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"T-That was..."

Zhang Zixi and the others were scared and stunned in place soon after.

That was too cruel.

Before they made the trip over, they would never have thought that Ye Fan, who looked ever so harmless, was actually the kind of man who would murder someone on a whim.

The sudden display of power and cruelty prompted everyone to back away a few steps.

"Ye Fan, what happened? Are you hurt?"

Ye Fan had covered Tangtang's eyes, so she only heard a muffled explosion. She never saw what Ye Fan did.

"Oh, everything is fine, Tangtang. Someone set off some firecrackers," replied Ye Fan softly.

His tone was calm and there wasn't even a hint of anything being wrong.

It was as though Ye Fan never killed anyone, and his victim was just an ant he accidentally stepped on.

Zhang Zixi clenched her fist tightly. "I guess that means you're adamant about causing trouble in Jiangbei."



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Her gaze had turned hostile by then.

She had expected things to be difficult and didn't actually think that she could chase Ye Fan out of Jiangbei by simply threatening the guy.

However, she didn't expect him to be that cruel either. *He just killed someone without batting an eyelid!*

Blood had spilled, so there was no mistaking that a fight was inevitable that night.

Ye Fan smiled in response to Zhang Zixi's words. "I attacked earlier not because I intend to take over your place in Jiangbei. I simply dislike the idea of being threatened. That was just a simple lesson for you. Remember this well. Before you attack your opponent, you need to think about whether you are strong enough to put up a fight. Failing to do so will just bring death and destruction to you and your comrades."

Ye Fan turned around, shot a look at Zhang Zixi, then smiled.

After that, he turned his attention back to Tangtang.

"Let's go, Tangtang. We'll head home for dinner."

Ye Fan ignored them after that.

He was so calm that it was as though his opponents were mere ants and not worthy of his



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attention.

There's that arrogance again. This is how proud idiots, who think they are better than anyone else, behave.

Zhang Zixi really hated how he had neglected her.

This was so much worse than discriminating against someone. The way Ye Fan acted meant that he completely disregarded them.

That behavior was worse than discrimination and it was very insulting.

Naturally, Zhang Zixi, who had always been as proud as a peacock, couldn't accept that.

"Hold it right there. Don't you take another step forward or I will attack!" roared Zhang Zixi fiercely.

Unfortunately, Ye Fan just ignored her.

"You had this coming."

Zhang Zixi's eyes glowed with cruelty, and she issued her orders at the very next instant.

Brrt!

In the next moment, countless guns fired.

Thousands of bullets tore through the air, and shell casings fell as though it were raining bullets.



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From a distance, it looked as though a crimson web of death from hell had fallen on them. The bullets were burning and had created a hot wave.

Piercing noise engulfed the entire neighborhood.

Just like that, under Zhang Zixi and her comrades' cold stare, a burning wave consumed both Ye Fan and Tangtang.

"Anyone who tried to snatch Jiangbei from us will meet an untimely death. My family has ruled this place for over a hundred years, and even Lu Songliang of the Lu Clan failed to destroy us. Do they really think a random punk from a rathole can take us on?"

Zhang Zixi grinned evilly when she saw the flames in front of her.

That was not the first time someone had challenged her family's authority in Jiangbei, and she was certain that wouldn't be the last time someone did so.

It doesn't matter, though. I will just kill those who come after us. I won't even care who my opponents are.

The Zhang family was so powerful that even a Grandmaster couldn't go after or bully them.

"Head over later and take care of his corpse so we can send him back to Jiangdong. That'll send a message and tell everyone that we are a force to



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be reckoned with.”

The guns were still firing, and the custom-made bullets were tearing through the air as though they didn't cost a fortune.

However, Zhang Zixi had no intention of staying any longer.

His fate is sealed.

The Zhang family specifically created those powerful and highly piercing bullets to fight martial artists.

It wouldn't matter even if their opponent was a Grandmaster who could flush out his aura to protect himself.

He might be able to withstand a few dozen or even a hundred bullets, but there was no way he could survive ten thousand bullets.

That was why Zhang Zixi was confident that Ye Fan was a dead man as soon as she issued her order.

She had absolutely no doubt that things would turn out exactly the way she imagined, so she didn't think there was any point in staying.

The color of the blood was very bright, but she didn't like it.

The sound of the guns firing died down when



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Zhang Zixi reached her car and was ready to leave.

Silence finally returned.

"I knew it. The world is a much more peaceful place once vermins are eliminated."

Zhang Zixi entered her car and picked up a glass of red wine that was prepared in advance. She drank everything in one go.

"Okay, let's head home."

She had dealt with a threat on her grandfather's behalf and had rid Jiangbei of big trouble. Hence, she was in a good mood.

With a smile on her lips, she ordered the chauffeur to drive.

But no one replied to her.

"Huh? What's wrong?" asked Zhang Zixi.

The chauffeur didn't reply.

"What?"

Zhang Zixi frowned right away and turned her attention to the man in the driver's seat.

All she saw was the elderly man trembling endlessly and staring ahead. His fingers shivered when he pointed ahead.



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Horror was on every inch of his face, and it was as though he were looking at a demon.

Zhang Zixi was surprised to see the fear the chauffeur displayed.

She instinctively traced the chauffeur's line of sight and looked ahead.

Boom!

It was as though an explosion had gone off in her mind. The serenity on Zhang Zixi's beautiful face vanished instantly.

All she saw was the thin figure still standing in front of her.

Or rather, she saw it walking.

Ye Fan was holding Tangtang's hand, and the two of them walked side-by-side.

The streetlights illuminated both their figures, but they also made them two long shadows.

If anyone were to see that, they would find the scene to be heartwarming.

It was as warm as a ray of sunlight in the cold winter.

The part that had Zhang Zixi and the others drowning in fear, however, was different. Golden bullets were floating right behind them.



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Thousands of bullets floated in midair like magic.

If Zhang Zixi hadn't heard her own rapid breathing and felt her heart still pumping blood through her veins, she would've thought that time had stopped.

"B-But h-how is that possible? H-How are the bullets floating in mid-air like that? Those bullets traveled faster than sound, so how did he stop them?"

Zhang Zixi acted as though she had gone mad. Her beautiful face turned pale as she witnessed an unbelievable scene in front of her.

She couldn't take it. That was something that would only happen in a fiction novel, but it had undoubtedly played out in front of her.

Thousands of bullets were floating in the air, and the two people who should be dead were walking together under the streetlights.

The incredible sight had, without question, stunned everybody at the place.

Just as they were drowning in fear, Ye Fan, who had been walking slowly, suddenly waved his arm.

Whoosh!

The bullets that had been floating in the air suddenly acted as though they were alive. Zhang Zixi and the others were still staring in



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astonishment when those bullets flew backwards.

It was as though a golden rain had fallen.

That beautiful picture, however, was tainted with agonized screams and crimson red blood.

Under the dark sky, the place turned into a river of blood.

Just like that, within a few seconds, Zhang Zixi and nearly a hundred of the Zhang family's assassins were all wounded. They all stumbled backward as the bullets tore through them. The intense pain prompted them to kneel on the floor and moan in agony.

"Relay a message to Zhang Jiuling. I have spared all these people, and in exchange, I want him to keep my wife safe. If anything were to happen to Mucheng, I will return to Jiangbei and make the family pay for it!"



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Zhang Zixi couldn't even remember how she made it back to her home.

When she reached home, however, she realized that Zhang Jiuling had gathered all the top members of the family. They were having a meeting.

She didn't lie to the family members in front of her and confessed everything she did.

After all, she couldn't hide it.

She had gathered over a hundred of the family's assassins to force Ye Fan out of Jiangbei.

An operation of that magnitude would inevitably draw attention.

"What? You led a team over to attack Mr. Chu?"

Zhang Jiuling was confused earlier and wondered what could have happened to his disheveled granddaughter.

Nevertheless, when he learned how Zhang Zixi had tried to kill Ye Fan, the news scared him so much that he could feel his scalp going tingly.

"You idiot!"

In the heat of the moment, Zhang Jiuling mercilessly slapped Zhang Zixi right across her face.



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She spat blood and stumbled backwards a little.

"You foolish girl. How dare you do something like that? How could you go after someone that powerful? Do you have a death wish or something?"

Zhang Jiuling was so angry that he had gone insane.

Who does she think Ye Fan is? That monster is so powerful that he even went after Chu Sect. Even Sword Saint feared the guy.

Years ago, the entire world ganged up on Ye Fan, and even then, they chose to go after him when he was in his weakest state.

No one dared to go after him when he was in his prime.

A powerful figure like that is someone we need to run away from.

Zhang Jiuling couldn't believe that his granddaughter was so stupid that she tried to kill Ye Fan.

"You stupid, dumb freaking idiot! What have I been teaching you in the past twenty years? I told you to be patient and to think hard before you act. Yet, you did the exact opposite and were stupidly impulsive. Did you even register a word I said? Freaking hell. Even a dog is smarter than you."



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Zhang Jiuling had never been that angry before.

Even after the slap, he raised his hand to hit her again.

He later thought about how Zhang Zixi was a physically weak woman, so he stopped himself before he slapped her a second time.

If Zhang Zixi had been a boy, Zhang Jiuling would likely have broken both her legs.

The aggression Zhang Jiuling displayed undoubtedly scared the entire Zhang family to their core.

“W-What?”

“Zixi is your favorite granddaughter.”

“Come on, you shouldn't slap her so hard, even if she had made a mistake.”

Many members of the family stood up to help.

Some pulled Zhang Jiuling back while some went to help Zhang Zixi up.

The head of the family, Zhang Zijiang, was surprised as well.

Everyone in the family knew that Zhang Jiuling's favorite was Zhang Zixi.

He kept her by his side at all times and personally



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trained her. When he stepped back and moved toward retirement, he stopped paying attention to everything that was going on. Even then, he never stopped teaching and guiding his granddaughter.

That was why the entire Zhang family had regarded Zhang Zixi as the next leader of the family.

To their surprise, Zhang Jiuling lost his temper and was so angry that he laid a hand on her.

"Zixi, you troublesome kid, what did you do? Why did you get your grandpa so angry? Is the man you offended really just a random hooligan from Jiangdong? Are you hiding any important information from us?"

Zhang Zijiang nervously interrogated his daughter and was urging her to confess everything.

"D-Dad, I told you everything. It's true. That guy wants to rule over Jiangbei, so I went over to warn him. The operation was similar to what I had done a dozen times before," replied Zhang Zixi as tears rolled endlessly down her cheeks. She looked ever so pitiful at that moment.

That confused the rest of the family.

"If that is true, then you truly have overreacted.

"That is just a random punk from Jiangdong, right?



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"Even if he managed to rule over Jiangdong and is a renowned guy there, he is still just a nobody here.

"Our family has ruled over Jiangbei for a century, and we are one of the most powerful families in the country.

"We need not worry, even if Zixi had offended him.

"Jiangbei is one of the top three most powerful provinces in the country. Both our economy and martial arts capabilities are superior to Jiangdong.

"Seriously, you have overreacted this time," said one of the more powerful members of the Zhang family, Zhang Xu.

Everyone else thought Zhang Jiuling overreacted as well.

"Come on, Zixi. Don't cry. I bet this is just a misunderstanding, so don't be sad. Tell me where that hooligan from Jiangdong is right now. I will send some men over to break both his legs. After that, I will drag the guy over so you can vent your frustration out on him. You are our most precious child, so we won't stand by when someone bullies you."

Members of the Zhang family circled around to soothe Zhang Zixi.

"Shut up! You idiots. You know absolutely nothing. Do you really think that guy is just a random



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hooligan from Jiangdong? He is a martial artist who holds great power.”

Zhang Jiuling was infuriated once more, and he shouted at his family.

“So what? You're a martial artist too, and Zixi is on the verge of reaching Grandmaster rank, so what's the big deal? You're also the president of the Martial Arts Association. All it takes is one word from you to get every martial artist over to help us out. The fact that the guy is a martial artist is not a big deal at all.”

Zhang Xu and the others were at ease as they said those words.

“Oh, by the way, I have to meet someone later. It's a business deal that is worth over a billion, and we'll receive thirty percent of the profit. The year is about to end, so I want to give the family business one last push for the year. I'll head over now.”

Just then, a member of the Zhang family stood up to leave after he received a call.

“Oh, I have to go too. A powerful politician is hosting a party, and it'd be rude to not show up. We'll be counting on that guy to get the real estate project scheduled for next year.”

Someone else stood up to leave.

Those words snapped the last shred of sanity in Zhang Jiuling.



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He slammed on the desk and broke it into pieces.

"Anyone who leaves the house without my permission will be disowned," roared Zhang Jiuling. The entire place instantly became quiet.

Everyone was so scared that they were stunned. No one dared to do anything.

"Look at you guys with your luxurious meals and your tailor-made suits.

"Yacht, private jets, personal villa... You have everything you want.

"Let me ask you idiots something. Have you forgotten how our family rose to power?

"We started as martial artists, and that is the source of our strength!

"I can't believe you guys actually forgot your roots!

"If we don't have Zixi with us, the entire family's legacy will end with me!"

Zhang Jiuling was so angry that he was trembling.

"I let the rest of you move away from being martial artists because I want to keep you away from all the war and fighting. I was trying to keep the family safe and prevent us from ending the way the Lu Clan did.

"Now, I see that I was wrong.



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"Your lives are peaceful, but they were too peaceful.

"You know nothing except enjoying life, and all you crave is wealth. It got to the point where you lost the most basic skill of a martial artist. You don't even have the ability to sense danger anymore!

"If that's the case, then I will no longer carry the burden and shield all of you.

"Aren't you curious about why I fear Mr. Chu?

"Well, let me tell you the truth, then."

Zhang Jiuling had been dealing with the drama of the martial arts world ever since he was a kid. He had also witnessed countless fights, competitions, and murders between the martial artists.

That was why, when he took over the Zhang family decades ago, he did his best to separate the Zhang family from the martial arts world.

He was the only one who was allowed to interact with other martial artists. Everyone else wasn't allowed to even know about the happenings in the martial arts world.

Zhang Jiuling made his family go into politics and do business because he wanted everyone to lead a normal life.

His initial intention was to keep the Zhang family from the never-ending conflict in the martial arts



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world. Unfortunately, to his dismay, his family slowly turned blind with ignorance.

If that is how things are, then I will wake them up today. I will show them just how cruel this world really is.

"Do you still remember the massacre in Westlake from a few years ago?"

"Yeah," replied Zhang Xu. "If I remember correctly, the head of the family was celebrating his birthday on the lake. There was an accident, and the construction fell, causing many to drown in that lake. I think the rubble also killed quite a few people.

"The head of the family died that day, along with many top members of the family.

"After that accident, the Lu Clan suffered a huge loss. The family fell, and they became a second-class force."



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"Yes, Father. Why did you bring this up suddenly?"

"Isn't the accident that happened to Lu Clan over? Don't tell me that the Westlake incident is related to this person from Jiangdong..." Zhang Zijiang, head of the Zhang family, interrupted.

Back then, the incident that happened to Lu Clan caused a huge stir because a lot of people died.

Not to mention that Lu Clan fell apart after that fateful night.

Any incident that involved the death of more than ten people was considered a major safety accident.

However, since the incident involved hundreds of deaths, the media were all fighting to cover the headline news.

Zhang Zijiang had doubts about whether the incident was purely an accident or carefully staged.

However, the investigators from the province did not suspect any foul play.

Another group of investigators was sent from Yanjing after the province closed the case, but they reached the same conclusion.

Furthermore, the head of Lu Clan, Lu Ziming, seemed to have accepted that and did not pursue the matter after going back to Jiangbei.



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After so many years, everyone also believed that it was just an accident.

Nobody expected Zhang Jiuling to bring it up.

"Accident?"

"Do you really think it's just an accident? Don't you know that the family members of Lu Clan are all prominent figures in the martial arts world? Especially the head of the family, Lu Songliang. He is more powerful than I am."

"Even I can survive bullets. What do you think caused the death of a Grandmaster? And the deaths of hundreds of people in Jiangbei? What can cause the greatest clan in Jiangbei to fall in one day?" Zhang Jiuling asked in a serious tone.

Zhang Xu and the others turned pale as they had never felt this horrified before.

"Was the incident staged?"

"Impossible! The investigation teams from the province and Yanjing said it was an accident..." Zhang Xu shook his head, unable to believe what he had heard.

If it really wasn't an accident, why would the country hide the truth from the public and let the perpetrator get away with it?

Were they afraid that the public would panic?

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Or were they too afraid to cross the perpetrator?

"Enough."

"Stop being so naive. You're not kids anymore. You should know that anything you see in this world is only what those in power choose to show you. By shielding you from darkness, do you truly think that darkness will cease to exist?"

"When you find things beyond comprehension, it is because you are narrow-minded and inexperienced."

"I can tell you that the fall of Lu Clan is not an accident. The man from Jiangdong was the one who killed their whole family!"

"He wiped them out single handedly!"

Silence ensued as Zhang Jiuling's voice echoed through the vast hall.

All that could be heard was the eerie sound of cold wind blowing relentlessly through the window.

Completely stunned, Zhang Xu and the others stared at Zhang Jiuling in disbelief.

Zhang Zixi yelped, "That man killed the whole of Lu Clan?"

"How is that possible, Grandpa? Didn't you say that Lu Songliang was more powerful than you? Even if Mr. Chu is a Grandmaster, he can't be stronger



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than you. How did he manage to kill the whole of Lu Clan? Besides, I can't tell that Mr. Lu hates Mr. Chu," Zhang Zixi shook her head as she said.

How can this be?

She knew very little about the outside world due to all the years spent training indoors with Zhang Jiuling.

It was the same for Zhang Xu and Zhang Zijiang too.

Since Zhang Jiuling made sure that they stayed away from the martial arts world, they didn't know much about everything that was already known by people who kept in touch with the martial arts world.

"Grandmaster?" Zhang Jiuling laughed helplessly. "If Mr. Chu is just a Grandmaster, why will I be afraid of him? I could have beaten him on my own, but sadly that is not the case."

Zhang Zixi asked, "Can it be that he is one of the Six pillars of China? That is the only explanation for the reason you are afraid of him! Only if he is one of the Six pillars of China that he will be able to kill the whole of Lu Clan and get away with it without Lu Ziming coming after him!"

Everything made sense now.

It was then only Zhang Zixi realized how scary Ye Fan was.

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No wonder he was fearless when facing the attacks of so many people.

Besides, his presence was intimidating enough to the others.

He was none other than Mount Yan's pillar of China.

However, Zhang Zixi still found it hard to believe that a pillar of China could be someone so young.

Zhang Zixi used to be proud of being a step away from achieving Grandmaster at the age of twenty-six.

However, her achievements seemed nothing when she compared herself to Ye Fan.

Finally, Zhang Zixi felt anxious and defeated.

Growing up hearing the stories of the legendary pillars of China, her biggest dream is to conquer Mount Yan by the age of sixty and become one of the Six pillars of China.

However, her dream was easily achieved by Mr. Chu when he was barely thirty.

Zhang Zixi's confidence was shattered by the truth.

The Zhang family members were too shocked by the fact.

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Facing the petrified faces of his family, Zhang Jiuling merely shook his head and sighed, "Seems like you've been kept away from the martial arts world for too long. You still don't understand how scary this man is. "

"You may think that the pillars of China are the most powerful people in the world, but you're wrong."

"Chu Tianfan is not one of the Six pillars of China. He is way more powerful than all of them! He is at the top of the Sky Ranking and the god realm. He is scary enough for all of the martial arts experts in the whole world to join forces against him!"

The news came as a shock for everyone because they thought Ye Fan was one of the Six pillars of China.

Zhang Zijiang was shocked to the core while Zhang Xu's face went pale white.

As for Zhang Zixi, she almost fell to her knees as her legs went jelly.

Their minds were blank.

At the top of the Sky Ranking?

The strongest in the god realm?

More powerful than the Six pillars of China?

Oh my god!



B-CURE
LASER

Trateaza durerile de spate si de
genunchi. Cumpara acum si
scapa de dureri.

DESCHIDEȚI

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It was out of their imagination because they thought the Six pillars of China were the most powerful in the world.

However, Chu Tianfan was more powerful than those living in Mount Yan.

Could it be that he is an immortal who had descended to the human world?



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"I understand that you have no idea what Sky Ranking means since you have been away from the martial arts world for a long time. I can explain it to you.

"You should know that the Mo Clan from Zhonghai is the most powerful family in China. They have family members in all of the highest positions in both politics and business. The power and wealth they hold are enough to affect the country's future."

"You've asked me why the Mo family's grip on power has lasted for almost a century. The answer is simple. They are the most powerful martial arts family in China."

"Out of the ten Grandmasters born in the family throughout the century, four of them are supreme grandmasters!"

"The third most powerful person on Mount Yan is the King of Fighters, Mo Gucheng. He is the Supreme pillar of China and the uncle of the current head of the Mo family. His son, Mo Wuya, has also achieved the same Supreme title as him."

"Mo Gucheng is said to be the most powerful member ever in the Mo family. However, he didn't even make it to the top twenty of the Sky Ranking."

"On the other hand, Chu Tianfan is at the top of the Sky Ranking. He is the only representative from China and Asia that made it to the top ten of the list!" Zhang Jiuling exclaimed.

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Zhang Zixi and the others were so shocked that they could not say anything in response.

The wide hall was so silent that the sound of a needle falling to the ground would be heard clearly.

The Zhang family was utterly petrified.

Zhang Zixi was so scared that her knees weakened, causing her to kneel at the ground with a loud thump.

The Mo family in Zhonghai depended on Mo Gucheng to achieve their position as the most prominent family in China.

However, such a powerful person like Mo Gucheng couldn't even make it into the top twenty of the Sky Ranking.

How powerful and terrifying does one have to be to make it to the top of the Sky Ranking?

He must be powerful enough to change the whole world!

At that point, Zhang Zixi was too frightened to think further.

Tears flowed down her cheeks uncontrollably as she continued kneeling on the ground.

All this time, she thought she of how had looked down on Ye Fan.



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Now that she knew about Ye Fan's capability, she realized she had completely underestimated him.

He was at another level that she could never imagine.

"I'm sorry, Grandpa. My impulsiveness has gotten all of you in deep trouble..." Still kneeling on the ground and in tears, Zhang Zixi lowered her head in shame as she apologized.

The other members of the Zhang family kept quiet.

Zhang Xu and the others who were defending Zhang Zixi before were all too terrified to say another word.

Zhang Jiuling glared at them coldly and scolded, "All of you are too ignorant."

"I'll make this clear now. From today onwards, no one shall offend Chu Tianfan, or else I will feed you to the sharks personally before he does it! The Zhang family shall not tolerate such idiots!"

Zhang Jiuling's voice echoed in the vast hall.

Knowing that it signified the end of their arrogant days in Jiangbei, Zhang Xu and the others lowered their head in fright and dared not reply.

...

On the other hand, Ye Fan and Tangtang arrived at

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the courtyard.

Yue Yingchun and Hu Yipeng were waiting for them in a room.

When Yue Yingchun saw Ye Fan, she immediately blamed him, "Why are you back so late today? Your sister has already arrived a while ago. Come and eat before the dishes get cold!"

Yue Yingchun opened the covered dishes and handed Ye Fan a bowl of rice.

Right after Yue Yingchun finished, Tangtang, face reddened with excitement, told her parents excitedly, "Dad, Mom, a bunch of bad guys were here just now! They all had guns and wanted to capture me and Ye Fan!"

What?

"What are you talking about, Tangtang? Why are there bad guys?"

"What's going on, Ye Fan? Was the commotion out there just now gunshots?"

Still serving food, Yue Yingchun couldn't help but shudder in fear.

A few minutes ago, they heard loud sounds from far away but didn't think too much because they thought it was just a few kids playing with fireworks.



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However, after what Tangtang said, they were all perked up and anxious.

"It's nothing, Mdm. Yue. They've left. I suppose they found the wrong person?" Ye Fan tried to make up a story because he didn't want to involve Yue Yingchun's family in the martial arts world.

However, Tangtang wouldn't stop talking about it. She continued excitedly, "Why are you lying to my mum, Ye Fan? The bad guys were there to find you and chase you out of Jiangbei."

"Don't worry, Mom and Dad, Ye Fan is amazing. He chased all of them away on his own! He even broke their car windows! In the end, those bad guys had to run away limping. Ye Fan is the best!" Tangtang exclaimed in excitement and admiration.

Even if she didn't see the whole incident, she did see the Zhang family fleeing away from Ye Fan in a pathetic way.

Ye Fan had become a hero to Tangtang after that.

As she described the incident to her parents proudly, Ye Fan hurriedly explained, "Mdm. Yue, Tangtang is just exaggerating. It really was nothing. Let's start eating before the food turns cold."

"No!" Tangtang protested, "Dad, Mom, if you don't believe me, I can bring you there! There's a lot of glass shards on the ground."



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In the end, Yue Yingchun and her husband followed Tangtang to the place where the fight happened.

When they returned, their expression changed drastically.

After locking the door, they asked Ye Fan to go to their room.

"Tell us honestly, Ye Fan. Did you get into some trouble?" Yue Yingchun interrogated in a serious tone while Hu Yipeng stood beside them gravely.

"No, Mdm. Yue. I'm not in any trouble." Ye Fan put on a smile and tried his best to assure them.

"How dare you lie to me!" Yue Yingchun scolded.

"Not only did we see the glass shards, but also the bloodstains and bullet casings on the ground!"

"Please tell me the truth, Ye Fan. Did you get into some trouble with someone powerful?"

"Tangtang is my daughter. Do you really think I'm unable to tell when she is telling the truth and when she is lying?" Yue Yingchun pressed on anxiously.

Hu Yipeng's eyes were filled with worry as he said, "Ye Fan, if there's anything, please let us know."

"Mdm. Yue and I may not be big shots, but we have lived longer than you and are more

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experienced than you. If you are indeed in some trouble, we may be able to help you."

Ye Fan knew that there was no way of keeping it from them any longer. "Mr. Hu, Mdm. Yue, I have indeed run into some kind of trouble just now, but it's all settled now. They won't be coming again in the future."

"Who are those people who bullied you? Do you want to go to the police?" Worried, Yue Yingchun asked.

Ye Fan shook his head and replied, "I think they were from the Zhang family, but it shouldn't be a problem now. Mr. Zhang probably has given them a lecture about it already," Ye Fan smiled.

He didn't care too much about the incident because he believed that it was Zhang Zixi acting on her impulse.

As for Zhang Jiuling, he was too smart to act rashly.

"What did you say? The Zhang family?"

"Which family are you referring to?" Hu Yipeng shuddered as he asked Ye Fan.

"The head of the family is Zhang Jiuling if I'm not mistaken," Ye Fan replied.

"Zhang... Zhang Jiuling?"



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If there had been any color remaining on Hu Yipeng's face previously, it was all drained out now.



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Hu Yipeng stood rooted to the ground and stared blankly ahead of him in fright.

Afterward, he didn't say anything more. Instead, he urged Yue Yingchun, "Quick, Yingchun. Help Ye Fan pack his stuff and give him some money. Send him on the train by tonight!"

"Hurry!"

Yue Yingchun was scared by Hu Yipeng's reaction.

"What's going on, Yipeng? Don't tell me that this Zhang family is someone that we can't afford to offend!" Terrified, Yue Yingchun whispered.

"Stop asking and start packing for Ye Fan. Send them away from Livingsfill, no, Jiangbei!"

"Don't ever come back here, Ye Fan. Or else you won't be able to escape when they come!"

Hu Yipeng was panicking.

Ye Fan did not expect him and his family to react so badly to the news.

He tried to explain again, "Mr. Hu, it really isn't a big thing. I've had it under control."

"What do you know, child?" Hu Yipeng raised his voice agitatedly. "Do you really think you can get away after fending them off? How are you going to defend yourself from their powerful family when you are just an average worker?"

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"Leave this place with your sister before the Zhangs come after you. This is all we have left. It may not be much, but it will last you for a few days at least. Just go!" Hu Yipeng handed a stack of money to Ye Fan as he said.

At the same time, Yue Yingchun came into the room with a box. "I've prepared some food for you. Share this with your sister on the way. Remember to call us once you are safe!"

"Why on earth do bad things have to happen to you?"

Yue Yingchun was not expecting their farewell to come this sudden.

She thought Ye Fan would stay with them for a long time, but alas, she had to send them away because of what happened.

Yue Yingchun teared up as she watched Ye Fan and Junie.

Although they only lived together for less than a month, Yue Yingchun and her family really liked Ye Fan and Junie.

Yue Yingchun liked Junie so much that she wanted to take her in as her god-daughter.

"I'm so sorry, Junie. We are sending you away because we don't have the ability to protect the both of you."



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Yue Yingchun held Junie's hand and bid farewell to her reluctantly.

After all, they had no power in the society and all they could think of was to flee when trouble landed.

Seeing that there was no point in further explaining things, Ye Fan kept quiet.

After all, it was time for them to leave too.

Ye Fan had been racking his brains to come up with an excuse to leave Yue Yingchun and her family. Now he was given the opportunity to leave them.

Finally, Ye Fan and Junie left the cozy courtyard where they had been staying for the past two weeks and bid farewell to the kind-hearted family that took them in.

Before they left, Hu Yipeng held Ye Fan's hand and advised, "Ye Fan, I won't probe any further, but I need to tell you something."

"I admire that you are true to yourself. However, you need to have a powerful family as a backbone if you want to stay true to yourself."

"We have no choice but to accept the fact that we are merely ordinary people. We are not born into a prominent family, nor do we have a strong background. More than ninety percent of the people in this world are plain nobodies."

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"Hence, you must not act on impulse. You must learn how to be flexible and tactful."

"You will succeed only if you have good people skills and not offend anyone! Remember that any fight you win right now does not mean that you are a hero."

"A true hero is those who continue to live on with love even when the reality is harsh. I hope you learn from this incident and treat it as a lesson."

"Take care, Ye Fan. We will wait for your good news in the future!"

Hu Yipeng's eyes glazed with tears. His words were filled with hope and blessings for Ye Fan and Junie.

That night, the moon shone brightly over Jiangbei enough to light up Ye Fan's path.

He clasped his fists and bowed sincerely before Yue Yingchun and Hu Yipeng.

After accepting their blessings, he turned around and left.

However, before he could even take a few steps, Tangtang suddenly rushed out of the house.

Crying, she seemed to have overheard their conversation and didn't want Ye Fan and Junie to leave.

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She wanted Ye Fan to tell her bedtime stories every night and practice martial arts with him every morning.

"Listen to me, Tangtang. If Ye Fan stays, the bad guys will keep coming after him. You don't want him to get hurt, do you?" Yue Yingchun said to her daughter.

The obedient little girl shook her head.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, she didn't kick up a fuss despite feeling sad and reluctant about Ye Fan's departure.

Using up the energy she had left, Tangtang yelled at Ye Fan's receding figure, "Ye Fan, you must come back and marry me when I grow up!"

The little girl's voice faded into the night as the wind howled.

"Why didn't you explain just now and tell them you are the Hall Master of the Dragon God Hall? That you have enough power to shake up the whole of China?" Junie asked Ye Fan on the way out.

Ye Fan shook his head. "They know nothing about the martial arts world. Even if I told them, they wouldn't have believed me."

"Compared to these titles, I rather they remember me as Ye Fan, an ordinary man who came to Jiangbei for a living."



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Junie was stunned momentarily by Ye Fan's words.

She realized that he had changed a lot over the past few years.

If Ye Fan were a blade that glowed in the dark, now he was a dimmed blade hidden in a sheath except that he was sharper and deadlier.

Junie didn't know what to expect when the day that Ye Fan unleashed his full ability came.

As Ye Fan became more reserved, Junie could feel that he yearn for a peaceful and steady life.

"Maybe he's tired of all the fighting in the martial arts world," Junie thought.

"Let's go, Junie. Let's go to the Lu Clan."

"My life depends on you now, Junie. But don't feel too pressured."

"I have just barely escaped death. If I make it through this test, that means I'm blessed by God. If I don't, then I shall accept my destiny."

Ye Fan smiled gently as he talked about life and death calmly.

Even if Junie didn't tell him, Ye Fan could guess that the treatment that he was about to undergo was highly risky.



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DESCHIDEȚI

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Back then, his father too wanted to heal him of his illness but gave up because the stakes were too high.

If the treatment failed, Ye Fan would lose his life immediately.

That was the reason his father gave up on treating him.

"Don't worry, Ye Fan. I won't allow that."

"I will make sure that you live on."

Junie held his hand and looked at him with determination.

She had seen too many deaths and sent off many of her love ones.

This time, she would do anything to make sure Ye Fan lived on!



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It was a tranquil night.

Light shone through the windows of the villa as Lu Ziming stood outside his room, shivering in his thin pajamas.

His current predicament was not his choice; his accommodation had been invaded and taken over.

Just moments ago, Ye Fan had arrived for a midnight visit and demanded a place to stay.

As Lu Ziming picked up the phone to book a hotel for him, Ye Fan brazenly announced the house was perfect and he would stay there for a few days.

The latter then instructed him that in the meantime, no one was to be near the villa without his permission.

After being unceremoniously chased out of his own home, Lu Ziming stood in the villa compound, feeling lost like an abandoned puppy. He stared at his cozy abode as self-pity welled up within him.

"F*ck, what did I do to deserve this treatment? What is all this nonsense?" he muttered angrily under his breath.

Regardless of his indignance, Lu Ziming's hands were tied.

After all, the man in his house was not someone he could afford to cross.



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His resentment aside, Lu Ziming was also thoroughly perplexed by Ye Fan's actions.

"It seems like Chu Tianfan will isolate himself for the next few days. Could it be that he'll have another breakthrough in his abilities?"

Lu Ziming shuddered at the thought of that.

Even without improving his powers, it was already widely known that Ye Fan was second to only the experts of the god realm.

How frightening will he become if he continues to cultivate his skills?

Perhaps China will finally birth a god realm warrior.

Lu Ziming lifted his head to gaze at the window of the lit room.

A myriad of emotions churned within him.

He was undecided if Ye Fan's entry to the god realm would bring China more harm or good.

After dwelling on the matter for a few moments, Lu Ziming snapped back to reality and changed into a more presentable attire. He then summoned his driver and left the villa.

In another villa, the chandelier swayed gently from the ceiling.

Ye Fan had taken off his top and was sitting cross-



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legged on the ground.

"Let's start, Junie," he said with a carefree smile.

However, Junie was rooted to the spot. Her eyes reddened as she took in the ugly scars on his body.

She extended a dainty hand and gingerly caressed the raised skin. The silence seemed to stretch on forever before she spoke, her voice cracking with emotion. "It must have been painful when it happened..."

Ye Fan was momentarily stunned before he shook his head. "I don't remember. It's all in the past now," he reassured Junie with a gentle smile.

"All right, Junie. Let's start now," he urged. "Once the treatment is over, I'll accompany you back to India."

She gave no verbal reply and simply nodded her head.

With that, the start of Ye Fan's final treatment commenced on a wintry night.

Even he himself did not know how long the scars of this treatment would remain engraved in his skin.

Meanwhile, Lu Ziming had arrived at the Zhang family to meet up with Zhang Jiuling.



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The appearance of Ye Fan had dissolved the tension between the two rival families.

"What did you say? Chu Tianfan went to your house?" Zhang Jiuling repeated, incredulous.

Lu Ziming recounted everything about Ye Fan's visit to the old man.

Zhang Jiuling was a senior martial expert with years of experience under his belt. With a ticking time bomb living in Jiangbei, there were many things that Lu Ziming could discuss with only him.

"Yes," Lu Ziming affirmed and continued solemnly, "I suspect another breakthrough is around the corner."

Zhang Jiuling's eye twitched involuntarily upon his words.

"A-Another breakthrough? He's already at the top of the Sky Ranking. What is there for him to surpass? Unless..."

Zhang Jiuling faltered. A shiver ran down his spine as a thought struck him.

He whipped around to look at Lu Ziming. "The g-god realm?"

Though he was reluctant to admit it, Lu Ziming nodded in agreement.

Based on Ye Fan's current capabilities, the only



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achievement left to unlock was the entry to the god realm.

“Mr. Zhang, what are we going to do now? Should we report this to the War God Castle?” he asked with a rueful smile, his expression one of resignation.

Zhang Jiuling fell silent as well. He, too, had no idea how to approach the situation.

As of now, they might very well be the only two people in the martial arts world that knew Ye Fan was alive.

The War God Castle was completely in the dark regarding this.

As martial artists of China, Lu Ziming and Zhang Jiuling were obligated to report the current situation to the War God Castle.

However, the latter was hesitant.

“How do you think the War God Castle would react if they found out that Ye Fan was alive?”

Lu Ziming pondered over it before giving an ambiguous answer. “It’s hard to say. They might strengthen their defenses, or they might apologize to him.”

“What else?”

“Do you think the War God Castle would send

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assassins to murder Chu Tianfan?" Lu Ziming asked after a brief pause.

Zhang Jiuling shook his head. "If it were up to me, I would broadcast to the whole world that Ye Fan is alive. When that happens, the War God Castle wouldn't even need to lift a finger. Hordes of people will clamber over one another to kill him. The martial experts of the Chu Sect and the people who had attempted to kill Chu Tianfan back then will send hitmen to Jiangbei to assassinate him.

"Furthermore, Chu Tianfan is currently in isolation, so it is undoubtedly the golden opportunity to attack him. If that happens, Jiangbei will descend into chaos. Although I am grateful to Chu Tianfan for helping the Chinese martial arts world and it is not in my nature to repay kindness with malice, we can only hope that he dies in the midst of this havoc. If not, you and I will be staring death in the face." His gravelly voice reverberated through the room.

Lu Ziming's face clouded over instantly.

"In my opinion, the War God Castle will not go to such extremes. At the end of the day, Chu Tianfan is one of us. Plus, he never made it official that he is against the War God Castle."

Lu Ziming was unwilling to believe the War God Castle would use such underhanded tactics to eliminate Ye Fan.



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However, Zhang Jiuling disagreed, "Humans are inherently selfish. We will do whatever it takes to reap the most benefit for ourselves. The War God Castle will stop at nothing to gain that benefit, especially when it comes to dealing with Chu Tianfan. They will not have mercy on him."

"Are you implying that we should keep it to ourselves, Mr. Zhang? What if Ye Fan really has a breakthrough and murders his way up Mount Yan? It will be the end of the Chinese martial arts world." It was evident that Lu Ziming's loyalty still lay with his country.

After all, the War God Castle was the traditional icon of Chinese martial arts. None of them wanted to witness Ye Fan massacre Sword Saint and the other martial experts.

Heaving a sigh, Zhang Jiuling relented. "Why don't we alert the War God Castle in a roundabout way? This way, they can prepare beforehand."

After coming to a compromise, the two men made an anonymous phone call to the War God Castle.

Meanwhile, at Mount Yan, the War God Castle had grown a lot quieter since the War God left.

Sword Saint had become a man of few words. He was rarely involved in the matters of the Chinese martial arts world and would only voice his opinion on major issues.

As of now, Mo Gucheng and his son managed the



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War God Castle.

However, on this particular night, Mo Gucheng summoned Sword Saint and Tang Hao for an emergency meeting. It seemed like the King of Fighters had received a piece of vital information.

"Sword Saint, Tang Hao, I just received some important information. There have been reports of activity involving the experts of Chu Sect in the southern provinces of China.

"Furthermore, I heard from a reliable source that in the recent months, there has been a huge geographical shift of the experts at Mount Chumen. All the Chu Sect experts are swarming back to gather there. All the signs indicate that Chu Sect is about to leap into action. There is a high chance their first war to world domination would start among the Chinese martial arts world!"

Mo Gucheng's expression was solemn as he relayed the grim message. His low voice added to the eerie darkness of the night.

Sword Saint and Tang Hao were relatively unsurprised by the news.

Just as Ye Qingtian had predicted when he left War God Castle, it was only a matter of time before Chu Sect created their own army and lodged an attack on China with world domination in mind.



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Had it not been for the man in the dragon mask who wrecked the Chu Sect's plan and rhythm, the day would have arrived a lot sooner.



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"If they are destined to come, they will come. Back then, the Chu Sect almost unified the martial arts world. During that time, Chu Yuan hadn't achieved God Realm yet. But now that he has possessed the pinnacle of power, he naturally desires the authority that comes with it," Sword Saint explained calmly. Buried within his gradual tone was a sense of resignation.

In truth, Sword Saint wasn't alone in thinking that way. Tang Hao and the King of Fighters had foreseen such a day ever since Ye Fan attacked the Chu Sect and forced Chu Yuan out.

It was just a matter of time.

"However, it's still happening faster than I expected. After all, it has only been two years! Back then, didn't Chu Tianfan almost annihilate the Chu Sect together with Dragon God Hall? I had assumed that it would take at least ten years for him to recover his energy."

Tang Hao furrowed his brows and clenched his fists.

He felt that the Chu Sect had made their move earlier than expected and had caught them unprepared.

"Wouldn't it be great If Chu Tianfan had killed a few more Supreme Grandmasters when he attacked Mount Chumen? He had topped the Sky Ranking and defeated the head of the Chu family. If he really wanted it, he could've killed all the

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Supremes belonging to the Chu Sect. It would take them at least twenty to thirty years just to train up a few Supreme Grandmasters as replacements," the King of Fighters lamented as he slammed his fist onto the table.

Sometimes, that was how ironic life could be.

When Ye Fan was alive, Mo Gucheng and the others tried their best to take him down.

Now that he was gone, they complained about him not killing enough enemies on behalf of China.

The irony of the King of Fighters' words was not lost on Tang Hao.

He looked up at Mo Gucheng. "Instead of whining about it, don't you think it would have been better if Chu Tianfan were still alive? Perhaps, he would have broken through his restrictions and achieved God Realm. If there was a God Realm warrior guarding China, the Chu Sect wouldn't dare covet our lands," Tang Hao remarked coldly.

Knitting his brows, Mo Gucheng retorted in displeasure, "Tang Hao, what are you trying to say? Are you blaming me, Sword Saint, or China's martial arts world for not saving him back then? Are you accusing us of not risking everything to protect that demon? Don't you forget, the decision not to save him wasn't made by any one of us alone. It was the culmination of the votes from everyone in China's martial arts world!"



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The King of Fighters raised his voice in sudden anger.

After all, the matter was a sensitive one to the War God Castle.

Until today, no one dared to judge whether the decision back then was the right one.

"I'm not blaming anyone; I'm just stating the truth. I just feel that if we had chosen a different path back then, we would undoubtedly be in better circumstances now," Tang Hao explained indifferently.

However, his words only infuriated Mo Gucheng further. "No, Tang Hao, don't you think bringing this up now is nothing but a joke? What's the point? Moreover, are you saying that you share the War God's opinion that we have made a mistake? And that the choice most of China's martial arts world made was wrong?"

When Xiao Chen saw the two were about to get into an argument, the Sword Saint interrupted in an authoritative tone, "That's enough. Let's not dredge up the past anymore. Let those that come after us be the judge of our actions. As of now, we should focus on the matters at hand."

After nipping the argument in the bud, he asked Tang Hao thoughtfully, "How are the negotiations with Japan progressing? Are they willing to fight Chu Sect with us? After all, China isn't their only target. I'm sure Japan is aware of how



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interdependent they are with us.”

Two years had passed since Ye Fan's death and Ye Qingtian's withdrawal from the War God Castle. Nonetheless, Xiao Chen and the others didn't sit idly by.

They had been preparing the army within the country and invested more resources in training martial artists.

On top of that, the martial art techniques and training methods that Mortal Spark established were still available even though his account had been deactivated.

As a result of War God Castle's efforts in promoting it, preliminary results could now be seen.

If only China had enough time, producing a few more Grandmasters or even Supreme Grandmasters wasn't an impossible task.

Unfortunately, the Chu Sect didn't give them that luxury.

Therefore, they were looking to form an alliance with Japan's martial arts world given the desperate circumstances.

Obviously, the main goal was to obtain the Moon God's assistance.

As long as she could help them take on Chu Yuan,



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they could still stand a chance against the other warriors of the Chu Sect.

At the end of the day, the Chu Sect's God Realm warrior made all the difference.

Faced with the Sword Saint's question, Tang Hao shook his head and sighed.

"Initially, it was possible to form an alliance because Mochizuki Kawa had already agreed to it. However, the Moon God declined the moment she heard of it. All the envoys I sent to negotiate were beaten up mercilessly and thrown out of the country. In fact, Tsukuyomi Tenshin had a message for us. She declared she would never collaborate with anyone that doesn't have a sense of loyalty," Tang Hao replied softly.

The room fell into a deathly silence.

The King of Fighters didn't say a word, while the Sword Saint's face lost all color.

All of them knew the meaning behind the Moon God's words.

It was obvious she still held a grudge over what had happened with Ye Fan.

All this while, Xiao Chen had assumed that she would prioritize her country's interest over her personal feelings given that she was the guardian of the nation.

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Evidently, everyone had underestimated how important Ye Fan was to her.

Holding that thought, the Sword Saint let out a self-deprecating smile. "It's clear that we are the ones who will bear the consequences in the end," he remarked in a dispirited tone.

"Where's Ye? Did we manage to get in touch with him?" the Sword Saint asked again.

Ever since the War God withdrew from the War God Castle two years ago, no one had heard from him.

Nevertheless, Xiao Chen had faith that despite his anger, Ye Qingtian would not forsake his country and the countrymen he loved so much.

"No, perhaps, he is truly disappointed in us." Tang Hao lowered his head further.

After leading China's martial arts world for so many years, he had never felt such helplessness and despair before.

On one hand, China's demonic genius was dead, while the War God who had guarded the country for half a century had left.

On the other hand, of the two God Realm warriors in the world, one was salivating over their territory and could attack anytime, while the other viewed them with hostility and even ridiculed them for being disloyal.

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When Tang Hao raised his head and looked around, he simply felt enemies had surrounded the War God Castle.

They were paying the price for being on the wrong side of morality.

"He will return. He will definitely return when we need him," the Sword Saint murmured.

Just when the three of them were sulking, someone entered from outside. It was the Prince of Fighters, Mo Wuya.

"Dad, I received a phone call saying that Chu Tianfan is still alive. In fact, he might come to Mount Yan to seek revenge anytime. Therefore, we have been told to be prepared," Mo Wuya reported to Tang Hao and the others.

In spite of that, Tang Hao and the Sword Saint didn't make too much of it since they had heard many such rumors over the last two years.

When the man in the dragon mask appeared for the first time, the entire world assumed that Ye Fan had come back for revenge.

Later on, it turned out to be an unfounded rumor.

"Wuya, next time, there's no need to report such phone calls. We saw him die with our own eyes. Unless he is an immortal, there's no way he can still be alive."



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Mo Gucheng's instructions had caused the War God Castle to miss their closest opportunity to learn the truth.

As a result, Lu Ziming's phone call failed to raise the alarm at Mount Yan.

Since everyone's attention was focused on the faraway Chu Sect, they weren't concerned with what was happening in Jiangbei.

Meanwhile, it was peaceful at the Lu mansion.

Ever since Ye Fan and Junie started his treatment, there were no longer any movements.

Upon Ye Fan's instructions, Lu Ziming had men guarding the mansion's perimeter to prevent strangers from approaching.

"That's weird. What's going on at the Lu mansion?"

As school had just ended, Qiu Mucheng and Liu Yubing were taking Qiu Mufan home.

It was just that the road they had to pass by was sealed.

At the same time, the mansion was filled with people. All of them were heavily armed and scanning the surroundings vigilantly. Any car or individual trying to pass was turned back by security.

"This is a public road. What gives the Lu Clan the



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right to block it off? I can't accept this. I have to speak to them about it."

Just when Liu Yubing was about to get out of the car in anger, Qiu Mucheng stopped her.

"Forget it, Yubing. It's better not to get into any trouble. Let's just circle around," she suggested softly.

Nagged by a sense of unease, she had a grim look on her face.

"Mucheng, what's wrong? This isn't like you. Why are you so fearful? Have you forgotten how brave we were a year ago when we overpowered a pervert on public transport?"

Liu Yubing turned to look at her good friend.

She suddenly felt as if Qiu Mucheng had changed.

The latter had lost her courage, no longer the Qiu Mucheng she knew.

Other than getting Liu Yubing to drive home, Qiu Mucheng didn't say another word.

"Mufan, go and do your homework," Qiu Mucheng instructed upon returning to Liu Yubing's house.

Once he was gone, only the two women were left in the living room.

"Mucheng, are you all right? Are you still disturbed

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by what happened the other day? Since the perpetrator has been nabbed and the police have closed the case, we are safe now," Liu Yubing reassured her.

However, Qiu Mucheng shook her head. "It's not going to be that easy. As long as I don't submit, the Meng family will never let me go. Furthermore, he has begun to take action against you and Fan junior," she lamented.

She had assumed Meng Chuan would at least have some principles as the eldest son of the Meng family.

Unfortunately, she had overestimated how virtuous he was and his family's influence on Livingsfill.

Even her boss dared to take such a huge risk just to ingratiate himself with the Meng family.

Thus, Qiu Mucheng couldn't believe what would happen if she continued to stay in Livingsfill.

Even though mother and son managed to escape the last crisis, she wondered if she would still be as lucky when faced with the next one.

Consequently, she had finally decided to leave Livingsfill and Jiangbei after giving it a lot of thought.

"What? You're leaving? Mucheng, are you overreacting? You have just familiarized yourself



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and settled in here. And now, you want to go? Have you forgotten about our promise to buy a place next to each other and be neighbors?"

Upon hearing that Qiu Mucheng wanted to leave Jiangbei, Liu Yubing grew anxious.

"Yubing, I'm sorry. I truly wanted to continue staying here. However, the current circumstances have made Jiangbei uninhabitable for both me and my son."

"In that case, why don't you consider getting together with Mr. Meng? Since he has pursued you for such a long time, you might as well give it a try. Perhaps, his feelings for you are true, and he sincerely wants you to be his wife. Besides, what's not to like being married into a prominent family? By doing so, you don't have to leave and never have to worry about your livelihood."

At times, Liu Yubing didn't understand what was going through Qiu Mucheng's mind.

If their positions were switched, she would have already accepted any son of a rich family who pursued her.

Not only did Meng Chuan come from an illustrious family, but he was also extraordinarily handsome. In fact, he was the dreamboat of many girls.

Unfortunately, her friend had rejected his approach for almost two years.



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"Yubing, didn't I tell you I would never accept another man again? You should stop talking about marrying for money. I, Qiu Mucheng, will never rely on someone else for my survival! I believe I can live a good life independently." Qiu Mucheng raised her voice suddenly.

When she said those words, her eyes were filled with resolve and defiance.

Liu Yubing was stunned. "Mucheng, why do you have to be so stubborn? With your talents and looks, you can easily live an easy and happy life. In life, everyone has a part to play, isn't it? The men are supposed to be breadwinners, while ladies take care of them and the children. That's the majority's attitude toward life.

"Do you know that my dream life is to marry into a rich family? That way, I don't have to work all day and suffer the misery of office politics. Moreover, I will have lots of time and money to spend on enjoying life."

Qiu Mucheng shook her head with a smile. "There was once a woman whose husband was the King of Jiangdong. Everyone would treat her with deference as if she were the queen of Jiangdong. However, she wasn't happy at all. Other than glamour, she had nothing else.

"She was just like a vase that was displayed at home. The only thing she could do was to pray and wait. Those circumstances made her feel as if she were a useless person who had no value and

found no meaning in her own existence.

"One day, some ladies appeared by the King of Jiangdong's side. They were all prettier and more capable than her. In fact, they were able to help him..."

Just as Qiu Mucheng related the story, the images of Xu Lei of Yanjing and Chiike Shizuka, who controlled Japan's triad, flashed across her mind.

All the women by Ye Fan's side were both exceptional and stunning.

In fact, Qiu Mucheng felt that if her grandpa hadn't forced her to marry Ye Fan under coincidental circumstances then, he likely wouldn't be interested in her.

Later on, Ye Fan seldom came home nor stayed connected with her.

Back then, she kept assuming that his dangerous job was the reason for his behavior.

But after deliberating on it, she figured it was because he no longer fancied her.

That is understandable as no one could love an empty vase forever. There would always be more beautiful and exquisite vases out there, especially since Ye Fan was such a high-profile person. Tons of exceptional women would probably surround him. It's my fault for just being mediocre.



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Just as she laughed, tears began to flow out of her eyes.

Liu Yubing was confused as she didn't know what Qiu Mucheng was talking about.

Suddenly, a couple of luxury cars arrived outside amidst their chat.

At the head of the convoy was a Bentley.

As the car door swung open automatically, it revealed Meng Chuan's frosty expression.

"Mr. Meng, the person you're looking for is inside," an elderly man by his side reported.

Without saying a word, Meng Chuan waved his hand.

Whoosh!

The next moment, all the doors of the convoy swung open in unison.

More than ten burly men swarmed out of the cars and surged toward the main door.



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The commotion at the door quickly caught Qiu Mucheng and Liu Yubing's attention. After rushing out, the number of people outside shocked them.

Panicking, Liu Yubing asked, "Who are you? What do you want?"

"What's wrong? Do you not recognize me anymore after so long?"

A young man gradually emerged from the crowd and entered the yard.

The sight of him sent a shiver down the women's spines.

"Meng Chuan?"

"Mr. Meng?"

Both gasped at the same time.

Given that both ladies had worked in one of the Meng family's companies before, they naturally knew who he was.

Trying desperately to stay calm, Liu Yubing asked cordially, "Mr. Meng, what brings you here?"

Meng Chuan smiled. "Nothing in particular. I just dropped by to say hi to my former employee. Aren't you inviting me in for a seat?"

"Sure, sure." After being briefly stunned, Liu Yubing nodded and ushered Meng Chuan in.



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"Yubing, both of you go ahead and chat. Fan Junior and I will take our leave first."

Since Qiu Mucheng had no feelings for Meng Chuan, she attempted to leave with Qiu Mufan the moment he arrived.

However, before she could even turn around, the bodyguards had gotten in her way by blocking the door.

"Mr. Meng, what is the meaning of this?" she demanded with knitted brows.

Meng Chuan had leaned back on the sofa and crossed his legs. Picking up the coffee on the table, he remarked with a faint smile, "Mucheng, it's been two years already. Aren't you aware of my feelings by now? What's the point of asking about my intention?"

Qiu Mucheng deepened her frown in response. "Mr. Meng, I feel I have made it very clear that I have no interest in you. There are plenty of girls in Jiangbei who are prettier and more capable than I am. Why must you insist on hounding me?"

"Mucheng, what are you saying? Please mind your words." Liu Yubing stopped her after being shocked by what she heard.

At the same time, she broke into an apologetic smile. "Mr. Meng, Mucheng has been in a bad mood recently. Hence, she doesn't think through what she says. Nonetheless, she has no intention



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of offending you, and I hope you don't take it personally. Mucheng, what are you waiting for? Apologize to Mr. Meng."

Just as Liu Yubing finished, she gave Qiu Mucheng a look, reminding her to mind her tone.

Neither of them could afford to offend the Meng family.

"Why should I apologize? I was just expressing my honest opinion. What's wrong with that? Yes, the Meng family is extremely influential and can easily get what they want. Nevertheless, you have no right to decide my fate. Meng Chuan, I'll never submit to you. Even if I have to leave Jiangbei, I'll never do it!" Qiu Mucheng declared through her gritted teeth, while her reddened eyes were filled with defiance.

She had had enough of tolerating Meng Chuan's pressure over the last two years.

Since she had decided to leave, there was no need to endure it anymore.

Qiu Mucheng vented the anger she had suppressed over the last two years out at that moment.

She refused to believe she couldn't find a place to belong after leaving Ye Fan.

Furthermore, she couldn't accept that without Ye Fan's protection, she didn't even have the ability to



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decide her own fate.

However, Meng Chuan remained calm in the face of Qiu Mucheng's outburst.

He gave her a mischievous look, as if she was a piece of meat to be slaughtered on the chopping board.

"Mucheng, do you know that your defiant character is what I love most about you? Only by subjugating a woman like you would I feel a sense of achievement."

After letting out a faint chuckle, he gestured to his men. "Come, escort Ms. Qiu into the car. Tonight, I would like her to admire the moon together with me at Westlake."

The moment the order was given, the men behind Meng Chuan came forward to seize Qiu Mucheng.

"I dare you! Meng Chuan, let me warn you, I have already called the police, and they will arrive any time now!" Qiu Mucheng threatened loudly.

Meng Chuan laughed contemptuously. "Mucheng, despite having lived in Jiangbei for so long, you have no idea how powerful the Meng family actually is. Nonetheless, it doesn't matter, as there's plenty of time for me to tell you about it tonight."

The moment he finished, a group of men rushed into the house.



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"Stop!" one of them shouted before pushing the bodyguards beside Qiu Mucheng aside.

"Ms. Qiu, are you all right?" they asked after securing her in their protection.

Qiu Mucheng nodded. "Shen Fei, Mr. Chu, thank you."

The men who arrived were Qiu Mucheng's old friends, Shen Fei and Han Shaojie.

Alongside them was Chu Wenfei, who almost became her brother-in-law.

When Meng Chuan openly pursued Qiu Mucheng, everyone in Livingsfill knew about it.

That was how Shen Fei and the rest found out that she was there.

Given that she was Ye Fan's widow, they tried their best to get in touch.

After what happened that night, Qiu Mucheng had expected Meng Chuan not to give up that easily.

Therefore, before she returned home with Liu Yubing, she had contacted Shen Fei, hoping they could help her leave Livingsfill.

"Don't mention it. After all, we came from the same hometown and almost became family. This is the least I can do." Chu Wenfei waved his hand casually.



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In truth, he had hated Ye Fan while the latter was still alive, as the man had caused him to be humiliated in public and forced him to leave his hometown for Jiangbei.

However, now that Ye Fan was gone, Chu Wenfei felt lost and bored with life.

Only then did he realize he didn't truly resent Ye Fan. He only disliked Ye Fan's arrogant behavior due to the latter's superiority.

Furthermore, he had Ye Fan to thank for most of his achievements because it was his urge to outdo the man that motivated him to give it his all.

After coming to that conclusion, Chu Wenfei couldn't bring himself to hate Ye Fan's family and friends anymore. In fact, he was more than happy to help out.

"You must be Mr. Meng. I'm Chu Wenfei, General Manager of Westlake Heavy Industries. This is my card. Ms. Qiu is a friend from my hometown and the widow of a good friend of mine. Therefore, I hope you will not make things difficult for her on my account.

"To show my appreciation, I will treat you to dinner and get my classmate, Liu Aimin, to join us. I'm not sure if you know him, but he is the captain of the local police force and a hero of Livingsfill. Just a few days ago, he solved a major case and arrested more than ten criminals."



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As Chu Wenfei spoke, his tone carried a hint of pride and bravado.

He was someone who was undeniably savvy in his speech.

He would first reveal his position as senior management in an important government industry.

If it didn't work on the Meng family, he would bring up his classmate.

Evidently, Chu Wenfei was trying to intimidate Meng Chuan and warn him not to do anything illegal.

Or else, his friend would apply the full force of the law on him.

"This guy is getting increasingly arrogant."

Behind him, Shen Fei and Han Shaojie couldn't help but give him a thumbs up discreetly.

All this while, Shen Fei had only admired the bravado of one man, Ye Fan.

But now that he was gone, Chu Wenfei was qualified to take his place as the king of arrogance.



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"Oh? Westlake Heavy Industries?"

Finally, the indifferent Meng Chuan revealed a faint surprise after hearing of Chu Wenfei's position.

Right after that, he shook his head with a smile.

Ignoring Chu Wenfei, he turned toward Qiu Mucheng, who was being shielded by Shen Fei.

"No wonder a weak lady like you dared to challenge me. It appears that they are your support. Westlake Heavy Industries? Senior management of a government industry?"

"I can't deny that you have some powerful friends. If it were anyone else, they would likely be pressured into giving up. However, it's a shame that you have to face me, Meng Chuan, the eldest son of the Meng family. A mere leader of a government industry is not enough to deter me at all!"

Cracking a haughty smile, Meng Chuan's eyes were filled with disdain toward Chu Wenfei.

When Shen Fei and the rest heard the response, their expressions drastically changed.

Chu Wenfei in particular was visibly awkward as his smile froze all of a sudden.

All of them had underestimated Meng Chuan's guts and determination.

Before they arrived, they had assumed that Chu



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Wenfei's position was enough to pressure him into backing down.

After all, the Meng family's authority lies in the hands of Meng Chuan's father.

Regardless, Meng Chuan was unfazed. He had caused a lot of trouble before, but it had never affected his status as the Meng family heir.

At the end of the day, his status still couldn't compare to that of Ye Fan's, for the latter was the King of Jiangdong back then.

His word was the law; he held absolute authority in his hands.

If Meng Chuan's position were equal to that of Ye Fan back then, Chu Wenfei would definitely not dare challenge him blindly.

During that time, even the governor and generals of Jiangdong had to give Ye Fan due respect.

Chu Wenfei, who was only a leader in a government industry, was nothing compared to how distinguished Ye Fan was.

Therefore, he was surprised by Meng Chuan's audacity considering that he was just the son of someone powerful and hadn't even solidified his position as heir.

"Mr. Meng, do you insist on not doing me this favor? It isn't a smart move for the heir of a family



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to offend the leader of a government industry. As far as I know, the elders in your family have formed an unfavorable opinion of you. Furthermore, my friend behind me has recorded all your actions which can be used as evidence against you in the future. My good friend, Liu Aimin, will be able to start a police investigation based on the evidence collected. I hope you weigh the consequences of your actions."

As Chu Wenfei's expression grew solemn, his threatening tone became more evident.

Given that this was the first time he stood up for someone from his hometown, he felt the pressure to resolve the situation no matter what.

Otherwise, it would be an embarrassment for him back home.

"You have recorded a video?" Meng Chuan furrowed his brows.

After a momentary silence, he waved his hand.

The next moment, the burly men in the yard walked out and closed the door behind them.

When he saw Meng Chuan's men leave, Shen Fei assumed they had been cowed. Hence, he walked over to pat Chu Wenfei on the shoulder and praised discreetly, "My goodness! Way to go, Mr. Chu! Did you actually manage to stare them down?"



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"No matter what, I have made my name in Jiangdong. There's no way I can allow myself to disgrace them." Despite the calm exterior, Chu Wenfei was feeling smug inside.

Back when Ye Fan was still alive, these men were his most fervent supporters. But now, times have changed. With the King of Jiangdong gone, they have switched their support to me. Even Ye Fan's wife must rely upon me for protection.

Ye Fan, oh, Ye Fan, when you were still around, I might not be your equal. But you ended up losing out to me still. As situations fluctuate with time, the one who laughs last laughs the loudest.

Gloating to himself, Chu Wenfei felt as if the ambition he had harbored for many years was finally fulfilled.

"Mr. Chu, thank you for helping me defuse the situation," Qiu Mucheng came over to express her appreciation.

"Ms. Qiu, don't mention it. No matter what, you were my sister-in-law once. As for your husband, he was my arch-rival. Considering how far back we go, helping you is the least I can do. Nevertheless, there's something I have to remind you of. There's no way anyone can always protect you forever.

"For example, Ye Fan was the epitome of glory when he was alive. Even I had to keep out of his way. But now, all that's left is misery. I have seen



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with my own eyes how he rose to dizzying heights, and how everything collapsed for him overnight. As a result, Ms. Qiu, it's better to rely on yourself than on others. Going forward, you have to become stronger! His authority in Jiangdong has waned significantly, let alone in this far-flung place of Jiangbei."

Shaking his head, Chu Wenfei wanted to highlight to Qiu Mucheng that Ye Fan's influence was no more, and she could no longer rely upon it for protection.

It was a point she was well aware of.

Other than feeling disheartened, she left Jiangdong due to the realization that it was difficult for her to maintain the family businesses there.

Knowing better, she chose to give up her position that she could no longer carry.

"We'll continue later. For now, let's leave first," Shen Fei interrupted their conversation.

It wasn't the time nor place to reminisce over old times because a large group of the Meng family's men was still outside. Furthermore, Meng Chuan might change his mind at any time.

Leaving was their most prudent option.

"Wait, did I say that you're allowed to go?" Meng Chuan had just ended a call he made. He then



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looked at Chu Wenfei and the rest with a smirk on his face.

"Hmm? Mr. Meng, what do you mean? Didn't I make it clear enough just now? Do you not understand what I have said? Must you force my good friend to throw you into prison? Let me tell you, my friend has an unshakeable sense of justice. No matter how powerful you are, he is not afraid of enforcing the law on you. Carrying a black mark on your record might cause you to lose your position as heir," Chu Wenfei continued to threaten.

As if he was waiting for something, Meng Chuan wasn't in a hurry to reply.

Soon, Chu Wenfei's phone rang.

Lowering his gaze, he broke into a slight grin. "My friend has arrived, Mr. Meng. Why don't we go out and welcome him?"

The moment he answered, Chu Wenfei's smile disappeared. "Aimin, what did you say? You've been fired? How is that possible? This seems too much of a coincidence." He was close to breaking down.

Why is he fired at this moment?

When something suddenly occurred to him, Chu Wenfei turned around to face Meng Chuan. "It's you, b*stard. You must have done this!"



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Meng Chuan was filled with satisfaction when he saw the panic on Chu Wenfei's face.

"Mr. Chu, I'm afraid that meager influence of yours isn't enough for me to do you a favor." His expression turned icy as he spoke.

Having wasted a lot of time, he had run out of patience.

The next moment, Meng Chuan barked, "Men, take Ms. Qiu into the car. As for the rest of them, break their legs and throw them into Westlake."

What?

"H-How dare you? I-I'm Chu Wenfei, General Manager of Westlake Heavy Industries, and the leader of a government industry. This is just insolence!"

Chu Wenfei and the rest were stunned.

It had never occurred to them that the matter would end this way.

"Suffer the consequences of your own arrogance." Meng Chuan ordered again, "What are you waiting for?"

Boom!

Just when Qiu Mucheng and her companions were filled with despair, a loud explosion rang out.



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The main door behind them was kicked open.

“Let's see who dares to make a move?”

Amidst an icy voice, a tall lady in leather boots stormed in.

She had a piercing gaze and long hair that fluttered in the wind.

Despite her frosty demeanor, she was stunningly beautiful.



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Just like a razor-sharp sword, her arrival shattered the peace that prevailed.

As for the Meng family's bodyguards, they had no time to react at all. Instead, they staggered backward after being intimidated by the lady's aura.

At that very moment, everyone present froze in astonishment.

Even Meng Chuan's expression grew intensely solemn.

Soon, the Meng family bodyguards quickly surrounded them after regaining their composure.

Although the figure who suddenly appeared was just a lady, his experience told him she was anything but ordinary.

"Miss, although I don't know who you are, my advice to you is that interfering with the Meng family in Jiangbei isn't a good decision. If you stay out of this now, I'm willing to overlook what just happened," Meng Chuan threatened.

Nonetheless, the lady didn't show any emotion even after she knew she was facing off with the Meng family.

"Mr. Meng, Jiangbei is a large place. Do you really think your family's influence extends to every corner? It's true you can act with impunity because many citizens here are afraid to offend you on the



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account of your family. Unfortunately, I'm not one of them. In fact, I too have a piece of advice for you. You had better not get on my nerves. Or else, not only will you regret it, but your family will also be dragged into this."

The lady's indifferent voice rang out through the yard.

Her words shocked Meng Chuan and everyone else including Qiu Mucheng.

Shen Fei, who was earlier impressed by the bravado shown by Chu Wenfei, now thought nothing of the latter's performance when compared to how threatening the lady was.

That aside, Shen Fei and the others couldn't help but feel curious.

Is the lady telling the truth?

Is she really that powerful or just faking it?

Does she truly come from an influential background, or is this just a trick?

"Hahaha, how arrogant of you! Do you think the great Meng family is afraid of a weakling like you? If you truly have the guts, why don't you declare your family name? I'm curious to know who in Jiangbei has the audacity to speak to me that way?"

Busting into sudden laughter, Meng Chuan's eyes



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were filled with contempt.

Even though he felt apprehensive about the lady in front of him, that was the extent of his fear, and it was far from enough to stop him.

However, his laughter didn't last long.

Right when the lady announced her name, Meng Chuan stopped laughing abruptly.

"Zhang Zixi of the Zhang family."

What?

"Zh-Zhang Zixi? You're a member of the Zhang family? H-How is that possible? She is nothing but an ordinary salaried employee. There's no way she knows anyone from the Zhang family. Who are you trying to kid?"

Meng Chuan's expression finally changed after hearing of the Zhang family.

His eyes revealed the panic he felt.

Ever since he was young, he had heard of Jiangbei's three prominent families from his grandpa.

The Lu Clan, the Zhang family, and the Meng family.

Prior to that, the Lu Clan controlled Jiangbei.



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However, after they were annihilated, his family took their place.

As for the Zhang family, they had always kept a low and mysterious profile within Jiangbei. In fact, over the last few decades, they faded into the background so much that many even forgot who they were.

Nevertheless, the elders of the Meng family didn't.

No matter how much influence the Meng family wielded in Jiangbei, they knew that there would always be a superior faction to them.

That faction was the Zhang family.

"Whoever offends the Zhang family, I will break their legs and feed them to the dogs!" That was the instruction that was drilled into every member of the Meng family since they were young.

As a result, Meng Chuan was terrified to find out that the lady was a member of the Zhang family.

However, he quickly noticed something was amiss.

He had the impression the Zhang family never interfered in such worldly matters.

Back when the Lu Clan was destroyed, they left behind businesses and markets which were fought over by many factions. Even then, the Zhang family showed no interest at all.

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Meng Chuan didn't believe such a mysterious family would involve themselves in the trivial matters of a salaried girl.

Having recovered his cool, he asserted sternly, "Tell me, who are you really? Don't think that I'll easily believe you just because you claim to be a member of the Zhang family. I have seen many who have made such bombastic claims before. Unless you can prove it to me, I won't be letting any of you escape!"

At the same time, his subordinates began to surround Zhang Zixi, Shen Fei, and the others.

In response, Zhang Zixi shook her head and gave Meng Chuan a pitiful look. "Since you insist I prove my identity, I will do as you wish!"

Bam!

Just as she spoke, Zhang Zixi released her Qi with a rumble.

She threw a punch forward and unleashed a shock wave that struck the four burly men in front of her.

"How dare you attack us? You must have a death wish to do that. With more than ten men under my command, do you think I'm afraid of you? Everyone, attack, and cripple her!" Meng Chuan barked with a vicious glint in his eye.

Frightened by his order, Qiu Mucheng took cover in panic while calling out to Zhang Zixi, "Ms. Zhang,

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run or they will kill you!"

Given how pretty the lady was, Shen Fei advised in a concerned tone, "That's right. Even if you intend to challenge the Meng family, you should at least have brought more men. It's suicide to take them all down by yourself!"

He was worried that such beauty would go to waste if anything were to happen to her.

Unexpectedly, she scoffed, "Why do I need more men? I alone am enough to take them all down!"

With that, Qiu Mucheng and the rest watched as Zhang Zixi single-handedly charged into the crowd with a smirk on her face.

Hair fluttering in the wind and Qi screaming through the air, she waltzed through the crowd gracefully.

One by one, her enemies collapsed amidst agonizing screams.

The panic that Shen Fei and the others felt a moment ago was now replaced by awe.

This isn't a battle at all. This is a massacre!

Prior to that, no one could believe Zhang Zixi was capable of defeating so many enemies by herself.

The battle didn't last long, and peace quickly returned.



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Meanwhile, the yard was filled with devastation. All the Meng family's subordinates were lying on the ground, groaning in pain.

As for Meng Chuan, he was so shocked that his knees buckled, causing him to collapse onto the ground.

Staring at Zhang Zixi, Meng Chuan asked in horror, "Wh-Who are you?"

However, she ignored him, for he was someone insignificant.

On top of that, he wasn't why she was here.

As a Grandmaster, Zhang Zixi didn't care for the Meng family at all regardless of how rich they were. After all, they would fall at a single strike of hers.

Turning around, she looked in Qiu Mucheng's direction. "Are you Qiu Mucheng?"

"Th-That's me. A-And you are?" Qiu Mucheng's face had turned pale while her voice was trembling.

She could swear that she didn't know who Zhang Zixi was and had no idea how the latter knew her name.

Zhang Zixi didn't reply.

Instead, she gave Qiu Mucheng a piercing gaze as



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if she were trying to read her mind.

After a long silence, Zhang Zixi turned hostile suddenly by unleashing her Qi in an explosive rumble.

Flashing her finger like a sword, she pointed it at Qiu Mucheng's throat.

"Ms. Qiu, watch out!"

Everything happened so fast that Chu Wenfei and the rest were stunned.

They screamed in terror, but it was already too late.



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They watched helplessly as Zhang Zixi's sharp finger cut through the air and went straight into Qiu Mucheng's throat.

She might not be a Grandmaster, but her moves were on par with those high-level skills shared by Mortal Spark on the forum.

Therefore, it was fair to say that Zhang Zixi's capabilities were beyond those of the Grandmasters.

If the Grandmasters had the power to rival the dragon, with Zhang Zixi's current power, she could easily weaponize anything from bamboos to woods.

Hence, it was nothing surprising to see her fight with merely her finger.

At that moment, anguish engulfed Qiu Mucheng whereas Liu Yubing and the rest were totally freaked out.

Unexpectedly, Fan Junior who was being guarded by Shen Fei risked his life and darted over.

Just as everyone assumed that Qiu Mucheng was doomed when they saw Zhang Zixi aiming viciously at her throat, the latter stopped in the nick of time.

Her finger hung mid-air, about an inch away from ending Qiu Mucheng's life.

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Blop!

Huge beads of sweat dripped down the sides of Qiu Mucheng's face.

Each drop fell to the ground and splashed into smaller droplets.

That was so close!

It would not be difficult to imagine the fear Qiu Mucheng had at her very first near-death experience.

Her face was ghastly white when she looked at Zhang Zixi, puzzled.

I just can't figure this woman out. What's her motive? If she wants to kill me, why did she save me and risk offending the Mengs? And if her intention was to help me, then...

While everyone was still dwelling in bewilderment, Zhang Zixi discreetly retracted her energy, and her intimidating aura faded away.

Then, she looked menacingly at Qiu Mucheng. Compared to her previous glances thrown at the latter, she now completely despised her.

"I can't think of a reason why he's so fond of you."

Zhang Zixi shook her head at the thought of Meng Chuan before heading out.



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Chapter 1872

She would not kill Qiu Mucheng, and neither did she dare to do so.

She was well aware of Ye Fan's power. Even her own grandfather revered him. With that said, she naturally would not look for trouble by challenging a god-like fighter.

Her actions earlier were meant to test Qiu Mucheng.

I thought that she was a unique character, and that's why the man fell head over heels for her. However, I was so wrong. This woman named Qiu Mucheng is just an ordinary plain jane. A weakling, dare I say. I'm definitely better than her in all aspects, be it my great looks, figure, and even my abilities! I just don't understand how could a worthless woman like her win his heart?

Zhang Zixi racked her brains but nothing came up.

Perhaps she lucked out and met him earlier than me, and this has made all the difference.

"Um... May I know why did you help me? Also, who's the man that you were referring to?"

Seeing that Zhang Zixi was about to leave, Qiu Mucheng who had calmed down quickly chased after her, wanting to get some clarification.

Everything happens so suddenly, and I don't have the slightest idea why would she want to help me. What does she mean by the last sentence?



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Qiu Mucheng was very curious about all these. She could not help but feel that something fishy was going on.

This was not the first time she came across such a feeling.

Prior to this, she vaguely heard a voice calling out to her right before she was drugged at the office.

When she woke up, she was surprised to find herself in her best friend's house.

Coupled with the presence of this mysterious woman, she had a strong urge to unravel everything.

She felt as if a pair of eyes were watching her, and help would always be extended when she needed it most.

Unfortunately, Zhang Zixi did not answer any of Qiu Mucheng's questions.

On the contrary, she strode forward while pulling Meng Chuan.

When she arrived at the door, she paused and muttered, "There's no need for you to leave this place. Henceforth, no one in Jiangbei will ever hurt you nor are they able to do that anyway. As long as you don't stir up any trouble here, Jiangbei will be a safe place for you."

Though she spoke softly, every word could be



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clearly heard.

"Who are you kidding? I know you have outstanding skills, but you've pissed the Meng family off today. They are the most prominent and wealthiest family in Jiangbei, the local tycoon in Livingsfill!

"Moreover, you've beaten their heir to a pulp. I don't think they will ever let this slide. You're going to have endless troubles from now on. What do you have to give Ms. Qiu any guarantee?"

Shen Fei and the rest were all taken aback by Zhang Zixi's alarming display of power.

However, they had witnessed the same prowess when Ye Fan fought against ten of his enemies.

Thus, they did not have the assurance that Zhang Zixi could tackle the Mengs.

After all, the power of the Meng family in Jiangbei could not be underestimated.

No one knew if they had any equivalent fighters with them.

Once the Meng family found out about the incident, they would surely make a move to avenge their eldest son.

By then, Zhang Zixi could barely be able to save herself, let alone care about Qiu Mucheng's plight.

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"Ms. Qiu, it's better you leave Jiangbei for the sake of your safety. Maybe you should return to Jiangdong. No, wait... it's not safe in Jiangdong either since there's a drastic change. Mr. Li has washed his hands off all matters in Jiangdong while the governor and General Lu have been transferred out of Jiangdong. Everyone would be wary of you if you were to return. Who knows if Jiangdong is more dangerous than Jiangbei! Whatever it is, leave Jiangbei at once. We can discuss later where to go next."

Panic-stricken, Shen Fei wanted to send Qiu Mucheng off.

However, Zhang Zixi said again coldly, "Don't worry. The Meng family won't dare to trifle with you."

Then, she tossed her phone at Meng Chuan who was at her feet. "Call your father now if you don't want to enter the gates of h*ll yet. Tell them that you're in my hands."

Hearing so, Shen Fei felt a cold chill down his spine.

"Huh? Are you out of your mind? Are you trying to make things worse?" Chu Wenfei was terrified to the core.

Why is this woman so eager to alert the Mengs when we should all be sweeping it under the carpet?



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Regardless, Meng Chuan held the phone tightly as if that was his last straw of hope and called for help.

"Help! Dad, I'm Chuan. Hurry up and save me! I'm at the south of Lake Elterton. A madwoman wants to kill me. Quick, Dad, come save me now! Remember to bring along more people..." Meng Chuan shouted over the phone.

Soon, Zhang Zixi ended the call and shoved Meng Chuan into the car.

"Wait for me, Ms. Zhang. Let us tag along."

Shen Fei and the gang assumed that Zhang Zixi was going to run away after causing chaos. So, they chased after her and pleaded to enter the car too.

In this situation, it's safer to follow this woman, and let her escort us to the train station or the airport.

Seeing how frantic Chu Wenfei and Shen Fei reacted, Zhang Zixi gave them a laconic reply. "I'm going to the Meng residence."

"Huh? What? Why are you heading there?" Chu Wenfei asked with his eyes wide open.

"I want to warn the Mengs to stay away from Qiu Mucheng," Zhang Zixi answered.

The two men burst out laughing. "Are you serious, Ms. Zhang? This is a joke, right? You're taking this



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a bit too far. What makes you think that they will listen to you? Are you their ancestors?"

Zhang Zixi replied in a stern tone, "If they refuse, I'll strike them until they listen. I might consider wiping the entire household out too."

"You want to do this all alone?" Shen Fei stared at her in disbelief as if he was looking at a ghost.

"I can destroy the Meng family all alone. Anyhow, I don't mind bringing a couple of you along to clear the corpse."

Zhang Zixi remained stoic as she made the bold statement.

Right then, Chu Wenfei and Shen Fei exchanged a quick glance and got off the car immediately.

They were petrified by her statement.

A few seconds later, Zhang Zixi sped off, leaving the two guys behind.

Everyone was stunned for a long while before a series of cusses broke the silence.

"Darn it, that crazy woman!"

"She's gone nuts. F*ck! She wants us to clean up the mess for her? I would if it's her body we're chucking away."



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Chapter 1872



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Chapter 1873

Astonished, Chu Wenfei and the others regarded Zhang Zixi's action as maniacal.

They had been living in Jiangbei for many years and knew that the status of the Meng family was not to be challenged. The family reigned in Jiangdong, just like Mufan Group in the past.

Although Chu Wenfei could not grasp how powerful the Mengs was, he was well aware of what Mufan Group could do.

Both Shen Fei and Han Shaojie strongly believed that someone as incredible as Ye Fan must have existed in the Meng family. Otherwise, they would not have become the richest in Jiangbei. Without the protection of a great fighter, the Mengs would not have attained everything they had today.

Therefore, Chu Wenfei and the gang found Zhang Zixi's plan unbelievable. It reminded them of the incident when Chen Ao appeared at Mufan Group, declaring to take Ye Fan and his family down.

Zhang Zixi must be delusional to think that she could succeed.

"Don't bother about her, Ms. Qiu. Let us get you out of here. You're the only woman that Ye Fan has ever loved. Though he's no longer here with us, we vow to protect you as his fellow comrades," urged Shen Fei.

He had no time to worry about Zhang Zixi.

Chapter 1873

Meanwhile, at the Meng family manor, Meng Wanjun was infuriated when he found out that his son was in danger.

In an instant, he called upon all senior members of the family for an emergency meeting.

After a detailed discussion, they decided to send someone to rescue Meng Chuan.

Upon Meng Wanjun's command, everyone started taking action simultaneously.

Cars after cars were seen traveling from all of Meng's properties across Livingfill and into the manor. Within a short period of time, hundreds of people had gathered around the residence.

The passers-by outside of the manor could sense the tension in the air as though a fight was going to break out soon. Subconsciously, they quickened their steps and stayed away, not wanting to be dragged into the mess.

"Mr. Meng, all of the Meng family members in Livingfill are here now. They are all on standby outside, waiting for your instructions. Please give us your orders," a subordinate reported.

Wearing a menacing look on his face, Meng Wanjun exclaimed, "Great, follow me to rescue my son later! I want to see who dares to challenge the Meng family and kidnap my son in my territory. Seems like we've been staying low profile for too long. That's why no one reveres us anymore.

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Today, I shall restore the glory of the Mengs and send a strong message to those insignificant pests that there's only one family who reigns over the skies of Jiangbei—the Meng family!”

Meng Wanjun exuded an oppressive and domineering aura amid sheer coldness in his tone.

No father could stay calm when they see their child's life being threatened.

“Wanjun, something seems to be amiss. When Chuan left this morning, he brought quite a number of people with him. If he could be abducted under the noses of all his subordinates, it goes to show that our opponent this time isn't any Tom, Dick, or Henry. Shall we approach this in a diplomatic manner and check the other party's intention first? Resorting to brute force might not play to our advantage,” a senior standing at the back of the hall expressed his concerns.

“My dear great uncle, you're being too cautious here. It's them who raised a ruckus, we're merely responding to their call. How can we be diplomatic when our rival has already crossed the line?”

“Had this news gone viral, we'd be mocked as a laughing stock.”

“How then will we be able to keep our heads up and rule over Jiangbei in the future?”

Before Meng Wanjun had a chance to say something, a few from the younger generations



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within the family chimed in and refuted the senior angrily.

"That's right."

"The audacity of them to kidnap the eldest son of the Meng family is intolerable!"

"We must make them pay the price for this."

A few others roared.

"But the opposite party's capability is..." The senior was fretful and apprehensive about the whole situation.

Meng Wanjun said, "I know where you're coming from. You're worried that the person is a martial artist, right? Even so, we Mengs are fearless. I've recruited several strong fighters these few years. It's a perfect time for them to show us what they've got. Anyhow, I do have a plan B if we lose."

Considering how resolute Meng Wanjun was, the senior sighed, knowing that there was no way he could convince the group.

Soon, Meng Wanjun exited the hall to address the crowd of subordinates. "Peeps, someone has abducted my son and challenged the power of the Mengs. What should I do?"

"Kill them!" one man yelled.

"Kill them!" another one bellowed.

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In the end, the hundreds at the manor chanted in unison.

They deafening roars shook the earth.

It was obvious that the group summoned by Meng Wanjun was no ordinary men.

They were the ones he had depended on to run the entertainment centers.

It was hard to find someone who could match their frightening zeal and ruthlessness.

In their midst, there were also martial artists who had stained their hands with blood resulting from murdering others.

As Meng Wanjun continued adding fuel to the flames, the group of men got all hyped up into a frenzy.

The Meng family members could sense the raging fury of the head of the family.

As a father, he had developed a strong murderous intent upon discovering the abduction of his son.

“Very good! I shall depend on all of you to defend the honor of the Meng family. Undoubtedly, I'll also be with you each step of the way. I, Meng Wanjun, shall work with everyone as we head over to Lake Elterton, Livingsfill to capture the culprit.”

The thundering voices resonated through the hall,

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and Meng Wanjun's gaze turned even colder.

Then, he waved his arm to initiate the attack.

"Listen up, men, and follow my lead!"

Boom!

Right when Meng Wanjun's authoritative voice was ringing out at all corners of the manor, a loud explosion was heard.

Subsequently, all of them felt a tremor followed by an incessant bellow, seemingly from a beast. The raucous got increasingly louder as it came closer and closer to the manor.

What greeted everyone next was a shocking scene! A black SUV sped in, smashing down the stainless steel gate as well as numerous plants and trees along the way.

In the end, it halted abruptly at the sound of its tires screeching and engines revving.

As the car door was flung open, a sullen woman got out of it.

She tossed a bloody figure on the floor with a loud thud, causing the crowd to disperse at that instant.

Moments later, they heard someone shrieking in pain. It finally registered in the minds of the Meng family that the man thrown on the floor was



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actually Meng Chuan.

"There's no need for you to head out. I'm here," said Zhang Zixi contemptuously.

A dead silence ensued.

Terrified, Meng Wanjun and the others gazed at each other.

They did not expect their enemy to show up so quickly, way before they could even leave the manor.

What's this all about? Is she turning herself in?

After trembling for a long while, Meng Wanjun glared at the intruder and yelled, "Who... Who are you? Why are you targeting the Mengs?"

Zhang Zixi lifted her eyes and queried, "Mr. Meng, don't you remember me? I'm Zhang Zixi. I come here today under the orders of my grandpa, Zhang Jiuling, to warn the Meng family not to lay a finger on Qiu Mucheng henceforth. Otherwise, the entire Meng family will share the same ending as the Lu Clan."

"Nonsense. You're going overboard!" Meng Wanjun felt that the dignity of his family was at stake.

To share the same ending as what has befallen the Lu Clan? That means to wipe us all out completely!



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Her words enraged all the seniors in the family.

"Who on earth is this brat? How can she be so audacious to threaten the Meng family?"

"How insolent! This is ridiculous!"

"Wanjun, what are you waiting for? Go ahead and instruct..."

All the seniors started grumbling, and none hesitated to comment further.

Right then, Zhang Zixi made a turn and launched a powerful move with a strike of her palm.

A stupendous force gathered around her. All of a sudden, her palm developed into a massive one covering the skies.

Her boundless energy cultivated from all directions, sweeping all of Mengs' subordinates like a whirlwind as if she was reaping a harvest.

A while later, everything stopped.

A hall that was initially filled with impressive fighters now saw hundreds of men knocked to the ground, moaning in pain.

"Mr. Meng, is the family going to heed my grandpa's command?"

Retracting all of her energy, Zhang Zixi exuded her usual calm and regal aura.



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Scanning across the hall at all the terror-stricken cowards, she smirked.

That was the very first time Zhang Zixi smiled to outsiders, and she looked very attractive.



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In a blink of an eye, the Meng family manor became a complete mess.

The wails and groans of pain echoed horribly in contrast to Zhang Zixi's hearty laugh.

Everyone got a nasty shock and was rendered speechless.

All they could do was widen their eyes and stare daggers at the vicious woman before them.

Never had the Meng family felt so ashamed and disheartened before that none of their recruited fighters could defeat a single woman.

Their plans were in shambles.

In other words, Zhang Zixi had single-handedly taken the Mengs down.

"Zhang Jiuling... Patriarch Zhang? You are from the Zhang family?"

After snapping back into his senses, Meng Wanjun finally realized something.

His pupil constricted as he tried to recall more about the Zhang family.

They had been inactive for a very long time, to the extent that he had nearly forgotten about the infamous name uttered.

It's all coming back to me now. So, who is this lady?



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"But... But why? I thought Patriarch Zhang has never been bothered about affairs like these? Why is he appearing in the picture like a bolt from the blue? Also, I don't understand why the Meng family is the first on the list to be targeted. Are the Zhangs planning a return?" Meng Wanjun bombarded her with a series of burning questions.

If the opponent was just a regular faction, Meng Wanjun would not be so wary.

However, it was the Zhang family that he was facing now.

No one else knew how powerful the Zhangs were besides him.

They are the one and only prominent family of warriors in Jiangbei! Patriarch Zhang's a Grandmaster, and he's been always regarded with high esteem. Faced with the guardian of Jiangbei, how can I not have ants in my pants?

It was a piece of cake for the Zhang family to destroy the Mengs.

After all, the difference between a somewhat influential family and an extremely prominent family of great fighters was too great.

Any fellow representing the Zhang family, be it a young lady, could effortlessly tackle the Mengs.

If a fight were to break out between these two families, it would be absolutely detrimental to the



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Meng family.

"Mr. Meng, I've said it once. I come with the objective of reminding you to teach your next generations how to behave themselves. There's a need for them to differentiate between who they can bully and those they can't afford to offend, especially the woman named Qiu Mucheng. If any one of you lays a finger on her, the Zhang family will return the favor multiple folds."

She paused before continuing, "The incident today serves as a stern warning to all of you. I sincerely hope that Mr. Meng won't do anything silly. As for the future, you can rest assured that the Zhang family has no interest whatsoever in gaining more power or benefits in Jiangbei. You can keep your position as Jiangbei's richest man. That's it for now. I have done my job for warning you."

Zhang Zixi's words sent shivers down Meng Wanjun's spine. The rest of the family felt very much threatened too.

It took them a very long time to calm themselves down after she left.

When Meng Wanjun finally snapped back into his senses, he landed a tight slap across Meng Chuan's face.

"What have you bast*rd done? How did you step on the toes of the Zhang family? Are you scheming to destroy the Mengs?" Meng Wanjun questioned in a hostile manner.

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Meng Chuan remained silent. The series of events that had happened scared the living daylights out of him.

From Liu Yubing's house to his family manor, everything that Zhang Zixi had said and done gave him extreme heebie-jeebies.

It was only now that he realized how terrifying Zhang Zixi was.

"Dad... I didn't know, Dad. I never knew Qiu Mucheng has connections with the Zhang family. I really didn't know."

Upon knowing how severe his mistake was, Meng Chuan knelt down immediately, bawled his eyes out, and begged for mercy.

"Shut up! Don't give me any excuses. Take a look at your useless self. How could you shoulder the responsibilities of leading the Mengs forward? Had I passed the family to you, it would be very likely for the entire clan to be annihilated."

After lashing out at his son, Meng Wanjun kicked him away and headed to his room.

Later that evening, Meng Wanjun paid the Zhang residence a visit with his son and made him apologize in person.

As a distinguished man in Jiangbei, Meng Wanjun did not enter the gate to meet any of the Zhangs.



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Conversely, both father and son kowtowed three times at the gate before leaving.

When they got back to the Meng family manor, the head of the family instantly instructed for all commercial signboards Meng Chuan made for Qiu Mucheng to be destroyed.

Additionally, he had also requested his son to publish an official apology to Qiu Mucheng in the local newspaper.

All in all, Meng Wanjun's plan was to quickly exhaust all means to appease the situation and suppress the blazing anger of the Zhang family.

All that he had done in good faith demonstrated his utmost sincerity toward the Zhangs.

Unfortunately, his actions were like a double-edged sword. Meng Wanjun lost the respect that the local factions had for him when he stooped so low to gain favor from the Zhangs.

Back at the Meng family manor, Meng Wanjun stood alone in the family ancestral shrine. He stared at each memorial tablet before him, and yet he did not utter a word.

Right then, a gentle and good-looking young man, seemingly in his prime walked in.

He was none other than Meng Yilong, Meng Wanjun's illegitimate son who was entangled in the drama to fight for the patriarch's title.



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"Dad, our company's shares have been going downhill lately. Several projects that I was determined to get have been snatched away by other local forces in Jiangbei. As a consequence, I've lost close to ten billion," Meng Yilong reported.

Meng Wanjun just kept quiet.

"Dad, don't you think that we've paid too high a price for this? The Zhang family only wanted a promise. Why do you need to do the extras and even made a trip to their home to apologize?"

Meng Yilong was completely baffled.

Does Dad need to be so scared of the Zhang family? This is ridiculous! We could have easily suppressed the gossip about Zhang Zixi appearing at the Meng family manor. But now, many others have witnessed them going down on their knees to apologize to the Zhangs. This embarrassing act has made us the talk of the town, resulting in half of Jiangbei's rich and famous social circles to know who we have offended. Rumor has it that the Meng family is on the verge of collapsing!

Meng Wanjun did not respond directly to his son's questions.

Staring at the altar, he pointed at one of the memorial tablets. "Yilong, come over here and pay respect to your Great-grandpa."

Though Meng Yilong had no idea of his father's intention, he did it anyway. He went over to light



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some joss sticks and then kowtowed a few times.

"Yilong, I haven't shared the humble beginnings of the Meng family with you, have I?"

After a slight pause, Meng Wanjun said, "Although many generations of the Mengs have been residing in Jiangbei, the real watershed in the family history began with your great-grandpa and great-granduncles. We owe it all to them for setting a solid foundation for the Meng family to gain wealth and fame. They were the ones who transformed an unknown surname into a top authoritative family in Jiangbei. However, they were not satisfied with the achievement. They aimed to be number one in Jiangbei; not just a title, but a solid status recognized by all. In the pursuit of their dreams, they got on the Zhang family's bad sides and killed one of their direct descendants."

"Then, what happened?" Meng Yilong was merely an illegitimate child who had just been accepted into the family in recent years. Therefore, he did not know much about the family history.

"What do you think? There could only be one king. With your great-grandpa trying to challenge the position of the Zhang family in Jiangbei, do you think that the latter would be so kind to let it slide?"

Meng Wanjun added, "The same night, your great-grandpa and great-granduncles received news that the Zhangs sent a representative to get rid of



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the Mengs. Everyone tried their best to convince your great-grandpa to run for his life, but he refused. He could not bring himself to forego the century-old business established through the efforts of several generations."

"In the end, what did they do?" The story had piqued Meng Yilong's curiosity.

"That night, your great-grandpa and his three brothers committed suicide at the Zhang residence. They used their deaths to exchange peace for the family and protection for their business."

Meng Wanjun pointed at the memorial tablets. "Look over there, the fourth tablet on the first row is your great-grandpa and great-granduncles. Now, do you understand why I did what I did? It's simply because our lives are at stake. The other party holds great power in their hands. Getting on their nerves will only bring tragedy to the Meng family. This isn't a risk our family can afford to take. If your great-grandpa and great-granduncles could sacrifice their lives for the family, there's no big deal for me to lose dignity."



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A long silence ensued

In fact, it was pin-drop silence in the Meng family's ancestral hall.

All that could be heard was the sound of cold wind blowing relentlessly.

Meng Yilong was shocked, and he was greatly impacted when he learned about his ancestors. The four brothers had to die for the sake of the family.

From that, Meng Yilong finally understood the hardships his ancestors had gone through.

At last, Meng Yilong finally understood why his father feared and respected the Zhang family so much.

After all, the truth was laid before his eyes.

Because of how mighty the Zhang family was, Meng Wanjun had no choice but to seek forgiveness sincerely.

Otherwise, the family business his great-grandfather and three of his brothers obtained in exchange for their lives would be at risk.

"But, Dad, do we have to keep doing this? Do we have to keep living in the fear of being dominated by the Zhang family? Yes, we should apologize this time around since we've offended them. But how about in the future? If they come at us again,



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do we just keep holding back? Do we have to keep living in the shadow of the Zhang family?" Meng Yilong's eyes were filled with rage, and he could feel his blood boiling.

Meng Wanjun was astounded upon hearing that.

Instead of reprimanding Meng Yilong for his words, he smiled. "You're courageous, ambitious, and gutsy, boy! Do you know what it takes for a family to truly become the mightiest? It's not capability, and it's not talent. Instead, being ambitious matters the most! If only my legitimate son of the Meng family has your qualities." While he was praising him, he tapped Meng Yilong's shoulder.

Although his father was praising him, Meng Yilong couldn't bring himself to feel happy at all.

"I'm sorry, Dad. I'm so useless. All I can do is grumble pointlessly. There's nothing I can do to help." Meng Yilong was blaming himself.

Anyone could make bold statements, but in reality, it was easier said than done.

Based on what the Zhang family had shown, they could easily send someone to take down the whole Meng family.

Even after fifty years, I don't think we could ever surpass the Zhang family. Meng Yilong felt rather hopeless.



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"No. It's not pointless. Yilong, just you wait. Soon, the Meng family is going to be the most powerful family in Jiangbei. The days of living in fear of the Zhang family will end with my generation. When you and your brothers take over the family in the future, I'll definitely leave you guys a peaceful and prosperous world!" Meng Wanjun sounded grim, and his darkened eyes were filled with confidence.

Meng Yilong was stunned. *For some reason, Dad seems different all of a sudden. When I walked through the door earlier on, he seemed like he was still in a dilemma. Now, however, he sounds so certain.*

Within a few minutes, Meng Wanjun seemed to have made a difficult decision. Besides, he didn't seem like he was going to change his mind.

"What are you going to do, Dad? Please don't act rashly. This family's success is not as important as your well-being."

"Shut up!" Meng Wanjun roared when he heard what Meng Yilong said.

"Remember that you're my son, Yilong! You were born with a mission to bring success to this family. Nothing else matters. I want you to promise me that no matter what, you'll prioritize the family's interests, even if that means you have to sacrifice your life!" Meng Wanjun's gaze was filled with utter persistence, and his words were unquestionably stern.

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Shortly after, Meng Yilong left.

Only Meng Wanjun remained in the room.

He stood there in silence for a long while. After that, he looked out the window and said solemnly, "Sir, I've made my decision. I'd like to see you."

There was no response to his words.

Then suddenly, a cold gust of wind blew past.

In the direction that he was looking through the window, a figure appeared. Like a phantom, the figure was wearing a black robe.

"Are you sure, Mr. Meng? Once you've joined, there's no turning back. In the future, if we can't enter Mount Yan, you know what's going to happen to the Meng family, right?" the man in the black robe sneered.

Under the dim lighting, the man's face was pale, but he looked extremely devilish.

"Sir, don't worry. I fully understand that every successful business has the risk of failure," Meng Wanjun answered respectfully.

"Very well. In that case, you can go ahead and take an oath in your ancestral hall. I'll remind you once again. Once you've joined us, there's no turning back for not only you but also everyone in the Meng family," the man in a black robe reminded.

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In response, Meng Wanjun chuckled softly and said, "There are things people of my generation must do. I don't want the younger generation to deal with the threats of the Zhang family."

After that, Meng Wanjun knelt in the ancestral hall while facing the ancestral tablets. In a low voice, Meng Wanjun said, "I, Meng Wanjun, am willing to lead the Meng family into joining Chu Sect. From today onward, Jiangbei's Meng family will be a part of Chu Sect. When the day comes and Chu Sect intends to march into Mount Yan, I, Meng Wanjun, will use all the Meng family's financial and material resources to support the ultimate cause!"

The low voice echoed in the hall for a long time.

The man in a black robe nodded in satisfaction. "Very well. Chu Sect's armies will arrive shortly. In the meantime, sit still and wait for your mission. As for the Zhang family, rest assured, my people will get rid of them within the next few days. By then, the Meng family will be the strongest in Jiangbei. Congratulations, Mr. Meng. Your ancestors will be very proud of you. Hahaha!"

With that, the man in a black robe turned and left.

No one noticed that the moment the man in a black robe turned around, a few mysterious lines were slightly exposed under his long sleeves.

Those lines were part of Chu Sect's symbol, the blazing sun with clouds.

Chapter 1875

While chaos was about to reach Jiangbei, Lu Clan's mansion was rather peaceful.

"Mr. Lu, is Mr. Chu really doing solitary training?" Zhang Zixi asked.

Lu Ziming had booked out the entire upscale hotel nearby.

At that moment, through a window, Zhang Zixi's eyes widened in bewilderment as she stared at the mansion where Ye Fan was doing his solitary training.

"Grandpa said Mr. Chu is already ranked first in the Sky Ranking. How strong will he become if he manages to achieve another breakthrough? Will he become a god?" Zhang Zixi kept asking questions excitedly, like a fangirl.

Indeed, she looked nothing like the formidable and domineering woman who destroyed the Meng family.

"Who said Mr. Chu is doing solitary training?"

"Huh? Didn't you say that?" Zhang Zixi was dumbfounded.

Lu Ziming answered teasingly, "I was just taking a wild guess! In hindsight, I think I might've guessed wrong. If he were to do solitary training, he could've gone alone. Why did he have to bring a girl? Besides, that girl he brought along is as beautiful as a goddess. In terms of demeanor and



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appearance, I think you're still not as impressive as that girl, Zixi."

Zhang Zixi suddenly got anxious. "What do you mean, Mr. Lu? Are you saying that Mr. Chu is there to do something else with the girl instead of training?"

Lu Ziming smiled and nodded. "Well, he could still be training. However, he might be having a different kind of training with the girl! Do you know anything about that? I guess your grandpa never told you about it, right? You know, they get together and feel their skins on each other?"

"Enough, Mr. Lu!" Zhang Zixi was visibly upset, and she felt an indescribable feeling.

"Hahaha! Look at how jealous you are, silly girl! I was just messing with you. Mr. Chu is well-known all over Jiangdong to be a loyal husband. He's not one to fool around. Based on my experience, I think the girl accompanying Mr. Chu is a physician. Hence, I think he's just in the process of healing." Lu Ziming took a guess while glancing at the mansion Ye Fan was in.



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"Healing? Was he hurt?" Zhang Zixi was shocked upon hearing what Lu Ziming said. *Isn't Ye Fan the strongest person on earth? Could it be that there's someone capable of hurting him?*

"Didn't your grandpa tell you?" Lu Ziming was stunned. *Back then, what happened to Ye Fan shocked the whole martial arts world. I thought everyone knew about it? But then again, perhaps it was because of what Zhang Jiuling did.*

"It seems like your grandpa was determined not to let his future generations get involved in the martial arts world." Lu Ziming smiled and shook his head.

Since Zhang Jiuling decided against telling Zhang Zixi about it, Lu Ziming didn't reveal much to Zhang Zixi as well.

Instead, he merely said, "The thing is, Mr. Chu is like a legend. Zixi, if you wish to excel in the martial arts world, you should learn from him. I've seen plenty over the years, but I've never met someone as talented as Mr. Chu. Besides, I bet there won't be someone like him again."

"Okay." Zhang Zixi nodded profusely. With a determined look in her eyes, she said, "I want to be someone exactly like Mr. Chu. However, Mr. Lu, there's something I can't figure out. Why did someone as incredible as Mr. Chu make an ordinary woman his wife? Before this, I've sounded Mr. Chu's wife out. She's a weak and ordinary woman. Hence, I can't wrap my mind around why

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did a man with such power fall for an ordinary weakling."

Ever since she met Qiu Mucheng, Zhang Zixi had been pondering over it.

Initially, Zhang Zixi always thought only the strong were worthy of the strong. *How is a weakling like her worthy of someone as strong as Mr. Chu?*

Upon hearing that, Lu Ziming was taken aback. "What? What did you do to her? Are you insane?"

"I've only tested her out. It's not like I've harmed her or anything," Zhang Zixi explained.

"Still, you shouldn't have done that!" Lu Ziming looked very worried.

"You're such a silly girl! No wonder your grandpa always said you're impetuous! Why did you mess with his woman when you know how capable Mr. Chu is? Luckily for you, Mr. Chu is in solitary training. Otherwise, if Qiu Mucheng complains to Mr. Chu about you, you'd be dead in Nankun by now." Lu Ziming was so frightened that his face was ghastly white when he warned Zhang Zixi.

However, Zhang Zixi was oblivious to the seriousness of the situation. She gave him a brusque response, "You're overreacting, aren't you, Mr. Lu? I was just testing her. Mr. Chu can't possibly decide to have a fallout with the Zhang family over such a trivial matter, can he? Besides, I think he still needs the Zhang family in Jiangbei."



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"What do you know?" Lu Clan retorted anxiously. "Do you know what caused the Lu Clan to tumble? It's all my unfilial son's doing! He offended Mr. Chu's wife, Qiu Mucheng. When Mr. Chu found out about it, he stormed into Jiangbei. Starting from Westlake, he went on a killing spree. My poor dad was killed by Mr. Chu on the first day he got the Supreme title. After that, he wiped out the whole Lu Clan. In despair, I brought my son with me and headed toward Mount Yan to hide in War God Castle. In the end, that maniac slaughtered his way toward Mount Yan! Did you know he wanted to fight against Sword Saint just because he wanted to kill my son? If he dared to mess with War God Castle, what makes you think he'd be afraid of your puny Zhang family? In your mind, you'd think that he needs the Zhang family to secure Jiangbei. As far as he's concerned, Jiangbei is just another worthless place. In fact, his vision had exceeded China. He's more interested in the other countries in the world."

While Lu Ziming was telling Zhang Zixi about the past, she was utterly frightened!

She turned pale and was so frightened that she couldn't say anything in response.

Obviously, she didn't expect Ye Fan to be willing to go up against the whole of China for such a weak woman. One could only imagine how much the other women envied her.

"Indeed, he's a legend." Zhang Zixi shook her head and sighed. While she was jealous of Qiu

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Mucheng, she couldn't hide her disappointment. *I guess this is the most romantic thing one could do for the other in the martial arts world. He was willing to go against the whole world just to avenge a woman he loves. If only I'd met him earlier. If I did, I'd do anything to win over him because he's absolutely my type. Not only is he powerful, but he's also a romantic.*

After a short moment of silence, Zhang Zixi turned around and headed down the stairs.

"What are you doing? Don't do anything stupid! You won't be able to replace her even if you were to kill her." Lu Ziming panicked and held onto Zhang Zixi.

He was afraid she'd do something rash.

After all, a woman's jealousy could be quite scary.

"Don't worry, Mr. Lu. I won't get under his skin. I'm just going to bring Qiu Mucheng back to Jiangbei. Since he cares about her so much, he might blame us if something bad happens to her." With that, Zhang Zixi drove away to look for Qiu Mucheng.

Initially, Zhang Zixi thought Qiu Mucheng might've run away from Jiangbei. To her surprise, she didn't.

After knowing the Meng family had apologized publicly, Qiu Mucheng realized Zhang Zixi had gotten everything settled.



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In that case, Qiu Mucheng had no reason to run for her life.

When Zhang Zixi found Qiu Mucheng, she was at the hotel along with Tangtang.

"This is an offer letter from the Zhang family. Tomorrow, bring this letter along to look for my uncle, Zhang Xu. He'll give you a job in one of the Zhang family's companies. Don't worry about the salary. We'll make sure you're satisfied with it. You'd at least be a manager for one of the branches." Zhang Zixi had gone back to her usual indifferent attitude.

Zhang Zixi loomed over Qiu Mucheng before throwing a document with her grandpa's signature at her.

Liu Yubing's eyes lit up instantly when she heard about the position offered to her best friend, Qiu Mucheng.

"Mucheng, did you hear that? You're going to be a manager at a branch office! You're going to be a boss! I don't care. You must make me your deputy, okay?" Liu Yubing was thrilled. She then picked up the offer letter and read through it.

However, Qiu Mucheng was unperturbed. *Why do I feel a hint of hostility from her every time I look at her? If she hates me, why is she helping me over and over again? Not only did she take care of the Meng family, but she had also found me such an amazing job.*



"Ms. Zhang, I'd like to know something. Why are you helping me? I don't think I have anything to offer in return," Qiu Mucheng said in a low voice.

"Well, good that you know. Indeed, you're worth nothing in our eyes. However, the Zhang family had promised someone to look after you for life. Hence, you're not the reason why we're helping you." With that, Zhang Zixi turned around and was about to leave.

"Who is he? Is it Ye Fan you're talking about? Did he tell you guys all that before he died?" Qiu Mucheng asked.

"That's none of your business," Zhang Zixi answered coldly.

"Fine. Take it back, then. I don't need your alms, nor his promises. I don't want to have anything to do with him again. From now on, please leave me alone." Suddenly, Qiu Mucheng stood up angrily. Her eyes were reddened, and she couldn't help but sob. *That man again? What a b*stard! Why can't I shake him off no matter where I go? I've already tried my best to forget about him, and I've even run away from Jiangdong because of that. Why? Why can't I get out of his shadow?*



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Zhang Zixi was visibly surprised by Qiu Mucheng's outburst.

"Who's Ye Fan? Is he an enemy of yours? Well, I don't know why you reacted that way, but let me tell you this—we're not helping you because of him. I'm sure you're aware of the Zhang family's power in Jiangbei; not anyone gets to tell us what to do. Take care, Ms. Qiu."

With that, Zhang Zixi turned and left.

Evidently, she had no idea that the Ye Fan Qiu Mucheng spoke of was actually Chu Tianfan, who was now in the midst of training and rehabilitation at the Lu Clan's mansion.

As for whether Qiu Mucheng would report to the Zhang family for work, Zhang Zixi honestly didn't care.

She just wanted to make sure that this woman was alive and well.

That meant the Zhang family had kept its promise to Ye Fan.

Not long after Zhang Zixi had left, Han Shaojie, Shen Fei, and Chu Wenfei arrived to pay Qiu Mucheng and the little boy a visit.

Qiu Mucheng then briefly described to them what had just happened earlier and asked for their input.



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After all, Shen Fei and Ye Fan were close like brothers. If Ye Fan had truly said such things before dying, he would likely be in the know too.

"I don't think it was Ye Fan, Ms. Qiu. You also know what he did at Jiangbei before his death—he killed hundreds of people at Westlake. The powerful figures I've met at Jiangbei don't have a very good impression of him. That's why I believe that your relationship with Ye Fan isn't going to be of any help in Jiangbei; it may bring trouble upon you instead," Shen Fei analyzed.

Chu Wenfei nodded solemnly. "I was also there during the Westlake battle. Ye Fan killed so many people that the waters became bloodstained. That's why I doubt the people of Jiangbei would help him. They definitely hate him."

He continued unhesitatingly, "Besides, even if Ye Fan used to be so untouchable that no one in Jiangbei dared cross him, it's all in the past. Jiangdong's changed completely now that he's passed away, and even Mufan Group's gone bankrupt. There's barely anyone in Jiangdong who gives a d*mn about Ye Fan now, let alone those in Jiangbei. I'm sure whatever the Zhang family is doing has nothing to do with him."

In any case, he refused to believe that Ye Fan was this powerful.

Causing such an impact in Jiangdong before dying, then being able to command such a powerful family in Jiangbei after his demise? How could that ever



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be possible? I get that he's a tough one. But to this extent? There's just no way.

"Then, who could it be? I don't know anyone else who's as capable in Jiangbei."

Qiu Mucheng grew increasingly puzzled.

If not for Ye Fan, who else could possess such power to help me?

"Haha! Well, Ms. Qiu, you're so beautiful you put the most enchanting flower in the world to shame. I'm guessing this is an act of another one of your admirers," Shen Fei surmised jokingly.

Chu Wenfei nodded. "Shen Fei has a point. In fact, this admirer of yours could very well be the heir of the Zhang family himself. I just found out a while ago that the Zhangs have always been pretty low-key about their status. Congratulations, Mucheng. You've just gotten another chance to marry into a powerful household."

Despite being told that, Qiu Mucheng didn't feel happy at all.

Instead, she shook her head and responded calmly, "It doesn't matter who helped me. I'll never repay him by marrying him. Besides, I've already vowed to never get married again. Having Fan Junior with me is more than enough."

Neither Shen Fei nor Han Shaojie knew what to say.



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They didn't want to see Qiu Mucheng being depressed all day, but at the same time, they weren't sure whether to advise her to remarry.

They would feel a little sorry for their old friend if she did.

Yet, Chu Wenfei had no second thoughts. "Don't be so negative, Mucheng. You're only in your twenties. Life for you has just begun!" he advised sincerely. "Ye Fan's gone, so it's the end of your chapter with him. There's so much more to life. Open up a little and forget whatever happened in the past. You should be looking forward to meeting someone new and starting over. Don't keep living in the past or in another person's shadow. It's not good for you."

"Thanks. I'll think about it," Qiu Mucheng replied half-heartedly with a smile.

Shen Fei and the others knew too well that she had no intention of heeding their advice.

After that, Chu Wenfei took the initiative to treat his old friends to a meal in Jiangbei.

Together, they celebrated her escape from the clutches of the Meng family.

Qiu Mucheng decided not to leave Jiangbei, but she didn't approach the Zhang family to be a branch manager either.

The woman no longer wanted to rely on anyone



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else. All she yearned for was to continue living by her own means.

Her peaceful life soon returned, but little did she know that the storm in Jiangbei was only about to begin.

Ever since Meng Wanjun took the lead and surrendered to the Chu Sect, several martial arts experts had infiltrated the Meng family in the past seven days while keeping their identities hidden.

"Will it be okay just depending on the three of them to take down the Zhang family, Mr. Tang?"

While standing in the courtyard of the Meng family home, Meng Wanjun gazed at the several men in black, feeling slightly doubtful.

I thought the Chu Sect would send an army to help me conquer the Zhang family, but they ended up sending only three men!

"Worry not. Any fighter from the Chu Sect is a force to reckon with. Three of them will be more than enough to make the entire Zhang family crumble," one man in black answered coldly. "Besides, I'm here too. I'll give you three days to settle your scores. After that, you shall serve me."

There was an immeasurable amount of malice laced in his words.

"All right. I'll make the necessary preparations. We fight tomorrow!" Meng Wanjun declared with



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excitement.

He had been waiting for this day to come.

I'm going to make those elders pay for all the humiliation they've caused me.

In three days, Jiangbei will have but one ruler—the Meng family!

February had only just arrived, but the temperature in Jiangbei was slowly on the rise.

It suddenly began drizzling outside.

Shades of green started to appear on the willows by the river.

"It looks like winter is finally over."

Junie, who had just finished the treatment, stood by the window in the mansion and gazed out into the view as she spoke.

On the other hand, Ye Fan was inside the same room but hadn't woken up.

He was currently sitting half-naked inside a large wooden barrel, receiving his very last medicinal bath.

Junie estimated it would take a few more days for Ye Fan to completely absorb all the medicinal properties.



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However, she could not wait any longer.

After putting down a letter she had written, the woman grabbed the Black Jade Disc that Ye Fan had bought her and turned to leave.

Yet, she stopped in her tracks as soon as she arrived at the door.

Junie then discreetly returned to Ye Fan's side, leaned over, and placed her lips on his.

"Goodbye, Ye Fan. Thank you for staying by my side for so long," said the woman as a blush crept across her face. She looked stunning as always.

Junie thought back to when she had first met Ye Fan.

Back then, she was being chased after by her enemies in the desert and on the verge of death.

And just when she was at her lowest, this young man suddenly entered her life.

While she didn't have a say in her chance encounter with Ye Fan, Junie knew she had a role in how they would part.

This kiss signified the end between the two.

She understood clearly that she would probably never see him again.

Either she would remain in India as the new



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Elysian Master, or she would lose her life.

You'll probably head for the Chu Sect once you wake up, right, Ye Fan?

I hope you succeed this time.

Junie silently prayed for Ye Fan.

She had never once thought of asking him to be a part of her battle in India.

Everyone had their own missions to accomplish, after all.

Ye Fan already had far too many responsibilities to deal with. How could Junie ever leave her fate to him at this point?

Moreover, her mission this time was certainly no easier than when Ye Fan had faced the Chu Sect on his own back then.

Even she wasn't sure how powerful her current enemies were.

There was already a number of people waiting outside when Junie walked out of the mansion.

The group consisted of members with different skin tones, but all of them had a golden lightning symbol on their foreheads.

If the King of India were here, he would instantly recognize that these people were the eighteen



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direct disciples of the Elysian Master from before.

Upon seeing Junie, they all bowed and called out to her in unison. "Greetings, Master!"



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Junie stood tall in the mansion, her exceptionally dainty face showing an expression that was a mix of both dominance and indifference

At the moment, she was not exuding the slightest bit of gentleness and demureness whenever she was with Ye Fan.

Apart from being the new heir of the Elysian Faction, she had to avenge her master and other disciples, who had met their end tragically.

From that moment on, her dream of leading a peaceful and blissful life had become nothing but wishful thinking.

Ever since the previous Elysian Master passed away, she had been on the run until Ye Fan took her in.

Other than exploring medical skills and poison skills, she never gave up on tracking down her surviving seniors from the Elysian Faction throughout the years.

Nine out of eighteen of the previous Elysian Master's disciples had sacrificed their lives years ago while shielding the latter so he could flee.

In other words, there were nine of them who had managed to cheat death at that time.

Hence, Junie had been giving her all in tracing their whereabouts discreetly.



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Finally, she managed to track down the last senior disciple at the auction in Jiangbei a few days earlier.

Coincidentally, the Black Jade Disc that Ye Fan bid earlier actually belonged to the particular senior in the Elysian Faction.

"Everyone, there's no need for formalities. You don't have to address me as Elysian Master. In fact, I won't take over the position of Elysian Master as long as I haven't finished Fen Tian off!" she stated resolutely.

The previous Elysian Master had given Junie the Elysian Ring before breathing his last breath. To the other disciples, it indicated that the former had appointed her as the new head of the faction.

Nonetheless, she was reluctant to take over the role as Elysian Master without first taking revenge for the whole Elysian Faction.

Some of her seniors tried to talk her into changing her mind. "But Junie..."

However, she cut them off right away and uttered indifferently, "Save it, everyone. Let's set off soon to get the matter resolved first."

With that, she walked down the stairs and headed out of the mansion.

"Junie, what about the man inside the mansion? He seems to be a great martial artist despite the



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fact that he's only exuding a faint aura. If we bring him along, he might be of great help to us in our quest for revenge. Perhaps, our chance of survival might even increase by half," one of her seniors pointed out.

Apparently, someone among them had detected Ye Fan's faint aura in the mansion.

Even though Ye Fan was now as weak as a kitten, the traceable ferocity that was hidden behind his faint aura still sent a shiver down their spines.

Hence, they were certain of the fact that the person exuding such aura must be an unrivaled martial artist.

Junie turned to glance at the mansion before shaking her head. "This matter has nothing to do with him. So, I see no reason why we should ask him to risk his life for us. Besides, he's already carrying a heavy burden at the moment," Junie refuted softly as a flicker of reluctance and hesitation flashed across her eyes.

Moments later, they left and vanished into the darkness.

At the same time, in the brightly lit Meng family manor that was located over ten miles away, the courtyard was extremely crowded with a vast concourse of people. After what seemed like an eternity, everyone assembled in an organized way.

Standing at the front of the group, Meng Wanjun



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thundered out, "The Meng family has been around for almost a century with a legacy that was built up by the generations. Our ancestors had strived painstakingly for the prominence of our family and created countless heroic moments. However, regardless of how successful we are for the past century, we can't overlook the threat looming over us. I've been bothered by a sense of crisis since the position of head of the Meng family remains empty."

He paused and added, "I'm sure you're well aware that the threat I've mentioned is none other than the Zhang family. The animosity between our two families has always been a severe one. It's almost like the Zhang family has a sword against our throat. There's no saying when the Zhang family might go berserk one day and slash us with it! It's been a century, and I'm getting sick of always living in fear. Apart from that, I don't wish to see my descendants continue to live in the pathetic state that I am in, always fearing that the Zhang family might strike at any time. Thus, I announce that we'll declare war against them tonight! Everyone, please have faith in me. I vow to lead all of you in getting rid of this threat that has been looming over us for a century!"

With Meng Wanjun's authoritative tone, it felt as if he had cast a spell on everyone present, riling them up.

Within seconds, members of the Meng family got so fired up that they yelled at the top of their lungs, "We'll fight against the Zhang family till the end!"



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Their ear-splitting war cry rang out like a bolt of lightning.

From that moment on, the peace in Jiangbei would be shattered as the intense battle between the two prominent families unfold.

Back in the Lu mansion, the sun had risen when Ye Fan woke up.

The warm sunlight seeped in through the gaps of the blinds and shone on the ground, forming streams of white lights. The entire place was in utter serenity.

However, the moment Ye Fan opened his eyes, the moment of soothing tranquility was shattered.

In a split second, it was as if the once serene sky had transformed into a pot of boiling water as clouds swirled and darkness converged before forming a spiral surging through the sky.

Sensing the abnormal phenomenon, the passers-by that were a hundred meters away halted in their tracks and looked up at the sky.

Startled, a six-year-old boy pointed at the sky as he yelled out in surprise, "Mom, look! Is the sky falling?"

The other pedestrians raised their heads and looked into the distance as they shrieked, "Oh, my God!"



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"What's that?"

"Is that a tornado?"

The crowd looked ahead with sheer disbelief in their eyes, gawping at the unfathomable scene before them.

The wind started to pick up in both ferocity and velocity.

It was as though the clouds in the sky were being led to a specific spot.

The petrifying force was just like a spiraling storm above the ocean.

Soon after, the elemental force from the surroundings seemed to have come alive as it rushed over toward the whirlpool.

After what seemed like ages, the invincible force hovered over the mansion, forming a funnel turned upside down and pouring the energy gathered toward the building.

In the eye of the storm, a man could be seen sitting cross-legged.

He was like a dry sponge sucking in all the energy flowing around him ravenously.

As the energy poured into him, the aura he exuded became stronger. He was like candlelight burning mightier in the raging wind.



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It started out slow, like sands flowing through an hourglass.

As time elapsed, however, it started picking up like water in a swift-flowing river.

When the storm finally stopped, the man opened his eyes abruptly. At that moment, a glint flashed across his eyes.

At the same time, he started unleashing a massive aura in all directions.*Boom!*

Due to the overwhelming force, the mansion started collapsing.

In an instant, the door and windows shattered into pieces while the beams crumbled.

Clouds of dust were swept up into the air.

“Oh, my God! The mansion has collapsed!”

“Hurry up! We need to rescue the people in the mansion immediately!”

“Everyone, quick! Save the occupants at once!”

The passers-by were horror-stricken. It never came to their minds that such a majestic mansion would collapse within seconds, shaking the earth violently.

Soon, a few good Samaritans darted over and were prepared to save anyone that was trapped



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among the debris after the dust had settled.

They were taken aback when they caught sight of a figure standing tall among the debris.

With the glittering horizon behind him and a pile of ruins beneath him, he looked like a mighty sword that was bursting with power.

The crowd could not resist feeling a prickle of fear when they sensed the surging prowess of the man.

As he closed his eyes and stretched out his hands, he felt like embracing the whole world.

At that very moment, it seemed his breathing had synchronized with the surrounding, making him in tune with the entire place.

"So this is the feeling of mastering the energy?" the man mumbled to himself as he felt a surge of familiar power rising from within him.

With that, Chu Tianfan, the Hall Master of Dragon God Hall, finally got his innate unrivaled prowess again after recovering from his severe injuries.



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"I'm impressed by Junie's expertise in the medical field. Leaving no stones unturned, my father could only save me from the brink of death at that time, but I could not recover fully and regain my powers. I can't believe Junie managed to cure me with just some herbs and a few pails of therapy drugs. She's indeed working miracles!" Ye Fan gasped admiringly.

As he clenched his fists, he could feel unrivaled energy coursing like never-ending waves through the veins of his entire body.

He was mesmerized by the incredible sensation of feeling energetic.

It was after quite some time that he finally managed to regain his composure and realized that he should not waste time feeling jovial over his recovery. *I should check on Junie first.*

Even though he had limited expertise in the medical field, he had a hunch that Junie must have utilized her energy to cure him.

Worried sick, he started searching for the woman.

Turning around, he finally noticed that the whole mansion had collapsed.

Countless onlookers surrounding Ye Fan were staring at him in horror as if he was a terrifying beast.

Ye Fan couldn't be bothered by what they were



thinking of him. All he cared about at that moment was the woman who had cured him.

"Junie!" he called out.

"Junie, where are you? Say something if you can hear me!"

Panic gripped Ye Fan as he continued to yell out, fearing that Junie was trapped under the rubble. *D*mn it! Please don't let anything happen to Junie! That rascal is not good at martial arts. She'll surely sustain injuries if the mansion had collapsed on her!*

However, Ye Fan soon cooled his head off as he did not sense the slightest bit of Junie's aura from under the debris.

"It seems that Junie is not here..." he mumbled, heaving a sigh of relief.

Just when he was about to leave, something caught his eye and he halted in his tracks with a frown.

Hmm? What's that?

With a flick of his finger, an envelope was extracted from the debris and ended up in his palm.

He saw the words "To Ye Fan" on the envelope right away.



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The moment he opened the letter, Junie's neat handwriting came into sight.

Ye Fan, I'm sure you're already fully recovered by the time you read this letter. My dear Dragon Master, allow me to congratulate you for returning to the pinnacle of the martial arts world again. It's a pity that I don't have the opportunity to witness the moment you regain your foothold of prominence. Needless to say, I'm sure you must look as stunning as the sun!

By the way, Ye Fan, I have to leave now. My wish is that you won't look for me. After all, all of us have our own paths and goals to achieve. You need to focus on getting your matters resolved so that you could bring Owen, Gaius, and the rest back. Gaius, that old rascal, has stolen a lot of my herbs. Thus, I'll surely be back and request him to compensate me. Also, I have to say, that young lady looks great. Although she might not be as gorgeous as me, she's undoubtedly the most ideal person to be your wife and I bet she's a responsible mother too.

Ye Fan, you must come back safely if you insist on settling the score with Chu Sect again, okay? After that, bring that lady to a small village and lead a secluded life there as planned. By then, you'll be able to take evening strolls in your beautiful garden every day, watching flowers bloom.

To be honest, I was irked when I first heard about your plan to lead a simple and peaceful life. In my eyes, as a Dragon Master, you should be standing tall at the pinnacle of the world like an emperor.



Leaders from all over the world should be in reverence of you, whereas all your people will bow to you respectfully. The Hall Master of Dragon God Hall is no ordinary man and is supposed to bask in the limelight forever. But, I was suddenly enlightened when I decided to leave. There are those who will let go of worldly matters so that they could lead the life they wanted, while there are those who would give their all just to gain a foothold in the world of power and wealth. Undeniably, everyone has their own definition of a happy life. I'm sure as long as you can be with your loved ones, that counts as a happy life for you, right?

Haha! look at me, I'm babbling a lot without realizing it. You know that I dislike boisterousness and I seldom mingle with others, don't you? But for some reason, I always feel like I have endless things to tell you. In fact, with the way things are going, I feel like I'm going to write out a lifetime of words to you in this letter. But, I don't see the need to do so. After all, we can always have a chat when we meet again. By the time you're back from battling against Chu Sect, I would have already avenged my master. Let's go back to Livingsfill to visit Mdm. Yue and have a meal with her family then.

Oh yeah, I've developed some medicine for Mr. Hu's injury. Could you please help to send it over to him? It'll probably be helpful for him. Don't worry about me. I've reunited with my seniors. All of them have great combat prowess, and they are all Supreme. Since there are many of us, I'm sure it'll be a piece of cake for us to finish the King of India off. Thus,



you don't have to help us with that. While fighting against him in India, I'll wait for the great news of your victorious return after wiping out Chu Sect. Ye Fan, you must stay alive no matter what.

It was a long letter written in a cheery tone.

However, Ye Fan's frown remained etched on his face.

In fact, the longer he read through the letter, the heavier his heart became. His heart wrenched at the sign of tears on the paper.

He could tell that Junie was pouring her last words into it.

Even though she mentioned numerous times that they would be meeting each other again, there was an unmistakable sorrow in her word. It was as if she was bidding farewell to him.

She was seemingly prepared for the worst in her quest to take Fen Tian down with her.

The worry he was feeling soon turned into fury as Ye Fan fumed, "This silly girl! How could she act so impulsively?"

Of course, he was aware that she did not wish to risk his life. *But doesn't she know that I'll spend the rest of my life in guilt if anything happens to her?*

With that thought in mind, he decided to leave at once and try to catch up to them.



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Chapter 1879

*D*mn it! I wonder when they set off. We'd agreed to confront Fen Tian together, didn't we? How could she go ahead without me? Hmph! I'll definitely teach her a lesson after I catch up on her!* Ye Fan snorted inwardly, like a cat on hot bricks.

Soon, he prepared to head for India to back Junie up.

Before that, however, he planned to send the medicine to Hu Yipeng first, as requested by Junie. *Ha! No words can describe how kind-hearted this rascal is. She never fails to pay back others' kindness with her utmost earnestness. Even if she's not closely acquainted with Mr. Hu and his family, she's still very concerned about them.*

After leaving the Lu mansion, Ye Fan headed to where Yue Yingchun and her family stayed.

Located in what was considered the old residential area of Livingsfill, their old house was smack dab in the middle of a small neighborhood with rugged paths.

Even though it was incomparable to the liveliness and lavishness of the city, the residents there led a free and easy lifestyle.

It was the type of peaceful life that Ye Fan had been yearning for.

The elders played chess, whereas the children had fun with their pets by the river. *What a peaceful life without any dispute.*



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Glancing at his watch, Ye Fan presumed that Tangtang was already back from school and might be having fun with the neighbor's kids.

Hmm... Mdm. Yue should be preparing lunch in the kitchen in her apron. And I bet Mr. Hu must be savoring his favorite tea as usual while staying tuned to the news channel on TV. He'll probably even start bickering with Mdm. Yue from time to time.

Those were the daily scenes when Ye Fan was staying temporarily at their place previously. *Haha! I have a feeling it'll go exactly like the way I imagined.*

Just then, one of the residents from the neighborhood suddenly piped out, "Huh? Aren't you the tenant at Mr. Hu's house previously? What are you doing coming back here?"

Ye Fan started sensing something amiss as he got closer to Hu Yipeng's house.

He was surprised to see that there was scarcely anyone on the street that used to be busy at that hour.

A few residents he bumped into along the way were even rushing home.

Moments later, Ye Fan finally bumped into an elderly woman who was obviously stupefied to see him. He asked in bafflement, "Mrs. Wang, what's the matter? Did something happen?"



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Perplexed, she responded quizzically, "Aren't you aware of it?"

Sighing, she added, "You should leave now and never come back. If not, the sacrifice of Mr. Hu and his family will be in vain." With that, she turned and left hastily.



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Chapter 1880

Naturally, Ye Fan had a bad feeling after hearing Mrs. Wang's words.

He quickly ran forward to grab hold of her and asked anxiously, "What's going on, Mrs. Wang? What happened to Mdm. Yue and Mr. Hu? Also, where's Tangtang? What on earth happened here?"

Could it be that their enemies have come seeking revenge? But Mr. Hu and his family are just ordinary people living an honest life! What sort of enemies could they possibly have?

Ye Fan began to panic at the thought of that.

Sighing, the older woman replied, "Honestly, I don't know what else to say about you. Mr. Hu and his happy family have sacrificed themselves in order to protect you! You should leave now. Don't let their sacrifice be in vain."

Although Mrs. Wang didn't say much, there was a hint of hatred toward Ye Fan in her tone.

It was obvious that the residents believed that Ye Fan was the reason behind the tragic fate that had befallen Hu Yipeng and his family.

Ye Fan's face turned pale instantly. "Are you saying something happened to Mr. Hu and his family?"

It seemed that the one thing he dreaded the most had happened.

Not wanting to waste another second, Ye Fan



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started running toward Hu Yipeng's house like a madman.

"Hey! What are you doing? Why would you go there? Are you trying to get yourself killed? Do you want Mr. Hu and his family's sacrifice to be in vain?" Mrs. Wang shouted angrily at Ye Fan when she saw him heading toward their house instead of running away.

However, Ye Fan was so worried and confused that he didn't hear her at all.

Something has definitely happened to Mr. Hu and his family, but who could've done it? Who would possibly go after them? The Zhang family? That doesn't seem very likely. Zhang Zixi may have followed me all the way to Mr. Hu's house, but he had already given the Zhang family a stern warning! Could it be that the Zhang family decided to go after them while I was recovering from my injuries in order to get at me? No, that doesn't make much sense either. The Zhang family must also know about my reputation if they know my identity. Unless they've got a death wish, they would never do something stupid like this. But, who else could it be if not the Zhang family?

"Don't tell me it's..."

While still lost in thought, Ye Fan had arrived at the place where he and Junie used to stay, but the courtyard was no longer there.

The beautiful house that Hu Yipeng and his family



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of three occupied was gone.

All that remained in its place was a pile of ashes, rubble, and scorched earth.

Ye Fan froze as he stood there and stared at the ruins in complete shock and disbelief.

Are Tangtang and the others beneath the rubble?

The thought was so scary that Ye Fan couldn't bring himself to think any further.

Right as he was drowning in sadness and despair, a weak voice could be heard from behind. "Y-Ye Fan..."

"Tangtang! That's Tangtang's voice!"

Overjoyed, Ye Fan quickly spun around.

However, what greeted him was the sight of three figures hanging from the branches of a huge tree.

The trunk had been stained red by their blood, and the three figures were none other than Hu Yipeng and his family members.

Yue Yingchun had already passed out and was barely breathing at that point.

Hu Yipeng, on the other hand, was still somewhat conscious.

Upon noticing Ye Fan standing there, his lips



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trembled as he mumbled something very weakly.

Ye Fan leaned in closer toward him and strained his ears just to hear what he was saying.

"Leave..."

Hu Yipeng was asking him to leave, but Ye Fan couldn't possibly bring himself to leave them like that.

With a wave of his arm, Ye Fan unleashed a short burst of Qi to cut all three of them free from the tree.

"T-The bad guys asked where you were, Ye Fan... B-But I didn't tell them..." Tangtang mumbled weakly as she lay in Ye Fan's arms.

Her body was covered in blood, and her breathing was so weak that it felt like it would stop at any moment.

Despite being in great pain from all her wounds, she still forced a smile on her face when she saw Ye Fan.

Nonetheless, that doesn't hide the fact that there were two lines of tears trickling down her big, doe-like eyes.

"I know. You did a great job, Tangtang."

Ye Fan's eyes reddened as well as he wiped the tears off her face.



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"Ye Fan... A-Am I about to die?" she asked.

"No, Tangtang. Neither you nor your parents are going to die. I'll definitely save you all."

Ye Fan's voice trembled slightly as he tried his best to comfort her.

It really pained him to see them like this.

Who the hell did this? Who could possibly be so cruel as to hurt a weak little girl like her?

Ye Fan's train of thoughts was interrupted when a strong gust of icy-cold wind started blowing all of a sudden.

Seconds later, a few figures came into view.

They were all armed to the teeth and had cold looks in their eyes as they glared at Ye Fan.

The man leading the group had a sinister smile on his face as he stood behind Ye Fan and said, "So, you're finally here. My boss was right about you. He knew you'd come back to save them and end up delivering yourself to us. We already have you surrounded, so I suggest you not make any pointless struggles. Don't try anything funny or we'll pump you full of lead!"

Thinking he had already won, the man spoke with an insane amount of confidence and arrogance.

Still holding Tangtang in his arms, Ye Fan asked



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without even turning around, "Are you guys working for Meng Chuan of the Meng family?"

"Heh... Not bad! It's good that you know who you crossed. Not only did you humiliate Mr. Meng at the auction, but you even stole the miracle drug. You see, Mr. Meng has been too busy with other affairs to deal with you. Now that everything has been taken care of, it's time to settle the score with you!" the man replied with an evil chuckle.

Ye Fan simply ignored his statement and asked, "Why?"

"What do you mean 'why?' What on earth are you going on about? You'd better get on your knees right now before I hurt you!" the man threatened.

"Why hurt them like this? They didn't do anything to you guys. They're just an ordinary family living a peaceful life here. In fact, Mr. Hu is struggling really hard to look after his young daughter with his disability. This family has suffered enough as it is, so why would you guys do this to them? Why couldn't you guys just leave them alone?"

Ye Fan's voice sounded so monotone and soft that it was impossible to read his emotion.

Little did they know, hidden beneath that calmness of his was a boiling, murderous rage that was on the verge of being unleashed.

He truly regretted coming to Jiangbei, coming to Livingsfill, and renting a place in Yue Yingchun's



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house.

I shouldn't have come here... They'd probably still be living a happy and safe life instead of getting caught up in this mess if it weren't for me...

"Hahaha! Are you an idiot or what? Why are you still taking pity on others when your own life is at stake? You should worry about yourself instead!"

While the man was still laughing, Ye Fan slowly stood up with Tangtang still in his arms.

The calm look on his face had been replaced by an icy-cold and vicious expression dripping with murderous intent.

"Back then, I annihilated the Lu Clan and painted both Westlake and Jiangbei red. The people of Jiangbei and the martial arts world of China hated me so much that they drove me to the point of despair, and no one helped me because of how powerful China is. I wasn't planning on killing anymore now that I have finally returned to Jiangbei once again, but you guys just had to force my hand. Well, whatever... So what if Jiangbei and the martial arts world of China hate me? Even if the entire world sees me as a monster, I'm still going to kill you b*stards because you asked for it!"



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The battle at Eastsea had undoubtedly changed Ye Fan greatly.

He used to be an incredibly arrogant and insolent person, but he became a lot more reserved after that battle.

The best way to describe him now would be a sword that had lost its edge and got sealed in its scabbard.

Had it been in the past, Ye Fan would probably have slaughtered the entire Meng family the moment Meng Chuan set his sights on Qiu Mucheng.

However, that was clearly not the case after Ye Fan changed.

Despite what Meng Chuan did to him at the auction as well as his attempts to steal the clover herb, Ye Fan chose not to kill him.

He assumed that his acts of mercy would cause the Meng family to change their ways, but it seemed that he was wrong about them.

Some people didn't deserve to be shown mercy at all, and Meng Chuan was a prime example of said people.

Although Ye Fan had spared his life multiple times, Meng Chuan still came after Hu Yipeng and his family.



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All the regret and anger that Ye Fan felt had turned into an icy-cold murderous intent that manifested in the form of a raging thunderstorm, sweeping across the land.

The men from the Meng family froze in fear as they watched Ye Fan levitate into the air.

His slender figure combined with his domineering air of might gave him an ethereal appearance.

The men were so terrified that they all stared wide-eyed at him like he was a ghost.

"B-Boss, he can fly?"

"I can't believe it! He's actually flying!"

Some of them even lost control of their bladder at the unbelievable sight.

Although they had witnessed plenty of incredible feats from martial artists over the years, it was their first time seeing someone levitate.

Like everyone else, they believed the ability to defy gravity was something that only existed in works of fiction.

None of them had ever dreamed of actually seeing a real person levitate before their very eyes.

In that instant, the men felt like the world around them had been turned upside down.



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It was as if everything they knew about the world had been proven to be wrong.

Just like that, whatever arrogance and insolence they had a while ago was gone in an instant.

Seeing Ye Fan levitate in the air caused the men to lose their will to fight, and the only thing they could think of doing was to run like hell.

However, Ye Fan wasn't about to let them escape after what they had done.

Just as Junie had predicted, the day that Chu Tianfan returned would be the day evildoers perished.

Whoosh!

A strong wind started blowing the moment the Meng family's men tried to escape.

Had War God and the others been there at the time, they would've felt the elemental force being drawn toward Ye Fan's body like it was being summoned.

Having attained the highest possible level in martial arts training, he could turn everything in the world into a source of power.

The concentration of elemental force gathered around his hands was so high that it turned into balls of flames.



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Like fireworks, the balls of flames exploded in the sky as they floated around Ye Fan's body.

After that, Ye Fan took control of the flames and turned them into fiery scythes before launching them at the fleeing men.

Their anguished cries could be heard as their bodies were consumed by the bright red flames one after another.

Some of them turned into ashes halfway through screaming in pain, while others were turned into ashes before they could even scream.

It was such a terrifying sight to behold that the remaining survivors simply stopped running altogether.

Their legs then gave out beneath them, and they fell weakly to the floor.

"P-Please spare our lives! We don't want to die!"

"We were just following orders! This has nothing to do with us!"

"Please let us go! I have an eighty-year-old disabled mother and two babies back at home! They can't live without me, so I can't afford to die like this!"

The survivors were sobbing as they begged for mercy on their knees, but Ye Fan was completely unfazed by their pleas.



There were no fluctuations in his emotions as he stared coldly at them from above.

There's no way these guys have truly repented their ways. They're probably just saying all that out of fear after witnessing my power. Had I been weak like Mr. Hu and Tangtang, I would undoubtedly have shared their tragic fate. Besides, I'm not going to let them off easy even if these men did truly repent. Everyone is responsible for their own actions in this world. These men's fates were sealed the moment they hurt Mr. Hu and his family! They cannot be forgiven!

With that in mind, Ye Fan waved his arm and torched the surviving men to kingdom come.

"What's that, Ye Fan? It looks so pretty..." Tangtang asked when she saw the men explode into balls of flames up in the sky.

Having regained some consciousness after receiving some elemental force from Ye Fan, she tilted her head to get a better look at the flames in the sky.

For a second there, it looked like the end of the world had come.

"Those are fireworks, Tangtang. I prepared them just for you. Do you like it?" Ye Fan said with a gentle smile.

Tangtang nodded, and a faint smile formed on her pale face.



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Meanwhile, things were getting merry over at the Meng family manor.

The entire manor had been renovated and decorated to match the celebratory mood everyone was in.

Fresh flowers and red carpets were laid out all the way to the end of the road.

On top of that, a golden dragon head statue was placed outside the manor's entrance to signify their position as the most powerful existence in Jiangbei.

Those walking past the street stared at the Meng family manor in both awe and respect.

"Sigh... The new shall always replace the old, huh?"

"Who would've thought that the Zhang family that dominated Jiangbei for so long would be destroyed in one night?"

"From now on, the Meng family will be the only one calling the shots here in Jiangbei."

"Yeah! The current head of the Meng family is a ruthless and ambitious man, after all."

"Just a few days ago, Meng Wanjun and his son were kneeling in front of the Zhang family's house as they begged for forgiveness. A few days later, he showed up at the Zhang family residence with



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his men and leveled the place!”

“The Zhang brothers were all killed that very night, and Patriarch Zhang was captured after being severely wounded! I heard his granddaughter was the only one who escaped that night!”

“Even so, what could a girl like her possibly do? This prominent family is completely done for!”

The Zhang family's annihilation was the most shocking incident that had taken place in Jiangbei lately.

The fact that the Meng family was the one who took them out made it all the more shocking.

Most of the older generation in Jiangbei knew about the history between the two prominent families.

“Generations worth of hatred, all unleashed over the course of a single night...”

“Back then, the Zhang family forced the three Meng family brothers to kill themselves as punishment. Now, Meng Wanjun has crushed the Zhang family and killed hundreds of their people in revenge!”

“This is all a matter of cause and effect...”

Due to the history between the two families, the annihilation of the Zhang family became a hot topic of discussion all over Jiangbei.



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As the people continued talking about the incident, things slowly grew quiet as most of the Meng family members had left the manor.

Soon, Meng Chuan was the only one remaining.

"We should get going, Mr. Meng. The banquet at Westlake is about to begin," said one of his subordinates as he brought the car over to the entrance of the manor.

"Let's wait a little while longer," Meng Chuan replied.

He was waiting for a phone call to confirm the death of Ye Fan.

Meng Chuan had received word about Ye Fan showing up a while ago.



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*It has been almost ten minutes. Logically speaking, my men should have beaten that piece of sh*t to death by now. Why haven't they called yet? Could it be that something went wrong?*

Meng Chuan thought to himself with a frown.

However, he was quick to dismiss that possibility.

"No, that's impossible. I've sent so many men after him this time, and some of them are highly trained martial artists! That piece of sh*t is bound to be dead regardless of his fighting skills!"

If anything, Meng Chuan was more concerned about Ye Fan not showing up at all.

He had gone to great lengths just to track Ye Fan down throughout the past few days.

Eventually, he managed to find out that Ye Fan was staying in an old house in the countryside, but Ye Fan had already escaped by the time he got there.

Infuriated, Meng Chuan decided to bait Ye Fan into showing up by using Hu Yipeng and his family members.

Being a vengeful man, Meng Chuan harbored intense hatred toward Ye Fan after being humiliated by him and nearly dying at the hands of the Zhang family.

Due to the Zhang family's great power, I had no



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Chapter 1882

choice but to keep my anger and hatred suppressed. Now that the Zhang family is no more, my family has become the greatest force here in Jiangbei, so I no longer have anything to worry about! First, I'll kill off Ye Fan. Then, when this banquet in Westlake is over, I'll go after Qiu Mucheng!

"This b*tch thinks she can rest easy after allying with the Zhang family? Heh... Soon, I will show everyone the true power of the Meng family!" Meng Chuan muttered under his breath as an arrogant and vicious smile crept upon his face.

"Mr. Meng, we won't be able to make it in time if we don't leave now. The banquet at Westlake will be a historical moment for the Meng family. You shouldn't be late for it or the other elders are going to give you a hard time again," one of the elders standing beside him urged him again.

Meng Chuan nodded. "All right, let's head over."

Figuring that his subordinates had probably forgotten to call him, Meng Chuan decided not to wait any longer and rushed over to Westlake.

To him, Ye Fan was a small fry that didn't deserve that much of his attention.

The banquet in Westlake was a lot more important in comparison.

Lake Xizi was surrounded by mountains on three sides and divided into three sections by three



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dikes.

From a distance, it looked just like a gemstone with the emerald-green water reflecting the sky above.

Despite having over a thousand years of history, Westlake managed to withstand the test of time.

Countless historical events have taken place around the lake over the years, and there would only be more to come in the future.

Tons of fancy cars could be seen in the area as VIPs from various areas in Jiangbei gathered around.

"Say, what do you all think Mr. Meng is trying to do? Why would he host a banquet in Westlake all of a sudden? He even invited all the VIPs in Jiangbei over! Could it be to celebrate his birthday?"

A boatman was casually humming a tune as he slowly rowed a boat around Heart Island with a few wealthy men on board.

"I remember Mr. Meng's birthday being in the summer, though. Isn't it a little too early to be celebrating his birthday right after winter?"

"What do you guys think this banquet at Westlake is for, then?"

"Isn't it obvious? Didn't you guys hear about the



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recent events in Livingsfill? The Zhang family is finished! I bet Mr. Meng is seizing this opportunity to assert dominance over Westlake and have all of Jiangbei submit to him. He wants people like us to respect him as the head of Jiangbei!"

One of them managed to gather some information on the Meng family and found out about their plans.

The others were all shocked to hear that but soon nodded after giving it some thought.

"Honestly, I didn't think the Meng family would actually defeat the Zhang family! When I was little, my grandpa used to tell me that the Zhang family is the one that truly rules Jiangbei!"

"That was over sixty years ago, right? Is this really the end of the line for the Zhang family? All good things really do come to an end, huh?" one of the elders exclaimed with a sigh.

As the men carried on chatting, a small island slowly came into view in the distance.

"Huh? It's only been a few years since I last came to Westlake. Why do I feel like it has changed so much? I remember that pavilion looking a lot more run-down in the past. Also, the trees used to tower over the place like buildings back then. Why have the trees reduced so much in size? Hey, boatman! Did Heart Island undergo a renovation or something?" one of the billionaires asked curiously when he noticed the major changes that



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had taken place on Heart Island.

The boatman glanced about before whispering, "I take it that you gentlemen aren't from around here, then? Did you all not hear about the tragedy that took place here in Westlake a few years ago?"

He had assumed that the billionaires on the boat were incredibly knowledgeable people, but that didn't seem to be the case.

At the very least, they were ignorant of the tragedy that took place in Westlake back then.

"Huh? A tragedy here in Westlake? What tragedy? Please, do tell us more about it!"

The men on the boat grew interested after hearing that.

However, one of them wasn't particularly excited about it.

That man was none other than Chu Wenfei.

He too, had been invited to the banquet at Westlake.

Although he was initially reluctant to attend it, he figured it would offend the Meng family greatly if he refused their invitation.

As such, Chu Wenfei had no choice but to attend the banquet.



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Chapter 1882

I wonder how Zhang Zixi is doing now... I hope she managed to get as far away from them as possible...

Chu Wenfei was worried about Zhang Zixi, who had saved their lives back then.

Practically everyone in Jiangbei had known about what happened to the Zhang family, and Chu Wenfei was no exception.

He was so shocked by the news of the Zhang family's annihilation that he fell from his chair when he heard it. In fact, he was incredibly close to just packing his stuff and leaving the city.

After all, he did get into a minor conflict with Meng Chuan in order to save Qiu Mucheng.

While it wasn't anything serious, things did get a little tense between them at the time.

With the Zhang family being wiped out like that, it was only natural for Chu Wenfei to fear for his life.

However, he dismissed that fear when he recalled the fact that he was a nobody in comparison to the Zhang family. Figuring that Meng Chuan would most probably forget about him, Chu Wenfei decided to cancel his plans of running away.

Surely enough, he turned out to be right about that. The Meng family didn't come after him at all, much to his relief.



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He then continued to secretly gather information on the Zhang family afterward.

Chu Wenfei felt incredibly relieved when he eventually found out that Zhang Zixi was the only one who escaped the massacre that night.

After all, it would be a shame for a young and beautiful woman like Zhang Zixi to die like this.

Right as Chu Wenfei was praying for Zhang Zixi's safety, the boatman could be heard saying, "A few years ago, the Lu Clan used to rule over Jiangbei. The patriarch of the Lu Clan was a man named Lu Songliang, and his authority was far greater than that of Zhang Jiuling, the patriarch of the Zhang family. You could even say the Lu Clan was the true king of Jiangbei. They were so powerful that even the Zhang family had to show them respect. Back then, the Lu Clan, too, hosted a banquet in Westlake. From what I've heard, Yanjing sent an ambassador over to grant them the Supreme title. Back in the day, to have a title like this was akin to having a royal title! I'm sure you all can imagine the glory that the Lu Clan had back then. Almost all the forces in China held them in high regard! They were practically unrivaled!"

Hearing that, Chu Wenfei frowned.

Huh? Why does this sound so familiar?



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"What happened then?" the billionaire asked.

The boatman continued to talk freely. "Lu Songliang was at the peak of his life after the Supreme title was bestowed upon him. Who would have thought a man would suddenly show up with a sword and killed off numerous fighters of Westlake? Even Lu Songliang, the head of the Lu Clan, was also killed."

The boatman continued in admiration, "In the end, the entire Westlake was bathed in blood. Even Heart Island, which always had lush vegetation, was completely scorched. After that, Westlake was closed for more than a year, and no tourists were allowed to enter. It has only been reopened recently, and Heart Island, which you see now, has been repaired and renovated after the brutal battle."

Unexpectedly, the billionaires on the boat burst into laughter as soon as the boatman finished.

"Dude, did you read too many novels? I admit that your story is vivid, and most audiences would think that parts of it did indeed happen. If we aren't firm believers of materialism, we might have fallen for your mystical story by now."

The other billionaires shook their hands and chuckled.

The boatman stared at him and said, "You don't believe me, do you? You're thinking that I made up these stories?"



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"Hahaha... Mister, it's not that we don't trust you, but your story is simply too outrageous. How can someone massacre so many people in a society that embraces the rule of law? Besides, if that person committed premeditated murder by killing that many people in Westlake, it would have become major news. In that case, why aren't we aware of such news?"

The other billionaires continued to shake their heads, thinking that the old boatman had made up such an absurd story.

After a while, one of the billionaires said, "Mister, I'm afraid he's right. In today's modern world, the era of fighting and killing with cold weapons has passed. No matter how sharp a sword is, it is no match for a bullet. Anyone who rushes to Westlake to kill others with a sword will be shot dead by snipers within seconds."

The next moment, another billionaire added, "Well, I did hear about the tragedy in Westlake. Back then, the Lu Clan's stage collapsed and led to many deaths in the lake. However, there were no so-called fighters involved. In conclusion, it was an accident and not a mystical incident."

All billionaires thought the boatman was spouting nonsense.

After all, it was difficult for ordinary folks to believe stories that sounded like a fantasy.

At most, they only treated the boatman's story as a



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legendary tale.

"How short-sighted! You don't think it's true because you didn't see it. Moreover, you think I'm spouting nonsense because it's something beyond your understanding! It's up to you whether you believe it or not. You have limited knowledge about it, but it doesn't mean I'm wrong."

The boatman was a prideful man. He decided not to continue sharing the story since they thought he made it up on his own.

The billionaires couldn't help but laugh again. Then, one of them asked mockingly, "Yes, we're indeed short-sighted. Since you are so sure that a fighter, who is strong enough to destroy the world, has obliterated the Lu Clan, do you know who he is?"

The billionaire continued with a grin, "We know that you're very experienced. Since the fighter is a prominent figure, I'm sure you must know his name."

It appeared that the billionaires intended to expose the boatman's lie.

The boatman sneered, "Well, you're right. I do know his name. Anyway, you don't have to mock me. Judging from your attire, I can tell that you are rich. The places I have visited and the things I have seen are no match for yours. After all, I've spent almost my entire life rowing the boat on Westlake and have only seen the sunset here."



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After pausing for a while, the boatman added, "However, even though it may be true that I have seen lesser things than you, I have listened to stories galore. After all, I have rowed the boat for decades, of which more than ten thousand customers have boarded it.

"A few years ago, a few tourists from other provinces visited Westlake and told me the story. The fighter's name is Mo Wuya. He is the son of Mo Gucheng, the King of Fighters. Also, he is one of the most outstanding young men in China's martial arts world nowadays."

The boatman shared the story proudly. At that moment, he seemed like a knowledgeable professor who was teaching his fellow students a valuable lesson.

"Mo Wuya? Who is he? Did you say he is the son of the King of Fighters? Well, it does seem that he is a powerful figure then."

The billionaires were still puzzled by the whole story, and some began to think that the boatman had made the name up.

"Hah! What nonsense!" Just when everyone was feeling suspicious, someone suddenly huffed in anger.

They turned around and saw a young man with a darkened expression.

Chu Wenfei said mockingly, "Mister, can you not



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spout nonsense if you don't know the truth?"

He couldn't help but stop the boatman from continuing.

One of the billionaires scoffed. "Hahaha! See, even the young man thinks that you're talking nonsense. As we have said, all these mystical stories are nothing but hogwash."

At that, the other billionaires laughed out loud while shaking their heads.

The next moment, Chu Wenfei said firmly, "You must have misunderstood me. I'm not saying that the boatman's story is nonsense. Instead, I'm saying that the name he mentioned was wrong. I was there during the battle, after all.

"After arriving at Jiangbei, that person killed Lu Songliang and took down half of the heroes in Westlake. The boatman didn't lie about that. The fighter is as real as you and me!

"However, Mo Wuya was not the fighter's name. Instead, the fighter was a young man named Ye Fan, the lord of Jiangdong and my biggest arch enemy. Even though I was the one who had the last laugh in the end, I can't allow you guys to discredit all the things he had done!"

Hearing that, the boatman was startled by Chu Wenfei's overbearing aura.

The next moment, the boatmen apologized



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repeatedly and explained that he had heard the story from others. He also added that he didn't mean to offend anyone.

"It's okay. I only hope that you won't forget his name," Chu Wenfei murmured.

The brutal battle back then had since been engraved in Chu Wenfei's mind.

After the battle, he upended his impression of Ye Fan and started looking at how the world worked from a new perspective.

Apart from that, he finally realized that many things were beyond his knowledge.

"Young man, did you read too many novels as well? Do you really believe a man could defeat that many fighters and scorch the island alone? Come on, just stop with the nonsense."

"As humans' strength has its limits, the most we can do is to break a huge stone apart. Only the characters in novels are capable of destroying the world."

With contempt evident in their eyes, the billionaires started mocking Chu Wenfei and the boatman.

Figuring that they were simply too naive, Chu Wenfei couldn't be bothered to explain it to them anymore.



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After all, just like them, he used to believe that only the things he knew were true.

As such, anything beyond his imagination was pure nonsense.

Nevertheless, Chu Wenfei eventually realized that he was pathetic for having such a mindset in the past.

He was now aware of the fact that the ignorant ones would always prefer mocking others for knowing too little.

"Perhaps Ye Fan thought I was the ignorant one back then."

A myriad of emotions stirred within Chu Wenfei as memories of the past flashed through his mind.

As they conversed, the ship had arrived at the island.

Once the billionaires got ashore, the quiet island suddenly became lively.

Those from the Meng family sat on the seats at the top. It was as though they were kings waiting for their subjects to worship them.

At that moment, no one knew that a thousand meters away from there, a man could be seen walking alone.



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With the vast horizon behind him, the man stood as he watch the endless flow of cars before him with an expressionless face.

Every step he took made the ground rumble.

The man was exuding a murderous aura, startling any pedestrians that had walked too close to him.

"Sir, are you all right? Do you need some help? Do talk to a police officer if you need help. Please don't do anything silly."

Although some kind-hearted pedestrians were concerned about the man, the man simply remained silent and kept walking forward.

If there was a martial artist present, they would surely realize that the intimidating aura released by the man resembled a raging fire that was slowly building.

With such obvious hostility, the pedestrians eventually started to steer clear of the man, keeping their distance.

The murderous intent exuded by him was so cold that it seemed to have frozen the grass and trees, all while dust and gravel billowed in the air.

In the meantime, the pedestrians cowered in fear as they stared at the man who looked just like a demon from hell.

There were ten major tourist attractions in



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Westlake, including the causeway, the lotus flowers, Peace Lake, and the broken bridge covered with snow.

Since it was spring then, Chu Wenfei couldn't see the broken bridge covered with snow when he revisited Westlake.

Standing on the causeway, I feel like everything revives during spring. However, unlike nature, Ye Fan and the Zhang family won't have the chance to rise again.

Chu Wenfei was overwhelmed with mixed feelings as he gazed at the beautiful scenery of Westlake.

Deep down, he felt that everything seemed to be signifying the arrival of the new era.

After Ye Fan passed away, a new leader was now at the helm of Jiangdong.

Not to mention, Jiangbei would welcome their new king soon.

It was as if everything would eventually rise from the ashes.

Chu Wenfei felt that the world had somehow become unfamiliar, for he could no longer hear any news about Ye Fan anymore.

Besides, all his acquaintances had either retired from the frontlines or disappeared.



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Suddenly, Chu Wenfei felt that he had aged and that the era that had once belonged to his generation had since passed.

"I hated Ye Fan to the core when he was alive, but now that he's gone, I somehow miss him."

Meanwhile, on Heart Island, many guests had arrived and were congratulating the Meng family.

Just as Chu Wenfei was reminiscing his memories, more guests had arrived at Heart Island.

At noon, the banquet in Westlake officially began.

The servants led Chu Wenfei and the other nobles to take their respective seats.

Soon, various delicacies and bottles of wine were sent to the banquet venue by way of boats.

All the guests enjoyed the food and wine as they gazed at the mesmerizing scenery of Westlake.

"Hmm? She looks kind of familiar..."

As Chu Wenfei lifted his glass of wine, he suddenly noticed a man and a woman sitting at an unnoticeable corner.

Although both were wearing masks, he couldn't help but feel a sense of familiarity after staring at their eyes.



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Somehow, Chu Wenfei felt that he had met the woman before but couldn't recall where or when.

Just when he was sifting through his memory to figure out who the woman was, his thought was disrupted by the arrival of Meng Wanjun.

"He's here!"

"The star of the banquet is finally here!"

"So, that's the head of the Meng family, Meng Wanjun, huh?"

"That's right! From now on, he will reign over Jiangbei."

The billionaires got excited and had looks of admiration in their eyes.

Chu Wenfei raised his head and saw an elegant-looking middle-aged man walking up the stage as the crowd ushered him.

Beside him stood two young men.

Chu Wenfei was shocked when he recognized one of the young man. "Meng Chuan?"

"Oh? Mr. Chu, you know Mr. Meng? You two look around the same age and live in Livingsfill. Since the upper-class society isn't that big, I'm sure you must know him well, right?" one of the billionaires asked with a grin.



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Chu Wenfei flashed him a smile and replied, "Of course. How can I not know him? After all, Mr. Meng is interested in one of my friend's wives."

The billionaire remarked, "Is that true? But, I have heard that Mr. Meng is a playboy. What a spoiled brat. In any case, he's way below his brother in terms of virtue.

"You see that other young man? He's Meng Wanjun's illegitimate son. Although his lowly status paled in comparison to Meng Chuan's, he is virtuous and competent. Since Meng Wanjun allowed him to stand beside him, I think the answer to who will be the next head of the Meng family has become uncertain."

Being the richest man and the new leader of Jiangbei, everything related to Meng Wanjun could draw people's attention.

As such, the Meng family's internal affairs became the favorite topic among the upper-class society in Jiangbei.

"Thank you for attending the banquet in Westlake today. I, Meng Wanjun, would like to express my gratitude to all of you."

All the guests stopped talking and turned to the stage when they heard Meng Wanjun's loud voice.

On that day, Meng Wanjun officially became the most important person around which everything in Jiangbei revolved.



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At that moment, at a corner where the guests barely noticed, a woman was standing there, her expression had turned cold, and her breathing became rapid.

Just then, a man gently placed his hand on her shoulder and comforted her, "Don't forget the purpose of our trip today. Keep calm. We have to wait until Mr. Chu returns from his solitary training."

The woman didn't utter a word and merely nodded in response.

Meanwhile, Meng Wanjun continued, "A century ago, the Meng family lived in a rural village in Livingsfill and barely had any significance. Since my ancestors refused to accept their fate, they left the village and entered the city. With wisdom and hard work, they successfully made a name and fortune for themselves. After the hard work of several generations, the Meng family finally gained a firm foothold in Jiangbei."

After pausing for a while, he added, "However, the Zhang family is cruel and jealous of our family. A few decades ago, they oppressed my family and drove my forebearers to death. My three grandpas committed suicide with a sword in front of the Zhang residence!

"Of course, the tragedy of the Meng family was only one of the atrocities that the Zhang family has committed. In fact, the Zhang family was the mastermind behind numerous tragic incidents!



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Hence, it is no exaggeration to say that Jiangbei had suffered for a long time under the leadership of the Zhang family. Since most prominent figures of Jiangbei have gathered at the banquet in Westlake today, I, on behalf of the heavens, shall mete out punishment for Zhang Jiuling!”

Boom!

The next moment, a few-meter-tall cross made of stone was erected at the back of the hall.

An elderly man could be seen hanging on the cross.

The man in tattered clothes looked disheveled, and his body was full of bloody wounds.

One could hardly believe that the elderly man before them was none other than Zhang Jiuling, the head of the Zhang family and the former director of Jiangbei Martial Arts Association.

“Grandpa!” The woman who stood in the corner growled when she saw the elderly man.

Her eyes turned bloodshot as tears began to form.

She wanted to rush to the front with a sword, but the middle-aged man beside her stopped her.

Lu Ziming held onto Zhang Zixi and persuaded her nervously, “Zixi, calm down! There are many skilled fighters who are protecting the Meng family now. You and I are no match for them. Our only option



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is to wait until Mr. Chu returns. Right now, only Mr. Chu can save your grandpa.”



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"But, won't it be too late then? We have no idea when Mr. Chu will come out of his solitary training. I'm afraid Grandpa won't be able to last till then."

Among the crowd, Zhang Zixi was hiding in a corner as tears brimmed in her reddened eyes.

She had always been by her grandpa's side from the moment she learned how to walk.

Hand-to-hand combat training, swordsmanship practice, literature study, and lessons on the ways of the world were some of the things that Zhang Jiuling had taught her.

It could be said that Zhang Jiuling had taught her all the wisdom and skills he had picked up throughout his life.

To Zhang Zixi, the man that was hanging on the cross before her was more than just an elder. He was her mentor and the person she trusted and depended on the most on the planet.

She couldn't accept him dying in front of her.

She had to save him. She couldn't lose the only family she had left.

"Zixi, calm down. What are you going to do even if you get up there? The Meng family has strong fighters on their side. In fact, they're so strong that even your grandpa didn't last more than a few blows from them. Have you forgotten that?"



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"If both of us go up there now, we'll only be handing ourselves to him on a silver platter. You know more than I do the reason why Meng Wanjun decided to hold such an elaborate party here at the Westlake. He's trying to bait you. So you have to be patient and keep a cool head. Let's go back and wait for Mr. Chu. If he's not out yet, let's beg him to."

Lu Ziming held onto Zhang Zixi as he tried his best to persuade her.

The night when the Zhang family was attacked, Lu Ziming rushed to the site immediately once he had gotten the news, but he couldn't be of much help due to his limited capabilities.

In the end, Zhang Jiuling was the one who fought with the men in black to stall for time and pleaded with Lu Ziming to escape with the heavily injured Zhang Zixi to protect the last of the Zhang family line.

Since Zhang Jiuling had entrusted his granddaughter to Lu Ziming. It was only natural that he would protect the girl with all his might.

Zhang Zixi shook her head at Lu Ziming's suggestion. "It's pointless, Mr. Lu. So what if he does agree to come out of his solitary training? The Zhang family and Mr. Chu are nothing more than strangers. I even offended him before. I'm sure he won't help the Zhang family or me. Besides, the opponent is so powerful. Can Mr. Chu even handle them by himself? How can you be



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sure that he'll risk his life for people that are practically strangers to him?

Zhang Zixi's eyes were filled with despair as she hung her head.

Lu Ziming couldn't come up with a retort to her desolate remark.

He knew that she was right. *Even if Ye Fan appeared right on time, why would he help the Zhang family?*

Besides, after he narrowly escaped the fight at Eastsea, no one has any idea what his true abilities is now.

With that thought in mind, the sliver of hope that Lu Ziming was clinging on to was gone.

As he and Zhang Zixi fell into a woeful silence, Meng Wanjun suddenly raised a sword on the stage.

The bright sunlight reflected off the sharp edge of the blade, showcasing its fatality.

He swept his gaze around the area and shouted in a deep baritone, "Zhang Zixi, I know you're here somewhere hiding among the crowd. I'll give you ten seconds to show yourself. If you're one second late, I'll plunge this sword into your grandpa's body."

He continued, "If I still don't see you after I swing



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my sword ten times, I'll make sure your grandpa will be on his way to the afterlife."

Meng Wanjun's voice echoed loudly across the area.

He pinned his fierce gaze on a specific spot downstage.

Lu Ziming was right.

One of the reasons why Meng Wanjun held the party at Westlake was to declare the Meng family had taken over the reins over Jiangbei to all relevant parties. The other reason was to lure Zhang Zixi out of hiding so that he could eradicate the Zhang family line.

Meng Wanjun was a meticulous man, especially toward his enemies. He would never leave a potential threat that would return and stab him in the back alone.

Furthermore, he had heard much about Zhang Zixi's immense talent.

He was well aware of the consequence of not killing her. *I'm sure if I let her off today, her descendants would grow to pose a threat to mine in the future.*

Meng Wanjun had promised his son that the feud between the Zhang and the Meng family would end with him. As such, he swore that he would end the Zhang family's lineage once and for all.



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Swish!

A second passed, and Meng Wanjun stabbed his sword through Zhang Jiuling's arm.

As a Grandmaster, Zhang Jiuling's integrity was much stronger than others.

Despite being humiliated and tortured, he still wore a smile. "Meng Wanjun, you should stop wasting your time. My granddaughter has already left Jiangbei. She's not here anymore. She won't show up even if you kill me today."

Raising his voice, he added, "Of course, that doesn't mean that she won't come back in the future. I believe that she will return one day to take back all the things that the Meng family had taken from the Zhang family."

Meng Wanjun shook his head. "I bet you're saying all these to your granddaughter, right? Well, let me tell you something I did before I annihilated the Zhang family. I've sealed every exit leaving Livingsfill. So, sad to say, your granddaughter is still here in Livingsfill."

"And based on her feelings for you, I'm sure she's among these people here offstage," Meng Wanjun taunted Zhang Jiuling, confidence dripping off his every word. He then stabbed Zhang Jiuling's right arm again.

Fresh blood spewed out from his wound, drenching the large stone column red. Some even



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ran down along the length of the column, leaving a bloody trail. It was a mortifying scene.

Swish!

Meng Wanjun thrust his sword twice more into Zhang Jiuling.

When Zhang Jiuling's limbs were riddled with holes, Meng Wanjun spoke again with a chilling voice.

"Zhang Zixi, your grandpa has done so much for you. He even risked his life all so you could escape safely that night. How unfortunate that he isn't as important to you as you to him. Since that is the case, I won't waste my time any further. I'll let you watch your grandpa takes his last breath if that is your wish."

Meng Wanjun had lost his patience and decided to end the farce with the fifth stab.

He pulled back his sword and aimed it at Zhang Jiuling's throat.

"Stop, you b*stard!" A voice rang out from the crowd, filled with hate and anger.

The long table exploded, sending debris flying in every direction. A sword made from energy emerged from the ground.

With lightning speed, it shot toward the stage.



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"W-What is that?"

"Is that like a new weapon or something?"

A commotion rose within the crowd at the explosive energy coming from the sword.

They had never seen such a scene before in a technological era where guns and cannons were used in wars.

Some wealthy businessmen even assumed it was a laser fired from a newly developed weapon.

"You finally decided to show yourself, huh?"

Faced with the oncoming sword energy, Meng Wanjun wasn't the slightest bit panicked, instead, a glimmer of triumph shone in his eyes.

With a wave of his arm, numerous armed men revealed themselves from their hiding spots and started shooting at Zhang Zixi, who was dashing forward like a madwoman.

A few thousand rounds of bullets were fired simultaneously, forming a web that was aiming for Zhang Zixi.

Luckily, the woman had already leaped into the air when the armed men fired their shots. Otherwise, most of the crowd would have sported a hole or two by then.

Anxiety crept up on Lu Ziming when Zhang Zixi



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launched her surprise attack.

"Zixi, come back! You're digging your own grave!"

Yet, no matter how hard he yelled, Zhang Zixi was still charging toward Meng Wanjun like a bull.

Her gaze was determined and filled with an acceptance that she would die.

It was meaningless for her to go on with her life after her grandpa died, anyway.

"How rash," Lu Ziming sighed.

Without any other options, he dashed to Zhang Zixi's side.

After all, he was already exposed from the moment Zhang Zixi attacked.

He couldn't escape even if he wanted to.

"Leave the armed men to me, and go save your grandpa. Let's finish this quickly before those people get here. Or else, we really might die here," Lu Ziming said in a grave tone.



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Lu Ziming soon reached Zhang Zixi's side and unleashed a punch of accumulated Qi in the armed men's direction.

His punch managed to put a hole in the web of bullets.

The affected bullets began free-falling from the sky and onto the ground.

It was a scene of raining bullets.

After stopping the bullets, the force from Lu Ziming's punch continued to traverse forward with the same momentum.

A chorus of pained shouts sounded and an armed man up ahead was flung backward, the force from the punch had him spewing blood out of his mouth.

"Zixi, now! Hurry!" Lu Ziming yelled.

Zhang Zixi used that opportunity to aim her sword at Meng Wanjun.

"Meng Wanjun, I'll kill you today to avenge for all the lives you've taken."

Her eyes were bloodshot and her expression was one of mania.

Her hatred for him burned so vigorously that it stung her heart.



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She wanted nothing more than to cut Meng Wanjun into pieces.

"Dodge it, Father!"

Meng Chuan's eyes went wide, shocked by the sudden appearance of Zhang Zixi from the rain of bullets.

Meng Yilong immediately got up and ran toward his father, prepared to jump in front of Meng Wanjun while shouting frantically.

However, Meng Wanjun didn't show any fear in the face of the precarious situation.

He stood still like a statue with his hand folded behind his back.

His dark eyes gleamed with disdain as he watched Zhang Zixi charging toward him.

"Get out of the way, Father! It'll be too late if you don't move now."

Dread filled Meng Yilong at the sight of his father standing still.

Despite his son's pleas, Meng Wanjun remained standing in place with a smirk.

It was a smirk of a victor that was looking down on the loser, and it was also like an arrogant king that was overlooking his empire.



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"The Zhang family will be gone from this day onward," Meng Wanjun announced.

His declaration was like a sentence from a deity up in the heavens in the crowd's ears. It was a judgment for the Zhang family.

At that moment, three figures dressed in all black appeared out of the blue. Their movements were agile and swift.

In a matter of minutes, they had reached Zhang Zixi.

The three figures then released a powerful aura that was akin to that of a bright sun.

Even Lu Ziming, who practiced martial arts for half of his life, felt a surge of terror and shock rising within him despite being thirty feet away.

"This is bad. Zixi, run!" Lu Ziming bellowed.

Still tied to the cross, Zhang Jiuling saw the danger closing in on Zhang Zixi. Despite being on the brink of death, he squeezed the remaining bit of energy from his core to roar, "Zixi, run!"

However, it was too late.

There was no hesitation in the three figures' attack.

Their assaults were ferocious and consecutive like a raging storm.



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"Heavenly Wolf!"

"Demonic Tiger!"

"Green Celestial Dragon!"

Their attacks were fatal.

The horrifying assaults caused a stir in the entire area.

All at once, the crowd looked up at the sky of Westlake and saw a wolf howling, a white tiger roaring, and a green dragon soaring.

The force behind the three attacks was tremendous.

Being the target, Zhang Zixi was like a small boat on a turbulent ocean.

In a split second, the intense force struck her.

It hurled her frail body backward, breaking her bones and leaving a bloody trail.

She crashed into multiple trees and boulders standing in the way. Finally, she collapsed to the ground with a heavy thud.

Coincidentally, the place she had landed was right in front of Chu Wenfei.

Chu Wenfei was stunned into a state of speechlessness by that point. He was frozen in



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place as he helplessly watched the blood flow out and dyed her attire red.

He couldn't picture the woman that was lying on the ground on the brink of death as the same woman who had appeared before him like a queen that day.

At the moment, Zhang Zixi's chest had caved in with broken ribs piercing through her lungs, causing blood to continuously flowed out of her mouth.

The once stunning woman was now in a poor and pathetic state.

Is she going to die?

An unexplainable sadness rose within Chu Wenfei at the thought.

Even though he had only met Zhang Zixi once, her beauty, confidence, and sassiness had left a permanent mark on his mind.

He couldn't hide the woe from his face as he looked at the poor state of the woman he admired.

"Zixi! Meng Wanjun, you b*stard! Do you have no mercy? Even the ruthless Mr. Chu had left some descendants for the Lu Clan. I didn't know you had it in you to be so cruel to dash off any hope of the Zhang family," roared Lu Ziming with reddened eyes after seeing the state of Zhang Zixi.



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He had thought that Ye Fan was a cold-blooded person until he witnessed Meng Wanjun's viciousness that day.

He didn't expect Meng Wanjun to be so much crueler than Ye Fan that he was not planning to leave even a single descendent of the Zhang family alive.

At that, Meng Wanjun spat, "Mr. Chu? I don't know any Mr. Chu. How dare you compare me to someone I've never even heard of? From today onward, the whole of Jiangbei will only answer to one man, and that's me!"

He continued, "As for you, head of the Lu Clan, since you care so much for the lives of the Zhang family members, I'll do you a favor. I'll send you down to hell with them."

Meng Wanjun peered down at Lu Ziming with a triumphant smile.

He enjoyed being all-powerful. Having others' lives hanging in his hands was an immense high he could never get over, especially if they were who he had once looked up to.

He recalled he used to dread the Zhang family and the Lu Clan.

Yet now, the fate of these scarily-powerful families lay in his hands.

Turning to look at the three figures, Meng Wanjun



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said politely, "I'll need your help to deal with him."

The three figures turned around and fixed their intense gazes at Lu Ziming.

The second Lu Ziming felt their stare, a chill ran down his spine and his scalp started to tingle.

He would only get that feeling when he was face-to-face with a Grandmaster at its peak or a Supreme.

"W-Who are you people? H-How did the Meng family gain so many elites?"

Lu Ziming stuttered in horror with a face white as a sheet.

"Why are you asking so many questions? You'll be dying soon enough anyway." Meng Wanjun shook his head.

Swoosh!Swoosh!Swoosh!

The next moment, sounds of something cutting through the air echoed.

Under his horrified gaze, Lu Ziming saw the three figures rapidly closing in on him with three attacks coming at him from different directions.

He wanted to evade the oncoming attack, but they were too fast.

Before he could move, he felt the blast on his



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chest.

Next his gut, then his back.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Three consecutive blows struck Lu Ziming's body.

Waves after waves of ferocious Qi slammed into Lu Ziming's body. The overwhelming force tore his muscles from the inside out. Unable to bear the stress on his body, blood spluttered from his mouth.

Lu Ziming's steady breathing soon turned shaky.

Finally, he fell to the ground like a tattered doll.

The handful of attacks from the three figures had left Zhang Zixi and Lu Ziming barely hanging on to their lives.

The gap in their capabilities was so wide they didn't even have a chance to retaliate.

However, they were still breathing, albeit barely hanging on to their lives.

Meng Wanjun waved his hand, gesturing for someone to tie them onto the cross with Zhang Jiuling.

He then watched as his subordinates poured gasoline on them.



Chapter 1886

Standing on the summit of Westlake, Meng Wanjun raised the flaming torch in his hand as he looked down at the crowd before him.

The flame danced as the cool breeze blew.

Meng Wanjun stared down like a ruler of the land as his voice rang across the entire Jiangbei.

"From today onward, I will reign over Jiangbei!"

He tossed the torch toward the sky.

The crowd watched with terror as the three tied to the cross were engulfed by a roaring flame.

The fire was burning vigorously for one second before the crowd felt a sudden temperature drop as a gust of cold wind blew.

They watched as the roaring flame slowly extinguished.

They couldn't help the shudder running across their bodies at the abnormal atmosphere.

"Huh? What happened? Someone bring me another torch!" Meng Wanjun requested with a frown.

Yet, the burning torch was extinguished once again.

An uneasy knot tightened in Meng Wanjun's guts at the eerie sight.



Chapter 1886

"Oh, my God! Look! What is that?"

A call from the crowd broke the eerie silence.

Everyone quickly turned around, looking in the direction pointed.

Thousands of eyes landed on the deep end of Westlake.

They saw a slender figure walking casually on the surface of the lake.

The cold wind started picking up when everyone felt a murderous intent strike them.

Despite the fact that the wind was blowing, the grass and trees were still, while the insects and birds stayed quiet within ten miles surrounding the figure.

At that moment, the figure approaching them from Westlake seemed like a demon from hell descending upon them.



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Chapter 1887

Initially, when the people turned to look far into the horizon, they only saw a white blurry figure on Westlake.

No one paid much attention to it at the start, thinking that it was but a bird a distance away.

It was only when the figure came closer did the people catch a clear view of what that blurry shape was—a person.

The man was swashed in green fabric.

When the wind blew, it billowed the stray hairs in front of his face.

His slender figure was proudly upright.

What stunned everyone more was that the man was walking on the surface of Westlake as if he was treading mere land. There was not a drop of water on him.

Furthermore, every time he took a step, the people could see that the lake water under his foot froze.

At that very moment, it was as if the entire place had turned into a wintry world.

As the man came closer and closer, the temperature dropped rapidly. For a moment, the people were sure that winter solstice had come.

“W-What?”



Chapter 1887

"How is this possible?"

"Is he human?"

Everyone was going insane at the sight of how water was turning into ice under his feet. They were all looking at the thin figure as if he was a ghost.

They narrowed their eyes in an attempt to catch a clear glimpse of his face, but when he was finally within range of their sight, they realized that he was wearing a dragon mask.

"The D-Dragon King?"

"T-That's the god—Dragon King!" someone from the crowd cried out.

When he was younger, he had heard a tale from his elders about how there was a dragon god residing under Westlake with the purpose of protecting Livingsfill. That dragon was also why Livingsfill had peaceful weather.

"I get it now! Our intrusion must have disrupted Dragon King's peace. The Dragon King under the lake must be angry and is now punishing us!" an elderly man yelled.

No longer able to stand their yells, Chu Wenfei kicked at the elderly man.

"F*cking hell, don't you know how to shut up? Dragon King? Hah, such nonsense! Are you blind?"



Chapter 1887

Can't you see that it's a mask? It's someone wearing a mask!"

Chu Wenfei was scowling, wondering how the idiot had managed to get rich.

Is it that easy to earn a living in the south? How did a fool like him become a billionaire?

Chu Wenfei was baffled.

While he was still at a loss for words, Meng Chuan was starting to lose his composure.

As a matter of fact, the moment the familiar dragon mask appeared in front of him, Meng Chuan's eyes widened.

"I-It's him? It's that guy? But... But that's not possible! I've already sent someone to deal with him. By now, that brat should be full of holes! No, that's not him. It can't be him."

After a brief moment of panic, Meng Chuan regained his senses.

He did not believe that the masked person in front of him would be the same person as the one who had crossed him continuously at the auction the other day.

"This must be a coincidence. It's probably a coincidence that they have the same mask," was what Meng Chuan said to console himself.



Chapter 1887

Evidently, Meng Chuan was shaking in his boots.

He was scared that they were the same person.

If that was the case, Meng Chuan could guess what the person was there for.

Right then, his father, Meng Wanjun, sensed his son's strange reactions.

Thus, he turned and asked, "Do you know this person?"

"No! No, I don't. How can I possibly know someone as powerful as this?" Meng Chuan hastily denied it.

Whoosh!

By then, the cold wind had invaded and blanketed the entire island.

The figure was getting clearer as the person approached the people.

At the same time, the people were getting more and more fearful.

Right then, Chu Wenfei sensed something amiss. Doubt bloomed in his chest, and he narrowed his eyes to slits and stared at the newcomer.

Although the dragon mask had covered his face, a sense of familiarity washed over Chu Wenfei as the figure came closer to them.



Chapter 1887

Could it be him?

The thought only appeared for a second before Chu Wenfei shoved it away.

Back then, he had watched the burial of that man with his own two eyes.

Someone who had returned to the earth could not possibly come back out alive.

*D*mn it, what's with me recently? Why am I thinking about that guy again? Could it be that I miss him? He's not a girl. Why am I missing him?*

Chu Wenfei shook his head and chuckled before returning his focus to the scene unfolding in front of him.

Although he did not know who was approaching them, his instincts told him that something grand was about to take place at Westlake.

"That's... Mr. Chu! Mr. Chu's here! Zhang Zixi, Mr. Chu's here. I knew it. I knew that Mr. Chu was not a heartless man. He wouldn't have let us die just like that."

Lu Ziming, who was on the verge of death and barely conscious on the cross, could vaguely see the thin figure walking toward him.

He had seen Ye Fan in his dragon mask before, so Lu Ziming was almost certain that the one coming toward them was Ye Fan.



Chapter 1887

It was that man who once mortified the entire world.

He's here! He's here, angry and ready to rise like a phoenix from the ashes!

Although Ye Fan was the man who annihilated his clan, at that moment, Lu Ziming was looking at Ye Fan as if he was a believer looking at his god.

Tears streamed down his face.

"Is... Is that really Mr. Chu?"

Zhang Zixi could barely breathe.

Blood was blurring her vision.

She could not see the man's figure clearly; she could only sense an intense wave of energy coming toward her.

It must be Ye Fan. It must be the power of the first on the Sky Ranking.

At that very moment, Zhang Zixi was thrilled.

She felt like a fangirl who finally saw her idol.

She never dreamed of a day when the one she admired and looked up to would come to rescue her.

Feelings of gratitude and bliss filled her heart.



Chapter 1887

Despite her excitement, however, she could not help but worry.

She knew that Ye Fan had nearly died back then, and she did not know how much the man had recovered since then.

In other words, she did not know if his previous injuries would affect his battle prowess.

She had no idea whether or not he would be able to deal with the Meng family's secret fighters.

All kinds of emotions swarmed into Zhang Zixi's heart—excitement, worry, and fear.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

On Westlake, the man continued treading forward.

Every raise of his foot brought up a gust of chilly air.

Every step he took, ice formed under his foot.

The strange sight sent chills down everyone's spine.

The billionaires on Heart Island had gone mad.

They could not imagine that a human would be able to manipulate the elements of the world.

"Is... Is this really not just special effects?"



Chapter 1887

The billionaires gasped and dropped their jaws in shock.

They could feel their entire worldview crumbling into pieces.

They never thought that a scene, rare even in television shows, would play out right in front of them.

"Ignorant fools. I've told you that summer cicadas should never speak of snow. You've never seen true ice, but that doesn't mean winter doesn't exist. You'll never know how powerful someone can be in the world you cannot see."

The look in Chu Wenfei's was a contemptuous one as he spoke to the billionaires. Each and every one of his words dripped with pride.

He felt that they were all living under the rock, ignorant and a joke.

"Is he one of your men?"

Meng Wanjun's face had turned rather pale.

Although the man on the lake had yet to reach them and was still a hundred meters away, Meng Wanjun could sense something threatening weighing on him. That was a feeling not even Chu Sect's elders gave him.



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Chapter 1887



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