

## Chapter 1717

The one-month deadline was closing in.

Every person in the martial arts world had their eyes on Jiangdong.

It wasn't hard to see that they were waiting for the Chu family's decision on whether they would come to Jiangdong and apologize.

China's defense ministry had, too, upped its game around this period.

Large-scale military exercises were executed expansively and simultaneously in the country, including places like Nanhai, Donghai, and Xijiang, just to name a few.

On top of that, China's War God Castle had started recruiting fighters, especially those of Grandmaster ranks. They were all summoned to return to China to prepare for the possible danger that was about to hit them.

It had to be done because the world's most powerful family might decide to enter China in the next few days.

Sword Saint and his men might not be able to stop their advancements, but they had to be wholly ready with their defensive duties.

Troops were sent to provinces around Jiangdong en masse.

Sword Saint had qualms about the Chu family's

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apology. What they were really after might be China's martial art world.

That was why Sword Saint and his men had to imagine the worst-case scenario before anything could happen.

Anyway, those who were the most anxious about the Chu family coming to apologize in Jiangdong weren't the Ye family. Instead, it was those running War God Castle.

Ye Fan, on the other hand, was lazing his days away. Mucheng had been talking to Ye Fan about their plans for their honeymoon trip almost every day. They never stopped chatting about what they were going to eat and what they were going to do.

There were even days when Mucheng lugged him to go shopping for clothes for that trip.

This young lady had been looking forward to the warm and fuzzy vacation around the corner.

On the other side of the globe was Angie.

She had been monitored strictly by her father and brother after the war of the Chu Sect had ended.

They would insist on at least two Grandmaster fighters to be her chaperone, in any case, she was heading out.

These arrangements weren't born out of the fear that Angie might be a runaway bride but the fear

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of her looking for Ye Fan.

Bill had given her numerous thoughtful advice on this matter, but Angie was as stubborn as a mule. She didn't care even if Ye Fan had already told her personally that he won't be seeing her in the future. All she wanted was to meet him one last time.

After all, Angie knew that Ye Fan's words that day weren't a sign of aversion. He said it to protect her.

The more she thought about it, the harder it became to put the man out of her mind.

She longed to see him and tell him that she wasn't scared about the Chu family's revenge. She wanted him to know that she would become as strong as he was, do things she had set her heart on, and go after the man she loved despite all odds.

The Jones were perturbed by Angie's aspirations.

"Angie, can you think about your family? Think about your brother and me!

"You do know that the way the Chu family treated us has changed significantly because of your relationship with that guy from China, right? If you don't come to your senses anytime soon, you'll be dragging the whole family into this muddy affair. Angie, Please! I'm begging you."

That night, Bill and Michael pleaded so hard that

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tears brimmed their eyes.

Angie finally said yes to their requests.

She vowed not to look for Ye Fan and to cut ties with him.

She had one condition, though. She wanted to see him one last time before honoring her promise.

She wanted to tell him everything that was pent up in her heart.

"Can I, Father? Ye Fan is a very important person to me, and I do know that he and I will never be together. But even so, even if we never crossed paths again in the future, I still want to say a proper goodbye and end this thing on good terms. You know, a proper closure.

"

"Can I, Father? Michael? I swear this will be the last time. I'll come back straight after meeting him and perform my duties as the heiress to the Jones family. I'll be an obedient daughter and a good sister. I'll give my all to bring honor to our family." She begged for their approval in tears.

Bill and Michael eventually softened their stances. They were moved by Angie's sincerity and tears.

Angie then turned toward Bill. "Father, please. Let me see Ye Fan one last time."



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"You're right, Angie. It's only fair to have closure," Michael commented.

Seeing his daughter beseechingly asking for his permission, Bill wavered. Finally, he dropped his shoulders and let out a deep sigh. "Do whatever you want. However—" Bill paused and then stressed Angie's pledge. "—you have to return as soon as possible after you've met him. Also, make sure you keep every promise you've made to me and never see Ye Fan or have anything to do with him."

"Yes, Father." Angie nodded. A tinge of sadness and gloom clouded the sparkle in her eyes.

Perhaps to Angie, losing Ye Fan was equivalent to losing someone very dear in her life.

No matter how much she had mentally and psychologically prepared herself for this, the thought of not seeing him again in the future sent stinging pains into her heart.

However, Angie wasn't the same naive girl she used to be after the Chu Sect War.

She grew to be considerate to Bill and Michael and didn't blame them for their actions.

She only had her incapability to blame.

She was too weak to protect her loved ones, and she didn't have the power like Ye Fan to go against the Chu family.

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"If you insist to go, do it tonight. However, Angie, I'm afraid I can't have Grandmaster warriors escorting you to China. The most I can do is to find you some guards discreetly to assure your safety." Still, Bill was worried.

He was afraid that mobilizing the Grandmaster warriors in the family would arouse suspicion.

There will be ramifications if Angie's undertaking of traveling to China to see Ye Fan was made aware.

Hence, the only safe way to keep Angie safe was to hire Grandmasters from other establishments.

"It won't be necessary, Father. I'm capable of protecting myself now. Plus, Ms. Tang had also announced that she had already taken me under her wing. No one would dare mess with me since I'm officially her disciple." Angie expressed her will to be independent.

"I'll do just fine on my own on this journey to look for Ye Fan. It's easier for me to stay undetected on my own, anyway." Angie proposed to go solo as she could sense that Bill was having a hard time finding the best way for her to travel to China undetected.

Bill pondered on her suggestion for some time and thought that it did make sense.

"Alright. Be alert and stay safe. Remember to come back as soon as possible!" Bill couldn't stop

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worrying about his daughter.

"Yes, Father." Angie gestured assent, went to her room, and started packing for the journey.

Bill was all emotional when he saw Angie leaving in haste.

Michael, who was standing next to him, was entangled by contradicting sentiments.

"Father, this should be Angie's first solo trip to somewhere so far."

"It is," Bill sighed.

It was hard for him to imagine a young girl in her teens, someone who had never traveled alone, going overseas all by herself. How much courage had this young lady mustered to wend her way across mountains and seas just to see a person one last time?

"Let's hope that your sister will truly let it go after seeing him." Bill was still struggling with his decision, though.

He knew that to make Angie forget Ye Fan was the cruelest thing to do.

However, such is life.

In life, the lack of autonomy in one's fate was the reason for our too many regrets.

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Bill said yes to Angie's request of seeing Ye Fan one last time because he wanted to lessen the regrets she might have, even by only a pinch.

"Chu Tianfan, what did you do to make Angie go all out for you?" Michael sighed. He felt sorry for his sister, and to see her going through this broke his heart.

*Was she tired of waiting? Was she that eager to see Ye Fan?*

On the very same night, that young lady, barely hitting the legal age, grabbed her bag and headed to the airport.

She was going to embark on a journey that would take her overseas to meet Ye Fan all alone!

Angie herself was aware that her actions were a little too impulsive, or some would say, ludicrous.

Yet, one should hop on some nonsensical adventures during their youth, shouldn't they?

Carpe diem! Our lives would be bare if we didn't go unhinged in our salad days!



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Angie was young and was as pretty as a picture when she embarked on her first overseas voyage.

Through the plane's window, she saw the wide blue yonder, the gentle waters, and stars dotting the entire sky.

The sounds of the rumbling engine were like a gentle ballad to Angie.

This unanticipated departure launched her into an ecstasy of hope and bliss.

She kept imagining how Ye Fan would react when he saw her. Would he be surprised? Would he be too stunned to speak?

"He's definitely going to be stupefied. Haha..." This young lady giggled uncontrollably at her thoughts.

The passenger seated next to her was absolutely enthralled by her dainty smile and laughter.

What a loveable and sweet little thing! He couldn't move his eyes away from her. Everything about Angie—her beauty, gentility, and cutesy gestures—was a pure allurements to him.

That reminded this man in the forties of his youth. He jogged down the memory lane and thought of another young girl that lay in his embrace when he was younger.

Of course, Angie was oblivious to the reactions around her.



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Her mind was solely focused on the meeting with Ye Fan. Something that was going to happen very soon.

The more she thought about it, the more she looked forward to it.

She then hummed along to the music that was playing in her headphones.

"And I don't know how it gets better than this.

"You take my hand and drag me head first, fearless.

"And I don't know why,

"But with you I'd dance in a storm

"In my best dress, fearless.

"Oh..."

Her clear sweet voice harmonized immaculately with the melodic tune.

Angie's innocence and chirpiness added some merriment to everyone's otherwise dull flight.

Her carefree behavior had some effect on the man next to her—he started singing too!

"So baby drive slow, til' we run out of road in this one-horse town.



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"I wanna stay right here in this passenger seat.  
You put your eyes on me.

"In this moment now capture it, remember it..."

The same song sparked two vastly different feelings in Angie and the man. To her, it was a song filled with hope, and to him, it was pieces of memories that came flowing back to him.

In short, every soul had their unique story to tell.

She had a man whom she missed, and he had a girl who got away.

While Angie traversed through the night sky, Ye Fan enjoyed the caress of the sun.

Mucheng was still planning what to wear for her honeymoon. Her clothes had occupied every inch of space on the bed.

Women are sometimes mind-boggling to watch. Take Mucheng as an example. She only wanted to buy a dress initially, but it would need a matching pair of shoes. That wasn't the only concern. She would also need a suitable bra to be worn under the dress.

Of course, a sunhat and a pair of sunglasses were necessary for a honeymoon. After getting the full gear, she thought the dress didn't look right with the whole ensemble and had to buy another one.

That process kept repeating, resulting in a



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garment-flooded bed.

As for Ximei, she was busy planning the baby shower for the young boy she took in. She was going to invite friends and families for a photo session with the baby.

It was apparent that she treated this kiddo like her biological grandchild from the way she went out of her way to organize the celebration.

In addition to that, she started calling the baby Fan Junior. Perhaps that was her way of hastening the newlyweds to make babies?

Ye Fan was peeved that Ximei gave the child a nickname so similar to his name.

"I'm Ye Fan, and you call him Fan Junior? How would people think of us? They are going to assume that this child is mine, aren't they?"

"I don't care. You and Mucheng were taking your own sweet time. If you had a child, I wouldn't have given this baby that name. Hmph!" Ximei huffed.

Ye Fan didn't know what to say to that. Mucheng, who was standing next to him, blushed from their conversation. She started pinching Ye Fan discreetly as if she, too, was blaming him.

*It's all your fault. We should've had a baby sooner. See what'd happened? Your mom just gave that nickname of supposedly our boy to another baby!*





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Ye Fan could read what was going on in Mucheng's head. He was speechless. Basically, everything was his fault.

Although Ye Fan was spending a good deal of time with his family, he still paid heed to the ongoing at Dragon God Hall.

The Dragon Slayers, who were under the command of Ye Fan, were still encamped in Jiangdong because the issue with the Chu family had yet to come to an end.

Ye Fan would quite often meet up with them for a drink or two and would sometimes advise them on their martial skills.

What was bugging him the most, though, was the roguish Gaius.

It had only been a few days since his arrival in Jiangdong, and he had already slept with the wife of a local tycoon.

Raving mad, that tycoon encircled the Ye's residence and wanted them to surrender Gaius.

Gaius, the root cause of the hurly-burly, was completely unruffled. Lei San, on the other hand, was scared out of his wits.

The latter was under the hands of a pretty masseuse at a spa when he got the news. He literally jumped off the massage bed and rushed to the Ye's residence in only a pair of boxers. He



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didn't even have his shoes on!

The tycoon eventually let Gaius off the hook after an apology and some monetary compensation from Ye Fan.

Ye Fan thought Gaius would behave, at least slightly, after the episode.

He thought wrong. Gaius was incorrigible and knew no shame. Last night, a man came to the Ye residence and complained about Gaius wooing his daughter, who had just started attending university.

"Gaius, you filthy old man! She's so young that you are old enough to be her father! What gives you the audacity to seek romance with a university student? You hooked up with a middle-aged lady, fine, I get it. Laying your hands on a young girl? Really? You'd better keep your hands off the cookie jar, or you would one day die because of that!" Ye Fan didn't hold back his words of fury.

He lambasted Gaius while the other Dragon Slayers were enjoying some good food in his courtyard.

"Talk about the pot calling the kettle black, Master," Gaius sulked.

"I wonder how old the little princess from the Jones family is. She's younger than a university student, isn't she?"



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"Oh, and the head of the Chu Sect! She's not that old but senior enough to be your mother, right?"

*F\*ck you!* Ye Fan was ticked off.

"I dare you to repeat yourself!" And he kicked Gaius onto the floor.

"Master, this is called tyranny! You get to do whatever you want, but I'm not allowed to do the same stuff!

"Kill me, if that's what you want. I'll stand against you till the day I die!" Gaius shouted.

The rest of the Dragon Slayers burst into laughter. "Hahaha! Neither anyone of you is an honorable gentleman. The only thing that sets you two apart is your age!"

Owen nodded in agreement.

After laughing their heads off, they went back to talking about serious matters.

"Master, are you really planning to retire after the Chu family's issue is settled?"

"You aren't going to f\*cking rule?"

"You will be the boss once you win the Chu Sect!"

"We are going to kill every b\*stard of the Chu family."





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The Dragon Slayers had plenty of things to say about Ye Fan's decision to retire.

"Not Ms. Tang, though. We need her to be the second lady of Dragon God Hall. Hahaha!" That was Gaius.

Ye Fan was so fed up with Gaius and his dirty thoughts that he didn't bother to respond to the latter.

He gave him another kick before speaking again. "You all have been following me since the dawn of time, and you should know that I'm not after fame, fortune, status, nor am I after power. I am what I am today because of persistence and grit.

"But since I don't have any more goals to strive for now, there's no need for me to work hard anymore. It's not too bad to just chill and be a lazy bum and a live-in son-in-law, isn't it? Hahaha!"

The joke that Ye Fan was trying to crack was actually his wishes.

Ye Fan was, in reality, an indolent person. He never had any grandiose ambitions until that obsession hit him. All he wanted to be was an average joe, like what his mom hoped for—him to live simply and peacefully.

"Oh my! Hahaha! Master, great minds think alike! I've always wanted to get to Spaunia after finishing my quest. You know, find a rich lady to marry and be a live-in son-in-law like you, Master.



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"I'll be making love to her at night and spending my pocket money on sweet young babes in the day. That's the life I wanna live! I'm so done with working hard." That shameless Gaius had already planned his retirement in detail.



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"Haha!

"You mean you?

"You already have one foot in the grave, yet you're still thinking about marrying into her family and living with her?

"Which girl is that blind to set her eyes upon an old man like you?"

Owen and the rest mocked Gaius for his shameless remark.

Gaius glared back at them and refuted, "You're looking down on me?

"Let me tell you guys something. I haven't lost my touch. Some girls like older men. Besides, I'm not that old. I'm just fifty-six years old. As a supreme grandmaster, it's common for us to live up to a century or two. If the same conversion applies to a commoner, I'm merely thirty years old, still in my prime," Gaius answered confidently.

His comment triggered another round of laughter among the group.

And so, chatter, laughter, and toasts continued to be exchanged. The atmosphere was cozy and warm.

Meanwhile, numerous bright shining stars dotted the sky thousands of miles away.



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Every passenger on the plane had already fallen asleep.

Only Angie couldn't sleep at the thought of getting closer to Ye Fan by the minute. She could feel her cheeks burning.

"I wonder what Ye Fan would think when he saw me. That's right! What should I wear to meet him? I remember he likes pure and gentle types of girls. I'll have to go shopping for clothes when I arrive in China. Should I prepare a gift for his mother? He is such a filial son. All of the effort he had put in and all the adversities he had overcome was to get justice for his mother."

Angie didn't understand why Ye Fan kept popping up in her mind.

*But aren't all young girls in love this passionate?*

*Disregarding the consequence and the false values the society imposed, the love I have for him is pure and immaculate.*

*Oh right!*

Remembering her gift, Angie reached for her bag and rummaged through it.

Finally, an old yet beautifully-crafted wooden rabbit appeared in her hand.

There were some words engraved in tiny fonts on the wooden rabbit: From Ye Fan!





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*That's right. This was a gift from Chu Tianfan when he was younger. Other than my family and Meng Wanyu, Ye Fan was the only person who had ever given me a gift. Moreover, the gift was personally crafted by him.*

*Maybe he had forgotten all about it. But I have it engraved in my memory. It was a precious memory of mine.*

*Ten years. No, it has been more than that, and I still treasure it. This time, I brought the rabbit along to meet with Ye Fan for one last time.*

"He had been lying to me. Hmph! He had known me since young but was keeping that away from me!"

Angie pouted with resentment at that thought.

*I would still be kept in the dark if he hadn't revealed his real name and identity back in Mount Chumen.*

Gradually, Angie felt drowsiness pulling at her.

Her eyelids were drooping. She was struggling to keep them open.

Her vision started to blur too.

When she was about to fall asleep, suddenly a loud rumble came from outside the plane.

*Boom!*



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Then, the entire plane started to shake violently.

Orange and red warning lights were blinking furiously. A blaring siren sounded, indicating the urgency of the situation.

"What's wrong?"

"What's happening?"

"Oh God!"

"What's going on?"

"Oh my god!"

"Has an accident happened?"

Every passenger was jolted awake from the alarming noise and the shock.

They screamed as fear gripped them. The entire interior of the plane was a mess.

Angie's beautiful face paled with fear and anxiety. She held the rabbit given by Ye Fan tightly in her hand as though it was a lifeline that could keep her safe at that precarious moment.

*Boom!*

Soon, another thunderous sound pierced through the sky.

And this time, the plane shook harder than the



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first.

Thick smoke was coming out of the nose of the plane.

The pilots had lost control of the plane, causing it to spin. The passengers in the cabin experienced continuous spinning and jolting.

*Boom!*

Finally, the third deafening sound exploded in the sky.

The plane had broken in half.

Being subjected to the mercy of gravity, it began to free-fall to the ground along with its occupants.

When the plane was split in half, several passengers' bodies had exploded midair, spraying red droplets everywhere.

The rest of the passengers continued diving downward with the wreckage.

An immense sense of weightlessness had overwhelmed some passengers, forcing them into unconsciousness.

However, no one noticed a figure that appeared in the dark sky when the disaster happened.

The figure was dressed in all black and was flying toward the plane wreckage at a non-human speed





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that broke the sound barrier.

It was seven in the morning.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan was having breakfast with his family with the latest news playing on the television.

"Up next we have the international news.

"Around five in the evening yesterday at local time, a transatlantic aircraft flying from Norwal City to China suddenly broke into half mid-flight. No crews or passengers survived the tragedy.

"The associated aircraft company is currently cooperating with related departments on the investigation for the cause. As of now, the cause of the accident is still unknown..."

After the news anchor finished reading his script, a few heartbreaking photos of the plane's wreckage were shown.

"How many families were broken from this tragedy? The death toll is extremely high when there's an accident involving a plane. Well, it was midair, and none could try to save themselves. Ye Fan, Mucheng, try not to take the planes in the future. You hear me?"

At Ye Ximei's age, she couldn't bear to see such news.

Hundreds of families were broken in a matter of



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hours. Beyond the initial hurt, death leaves a huge hole in families, creating a damaging path of emotional and financial struggles that can last a lifetime.

Qiu Mucheng nodded obediently.

Ye Fan frowned as he watched the news.

"That's weird. The edge of the broken wreckage shouldn't be smooth if it was due to an accident.

"From the looks of the wreckage, it seems like it was cut in half by a sword."

As a martial arts practitioner with the title of supreme grandmaster, Ye Fan's sharp instinct and keen observation led him to discover a few suspicious details from the wreckage.

However, it was merely a passing curiosity.

The world was so huge. Every day a large number of the population die from homicide or accidents. Ye Fan couldn't have investigated every single incident.

He wouldn't pay too much attention to matters far away from him.

In the meantime, he had been focusing all of his efforts on the incoming members of the Chu family.

The one month deadline was nearing.



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Despite Ye Fan's disinterest in the news, someone else was paying close attention.

Meanwhile, the Jones family on the other side across the vast ocean.

Bill Jones was in a meeting to plan for the development of the Jones family business for the upcoming five years.

When suddenly, the door to the meeting room was pushed open.

Michael Jones whispered something urgently into his father's ear with a pale look.

Bill's expression turned grave. He quickly ended the meeting and left with his son.

"Mr. Bill and Mr. Michael, I have investigated thoroughly and found out the plane that Ms. Angie had taken was the one involved in the accident."

Within the room, the subordinate reported with a low voice.

*Boom!*

The news was like a bomb exploding in Bill's and Michael's minds. Their body stiffened, and their mind blanked from the shocking report.

"Angie! My poor daughter!"

Bill wailed in misery, then fell to the floor. His legs



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had lost their strength from the sudden tragic news.

Michael's body staggered as excruciating pain stabbed at his heart. Tears streamed uncontrollably down his face.

*My poor sister. Did my poor innocent adorable sister leave just like that?*



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That was the darkest moment in Bill's and Michael's life. Everything was shattered.

Darkness and grief hit them like a tidal wave, drowning them.

The Jones family immediately sent strong fighters out to the crash site to search for Angie.

Alas, the outcome was as expected.

How could anyone survive that ordeal?

*The cause of the accident is still under investigation, but what's the purpose of the investigation? Angie was gone. We lost the innocent, kind girl forever!*

"Dad, Angie is gone. We lost her."

That night when Michael came back from the search, he dropped to his knees in front of his father and sobbed like a child.

Despair and pain filled Bill's heart. He was caught in a web of self-blame and guilt.

"It's all my fault! I shouldn't have let her go to China! I should have never let her go to meet that young man. And if I never agreed, she wouldn't have died. This is all my fault!"

The pain of losing his daughter dealt a tremendous blow to Bill.



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For the next couple of days, he was overwhelmed by a deep sense of grief, unable to regain his composure.

Pained and grieving, Michael led his subordinates to China.

He wanted to finish the journey his sister started.

A few days later, Michael arrived at the Ye family manor in Jingzhou.

A few hundreds of his subordinates surrounded the estate.

At the same time, his furious roar tore through the sky.

"Chu Tianfan, come out here!"

"Chu Tianfan, come out!"

"Come the f\*\*k out!"

One after another, anguish roars rumbled on.

There were endless rage and sadness in his bellows.

The entire manor shook violently from his growls.

Gusts of wind surged everywhere.

"Who is the insolent rascal who dared to call my Master's name. Are you courting death?"



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*Shoosh!*

A couple of figures showed up on the scene swiftly, not long after Michael's arrival.

Gaius and the others stepped in front of the Ye family manor in a semi-circle formation.

"Where is Chu Tianfan?"

"Bring him out here to see me! Now!" Bill continued to shout.

Owen caught the blazing sun with clouds tattoo on Bill's wrist.

"Huh? They seem to be from the Chu Sect?"  
Gaius's expression turned grim when he heard the intruders in front of him were from the Chu Sect.

"They're members of the Chu family? But their attitude is all wrong." Gaius's frown deepened at the confusion.

*The Chu family who came to apologize should arrive around this time.*

*But these people don't seem apologetic. They looked like they were here for revenge!*

"You can't just meet my Master randomly. Tell us, what is your reason for the visit? You all seem to be from the Chu Sect. But you aren't here to apologize. Instead, you're yelling for my Master. I wonder what your intention is?" Gaius's eyes





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narrowed as he asked somberly.

In the Ye family manor, the baby started wailing, and members of the Ye family tensed up instantly.

They thought Ye Fan's enemy had come to seek revenge.

"Ximei, hurry and call Ye Fan quickly! Ask him to come back this instant!"

Even though the Ye family had been through many hardships alongside Ye Fan, however, they could only feel safe when Ye Fan was with them during every difficulty.

So the first person that came to mind was Ye Fan when they thought they were in a dangerous situation.

"What a snob! We can't even call his name now? Chu Tianfan, if you don't come out, then I'll be forcing my way in with my people. Don't blame me if your loved ones got hurt then."

Still caught in his rage, Michael ordered his subordinates to surround the Ye family manor.

"I will kill anyone who dares to stop me," Michael warned.

The strong fighters he brought with him began to make their moves under his command.

The Ye family members tensed up.



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The expression on Gaius and the Dragon Slayers turned cold. "You'll have to go through us before you could barge into the Ye family manor."

Gaius and the other four Dragon Slayers sprang into action.

Strong elemental force had accumulated into a ball of condensed energy.

The fearsome Supreme was about to bring terror to the world.

A massive war was about to break out at any moment.

However, a loud yell broke the tension.

"Stop it!"

An immense pressure accompanied the order.

Both sides were pushed backward by the intense pressure.

The attack looming in Gaius' hand was halted.

"Master! These people had a nefarious motive. They intended to barge into the residence and hurt Master's family."

Gaius looked in the direction of the voice and noted Ye Fan's arrival.

The current Ye Fan had just finished shopping with



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his wife. There were heaps of shopping bags hanging in his arms.

"Leave this to me and stand down."

Ye Fan nodded with acknowledgment and had the Dragon Slayers fall back.

Ye Fan finally turned his attention to Michael, who was the leader. "Michael, what is the meaning of this? I have never offended you or your family. Could it be that the Chu family are unwilling to apologize, so they send the Jones family on their behalf instead?" Ye Fan asked Michael with creases on his forehead.

But Michael didn't have the patience for Ye Fan's nonsense, especially after seeing the latter walking in intimately with Qiu Mucheng. The fury in his eyes was burning.

"Chu Tianfan, I'm going to f\*\*king kill you. You bastard!" Michael shouted angrily and sheathed his sword from its holder, pointing it at Ye Fan.

"Such insolence!"

Gaius and the rest had intervened before Ye Fan could return Michael's attack.

A few punches from them sent Michael flying backward with blood spraying out of his mouth.

Ye Fan stopped them before they could capture Michael.



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## Chapter 1720

"Michael, tell me. What is your grudge against me?" Ye Fan looked down at him. "If you want me dead, at least tell me the reason."

Ye Fan felt there was something behind Michael's hysteria.

"Bastard! How can you ask so shamelessly? My sister died for you. And here you are spending time with another woman without an ounce of grief. Angie must be blind to have fallen for a bastard like you! Do you not feel sorry for her at all? You heartless monster!" With a mouth full of blood and a face full of tears, Michael began shouting and cussing at Ye Fan.

"What did you say? Angie is dead? H-How is that possible? Tang Yun had promised me that she would take good care of her. How can she be dead? Who did it? Tell me, is it someone from the Chu family?" Ye Fan's eyes turned cold.

A murderous intent rose and radiated from him.

How could he not care for Angie.

If he didn't, he wouldn't have cut off all ties with her, nor would he ask for Tang Yun's help to protect Angie.

Ye Fan felt a stabbing pain when he heard that Angie had died for him. He began to tremble.

His first thought was that the Chu family had murdered Angie as an act of revenge against him.





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## Chapter 1720



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## Chapter 1721

"Who did you think had done it? If I tell you that she has been killed by the Chu family, are you going to avenge my sister?" Hearing what Ye Fan had said, Michael scoffed.

"Chu Tianfan, stop acting in front of me! Angie had been helplessly in love with you. And you? You are here enjoying yourself with another woman! Are you aware of how much Angie had sacrificed for you? Even when you told her that you do not want to have anything to do with her in this lifetime, Angie still thought about you. She had even ignored her family's advice and took a flight alone to come and look for you in China. It was all because of you! If it wasn't for you, Angie wouldn't have died in the plane crash. If it wasn't for you, Angie wouldn't have died at the peak of her youth!"

Perhaps, sorrow had overwhelmed him, for when Michael spoke, his eyes were red with fury.

When Ye Fan heard those words, he froze on the spot.

"What did you say? A-Angie came here to I-look for me? She died in that plane crash?"

At first, Ye Fan was stunned. Later on, he seemed to remember something and appeared dumbstruck.

"The news of the plane crash earlier on. T-That was the one that Angie was on?" Ye Fan's expression turned solemn.



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"I'm sorry. I really had no idea about this. I didn't know that Angie will come to China to look for me." Ye Fan sounded guilty.

It was apparent that he did not expect things to turn out this way.

Even more so, he had no idea that his decision had caused Angie her life.

"Sorry? Hahaha! Nice one! Angie's life is only worth a simple word of 'sorry' from you? Since you want to apologize, then go down and tell Angie yourself!" Michael was so furious that he led his subordinates in an attack on Ye Fan immediately.

However, there was no way that Gaius and the rest of them could stand there and watch their master get assaulted.

The Dragon Slayers defeated the Jones family in no time at all.

"All of you are really unreasonable. Our master is equally upset with Angie's death. Instead of finding the killer and the truth, you have come here to attack our master? If Angie isn't dead, she would have thought that her brother is an idiot! Furthermore, what has Angie's death got to do with our master? My master did not tell her to come! On the other hand, the Jones family has failed in protecting her. If anyone is at fault, then that person should have been you, her older brother!"



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Faced with the attacks from the Jones family, Gaius felt indignant and found them rude and unreasonable.

"Hahaha! You sure know how to shun your responsibility. So, this is the man Angie loved? This is the man that Angie had traveled all this way for? Angie, why are you so stupid? A heartless man like him doesn't deserve your affection! An animal like Chu Tianfan doesn't deserve you at all..." Michael shook his head with a sad smile. He looked up at the sky and wept.

Michael felt that everything Angie had done was for nothing.

"How dare you! Who do you think you are to speak so rudely to the Dragon Master? Die!"

When Owen heard Michael insult Ye Fan, he could not stand it anymore.

His temper flared up and he let out a roar.

Potent Qi came down hard on the fighters of the Jones family. The tremendous power went through their bodies, and instantaneously, blood was splattered all over the ground.

"Stop it!"

Just as Gaius and the others were about to finish them off, Ye Fan stopped the Dragon Slayers.

He walked over to Michael, who was injured and



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lying on the ground, and said, "Mr. Jones, I am truly sorry about what has happened to Angie. I will get to the bottom of this. If I find out that someone has plotted this to harm Angie, I assure you I will avenge her. She is not just your sister but mine as well. I will not let her die in vain." Ye Fan sounded resolute.

"Chu Tianfan, stop trying to confuse me. Since Ms. Tang has already taken Angie in as her disciple, who in this world will dare to harm her? She got into the accident because she wanted to look for you. You are the real killer! You are responsible for Angie's death!" Michael gritted his teeth and stared at Ye Fan with pure hatred.

His purpose in confronting Ye Fan was to find the person responsible for Angie's demise.

Other than Ye Fan, Michael could not think of anyone else.

"If that's what you think, then you must be really dumb! Have you inspected the plane wreckage in detail? If it was an accident, how can the fuselage look so shiny and smooth? It looks as if someone had cut it in half!" said Ye Fan coldly.

When Michael heard that, he was taken aback.

He had gone to the crash site, but he spent his energy looking for Angie's body. That was why he did not pay much attention to the plane wreckage.

When he heard what Ye Fan had said, Michael



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started to have doubts as well.

"What do you mean? Are you implying that someone is trying to hurt Angie? But, how can that be? Angie has always been a kind-hearted girl. She has never come into contact with any outsiders other than you. No one will have a reason to do that to Angie." Michael simply could not figure it out.

"Are you really sure? Your current behavior is the most compelling reason, isn't it so?" Ye Fan narrowed his eyes. There seemed to be an implicit meaning in his words.

"Are you saying that it's the Chu family? They killed Angie so that I will come after you? B-But, how can it be? Angie is a disciple of Ms. Tang. Why would they dare to do something like that?" Michael looked on in disbelief.

Ye Fan did not explain any further. He only replied coldly, "It's only my guess for now. As for the truth, I shall get to the bottom of it. Before that happens, you should go." There was no expression on Ye Fan's face. He turned around and left for his home.

There were too many dubious aspects surrounding Angie's accident. Ye Fan planned to make a trip to the crash site in a short while.

Just then, a piercing scream rang out in the Ye family. It was Ye Ximei.

Immediately after, someone came running out



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from the Ye family and said frightfully, "Ye Fan, we found a girl's body in the house. She is covered with blood. Quick! Go take a look!"

*What?*

Ye Fan was shocked and dashed into the Ye family manor quickly.

True enough, there was a petite body lying quietly at the corner of the courtyard.

Her body was covered with blood, foliage, and mud. Her hair was a mess, and there were some tears on her clothes too.

Even so, Ye Fan recognized her at once.

"This is... Angie!"

Ye Fan's expression changed drastically. He rushed forward to hold Angie and check her condition.

"Angie?"

They had no idea when Michael came in as well. When he saw the body, his eyes reddened right away. He rushed forward in an attempt to take Angie away from Ye Fan.

"Stop him!" shouted Ye Fan.

Then, he carried Angie into the room and summoned Junie to come to Jingzhou.



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"B\*stard! Chu Tianfan, return Angie to me. You b\*stard! I can't believe you are the one who hurt Angie. You are so heartless! Angie had treated you so wholeheartedly. How can you bear to be so vicious? On top of that, you tried to frame the Chu family for your misdeed. By the look of it, I think you are the one who is trying to frame the Chu family instead," yelled Michael hysterically.



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Michael's yelling was still reverberating from the courtyard.

However, Ye Fan couldn't be bothered anymore.

His only thought at that moment was to save Angie.

Although her body had started to turn cold, and there were no noticeable vital signs on Angie, Ye Fan was not reconciled. He knew he had to try to save Angie.

"Angie!

"Hang in there!

"You must hang in there!"

Ye Fan carried Angie into the room like a madman despite Angie's body being covered in blood and dirt.

While desperately summoning Junie, Ye Fan also channeled his purest elemental force into Angie's body in the room, trying his best to buy more time for Angie.

"Bastard!

"Chu Tianfan! You b\*stard!

"It's no use hiding.

"You hurt my sister!





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"The Jones family will make you pay with your blood!

"I'll fight you to death!

"I'll fight you to death!"

Michael tried to barge in like a maniac to bring out Angie. But he was thrown out by Gaius and others every time.

While covered in blood, Michael knew that he couldn't take his sister away or fight Ye Fan with his current strength.

Thus, he had already given up.

"Let's go, Mr. Jones.

"The Dragon God Hall is mighty. It is not someplace where we can simply barge into.

"The only thing we can do now is to return to the family and tell the head of the family to assemble every member of the family, or even the entire sect, and march into Nanquan."

Michael's subordinates were also well aware of the disparity in their strength and Ye Fan's. They turned to Michael and advised. "Right! let's go back!"

Michael did not hesitate. He spat out the blood from his mouth, led the remaining soldiers out of China, and rushed toward the family residence.



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"Huh? Aren't those the people from the Jones family?"

"That's weird. Why are the Jones family here instead of the Chu family? Moreover, why are they badly beaten up?"

When the Jones family evacuated, the martial arts experts of China who had been stationed at the border of Jiangdong state were puzzled.

They immediately reported it to the War God Castle and notified the Sword Saint and others.

The Sword Saint and others immediately frowned after hearing the news.

"Tang Hao, I sense a storm coming again."

The Sword Saint stood by the window and said anxiously. Signs of worry flashed across his eyes.

"What's the situation with the King of Fighters? How's the recovery?"

In addition to being worried, the Sword Saint asked about the condition of the King of Fighters.

"I went to see him two days ago. His injuries were almost healed," Tang Hao replied, "he has been doing recuperation exercises these days. Also, I heard from him that he grew stronger from his severe injuries this time. It was a blessing in disguise."



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"Oh? So he got his second wind." The Sword Saint was slightly surprised. He didn't expect the disaster to serve as an opportunity for the King of Fighters.

"Inform him later to report back to work as soon as possible. The country needs him."

"Yes!" Tang Hao nodded, turned around and went to work.

At this moment, only the Sword Saint was left standing alone in the hall of Nuó.

He had been restless these days. He wished that the Chu family would come and apologize more than Ye Fan. When that happens, they would be able to brave through the storm safely.

However, a bad omen had already appeared.

The Sword Saint was worried whether the current state of the War God Castle could handle it if an accident were to happen.

Coincidentally, the War God locked himself in, and there was no news from him. Even Ye Fan had a fallout with the War God Castle. The Sword Saint felt lonely all of a sudden.

The return of the King of Fighters may have been the only good news that entered the Sword Saint's ears.

However, when the War God Castle was getting



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jumpy, Ye Fan was still trying his hardest to save Angie in Jiangdong.

At the same time, Ye Fan even activated the power of the Dragon God Hall to search for Junie.

It wasn't until the early morning of the next that Junie rushed back to Jingzhou.

"Ye Fan, what's the matter? Did something happen?"

These days, Junie had never left China. She had been traveling around the cities of Jiangdong.

After receiving Ye Fan's summons, Junie rushed back and saw his body covered in blood. She thought something terrible had happened to Ye Fan and was terrified.

"Junie! Hurry! There's no time to explain. Follow me into the room."

Ye Fan pulled Junie into the room anxiously.

Then, he came out of the room and waited outside worryingly.

Junie's treatment for Angie lasted three days and nights.

Finally, Junie, utterly drained, walked out of the room on the fourth day.

"How is it? How's Angie? Can she be saved?"





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Ye Fan immediately walked up, grabbed Junie, and asked anxiously.

Junie pouted her little mouth. "Hmph! All you care about is Angie. You don't care about me at all. I haven't got a wink of sleep for three days and nights. I nearly starved to death," Junie grumbled in a disappointed tone.

"I'm sorry, Junie. Angie's life is at stake. I can't help but worry." Ye Fan quickly apologized.

"Tell me quick! Can Angie be saved?"

Junie replied, "There's good news and bad news. Which one do you want to listen to first?"

"Good news," Ye Fan said.

"She's not dead. I have stabilized her vitals for the time being. However, she's still unconscious, uncertain when she'll wake up," Angie quietly said.

"What about the bad news?" Hearing that Angie wasn't dead, Ye Fan exhaled a long sigh of relief and prompted further.

"Ye Fan, promise me to stay calm when you hear this. Although I temporarily saved her life, her eyes..."

At this point, Junie stopped and sighed. Her expressions turned grim.

"If my guess is correct, Angie might have a unique



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condition.

"She has the Jade Eyes, right?"

"Yes. But she's not matured yet and doesn't have full control over the power of the Jade Eyes. When she trains in the future, she should be able to manifest the full power of the Jade Eyes," Ye Fan replied in a deep tone.

However, Junie shook her head. "That's no longer possible. Her eyes have been taken away. From now on, she will be an ordinary little girl, or should I say, an ordinary little girl who will never see the light again. Sigh, she suffered such cruelty at the age of romance. The culprit is truly inhumane."

Junie was undoubtedly shocked when she learnt that Angie had lost her vision when she was treating her.

She didn't expect there to be people who were cruel enough to do this to an underaged little girl in the current state of the martial arts era.

The vicious behavior was simply outrageous.

"What... what did you say? Angie... Her eyes?"

Ye Fan stuttered as he looked at Junie in disbelief.

His mind went blank as if struck by thunder.

In his heart, an inexplicable sensation spread across his body.



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Ye Fan could no longer remain calm. He rushed into the room desperately.

Angie, who was cleaned up, lay like a sleeping beauty on the bed.

She was a pretty girl with snow-white skin, a charming face, and a delicate figure that was beginning to turn into a mature woman who could cheer up anyone who saw her.

However, her eyes were obscured by a thick layer of cotton gauze.

The once beautiful and large eyes that could reflect even the galaxy had utterly lost their light in the end.



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"How... How could this be..."

Ye Fan trembled vigorously in the room with his heart shattered while looking at the sleeping beauty-like Angie.

He would never have imagined for things to end up this way.

He thought Angie would not be involved as long as he cut ties with her and as long as Tang Yun promised to protect her.

However, the outcome was beyond his expectations.

In the end, Angie still suffered.

Moreover, Ye Fan was even more furious because they chose to do such harm to a teenage girl.

*Thud!*

Just when Ye Fan was trembling with despair, something slipped and fell off the bed.

Angie's hand, which had been clenched all this time, suddenly loosened its grip at this moment.

A little rabbit worn down over the years fell to the ground.

Ye Fan was stunned when he saw the wood carving.



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Thousands of past events and memories suddenly flooded his mind like waves.

"Angie, is today your birthday?"

"Here..."

"It's a little rabbit."

"I carved it myself."

"Hmph! It's already been three days since my birthday."

"Ye Fan, you're so horrible. You can't even remember my birthday."

"I won't talk to you anymore..."

"Oh?"

"Is it over?"

"My memory might have failed me then..."

The young man rubbed his head and smiled awkwardly under the sycamore tree.

It had been more than ten years since then.

Ye Fan couldn't believe that Angie still had this little rabbit.

Moreover, she even held on to it even when something terrible happened and she lost her





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vision.

Perhaps, this little rabbit in Angie's hand had always supported her when she was in the most pain.

At that moment, Ye Fan could no longer control his emotions.

The man who had always been calm and firm could only feel sadness squirming from the depths of his heart.

Without realizing it, Ye Fan's eyes were already red, and tears started to form at the edge of his eyelids.

He clenched his fist tightly.

His fingertips penetrated deep into the flesh of his palms and started to bleed.

Then, he suddenly got up and walked out of them room.

Outside of the room, Junie and a group of Dragon Slayers were waiting.

Devoid of emotions, Ye Fan uttered softly, "Junie, I'll leave Angie to you. Please take care of her."

However, he intensely weaved a palpable sense of frigidity and sternness into his words.

"Ye Fan, where are you going?" Junie asked.



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"I'm going to level the Chu residence!"

Ye Fan's expression was cold. Every word that came out of between his teeth was as piercing as the last. His chilling sensation frightened Gaius and the others, and their expressions changed.

"Calm down, Master."

As a result of being utterly frightened by Ye Fan's words, Owen and the others hurriedly stepped forward to stop him.

"Calm down?"

"How can I calm down?"

"Those b\*stards didn't even spare a little girl like Angie."

"Those inhumane actions were nothing of a human's."

"Killing them would be doing the ancestors a favor!"

No one could understand the sadness and anger that Ye Fan was going through at that moment.

Angie was still so young, but she had lost her vision.

Ye Fan couldn't even imagine the pain of losing a pair of such beautiful eyes.



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Moreover, it happened on her way to look for him.

Ye Fan would never be able to live at ease if he didn't avenge Angie.

"Ye Fan, we're not even sure if the Chu family did this."

"What if it was someone who wanted to sow discord between us and deliberately caused a conflict between you and the Chu family? Wouldn't you be doing the culprit a favor by storming over to the Chu family?" Junie also advised.

"That's right, Master.

"We're also angry and sad that Angie lost her beautiful eyes. But the culprit must be punished. Before we take revenge, we must find out who did this."

Gaius and the others tried their best to stop Ye Fan from acting impulsively.

"Angie should wake up in no time. When she wakes up, she will know who did this to her. When that happens, it's still not too late to take revenge," Junie added.

Under everyone's dissuasion, Ye Fan finally suppressed the anger in his heart. He turned around, stood beside Angie's bed, and waited for the little girl to wake up.

For the following days, apart from when Junie was



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giving Angie her treatment, Ye Fan had always stood by Angie's side.

Eventually, the little girl suddenly jolted awake from her dream on a late night.

"It hurts..."

"It hurts..."

After waking up, Angie kept shouting. Her voice was full of agony and fear.

"Angie, don't be afraid. It's me. I'm Ye Fan."

"Angie, don't be afraid. I'm here."

Ye Fan was shocked and hurried over to hold Angie's hand.

As soon as she heard Ye Fan's voice, the fear-stricken little girl began to cry, and her tears moistened the cotton gauze over her eyes.

"Ye Fan... I'm cold... It hurts..."

Despite waking up, Angie's body was still in a frail condition.

She didn't have the strength to speak.

Those feeble words were like a candle in the wind about to be extinguished at any given moment.

"Angie, don't be afraid."





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"Tell me. What happened? Who took you away after the plane crash?" Ye Fan gently asked.

"It was Uncle Chu..."

"He said he wanted to take me to look for you."

"But my eyes hurt so much. Why can't I see you..."

Up to that moment, Angie still didn't know what happened to her.

She only felt pain in her eyes, and her body was so weak that she couldn't even breathe.

"Uncle Chu?"

"Do you mean Chu Zhengliang?"

Ye Fan's expression turned grim. His tone gradually hardened as he spoke.

"Yes," Angie uttered.

At her response, Ye Fan could only hear a deafening explosion in his mind.

He erupted a murderous aura.

*Boom!*

At this moment, the door opened.

Gaius and the others barged in with their faces looking anxious.

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"Master, the people from the Chu family have arrived."

After waiting for a month, the person Gaius and the others had been waiting for finally arrived.

"They came at the right moment. I was just about to go look for them," Ye Fan spoke slowly in a deep voice devoid of emotions.

His presence was as chilling as ice.

Outside the manor, several people stood and waited proudly.

There weren't many of them, and there were only about seven to eight of them.

"A month has passed, and we've turned up as promised."

"Chu Tianfan, show yourself!"

"Show yourself."

His deep voice, filled with endless arrogance, echoed in all directions.

In no time, the door of the manor opened wide, and Ye Fan walked out of the Ye family manor with the five Dragon Slayers.

"It's just the few of you?"

"Where's Chu Yuan?"

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"Where's Chu Zhengliang?

"Are the elders of the Chu family dead?

"And you call yourselves the supreme Chu family, with family members spread worldwide.

"Have they all died, with only the seven or eight of you left?"

After walking out only to see a few of them, Owen and the others frowned.

"Chu Yuan is a busy man. Why would he bother to meet with such an inferior person?

"According to seniority, the seven of us are all Chu Tianfan's senior.

"Today, we came so far to see you in person. Chu Tianfan, you should be glad!" the middle-aged man who led them sneered.

"Insolence!

"The Dragon Master is at the top of the Sky Ranking. He stands as high as the head of the Chu Sect.

"How dare you peasants be rude in the presence of the Dragon Master! Do you have a death wish?" Gaius brandished his blade in the air out of anger.

However, the people from the Chu family laughed.



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"Hahaha! That's a good one. Top of the Sky Ranking; so what? He's like an ant in the god realm.

"Chu Yuan said he'll spare your lives as long as Chu Tianfan hands over Invoke the Celestial Sky. Otherwise, the army of the Chu Sect will march eastward within half a year, and the fighters of the Chu family will trample over Jiangdong and destroy China!"



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The people of the Chu family spoke extremely arrogantly with their eyes full of pride and contempt.

After all, being proud and arrogant was the trait of the Chu family.

That level of arrogance was inbred within them growing up in the most substantial wealthy family in the world.

Despite being in the presence of Chu Tianfan, who was number one on the Sky Ranking, these people did not have the slightest respect or fear.

"So you came today not to apologize but to wage war?"

Ye Fan looked at them with an intense chill in his eyes.

"Apologize?"

The people from the Chu family laughed sarcastically.

"Chu Tianfan, do you really think that the Chu family will apologize to you?"

"In this world, the strong are respected. If you want the Chu family to apologize, you must first defeat the Chu family.

"But do you have the power to defeat the Chu family?"



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"If it weren't for the Moon God of Japan that day, you wouldn't even make it out of Mount Chumen!

"But how long can the Moon God protect you?

"Even if she could protect you, could she also protect your entire family? Chu Tianfan, you know how it goes. Hand over Invoke the Celestial Sky is your only option."

The people from the Chu family spoke condescendingly, but their threats were apparent.

Ye Fan suddenly burst out in laughter.

"Hahaha! The strong are respected. Well said. To be honest, I was well aware. How could the Chu family, who proclaimed themselves nobly, bow their heads and apologize to my mother over a bet?"

Ye Fan gave out a laughter full of mockery and ridicule.

He had overestimated the morality of the Chu family. He also overestimated Tang Yun's standing in the Chu family.

"Cut the cr\*p!

"Chu Tianfan, I'll ask you one more time. Are you handing over Invoke the Celestial Sky?"

The people of the Chu family stood proudly with their hands behind their backs and looked at Ye

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Fan with a chilling gaze.

"What if I refuse?" Ye Fan threw a question back at him.

"Then we have no choice but to return to the Chu residence and inform Chu Yuan truthfully. When that happens, it won't just be the few of us coming to China, but tens of thousands of fighters from the Chu family and even the Chu Sect!" the people from the Chu family said sternly and presented Ye Fan with an ultimatum.

"Return to the Chu residence?"

"Do you think you can go back?"

Ye Fan was immediately amused by his words as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world.

"What? Are you planning to kill us? We came to China on behalf of Chu Yuan. If you kill us, you will infuriate a powerful being of the god realm!"

"By the way, Chu Yuan has a message for you.

"If you kill one of the Chu family again, the Chu family will exact revenge upon your entire family!"

"Chu Tianfan, I advise you to think carefully. Don't do something that you will regret for the rest of your life!" the Chu people of the Chu family uttered fearlessly.

They knew that Ye Fan valued his family the most.

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Therefore, they didn't think Ye Fan would dare to run amok at them after issuing such a warning -- unless he really didn't really care about his family.

However, Ye Fan was unfazed by their verbal threats. He remained expressionless and composed.

He turned his chilling gaze toward the members of the Chu family in front of him.

"I, Chu Tianfan, have gone through thick and thin, and no one has ever threatened me."

After he spoke, he raised his palm in the air and suddenly pressed it down in the direction of the Chu family members.

His elemental force stirred wildly before his Celestial Hand took shape in the air.

Then, he threw the Celestial Hand that obscured the sky toward where the Chu family members were standing.

"What?"

"Chu Tianfan, how dare you..."

The people from the Chu family were shocked. Their eyes almost fell out of their sockets.

They were terrified and fled frantically in all directions.



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However, no matter how fast they ran, they couldn't escape the reach of Ye Fan's gigantic hand.

*Boom!*

Everyone from the Chu family was smashed to the ground with a loud blast.

Their bones were shattered, and their blood splattered. The people of the Chu family who had nothing to fear were squished into a puddle of flesh and blood.

Everything happened in a flash.

Of all the Chu family members who came from afar, only one of them was left alive in a blink of an eye.

"Zhenghong?"

"Brother?"

"B\*stard! You b\*stard!"

"You're heartless!"

"You actually killed them!"

"Aren't you afraid of the Chu family's revenge?"

The only person left alive slumped on the ground in fright. His eyes were filled with fear while he trembled all over his body.



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Ye Fan ignored his words. He condescendingly said, "Go back and inform Chu Yuan that the war has begun between the Chu family and me."

"This time, we'll fight to our deaths!"

*Boom!*

His chilling voice whipped up a strong gust of wind.

Thousands of fallen leaves danced wildly in the air.

After that, Ye Fan waved his sleeve at the member of the Chu family. Then, he shrieked and was sent flying through the sky.

"Master, are we really having a war with the Chu family? Shouldn't we go to Japan and ask the Moon God to help us before that?"

After dealing with the members of the Chu family, Gaius and the others questioned Ye Fan with a stern face.

"There's no need for that. We can take on the Chu family ourselves."

Ye Fan didn't want to trouble the Moon God again.

It was difficult for him to owe a beauty.

The Moon God had helped him numerous times, and it was more than enough.

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"Master, when will we attack the Chu family? Should we craft a plan to deal with Chu Yuan before that? Also, we're not certain if the Chu Sect will intervene this time. We must think of a flawless strategy this time. Even if we fail, we have to get out alive!"

Having learnt his lesson the last time, Gaius and the others were undoubtedly more cautious.

Therefore, even if Ye Fan decided to go to Mount Chumen, Gaius and the others still advised Ye Fan not to be rash and develop a plan that could deal with Chu Yuan and retreat unscathed if they were to fail.

After all, they were all concerned about Ye Fan.

Otherwise, if Ye Fan went and destroyed Mount Chumen, they would be slaughtered by the Chu family.

Ye Fan nodded in agreement at their suggestion.

"Okay."

"You guys should look for Han and carefully plan and discuss the countermeasures. Report back to me once you have the results!" Ye Fan said in a deep voice.

"Master, what about you?" Junie and the others asked Ye Fan in curiosity.

"I'm going to isolate myself for a few days. "I will

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undergo solitary training and become stronger! When the time comes, we will be able to deal with Chu Yuan aggressively,” Ye Fan slowly spoke.

“Hahaha! It seems that the Dragon Master has gained new insights. That's great! Rest assured to isolate. It's best if you could challenge your limits and tap into the god realm these few days.”

Gaius and the others were delighted to learn that Ye Fan had made further progress in his training.

Their confidence in dealing with the Chu family suddenly grew more assertive.

Afterwards, Ye Fan returned to his home.

Gaius and the others began to discuss their plans through the night.

“Ye Fan, what's going on? Why was there so much chaos outside the door?”

After Ye Fan returned, Ye Ximei, Qiu Mucheng, and others inquired about the noise outside.

Ye Fan didn't tell them about the arrival of the Chu family members.

Instead, he instructed his mother and the others not to leave the house.

“It's fine, Mom. It's all settled. It was just a few troublemakers.”

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After reassuring them, everyone went to bed.

"Ye Fan, you should rest early too. Don't stay up too late," Qiu Mucheng reminded Ye Fan before heading to bed.

"Yes, darling. I got it." In the courtyard, Ye Fan looked at Qiu Mucheng and smiled gently.

To Qiu Mucheng, Ye Fan's bright and enticing smile was his most attractive moment.

Even as the Queen of Jiangdong, she couldn't help but run over and kiss Ye Fan aggressively on the lips. Then, she ran back to the room with a flushed face.

"Don't forget about our honeymoon.

"There's still seven days until the one-month deadline you promised.

"If you don't go with me, I will have other men accompany me and give birth to their children!"

Qiu Mucheng stuck her head out from the crack of the door and stuck out her tongue playfully at Ye Fan.



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Ye Fan stood by the door and grinned to himself with the innocence of youthful love.

Though few had seen Qiu Mucheng's adorable side, fewer still had seen the pain and anguish in his heart beneath his wistful smile.

"I'm sorry, Mucheng, for thinking that I could give you a safe and happy life," he murmured softly. "I've overestimated myself after all. Forgive me."

Whipped away by the bitter and unforgiving wind of the chilly night, Ye Fan's apology went unheard.

It was in this manner that Ye Fan had sat by himself outside Qiu Mucheng's door and kept watch the entire night.

As soon as the sun rose, he got up and left noiselessly.

Contrary to what he had told Gaius, Ye Fan did not undergo solitary training. Instead, he headed for Yunzhou.

Upon hearing the news of his master's arrival, Li Er had rushed up to the villa that was shrouded in the dense mist of Mount Yunding to find Ye Fan standing with his hands behind his back waiting for him.

"Mr. Chu! What brings you here to Yunzhou? I could have had a banquet prepared in your honor had you called ahead."

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As Ye Fan had been living in Jingzhou the entire time, Li Er felt surprised to see him back in Yunzhou.

"Nothing much," said Ye Fan evasively with a nonchalant expression. "There are some matters I must attend to in town. I have some instructions for you before I leave."

Li Er was taken aback for a moment. "Of course, Mr. Chu. Your wish is my command."

Ye Fan produced a sealed envelope and handed it to Li Er in response.

"If anything happens to me in the future, give this letter to my wife, Qiu Mucheng. I hope you and the other elders of Jiangdong treat her with the same reverence as you do now. Do you understand?"

As he spoke, Ye Fan turned to gaze upon the older man before him with such intensity as though he saw right through the latter.

"Mr. Chu, are you..." Li Er's voice trailed off uncertainly as he felt a strange sense of foreboding at his words.

"Not important," Ye Fan answered curtly. "We each have our own destinies to fulfill. Keep Jiangdong safe for me."

A gust of chilly wind exploded forth and whipped up the dead leaves on the ground. Save for a slight rustle, the villa was quiet as the grave.

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Ye Fan turned to leave without another word after delegating the matters at hand. His thin, desolate silhouette would be the last thing Li Er, Yunzhou, and the entire Jiangdong saw of him.

Li Er felt the corners of his eyes growing moist at the sight of the younger man's departure.

To Li Er, the chasm between him and Ye Fan that had grown wider over the years finally became impassable. The happier times when Li Er and Ye Fan spent conquering Jiangdong together seemed like a distant memory never to be revisited again. After realizing that Yunzhou had become too small for him, Ye Fan set his sights further and further out until he eventually only returned once in a blue moon. Li Er used to lament that Ye Fan's social circle had no more space for an old man like himself until the final encounter which seemed to gnaw at him that that would be the last time he would see Ye Fan alive.

*I don't know what kind of difficulty a man of his prestige goes through, but I hope he takes care of himself. Jiangdong needs him.*

"I wish time could be turned back," Li Er sighed to himself. "To the summer when I met Mr. Chu for the first time."

*When we first met, Mr. Chu was merely a son-in-law to the Qiu family. I, on the other hand, had just made a tiny name for myself here in Yunzhou. Chen Ao still reigned supreme, and the martial arts club of Tai Shan had not yet gained any traction. Everything*



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*was at its very beginning. Though I have not yet been put in charge of governing the entire province, those were still good times.*

Li Er recalled with pride that over the next couple of years, Ye Fan had ascended the ranks of power from his lowly position of the son-in-law of the Qiu family.

*The head of Jiangdong, General Green Dragon, and now the top spot in the Sky Ranking!*

He, as Ye Fan's loyal lieutenant, had benefitted from the younger man's rise as well. Before long, his name had almost become as synonymous as Ye Fan's within the entire Jiangdong province.

It was at this point that Li Er learned a bitter lesson about life. Power and prestige came at the cost of sharing a simple moment of happiness with one's loved ones.

*Life is ironic sometimes, isn't it? We work our whole life to be somebody, but it is only then when we realize that we would give it all away just for one more trip down memory lane.*

"Take care, Mr. Chu!" Li Er cried as he dashed toward the direction Ye Fan had departed in only to find that he had already disappeared.

Immediately upon leaving Yunzhou, Ye Fan arrived next at Fenghai.

The Chu residence appeared just as it always was,



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resistant as always to the changes in the outside world.

Bearing no traces of the corruption of modernity, the only evidence of its age was the sleepy town nearby, the old-fashioned yard, and the ravages of time upon the heavy wooden doors.

Aside from the occasional barking of a disgruntled dog somewhere in the distance, the ancient house was undisturbed. As it always was.

Upon returning to the Chu residence, Ye Fan did not enter.

Instead, he walked up to the front doors and fell to his knees.

After kneeling for an entire day, Ye Fan finally spoke at dusk. "Forgive me, great-grandma, for being unable to fulfill my promise. Despite cautioning me against being a kinslayer, Chu Shen and his son gave me no choice for having committed atrocities beyond forgiveness. They were the ones unwilling to let go of our grudge, not me. They've even gone after people closest to me in order to break me. My childhood friend had her eyes dug out of her before she could even see the world! As powerless as I am, I must make them pay for their crimes! I vow to slay Chu Zhengliang and have the blood of the Chus run down Mount Chumen to cleanse it of its sins!"

Despite the grief and rage that coursed through his veins as he opened his heart to his unseen

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matriarch, every word rang clear with purposeful intent.

The only response he received to his proclamation was the crackle of crisp, fallen leaves as a cold breeze whistled mournfully.

The ringing silence imbued the fortress which had stood for millennia with a sense of mystery and solitude.

Following his speech, Ye Fan bowed thrice more.

Over the entire duration, the door remained firmly shut.

Ye Fan did not seem to expect any different. After getting to his feet, he turned and walked away.

The fierce determination in his eyes scarcely concealed the uncertainty and aloneness he felt before embarking on his quest.

*Hum!*

The grounds of the old house began to tremble at the exact moment when Ye Fan turned.

Shortly after, a burst of green light illuminated the darkening sky from within the depths of the Chu residence followed by a whooshing sound.

Turning back in shock, Ye Fan found himself face to face with a levitating object around which the green light seemed to emit out of.



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"Could this be...?"

Ye Fan's eyes widened in wonder.

At the same time, a hoarse and weary voice rang out from within the house.

"The Sword of Yunyang was wielded by my noble ancestor to rid the world of evil. I never would have expected it to glow again centuries later for his descendent. But then again, a lot of things are out of my control. I am old and tired. Kill each other for all I care! It's your own lives anyway."



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"Such is the fate of the Chu family," the voice of the old lady continued sadly, laden with grief accumulated over the decades. "Go, and never show yourself here again."

Despite her pleas, the old matriarch was forced against her will to watch her family tear each other apart.

Long before she was deemed senile, nobody in the Chu family took her seriously. Not even Chu Yuan, with whom she begged to reverse his decision on Ye Fan's banishment.

It seemed as though the vicious cycle of history would never cease to torment the old woman. Ye Fan was yet another one of her descendants destined to disobey her.

With the lethargy of old age settling in her bones, she had finally given up on the impossible task of trying to reconcile her kin. Besides, her age gap with Ye Fan was far too great for the pair to communicate as equals.

The old woman often found herself wandering about the Chu residence only to realize how few of them she actually knew, with Ye Fan being the one she was most acquainted with.

Before, she had planned for Ye Fan to inherit the ancestral sword at a more suitable time as the Sword of Yunyang was to be unleashed at the moment it was needed the most.



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However, she felt as if there might not be another opportunity to do so given the turn of events over the past couple of months.

Outside of the compound, the ancient sword glowed green as it hung suspended in midair.

With the forlorn voice of his great-grandmother still echoing through the air, Ye Fan found himself frozen in shock.

Gazing into the depths of the sword before him, he saw the soul within swirling along with the green light as it pulsed and shimmered.

"Could this be the very same sword used by our great ancestor?"

Ye Fan gazed at the sword before him, lost in thought for a long time. Unable to understand the emotions that heaved in his heart, he found it difficult to calm himself.

Ye Fan recalled that there was a record of the founder of the Chu family, Chu Yunyang, in the Book of Celestial Cloud.

The legend was that he had set out to establish a foothold of his family in the land armed with nothing but a sacred sword.

*This must have been the sword in question! The Sword of Yunyang!*

At last, Ye Fan reached out in a daze and grabbed





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hold of the hilt.

The moment his skin made contact with the sword, he began to convulse violently.

Thrown into a swirling river where time and space ceased to exist, Ye Fan stood transfixed, his hand still glued to the hilt, as centuries of the noble family's history flashed before his eyes.

Without even realizing it, tears of reverence for the founding patriarch rolled down his cheeks.

At the same time, a figure as broad as a mountain appeared in his mind's eye. With his powerfully built body drawn to full height, his shoulders became lost in the clouds.

Gazing down with regal haughtiness, he looked as if the world belonged at his feet.

"Mr. Yunyang," Ye Fan whispered.

If Tsukuyomi was the deity of Japanese martial artists, the founding father of the Chu family, Chu Yunyang, was Ye Fan's.

Ever since embarking on the path of the warrior, every obstacle he had encountered along the way was once overcome by Chu Yunyang all those millennia ago.

Aside from his martial accomplishments, the founding patriarch had also been a talented scholar. The Book of Celestial Cloud, filled with



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elegant yet concise instructions, was said to have been the written record of his ancestor's thoughts. A by-product of random musings in his spare time.

Ye Fan became thunderstruck by the realization that the sword he was wielding had once been used by his ancestor in his own quest. Despite the millennia that separated them, Ye Fan was not so different from Chu Yunyang after all.

His feeling of awe was fleeting.

When he grasped the hilt, the sword hummed louder for a moment and with a flash of green light, swiped across his palm.

A drop of blood fell onto the blade and turned into vapor the moment it made contact with the metal.

With a final hum, the sword quivered once more before falling still. Its green light faded slowly away.

In the absence of the green light, the sword of Yunyang looked like an ordinary, battle-worn old sword. Despite its shabby appearance, the ritual of the blood had solidified its allegiance to Ye Fan.

Gazing in wonderment at the sword, he turned toward the Chu residence once more and sank into a deep bow.

"I will never forget this, great-grandma. It has been an honor being your great-grandson. I hope that I would be able to repay all that you have done in



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another life. Take care of yourself.”

With one last gaze at the decrepit structure through bloodshot eyes, he sheathed the sword in the scabbard on his back and began his descent down the mountain.

Ye Fan did not intend to return to Jingzhou, nor did he have any plans to head back to Mount Yunding Villa in Yunzhou.

Instead, armed with the sword of Yunyang and the knowledge of its symbolic bequeathal, he traveled to Mount Chumen.

Ye Fan did not undergo solitary training. Being familiar with his own progress, he was confident that he would not be able to make any progress during this juncture.

*Ye Qingtian made zero headway despite numerous attempts over dozens of years. There was no way that I would be able to obtain a breakthrough even if I forced the issue.*

He merely fed Gaius that story so that the latter would not have any reason to suspect his motives.

After leaving the Chu residence, Ye Fan made up his mind to head for Mount Chumen. The singular purpose of slaying Chu Zhengliang was fixated on his mind.

This time, however, Ye Fan would be declaring war against the Chu family without his allies.





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If it weren't for Moon God's intervention during the previous fight with Chu Sect, Gaius and the rest might have been killed.

The risk of ascending Mount Chumen a second time was exponentially higher than the first.

Even if Moon God and Gaius were willing to provide assistance, they might not even be able to leave in one piece.

After all, Chu Sect was most likely going to side with the Chu family.

Rather than lead Gaius and the rest to their deaths, Ye Fan felt it more prudent to undertake the quest by himself.

*There is no holding back from this upcoming battle. With the Sword of Yunyang on my side, I am finally able to avenge Angie and put an end to this once and for all.*

Even if it became a fight to the death, Ye Fan was determined to impress upon the Chu family that he and his loved ones were not to be trifled with.

The Sword of Yunyang rattled in its scabbard with every step forward as Ye Fan trudged eastward with grim determination.

All that kept him going at that moment was the fantasy of reveling in the blood of his sworn enemies.



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*Who knows if I will be able to return from this trip?*

On the other side of the ocean atop Mount Chumen, Tang Yun had resigned herself to a simpler life after Ye Fan descended the mountain with the Dragon Slayers.

Aside from presiding over occasional reports from the elders, she spent most of her time recuperating.

Instead of being resentful, Tang Yun had chosen to view the injuries inflicted upon her as opportunities to grow and strengthen herself.

Slowly but surely, the decades of stagnation once again dissolved to make way for progress.

Meanwhile, all was quiet within the Chu residence.

Chu Yuan, the former patriarch, was forced to leave the confines of his solitary training to intervene when Ye Fan had stormed the gates.

After the latter's departure, Chu Yuan once again retired into his solitary space and left the domestic duties to be taken care of by his son, Chu Zhengliang.

With the help of the family's considerable resources, Chu Zhengliang had managed to regain nearly all of his strength within the span of a month.

It was already late at night when the family

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meeting had ended. Upon dismissing the elders, Chu Zhengliang made his way past a narrow path surreptitiously before slipping behind a secret door.

Though it was dim within, he sensed a steady flow of energy.

Before he was the figure of a young man sitting cross-legged atop a bed which shimmered mysteriously under the soft yellow lights.

The latter was clad in a set of loose, flowing robes. A black cloth was wrapped around his eyes.

As if sensing the presence of another, the young man jerked slightly out of his reverie. "Dad?"

"I'm here. Don't move a muscle, I'm going to examine your eyes."

Striding across the room, Chu Zhengliang gently removed the black cloth and peered carefully at his son's eye sockets.

"Does it still hurt?" he asked quietly.

"Not anymore, Dad," Chu Qitian replied. "It itches, though."

Chu Zhengliang smiled with satisfaction. "That's a good sign. It means that your immune system is incorporating the eyes from a foreign object into an extension of your body. Before long, Jade Eyes will be yours to command. Our experiment is a



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success, son! There will be no fighter in the world equal to you once you harness the power of Jade Eyes!”



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Chu Zhengliang cackled triumphantly at the cusp of his son's success.

"I will work hard to attain mastery, Dad. And when I do, I will tear the bastard apart with my bare hands!"

At the mere mention of his name, Chu Qitian gritted his teeth in anger. His tone was so menacing that it sounded as if he meant to carry out his threat literally.

Chu Qitian's hatred for Ye Fan had reached another level at the conclusion of their last battle for having almost died by the latter's foot.

*That bastard had stomped me into the ground. They had to dig me out in front of all the world's martial arts representatives. The shame is too much to bear!*

Ye Fan's stomp had shattered more than Chu Qitian's bones. The arrogance the latter had developed over the years was similarly crushed.

Though Chu Qitian had somehow managed to survive the ordeal with the help of the Chu family elders, his character was no longer the same.

Over the past month, Chu Qitian had shut himself in his room and refused to speak to anybody.

Chu Zhengliang was more aware than anybody with what his son was going through.



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He knew that Ye Fan was the one responsible for breaking his son's spirit.

Upon regaining consciousness the night of his near-death, Chu Qitian wept in his father's arms as he repeatedly asked the latter how it was possible that Ye Fan's accomplishments so much higher than his own despite the nobility of his blood over his cousin's.

"Am I destined to be his inferior, Dad?" he had asked tearfully from his bed that night, hardly able to even sit up.

Chu Zhengliang felt his heart ache with sorrow at his son's anguish.

*He was such a charismatic and strong-willed boy. Seeing him like this, a sniveling shadow of his former self, is more than I can bear.*

It was on that same night when Chu Zhengliang made a grim promise to himself to restore his son's confidence.

*Even if I have to burn the world down, I will ensure that Qitian's future is intact!*

"My son will never be anybody's inferior!" he had replied fiercely.

After Chu Zhengliang departed his son's chambers that night, he began to put his plan against Angie into action.





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Having recalled his own father, Chu Yuan, mention once before the power that the daughter of the Jones family possessed, of Jade Eyes which contained within them a terrifying power should one succeed in tapping into its potential, Chu Zhengliang decided that it was as good a time as any.

However, Chu Zhengliang was not explicitly informed of that information. Instead, he had heard it told to his brother with him hanging on to every word from the shadows.

Chu Shen had been desperate for a powerful heir through his abler son, Chu Zhenghong. Having heard of the power of the girl's eyes, he made it a priority for Angie to become a granddaughter-in-law to have her eyes weaponized.

That piece of information had made an impression on Chu Zhengliang. Taking the advantage of the subsequent conflict between his father and brother, he had taken the initiative to solidify an alliance with the Jones' via a marriage proposal.

After Chu Zhenghong was instated as the new patriarch, he disregarded all conventions by paying visits to Angie often in an attempt to pair her with his own son over his brother's protests.

Despite his careful planning to save her for Ye Fan, Chu Zhenghong's son had gone ahead to become the son-in-law of another family instead.



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He had been livid upon finding out. It did not take long after that for everything to come out in the open.

Without Chu Zhenghong's intervention, the engagement between Chu Qitian and Angie soon became official.

However, Ye Fan's unexpected reappearance disrupted Chu Zhengliang's plans.

Chu Zhengliang became aware that the marital alliance he had proposed was falling apart. Being unable to enforce it by legal means, he felt justified to resort to more drastic measures.

"By the way, Dad," Chu Qitian suddenly piped up, interrupting his father's reverie. "How did you take care of Angie?"

Chu Qitian did not have any feelings for the girl as they had only met several times, much less care for her survival.

His only concern being that his master, Tang Yun, might find out.

Chu Qitian was well aware of his master's temperament.

*If she finds out that Dad and I had mutilated Angie, I don't think even grandpa will be able to defend us from her wrath.*

"Don't worry, son. I'd taken care of everything. Not

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only have I removed all evidence of our involvement, but I'd also instigated the three families of Chu Sect to blame it on Chu Tianfan. There is a 'gift' on the way to him now, as we speak."

Chu Zhengliang chuckled with relish as he spoke. His dark eyes glinted with malice.

"Don't concern yourself with trivial matters, Qitian," he continued. "Keep your mind focused on your training to harness the powers of Jade Eyes. You will be fine if you follow the sacred texts to the letter."

As the Chu family had existed as a martial arts stronghold for more years than anybody was able to remember, its library undoubtedly contained texts of various secret techniques collected over millennia.

The instructions to incorporate Jade Eyes into the body of a practitioner was one of them.

Being the last piece of the puzzle, It was only after stumbling upon the text when Chu Zhengliang formally put his plans into action.

*The girl is instrumental to Qitian's success. She has a purpose to fulfill. Besides, nobody will miss her very much.*

Chu Qitian shifted guiltily in his seat. "Dad, don't you think that we've crossed the line? Angie is innocent, after all."





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Though Chu Qitian had murdered more people than he could remember, his conscience still twinged at the horrific thought of mutilating Angie for his personal gain.

Heinous as his other crimes were, Angie's treatment was something that had weighed heavily upon his conscience.

When he slept at night, he even dreamt of her radiant smile, yet to be unblemished by the horrors of her fate.

"Now is not the time to feel queasy, Qitian. If you must, blame the girl for her gift. Jade Eyes contains too much power for such a little girl to handle. In a way, we are easing her burden by taking it off her hands."

"By the way," he continued. "Do you truly believe that she can stay out of it? The elders of the Chu Sect had already decreed for the girl to sever all ties with Chu Tianfan. In a fit of pure insubordination, she still saw fit to seek Chu Tianfan out over thousands of miles! How is that defiance any different from that of a traitor to Chu Sect? As its assistant head, it is my sworn duty to rid the Sect of any non-compliance. Jade Eyes is merely a spoil of war. Keep your eyes on the true prize, Qitian. Don't burden yourself with guilt. Your success is imminent, my boy."

Chu Qitian failed to notice the sanctimonious manner in which Chu Zhengliang had justified his actions.





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Convinced by his father's comforting words, he nodded fervently as his doubts dissipated. *Dad is right. Harnessing the power of Jade Eyes is critical to our entire operation.*

At that very moment, Michael arrived at the ancestral homestead of the Jones' and immediately informed his father about Ye Fan's involvement in his sister's mishap.

"What!" yelled Bill in a towering rage. "That scoundrel! Angie would have given her life for him and this is how he repays her? He would go to such lengths to frame the Chu family!"

Without giving the matter a second thought, he made the decision to summon the entire might of his family to avenge his daughter.

"Our forces alone might not be sufficient, Dad," Michael said softly, his voice quivering with righteous anger. "We should ally ourselves with the Chu family. They are the ones who want Chu Tianfan dead the most, aside from us! Once we have their support, two houses out of three within Chu Sect are already in favor of the same goal. By the next sect assembly, we will be able to force our agenda and turn the Tang family into a unanimous decision. At that point, we would have turned this personal vendetta into the objective goal of Chu Sect. Once the three houses of Chu Sect are on the same page, we would be able to mobilize a large enough force to declare war with Ye Fan! With Moon God's help, we will have Chu Tianfan's head!"



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