraction of his energy; in fact, he had a faint smile across his face. It was apparent that Jian Rushuang was not even giving it his all.

On the other side, Lin Wenjing was obviously worn out because his cultivation base was lower than Jian Rushuang's to begin with. Furthermore, Lin Wenjing had exhausted large amounts of energy on Mount Lion, and he was even injured earlier.

With the combination of all that, it was only a matter of time before Jian Rushuang caught up to him.

"Lin Wenjing, seeing as you're the son of the previous Saint, as long as you hand me the Spirit Fruit, I will spare your life," Jian Rushuang thundered. He sounded like a god from heaven, who was giving out life and death sentences to mere mortals.

Lin Wenjing remained silent as he continued charging forward with all he had.

Jian Rushuang's patience seemed to be wearing thin as he frowned and warned Lin Wenjing with a cold voice, "Lin Wenjing, I am running out of patience, so you'd better choose the carrot and not the stick! The Spirit Fruit isn't for someone like you. A commoner doesn't get to possess priceless treasures unless he or she steals for their misguided ideals and greed. The Spirit Fruit belongs to the King, and so I will now count to three. If you insist on not handing it over, I will go ahead with your punishment!"

It was obvious that Jian Rushuang was truly furious now because his tone was no longer courteous as before. In fact, his tone was filled with anger and murderous intent.

It was impossible not to be nervous when one was being chased after an ultimate-tier Heavenly Realm master. If one wasn't careful, a horrible and irreversible fate awaited the person.

Lin Wenjing had never been afraid of death, but if he were to die, too many people would mourn for his death, and that was why he must not die!

Under such a motivation, Lin Wenjing's speed increased suddenly and went up a notch. He sped forward with awhoosh, and he was now even faster than before!

Jian Rushuang's gaze turned icy-cold because he was now extremely angry. He snorted loudly before rumbling, "Since you want to die, I have no qualms granting you your wish!"

With that, Jian Rushuang's speed increased suddenly, and in about ten seconds, he caught up to Lin Wenjing and struck him from behind.

In that instant, Lin Wenjing felt his skin crawl, and he felt goosebumps all over his body. Jian Rushuang's strike was too powerful, and he would go down if the strike were to be true to its target.

Fortunately, Lin Wenjing had good fighting instincts, and just as Jian Rushuang struck down, he reacted without a second thought. He dodged to the side at lightning speed, barely missing Jian Rushuang's powerful attack.

Jian Rushuang exclaimed in surprise because he didn't expect Lin Wenjing to be capable of dodging his strike.

"Not bad. No wonder you have the audacity to commit such a crime. Unfortunately, you don't know how large the gap is between the Heavenly

Realm's top-tier and ultimate-tier." Jian Rushuang smirked, and he seemed ready to crush Lin Wenjing completely.

Lin Wenjing stopped running because he knew that running was useless at that point. When someone as powerful and as unrivaled as Jian Rushuang caught up to his opponent, it would be impossible for the person to escape.

Hence, Lin Wenjing had no choice but to fight against Jian Rushuang with all his might. After all, it wasn't too far away from Lin Wenjing's designated location!

Lin Wenjing was confident that he could escape from this desperate situation!

Nevertheless, it was undeniable that Jian Rushuang's cultivation level was too advanced. He was in the ultimate-tier in Heavenly Realm—the most powerful realm just before the Immortal Realm—so despite the fact that Lin Wenjing was already at the pinnacle of the top-tier in Heavenly Realm, there was still a huge gap when compared to Jian Rushuang.

After all, Lin Wenjing's cultivation period was still too short; if he had another three years, he was confident that he could break through to the ultimate-tier of Heavenly Realm. By then, Jian Rushuang might not be able to defeat him. However, at that moment, it was impossible for Lin Wenjing to defeat Jian Rushuang!

"The Spirit Fruit is not with me. I've given it to

Zhong Tao, from Blue Thearch Group," cried Lin Wenjing loudly. Jian Rushuang's attack was powerful, and it formed an inexplicable pressure upon Lin Wenjing. He could only be on defense mode.

Jian Rushuang snorted before barking, "Are you still trying to lie to me? You were the one who stole the Spirit Fruit! Lin Wenjing, seeing as you're talented, I'm going to ask you one last time—are you handing over the Spirit Fruit or not?!"

The last part of Jian Rushuang's sentence was ear-shatteringly loud, so much so that Lin Wenjing could see a huge surge of sound waves emitting from Jian Rushuang's mouth. It felt like a clap of thunder which was so loud that it left Lin Wenjing's ears ringing. Jian Rushuang exerted an immeasurable vast pressure, and in an instant, the thought of surrendering to him actually flashed across Lin Wenjing's mind.

Fortunately, Lin Wenjing was extremely determined compared to the norm; otherwise, he would have surrendered and gave in to Jian Rushuang now.

The more critical the situation was, the more calm Lin Wenjing appeared to be. Although his cultivation level wasn't as advanced as Jian Rushuang's, his martial arts skills weren't any lesser than his. Lin Wenjing's every movement was exquisite and skillful, almost like a world master of martial arts. Hence, surprisingly, Jian Rushuang couldn't defeat Lin Wenjing in such a short period.

Consequently, Jian Rushuang frowned even deeper. Initially, he thought that it would be a walk in the park for someone like him to capture Lin Wenjing of such a lowly stature. However, reality proved that Lin Wenjing's capabilities far exceeded his expectations.

Therefore, Jian Rushuang got even more angry as he cursed under his breath. He increased his speed and started attacking Lin Wenjing continuously without a break. No matter how skillful Lin Wenjing's martial arts skills were, it was obviously insufficient when faced with such a powerful force as Jian Rushuang.

"Since you do not want to hand over the Fruit, you have no choice but to die!" Jian Rushuang roared while increasing his speed suddenly. His aura reverberated along the air around him, resulting in countless vortexes, which seemed to be dragging Lin Wenjing in. It felt as if many black holes were formed, and it slowed Lin Wenjing's movements down significantly.

Lin Wenjing was shocked to his core. "What move is this?!"

Jian Rushuang did not answer him; instead, he attacked and struck Lin Wenjing directly on his shoulder. There was a loud*crack*, and Lin Wenjing's shoulder was dislocated as he was thrown into the air.

Lin Wenjing was defeated.

Just then, Qing Shu, who was chasing after them

from behind, arrived finally. Her face turned pale when she witnessed the scene before her, and her heart clenched in pain.

Jian Rushuang did not stop his movements after his strike made contact, and he continued chasing after Lin Wenjing.

His fists rained down on Lin Wenjing, effectively enveloping him.

Lin Wenjing's left shoulder was badly injured. Forget about going against Jian Rushuang; Lin Wenjing couldn't even raise his arm now. Lin Wenjing barely lasted for several seconds before he was completely defeated by Jian Rushuang, who lifted him as he uttered coldly, "I'm giving you a last chance to hand over the Spirit Fruit."

Lin Wenjing was in excruciating agony as he was covered with injuries, and he had many broken bones all over his body. The Heavenly Realm's ultimate-tier is too horrifying. This is my first time being so badly defeated ever since I've entered the Heavenly Realm.

Nevertheless, he wasn't the least bit panicked or scared. On the contrary, he smiled brightly while replying to Jian Rushuang, "You will never obtain the Spirit Fruit, because I've eaten it."

"What?!" Jian Rushuang screamed lividly before grabbing Lin Wenjing by his throat as he was prepared to strangle him to death on the spot!

When faced with Jian Rushuang's wrath, Lin

Wenjing sensed the presence of the god of death. However, he did not wail in fear, nor did he beg for mercy. He simply shut his eyes, as though he had given up and was prepared to end his life.

At that moment, Qing Shu rushed over as fast as she could before crying aloud hastily without thinking things over, "Master Jian Rushuang, please have mercy!"

Jian Rushuang turned to glare at Qing Shu coldly. "What is this? Are you planning to go against me?"

Qing Shu bit her lip while shaking her head. "No, I'm not. The Lin Wenjing I know would never eat the Spirit Fruit. Besides, if he consumed the Spirit Fruit, he wouldn't be in this current state. Hence, I think he must have hidden the Fruit! So, Master Jian Rushuang, if you want to obtain the Fruit to present it to the King, you can't kill Lin Wenjing just yet."

Something gleamed in Jian Rushuang's eyes when he heard that, because it seemed to make sense. With that, he relaxed his grip on Lin Wenjing before growling in an icy tone, "Spill, where is the Spirit Fruit? I will spare your life if you tell me where it is!"

Lin Wenjing opened his eyes again, but he didn't answer Jian Rushuang's question. Instead, he looked over at Qing Shu. He saw a complicated mixture of worry, anger, puzzlement and heartache in Qing Shu's gaze, and he spoke to her softly. "There's no time now. Run."

Qing Shu's heart sank, and she had an uneasy feeling. "What do you mean, there's no time?!" she asked in a hurry.

Just then, a shocking and thundering explosion started from around them.

Boom!!

The power of the explosion was massive, producing a huge sound wave and destructive power. It even shocked Jian Rushuang, which caused the color to drain from his face.

Furthermore, the explosion did not stop there. Soon, there were second and third explosions that followed at different spots.

Boom!

Boom!!

In fact, the explosions got nearer, and Lin Wenjing's smile got even wider. He faced Jian Rushuang as he spoke. "I've buried several tons of explosives around here. Even a master of the Heavenly Realm's ultimate-tier, like you, have to die as well."

Jian Rushuang's expression distorted into that of panic and fear, and his eyes bulged while he screamed at Lin Wenjing, "Maniac! You are a maniac!!!"

With that, Jian Rushuang did not dare to stay any longer. He shoved Lin Wenjing away before turning



around to escape, for he had no plans to die here.

Qing Shu snapped back to her senses as well. She looked into Lin Wenjing's eyes with a gaze filled with sorrow and despair before turning around to leave—leaving behind Lin Wenjing, who was swallowed by the continuous earth-shattering explosions.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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This time, Lin Wenjing did bury a lot of explosives indeed, but it wasn't as much as tons of them. In fact, he merely buried about a few hundred catties, which was just enough for him to make a point.

He prepared a lot of things for this plan of his. These explosives that were set off now were his last resort.

Fortunately, he managed to hold up till he arrived here.

One should know that the spot was at least twenty kilometers away from Mount Lion. If others had known about his plans and realized how meticulous everything had been planned out, they would have definitely found it unbelievable, and they might even be horrified.

How incredible Lin Wenjing had to be in planning and computing in order to be able to plan this out? It was note-worthy that there were dozens of masters from the Heavenly Realm who were after the Spirit Fruit, and among them was a master who was in a completely different league, Jian Rushuang. Furthermore, it was such a long journey in between, and there were too many possible variables. Hence, if something were to go wrong in the process, all efforts would have been lost.

However, Lin Wenjing carried everything out to perfection. Putting aside the fact that he stole the Spirit Fruit under the noses of dozens of Heavenly Realm's masters, he even managed to get Chu Ling to consume the Fruit midway. In the end, he managed to escape from someone as powerful as

Jian Rushuang, and when combined together, everything seemed like an impossible feat!

Jian Rushuang and Qing Shu both ran away in a panic when faced with these explosions. They did not realize that Lin Wenjing hadn't been blown into smithereens; on the contrary, at the very last moment, Lin Wenjing mustered all his strength and lunged into a pit ten meters away, effectively escaping from the direct impact of the explosions!

Despite that, Lin Wenjing suffered significantly anyway, and he was knocked out by the impact.

The explosions continued for at least thirty seconds before finally coming to a halt, and by the time everything calmed down, the vast land had been turned into ruins.

The thundering explosions reverberated far, far away, startling countless people.

In the end, Jian Rushuang was scared witless as well, for he knew acutely how powerful the series of explosions were. They had such great destruction power that, even with his cultivation level in the Heavenly Realm's ultimate-tier, he wouldn't have survived this explosion!

Fortunately, he reacted quickly enough and managed to toss Lin Wenjing away and escape.

Nevertheless, Jian Rushuang was wounded anyway, for he was injured by the impact of the explosion. He appeared pale as blood trickled from the corner of his mouth; in fact, he had no

doubt he would have suffered from deadly injuries or even ended up dead if he had left a couple of seconds later.

Qing Shu, who stood beside him, didn't look her best as well, and she appeared rather disheveled. Blood was trickling down the corner of her lips as the color drained from her face, and she was obviously shaking as well.

At that moment, she stared unblinkingly toward the direction of the explosion. Her eyes were glued to a faraway point, and she looked as if she was stupefied!

She had never experienced this before, and all of a sudden, she felt as if she had lost all her senses. She felt completely numb, as though she couldn't even feel if she was still alive.

After what felt like ages, or a century, but also the blink of an eye, Qing Shu's mind started working slowly again. She realized something, and tears welled up in her eyes, making her choke back on her tears!

All of a sudden, she felt as if she had lost something important forever.

Lin Wenjing is dead...

He has been blown into smithereens.

Her breathing came to a halt, and she pressed her hands over her chest while tears streamed down her cheeks.

She wasn't sure why she was crying. Her vision was blurred by tears, which rolled down her face and dropped onto her clothes, snapping her back to reality.

"Am I crying?" she mumbled to herself. She was smiling, but she seemed to be crying, and she had a foreign expression etched across her face.

She stared at the vast ruins in front of her and spaced out. She felt the magnitude of the explosion, and she knew clearly that Lin Wenjing couldn't possibly survive such a powerful explosion. A person from Heavenly Realm's ultimate-tier wouldn't even survive the explosion, much less Lin Wenjing.

She couldn't put a finger on her feelings right now because it couldn't be described with words. If she had to illustrate what she felt, it would be this—she felt tortured in different ways and in every severity.

She shut her eyes and saw Lin Wenjing's confident, elegant, untamed, but chic face in her mind. Memories of her interaction with Lin Wenjing flashed across her mind continuously, and the most memorable scene was when she was hiding in the secret room, where she trained in pairs with him.

That was the first time in her life, and it was also the only experience she had. Previously, she thought that she would hate it and be disgusted by it, but after that, she realized that she wasn't disgusted; on the contrary, she kept recalling about it after the experience...

However, this was all like wisps of smoke that had dissipated into thin air, because Lin Wenjing was gone.

Jian Rushuang was still shocked and horrified as he looked at the endless ruins in front of him. He had committed Lin Wenjing to memory, for throughout his life, he had never met someone as courageous and fearless as him!

"The son of the previous Saint was truly extraordinary," praised Jian Rushuang sincerely.

Qing Shu bit her lips before uttering in despair, "So what if he was extraordinary? He died in the end..."

A trace of regret flashed across Jian Rushuang's eyes. It is a shame for such a talented man, such as Lin Wenjing, to end up dead just like that.

However, his regret disappeared as quickly as it came. So what if Lin Wenjing was a talented man? To go against Sumeru Heaven is punishable by death, and so he didn't deserve anyone's pity!

Three days passed by quickly.

Someone named Lin Wenjing snatched the Spirit Fruit away and escaped from the grasps of dozens of Heavenly Realm masters, a few of whom he killed in the process. The news spread like wildfire, and many people learned the name, Lin Wenjing.

This wasn't just happening within Hua City or G Province—in fact, many forces abroad learned

about this name as well.

However, very soon, another news story got around, shocking many people.

Lin Wenjing died in the end, anyway. Initially, he was chased after by an ultimate-level Heavenly Realm master, Jian Rushuang, but in the end, Lin Wenjing died in a series of earth-shattering explosions, whereas the Spirit Fruit had disappeared, and no one knew where it was.

Some people claimed that Jian Rushuang must have snatched the Spirit Fruit away, whereas others speculated that the Fruit was blasted into smithereens in the explosions alongside Lin Wenjing. But most people believed that Lin Wenjing hid the Spirit Fruit away.

Meanwhile, after Chu Ling consumed the Spirit Fruit, she recovered completely on the same night. In fact, her life source thickened significantly as well. The doctor was utterly shocked when he examined her, and he was in disbelief. After all, she was a miracle case for having recovered completely from a fatal disease while being on the brink of death.

Even both Liu Qiaozhen and Chu Zhenyao were amazed, and they couldn't understand the sudden turn of events.

However, the process wasn't important for them because they were grateful as long as Chu Ling was out of the woods.



Chu Ling was discharged from the hospital the next day. Right now, she had completely recovered and was fit and well. She had regained her exquisite beauty, and she looked even more alluring now. However, she wasn't happy at all; instead, she stood by the entrance every day while gazing far away as she waited for the person she yearned for...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

A very light rain started drizzling from the sky, and somewhere on Seven Ridge, seven to eight youths were there to explore the place.

The man who was at the front asked with a mysterious tone, "Hey, do you know why there's a legend about Seven Ridge once upon a time?"

He had a very mysterious tone and expression, which piqued everyone else's interest. A girl asked immediately, "What is the legend?"

Everyone else came to a halt while staring at him in curiosity. He cleared his throat before recounting in an air of mystery, "Legend has it that there was once a bloodbath on Seven Ridge, and many people died there. Every night, at midnight, souls which had been wronged would show up each night, and that has been going on for decades without fail!"

"Tsk!" Someone flipped him off straightaway in disdain. "Who are you lying to? What era are we in now? Why are you still trying to fool others with such a superstitious folklore?"

Others looked at him mockingly as well, feeling contempt toward him.

However, that person wasn't angry at all. He even replied, "Hmph, I knew you guys wouldn't believe me, but that's fine, because it's almost midnight now. We wouldn't make it down the mountain anyway, and when the time comes, you guys will know if I'm telling the truth, haha! I've warned you now, and so when those things show up later, you

guys had better not wet your pants!"

He appeared very calm, effectively scaring the girls in the group. Furthermore, it was late at night now, and it was only natural for Seven Ridge to appear especially scary and horrifying.

A girl scolded him suddenly, "Wang Gang, enough with your jokes. How could there be wronged souls on this earth?"

"Ying, don't listen to his nonsense. He was the one who suggested tonight's adventure, and that's why he's making stories up to fool us."

Wang Gang snorted loudly as he answered angrily, "Hmph, if you guys don't believe me, so be it! Do you know that there was an earth-shattering explosion on Seven Ridge three days ago? A series of booming sounds could be heard from a radius of several kilometers away. Those were the government's doing as they were trying to get rid of those ghosts!"

"Is that true?" Immediately, two girls were very afraid, and they started quivering in fear.

"Of course it's true. Since why have I lied to you?" Wang Gang pointed the torchlight toward his face on purpose, making him look rather spooky as he spoke in a horrifying tone. "But we are here on an adventure, so this would make things interesting, hehe."

The girls in the group became even more afraid after listening to him, and their hearts raced in

horror. They couldn't help but get closer to the guys nearest to them, which worked in the guys' favor.

However, at that moment, there were rustling sounds from their left suddenly, as if something was crawling out of the ground. Coincidentally, tension was running high among the group, and they immediately held their breaths to listen!

A girl screamed and threw herself into the arms of the guy standing beside her, and she started shaking uncontrollably.

Wang Gang was stunned to silence as well, because he made up the story earlier to scare the group of girls. He merely wanted them to throw themselves into the arms of the guys in the group, and so he wasn't expecting an actual commotion.

"Oh my god, did you guys hear that? There's some noise!"

"What should we do? Do you think there are really ghosts around here?"

The sound did not stop; in fact, in the midst of it all, there was even a trace of labored breathing.

Wang Gang gulped, and he took the chance to put his arms around the girl beside him before consoling her. "Don't be afraid. I'm here."

He then pointed his torchlight toward the noise, and he witnessed something which made his skin crawl!

An arm shot out of a pit, as if something was trying to crawl out of the ground.

Everyone screamed in horror and panic when they saw that, and they were scared witless. The girls, especially, couldn't steady themselves; their legs gave way and started to wobble.

Wang Gang stood rooted to the spot as well, for never in his wildest dreams did he expect to bump into ghosts on Seven Ridge.

Initially, out of the group, there were two guys who were quite brave, and they claimed that they would destroy the ghosts if they did appear. However, color drained from both their faces right now while they turned around to escape, and they screamed in panic while running.

"There are really ghosts... W-What should we do, Wang Gang? I'm so scared..." One of the girls was so scared that her legs turned to jelly, and she slumped onto the ground.

Wang Gang was panicking as well, and his lips trembled in shock as he shoved the girl away before running downhill.

In the end, the two girls were left behind, and they were all alone, feeling helpless. Soon, they saw a head appearing right after the arm, and it was a person, whose face was smeared with blood. Hence, both girls passed out in fear on the spot!

Seven Ridge regained its tranquility once again, and the faint moonlight lit up the ground. It felt as

if the moon in the sky was the only thing witnessing everything that was unfolding here.

Very soon, the person whose face was covered in blood crawled out of the pit with difficulty. He coughed several times in pain before lying back on the ground weakly. He then stared at the full moon in the sky while cackling in laughter.

"Hahaha, I'm not dead. I survived, haha...Cough, cough, cough..." he laughed so hard that he choked on his spittle as tears streamed down his cheeks.

He was none other than Lin Wenjing—Lin Wenjing, who survived a catastrophe!

Three days—he was unconscious in the pit for three days and three nights. Furthermore, he was buried underneath a pile of dirt, and luckily, he had it all prepared beforehand to ensure that there would be some oxygen supply in the pit even if he were to be buried in there. This was the reason he succeeded in staying alive!

For the past three days, groups of people came around here in search of him. Apart from Jian Rushuang and Qing Shu, Yellow, Red and Blue Thearch Groups, together with other forces, came in search of him, but their efforts were all in vain.

It was because the explosion had buried him alive, and the fact that Lin Wenjing managed to survive all that was undeniably a miracle, a true miracle, indeed! If Jian Rushuang got wind about this, he would admire Lin Wenjing and fear him as well!

However, even though Lin Wenjing had survived, the wounds he had sustained were very serious. Aside from the impact due to the explosion, the injuries inflicted by Jian Rushuang caused serious damages as well. If it had been Peng Zhuo, Zhong Tao or the others, they wouldn't have stood a chance. Hence, it was a miracle for Lin Wenjing to have survived all that.

Lin Wenjing took in gulps of breaths greedily, and he smiled bitterly as he felt the severe injuries he sustained. He was in very bad shape, and he wasn't even sure how many broken bones he had. It was almost impossible for him to completely recover now.

This was the price he had to pay for snatching the Spirit Fruit right under Jian Rushuang's nose.

After resting for a good thirty minutes, he finally stood up unsteadily as he readied himself to hike downhill. He wanted to find a place to hide in order to recover from his injuries.

He walked with a limp as every step he took was excruciating. It wasn't because he was feeling weak; instead, the injuries he sustained were too severe, and almost half of the bones he had in his body were fractured or broken. Hence, every step brought jolts of blinding pain to Lin Wenjing.

There was only around a kilometer from the peak of the mountain to halfway down the mountain, but it took him three whole hours. He even almost rolled down the mountain several times from being unsteady on his feet!

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Chapter 584 Surviving a Catastrophe

Despite all that, he exhausted almost all his energy reserves, and he had no choice but to stop for a rest while he gasped for air. However, he didn't dare to inhale too deeply because his organs were terribly injured, and if he gasped too vigorously, he would end up worsening his internal injuries.

After resting for quite a while, he regained some of his energy, and he stood up unsteadily again to proceed downhill.

However, just at that moment, a jeep drove up from the bottom of the mountain. The car's headlights shone brightly as someone was driving the jeep up the hill, and it just so happened that the headlights shone on a spot around five meters away from Lin Wenjing. Lin Wenjing stared ahead in disbelief as his eyes bulged from their sockets!

"How is this possible?!" Lin Wenjing was stumped on the spot when he saw what was in front of him.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The thing lying before him was actually a Spirit Fruit! Also known as the Colorful-origin Fruit!

When he saw it, he was dumbfounded, and he thought he was hallucinating.

How is this possible? Doesn't the Spirit Fruit grow once every 112 years? And can't it only be found in Mount Lion? Why is there another one on Seven Ridge? The most unbelievable part is that a treasure as rare as the Spirit Fruit usually attracts countless people to fight for it. Yet now this Spirit Fruit is just here by the road, and no one cares about it?

This contrast was so great that Lin Wenjing was completely stunned for a while before he got back to his senses.

Without hesitation, he hurried forward, squatted down and carefully observed that Spirit Fruit!

His heartbeat was racing, and his eyes widened. He was so scared that it was just his imagination that he pinched himself, but he felt the pain and realized that it wasn't his imagination. It was real; another Spirit Fruit was really lying before him!

He almost laughed out loud. He felt as if he had found hope after great despair and darkness!

With this Spirit Fruit, his injuries would recover, and the strong life source would help him break through to the ultimate-tier of the Heavenly Realm. It was even possible for him to break through to the legendary Immortal Realm.

He took a deep breath, calmed himself down, and quickly swallowed the Spirit Fruit.

There was a jeep driving up at the moment. It would be bad if they found him and snatched the Spirit Fruit away.

Thus he quickly picked the Spirit Fruit and realized something different about it.

"What's going on? This Spirit Fruit has eight colors?" Lin Wenjing was startled and counted again. He was certain that the Spirit Fruit in his hands had eight colours instead of the usual seven colours!

He was shocked. Could it be that this is another kind of Spirit Fruit, an Eight-colored Origin Fruit?

Realizing that the jeep was getting nearer, he couldn't care about it anymore. He exerted all his strength to peel the skin of the Spirit Fruit off and swallowed it right away!

At first, he didn't feel anything; it felt like swallowing a normal fruit. Lin Wenjing was disappointed. "Was that just a normal fruit?"

But soon, he felt a strong medicine efficacy exploding in his stomach. It was so strong that he almost fainted.

The strong medical efficacy rushed right up toward his brain...

"Oh, no!" Lin Wenjing realized that it was bad, and

his expression changed instantly. He immediately stood up and dashed down the mountain. Just then, the jeep that was driving up had reached him, and with a huge

He passed out from the collision.

"Oh my god! Hong, you seemed to have knocked someone!" a girl next to the driver seat exclaimed.

On the driver seat, there was a beautiful woman, who looked panicked. She saw the man as well, and she instantly stepped on the brake, her face pale.

She gasped loudly as her mind turned empty. She just knocked someone over, and she was driving so fast that the person was sent flying from the impact.

"What to do now, Hong? The man is not moving. Is he dead?" The girl next to her was extremely worried. She was so frightened that she almost cried

Hong bit her lips. She had an argument with her family and drove out out of anger. She drove without a destination in mind and unknowingly drove to Seven Ridge. Originally, she just wanted to drive up to the mountain to calm herself down a little. However, she knocked someone over, and now, it seemed like that person was dying...

She was clear how fast she was driving, and that it was completely possible to kill someone with that speed.

The girl next to her then said, "Hong, it's okay. It's the mountain anyways, and there are no cameras here. We can run away, and no one will know! Let's go!"

The temptation was great, making Hong hesitate for a moment.

But she immediately shook her head and said firmly, "No! I can't just leave like this. What if that person is still alive and can be saved? I will be killing someone if so!"

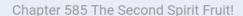
"Hong, what are you saying? If he dies, it's his own fortune, then. What has it got to do with you? Besides, someone who was running around in the mountains in the middle of the night was probably some robbers or some bad guy. He deserved to be dead! So let's just go. No one knows about this, anyway."

The temptation was great, but Hong didn't listen to her, and instead, she got more determined. She took a deep breath, pushed the door open, and walked down.

The face of the girl in the co-driver seat got even paler looking at her action.

Hong's heart was pounding really fast as well. She was extremely nervous and panicked. Under the illumination of the car lights, she slowly walked over and finally saw Lin Wenjing, who was lying on the ground.

She covered her mouth in shock when she saw the



state Lin Wenjing was in. He looked terrible with his clothes messy, and he was covered in injuries and blood. It looked scary.

She was so scared that she was shaking, but she still managed to hold back her fears, bend down, and reach out her trembling hands to check Lin Wenjing's breath. She was relieved to realize that Lin Wenjing was still breathing and still had a pulse. "Good that you are alive, good that you are alive," she mumbled to herself.

She then waved toward the girl in the co-driver seat and told her to carry Lin Wenjing back together.

At first, the girl was unwilling, but she had no choice but to agree when Hong got mad.

They didn't see that Lin Wenjing's wounds were slowly healing, and the bleeding from the wounds had stopped.

...

Time leapt, and another day passed.

Lin Wenjing had a really long dream. He dreamed about a lot of things, good and bad.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes and yelled, "I can't die, I can't die!"

His screamings made the other two people in the room jump.



Chapter 585 The Second Spirit Fruit!

"Hey, what is wrong with you? Why are you shouting so loudly?"

An ear-piercing voice rang in an irritated tone.

Hearing the voice, Lin Wenjing turned around, only to see a delicate face. It was a woman in her twenties, and she looked completely unfamiliar. He had never met her before.

Besides, the layout of the room was unfamiliar to him as well, rendering him stunned for a moment.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"You are?" Lin Wenjing asked in a hoarse voice as he was very thirsty and famished.

The beautiful lady rolled her eyes before answering him crossly, "I'm surprised you're not ashamed to ask at all. If it wasn't for Hong and I who saved you, you would have died long ago! What an ungrateful man. We took care of you for one whole day and you repay us by scaring us the minute you're awake."

At that moment, a much gentler voice came from another corner. "Sir, do you feel better?"

Immediately, Lin Wenjing looked in the direction of the voice and was greeted by a gorgeous face. It was a long-haired lady who had an intellectual aura as well as a graceful demeanor. She was looking at him with a faint smile.

To be honest, among the numerous gorgeous ladies Lin Wenjing had encountered, that lady who appeared in front of him could be considered one of the finest. She had a girl-next-door kind of aura.

Lin Wenjing asked, "Are the two of you the ones who saved me?"

Lin Wenjing's mind was started to get clearer.

Judging from the situation he was in, he roughly had an idea of the entire incident. Relief washed over him as he never expected that he would survive such a calamity and be saved by these two women.

Before the graceful lady could speak, the other

lady snapped, "Of course! You were in the Seven Ridge in the middle of the night. Your body was grimy, full of injuries and many of your bones were broken. If it wasn't for the both of us who brought you back out of kindness, I'm sure you would have already died a long time ago! Both of us are your saviors and we expect you to return the favor in the future!"

When Lin Wenjing heard her, he sat bolt upright on the bed with a solemn face and immediately offered his apology to the two women sincerely, "Ladies, thank you so much for saving my life! I promise I will repay you in the future!"

His solemness and seriousness took the beautiful girl by surprise. Hong immediately spoke, "Mr. Lin, don't listen to her nonsense! In fact, I should apologize to you instead. If it wasn't for me driving too fast, I wouldn't have crashed into you and you wouldn't have suffered such severe injuries! Come to think of it, I should be the one saying sorry instead!"

As she was talking, she got to her feet and was about to bow to Lin Wenjing.

The beautiful lady stomped her feet next to her and rolled her eyes. She was frustrated because Hong revealed the truth to Lin Wenjing. Isn't this just going to make him hate the both of us? Because of that, we have become the wrongdoers instead of his saviors. How stupid is Hong?

Only then did Lin Wenjing regain his memory of that night. When he woke up in the Seven Ridge,

he reached the mountainside by foot and found the second Spirit Fruit under the illumination of the car's headlights. He shoved it in his mouth immediately but he could barely contain the potent medicinal effect of the Spirit Fruit. It went to his brain and made him lose control. Because of that, he dashed out to the main road and was knocked by a car.

At that thought, he suddenly realized something and immediately checked his body.

Soon, he realized that his injuries had almost fully recovered and even most of his broken bones had mended.

Most importantly, his life source had intensified by a remarkable degree.

Right then, his body was buzzing with energy. Although he still felt weak, his life source was strong and it was several times stronger than it originally was. He had a strong inkling that after all his injuries had fully recovered, he would be able to reach the ultimate-tier in the Heavenly Realm soon!

On top of that, attaining the Immortal Realm would no longer be something impossible.

In hindsight, it turned out that surviving such a catastrophe was a blessing in disguise.

His excitement got the better of him. Failing to contain his emotions, he let out a hearty laugh. "Hahahaha..."

The two women in the ward were startled by his outburst and stared at him in consternation.

The beautiful lady looked at him as though she was looking at a deranged man. Right from the beginning, she had been against the idea of bringing him back. Judging from his filthy condition and how severe his injuries were, she didn't think that he was a decent man. She was sure they would bring trouble to themselves by saving him.

On the other hand, worry flitted through Hong's eyes as she was concerned that there might be something wrong with Lin Wenjing's brain because of the car crash.

"Is he crazy?" The beautiful lady kept rolling her eyes.

Hong asked worryingly, "Mr. Lin, are you all right? Do you still remember your name and the contact number of your family?"

Lin Wenjing's laughter came to a halt as he felt a surge of exhilaration in his body.

It was not his fault. Anyone who had gone through such a drastic turn of events and received such a nice blessing in the disguise of an accident would have a hard time containing their emotions and elation.

Lin Wenjing could be considered to have very good self-control since he managed to reign in his emotions so quickly.

Clenching his fists tightly, an unprecedented brilliance as bright and dazzling as sunshine shone in his eyes. Hong immediately turned away after meeting his gaze.

"Jian Rushuang, just you wait! When I reach the ultimate-tier in the Heavenly Realm, I will pay you a visit!" Lin Wenjing muttered through gritted teeth before pledging, "Mother, when I reach the ultimate-tier in the Heavenly Realm, I will go to the Sumeru Heaven and bring you back home!"

At that moment, Lin Wenjing's mind was processing things at a rapid speed. In just seconds, he thought about a lot of things including Sumeru Heaven, Chu Ling, Master Grim, Wang Yunqian and Han Kunpeng as well as the Yellow Thearch Group...

He started to think about the multiple issues he was facing and started to rehearse what he was going to do in his mind when he returned.

Although his injuries were severe, he was recovering at a rapid rate. The life source from the Spirit Fruit was too strong. From what Lin Wenjing could gather, it was even stronger than the one consumed by Chu Ling.

It was because the Spirit Fruit had eight different colors and its size was bigger.

As for the reason behind the birth of the second Spirit Fruit which was even more precious than the first one, it was something beyond his understanding.



Looking at the state he was in, Hong thought that there was something wrong with his brain. She immediately dashed out of the ward and found a doctor to do a checkup on him.

After examining him, the doctor widened his eyes in surprise. "His injuries have recovered by more than 50 percent after just one night. H-How is that possible?"

With the results of Lin Wenjing's examination in his hand, the doctor was unable to believe it. Some of Lin Wenjing's bones, which had broken in two, had completely mended itself. It was scientifically impossible!

Lin Wenjing's checkup results alerted several other doctors. As the incident was too bizarre, they refused to believe that it was true. Unanimously, they decided that the medical equipment used during the first medical check up must have been faulty.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Hong and the beautiful lady were astounded too. When they carried Lin Wenjing over that night, they knew how severe his injuries were. Yet, after just one day's time, they were informed by the doctor that he could be discharged after two days. It was totally unbelievable!

Usually, it took at least a hundred days for injured muscles and bones to mend. Moreover, Lin Wenjing's injuries had been so serious that he barely survived that night. The fact that he managed to recuperate in such a short while did not make sense at all.

But since the doctor had said so, Hong felt it was unnecessary to comment further.

Only Lin Wenjing knew that his fast recovery was all due to the rich life source contained in the second Spirit Fruit. It would take just one more day before he would be fully recovered and able to move around freely.

Hong asked, "Mr. Lin, since you will be discharged tomorrow, why don't you contact your family?"

Lin Wenjing was caught out by her question. Judging from the situation he was in, it would be risky if he were to inform his family to come over to the hospital.

He was sure that the entire Chu Family was being watched. He wouldn't be too worried if it was only the Yellow Thearch Group; what worried him the most was Sumeru Heaven. Heaving a sigh, he fell into silence.

Immediately, the beautiful girl voiced her dissatisfaction, "Hey, what are you thinking? Are you planning to stick with us? Let me tell you, although Hong did hit you by accident, nothing too bad happened to you either. You better contact your family and ask them to pay the medical fees! We're not going to pay for you!"

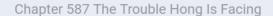
Lin Wenjing put on a slight frown as it was rather embarrassing for him to be on the receiving end of such comments. To him, money was just a number. However, he had lost both his phone and bank cards, hence he could not contact Wang Yunqian or the others; that was why he was unable to fork out any money to pay the fees.

"You girls got the wrong idea. I never wanted you girls to pay my medical fees for me, but I don't have any money with me right now. I will pay you two back as soon as I fully recover." He sounded rather awkward. Being the president of Purple Jade Studios with a net worth of over 100 billion, he was embarrassed that he could not even pay his own medical fees

Hong shot a glare at the beautiful lady and warned, "Shut up!"

Then, somewhat apologetically, she said to Lin Wenjing, "Mr. Lin, I'm sorry. My cousin is just joking so please don't take it seriously. In fact, we have already claimed insurance and your medical fees will be paid by the insurance company."

Seeing how easygoing Hong was, Lin Wenjing had a good impression of her as he said, "Sorry for the



trouble."

With a smile, Hong answered, "It's no trouble at all. It's the least I can do after running you over with my car. Thankfully, you're alright, otherwise I would have committed a grave sin."

Lin Wenjing waved his hand, telling Hong not to take it to heart. In fact, he was very grateful to her. If it wasn't for her who sent him to the hospital, he would still be lying unconscious for one whole day at Seven Ridge, and it was likely he would be discovered by someone harboring ill intentions.

Over the next two days, Hong visited Lin Wenjing, brought him food and took care of him every day. From their interactions during the past two days, he found out that her full name was Yin Hong and the beautiful lady was her cousin whose name was Zhong Yiran.

With his sharp and intuitive eyes, Lin Wenjing could see that something was bothering Yin Hong just by taking one glance at her. There was a thick cloud of worry hovering over her brows and she looked like she was in some sort of trouble.

Just as they were having a friendly conversation, Zhong Yiran's phone suddenly rang. When she caught sight of the caller ID on the screen, the expression on her face changed slightly as she told Yin Hong, "Hong, it's your father."

Yin Hong's face stiffened before she replied, "Just tell him that I've left Feng City and I won't be back for the time being."

Zhong Yiran nodded her head before darting to the balcony to take the call.

As Lin Wenjing was observing their interaction, he immediately understood that Yin Hong was having some sort of conflict with her family. Considering she seemed to be about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, he supposed the source of the conflict was about marriage and her family was urging her to get married. After all, it was quite a common social phenomenon.

Although Zhong Yiran had gone to the balcony, Lin Wenjing could still hear everything clearly.

Before long, Zhong Yiran returned to the ward looking solemn and distressed. She shot a look at Yin Hong, signaling her to come over.

Politely, Yin Hong gave Lin Wenjing an apologetic smile before walking over to her and asked, "What's wrong?"

Worryingly, Zhong Yiran answered, "Hong, it's bad news. Your father said over the phone that the guy with the surname Lu has come to your home. He threatened to hurt your father and the rest of the family if he doesn't see you in the next half an hour..."

"What?" Yin Hong was shocked. Gritting her teeth, she cursed angrily, "How can he do this? Does he think he can do everything he wants just because he is rich and powerful? I've told him many times that I'm not interested in him and I don't want to marry him!"

"Sigh, we can't do anything about it. He has a powerful background since he is a relative of the mayor. Being normal citizens, we cannot do anything to fight back." With a sigh, Zhong Yiran continued, "Hong, why don't you make a trip back home? It probably won't be that bad if you married that guy."

When Yin Hong heard her, her face turned pale at once and her body started trembling. With gritted teeth and eyes that looked melancholic, she made the painful decision to go back home...

Their conversation was heard clearly by Lin Wenjing and it sounded familiar to him. That guy with the surname Lu was a relative of the mayor... That description rang a bell. It seemed like he had come across that guy before.

However, judging from how uneasy and fearful both Yin Hong and Zhong Yiran looked, it was obvious that guy was someone not to be trifled with, and Lin Wenjing would not look on and do nothing to help. He then walked over to the both of them and asked, "Miss Yin, are you guys facing any trouble?"

As Zhong Yiran was in a foul mood, the sight of Lin Wenjing made her even more annoyed and she criticized, "You're a guy who can't even foot your own medical bills, so why are you even meddling in our business? You should think about how to survive in society in the future instead. We must have done something horrible in our previous lives to have such bad luck to bump into you."



Slightly angry, Yin Hong reproached Zhong Yiran, "Yiran, stop being so harsh to Mr. Lin! I've told you many times that we should be polite to people!"

She then immediately apologized to Lin Wenjing on behalf of Zhong Yiran.

Lin Wenjing waved his hands dismissively to show that he did not mind it. Sternly, he said, "Miss Yin, please forgive my nosiness. If you girls are having any trouble, I can follow you two back home and help you solve the problem."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lin Wenjing was a person who always tried his best to repay any kindness he received. Having been saved by Yin Hong, he owed her a big one so he would definitely return the favor to her.

After resting for two more days, coupled with the strong nourishing effect brought upon by the Spirit Fruit, his injuries were almost fully recovered and his skills had almost returned to his peak. He could effortlessly take on any cultivator as long as it was not someone in the ultimate-tier in the Heavenly Realm.

He just needed one more day of rest to return to his peak, or even better than that. He could fight anyone as long as it was not a cultivator in the ultimate-tier of the Heavenly Realm like Jian Rushuang.

As such, he was absolutely confident that he could help Yin Hong with her troubles.

Even so, what he said sounded frivolous to both Zhong Yiran and Yin Hong. Zhong Yiran burst out laughing right away as though she just heard a joke. Even Yin Hong was looking rather awkward.

At first, Yin Hong had a favorable opinion of Lin Wenjing from the interactions they had over the past two days. She thought he was a gentleman with good manners and was even charming in a special way. However, she started liking him less and less when she found out that he was just as boastful as all the other guys.

With a smile, she turned him down, "Mr. Lin, we

should not trouble you over a trivial matter. I can manage it myself."

Lin Wenjing could see what was on her mind and he was not unfamiliar with such a situation. Over the years, he had been belittled countless times and had already gotten used to it.

At this moment, Zhong Yiran chimed in with a crafty tone, "Hong, since he's so confident, let's believe him this time. Perhaps he really is a very capable big shot who could help us with our problem."

Yin Hong tugged her arm and asked her not to mess around in a whisper before telling Lin Wenjing politely, "Mr. Lin, since you are already discharged, I won't disturb you anymore. We will see each other again if fate allows it."

With that, she prepared to leave.

However, her expression could barely conceal her grief as she knew very well what was awaiting her once she reached home.

After all, that guy had a powerful background and was the mayor's relative, hence she—an ordinary citizen—could not afford to offend him. It was all her father's fault! She had no idea what had gotten into him when he agreed to the marriage.

Sighs, perhaps that marriage was meant to be after all.

She knew full well that the guy was just a

womanizer, and that her entire life would be ruined after marrying him, but what could she do about it?

"Wait a minute."

Sensing her anguish, Lin Wenjing stopped her by calling out her name.

"Mr. Lin, is there anything else I can help you with?" Yin Hong forced out a smile.

After giving it some thought, Lin Wenjing realized that Yin Hong had strong self-esteem and did not like to trouble others. Therefore, he suggested, "Miss Yin, since you've already helped me once, would you mind helping me again? Right now, I don't have any money with me and I have no idea where to go. May I follow you back home and stay for a day or two?"

Yin Hong was stunned; she never expected that he would make such a request.

The moment Zhong Yiran heard him, she could not help but rebuke, "Damn it, Mr. Lin. I am surprised by how shameless you are! How dare you make such a request?! Do we have to provide you with food and accommodation for the rest of your life as well?"

A crease formed on Yin Hong's forehead as she completely lost her favorable opinion of Lin Wenjing. It never occurred to her that he would turn out to be someone so brazen! She started to look down on him as she hated men who were

spineless and relied on others for a living the most.

However, she was a woman with good manners. Unlike Zhong Yiran, she could not make herself utter such rude words. No matter how much she hated someone, she would still maintain her composure.

She then said, "Mr. Lin, there are not many rooms at my place, therefore it might not be very convenient to bring you back. How about I give you 2,000 so that you can stay at a hotel for the time being? Or, you could head to the police station to contact your family to pick you up. What do you think?"

Frankly, the way Yin Hong treated Lin Wenjing was very nice and polite. Because of that, Lin Wenjing became even more determined to help her.

He shook his head and insisted on following Yin Hong back to her home.

Zhong Yiran was livid and looked at him with contempt. Even Yin Hong was looking slightly annoyed. But since she was too nice, she could not make herself reject Lin Wenjing. On top of that, she felt that he looked rather pathetic. After hesitating for a brief moment, she acceded to his request, "Fine. You may follow us home."

Immediately, Zhong Yiran snapped, "Hong, you're crazy! If that Lu guy sees you coming home together with him, won't he become even more—"



"Cough! Cough!" Yin Hong glared at Zhong Yiran to stop her from talking further before saying, "I've made up my mind. Mr. Lin is right, I don't mind helping him again since I've already helped him once. Since he is in need, I should offer my help."

Clenching her fists tightly, Zhong Yiran really wanted to give Lin Wenjing a punch. Right then, he was becoming more and more of an eyesore to her and she was overwhelmed with remorse. If she knew that Lin Wenjing was such a thick-skinned person, she would have stood her ground back at the Seven Ridge and stopped Hong from bringing Lin Wenjing to the hospital!

Later on, after completing the discharge procedure, Lin Wenjing followed Yin Hong and Zhong Yiran back home.

After walking out of the hospital, Lin Wenjing was once again exposed to the sky. The moment he looked up and saw the cloudless blue sky, he was seized by a special feeling. He felt as though he had been reborn and even each breath of fresh air he drew smelled different to him.

Zhong Yiran couldn't stand looking at him; she thought that he was just a cunning man who always got what he wanted. She was sure that he was clinging to Hong because of her gorgeous looks.

She even thought of preparing a pair of scissors to castrate Lin Wenjing in the event he behaved improperly toward Hong.

Along the journey, Yin Hao appeared absentminded and got distracted several times when she was behind the wheel. Obviously, she was very troubled.

She drove very fast as she tried to get home within half an hour. During the journey, Zhong Yiran received several calls from Yin Hong's family members urging them to come home faster because Young Master Lu was getting impatient.

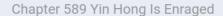
Unfortunately, it was rush hour, hence they were stuck in traffic which took up more time. It was unlikely they would make it back home within half an hour.

Noticing the situation they were in, Zhong Yiran immediately vented her frustration on Lin Wenjing, "It's all your fault! It took us a long while to complete your discharge procedure! Otherwise, we would be able to get back within half an hour. Now, it's taking us more than half an hour. That Lu guy is going to lose it!"

Yin Hong's face was filled with worry and concern too.

Lin Wenjing assured them, "Girls, you don't have to be so scared. With me around, I am sure that guy won't dare to do anything out of bounds."

His words ignited Zhong Yiran's rage, thereupon she started a round of angry criticisms toward him. Even Yin Hong was shaking her head continuously in sheer disappointment at him.



"That's enough! Can you give me a break from your bragging?" Zhong Yiran reprimanded as she pointed at Lin Wenjing's nose. "Do you know who that guy is? He is a relative of the mayor of Feng City, so he is rich and powerful. He could kill you effortlessly by just moving his fingers! How dare you act so pretentious?! Do you really think you are some kind of big shot?!"

Her words were crude and she even said it all while pointing at Lin Wenjing without caring the least bit about his dignity. Had she been someone else, Lin Wenjing would have already given her a slap.

But, it was not good for him to throw a tantrum now. Therefore, he could only suppress his anger with a forced smile and persuaded, "Miss Zhong, please don't be angry; I'm just stating a fact. In fact, I taught the nephew of Feng City's mayor a lesson half a year ago, and I am not being boastful."

He tried to say it as seriously as possible so as not to sound like he was bragging. In fact, he said it in an attempt to comfort the two ladies so that they would not be so afraid, especially Yin Hong, who was not paying attention to the road ahead and almost ran into pedestrians several times now.

Normally, Yin Hong would definitely criticize Zhong Yiran for being harsh on Lin Wenjing. But right then, she only felt utter disappointment in him. At the same time, she started doubting her own judgment in men. How silly of her to think that Lin Wenjing was a gentleman with good manners.

Little did she know, he was no different from other guys and was even worse in terms of his conduct. Not only did he love to brag, he was thick-skinned too!

She heaved a sigh. With her personality, she could not make herself say rude and sarcastic comments to him. So, she said instead, "Mr. Lin, I appreciate your kind gesture, but Lu Fan is not one to be trifled with. He is very powerful and not someone we can afford to offend. Therefore, when we reach home later, please stay in the car for a while and only come out after I have settled the issue, alright? Please do as I say."

Yin Hong said seriously as she bit her lips. Obviously, she was very upset and embarrassed.

Staring at her, Lin Wenjing's mouth twitched slightly as he felt like saying something. Yet, when the words reached his mouth, he swallowed them back.

It was because he knew that no matter how much he explained, Yin Hong and Zhong Yiran would never believe him. They would even start resenting him and label him as a shameless and boastful man.

Therefore, he decided to remain silent. After all, everything would be clear once he personally dealt with Lu Fan at Yin Hong's place.

Seeing him remaining silent, Yin Hong thought he was embarrassed and was unable to continue bragging. At last, the good impression she had

toward him completely disappeared.

Luckily, the traffic congestion did not last too long and the cars started moving after a few minutes.

Despite that, it still took them more than thirty minutes to reach home.

Yin Hong quickly parked her car and saw several luxurious cars parked opposite to where she stood. One of them was a black Maybach which belonged to Lu Fan. At the sight of it, she could not help but purse her lips, while her face was brimming with sorrow and apprehension.

"Hong, that Maybach belongs to Lu Fan. It seems like he is really waiting for you at home..." Zhong Yiran said in a low voice as she too spotted the car. Her face was slightly pale and it appeared that she was very afraid of Lu Fan.

Yin Hong nodded her head before drawing a deep breath. "Well. There's always a solution to a problem. He won't be bold enough to take my life, right?"

With that, she mustered up her courage and was ready to go.

Lin Wenjing was also about to get out of the car when he was stopped by Zhong Yiran, "Hey, what are you doing? Didn't we tell you to wait in the car and only go in when we let you? Are you deaf? Or is there something wrong with your brain?"

Lin Wenjing spoke in a serious tone, "Miss Yin,

please believe me. I can really help you. The moment Lu Fan sees me, he will—"

"That's enough!" Yin Hong's anger erupted, and she cut Lin Wenjing off. There was fury written all over her face; it was a rare sight to behold. She really could not hold in her rage any longer for the man who stood right in front of her was too irksome!

Lin Wenjing was stunned by her outburst as he had never seen her lose her temper over the past two days. As a woman with a very pleasant character, she actually blew up at him, making him feel rather embarrassed.

Meanwhile, Yin Hong quickly realized she had lost her temper. Immediately, guilt replaced her rage and she apologized to him, "Mr. Lin, I'm so sorry that I lost my temper."

"It's fine," Lin Wenjing replied immediately.

Yin Hong continued, "Mr. Lin, I'm serious. Please stay inside the car. I will come and get you after I have settled the issue. Since we are friends, please don't make things harder for me, alright?"

She stared at Lin Wenjing unflinchingly with somberness. Lin Wenjing could tell that she was really serious and if he insisted on going with them, she would really get angry.

With a heavy sigh, he gave in with resignation. "Alright then."

Once again, a smile broke out on Yin Hong's face as she said, "Thanks for being considerate, Mr. Lin. I won't make you wait for too long... I suppose I won't..."

At that, Lin Wenjing could only nod his head in agreement. He then added, "Miss Yin, I respect your decision. But if you are bullied by Lu Fan and find yourself unable to handle him, please do tell me. I can really help you solve your problem."

With a faint grin, Yin Hong replied, "Got it."

With that, she and Zhong Yiran left the garage together.

Lin Wenjing could tell that Yin Hong did not take his words seriously.

Frankly, he was overwhelmed by a sense of resignation right then. Being the president of Purple Jade Studios, a tycoon with a net worth of over 100 billion, a cultivator in the top-tier in the Heavenly Realm and a soon-to-be cultivator in the ultimate-tier, he had been looked down on with such contempt by two women and made to stay inside the car. At that thought, he shook his head helplessly.

If this incident got out, he would surely become a laughing stock.

But since Yin Hong had already said so, he thought that he should not go against her wishes. After all, he understood women with such personality well; if he were to get out of the car,

Yin Hong would be infuriated.

Accepting the situation, he sat cross legged inside the car and started meditating in an attempt to spread his consciousness.

Being a cultivator in the top-tier in the Heavenly Realm, his spiritual strength was unprecedentedly strong. Even though he did not get out of the car, he could still sense everything that was happening within several kilometers of him through his consciousness.

Soon, he sensed that after Yin Hong and Zhong Yiran left the garage, they walked toward a bungalow which he reckoned was Yin Hong's place.

The feeling was fascinating. Although he was physically inside the car, his consciousness could be spread out in order to help him sense everything that was happening in his surroundings.

Meanwhile, when the two of them left the garage, Zhong Yiran blurted, "Hong, I think you're being too soft. Why are you being so pleasant to such a scumbag like Lin Wenjing? What's more, you even brought him home. That's really unacceptable!"

With a sigh, Yin Hong replied, "I think that he's a nice guy. It's just that he has no idea of his own limitations."

With a sneer, Zhong Yiran chimed in, "Exactly. He even claimed he could help us solve our problem



without even knowing what kind of background Lu Fan has.



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The two of them chatted along their way to the house. As soon as they reached the gate, they heard an annoyed voice coming from the inside. "Hey, it's been forty minutes and I have yet to see Yin Hong. I'm warning you, Yin Fengmao. You owe Young Master Lu 8 million! If Yin Hong doesn't appear today, we will sell your two properties and that factory of yours. By then, your entire family will be homeless!"

It was a man's voice and he was cursing very rudely, thereupon Yin Hong spotted a stout and fierce-looking bald man pointing at her father while yelling at him. Inside the house stood several rogue-looking men, and one of them was a young man dressed in branded attire who sat on the sofa in an imposing manner with an evil grin on his face.

He was Lu Fan, the richest young man in Feng City, all because his uncle was the mayor of the city.

Sitting with his legs crossed and a cigar in his mouth, he told Yin Fengmao haughtily, "Mr. Yin, you promised me that Yin Hong will be back within half an hour and appear right in front of me. Now, forty minutes have passed and I have yet to see her. That means she stood me up, hence I, Lu Fan, am very unhappy about that."

He then let out a huge puff of smoke in Yin Fengmao's face and smirked. "I hate being stood up the most. Anyone who does that to me does not end up anywhere good. Mr. Yin, since it's not the first day we've met, I suppose you know me well, right?"

Yin Fengmao was extremely terrified of him, thereupon he nodded his head anxiously before shaking his head again while saying, "Young Master Lu, I didn't intend for this to happen! I did indeed ask Yin Hong to come back. She was at the People's Hospital, so she should be able to make it back in half an hour. I have no idea why she isn't here yet... Young Master Lu, how about I give her another call now?"

Lu Fan's face darkened and he huffed loudly. "That won't be necessary! Yin Fengmao, I suppose you've got quite the guts to not take my words seriously! In that case, say goodbye to your properties as well as your factory and get ready to sleep on the streets!"

Thereafter, he got to his feet and shot Yin Fengmao an icy glance, ready to execute his plan.

The entire Yin Family was panic-stricken, and they started wailing in despair when they heard him. If their properties were sold, they would be homeless and would have to sleep on the streets, something which was unacceptable to them.

Yin Fengmao quickly begged for his mercy, "Young Master Lu, please give us more time! Yin Hong is on her way back and she will be here very soon! Young Master Lu, please don't sell our properties and our factory! Those are all we have!"

As a man over fifty, Yin Fengmao appeared extremely humble before Lu Fan who was younger than him by a generation. Because of that, he felt awful, yet he dared not show any dissatisfaction

as Lu Fan was not someone he, an ordinary citizen, could afford to offend. Right then, he was overwhelmed by guilt; he regretted listening to the voices of deceit which caused him to fall into Lu Fan's trap.

For the sake of the future of the Yin Family, there was nothing else he could do but marry his daughter to Lu Fan. He was practically betraying his daughter for the sake of their family.

With a snort, Lu Fan said, "Yin Fengmao, I've already given you many chances. You have to understand that my time is very precious!"

"I know. I understand..." Yin Fengmao nodded his head anxiously. The abjection and bitterness of the middle-aged man could be seen vividly at that moment.

Meanwhile, Yin Hong saw everything from outside and pursed her lips. At first, she resented her father, Yin Fengmao, as she believed he was forcing her into a trap without any regard for her happiness.

However, from everything that happened just now, she understood the bitterness and helplessness her father felt and she too realized the severity of the incident.

Taking a deep breath, she strode into the house and said, "Lu Fan, don't make things hard for my father. I was stuck in the traffic; that's why I'm late."

At this moment, everyone in the house turned to look at her.

At the sight of her, Lu Fan's eyes brightened up immediately. Both surprise and lust could be seen in his eyes.

Yin Fengmao heaved a sigh of relief at the sight of Yin Hong, yet there was a trace of guilt in his eyes. This time, he really had no other way out other than betraying his own daughter.

"Yin Hong, you're finally back! I've been waiting for you for a long time." With a smile, Lu Fan strolled toward Yin Hong, his extended arm ready to wrap around her waist.

Noticing his behavior, Yin Hong's expression changed slightly. Immediately, she twisted her body to avoid his wandering hand and snapped, "Young Master Lu, please behave yourself! Men and women should not get too intimate with each other!"

However, Lu Fan did not get angry when she dodged him. On the contrary, the grin on his face became even more wicked. He stood where she had stood earlier and drew in a deep breath, looking mesmerized. "You smell so nice, Yin Hong. I cannot wait to have you."

In response to his sleazy attitude, Yin Hong's expression darkened, unable to contain her resentment and repulsion toward him.

Pretending she did not see him, she walked

straight over to her family.

"Dad, Mom, are the two of you alright?"

With her red-rimmed eyes, her mother held her hands and said, "My daughter, I'm sorry you have to suffer because of our incompetence."

Gritting his teeth, Yin Fengmao told Yin Hong with eyes filled with guilt, "Yin Hong, it's all my fault."

Yin Hong took a deep breath before asking Yin Maofeng, "Dad, tell me honestly, how much do you owe Lu Fan? And why did you give him our properties and factory as collateral?"

At that, Yin Fengmao became extremely embarrassed and ashamed. Heaving a long sigh, he answered, "I owe Lu Fan a principal amount of 3.56 million, but after a year of compounding interest, I owe him over 8 million, including the principal and interest."

"What?! 8 million?!" Yin Hong reacted violently to his words, thereupon she widened her eyes in shock. "Dad, why are you so foolish?! Why did you take such a loan? After just a year, the amount of interests has doubled. What kind of usurious loan is this? This is totally illegal and we should report this to the police!"

When Yin Fengmao heard her, he reacted as though he had just heard something terrifying, and he quickly interrupted, "Yin Hong! What nonsense are you talking about? Calling the police? We can't do that! Our family will be destroyed if we call the



police!"

At this moment, Lu Fan scoffed from behind them. "Call the police? Sure! Try it if you dare. Coincidentally, my uncle is the mayor of the city; all of you can have a taste of what would happen if you call the police!"

Seeing that he did not even attempt to conceal the threat in his words, the entire Yin Family became more intimidated and fearful. Immediately, they offered their apologies to Lu Fan in hope of getting his forgiveness.

Yin Hong soon realized that calling the police was not the way to go, considering Lu Fan was both powerful and influential. Biting her lips, she said, "Lu Fan, we are just normal citizens, and we have never offended you before; do you really have to make our lives so hard?!"



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