

Her eyes, wet with tears, met Ye Fan's.

Ye Yu-Yan's petite form shook violently.

She must look so pathetic in Ye Fan's eyes.

Ye Yu-Yan felt a devastating blow to her pride that crushed the final remnants of her dignity.

She didn't say a word. She didn't know what to say. She cast her eyes down and hid her face in her arms instantly without taking a second look at Ye Fan.

She was sure that Ye Fan was here to mock her.

He wanted to take a look at the person who had mocked him brazenly and was now a pathetic prisoner locked up in a small dark cell.

He was here to savor his triumph as a victor who had scaled the heights and now looked down upon the enemies fallen at his feet.

Ye Yu-Yan wasn't going to fault Ye Fan for what he was doing. She didn't intend to plead with him either.



She deserved everything that she had gotten.

She had no one but herself to blame for her current plight.

Ye Fan had nothing to do with this at all.

After all, she was the one who had spurned Ye Fan's goodwill.

As she sat in her cell the past few days, Ye Yu-Yan would sometimes wonder. What would have happened if she had accepted Ye Fan's feelings for her?

She might be the one who was living in the mansion atop Mount Yunding right now. They would be calling her the empress of Jiangdong instead.

Ye Fan wouldn't be speaking to her as if they were complete strangers.

Ye Yu-Yan wasn't Ye Tian's biological daughter. She had become part of the Ye family after Dong Mei had married Ye Tian. That meant that she had stood a chance with Ye Fan.



But missed opportunities didn't come by again.

Ye Yu-Yan's regret wasn't going to change anything.

Besides, it had been a misunderstanding back then.

Shin Yu-Xiang had been the one who had written her the love letter. Ye Fan had simply been a messenger.

Ye Fan had never held any romantic feelings for his cousin.

It had been a misunderstanding on her part all along.

A dead silence descended upon the cell.

Ye Yu-Yan remained huddled in her corner as she wept silently.

After a long moment, the gates to the cell slid open.

Ye Fan stood at the entrance and stretched his hand out towards her.





"Come on, let's go. From today onwards, you're the fifth member of the Green Dragon Force," Ye Fan's voice rang clearly within the confines of the small cell.

Ye Yu-Yan froze in stupor.

Her head whipped up in shock, revealing the bright tears in her eyes.

Her wide, glimmering eyes stared at Ye Fan.

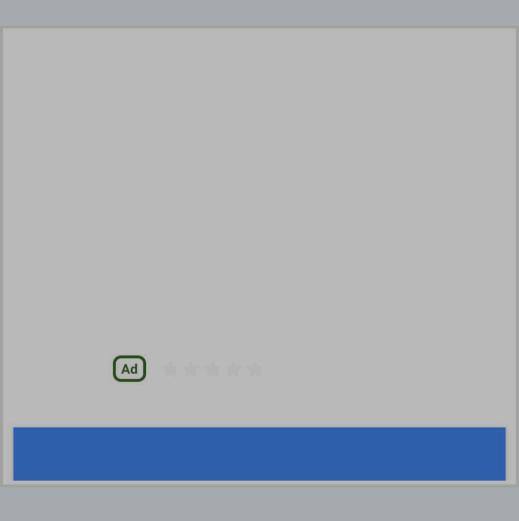
No one would understand the emotions that she was feeling right now. She had been convinced that Ye Fan had been here to mock her.

Never in her wildest dreams could she have imagined that Ye Fan had come to recruit her for the Green Dragon Force.

"What's the matter? Are you not interested? Well, we'll pretend that this conversation never happened then," said Ye Fan coolly before he turned away and prepared to leave.

"I am! I'm interested in the offer! Fan...I mean, Instructor Chu, I want to join the Green Dragon Force!" blurted out Ye Yu-Yan.









She could hardly hide the joy she was feeling.

Ye Yu-Yan had lost all hope.

Who could have expected Ye Fan to be the one to bring her hope?

Ye Yu-Yan was like a person lost at sea who had just spotted land.

Her tear-stained face was colored with wild joy.

"Well, follow me then," said Ye Fan mildly without turning towards her. He started walking.

Ye Yu-Yan hurried after him.

"Instructor Chu, we can't let her leave with you. Commander Lin has given the orders to keep her here until her outcome of the trial is released."

The guards stationed outside stopped them when they reached the door.

Ye Fan simply looked them coolly in the eye.



"Let us pass. If I want to take someone with me, I will. I won't let anyone stand in my way." His voice was as cold as a glacier. A sudden overpowering aura erupted from his person.

Ye Fan's intimidating aura paralyzed the guards. They stood frozen to the spot, as if they were standing on thin ice. No one dared to move as Ye Fan led Ye Yu-Yan out.

He had finally assembled all five members of the Green Dragon Force.

"My name is Ye Yu-Yan."

"My name is Li Zi-Yang."

"My name is Ma Ming-Bo."

"My name is Qin Shan."

"My name is Gao Da-Zhuang."

"We have joined the Green Dragon Force of our own accord. From this day, we are a member of the Green Dragon Force. We will live and die, share both triumphs and defeats as a unit. We will carry out the orders of Instructor Chu diligently, treat his



word like the word of god and Instructor Chu like god himself."

Ye Yu-Yan and her fellow recruits declared their oaths loudly in the training field. The heavens were their witness.

Ye Fan had his hands folded behind his back as he stood proudly before them.

"Good. Ye Yu-Yan will be the leader of the Green Dragon Force and will supervise and lead your training. You have only one mission now, and that is to become stronger. Leave everything else to me."

Ye Fan had promoted Ye Yu-Yan immediately to the position of unit leader as soon as she had joined the team.

She had been a member of the special troops and had led a team in the past. She was also General Lu Tian-He's principal disciple. She was the perfect fit for the job.

The other members dared not voice any objections to Ye Fan's decision.

Ye Yu-Yan, on the other hand, was moved by what Ye Fan had done. She paid a personal



visit to Ye Fan that night to thank him.

"You don't have to thank me for saving you. I was doing Grandpa a favor, not you."

His attitude towards Ye Yu-Yan remained cold and unchanged even though he had just saved her life.

Despite what Ye Fan had said, he had another reason for saving Ye Yu-Yan. She had a rare and incredible gift for martial arts.

Lu Tian-He wouldn't have taken her in as his principal disciple and treated her like his own daughter otherwise.

Ye Yu-Yan had gotten a place in the Green Dragon Force based on her own merit and abilities.

Ye Fan's unilateral decision to release Ye Yu-Yan from prison was definitely going to incur Lin Qing-He's displeasure.

But he didn't care at all.

Lin Qing-He was a nobody to Ye Fan. He was just someone who was beneath Ye Fan's notice.



Lin Qing-He's approval or disapproval was not of Ye Fan's concern.

The Green Dragon Force began their training.

Its five members began their terrifyingly rapid journey towards greater strength and power.



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All they lacked now was Old Madam Chu's prescription.

Ye Fan returned to the old Chu family home two days later. Besides practicing Dragon God Body with Yu Yun, he had another reason for returning to the place. He wanted to ask Old Madam Chu about her progress with the prescription.

"Hm? No one seems to be around..." Slight confusion arose inside Ye Fan after he yelled repeatedly for someone and received no reply.

# Were they out?

As suspicion and doubt gradually unfurled inside Ye Fan, he heard a series of hacking coughs erupting from a distant corner of the house.

"That sounds like Yu Yun." Ye Fan stared in the direction where the coughs had come. Thick billows of smoke were coming out from the kitchen.

"What has that young lady gotten herself into?" Ye Fan's face darkened instantly. He covered his nose and mouth and charged

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into kitchen, only to have Yu Yun rush headfirst into his arms as she dashed out of the kitchen.

"What the hell were you up to inside? Why is there so much smoke?"

Any ordinary man would have been visibly affected if he had a beautiful woman fall into his arms.

But Ye Fan wasn't. He shoved Yu Yun aside instantly and yelled at her instead.

This wasn't the first time they had had bodily contact. They had to keep their backs against the other when they practiced Dragon God Body.

Ye Fan had grown used to the touch of Yu Yun's skin.

At present, he was more concerned about the smoke billowing from the kitchen.

"Granny's not around. I thought I could cook something for her. I can't seem to get a fire started though. All I get is smoke." Yu Yun seemed to realize that she had made a mess of things. She sounded a lot more

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subdued than her usual self.

Ashes had blackened her fair cheeks.

She looked ridiculous.

Ye Fan couldn't help himself and burst out laughing.

"Why are you laughing? This isn't the time for that. Hurry up and take a look inside. Granny's going to yell at me if she sees the mess in the kitchen." Ye Fan's brazen laughter at her misfortune had Yu Yun fuming.

Yu Yun's anxious urging left Ye Fan with no choice but to charge into the smoky kitchen. It didn't take him long to fix her problem.

The thick smoke that had been billowing out from underneath the stove had vanished. In its place was a fire.

"How did you get the fire going? I couldn't get one started no matter what I tried," asked Yu Yun with a mix of surprise and confusion as she stared at Ye Fan with a face stained with ash and dust.

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Ye Fan smirked. "Starting a fire is a difficult and precise art. You're not smart enough. Don't bother trying."

"What did you just say?" Yu Yun flushed with anger.

The scoundrel had just called her an idiot again.

He had called her an idiot when she had first begun learning swordplay and he had just done it again.

She was a well-respected figure with great influence. No one had spoken to her in such a disrespectful manner before.

Yet here was Ye Fan, mocking her and embarrassing her repeatedly, as if she had no dignity or pride to uphold.

Yu Yun wished so badly to cut him down with her sword.

But they had spent sufficient time together for Ye Fan to know that Yu Yun would never do that. Her raising her sword angrily at him was simply for show. She was just trying to preserve a veneer of her pride. She wouldn't

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hurt him.

"I think you should get your face cleaned before you try to hack me to pieces. Your face is the color of burnt charcoal. You can help serve the dishes once you're done cleaning yourself," said Ye Fan with a warm smile.

Yu Yun yelled angrily at him. "You asshole, why didn't you tell me sooner?"

She charged out of the kitchen in a fit of anger and embarrassment.

Ye Fan laughed and shook his head as he watched Yu Yun make a frantic escape. She seemed so silly and endearing.

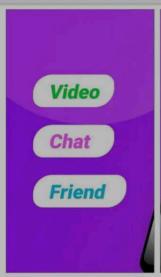
But he knew that Yu Yun wasn't going to remain this way for long.

He could sense very clearly that Yu Yun's power had been increasing rapidly during the course of their training.

She was different. The Yin Dragon Body inside her gave her healing abilities that far surpassed Ye Fan's.

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Her injuries would recover a lot sooner than Ye Fan's too.

The moment when Yu Yun resumed her full strength would be the moment when her former cold and formidable self reappeared. Ye Fan did not doubt that at all.

She would become a fearsome creature who inspired awe and terror.

She would no longer be the silly and endearing young woman she was now.

As Ye Fan sighed exasperatedly about what was to come, Yu Yun had changed into a fresh set of clothes and appeared before him again.

He had whipped up a few dishes by then and told Yu Yun to serve the dishes.

"I tried them. They might not be as salty as you prefer your food to be. You can add a little salt to the dishes if you want. It's in the medicinal cabinet by the door. Look for the white bottle in the drawer on the left. Remember, it's the white bottle, not the red one. Don't get them mixed up. Not the red one, remember!" Ye Fan said repeatedly.

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They had used up the salt that had been kept in the kitchen. But there was more in the medicinal cabinet. That was why Ye Fan had told Yu Yun to look for more salt there.

The cabinet was filled to the brim. Many of the items inside were medicines and potions that the old lady had brewed.

She kept everything well organized and even went to the extent of using differently colored bottles for different types of medicines and potions.

It was almost impossible to mistake one thing for something else.

"Alright! I heard you just fine the first time!" yelled Yu Yun angrily.

It was just salt. Ye Fan didn't have to keep reminding her what it looked like.

She wasn't a complete idiot.

"That asshole. He thinks I can't do anything right," muttered Yu Yun angrily to herself.

She placed the dishes on the table and couldn't resist the temptation to try a few

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bites.

The food was delicious, but it did lack some flavor.

Yu Yun went into search for some salt.

"The cabinet next to the door...the drawer on the left...a bottle that's white...or red? Red or white? Which one is it?"

She had been busy fuming at Ye Fan and had forgotten the color of the bottle that she was meant to get.

She knew how to solve her problem though.

She simply needed to have a little taste.

Yu Yun reached out for the bottle that was nearer her and snapped the lid open. Then, she poured its contents onto her palm and licked it.

"Salty. This must be the one."

Yu Yun was certain that she was right. She sprinkled the crystalline grains onto the dishes and mixed them with the food.

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It didn't take long before Ye Fan was done cooking the rice.

Everything was ready, but Old Madam Chuwas nowhere to be found.

Yu Yun couldn't wait any longer but Ye Fan insisted on waiting for the old lady's return.

After a few minutes, they spotted Old Madam Chu with a basket of herbs on her back. She seemed to have rushed home in a hurry.

"You're back, Fan. Go ahead and eat without me. I just got an idea for the prescription and I need to work on it now," said the old lady before she rushed off into her room to start work on her prescription.

"Alright." Ye Fan nodded. He was about to start eating when he realized that Yu Yun was already gobbling everything up hungrily.

"Hey, have a heart and leave me something to eat too, won't you? You're eating all the meat!" Ye Fan's face darkened instantly. He picked up his chopsticks hurriedly and began fighting Yu Yun for the rest of the food.

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He wasn't sure why everything seemed to taste so much better tonight.

"Have my culinary skills improved?" Ye Fan wondered secretly.

After the meal, Ye Fan was suddenly struck by how warm the weather was. He took a shower and changed into a fresh set of clothes. Then, he headed to Yu Yun's room like he usually did to continue their Dragon God Body training.

"This is strange. The weather's awfully warm today. Yu Yun, could you open the windows?"

Ye Fan had taken his shirt off. Beads of sweat rolled down the sides of his forehead as he sat bare-chested and blindfolded on the bed.

Yu Yun had not climbed onto the bed. She had just removed her dress.

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