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Ye Fan shook his head quietly.

His answer angered her, and she glared at him. "You can't have thrown it away, can you?" she interrogated. "H-How could you do that! Do you have any idea what that is? My mother gave me that! It's a token of my parents' love!"

Tang Yun was fuming. If looks could kill, Ye Fan would have been dead ten times already. Just when she was about to shout, Ye Fan unbuttoned his collar, revealing the Blue Spirit jade pendant he was wearing around his neck.

Tang Yun was surprised to see that, and her anger was assuaged immediately. She was touched that Ye Fan was wearing it. "H-Have you been wearing it all this time?"

Ye Fan nodded with a smile. "I can't let a lady down now, can I?"

After they bade goodbye at the residence, a lot happened between Ye Fan and Tang Yun. Even when Tang Yun had cut ties with him back at the rainforest, and when she said they would never meet again back at Fenghai, Ye Fan never took the pendant off.

Perhaps, he wanted to keep the lady named Yu Yun in memoriam forever.

Tang Yun was touched, but she knew it wasn't the time to talk about that. She quickly asked Ye Fan to leave. "Keep this pendant well. Mother always



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said that Lady Luck will watch over those who wear this on them. You must leave now.

“The people from Chu Sect will catch up soon. Your subordinates won't be able to hold out much longer. Don't worry about their safety, Ye Fan. I am still an important part of the sect. I'll try my best to keep them safe. At the very least, I can convince my master not to kill them.” Tang Yun tried her hardest to get him to leave. She sounded nervous, but also reluctant.

Ye Fan was touched for some reason. Tang Yun seemed to see through him. She had already thought of the Dragon Slayers' safety even before Ye Fan brought it up. With that, Ye Fan had nothing to worry about anymore.

“Honestly, I wish none of this has ever happened. If you were still Yu Yun, and I were still Ye Fan, that'd be really great.”

It was a strange thing to say, but it made Tang Yun tear up. She had the exact same wish as well. Everyone was pursuing power and glory, and it was an eternal chase. But when they finally got what they wished for, they realized that what they hoped for the most was the peaceful days they used to have.

Alas, that was just wishful thinking. Tang Yun was no longer Yu Yun, and Ye Fan had already become Chu Tianfan. Fate had played a cruel joke on them, separating them for eternity.



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"Please, you must leave now." Tang Yun turned around. She did not want Ye Fan to see her losing her composure.

Ye Fan tried to leave, but he could not bring himself to take that first step. In the end, he inexplicably turned around and told her, "Yun, come with me."

It was a simple suggestion, but to Tang Yun, it was nothing short of a bombshell.

Ever since she was a child, she had been an obedient child, and eventually, she became the pride and joy of her master. Thanks to that, she became the head of the Chu Sect in the end.

Ever since the day she was born, she had been living up to everyone else's expectations. She became what everyone else wanted her to be.

But now, a man was extending a hand to her, telling her to break the rules, telling her to let go of the chains that were binding her. He was telling her to ignore how everyone would see her, and to leave their troubles behind them.

Nobody could understand what she was feeling. She froze up for the longest time, and words failed her.

As for Ye Fan, he regretted it the moment he said that. After all, he was a man who had fallen from grace. He had nothing, and his life was in constant danger. He knew he had no right to ask a great



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lady like Tang Yun to give her life of luxury up just to join him.

Besides, he had a family. Mucheng had been nothing but great to him, and he did not want to betray her. When all was said and done, Tang Yun was just a lady whom he could have been with. The reality, however, was never so kind.

Ye Fan could never give her anything, and if he took her away with him, the Tang family would hunt him to the ends of the earth. The Chu Sect would probably do everything in their power to kill him as well. Not to mention Chu Yuan would also be hot on his trails.

It would be ideal if he could take Tang Yun with him, but in the face of reality, that promise was too naïve and laughable. A happy ending could only happen in a fairy tale after all.

Before Tang Yun could give him her answer, Ye Fan had already given up on that idea. He used to think that he was fearless, but when it came to his relationship with Tang Yun, he relented. He, who used to be the Unrivalled, could only take the cowardly route.

He was just a mortal after all, and a lot was riding on him, so he could never give that up. *If there's someone who can give up on everything, it's probably Mr. Yunyang. He's a Great Emperor now. I doubt he's afraid of anything.*

Ye Fan gave up on that foolish idea and turned



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around. He felt forlorn and crestfallen, but he knew he had to leave. He knew that their next meeting might never come after this departure, and even if it did, much would change.

However, before he could leave her behind, Tang Yun suddenly said, "I'll go with you, Ye Fan!"

Her answer came as a shock to him, and it shook Ye Fan to his core. He turned around, and what he saw was a tearful Tang Yun running up to him. She had delight, resolve, and a hint of madness in her eyes.

When she fell into his arms, Ye Fan could no longer find the courage to refuse her, and he knew he had one more person in this world whom he was willing to give up everything to protect.

At that moment, everything around them turned silent, and Ye Fan answered quietly, "Thank you."

With that, both top fighters on the Sky Ranking walked together, and they made a run for the base of Mount Chumen.

"Hold it right there!"

"Who goes there!"

"Announce your names!"

Just a bit more and they would have escaped Mount Chumen, but all the fighters in Mount Chumen were guarding the whole place tightly. All



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of them were just waiting for Ye Fan to walk right into the trap they had set up for him.

A while later, these people finally saw two people coming down from the mountain. They went on high alert and quickly surrounded the would-be escapees, but when they came near, they realized that one of the escapees was their own leader—Tang Yun.

The fighters were struck with fear, and they knelt before her to beg for forgiveness. “W-We apologize for our rude behavior, Ms. Tang. We did not realize that it was you. Please forgive our behavior, Ms. Tang.”

Tang Yun looked at them and roared, “Since you can see now that it's me, get out of my way then!”

“B-But the Old Master told us to—” someone tried to answer, but before he could finish, a flash of light appeared, and a thin, bloody line appeared on the man's neck.

If the line had gone any deeper, it would have cut the man's throat open. The man plopped down to the ground, scared witless.

“Are you still going to disobey me?” Tang Yun roared again.

Nobody dared to go against her orders, and they made way for their sect leader. Just like that, Tang Yun and Ye Fan easily broke through the Chu Sect's guard.



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However, before they could go any further, a deep, powerful roar sounded seemingly out of nowhere. The roar was ancient, powerful, and majestic, as if a beast from ages past had broken through its chains, poised to make its return to the human world.

“This... This cannot be!” Tang Yun shivered.



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As the roar continued, it rumbled the earth, and eventually the heavens. The ground around them started quaking as if the roar had awakened a primal fear within it.

The roar seemed to come from the depths of the earth, and a moment later, an intense heat storm swept across the surface world.

When Tang Yun and Ye Fan turned around, what greeted them was a horrifying scene. The top of Mount Chumen looked like it was on fire, its land as red as the crimson sun. The mountain looked like it was being burned by a little sun.

“That... That can't be...” Tang Yun's face became as white as a ghost when she saw what was happening.

“What's wrong, Yun?” Ye Fan was worried. He seldom saw Tang Yun looking so worried before.

Tang Yun had a grim look on her face. “Ye Fan, I suspect that the monster that has been slumbering under the mountain is starting to wake up.”

“Wait. A monster? There's a monster under the mountain?” Ye Fan was shocked.

“You didn't know about it? Your family's ancestor—Chu Yunyang—was one of the, if not the most powerful and most talented fighters of his generation and generations to come. Even the smallest part of his power is enough to keep your



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family safe for millennia.

“Invoke the Celestial Cloud, Iron Man, Sword of Yunyang, and even the Tang family's Cloud and Mist Sword Technique are the gifts he left for his descendants.” Tang Yun spoke briefly of Ye Fan's family history, but she didn't look happy. The situation was a grim one.

“What? Even the Cloud and Mist Sword Technique? No wonder I thought it's similar to Invoke the Celestial Cloud.” Ye Fan finally realized the answer to the question that had been bugging him for a long time.

However, that only made him more curious about the relationship between the Chu family and the Tang family. *I wonder what does their most guarded technique have anything to do with my ancestor?*

But now's not the time to ask that question, though. Ye Fan said, “You're trying to say that this monster also has something to do with my ancestor, aren't you?”

Tang Yun nodded. “When I was little, I knew that a monster slumbers underneath Mount Chumen. The Jones family's ancestor was the monster's gatekeeper. He was also one of your ancestor's subordinates as well. After so many years, the Jones family became one of the Three Families of the Chu Sect, and they enjoy the same status as the Chu family.



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“Since then, all they care about is power. They probably forgot about their ancestor's duty. They might have even forgotten about this monster as well.” Tang Yun shook her head melancholically.

As the head of the Chu Sect, she knew a lot more than Ye Fan about the secrets of the Three Families of the Chu Sect.

When she first heard about the monster under the mountain, Tang Yun only brushed it off as a legend, but when she heard the ancient roar and saw the fire that was destroying the mountain, she realized that the monster was no mere myth; it existed in real life.

“If the monster were to reappear, Eigetsu and everyone else will be in danger!”

Ye Fan had realized the gravity of the situation as well. If something were to happen to Mount Chumen, it would add more to Ye Fan's already bursting plate.

Tang Yun shook her head. “Not necessarily. The monster's reawakening isn't necessarily bad news for Eigetsu and the others. The Jones family's ancestors could control the monster, but his descendants have lost the skill to control beasts long ago. And without anyone controlling it, chaos will follow when the monster returns. Your men can escape when that happens,” Tang Yun concluded.

Ye Fan felt more at ease after that.



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Tang Yun then said, "But this is not the time to talk about that. You're badly hurt. We must leave now. You can't do anything to help them with that kind of injury anyway." She took Ye Fan and fled the mountain.

A moment later, they disappeared into the night, while chaos ensued on Mount Chumen.

It was as if Armageddon had come early. Flames engulfed the sky, and cracks appeared on the ground, while a great fire charred everything on the mountain.

The phenomenon lasted for an hour. An hour of chaos later, a behemoth appeared from the ground and shot up into the sky. Everyone on Mount Chumen felt something blotting out the moonlight, and when they looked up, they saw a gigantic monster with six flaming wings floating up above.

The monster looked like sephirot, the angels of legend. The sun and moon were blotted that day, their light replaced by the holiness and majesty of God.

Countless humans were on their knees, begging for the holy sephirot to cleanse them of their sins like the fervent believers they were. All evil was pierced through by the light of God, and all darkness cowered before the holy judgment that came from the heavens.

Eventually, the people could vaguely make out the



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silhouette of a man standing proudly atop the six-winged sephirot. His eyes were blue, but his pupils were golden. It was as if the man had ascended the throne and taken the reins of the world beneath him. All life existed for one reason—to serve him.

Chu Zhengliang was still tortured on Mount Chumen but when he saw the person who was standing atop the six-winged creature, he shed a tear of happiness, for he knew all the pain he suffered was worth it in the end.

The chaos on Mount Chumen lasted for a night, eventually prompting Anglandur's military's interference. Millions of soldiers made their way to the mountain, and battle jets circled the sky above. Battleships were on the sea, waiting for the order to attack, and countless missiles were aimed at Mount Chumen.

The signs of a bloody battle were taking place, but fortunately, Anglandur's military made contact with Chu Sect's top brass and realized that things were under control. The events that happened the night before were just a result of civil unrest, and everything had been settled. At least, that was what they said.

Thanks to that, they prevented a bombing from falling upon them. After stopping Anglandur from attacking them, Chu Yuan stood on top of the mountain and called for an emergency meeting.

He wanted all the elders, vice Hall Masters, and



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the top brass of the Three Families of the Chu Sect to stop chasing Ye Fan and come back for the meeting.

Chu Yuan waited for a whole day outside the doors of Chu Sect Castle, but Tang Yun never appeared. "Where is Tang Yun? Tell me, where is she?" Chu Yuan started shouting in hysteria, his face was contorted with rage.

Even without anyone answering him, he knew why Tang Yun hadn't shown up. Someone had reported what they saw to him earlier. They said someone noticed Tang Yun and Ye Fan leaving the mountain the night before.

Chu Yuan did not believe it when he first heard about it. He could never believe Tang Yun would leave with Ye Fan. After all, she was a mature woman who would always make the best choices. He thought she would never turn her back on him or the sect that she had spent her whole life building up.

That was why he called for the emergency meeting. He wanted to see if his pride and joy would return. She was the sect leader, after all. However, the result disappointed Chu Yuan. He waited for a whole day, but Tang Yun never showed up for the meeting.

Laughing maniacally, he spat, "Chu Tianfan! D*mn you! D*mn you to hell! You've destroyed my family, and now you're bringing my sect to ruin as well?"



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Chu Yuan had been silent for the whole day, but eventually, he could not hold his fury and sorrow back anymore. In the end, all he could do was laugh, but there was no delight in his laughter. There was but sorrow and disappointment.

It was then that Chu Yuan realized that the person he had exiled had grown into a truly terrifying entity. He thought Ye Fan could never amount to anything in his life, but not only did Ye Fan imprison the head of the Chu family, but he even took the head of the Chu Sect away with him.

He intends to destroy the Chu family and the Chu Sect completely. Chu Yuan had to admit that Ye Fan was a greater strategist than himself.



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Chu Yuan's roars did not stop resounding throughout the castle and they almost destroyed the great hall. All the disciples of the sect knelt in terror, and none of them dared to even speak a word.

In the end, Tang Xian, who was worried about Tang Yun, begged Chu Yuan, "Old Master, Ms. Tang is still nowhere to be seen. She must have been taken away by that scum, Chu Tianfan. Not only is he fearless, but he is also full of tricks. Old Master, you must take Ms. Tang back from that b*stard. If you don't, Chu Tianfan might harm her!"

Tang Xian was tearing up, and his eyes were filled with worry. After all, if Ye Fan could do something so cruel to Chu Zhengliang, it was possible that he might subject Tang Yun to the same kind of pain.

Even until then, they could still hear Chu Zhengliang's screams coming from Mount Chumen. Tang Xian was worried that Ye Fan might have captured Tang Yun using the same despicable way and tortured her as well.

Tang Yun was the most talented genius in their family, and she was the hope of the Tang family. As the family head, Tang Xian didn't want to see Tang Yun die at Ye Fan's hands.

"You're right. That b*stard must have tricked her into this! She wouldn't have done something so nonsensical on her own!" Chu Yuan told himself that, trying his hardest to believe in the excuse that he had come up for Tang Yun.



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No matter what, he would not accept the fact that Tang Yun had turned her back on him, nor would he accept the fact that his pride and joy had eloped with Ye Fan.

As someone once said, "Facts don't care about your feelings." And they certainly did not care about Chu Yuan's feelings either.

Chu Yuan himself knew that Tang Yun had special feelings for Ye Fan, and not just because he was Chu Zhenghong's son. He knew Ye Fan also liked her from the moment he changed the direction of his attack a little while back when Tang Yun risked her life to save him.

But Chu Yuan did not think too much about it back then. Now, after what happened, he had to take one terrifying possibility into serious consideration. *She might have given up on power, her rule, and her family's pride just to elope with an exiled person.*

Of course, he only entertained that concept silently. He would never talk about it with anyone, or he would be embarrassed because of it. The sect would be humiliated because of it.

"Our first order of business is to apprehend Chu Tianfan and retrieve our sect leader, Tang Yun. I will need Sixth Elder, and Seventh Elder to lead a troop each and stop Chu Tianfan from leaving the country. Lockdown the land, sea, and airspace.

"That b*stard has been seriously injured. I doubt



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they'd be able to escape the country overnight. If we guard the borders, we'll catch him eventually."

Chu Yuan came up with a plan and gave his orders to catch Ye Fan. However, no matter how much he said, Sixth Elder and Seventh Elder did not appear.

"Have I not made myself clear enough? Are you deaf? Where are Sixth Elder and Seventh Elder?" Chu Yuan asked sternly.

None of the fighters answered him. They hung their heads low, and in the end, Tang Xian whispered bitterly, "Old Master, Sixth Elder, and Seventh Elder have perished a while ago."

"What? They've perished? Who killed them? Are you saying that someone other than Chu Tianfan dares to go against the sect?" Chu Yuan was livid about the news.

Tang Xian blanched. "Chu Tianfan is the one who killed them."

"That b*stard!" Chu Yuan clenched his fists, and he wanted to kill Ye Fan even more. "Then, send the Eighth and Ninth Elder after him. No matter what, I want that b*stard apprehended. We must rescue Tang Yun and avenge our elders!" Chu Yuan handed the mission over to another duo.

However, much to his astonishment, the ones he summoned did not appear as well. "What is the meaning of this? Where are Eighth and Ninth Elder? Are you deaf? Did you not hear what I said?"



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Chu Yuan was enraged. He glared at everyone as he attempted to search for Eighth Elder and Ninth Elder. However, he found nothing. In the end, Tang Xian answered again, "O-Old Master, they... they have perished as well. At Chu Tianfan's hands."

It was a piece of grim news, but Tang Xian held his sorrow down and reported it nonetheless. A few years ago, Chu Sect lost two elders to Ye Fan during the battle in the rainforest.

Recently, Ye Fan attacked Chu Sect two times and killed Sixth Elder first, while his subordinates killed Eighth Elder. As a result, Chu Sect was severely undermined, and they were at risk of getting attacked at any time.

A wave of energy burst forth from Chu Yuan, and the long table before him shattered into pieces. "D*mn you, Chu Tianfan! I swear on my name that I shall crush you into pieces!"

Chu Yuan was so angry that his veins were pulsing on his forehead. He could not believe that all the elders he summoned were dead and that all of them were killed by the same person.

Livid, he stopped summoning anyone to do his bidding. He figured that if the person he summoned for the third time was also a dead one, he would be embarrassed.

"Head of elders, you shall lead this mission. Remember, send someone to keep an eye on all exits and entrances of the city. And get our allies



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in the local area to hunt Chu Tianfan down. If you find any clue that will lead us to Chu Tianfan and Tang Yun, you report to me immediately.

“Chu Shen, you shall take the family over for now, and summon the Demonic Duo. Tell them I wish to meet with them.” Chu Yuan looked at Chu Shen after he sent Tang Xian away.

Since Chu Zhengliang was as good as dead, the Chu family would need someone else to lead them, and Chu Shen was the only one who could do that. However, Chu Shen had no idea why Chu Yuan wanted to summon the Demonic Duo.

After he was done making arrangements, Chu Yuan remembered something he wanted to ask, so he told everyone to leave. When Tang Xian was the only one left, he asked, “How's it going with the Jones family?”

Tang Xian heaved a sigh and shook his head. “Still throwing a tantrum. Especially the young master of the Jones family. He wants a showdown with Mr. Tianqi.”

Chu Yuan frowned. “Ask them to name their price. We'll pay it as long as we can afford it.”

Tang Xian was silent for a moment, then he whispered, “They only have one demand. An eye for an eye.”

“Impossible,” Chu Yuan refused it outright. “Tell them that we can't change the past. Now that we

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have the Jade Eyes, we will never hand them back. Besides, the girl is dead, so there's no use in giving back the eyes either. They can't expect us to give the holy eyes to a dead person, do they? That'd be a waste of good treasure!" Chu Yuan argued, his voice filled with anger.

After ranting, he calmed down a lot, feeling as if he had finally vent his anger out. "Forget it. It is our fault in the first place, but the perpetrator has already been punished, isn't he? My son is being tortured on the mountain now. Is that not enough? Tang Xian, you might have to persuade them to stop while they are ahead. Think of the big picture.

"Tell them they shall have their recompense eventually."



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Chu Yuan was sounding a lot gentler. Evidently, he could tell that the Chu family was in the wrong in this case.

Back when Ye Fan was still in Chu Sect, he told Chu Yuan that the Chu family had taken Angie's eyes from her. Back then, Chu Yuan thought it was too horrifying to be true. He thought Ye Fan was trying to slander them in order to justify his attack on the Chu family.

However, when he saw the beast that had woken up from its slumber and the man who stood atop it, he knew Ye Fan was not lying.

All the top brass in the Three Families of the Chu Sect knew that the Jones family was the gatekeeper of the slumbering beast. Generations ago, Yunyang gave them the Jade Eyes that could help the Jones family in their duty of controlling the beast.

Those eyes were passed down in the Jones bloodline, but Chu Yuan noticed that Chu Qitian had obtained those eyes when he appeared the night before. It was then he confirmed that Ye Fan wasn't lying.

Chu Zhengliang is one crazy man. He robbed the girl of those eyes and gave them to Qitian?

Chu Yuan still thought it was a shocking move on his son's behalf even after so long. But now that they were in control of the Jade Eyes, Chu Yuan had no intention of giving them back. After all,



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having the Jade Eyes in their hands meant total control over the beast under the mountain. That would make the Chu family more powerful, and Chu Yuan would never do anything that would harm the family's bottom line.

Besides, his son had paid the price in the form of a painful punishment, and if Chu Yuan saw things in that light, he could justify his son's actions.

However, Chu Yuan still had to look out for the Jones family. They could still stage a retaliation, so Chu Yuan had to do everything to calm them down, and deception was not beyond him.

Nonetheless, if the Jones family would not give in, Chu Yuan wouldn't spare them either. Now that the Chu family was in possession of the Jade Eyes, the Jones family had lost their value.

Chu Yuan could wipe them all out anytime he wished to. Power was everything in the martial arts world. Fairness was a pipedream for the Jones family, for they were weak, and had no power at all.

"I will do my best, Old Master."

The Tang family didn't want to take sides in this feud. At best, they could only take up the role of mediator and try to keep the balance as it was, even if it had become somewhat tenuous.

After the talk was over, Chu Sect started working at full capacity. They sent everyone to search for



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Ye Fan, save for those who were seriously injured and had to rest.

Aside from that, Chu Yuan used the Chu Summoning Seal to summon all the Chu Sect members who were training outside to return immediately. Because of those orders, the city the Chu Sect was in became a tightly secured area.

All the sea, land, and air exits were tightly guarded. Naturally, that wasn't all because of Chu Sect. They had help from Anglandur's government.

Ye Fan was China's fighter, and an incredibly talented one at that as well. Killing someone like that did align with Anglandur's agenda, so they were all too happy to help.

While Chu Sect was in a maniacal search for Ye Fan, a man and a woman were walking on a street in Norwal City. They were dressed in a robe as they slowly made their way into a cafe.

The woman was wearing a veil, and her hair was long. Even though she was covered in a long robe, her perfect figure was still visible. Some women were born exceptionally beautiful, and one look at her was enough to captivate anyone.

"Man, now I feel like taking you with me is a mistake." The man noticed the customers' looks, and he smiled dryly.

Gorgeous women were rare no matter the place, not to mention that the woman beside him was



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gorgeous, majestic, and elegant. And she was the head of Chu Sect as well.

The man and woman were none other than Ye Fan and Tang Yun. After they left the mountain, they were planning on escaping due east, where China was. However, Tang Yun gave up on the idea in the end.

She knew what her master was like, and she knew all the Chu Sect fighters must be guarding the city's exits by then. The moment she and Ye Fan made their appearance, her master would get the news immediately.

Besides, Ye Fan was too heavily injured to travel that far. Tang Yun might be in a slightly better position than Ye Fan was, but she was still severely exhausted.

The best choice for them in this situation was not to escape. Instead, they must find a place to hide and regain their strength. At the very least, they must have the power to protect themselves before they could come up with a plan of escape.

"Oh, regretting your decision so soon? Fine, I'll leave then. I'll go back and become sect leader again. You think I want to be on the run with you?" Tang Yun snorted and got up.

Naturally, Ye Fan had no intention of letting her go. He pulled her into his embrace. "Too late to leave now. I'm not letting you go after I took you with me."



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He laughed shamelessly, while Tang Yun turned red with embarrassment. "Hey, people are staring. What do you think you're doing?"

She glared at Ye Fan and got up, though the pink shade on her face remained.

After that little laugh, they started talking business.

"So, what should we do next? Where should we go? My master has sent an army after us. We can't get out of town that easily for now. Why don't we hide in a cave and heal up?" Tang Yun suggested.

Ye Fan shook his head. "Whatever you can come up with, your master would have thought about it. I guarantee that most of his attention is on the forests now. Nobody lives there, which makes it the first place to search for people in hiding. We'll have to hide in the city. Did you bring any money with you? I'll see if we can get a room somewhere." Ye Fan looked at her.

He came from China. So even if he had money, he wouldn't be able to use it in Anglandur. Besides, Ye Fan seldom had money on him.

Tang Yun shook her head. "No, I didn't."

She was crowned as Supreme, and everyone saw her as a distinguished guest. As such, she rarely had a place to spend her money on. Even if she did, her subordinates would settle it for her.



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It had been years since Tang Yun had any money on her. Aside from her training, she was like a child in every other aspect of her life.

Ye Fan held his forehead in frustration. "D*mn. Don't you think that you're too detached from reality? Motherhood is going to be hard on you if that's how you deal with your own life."

He had a feeling that if he were to marry Tang Yun, he would have to be her husband and father at the same time.

"Well, I thought it's going to be the same as how I'm living right now." Tang Yun looked a little guilty, and she whispered, "And my parents can take care of the kid."

Suddenly, a woman's voice interrupted their little chat. The woman could be heard grumbling, "I said I don't like you. Can you stop stalking me?" The voice came from outside.

A moment later, the woman came into the coffee shop.

"But Yurou, you don't have to love me. We can start by being friends first! We can nurture our love! You'll fall for my charms eventually! I just know it!"

A rich guy in expensive clothes came in right after her.

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"I said no! No, no, no! How many times do I have to tell you that I have someone I like? What part of I don't like you do you not understand?"

The man still would not stop harassing her after that, and the woman finally snapped. She started hurling curses at the man in hopes that he would leave, but much to the other customers' shock, the man refused to give up even after the woman had expressed her disgust.

He even grabbed her hand, stopping her from leaving. "Wait for me, Yurou. Let's have a chat."

"I have nothing to say to you!" He Yurou refused him adamantly. She would not lead him on, and she flung the man's arm away, obviously disgusted by his touch.

However, she flung him away a bit too hard, and she bumped into the table beside her by accident. The cup of coffee on it was toppled, and the coffee was splashed onto the man's suit.

"G*ddammit! Watch where you put your coffee! I just got this suit! Do you know how expensive this is?"

The man was infuriated. He had spent a lot of time picking his suit for his meeting with He Yurou, only to have it stained not long after he wore it.

While the man was scolding the customer, the girl called Yurou kept apologizing, "I am really sorry



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about this. I didn't mean it. I'll buy you another cup of coffee right away.”

She kept apologizing and started wiping the coffee away with a piece of tissue paper.

The customer wasn't offended at all. He said, “Thanks.”

However, the voice came as a shock for He Yurou. The moment she heard that, she paused for a moment as if she was petrified by Medusa's glare.

She felt her mind exploding, and a crazy idea took place in her head. Eventually, she slowly looked up, trepidation and excitement were welling up within her.

The sight that greeted her was that familiar face. After so long, she finally saw him once again.

Just then, the man cursed, “What the f*ck? Are you still a man? Are you really asking a woman to buy you coffee?” He then turned toward He Yurou and said, “You don't have to buy him another cup of coffee, Yurou. He stained my clothes! I'm already kind enough to let this slide.”

But to his surprise, He Yurou, who had been apologetic until a moment ago, looked like she had seen the love of her life, and a smile bloomed on her lips.

“Mr. Chu! W-What brings you here? I-I thought you were in Jiangdong? I didn't expect to see you



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here!”

He Yurou was pleasantly surprised. She had spent many nights dreaming about seeing Ye Fan again, and now fate had reunited them in a land far away from their home.

Fate was indeed a magical thing. It would tie two unrelated people together and make them meet at a moment they least expected.

“What is the meaning of this, Yurou? You know this guy?” The young foreign man looked flabbergasted. He didn't expect the woman he liked to be an acquaintance of the man in weird clothes.

“Um... Who are you again?” Ye Fan was surprised that this woman knew him.

“Mr. Chu, it's me, Yurou. He Yurou. Have you forgotten me? We've met before at Dongchang Lake in Yunzhou and Lake Xizi in Linzhou. I went to see you before I came overseas, but you weren't home back then.”

He Yurou was still excited about seeing Ye Fan again. She thought it was all a dream. *I wonder why Mr. Chu is in Norwal City. It's so far from home.*

And even if he is here, how did I bump into him out of all people? This must be a dream.

He Yurou pinched her arm to see if this was all a dream, but to her disappointment, no matter how



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hard she pinched, she could not feel any pain at all. *Is this all just a dream after all?*

Just when He Yurou thought it was just a dream, Ye Fan, who had been quiet all the while, said calmly, "You're pinching my arm."

"Huh? Oh, my God! I'm so sorry, Mr. Chu." He Yurou's face turned red. She felt awkward and embarrassed.

She kept apologizing like a child who did something wrong, "I'm really sorry, Mr. Chu. I was just too excited, that's all. I didn't expect to see you again. I thought we would never meet again after that day in Jiangdong." Then, she kept gushing like a happy child.

Ye Fan shook his head. "It's all right." He smiled. "I remember you. Your father is He Lanshan, right? The governor of Jiangdong."

"That's right, Mr. Chu. My father got demoted after he crossed you." He Yurou was delighted that Ye Fan recognized her.

Ye Fan chuckled dryly. "If I had known that Mr. He has an adorable daughter like you, I would have asked the state to go easy on him."

Before he could say anything else, he felt someone pinching his waist, and he winced in pain. He turned around and saw Tang Yun looking at him coldly. "Looks like someone is popular with the ladies, huh? Running into another girlfriend of



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yours overseas? Looks like you're going to build a harem at this rate.”

Tang Yun was smiling at him, but that smile was sending a shiver down Ye Fan's spine. “I-I'm just happy that I ran into someone from back home, that's all,” he explained. *Ugh, it's hard to be a man sometimes.*

Back in China, Mucheng kept an eye on him at all times. Now that he was overseas, that role was replaced by Tang Yun.

He Yurou looked at Tang Yun. “And who might this lady be?”

He Yurou thought that the lady beside Ye Fan was Mucheng at first, but when she heard her voice, she knew it wasn't Mucheng. Curious, she wanted to know who the lady was.

“She's—”

Ye Fan was about to introduce her when Tang Yun interrupted, “Hi, I'm Ye Fan's cousin, Yu Yun.”

Ye Fan tried his best not to laugh. He never thought someone like Tang Yun would lie so blatantly. *My cousin? You're the same rank as my father. If you're my cousin, does that mean I can call my father 'bro'?*

Of course, Tang Yun might be one rank higher than Ye Fan was, but they were of similar age. She was just a little girl when her sister got married to Chu

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Zhenghong.

Besides, supreme grandmasters lived long lives, and Tang Yun ingested a lot of magical herbs when she was a child. She looked healthier and younger than He Yurou thanks to that.

After the introductions were done, He Yurou sat across from Ye Fan, and they had a little chat. The persistent young man was ignored, of course.

“Mr. Chu, are you here on a vacation?” He Yurou wanted to know everything about Ye Fan.

“Yes.” Ye Fan nodded, but he didn't elaborate on his situation. “Oh yeah. Yurou, do you know any good hotels around here? We tried to find some, but there aren't any that are good enough,” he lied.

He Yurou's eyes lit up. “Are you looking for a place to stay, Mr. Chu? If you don't mind, you can stay at my place. I live alone, so I have some spare rooms. It's enough for both of you too.”

“That's great!” Ye Fan took her up on that offer.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 1781

"No! Yurou, you can't stay under the same roof with a stranger! Not to mention he's a guy! I won't agree to this!" the foreign man said. His name was Jack Brown, and he felt jealous that He Yurou had invited Ye Fan to stay at her place.

He Yurou didn't even give him a moment of her time, nor did she spare a glance at him. "Ignore him, Mr. Chu. He's just someone from school. Nothing more," she explained.

Ye Fan smiled at her. "But he does not seem to think so."

"I don't care what he thinks. It has nothing to do with me." He Yurou seemed annoyed by Jack. Every time she mentioned him, she sounded angry. "Anyway, it's getting late, Mr. Chu. I'll take you guys to my place first. I can clean your rooms for you."

He Yurou wanted to take Ye Fan back to her place as soon as possible. Before she even finished her coffee, she had already started leading Ye Fan and Tang Yun over to her place, and Ye Fan let her.

They needed a safe and quiet place to heal up, after all.

"Sir, you'll have to pay the bill first," a waiter came over to get them to pay.

Ye Fan nodded. He was about to take his wallet out, but He Yurou settled the bill before he could. "Thank you, Yurou. Honestly, you're too kind. Not



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only did you give us a place to stay, but you also paid for our coffee.” He smiled gratefully.

He Yurou answered happily, “It’s what I should do. You’re a guest, and I’m the host. I can’t let you pay on my turf. Besides, my father crossed you before. Since I’m his daughter, you can consider this a little apology.” He Yurou beamed.

Ye Fan took her up on that offer, and he laughed. “Well, if you insist, I shall take you up on your generosity then. Next time you’re in Jiangdong, let me be the host.”

With that, the three of them hailed a taxi and left for He Yurou’s condominium.

“Wait for me, Yurou! Wait for me!” Jack shouted. “He Yurou! How can you dump me for someone you just met?” he roared.

He was friends with He Yurou, or so he thought. *How could she be so cruel? She dumped me and left with someone she just met!*

In the taxi, Ye Fan joked, “Yurou, that young man back there doesn’t look half bad, and he’s nice to you. Why don’t you give him a chance?”

He Yurou shook her head. “Mr. Chu, don’t fall for his tricks. He might look loyal, but the guy’s a playboy. He has a lot of girlfriends back at school, and all of them look decent too.

“Not to mention there are at least five girls who



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got an abortion after they got pregnant with his kid. He's nothing but a piece of scum. So I don't care how 'great' of a catch he is, I will never give him half a chance."

Ye Fan nodded. "True. Relationships and marriage are big things in life. Power and wealth aren't the most important thing here. If it's up to me, I'd say personality takes first place."

"Yeah, and you're a great example, Mr. Chu. My father said that you're just a live-in son-in-law many years ago, and the Qiu family humiliated you for that. Even Ms. Qiu herself neglected you back then.

"Most people would have left if they had to endure such suffering, but you never did. You stayed by Ms. Qiu's side even after you became the most famous person in Yunzhou and Jiangdong.

"You never left the person you married. And the company she's holding, Mufan Group, is founded by you, right? You built it up for her. Honestly, I envy her, Mr. Chu. She's smart and lucky enough to marry you, and you never left her for anything," He Yurou said gently, her voice filled with longing.

To He Yurou or anyone else for that matter, Ye Fan was far above Qiu Mucheng's league. After all, she was just a commoner's daughter.

Her family wasn't exactly powerful, and back when Ye Fan was still a live-in son-in-law, she was always cold toward him. He Yurou had heard of



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rumors saying that she never allowed Ye Fan to sleep in the same bed as her.

When Ye Fan became King of Jiangdong, a lot of people thought he would divorce Qiu Mucheng. After all, their marriage was just a joke, to begin with.

However, what happened next shocked everyone. Not only did Ye Fan not neglect Qiu Mucheng, he even made her Queen of Jiangdong so she could help him manage his hometown.

He also added Qiu Mucheng's name to his company name, and that kind of loyalty he showed impressed a lot of people.

While He Yurou was talking about Ye fan's past, Tang Yun started to seem a bit forlorn, and something welled up within her.

Perhaps she was starting to regret the decision she made that night. *I probably shouldn't have left with him. He already has a family, while I'm just someone he met after he married someone else. I can't just wreck his home on nothing but mere impulse.*

The more she thought about it, the worse she felt, and she started to look sad. Suddenly, she couldn't see a future together with Ye Fan.

Just when Tang Yun was starting down that depressing line of thought, she felt Ye Fan holding her hands firmly.



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"There's nothing to be jealous about. Mucheng and I have been married for a long time. We're more like a family now, not lovers. You're still young, Yurou. You'll find someone nice. Maybe he'll be better than I am." Ye Fan shifted the topic.

The matter about Qiu Mucheng and Tang Yun was a sensitive one for Ye Fan. Talking too much about it wasn't great, especially with Tang Yun around.

"Mr. Chu, there's a saying I have heard," He Yurou suddenly said.

"What kind of saying?"

She looked at Ye Fan calmly. "Sometimes you just can't go back. When you have seen someone extraordinary, you can never think of anyone else as great, no matter how outstanding they are."

"Um..." The corner of Ye Fan's left eye twitched, and for some reason, he had a bad feeling about what would happen.

Just as he expected, Tang Yun pinched his arm, hard.

*Ye Fan, you b*stard! You're just a playboy in the end!
You flirt with girls everywhere you go!*

Ye Fan winced from the pain. *Oh, my God, this is not my fault. I swear I am not the extraordinary man Yurou is talking about!*

He had only met He Yurou a few times before.



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They weren't exactly friends just yet, so he reckoned Tang Yun must be misunderstanding something.

He Yurou noticed the look on Ye Fan's face, and she chuckled. "I'm just kidding, Mr. Chu. It's still too early for me to look for a boyfriend. I just want to be better so I can stand alongside great people."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 1782

A short while later, they arrived at He Yurou's place. They did a simple cleanup of the room, and Ye Fan retired for the night, saying that he was tired from the journey.

"Of course, Mr. Chu. You guys rest up. I have classes in the afternoon, so I have to go back to school now. Call me if you need anything," He Yurou told them before she bade them goodbye.

Once He Yurou was gone, Tang Yun and Ye Fan quickly went back into their rooms to heal up.

Ye Fan might seem calm around He Yurou, but he was actually really worried. After all, Tsukuyomi and Gaius' situations were unknown, and the people from Chu Sect could find them at any moment. He had to heal up as soon as possible.

Once he recovered enough, he and Tang Yun would break through the heavily guarded border and return to China, where they would rendezvous with Junie.

Junie was a great doctor. If Ye Fan could stay with her for just a while, he figured he could heal up immediately.

If Ye Fan could get back on his feet, he could face a lot of enemies without fear. With Tang Yun and Tsukuyomi beside him, not even Chu Yuan himself could defeat him that easily.

But as he was in too much of a hurry, not long after He Yurou was gone, Ye Fan felt the energy



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within him running amok, and he eventually coughed up blood.

Tang Yun heard the commotion, and she quickly came over. "Are you all right, Ye Fan?"

Ye Fan smiled, but his face was as pale as a ghost. "I'm fine. Just in a bit of a hurry."

Tang Yun was worried about him. She was involved in the battle, so she knew his condition very well. He had overworked his body way back at the mountain, and he had been on the run ever since. Frankly, his lasting until this point was already a miracle.

"Why don't we do Joint Cultivation, Ye Fan?" Tang Yun quickly suggested. She was simply too worried about him.

Ye Fan looked at her with a heated gaze after she made that suggestion, turning her face red with embarrassment. She pinched his leg. "Don't you get any dirty ideas. It's not the time for that!"

Still embarrassed, she explained, "I was talking about the Yin Yang Dragon God Body. We can use that to heal. Its regenerative abilities are decent, and we'll be able to heal up much faster that way."

"I was just teasing you." Ye Fan knew what she was getting at. He only gave her that look to mess with her. Ye Fan could always find humor in even the darkest places, and that was one of his most admirable traits.



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Tang Yun got onto his bed. They then sat cross-legged and put their palms together as they activated the Dragon God Body at the same time.

The power of yin and yang coursed through their bodies, merging together and slowly healing their injuries. They didn't want to cause any misunderstanding, however, so they stopped using the Yin Yang Dragon God Body after He Yurou came back, and Tang Yun went back to her room.

"Time for dinner, Mr. Chu, Ms. Yu Yun!"

He Yurou was an understanding host. Seeing how Ye Fan and Tang Yun were tired from the journey, she didn't disturb them after she came back. She made dinner first before calling them out.

Ye Fan and Tang Yun didn't refuse her. They had a light dinner before they went back to their room to heal themselves up.

He Yurou spent the night in the living room alone, watching some TV. She wanted to knock on Ye Fan's door a few times throughout the night, but she held that urge back.

In the end, she didn't manage to give him the movie tickets. *Mr. Chu is busy. He has a lot to handle every day. He won't have time for the movies.*

With that thought in mind, He Yurou turned the TV off and trudged back to her bedroom to retire for the night.



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Late at night, Ye Fan sneaked into Tang Yun's room and kept using the Yin Yang Dragon God to heal themselves up. When dawn came, he went back to his own room before He Yurou woke up.

After He Yurou went to school, Ye Fan and Tang Yun heaved a long sigh of relief.

"D*mn, it feels like we're having an affair." Ye Fan shook his head. It was then he understood why living in someone else's house was so inconvenient.

"Can you just shut up?" Tang Yun shot him a nasty glare. She blushed, and she felt like kicking him off her bed. *He really knows how to make things sound dirty.*

An affair? With his wife back at home not knowing what he's doing now, it does seem like we're having an affair.

Their healing session went on for another day, and after a day and night of healing, Tang Yun had gained back half of her strength.

However, Ye Fan was too heavily injured. Even with the Joint Cultivation, he could only heal a few of his broken meridians. It was impossible for Ye Fan to make a full recovery in such a short time.

But the Dragon God Body did have a decent healing ability. At the very least, Ye Fan had regained his mobility and stamina. Regardless, as his elixir field was damaged, Ye Fan couldn't use



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his elemental force to attack.

It was enough for him to leave Norwal City, however. After they ended the healing session for the day, he told Tang Yun, "It's almost time, Yun. We will leave tonight. I have to return to China as soon as possible. I need to know what happened to Tsukuyomi and everyone else before I can move on with my plans."

Ye Fan knew hiding in the last place the Chu Sect would search was a decent plan, but it wouldn't hold out long. Sooner or later, they would be found, and He Yurou would be dragged into this matter as well.

Ye Fan did not want that to happen.

When Ye Fan suggested that it was time to leave, the little color Tang Yun had regained was drained. "Do I have to go with you, Ye Fan?"

"Why, Yun? Are you regretting this?" Ye Fan's heart sank, and the atmosphere turned a little bit somber.

Tang Yun shook her head. "No, Ye Fan. Meeting you is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Before I met you, the sect is all I cared about. It was my world. But after I met you, I realize that there is a lot more to this world.

"I want to go with you. I want to be with you for the rest of my life, really. But after I thought it through, I realize that if I did that, it'll be really selfish of me.



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If you take me away with you, my master would never let you go. The sect would never let you go.

“And if you take me with you, it'll land you in an awkward position too. It'll be hard to explain my existence to your wife, won't it?”

Everyone would have moments where their impulse took over, just like Tang Yun back at that night. She wondered why she even said yes to Ye Fan. *I don't remember being that brave in my life before.*

Back then, she thought she could ignore everything if she could be with Ye Fan. She thought she could be fearless if she could just be with her family.

She thought she wouldn't have to care about how the world would look at them, or the lives that they would have to leave behind. But after she calmed down, she thought about all the obstacles before them, and she realized that she could see no future with Ye Fan.

What happened that night was just a fairytale. Reality would never be so kind as to grant everyone's wish.

Eventually, Tang Yun started to cry. She had lost her bravery and courage, and Ye Fan had mixed feelings about it. Something in his heart broke, and it tasted bitter.

He held her in his embrace and wiped her tears



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off. "Don't think too much about it, Yun. Nobody can be sure about the future." He forced a smile. "A lifetime is too long a time to consider. We should treasure every moment we have while we can. I'll explain everything to Mucheng, so don't worry. I won't let her down, but I don't want to let you down either."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 1783

When He Yurou arrived home from school that night, Ye Fan notified her of their plan to leave.

"You're leaving so soon, Mr. Chu? Can't you stay a couple more days? Tomorrow's my day off. I would have the time to bring you around then."

Crestfallen, He Yurou persuaded him to delay his departure.

"I can't, Yurou," Ye Fan said with an apologetic smile. "I've troubled you enough over the past couple of days, and I still have matters to attend to in Jiangdong which forces me to return tonight.

"Can't you stay for just one more day?" she pleaded. "It was fate that had brought us together in a place far from home. I didn't even get to spend any time with you and you're already telling me you have to go!"

I even had the whole of tomorrow planned!

I was going to take him to the movies, have a large meal, and then wander the city aimlessly.

I was really looking forward to doing all of that and now Ye Fan tells me he has to leave!

The expectant glimmer in He Yurou eyes dimmed a little, which did not escape Ye Fan's notice.

Unbeknownst to her, he was not in the mood for sightseeing.



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Having made up his mind to spend the night attempting to break through the border, Ye Fan was not going to change his plans just because he was beguiled into staying.

He Yurou gazed at Ye Fan's determined expression with dismay.

Once he leaves, who knows when I'll be able to meet him again...

At that discouraging thought, she drummed up the courage and tried her luck. "Would you like to catch a movie with me before you leave, Mr. Chu?"

"I..." Ye Fan stammered, clearly taken aback.

It was evident that he was not expecting a request of that nature.

"Yurou, I'm afraid that I—" he began, finding the words for a gentle rejection.

"Oh, just go with Ms. He, will you?" Tang Yun interjected cordially. "It's pretty churlish to keep turning her down, Ye Fan."

"But I..." Ye Fan's eyes started twitching.

"Please, Mr. Chu?" He Yurou turned her large, expectant eyes up to meet his.

In the end, Ye Fan nodded mutely. The intensity of both their gazes was too much for him to handle.



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To be fair, He Yurou has been of help to us. It's only polite that I oblige to such an innocent request.

He Yurou was elated.

Without even finishing her meal, she bounded up the stairs to get dressed.

"You're awfully generous on my behalf, huh?" Ye Fan grumbled once they were out of earshot. "Is this really the best time to be catching a movie?"

Tang Yun rolled her eyes. "Didn't you see how close to tears she was? You're hopeless. I don't understand how you got a woman to marry you. Besides, wanting to watch a movie with you isn't an unreasonable request after what she's done for us. You've seen how smitten she is with you. She may never recover from your rejection for the rest of her life."

Despite being famed for her cruelty throughout her tenure as leader of the Chu Sect, not many knew the gentle heart Tang Yun's tough exterior concealed.

Having loved a man herself, she understood all too well how He Yurou felt. Although Ye Fan was oblivious to the turmoil within He Yurou's heart, Tang Yun recognized the grief as something she had once experienced herself.

That poor girl. I know how it feels to love somebody who doesn't love you back. It's the least I could do for her.



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Chapter 1783



Chapter 1783

Half an hour later, He Yurou emerged clad in a pretty dress with her makeup done with utmost care. She left the condominium with Ye Fan after waving goodbye to Tang Yun, who was tactful enough to invent an excuse and stayed behind.

He Yurou was nervous as it was the first time she was out alone with Ye Fan. Flushed and behaving in an oddly formal manner, she refused to utter a single word throughout the journey.

More than once, Ye Fan had to break the strained silence out of sheer awkwardness by initiating the conversation.

By the time they arrived at the cinema, He Yurou became more reticent than ever.

She could not pay attention to the movie at all. Instead, her agitated hands twisted in her lap as she stole occasional glances at the man beside her.

At one point, He Yurou found herself mesmerized by Ye Fan's long eyelashes.

Wow, his eyelashes make his face look exquisite from the side! Oh, how I envy Ms. Qiu! I don't know if I'll ever be fortunate enough to meet a man as wonderful as Mr. Chu.

Over the duration of the movie which lasted for two hours, He Yurou allowed her imagination to run wild in a myriad of scenarios with her date.



Chapter 1783

Ye Fan did not watch the film either. Taking advantage of the darkness within the theater, he shut his eyes to meditate.

Being in the cinema is not an excuse to skip a quick training session. She's going to be so upset if she finds out that I didn't watch the film at all!

As soon as the movie ended, Ye Fan began badgering He Yurou to head home.

I'm getting more and more worried about Gaius and the rest. Besides, Tang Yun and I are in greater danger for every additional minute we stall.

Unexpectedly, Ye Fan and He Yurou ran into Jack Brown at the entrance.

"You're really here, Yurou!" the young man exclaimed in surprise. "Alice was right. You are seeing other guys behind my back!"

Turning to regard Ye Fan with insolence, he added, "I already didn't like you from the moment I met you at the cafe. How dare you steal the girl I have my eye on? I'm only going to say this once. Yurou belongs to me. If you still dare to mess with my woman behind my back despite me warning you, I will have your legs broken."

Jack jabbed a finger at Ye Fan as he laughed in a deliberately poor attempt to disguise his fury.

"Nobody has ever had the balls to flirt with my woman! You must be new to the city to have not



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heard of my family name. Allow me to introduce myself.”

At the last word, a dozen thugs armed with bats emerged from behind him and surrounded Ye Fan.

Panicking at the prospect of Ye Fan being clobbered in the middle of the street to appease a rich scion's tantrum, He Yurou shoved Jack away from Ye Fan before standing between them.

“What are you talking about?” she cried as she stamped her feet in frustration. “I've told you before that we're not dating. Why do you keep saying that I belong to you? I will never be your girlfriend.”

“And I've told you before, Yurou,” replied Jack stubbornly, “that you will grow to be fond of me if you'd just give me a chance. Besides, we're both single. I'm sure you'll see me in a different light once you get to know me.”

He continued after stopping for a breath, “My intentions toward you are sincere. I know that you've never dated before. In fact, your chastity is what I like about you. I'm tired of loose women who had slept around before they met me. You're not like any of them. If you would just say the word, I can even make you the mistress of the Brown family right this instance.”

The silence in the wake of his impassioned speech was lengthy and awkward.



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Chapter 1783

If Jack's acquaintances were certain of one thing, it was his proclivities toward inexperienced virgins. He Yurou only happened to be Jack's most recent obsession.

He Yurou was not impressed by his speech. In a fit of anger, she looked Jack dead in the eye as she proclaimed, "Since we're being honest, I might as well tell you right now that I already have a boyfriend. Sorry, but this ship has sailed."

"What? Impossible! Your best friend told me several days ago that you were still single. Is it him?" Jack demanded suddenly as glared at Ye Fan with rage and hatred.

He Yurou nodded. Taking advantage of Jack's shocked silence, she pressed on relentlessly. "That's right, Ye Fan is my boyfriend. I've given him all of my firsts last night if you know what I mean. Sorry to disappoint you but I am no longer the untarnished virgin you imagine me to be. Please look for somebody more worthy of you than I am."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 1784

"You've slept together?" Jack stammered, his eyes wide with horror. "Impossible! I refuse to believe it. You wouldn't do this. You're only saying these things so that I would give up on you, aren't you?"

He Yurou's words had struck a chord with Jack. His handsome face contorted with pain as he grabbed her arm urgently.

I was hoping that she would be moved by my sincerity and finally say yes after pouring my heart out like that. What a bloody cruel way to reject me.

Having gained momentum, He Yurou's defiance did not falter. "Stop lying to yourself, Jack. If you were alone with me in a room like Ye Fan was last night, what did you think was going to happen? Besides, doesn't watching a movie together qualify as a couples' activity?"

"Shut your mouth!" Jack yelled with an outburst of sudden vehemence. "I refuse to believe it! You, my sweet angel, are the one I chose above all the rest. I do not believe for a second that you would get in bed with another man."

Gesturing at Ye Fan, he added, "Besides, look at this broke idiot. How could you stoop to be with him when he's obviously so much poorer than I am?"

Jack became thoroughly unhinged as he pictured in his mind the image of the couple before him writhing in the sheets.



Chapter 1784

Anything can happen when two consensual adults are locked in a room together. If it were me, I wouldn't have been able to keep my pants on if I were alone with her.

Despite her claims and the raving thoughts going through his mind, Jack remained stubborn in his disbelief that He Yurou was no longer a virgin as she claimed.

At the same time, He Yurou was tired of trying to convince Jack. After ascertaining that he was watching, she stood on her tiptoe to kiss Ye Fan on the lips before clinging onto his arm in a coquettish manner.

“Let's go home and get into bed, Ye Fan.”

Without another word, they walked away arm in arm.

Jack was rooted to the spot. His chest heaved as he struggled to calm the furious pounding in his ribcage.

“Why, He Yurou?” he bellowed into the night. “Why did you have to break my heart? I've gotten nowhere after courting you for months, but this scoundrel gets you into bed with him the day after meeting you! You know how I feel about you! How could you still treat me this way?”

Overwhelmed by indignant rage, Jack nearly tore his hair out in frustration.



Chapter 1784

It took me so much time and effort just to be on speaking terms with He Yurou only to have this Ye Fan guy come along and ruin everything!

It did not take long for the indignant rage to fester into something worse.

You are the one that has forced my hand, He Yurou! If I can't have you, nobody can!

Jack's eyes glinted malevolently as he clenched his fists. A plan for vengeance yet unknown to even his men was forming in his head.

Meanwhile, having departed the entrance of the cinema long ago, Ye Fan and He Yurou did not know how Jack reacted, nor did they care.

Much like the journey there, He Yurou spent the journey back in silence. At last, she apologized sheepishly to Ye Fan after being unable to bear the embarrassment any longer.

"It's fine. I understand why you did it, Yurou. You just wanted to get rid of him. It was your first kiss, wasn't it? How unfortunate for you that it was with me." Ye Fan chuckled at his joke in an attempt to assuage her discomfort.

"I must say, though," he added, "you're terrifying when you're angry."

I'd always been under the impression that He Yurou was the type of girl who would rather wipe her tears in secret than face a confrontation. It seems like I



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have been proven wrong tonight. Her dominance showed when she grabbed my neck to kiss me earlier.

He Yurou flushed a deeper scarlet at the compliment. "Do you prefer meek women or domineering ones, Mr. Chu?"

Ye Fan gave the question serious consideration. "I think that most men like women who are only meek and mild to them and domineering to everybody else," he answered slowly. "Being the only stallion in the world who could tame his wild mare is a source of pride for every man. A sense of accomplishment in itself."

Although Ye Fan's answer was only half serious, his comment out of levity made a deep impression on He Yurou.

The pair soon lapsed into silence once more.

Ye Fan sat with his eyes closed, while He Yurou cast her mind about for a conversational topic interesting enough to rouse her companion out of his reverie. However, she found nothing of use.

"By the way, Mr. Chu," she asked suddenly, "do you know where Mr. Li of Yunzhou is? Mr. Lei of Fenghai seemed to be missing as well. My father told me that he was supposed to meet with them but they had not been reachable for a few days."

Recalling the tales of Ye Fan's prestige and status within Jiangdong, she was hoping that he might



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have the answers she was looking for.

Ye Fan's brow creased at the news. "Are you saying that Li Er and Lei San are missing? When did you hear about this?"

"Over the past couple of days, I think."

Ye Fan seemed to have arrived at a conclusion as he turned to He Yurou urgently. "Yurou, can I borrow your phone?"

She nodded. Despite being thoroughly confused at his sudden panic, she still handed him her phone obediently.

Ye Fan loaded up the browser and scanned through the front page of a martial artist forum.

His worst fear was soon confirmed. In addition to presenting the highest Dragon God Token, Han had also openly issued a challenge to Chu Sect on the forum.

"That's not good," he muttered to himself as anxiety began to set in.

Ye Fan assumed that the members of Dragon God Hall have already arrived at Norwal City over the interval of the past couple of days.

Despite Operation Ablaze's success in recruitment over the years, Ye Fan's heavy injuries and the unknowable situation of the Dragon Slayers necessitated the open challenge against Chu Sect



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to be put on hold as it would have been suicide to even attempt it with their weakened forces.

"I need to get in touch with them," he muttered to himself as he dialed a number upon arriving at a decision.

"Who is this?" Han growled suspiciously from the other end. "How did you get this number?"

"It's me," Ye Fan replied quietly.

A lengthy silence ensued on the other end after Ye Fan identified himself.

Han's reply came shaking and choking after a long while. "Young Master," he croaked. "You'd finally called. I'd thought that you... you..."

"I'm safe, Han," Ye Fan reassured him curtly. "We can reminisce later. I need you to do something for me right now. Contact all the members of Dragon God Hall who have arrived at Norwal City and tell them that under no circumstances should they ascend Mount Chumen. I'll send you a location of my choosing in a while. I want you to get everybody to meet me there in an hour."

"Yes, Young Master. Consider it done." Han sensed the urgency in his master's voice and tactfully did not attempt to ask further questions.

Having received his orders, Han sprang to action.

Ye Fan flung He Yurou's phone out the car window



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after hanging up.

“I'm sorry for doing that, Yurou, but it's for your own safety. You can't use that phone anymore. I will replace it the next time I see you. As soon as we get back, I will be leaving at once with Yun. Remember, do not mention to a single soul that you have met the two of us”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“What's going on, Mr. Chu?” Ye Fan's urgency frightened He Yurou.

Despite her innocence, she could tell from his tone that Ye Fan must have run into some trouble.

“It's best for you to remain in the dark, Yurou. Just heed my warning.”

It came as a nasty shock for Ye Fan to hear that Han and the others were planning to summon all of the members of the Dragon God Hall members to aid him in the Chu Sect.

When did things spiral so far out of control? I must meet them as soon as possible and stop them in case they have some reckless plan already in action.

Although the Chu family desired to assume command of the battle, the fighters of the Tang and Jones families were still formidable.

Even more importantly, as Tang Yun had mentioned, the awakening of the beast at the foothill of Mount Chumen presented a new set of challenges to their plan.

Ye Fan's goal was almost accomplished as the Chu family slid further into disrepute following Chu Zhengliang's death.

In light of the current situation, it is the best course of action to leave Norwal City to return to China. Besides, it is not yet time to do battle with



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Chu Sect.

He Yurou knew better than to ask questions from the serious expression on Ye Fan's face.

It was in this manner that the pair soon returned to their condominium to find Tang Yun already packed and waiting for him at the center of the room.

With only a nod exchanged between them, the pair leaped into action without a moment's hesitation. After saying their farewells to He Yurou, they departed hastily and soon vanished into the darkness of the night to meet Li Er, leaving He Yurou alone in the condominium.

The moon was hidden behind dense black clouds that night.

"I wonder what sort of trouble Mr. Chu has gotten into," she murmured softly to herself. "I hope all goes well for him."

He Yurou gazed wistfully in the direction of Ye Fan's departure from the large French windows.

Her heart had not ceased its anxious pounding as she feared for his safety.

After a while, her thoughts drifted back to the incident at the entrance to the theater.

He Yurou savored the memory of the kiss they shared. Though she was forced by the



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circumstances to improvise a little play of her own, it was a scene rehearsed many times in the privacy of her fantasies until it felt like the most natural thing in the world when the time came for her to seize the opportunity.

A dreamy smile, with equal traces of shyness and drunken nostalgia, appeared on her lips as she indulged in her reverie.

So this is what it feels like to share a kiss with a man I love.

He Yurou was rudely interrupted by a sudden and loud slam as the door to her condominium was flung open.

The next moment, a dozen bat-yielding thugs marched in. Every inch of their arms was covered in tattoos.

Their wicked leers made He Yurou feel deeply uneasy.

"Who are you?" she stammered, stumbling backward. "What do you want?"

The men did not speak. After arranging themselves into two rows on either side of the door, they sank into a deep bow. "Mr. Brown!"

Their sonorous and respectful voices echoed throughout the living room.

Several moments later, Jack strolled in.



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"Are these your men, Jack? What is the meaning of this?" He Yurou demanded. "I'm warning you, don't get any ideas. My boyfriend is a skilled practitioner of martial arts. He'll beat you and all of your men up if you don't get out of here!"

Worried about what Jack might do, He Yurou decided to intimidate him.

At the mention of his nemesis' name, Jack's anger flared up again.

"Boyfriend?" Jack leered at her, his tone thick with rage. "Hah! Do you mean Ye Fan? That's what you called him, didn't you? I'm glad you brought him up. To be completely honest, I'm here to kill both of you."

Without taking his eyes off He Yurou, he waved his arm.

Immediately, his men began ransacking the entire condominium.

"Nobody's in the bedroom, Mr. Brown!"

"Kitchen's empty, too!"

After several minutes, Jack's men fell back into formation as they delivered their findings.

"How is that possible? They left the theater together!" Jack frowned before turning to face He



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Yurou. "Where is he?"

She did not answer him. Instead, she dashed toward the table for her phone to call the police.

Striding ahead of her, Jack intercepted He Yurou and slapped her across the face so viciously that it sent her to the floor.

"Y-You hit me," He Yurou gasped in disbelief as she clutched her cheek. Tears welled up in her eyes as a result of fear and pain.

Jack laughed again.

"Having trouble believing that the man who was so kind and obliging to you would one day raise a hand against you? Actually, I should be thanking you for waking me up from the delusion of holding you in high regard just because you treasure your purity. Turns out it's all a lie, isn't it? I have to admit that I was a d*mn fool for letting you play me."

Jack gave another cold laugh.

He Yurou's words to him at the entrance of the theater had broken him. The mere thought of the chaste woman he idolized being involved with another man overwhelmed him with rage and disgust.

"Since he isn't here, I'll start with you. This is what happens to people who take me for granted."

Jack turned to his men. "Strip her naked and hang



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her from the balcony.”

“Please, no!” He Yurou screamed as tears poured down her cheeks, thrashing with all her might to no avail in the iron grip of the thugs.

Her sobs grew to wails as they began to rip her clothes off.

Jack's smile became widened at her misery.

“I really did like you, you know. From the moment I first laid eyes on you, the fact that your body was virgin snow that no man had ever explored only served to make you irresistible to me. You were my pure and unadulterated goddess. I would have been willing to give up everything for you, but you betrayed me. So don't blame me for what's about to happen, Yurou. I'm not the one who did this to you. You brought this upon yourself. You really shouldn't have slept with another man.”

Jack shook his head wistfully. The dim light upon his face revealed a frightening and remorseful expression.

“No! Let go of me!” He Yurou struggled as tears of horror rolled down her cheeks.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A chilly gust of wind swept He Yurou's desperate sobs out of the window and into the night sky, rendering her pleas unheard.

Jack sat before her with a glass of red wine in his hand as he savored the sight of the girl's despair.

Despite being completely indifferent to me once, I now have her crying at my mercy.

Jack felt a savage burst of pleasure.

For the second time that night, the sound of the door being slammed open interrupted the occupants of the condominium.

The bitter wind permeated the room with menacing intent.

"Who's there?" Jack shouted in surprise. He leaped to his feet as his glass of wine fell with a shatter.

His men turned as one toward the source of the noise and found a thin silhouette standing at the door before them.

Half of his face was illuminated by a swinging lamp while the other half remained in shadow. The effect was deeply unnerving.

"You?" Jack exclaimed in recognition after getting over his initial shock.

His fear was replaced with a smile of disdain. "Just in time, you little sh*t. I have been looking all over for you. I'm going to teach you a lesson for stealing my woman. Get him!"

An especially large man lunged forward and swung his bat at Ye Fan.

Thud!

The steel bat snapped clean off upon impact against the latter's forearm.

Jack was dumbfounded. "How is that possible? Is his body made of steel?"

In a panic, he ordered all of his men to advance simultaneously.

It made no difference to Ye Fan.

Despite being unable to harness his elemental force, his physical strength was enough to win many fights.

Within the span of half a minute, all of the thugs had been flung off the balcony with several decisive and forceful steps of Ye Fan's feet.

Finally, only Jack and Ye Fan remained in the large living room.

"How is that possible?" Jack repeated in a mixture of rage and shock. "Who the hell are you?"

Despite years of careful selection and curation, my army of elite bodyguards is now lying dead at the bottom of this building. Even professional boxers wouldn't have been able to do what he did and take out a dozen thugs in just as many seconds!

Ye Fan did not waste his breath on Jack. He simply reached out and lifted the latter into the air

by his throat.

"It's a sin to allow scum like you to remain alive."

Jack's eyes widened with horror at the proclamation of his death sentence.

"No, ple—"

With a forceful twist from Ye Fan's wrist, Jack's neck was snapped abruptly before having his corpse flung off the balcony in the same manner as his subordinates.

The driver of a heavy industrial truck along the highway nearby received the shock of his life when Jack's body suddenly collided against his windscreen with a splat. At eighty miles an hour, not much of his remains were salvageable.

Ye Fan glared down the balcony without remorse.

To think that he was foolish enough to challenge the top fighter of the Sky Ranking. Good riddance, anyway. The world is a better place with one less scum like him.

It was only after eliminating all of the threats that Ye Fan hurried over to pick He Yurou up, placed her on the bed, and covered her body with the quilt.

"It's over now, Yurou. You're safe," Ye Fan said gently.

He Yurou was too dazed to respond immediately. With a sudden lunging movement, she threw herself at Ye Fan like a drowning woman clutching

a lifeline as she wept.

"Oh what an ordeal it was, Mr. Chu! I thought that they were going to..."

Overwhelmed by a fresh bout of tears, she howled anew before she could complete her sentence.

Having been born to a rich and powerful family, He Yurou was accustomed to a certain standard of living. A traumatic experience like that had undoubtedly scarred her.

Furthermore, she was living in a foreign country all by herself.

At the peak of her despair, she had been certain that she was not going to survive the ordeal.

If Ye Fan did not return for me, I might not even be alive right now.

Having realized how close she was to death, He Yurou sobbed bitterly as she clung to his arm, her torn clothing forgotten.

"It's over now, Yurou," repeated Ye Fan gently, feeling thankful that he had returned at that critical juncture. "They will never bother you again. I took care of that."

If I had arrived a second later, she might already have been killed.

He spoke again when He Yurou's sobs subsided. "The reason I came back was to implore you to return to China for a couple of days, if possible. I'm worried about the danger that might befall you

if you remain here.”

Not for the first time, Ye Fan kicked himself for complicating He Yurou's life.

My involvement in her life will only bring her danger and suffering.

Although Ye Fan had been exceedingly careful over the past couple of days, he could not discount the fact that Norwal City was Chu Sect's turf.

Given the extent of their influence in the city, there was a possibility of them discovering the affiliation of the sweet girl with Ye Fan at any moment.

Once they found out about He Yurou's involvement with me, Chu Yuan will use her as leverage against me.

“Can I come with you then, Mr. Chu?” He Yurou asked softly, turning her bloodshot eyes up at him.

Ye Fan gave a self-deprecating laugh. “Fate has indeed brought us together, Yurou. I am not the King of Jiangdong anymore. Instead, all I am now is a disappointment who couldn't even guarantee the safety of my own life at any given moment. If my influence and prestige were still at their peak, I wouldn't just take you back to China with me. If you would just say the word, it would even have been within my power to make you the queen of this city. Unfortunately, my glory days are behind me. What's ahead is filled with nothing but despair and misery. To be frank, I don't even know if I can return to China in one piece myself. If you come

with me, there's a chance that you may not make it back alive. If that happens, how am I going to explain myself to your father, the governor of Jiangdong?"

Ye Fan shook his head as he lamented his own helplessness.

Having suppressed all of those doubts about himself for a long time, he felt a giddy sense of relief for having unburdened himself at last.

Ever since his escape from Mount Chumen, Ye Fan was already aware that his chances of returning home alive were slimmer than ever.

Already uncomfortable with the fact that Tang Yun had to risk herself with him, Ye Fan was consumed with guilt at the very thought of He Yurou's life being in danger because of him.

"Remember, Yurou," Ye Fan repeated urgently. "Leave this city for a couple of days. Although they wouldn't be able to locate you in the short term, it's safer for you to be in China right now."

Without another word, Ye Fan stood up and headed toward the door.

Before he crossed the threshold, He Yurou called out to him.

"We'll meet again in Jiangdong, Mr. Chu," she cried, her eyes welling up with tears again.

Ye Fan smiled and gave a stiff nod before his slim silhouette dissolved once again into the depths of the cloudless night.

Meanwhile, the banks of Lake Elterton were crowded with a strange assortment of people waiting about uncertainly.

Despite the moonless sky, most wore sunglasses and paced restlessly by the lake. Their coats billowed at the cold breeze and made them look like weary travelers.

“Li Er, did you really receive word that Mr. Chu will be here tonight?”

Lei San and Chen Ao looked dubiously at the old man.

“He will be,” Li Er replied firmly. “It came straight from Han.”

“But the appointed time has passed. Why isn't Mr. Chu here yet?” Chen Ao was worried and suspicious.

The men touched down at Norwal City a few days ago under the original impression that they were to head to Mount Chumen to provide Ye Fan with assistance.

It was only after landing at Norwal City that they were informed that Ye Fan was being persecuted by followers of the Chu Sect.

By that point, Chen Ao and the others deduced that Ye Fan had already departed Chu Sect and made the decision to amend their original plan. Instead of heading for Mount Chumen, they came instead to Norwal City in search of Ye Fan.

After several days spent on high alert to no avail,

Li Er and the others were about to give up when Han called unexpectedly to instruct them to meet with Ye Fan at Lake Elterton that night.

“If Grandpa Han said that Ye Fan will be here,” asserted a woman of devastating beauty, “then I trust him. We'll just have to wait patiently.”

Her regal features bore an expression of serene austerity which did little to conceal the worry and yearning behind her eyes.

“Since Ms. Xu has spoken, we shall wait then,” Li Er declared.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As he spoke, Li Er cast a surreptitious gaze toward another beautiful woman clad in a kimono not too far away.

In stark contrast with Xu Lei's maturity, this younger woman exuded the levity of youth.

When she first arrived, Li Er and the others who had arrived earlier wondered if she had stumbled upon their gathering by accident.

It was only after a series of close questioning that they had learned that the young woman was Chiike Shizuka, the chairwoman of Sango Corporation which was the largest financial conglomerate in Japan.

"I have to hand it to Mr. Chu," Li Er lamented as he gazed at the two beautiful women with nothing but respect and admiration for Ye Fan. "He has Ms. Qiu governing Jiangdong in his stead and placed Ms. Xu in charge of Yanjing. Not content with restricting his dealings within the domestic market, he has this lovely young lady keeping his business in Japan running! What is Mr. Chu still fighting for? He should just relax and let his ladies run everything for him. All he has to do is to keep them satisfied."

He is what every man should aspire themselves to be.

Aside from Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San felt the same way.

Before, Chen Ao and the others had thought that Ye Fan's influence was only contained within Jiangdong and Yanjing.

It soon became apparent to them that they could not be more wrong.

The net of Ye Fan's influence had already been cast all over the world years before his operations took off, as evidenced by the diversity standing by Lake Elterton that night.

The people gathered there did not only come from China and Japan. There were even nationalities from Smealand and Epea.

"After following him for so long, I had thought that I knew everything about him. It appears that what we do know about him is only the tip of the iceberg."

Chen Ao heaved a great sigh.

I betrayed Ye Fan years ago to save myself, being worried that he would fall to the aristocrats of Yanjing. It is only after witnessing the sheer number of his followers tonight that I finally learned how shortsighted I was being back then.

It was only then that he finally learned the true extent of what the son-in-law of the Qiu family was capable of.

As the group waited in silence, the wintry gale bit a little more sharply.

At last, the figures of a man and a woman emerged out of the darkness at midnight.

"Mr. Chu! Is that you?"

"Why is there two of them?"

Li Er and the others frowned as they squinted into the darkness. Their subordinates readied their rifles in preparation for a defense.

"Halt!" Long Baichuan called out warily. "State your name and business here at this time of night!"

Being a seasoned fighter, he was particularly receptive to the aura of other fighters.

Back then, Ye Fan's presence bristled with energy so tangible that one would recognize him even with their back turned.

However, the figure standing before him at Lake Elterton emitted no such presence.

It feels like a civilian. Maybe he had wandered in here by accident.

Long Baichuan's query went unanswered.

"State your business," he repeated, "or we'll be forced to act in self-defense."

Li Er and the others became nervous. Long Baichuan's fingers closed around the hilt of his sword.

Just when the crowd was about to lunge at the figures before them, a faint ripple of laughter reached their ears.

"Have I become that unrecognizable over the course of a couple of days?"

That laugh! I've heard it before!

Xu Lei and Chiike Shizuka froze in disbelief at the sound of the voice.

None was affected more than Xu Lei. In an instant, she was already sprinting toward him.

“Ye Fan!” she exclaimed.

The woman who had ruled Yanjing in his stead ran toward Ye Fan like a wispy maiden who desired nothing more than the protection and love from her man. Throwing herself into his arms, she nuzzled against his chest.

“I thought that I'd never see you again. It was stupid of you to go on a suicide mission by yourself. Why didn't you tell me before you went?”

Xu Lei's tears streamed freely down her cheeks. The bitterness of her sobs rang loud and clear through the night sky.

As her parents were deceased, Ye Fan was the closest person in the world to Xu Lei. It was he who she lived for.

Upon learning that Ye Fan had departed to face the Chu Sect alone, the grief and worry in Xu Lei's heart had not abated until she saw with her own eyes the proof of his wellbeing.

Haunted with dreams that Ye Fan would die in the attempt, it scared her to consider the slim chances of his return.

As Xu Lei was sobbing in Ye Fan's arms, the members of the Dragon God Hall from all corners of the globe fell to their knees in reverence.

“All hail Dragon Master!”

The deafening chorus rang out through the expanse of the lake and past the horizon.

Every single follower present that night was once a spark.

At last, the three thousand members of the Dragon God Hall had met their master on the banks of Lake Elterton.

As their voices faded into the night, the only sound that remained was the heaving sobs, muffled under his arm.

The lake stirred in agitation as if to reflect the impatience of Ye Fan's followers for action.

As he gazed at his disciples on their knees before him, Ye Fan saw his life for the past fifteen years flash before his eyes as if they had belonged to someone else.

This is my life's work. Every single one of them is a reflection of myself.

Instead of feeling pride for what stood before him, Ye Fan had nothing but desolation in his heart.

“Friends,” he began, “forgive me for my loss at Mount Chumen. I know that I had let you down. I had robbed you of the achievement of our glorious hope. Not only had I failed to push Dragon God Hall to the forefront of the martial world, but I had also caused all of you to be in danger because of me.”

Every word in Ye Fan's speech dripped with remorse.

As sweet of a reunion as it was, Ye Fan's loss to the Chu Sect was a sign that his prime has passed.

As the largest stakes were already lost, the outcome could not be changed no matter what else they did.

"No!" somebody in the crowd shouted. "You've done your best, Dragon Master. If Chu Yuan had not appeared, you would have razed the Chu family and Chu Sect. For crying out loud, you've managed to subdue the entire Chu family on your own!"

"Well said!" barked another, his voice alight with admiration and reverence. "Besides, so what if we lose this time? We'll just try again in ten years! By then, the sparks of hope you've cultivated will grow into a roaring flame and burn down everything in your path. By then, nothing will stop you from attaining dominance all over the world! We've already waited ten years. Another ten or twenty wouldn't make a difference. As long as you are still willing to fight, we will always be by your side. The world will fall to its knees, trembling before you!"

Ye Fan gazed at them, mollified.

I'm not alone in this. So many still believe in me.

"Brothers, thank you for your support," Ye Fan proclaimed. "I will not let you down. In fact, I hereby vow to return to form within three years. I

will repay the humiliation and defeat I suffered in Chu Yuan's and Chu Sect's hand to them a hundredfold by then!"

Ye Fan clenched his fists as his eyes burned with renewed fervor.

Next, he gave the order for all of them to return at once to defend China.

As the rendezvous between Ye Fan and Li Er was taking place, the Chu Sect was assembling its army as well.

"We have issued emergency summons to all of our members stationed across the world, Mr. Tang," reported a messenger to Tang Xian who sat cross-legged in Chu Sect Castle with an imperious gaze at the former. "As of today, we have over three thousand able-bodied men ready to fight."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Are there only three thousand left?” Tang Xian's brows immediately scrunched up in a furrow.

As the world's leading martial power, the Chu Sect was five thousand strong at its peak, but they found themselves down to only three thousand pairs of able hands at that moment.

That was to say that Ye Fan had singlehandedly slaughtered nearly half of their disciples.

However, even at their current numbers, the Chu Sect disciples were still a force to be reckoned with, as all of the martial artists from the various nations in Epea did not exceed two thousand when added together.

Although China boasted of a population of one-point-four billion, there were only, on record, a paltry one to two thousand martial artists registered with the War God Castle.

In other words, the number of martial artists Ye Fan had culled on two trips to the Chu Sect was already equivalent to having eradicated them from Epea in their entirety.

“No! The disparity is too much. A mere three thousand is far from being enough,” Tang Xian bellowed. “Go and get in touch with the Brown family, the DuPont family, the Adams family, and all the rest of the Chu Sect's vassals. Have them send out their men and mobilize all their military and political clout to lock down the borders to Norwal City immediately! I want eyes stationed at every stretch of road and coastline leading out of this city!”

“In addition, have an arrest warrant issued for Chu Tianfan and the Dragon God Hall in both the secular and martial arts world. Let it be known that anyone who harbors them shall be regarded as our enemy! Also, have a hundred thousand copies of Chu Tianfan's photos printed out and distributed to all personnel involved in the manhunt. I refuse to believe that that little twerp from China would be able to escape from the heart of Chu Sect's stronghold!” In somber spirit, Tang Xian rattled off his instructions in a highly organized fashion.

With Chu Yuan currently recuperating in retreat, the task of searching for Ye Fan and rescuing Tang Yun naturally fell upon Tang Xian's lone shoulders.

On top of representing the Tang family's future and aspirations, Tang Yun was the head of the Chu Sect as well. In a bid to save her, Tang Xian was also expectedly committed to hunting down Ye Fan.

Whatever leads he should find on Ye Fan, he would report to Chu Yuan right away.

Deprived of the protection of the four Dragon Slayers and Moon God, the arrival of the Old Master would mean the end of Ye Fan, whenever Ye Fan should show himself.

Shortly after the announcement for the all-out extermination of the latter in both the martial and secular realms was made, word had arrived through one of Chu Sect's affiliated families.

“We have ourselves a lead, head of elders.

Someone from the Brown family has been killed by martial artists, and they suspect that the culprit may very well be Chu Tianfan, the one who we've been searching for!" the subordinate anxiously reported inside the hall.

The head of elders was astounded. "Is this true?"

Meanwhile, Ye Fan and his crew convened on the shores of Lake Elterton and began to retreat toward the fringes of Norwal City in an orderly manner.

However, they were beaten to the punch, for every stretch of the coast that led away from the borders had already been placed on watch.

On top of that, a massive force had converged in wait along the entire coastline, and included in their ranks were members of Anglandur's navy.

"Damn it! How did this Chu Sect manage to summon these many people? I reckon that they must have mobilized at least a hundred thousand men just to capture us."

The wizened faces of Li Er, Lei San, and the others were set in a taut furrow when they learned of their present predicament.

"These people are outsiders, not members of the Chu Sect itself. The Chu Sect had been building themselves up here for generations and had practically turned the whole of Norwal City into their own stronghold. Here, they wield considerable influence within the military, political, and corporate arenas, amongst others. Major local families like the Browns and the Adams have all

become their vassals," a beautiful woman to the side said softly in response to Li Er and the rest's lamentations.

"Huh? Who might this be, Mr. Chu?"

Li Er and his contemporaries had already noticed this resplendent lady in the company of Ye Fan for some time.

Alongside the translucent veil that kept her face shielded from view, her slender figure had been comprehensively concealed beneath her flowing black dress.

In spite of that, Tang Yun's otherworldly countenance, poise, and grace still drew the involuntary gazes of others upon her.

Even Li Er, who had been at Ye Fan's side for so many years, could not recall when there was such a curious woman around Ye Fan.

Could this be another of Mr. Chu's confidantes? But she seems remarkably well-informed about matters pertaining to the Chu Sect.

Li Er and the others were quietly absorbed in their own thoughts while Xu Lei to the side, too, evoked a look of puzzlement.

For reasons unknown, she found this veiled woman to be somewhat familiar, as though they had met somewhere before.

"This here, is my cousin," Ye Fan explained.

He neglected to mention that the one before them

was Tang Yun, the head of the Chu Sect, as her identity was, after all, a little too sensitive given the circumstances.

Moreover, it was not Tang Yun's wish to reveal who she was either. If word spread that the head of the Chu Sect herself was eloping with their enemy, it could prove devastating to the sect's reputation.

Tang Yun did not desire to see her own master become the laughing stock of the martial arts world.

This was a sentiment Ye Fan was well aware of and hence, endeavored to help keep her identity under careful wraps on his part.

"Cousin? Do you have another cousin besides Yuyan, Ye Fan? How is it that I don't know anything about that?" Xu Lei sounded somewhat doubtful.

Ye Fan rapped the rascal over the head. "Stay out of grownups' business, lass," Ye Fan chided.

That scene made Xue Renyang, Li Er, and the others wince, for they knew that this Ms. Xu before them had the stature of a queen in Yanjing's corporate world.

Perhaps only Ye Fan is the only one in all of China who would be able to lecture her like a child.

What stood out more to them was how Xu Lei merely clasped her noggin and whined, hardly seeming upset.

"Huh? Did you mention the Brown family just now, Yun? How many Brown families do you know of in

Norwal City?" Sparked by a sudden recollection, Ye Fan arched his head toward Tang Yun.

"Just the one," Tang Yun replied candidly.

Ye Fan's expression fell when he heard that.

"This is not good. Trouble might be abound."

Jarred by a bad feeling about all this, Ye Fan turned to walk off.

"I'm going back to see to something, so all of you should go on ahead and make your way back on your own. We'll reconvene back in Jiangdong!" Ye Fan's words reverberated amongst them.

Xu Lei and Chiike Shizuka wanted to catch up with Ye Fan but by the time they looked up, they realized that he was already gone.

Predictably, Tang Yun had also departed alongside him.

"They came expressly to look for you, so why didn't you let them wait so that you may all return to China together?" Tang Yun asked Ye Fan enroute.

Ye Fan shook his head. "I'm the one who the Chu Sect wants, so why get them dragged into it?"

Prior to this, Ye Fan did plan to break out of Norwal City alongside Li Er and the others, but the gravity of the situation at hand had doubtlessly exceeded Ye Fan's own expectations.

To think the Chu Sect actually went out and tapped

on the strength of outsiders to corral me. Given these circumstances, being in a large group makes Ye Fan and the others a more visible target. Hence, it would be better for them to make their way back on their own than risk being seen with him.

Tang Yun did not respond to Ye Fan's words, but the esteem she held inside for this man had only been enhanced.

She had no idea how much courage one must muster up in order to go up against the entire Chu Sect alone, for even when faced with the besiegement of the Chu Sect and in spite of having the support of thousands of his allies, Ye Fan nonetheless chose to brave the storm on his own.

The very thought of that suddenly left Tang Yun dispirited because she was now unsure whether she would be able to successfully retreat to China alongside Ye Fan.

Inside the city, the students' condominium was suddenly placed under lockdown by personnel that came surging out of nowhere to have one of the properties completely surrounded.


At this moment, a strikingly beautiful woman was already strung up inside one of the rooms with her previously pristine body peppered with wounds all over.

Shallow of breath, her disheveled appearance cut a sorry sight.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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"W-Who are you people? Why have you captured me?"

Inside the room that was in complete disarray, He Yurou was restrained by ropes as thick as a lotus root and strung up from the rafters like an animal.

In front of her sat a calm elderly respectfully flanked by several attendants on both sides, and responding to He Yurou's helpless utterances was a middle-aged man.

"Why? Looks like you still haven't figured out who I am. Since that's the case, I shall let you in on it. I am Wyland, the head of the Brown family, and my son's name is Jack Brown."

The coldness of the middle-aged man's tone sent shivers throughout He Yurou's pallid face, for she was not expecting reprisal to arrive this swiftly.

"Who was the one who killed my son and a dozen of my family's men? Where is that person now? Out with it! Don't tell me that you're the one responsible either, cause how would a frail woman like you have the ability to take on so many on your own?" the middle-aged man pressed coldly.

"I-I don't know. I don't know anything..." He Yurou merely shook her head and repeated whatever that she said.

"Not going to talk, huh? That makes me keen to know whether your hide is tougher or my whip!" cackled Wyland before he swung the iron whip in



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his hand at her.

Every lash that landed drew a spine-chilling trail of blood, and unto the end, the fresh crimson that oozed from He Yurou's body had dyed her entire body red.

Nevertheless, she declined to divulge information of any value.

"What should we do, Mr. Tang? This wench is a tough cookie to crack. It seems that she's not going to give anything up no matter what."

Seeing that He Yurou had already passed out, those subordinates had no choice but to turn to the head of elders, Tang Xian, who was seated quietly behind them.

"Useless fools. How could I ever count on you for anything when you can't even handle one woman?" Tang Xian fumed. He had his subordinates rouse He Yurou before he approached himself.

He grabbed a fistful of hair and jerked her head back. "Do you still want to take any more of this, girl? Tell us what we want to know, and you won't have to endure any more of this. I'm going to give you one last chance to answer the question we've just asked. You have ten seconds, and for every second you dawdle on, I'm going to stab one of your fingertips."

Tang Xian then waved the dagger in his hand in He

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Yurou's face.

"No, please..." He Yurou reflexively shook her head in horror.

"Ten!"

Unmoved, Tang Xian straight up pierced He Yurou's fingertip with the dagger in his hand.

"Nine!"

Yet another push of the blade sent He Yurou's blood flowing and her cries of anguish reverberating around the room.

"Ah... Please... No more... It hurts. It really hurts... Kill me! Kill me..."

In despair from that excruciating pain that had left her overwhelmed, He Yurou teared up, wailed, and pleaded for these people to take her life.

Fresh out of patience, Tang Xian tossed the dagger aside and grabbed He Yurou by the throat. "I'm going to ask you for the final time. Who was it who saved you from Jack?"

"It is I!"

Boom...

When Tang Xian's voice trailed off, an angry howl emanated from the outside.



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Shortly after, the doors and windows tore inward, and the walls crumbled.

Amidst the shattering rubble, that slender silhouette made its reappearance here once more.

“C-Chu Tianfan?”

Ye Fan's sudden appearance threw the masses into a positive frenzy, and the initially haughty Tang Xian was so spooked that he staggered backward and almost fell slump upon the floor.

With a finger trembling in Ye Fan's direction, his eyeballs almost exploded from all the staring he did.

“Y-You...”

Unsure as to whether it was out of shock or horror, Tang Xian was dumbstruck and reduced to a shivering mess.

“What? Haven't you been searching for me, Mr. Tang? So, why aren't you happy to see me here?” said Ye Fan with a chuckle.

In the ears of Tang Xian and the others with him, Ye Fan's laughter sounded more chilling and petrifying than anything else.

That murderous intent thick within Ye Fan's words brought back Tang Xian's memories of that rampaging demon from back on Mount Chumen.



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At this moment, the head of elders of the Chu Sect could only feel the hair on his own nape stand on ends.

However, Tang Xian did not rest on his laurels.

Immediately after his brief period of panic, Tang Xian barked out orders to his subordinates in the sternest tone possible, "Hear me, all of you. Retreat!"

With that, Tang Xian turned, took to his heels, and attempted to leap off the edge of the building in a single bound.

Tang Xian was no fool, for daring to come charging back in for a rescue effort all by himself was an indication of Ye Fan's self-assuredness.

Judging from the intensity of Ye Fan's explosiveness, Tang Xian did not think the former looked anywhere close to being wounded to the verge of death.

As arrogant as Tang Xian was, he had a good grasp of his own limitations.

At best, he might be able to pick on a grievously wounded and dying Ye Fan. Up against a recovered and whole Chu Tianfan, though, he was courting death no matter how capable he might be.

Hence, when he sensed that Ye Fan might have recovered his strength, Tang Xian turned tail and

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ran without a second thought.

“Are you going to flee? Then, allow me to send you all on your way!”

With a frigid gaze, Ye Fan engaged his Dragon God Body and struck out with a punch that nearly shattered the sound barrier.

Boom!

A stupendous force erupted, and Tang Xian was sent plummeting out of the window in a fountain of spat blood with a quiver and dull grunt.

With Tang Xian having escaped, the remaining few of them unquestionably pissed themselves.

This was especially the case with the head of the Brown family, who was almost in tears as he silently wondered what the head of elders' deal was.

Having spent all that effort to find my son's killer, why did you run away when he'd showed up? Shouldn't you at least take me with you if you're going to run? While all of you are trained in the martial arts and capable of jumping from great heights at will, an ordinary person like me is only going to end up crippled or dead if I tried to do the same.

“Huh? Aren't you all going to leave?” Ye Fan shifted his attention over.

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Wyland smiled a bitter smile at Ye Fan. "This has all been a big misunderstanding, good sir. I-It's not my fault. It's all the Chu Sect's idea. They were the ones who put me up to targeting and capturing your woman... I've nothing to do with this..."

Speaking fawningly one moment, this middle-aged man was seen making a mad dash in the direction of the stairs the next.

"Isn't that too much of a hassle? Better for you to go out through the window."

Ye Fan smirked and followed that by firing off a sequence of palms which sent the remainder of them hurtling out of the window after Tang Xian.

"M-Mr. Chu... why have you returned..."

After he had taken care of those people, He Yurou's enfeebled voice reached his ear.

Ye Fan dashed over quickly, and when he saw the young woman wounded to an inch of her life, his fingers tightened around themselves.

Never could he have expected the world's top martial outfit to treat a hapless girl so viciously.

Curse those wretched bastards!

"I'm so sorry, Yurou. I didn't expect that you'd be dragged into this! But rest assured that sooner or later, I'll make the Chu Sect pay for whatever they did to you."

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At this point, Ye Fan had a dour look about him.

He Yurou was not the first. First, it was my mother, then Angie, and now He Yurou.

Each and every one of these instances was deeply etched into Ye Fan's psyche.

In the beginning, he had only hoped to receive an apology from the Chu family, but now, with the accumulation of further aggrievements, Ye Fan had already seen through the Chu family and recognized their true nature.

At the same time that thoughts about exterminating the Chu family festered, it simultaneously stirred an irrepressible desire to act on it within him.

"I shall not rest until Chu Yuan dies and the Chu Sect is no more!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Ye Fan's gaze was wintry while a cruel killer's intent burned inside him.

However, these were things that were not immediate and too premature to speak of in the present time.

Ye Fan knew well that his prospect of returning to China safely was an unknown in itself, but should he reemerge one day, he was certain that blood would flow like a river.

"Let's get you out of here first, Yurou."

Ye Fan lifted the barely alive He Yurou in his arms and leaped downstairs, but the moment he had his feet set upon the ground, nearly a hundred fighters from the Chu Sect came swarming in like the tide and had the pair completely surrounded.

Tang Xian, who was smote down from upstairs by Ye Fan's palm just a moment before, wiped the blood off the corner of his lips as he made his reappearance here.

"Seems to me that you really aren't that concerned about dying." Ye Fan cast a glance over with his tone sinister and threatening.

At the same time, an intensely imposing aura radiated off Ye Fan.

That oppressive mountain-like presence was no small source of disquiet for the disciples of the Chu Sect in the vicinity, who found themselves



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unconsciously backing off several paces.

Obviously, these people were already well acquainted with the dread that they had experienced last time from Ye Fan on Mount Chumen.

That fear of being dominated by Ye Fan was not exclusive to Tang Xian, as these disciples of the Chu Sect were no strangers to it either.

"I-I think we'd better retreat, Mr. Tang."

"We ought to get Old Master over here," one of the Guardians of Chu Sect to the side said in a small and fretful voice.

The one before us is a born-killer. Even the head of the Chu Sect, Chu Zhengliang, saw defeat at his hands and remains wailing and staked to Mount Chumen as we speak.

Nearly two thousand members throughout the ranks of the Chu Sect had been slain singlehandedly by Ye Fan, so the few hundred of them really did not measure up before this natural born-killer.

Prior to their arrival, these people were under the impression that Ye Fan was on the cusp of death and did not pose a threat.

However, seeing him in the flesh impressed upon them that his body was not heavily wounded in the least, and having borne witness to Ye Fan's



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astounding ability to heal himself, these fighters from the Chu Sect began to shrink.

“What are you panicking for? Surely you don't believe that Chu Tianfan could have resurrected himself from the brink of death within these few short days? He's just putting up a strong front!” barked Tang Xian solemnly.

Tang Xian, too, was scared out of his wits when Ye Fan suddenly showed up and charged at him in a way that caused him to completely lose his sense of judgment.

Yet, after he was knocked out of the park by Ye Fan just now, Tang Xian had since calmed and recollected himself.

In his esteem, Ye Fan could not possibly have recovered to full strength from the extent of injuries sustained that day even if he was a deity reborn.

Moreover, had Ye Fan truly recovered from his injuries, Tang Xian would not have simply gotten injured from their last encounter; he should have been sent to the nether realms outright.

Whatever the case, all the indications made Tang Xian almost certain that Ye Fan was actually putting on a false front.

“Don't just stand there! Get him!” Tang Xian suddenly bellowed.



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Nevertheless, those Chu Sect fighters beside him exchanged apprehensive glances and remained unwilling to advance.

“Bunch of useless fools! None of you can be counted on in these critical moments!”

Tang Xian was absolutely livid with his subordinates. Bereft of options, Tang Xian could only take it upon himself to strike.

“Chu Sect Fatal Moves! Green Celestial Dragon!”

Although Tang Xian had a hunch that this was all just a bit of bravado from Ye Fan, he nonetheless dared not underestimate the latter.

Thus with his first strike, he opted to go with the Chu Sect's most potent moves.

Against the dark backdrop of the night sky, a phantom of a green dragon slashed through the air and straight for Ye Fan.

Confronted with Tang Xian's abrupt burst of aggression, Ye Fan forcibly activated his powers, sending his flesh into a rapid transformation.

A ferocious punch was thrown out to meet the Qi of that Green Dragon.

Bang!

With a thunderous boom, a burst of Qi swept outward and sent the cars on both sides of the



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road flying.

With a dull grunt, Tang Xian planted his feet and staggered back several steps.

Under this same rush of power, Ye Fan, too, was sent back several paces in retreat.

In tandem, the energies in his innards were simultaneously sent into disarray, so much so he had to forcibly swallow back down the blood that reached his lips.

“Mr. Tang!”

“Are you all right?”

“Like I said, this Chu Tianfan is a monster.”

“Shall we retreat?”

“We should head back and report to Old Master. Only he would be able to kill him...”

When they saw their head of elders beaten back, the Guardians beside him came forth once more with unease to offer counsel and urge him to pull out.

“Fools! Can't you tell that this bugger is just forcing things? How would a number one in the Sky Ranking have been sent reeling from a blow by me otherwise?” Tang Xian lashed out at them with his foot while he railed in disapproval.



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The fighters from the Chu Sect beside him suddenly had an epiphany.

“True, that!”

“How could Mr. Tang have beaten him back, considering his own capabilities?”

“It would seem that this punk's really faking it.”

“What a cunning one this brat from China is!”

“To think he had us all fooled...”

“Like I said, how could a dying person possibly have fully recovered in just a couple of days?”

Following Tang Xian's personal attempt to probe, the trepidation was finally dispelled from the hearts of these martial artists from Chu Sect.

Right after, the lot of them began to surround Ye Fan in a multi-pronged attack at Tang Xian's command.

Truth be told, that played out exactly in the way Tang Xian envisioned.

At present, Ye Fan's meridians were damaged and his elixir field emptied, and all he could rely on was his own raw strength.

With that being the case, Ye Fan was unable to hold it together for too long. As he bore severe internal injuries, his body was unable to support



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his sustained efforts at battling at an intense level.

Hence, battered by the Chu Sect's fighters from every angle, Ye Fan soon showed his weariness.

In the end, he was no longer able to suppress the poor circulation in his body and finally spat out a mouthful of crimson.

The Sword of Yunyang that Ye Fan always carried with him was stabbed into the earth. It became a crutch that held up his body and prevented him from keeling over.

Under siege once more, Ye Fan had no regrets, save the guilt he felt toward the girl in his arms.

He then thought about how many people he had wound up burdening throughout his life.

"If possible, Yurou, please help me tell her that I'm sorry when you get to Jiangdong."

As Ye Fan spoke in a whisper, his lips lifted into a peaceful smile.

After that, he mustered up the last ounce of his strength to wrap He Yurou in his arms and cast her out into the distance.

What Ye Fan employed was a controlled application. That way, even when she touched the ground, there would be some counteracting forces to cushion her landing.



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Tang Xian and company had no objections toward Ye Fan's sending off of He Yurou.

Let her leave. She's an absolute nobody anyway. So long as Ye Fan stays, it'll suffice!

"Haha... Bet you never saw this coming, Chu Tianfan? The youngest supreme grandmaster at present, the top fighter in the Sky Ranking, China's peerless prodigy, is perishing at my hands this day. Frankly, I should be thanking you, Chu Tianfan, for I, Tang Xian, shall have my name mentioned alongside yours during this episode in the annals of history throughout the centuries to come."

Tang Xian was unquestionably thrilled by the very notion of being able to slay Chu Tianfan with his own hands for even when dead, a monstrous talent like Chu Tianfan would surely find himself written into the history of the martial arts world to be studied and admired by future generations.

The attainment of the title of Supreme, the stomping of the Chu Sect, and becoming number one in the Sky Ranking—all in his twenties—would make the latter an unprecedented first whose name would echo through the ages.

Thus, the killing of Chu Tianfan would doubtlessly become the most glorious milestone of Tang Xian's life.

"Die!"



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After he had his fill of laughing, Tang Xian struck. He unsheathed the short blade hidden inside his sleeve and slashed it toward Ye Fan's throat!

"Stop!"

At this moment, Tang Yun, who had hidden herself some distance away, could no longer stand idly by.

As the head of the Chu Sect, she naturally did not want her subordinates to learn of her relationship with Ye Fan, but with Ye Fan's life hanging in the balance, there was no more room for buts.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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However, just as those words were out in the air, and just as Tang Yun was about to rush over to save Ye Fan, flames exploded a distance down the road.

The flames then began rushing toward the martial artists of the Chu Sect.

At the same time, multiple martial arts attacks, along with gunfire, sneakily came as well.

The sudden attacks undoubtedly surprise the martial artists of the Chu Sect.

In a flash, the weaker individuals were either dead or injured.

Even Tang Xian, taken by surprise, was forced to take steps back.

However, he soon used the elemental force in him to manifest a wall that blocked off all of the flames.

Grandmasters and martial artists above the level of Grandmaster did not need to fear gunfire.

Nevertheless, the onslaught of firepower still posed a certain level of threat to martial artists who were not yet Grandmasters.

Furthermore, at one point, the continuous flurry of attacks would eventually kill the martial artists.

Therefore, even Tang Xian had to be particularly



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cautious. That was why he had used his skills to block the gunfire.

A while after the onslaught of attacks, peace returned to the area.

Tang Xian then waved away the wall before a solemn look entered his eyes as he looked into the distance.

"Who dares to intervene in Chu Sect's matters? You must have a death wish!" he roared.

However, no one replied.

Only rapid footsteps rushed toward him like water escaping from a dam.

Then, the one to first appear from the darkness was an old man with a round face and small eyes.

The look on his face was a grave one as he led the hundreds of people toward Ye Fan.

In the next second, he clasped his fist and bowed to Ye Fan. "My name is Li Er, and I have brought the people of Yunzhou here to protect you."

"I am Lei San, and I have brought the people of Jingzhou here to protect you."

"I, Chen Ao, have come to protect you as well."

The events that happened after Li Er's appearance was like a landing meteorite that disrupted the



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earlier peace.

In seconds, Chen Ao, Lei San, and the others had led their men to kneel before Ye Fan.

“Why... Why are you here? Didn't I ask you to retreat to China?”

Ye Fan was taken aback when he saw the men who had always been by his side throughout his time in Jiangdong.

He never thought that Li Er and the others would follow him there.

After all, Chu Sect was a martial arts organization, and the ongoing fight was a fight between the martial artists.

Li Er and the others were normal people, and Ye Fan did not wish to involve them in the matter.

“How can we leave when you have not? Like Han had said—A star is still a source of light, regardless of how dim it might be. Mr. Chu, my men of Jiangdong are no bad people. If you're willing to attack the Chu Sect for the sake of loyalty, then all of us are willing to loyally stay by your side too. We do not fear death,” Li Er, Chen Ao, and the others replied in a determined voice.

Then, the men of Jiangdong who had come with Li Er and the others yelled in unison, “We don't fear death!”



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"We don't fear death!"

Those stubborn voices shook the earth.

Ye Fan froze as he stared at them.

He never thought that he, Ye Fan, would have such a place in their hearts.

He could not believe that they had cast away their fears of death and come all the way here to protect him.

"Okay. I shall always remember your act of kindness. If I'm lucky enough to return to Jiangdong, I will repay the kindness you've shown to me today!"

Ye Fan then clasped his fists and bowed before the people of Jiangdong.

"Haha! What a show this is! Nevertheless, Chu Tianfan, do you really think that these nobodies will be able to save you from my grasp? Don't you think that you're underestimating the Chu Sect?"

Tang Xian had been surprised by Li Er and the others' arrival, but a moment later, he calmed down.

After a sneer, he ordered his men to surround Li Er and the others.

Although there were many of them, and they had come with weapons, they were still weak ordinary



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people at the end of the day. Those two to three hundred people posed no threats to the martial artists at all.

Just as Tang Xian's words were out of his mouth, an icy voice sounded out a short distance away.

“What if we join in this fight as well?”

When they turned around, they spotted a charming woman in a black coat leading the people of Yanjing toward them confidently.

One of them was Xue Renyang, and when he saw Ye Fan, he dropped to his knees and prostrated before Ye Fan. “I, Sun Dragon Xue Renyang, have come to rescue you.”

“What?”

Tang Xian's expression darkened.

“We have come as well,” came another icy voice.

Chiike Shizuka was leading the people of Japan toward them as well.

Countless people were swarming into the place.

Iwai Zen, who had come along with the people, prostrated before Ye Fan like Xue Renyang. “I, Rock Dragon, have come to rescue you.”

“This—” Tang Xian tensed up again.



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However, before Tang Xian could come back to his senses, a roar sounded out behind him.

"Us too!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

All of a sudden, several exploding noises sounded out in the darkness.

Then, ten muscular figures in military attire appeared abruptly like ghosts.

In the next second, as the Chu Sect martial artists watched in bafflement, those figures kneeled before Ye Fan.

"I, River Dragon Long Baichuan, have come with my disciples to rescue you."

The aura he emanated was like flames that scorched the ground he was at.

As The Four Dragon Slayers appeared, more and more people emerged from the dark.

Eighty Guardians, thousands of elite martial artists, as well as the people of Jiangdong, Yanjing, and Japan were there.

Who would have thought that there would be three thousand people gathered there in mere dozens of minutes?

The number of people gathered there was like



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stars in the night sky.

Perhaps none of them would be powerful enough to do anything alone, but a milky way would be formed at the gathering of thousands and millions of stars.

“Greetings, Hall Master of Dragon God Hall. All hail the Dragon Master!”

“Greetings, Hall Master of Dragon God Hall. All hail the Dragon Master!”

When the three thousand people cried out the greeting in unison, the earth shook.

Tang Xian and the martial artists of the Chu Sect were all frightened by the sight of the mass to the point they nearly lost their minds.

“Head of elders, t-this... W-Why are there so many people all of a sudden?”

“H-How the hell do I know?” Tang Xian hissed with a pale face.

To wipe out Ye Fan, he had even brought more people than needed—around one to two hundred martial artists with him.

He thought he would be able to kill Ye Fan with sheer number alone.

However, not only had they not been able to kill Ye Fan, but they were even surrounded by Ye Fan's



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people.

Two hundred against three thousand was a sure sign that they were going to lose.

“Damn you, Chu Tianfan! How can you possibly have so many people loyal to you?”

At the sight of the countless people kneeling before Ye Fan and declaring their loyalty, Tang Xian's expression turned as dark as night.

At the start, he thought that Ye Fan was only relying on those Dragon Slayers.

However, as it turned out, Ye Fan had even more powerful people supporting him.

Even if they were to exclude the normal people, there were still over a thousand trained martial artists by his side.

Tang Xian still remembered that there were only two to three thousand martial artists in China.

Yet, the number of Ye Fan's subordinates was equivalent to half of China's martial artists population.

“What the f*ck? What has the Chu family's outcast been doing for the past dozens of years? How did he manage to secretly develop such terrifying power? Most importantly, how did we not know about it?”



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Tang Xian was overwhelmed by surprise. As chills ran down his spine, he thought, *Ye Fan is horrifying!*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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At Norwal City, roars filled the air as thousands continued to stay on their knees.

The thundering booms of their voices spread outward to miles away.

It was a sight to behold, and the hundreds of members of the Chu Sect were frightened out of their wits.

As they looked ahead in fear, they subconsciously took steps backward.

“Head of elders, what do we do now? A-Are we going to fight against them?” Tang Xian's subordinate asked Tang Xian again.

The martial artists of the Chu Sect were usually haughty, but when they were finally up against another powerful force, they were almost instantly filled with terror and cowardice.

Tang Xian fell silent.

The strongest martial artists on the opposite side were Grandmasters, and he was powerful enough to go up against a Grandmaster, for he was a supreme grandmaster.

However, regardless of how powerful he was as a supreme grandmaster, he still dared not go up against thousands of martial artists by himself.

He was not Ye Fan; he knew he could not do something unbelievable like that.



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Furthermore, despite the fact that Ye Fan was grievously injured and had lost all his combat skills, his physique was still mortifyingly strong.

If they were to fight, and if Ye Fan were to give him a punch, Tang Xian was rather sure that he would die.

Even if Ye Fan was hurt, he was still powerful enough to pose a threat to Tang Xian.

After a moment of weighing the pros and cons, Tang Xian decided to leave as quickly as possible.

Ye Fan had countless people supporting him at the moment, and Tang Xian did not see the point in taking the risk.

The best option he should take was to return to the Chu Sect and inform the Old Master Chu Yuan about the situation. Then, they would gather their best people to get rid of Ye Fan and his supporters.

However, just as Tang Xian was about to give the order to retreat, the ground began shaking.

It was as if the neighborhood was experiencing an earthquake. Dust was stirred up into the air by the shaking as the doors and windows began making ear-piercing screeching noises.

Then, a low rumbling sound from the far, dark horizon began traveling into their ears.



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“W-What— Could there be more coming?”

Upon sensing the tremendous commotion, Tang Xian tensed up again. Then, his heart sank.

At the same time, looks of despair crept upon the faces of the other Chu Sect martial artists.

They were certain that they were doomed.

However, just as the members of the Chu Sect were at the peak of their despair, Li Er, Lei San, and the others gasped in shock.

“What's going on? Are there more coming? Could it be that the Chu Sect's backup is here? No, but that can't be. They can't possibly come so quickly!”

Li Er, Xu Lei, and the others had contacted everyone they knew for the rescue, and those they had contacted were mostly there.

Therefore, Xu Lei and the others were as worried as the Chu Sect members at the sudden commotion.

At that very moment, both the members of the Chu Sect and the Dragon God Hall were tensed.

Everyone was warily watching the horizon.

Right then, armed Anglandur soldiers began rushing toward them from the edge of the neighborhood.



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Of course, the soldiers were not the only ones coming toward them; there were tanks as well. The turret was slowly turning around to face them as the tank readied itself to fire.

It was a sight that would make anyone's blood run cold.

As the dozens of tanks rolled toward them, the buildings beside them shook.

"I-It's an army?"

When Xu Lei and the others saw the soldiers and the tanks, their faces paled.

Grandmasters did not fear bullets, but there was a limit as to what kind of bullets they could withstand.

At one point, the onslaught of attacks from the powerful modern weaponry would spell the death of even a supreme grandmaster.

Moreover, the ones who had come to back Ye Fan up were not even Grandmasters.

If they were up against Tang Xian, they could still win as they had more people on their side.

However, if they were up against an army, they would no longer have the upper hand against their enemy.

"Hahaha! It's Oska! Our friend is here! Hahaha! Chu



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Tianfan, it looks like even fate wants you dead!”

Initially, Tang Xian was still pondering about the newcomers' identity, but upon seeing the commander leading the soldiers, he burst into laughter.

The Chu Sect were old friends with Oska.

For many years, a troop of five thousand soldiers from Anglandur's army was stationed near Mount Chumen to protect the mountain.

Oska was the leader of those soldiers.

He had been stationed by the foot of Mount Chumen for nearly a decade.

As Tang Xian was part of the Chu Sect, he naturally knew Oska.

Therefore, the moment he spotted Oska, Tang Xian leaped to Oska's side and beamed.

“General Oska, you've come at the right time. These people have entered Norwal City illegally and committed murder. They've disrupted the peace of this city. General Oska, please end these people's lives right away,” Tang Xian said, attempting to persuade Oska.

Oska nodded in agreement. “You don't need to say more because I've come to the same decision. However, before I give the order, please make sure to retreat to the side with the Chu Sect members



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so that you won't be caught in the crossfire.”

“Of course!” Tang Xian exclaimed, overjoyed after hearing Oska's response.

He then hurried back to his men and led them to an empty land several hundred meters away. He was ready to watch from afar how Ye Fan and his men were going to be decimated by Oska's army's firepower.

Once Tang Xian and his men were far from the scene, Oska uttered, “Hear my orders! Prepare the turrets!”

Immediately, the dozens of trucks lined up horizontally as their turrets turned to lock on their targets. In seconds, thousands of cannons were ready to be fired.

“Mr. Chu, leave quickly! We'll try to stop them to the best of our ability!”

At the turn of events, the expressions of Long Baichuan and the others turned grave.

The others were equally filled with fear as they promptly retreated, searching for buildings to hide in.

Everyone was starting to fear for their lives, but Ye Fan remained rooted to his spot.

There were no expressions on his face as he continued to stand tall.



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When he looked to the front, it was as if he was staring right into his enemies' souls.

"Mr. Chu, leave now!" Li Er and the others fearfully cried out when they saw him still in the same spot.

Is he trying to take on a cannon like this?

If they were only up against one or two cannons, they would have let the powerful Ye Fan do as he pleased.

However, the enemy they were up against was a five-thousand-men army with almost a hundred tanks on their side. Even the strongest among them would be resting in pieces once Oska's army fired the cannons.

Moreover, Ye Fan was already injured. Pushing himself past the limits was a suicidal move.

Panicking, Li Er and the others dashed toward Ye Fan to drag him to someplace safe.

However, it was too late.

Oska had already given his men the order to fire.

The sounds of the launching cannons echoed in the air.

Like shooting stars, the thousands of cannons began descending toward Ye Fan and his men.

Seconds later, the place exploded as sparks flew.



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“Hahaha! Chu Tianfan, fate is really out to get you!”

Evidently, Tang Xian, who was watching from afar, was delighted.

He was sure that God was on his side.

Just as he was about to retreat, the tables had turned, and his backup had come.

Even if Ye Fan and his men did not all die from the barrage of attacks, only a few of them would survive.

Tang Xian was genuinely thrilled.

He was addicted to the feeling of unexpected triumph.

Nevertheless, Tang Xian's joy did not last for long.

At that moment, his subordinate abruptly nudged Tang Xian and said, “Head of elders, why... why does it feel like those... those cannons are coming for us?”

At that, Tang Xian scowled. “Nonsense! How can that be true?”



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Right after Tang Xian finished speaking, he felt an intense heatwave like a flaming tornado attacking him.

When he looked up, he realized that members of the Chu Sect were being surrounded by gunfire.

“What’s going on? Oska, what the hell are you doing?”

When Tang Xian realized that the Chu Sect was the target of Oska’s attack, he could feel his scalp go numb.

He went berserk at once, yelling and cursing while trying to activate his elemental force in order to defend the sect.

However, it was all too late.

Before Tang Xian managed to gather his energy to take the blow for his subordinates, innumerable artillery shells dropped from the sky.

Instantly, an inferno of flames shot into the sky, and a series of explosions sounded.

The ground along the entire street trembled violently as if an earthquake had just occurred.

The terrifying wave of attack caused cracks to appear on the ground, while blood, bones, and flesh evaporated into thin air due to the extremely high heat from the explosions.



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“W-What is this?”

“What's going on?”

“Are they blind? Or am I blind?”

Li Er and the rest were stunned as they looked upon the scene before them, wondering if they were hallucinating.

They had thought that they were the ones who were going to be attacked.

As such, they were unable to figure out what was going on.

They were unable to understand why Chu Sect's reinforcements, who were supposed to help them, would wipe out the fighters from the sect instead. They could not help but wonder if it was all a misunderstanding.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Explosions continued to ring out as the attack carried on.

After one round of attack, Oska gave instructions to begin the next round of attack.

Although the man was not versed in martial arts, he knew how terrifying the powers of martial artists could be.

Even with such an elaborate attack, Oska was not



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entirely confident that he would be able to confine all of them within the area.

Indeed, after rounds of bombing, he could still spot a few figures dashing out of the sea of fire.

One of them was Tang Xian, the head of elders of Chu Sect.

“That damned Oska! How dare he take advantage of our situation. Just wait and see how I’ll deal with him! Not only him, but all the guards under him and Chu Tianfan also have to die as well! All of them shall die!”

Tang Xian looked utterly miserable with his expression darkened.

Rage filled his entire being as he yelled hysterically after escaping from the sea of fire, a murderous aura surrounding him.

“All remaining members of Chu Sect, listen up!”

Tang Xian’s voice rang out clearly in the air. With a ferocious expression and bloodshot eyes, he commanded in a fierce tone, “Let’s retreat!”

After saying that, the man turned around and retreated toward Mount Chumen.

A few others who managed to escape from the battle scene caught up with Tang Xian and the rest.



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After all, Ye Fan had a huge army under his command, while their side had less than ten remaining survivors after the last attack.

It was simply not possible for the few of them to take on an army of ten thousand men.

Anyone with a sane mind would not attempt to do that.

As such, under such unfavorable circumstances, the natural choice for Tang Xian would be to return to Mount Chumen and regroup in order to mount an offensive against Ye Fan next time.

Meanwhile, the attack ceased with the departure of Tang Xian and his men.

The ground that members of the Chu Sect stood on just a while back had turned into an expanse of devastation.

Human remains were scattered all around.

None of the corpses had their bodies in one piece.

In just ten minutes, hundreds of fighters from Chu Sect had perished.

Li Er and the others gasped at the outcome.

Even the martial artists from Chu Sect suffered huge casualties from the attack. If they were the ones being attacked instead, Li Er was sure that they wouldn't stand a chance of survival.



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However, they did not know that the reason for Chu Sect's miserable defeat was that the fighters were completely unprepared for the sudden attack.

In other words, most of them probably did not even have the time to react before they died.

If faced against each other on a proper battlefield, ordinary soldiers would definitely not be a match for an army made up of martial artists.

After all, a martial artist's combat ability was far above that of an ordinary soldier's.

Besides, the more powerful a weapon was, the bulkier it would be.

As such, before an opponent could aim their weapon accurately at a martial artist, the latter would have already launched an attack on them.

Besides, supreme grandmasters did not fear weapons.

If Tang Xian had been fully prepared for the battle earlier, he could have executed a few moves and destroyed those armored tanks.

As such, on a real battlefield, the only ones who would stand a chance to win against martial artists were martial artists themselves.

An ordinary army would have to employ raiders and launch sudden attacks on martial artists in



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order to cause serious losses to them.

After defeating the Chu Sect's fighters, Oska, the leader of the army, turned and looked in Ye Fan's direction.

"Which of you is Chu Tianfan?" he asked in a deep voice.

Li Er, Xu Lei, and the rest instantly turned pale when they heard that.

At the same time, fear arose in their hearts.

They could not help but wonder if Oska and his army were switching their targets to them.

At that thought, those thousands of martial artists gathered and stood in a battle formation, ready to fight against the five thousand men-strong army in front of them.

"That's me," Ye Fan answered placidly while remaining rooted to his spot, completely unfazed.

Oska looked over to the source of the voice and walked toward the man, accompanied by two of his subordinates.

"Ye Fan, be careful!"

Xu Lei and the others started worrying when they saw Oska approaching the man.

Long Baichuan and the rest of the fighters



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immediately stepped in front of Ye Fan and fixed their icy gaze on Oska.

However, Oska ignored their piercing gaze and continued taking giant steps toward Ye Fan expressionlessly.

Seconds later, everyone stared in astonishment as Oska clasped his fists and knelt in front of Ye Fan.

“I am Oska, the Hidden Dragon. Greetings to you, Dragon Master! Please punish us for being late to your rescue!”

Instantly, everyone was thunderstruck by the man's words.

Li Er, Chen Ao, Lei San, and Long Baichuan were all dumbfounded when they saw Oska falling to his knees.

Even Tang Yun, who was hiding in a corner and had not shown herself, covered her mouth in shock.

She could hardly believe that even Oska was under Ye Fan's command.

The woman knew about Oska, who was sent by Anglandur to help guard Mount Chumen.

However, that was just what it appeared to be on the surface. In reality, the man was there to keep an eye on Chu Sect in order to prevent Chu Sect from becoming a threat to the leaders of the



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secular world.

However, Tang Yun did not expect that the man was spying for Ye Fan as well.

As far as she could recall, Oska had already been there before she became the head of Chu Sect.

Could that mean that Oska has been under Ye Fan's command since a long time back?

At that moment, everyone's admiration and respect for Ye Fan grew.

The Unrivalled, who was also the Dragon God Hall Master, was mysterious and unfathomable indeed!

However, faced with Oska's submission, Ye Fan shook his head and said in a low voice, "Hidden Dragon, you shouldn't have shown up. You should know very well that once your identity is exposed, your authority will be revoked by Anglandur's military. If that happens, you would no longer be the commander of these five thousand soldiers."

Naturally, Ye Fan was well aware of Hidden Dragon's existence and identity.

However, according to Ye Fan's original plan, Hidden Dragon should have only revealed himself after they managed to defeat all the fighters of Chu Sect who were above the Supreme rank. The man's task was to give the final blow to Chu Sect and raze Mount Chumen to the ground, finishing them off.



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"I know." Oska nodded and continued, "However, if you are killed, what's the point in me concealing myself any longer? Dragon Master, let's not discuss this now. Let me escort you away from here first!"



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