

"I'm fine. I'm just a little tired. I just need some rest," whispered Tang Yun after wiping her lips with a piece of tissue paper.

Tang Yun appeared nonchalant. But Meng Wan-Yu had been serving Tang Yun for a long time. She was Tang Yun's disciple. Even though Tang Yun did not say a word, she could sense that something was amiss.

Concerned about her master's health, she tried asking again. "If you're not injured, could it be an illness? I'd feel tired and lose my appetite when I was sick as a child. Should we go to the hospital for a checkup?"

Tang Yun froze momentarily.

"An illness?"

It had been a long time since Tang Yun had heard that word. It had grown strange to her ears.

Since she had begun practicing martial arts, the notion of illness had been erased from her mind.

The martial artist had a strong constitution and typically did not fall ill.



Even when injured during battle, a martial artist would simply fall into a healing trance and allow their body to recover from their injuries naturally. Sometimes, they might seek the aid of a heal who was versed in treating martial artists.

The typical hospital and their ordinary doctors were of little help to a martial artist.

That explained why Tang Yun had found the idea of visiting a hospital foreign when Meng Wan-Yu had suggested it.

"I'm fine. I just need to rest. You may leave now. No one is to disturb me without my orders." With a wave of her hand, Tang Yun sent Meng Wan-Yu away.

She didn't think that a supreme grandmaster like her would fall sick.

That was why she had turned down Meng Wan-Yu's suggestion to seek treatment from a doctor.

She could not have foreseen that she would have to secretly sneak into a hospital sometime in the future.



But that's another story for another time.

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Time continued to pass steadily.

The martial arts circle seemed to be enjoying a relative peace since the fight for spirit energy fruits had passed.

The investigation into the massacre at the rainforest had continued but little progress had been made.

Besides Brahma, the investigation team had not identified any other suspects.

Yet, the evidence that they had gathered weren't conclusive either. They couldn't be certain that Brahma had been the one behind the massacre.

As a result, the investigation dragged on without any resolution in sight.

Chu Sect had kept the sect's storming a few days ago under wraps through various forceful means.

They hadn't been interested in allowing such



embarrassing news to spread throughout the martial arts circle.

Six months went by.

Everyone had nearly forgotten about the young man named Ye Fan.

Somewhere in the remote region of Xijiang lay a vast and uninhabited desert.

One could hear the cries of eagles. Beneath the wide expanse of the heavens stretched the vast desert and its infinite and identical grains of sand.

In the middle of the barren desert was an oasis, sparkling like an emerald.

In the middle of the oasis was a spot of stillness that had remained silent for more six months. Today, it finally began to stir. Something flared.

Cold winds began to howl, shattering the silence, yellowing the skies and rousing the grass.

The energies of the heaven and earth spanning a thousand miles came flooding in







and they gathered in the oasis.

A beautiful young woman in white sat by the lake, plucking on the strings of her instrument. Upon sensing the disturbance in the air, she turned around and stared at the hut in the distance.

A breathtakingly beautiful smile slowly unfurled on her lovely face.

"He's finally going to wake up."

Her soft laughter, tinted with happiness, was carried away by the wind.

# BOOM!

A fierce wind began to rise and alongside it came the deafening thunders of numerous explosions.

The commotion stirred an old man from his slumber.

"What's going on? Is it an earthquake?"

Gaia leaped off a huge boulder frantically, like a dog whose tail had just been trampled on.



He stared at the strange storm gathering in the skies with a dark look on his face. He appeared puzzled and alarmed.

"Hold on a minute. Is that a sandstorm? Heavens! What caused that? We should get to safety. Chandra? Why are you still sitting there, playing with your instrument? We should find somewhere to hide. A sandstorm is coming," said Gaia frantically as he urged Chandra to find a cave where they could shelter themselves from the sandstorm.

Chandra seemed extraordinarily calm. There was a faint smile on her lovely face.

"It's not a sandstorm. It's a powerful beast and it's waking up."

"A beast?" Gaia froze momentarily. Chandra's words had confused him.

But he soon realized what she was talking about. His eyes widened.

"Are you saying that the Dragon Master is waking up?" Gaia yelled loudly as he turned around and stared at the hut where Ye Fan was in.



He was right. The hut had become the eye of the storm.

Endless streams of energies were being pulled from both the heavens and the earth. As if summoned, they flowed unceasingly towards the hut.

It was like staring at a huge tornado.

The intense and overwhelming power in the air terrified Gaia.

"Heavens! It's really the Dragon Master. He's finally waking up. It's been more than six months! What a terrible long wait it's been! I was ready to pronounce him dead!" laughed Gaia.

He seemed really excited. He was like the father awaiting the return of a son who had been away from home for years.

But to be honest, Gaia was excited because he had waited so very long for this moment. In fact, he had begun to grow frustrated from all that waiting.

But the wait was finally over. He was naturally overjoyed.



As increasingly more energies flooded the area, the sky and the land began to tremble violently.

The huge tornado that had formed appeared to have sucked the very world of all its energies.

Everything within a radius of a thousand meters seemed to have been drained completely.

One could discern a few flares of green light flashing in the tornado.

Then, a sharp sound rang out. It was as if something had just been ripped apart.

A wave of incredible power erupted like a sudden bomb, blowing up the hut and turning it into dust.

Amidst the shattered pieces of wood and dust, a slim figure emerged. Like a burst of green light, like a dragon with lightning coursing through its veins, he shot into the skies.

"What the ... "



Gaia and Chandra were frozen to their spots.

They looked up and stared dumbly ahead.

Before them in the sky was a young man standing proud in the air.

His long black hair cascaded down his back while his eyes shone fiercely. He looked heavenward and let loose a loud roar.

A huge tornado appeared suddenly, as if summoned by his call, and rushed into the young man's body.

It was as if the oceans had risen into the heavens and the stars had fallen into the seas. The world had turned topsy turvy and in the eye of this tremendous storm stood that young man!



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The sheer power that surrounded the young man threatened to envelop the heavens itself.

Finally, after a very long time, the chaos churning the heavens finally dissipated.

The young man hovering in midair finally opened his eyes after what had been a long slumber.

His dark eyes looked distant, as if they were gazing past the starlit heavens, past time itself and into infinity.

"Ten years of gathering my strength and a thousand days of laying in dormancy. Finally, I've transformed myself anew and reached the next height in my powers. The past is now buried in the ground. The future lies ahead of me, a future in which few would be able to rival me in strength and power."

The young man's eyes shone fiercely as he relished the immense power coursing through his veins.

Thunder rumbled in the horizon.

The winds sent the sand into a flurry.



The clouds appeared to recede into the distance, as if cowered by the power that Ye Fan was exuding.

Gaia and Chandra had fallen into a stupor as they stared at the young man's blinding presence in the sky.

They could sense the overwhelming power emanating from Ye Fan. Overwhelmed with emotion, Gaia fell to his knees and cheered loudly.

"Dragon Master, congratulations on achieving a breakthrough in your powers! Congratulations on your metamorphosis!"

His voice reverberated through the heavens.

His eyes were filled with shock and awe.

The level-headed and calm Chandra seemed startled by the terrifying power that Ye Fan was exuding too. Surprise colored her lovely face.

"He's surpassed my master. I can't believe it. The young man who was as inexperienced and innocent as I was has come so far," whispered Chandra. Her voice revealed a



mixture of emotions: joy, consolation, surprise, admiration and awe.

She remembered the first time that she had met the young man. He hadn't even been a grandmaster then.

He hadn't been her match at all then.

She had been escaping from the murderous pursuit of her fellow disciple of her sect and had traveled thousands of miles westward before entering the Gobi Desert and crossing paths with Ye Fan, who was being hunted down by his enemies as well.

Through the hands of fate, two people who had had nothing to do with each other had somehow met serendipitously.

They had bonded over their similar predicaments and became fast friends.

Then, they had teamed up and gotten rid of the enemies who had been hot on their trails.

The oasis that they were in right now was the same oasis that they had stumbled upon then.



Many years had passed since their first encounter.

The young eagle of the yesteryears had left the nest and taken flight.

Ye Fan had become a powerful man now.

"Congratulations, Ye Fan," Chandra said softly. Her voice was like a song from the heavens.

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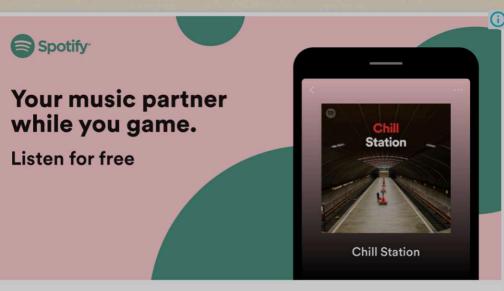
It was a long while before the sandstorm finally died down and peace and quiet returned to the desert.

The recently awakened Ye Fan allowed his power to dissipate and fade away, hiding his power like how one sheathed a treasured and well-crafted blade.

Compared to the Ye Fan of the past, Ye Fan appeared more reserved and unfathomable.

"Dragon Master, you're finally awake. I was wondering if you were going to stay asleep forever," rambled Gaia as he laughed and approached Ye Fan.







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Ye Fan simply nodded and paid little attention to what he was saying.

Instead, he looked up and stared ahead.

By the lake was a beautiful woman standing in the shade.

Her lips were curled into a smile and her eyes shining brightly.

Her hair stirred gently in the breeze.

She was the most beautiful creature in this vast desert.

Ye Fan smiled at her. "Chandra, thanks for your help. I owe you another favor."

Ye Fan had had many men who had served him over the years.

Many had been like Gaia, who had offered their services to repay Ye Fan for what he had done for them.

But Chandra was different.

Ye Fan hadn't done anything for Chandra.



Instead, she was the one who had saved Ye Fan numerous times with her gifts as a healer.

Ye Fan was eternally grateful to Chandra for her aid.

"I'm glad you still remember the debts you owe me. I've not seen you for years. I thought you'd decided not to repay your debts," Chandra snorted softly.

There was a hint of disapproval in her voice.

Ye Fan grimaced then smiled cheekily at Chandra.

"I can forget the debts that I owe other people but not the ones owed to the Great Healer Chandra. After all, I'm counting on you to save me when someone beats me up."

Chandra couldn't help but find Ye Fan's utterly shameless smile endearing.

This was the Ye Fan that she had known all along.

Determined, but also a little shameless.



Ye Fan had exploited his utter lack of shame and successfully persuaded her to join the Dragon God Hall and become one of his Dragons.

While she was technically his subordinate, they treated each other like friends and equals.

Of everyone in the Dragon God Hall, excluding Han, Chandra was the person who was the closest to Ye Fan.

They were of a similar age and both sought vengeance.

They had lived similar lives and had forged a stronger bond over their shared experiences.

Ye Fan knew everything that Chandra had suffered like how Chandra knew everything that Ye Fan had had to go through.

She knew that he had been cast out by the Chu family and that his real name was Chu Tian-Fan.

But she didn't like to call him by his real name. She liked to call him Ye Fan.



That was because Ye Fan sounded simple and pure. Unlike the name Chu Tian-Fan, it wasn't burdened with history and hate.

"Dragon Master, you're mistaken! Chandra isn't worried that you've forgotten the debt you owe her. She's worried that you've forgotten her! After all, it must feel quite lonely guarding an empty house, waiting for her true love to return to her."

Before Chandra could say a single word, Gaia had cut in and spoken shamelessly and on her behalf.

Chandra blushed and glared at Gaia angrily. "Damn you, Gaia! You're asking for a good thrashing!"

Ye Fan glared at the old man as well.

"That old geezer, he does deserve a good thrashing! I don't care if he teases me, but how could he tease the Great Healer Chandra? Chandra, hold on while I teach him a lesson!"