







In contrast to the panic experienced by her allies, Junie appeared as unconcerned as ever. Even in the face of grave danger, there was not a trace of fear on her serene expression.

Under the moonlight, Junie stood her ground. Her confidence made her beauty all the more intoxicating.

As her skirt and hair billowed in the wind, she merely smiled at her approaching foe.

King of Fighters interpreted this as mockery toward him.

"What's so funny? Aren't you afraid of death?" he demanded, incensed by her reaction. "Soon you wouldn't even have the opportunity to shed tears!"

Fueled by his rage, Mo Gucheng summoned all of his might behind the swing.

"Stop! How dare you!" Gaius shouted as King of Fighters was closing in on Junie.

It's no use. King of Fighters and his men have already made up their minds to fight to the death today.









"For you to remain alive is a desecration to the hallowed grounds of China and of War God Castle's reputation!"

Mo Gucheng's eyes narrowed. No longer livid, his expression was one of righteous justice.

"It's all over, little girl."

Like the verdict of death, his proclamation echoed throughout the night.

Just when King of Fighters thought that the girl before him was doomed, Junie smiled once more.

"Sorry to disappoint you again, King of Fighters."

"Eh?" King of Fighters halted in his tracks in confusion. Before he could make sense of what she said, the space ahead began to fill with a cold breeze.

A powerful force from afar began to take shape. Still formless, it lifted the pebbles and sand up in the air which began to solidify from cold. An instant later, every drop of moisture in the air turned into ice.

Ice daggers, too many to count, soon filled the night









sky. As if obeying an unseen master, the daggers hurled across the night sky toward King of Fighters as one. They traveled so quickly that only a soft whooshing sound could be heard in their wake.

Mo Gucheng stared at the icy daggers in horror.

We have another powerful foe. Or should I say equal of me?

Faced with millions of icy daggers, Mo Gucheng found himself unable to carry out his threat against Junie.

Whoosh!

The icicles broke apart in midair and in the next instant, a hailstorm wrecked havoc upon the scene.

King of Fighters did not manage to withstand the hailstorm very long. With a mighty shudder, King of Fighters coughed up blood and found himself whisked away like a kite lost in a hurricane.

"King of Fighters!" Tang Hao and Sword Saint shouted in a panic.

"D*mn it, who is it this time?" Tang Hao bellowed.









"How do you cowards have so many allies?"

Aren't they done yet? They've already sent forth three Supremes. How many more do they have?

"How many Supremes did Tang Yun send over in secret?" Tang Hao scowled.

Though Sword Saint said nothing, his expression grew graver.

Gazing into the distance, his heart expressed what his lips could not. I hope it's not a supreme grandmaster this time. If it is, War God Castle would undoubtedly be overrun. Junie's involvement when it was an even fight was enough to turn the tides against us. If another supreme grandmaster appears on their side, all hope for our victory would be lost.

"We'll improvise later, Tang Hao," Sword Saint said in a low voice. "Be prepared to retreat if things go south. There's no need to sacrifice ourselves foolishly."

As the situation was taking a turn for the worse, Sword Saint was beginning to consider backup plans.

Tang Hao nodded in agreement.

As the two of them were discussing about a strategy, another gust of chilly wind blew at them from the depths of the night.

The cold that struck the core made tough warriors like Tang Hao shudder involuntarily.

This time, the wind accompanied the appearance of a blurry figure.

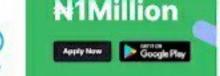
It wore a long billowing robe. Under the moonlight, a flash of icy blue was momentarily visible.

"Eh? Who is this?" Tang Hao and Sword Saint frowned uncertainly.

It was only until the figure approached them that Sword Saint and Tang Hao were able to get a clearer look at the newcomer's face.

Upon recognizing him, they burst out into a laughter of relief.

"Su, it's you! Bloody hell, you scared me. I'd thought that you've come to the aid of these scoundrels!"









With a dash forward, he pulled the newcomer into an embrace like an old friend.

Even Sword Saint felt relieved at the man's arrival.

"It's been a long time, Muqiu," Sword Saint said warmly. "Where have you been? We miss you, brother."

The blue-haired man before them was Su Muqiu, one of the six pillars of China and the Ice Emperor. After disappearing for many years, he had reappeared at last.

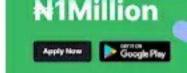
"You rascal," roared King of Fighters boisterously.

"Watch where you fire, will you? You'd almost killed me!"

When Sword Saint and Tang Hao were busy embracing Su Muqiu, King of Fighters emerged halfirritated, and half-delighted to join them.

Though he was pleased with the appearance of an old friend, he was annoyed by the fact that he almost became a casualty of friendly fire.

In his excitement, King of Fighters dashed towards Su Muqiu to give him a friendly punch on the back.











"Let's catch up later," he said at last. "We have work to do. By the combined might of all four of us, we must first get rid of the intruders. Even if we aren't able to kill them today, we will punish them soundly for their crimes. How dare such a despicable company of misfits call themselves Dragon Slayers? Today, by the might of us four pillars, be prepared to be taught a lesson!"

Mo Gucheng cast an eye over Gaius and his comrades with an insolent smile.

"After dealing with you," he continued with relish.
"We'll deal with your Dragon Master!"

Thump!

As soon as the words left Mo Gucheng's lips, the blue-haired man slapped the former so hard he flew back from the impact, a gash appearing on his cheek.

"Are you insane, Su?" Tang Hao howled. "Why did you assault Mo Gucheng for? They are the enemy, not us!"

Su Muqiu said nothing. Instead, he turned to address Junie who stood beside him. "Junie, where











is Dragon Master?"

"He'd just left in that direction," she said with a smile as she pointed. "If you called loud enough, he might still hear you."

Su Muqiu nodded. Ignoring the stupefied gazes of Sword Saint and his company, he dropped to his knees facing the direction Junie indicated.

"Su Muqiu, Water God and Ice Emperor, at your service, Dragon Master!"

The cold wind blew more fiercely, as if reaffirming his allegiance.

At the sight of Ice Emperor on his knees, the three Supremes of War God Castle were flabbergasted.



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"Ice God?"

"Dragon Master?"

"Has Ice Emperor joined the Chu Sect like the rest of them?"

Tang Hao and the rest stood rooted to the spot with waves of disbelief crashing over them.

Fate has made fools out of us! He was our comrade in arms! What the hell happened that made him betray China to join the Chu Sect? Cruel irony!

Before that discovery, it had never occurred to Sword Saint and the rest that the reach of the Chu Sect was that far and wide to be able to infiltrate the highest orders in China's martial arts scene.

They remained adamant in the belief that the Supremes had been sent by Tang Yun to fight them.

The only person in the world powerful enough to mobilize this number of Supremes for their bidding must be the leader of the Chu Sect, Tang Yun. Just like before.

However, they almost forgot that there was another



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who was capable of such a feat.

Ye Fan, master of the Dragon Slayers!

Of course, the fact remained a secret to those within Dragon God Hall.

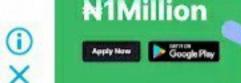
Ye Fan's true powers would undoubtedly shake the world when revealed!

The cold wind blew even more fiercely as the silhouettes stood at attention under the night sky, having a ceasefire from the startling revelation of Su Muqiu's allegiance.

With the addition of Water God, the number of Supremes on Gaius' side had risen to four. That's not even including Junie and her healing capabilities. The tables have been completely turned!

Faced with greater odds than before, Sword Saint and his company were beginning to contemplate a retreat strategy as opposed to an offensive one.

"D*mn it, how did things get so far out of hand? Ice Emperor betrayed us all!" King of Fighters gritted his teeth in consternation as he stood bearing the scars of his recent altercation.











His delight at having his old friend appear had vanished completely at Ice Emperor proclaiming his loyalty to Ye Fan.

Even the usually stoic Sword Saint and Tang Hao found it difficult to contain their emotions.

"That's not good," Sword Saint muttered nervously. Whatever conviction that was present in his voice was swept away by a sharp gust of bitter wind.

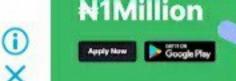
The Five Dragon Slayers stood before them like a range of impassable mountains. The crushing presence they exuded caused Sword Saint and the rest to shudder.

It was the first time in many years China was plunged into such a deep state of danger since the upheaval at Chu Sect.

The battle that was to come was most likely to cause the downfall of three of the pillars of China.

At that thought, Mo Gucheng's face turned pale.

Out of all the Supremes here, I am in the worst shape! I shouldn't have walked into this fight full of swagger.











While King of Fighters was busy feeling despair, Ye Fan was already far away from the scene of battle. With Tang Yun in his arms, he was making his way eastward of Jingzhou.

Along the way, Ye Fan had ascertained Tang Yun's condition and did not expect that Tang Yun would be as seriously injured as she was.

She's even more injured than that time on the forbidden grounds within the Chu residence. Back then, Tang Yun had only been consumed by her training and had her veins damaged and left unable to train further. This time, however, her injuries appear to be life-threatening.

"How did you let yourself get defeated to this point?"
Ye Fan muttered incredulously. "You are the leader
of the Chu Sect!"

She doesn't look like she's going to make it, I'm afraid. Her elemental force is draining alongside her life force.

"Say something! Don't fall asleep. You wouldn't be able to wake up."

After leaving the battlefield behind, Tang Yun's









tenseness seemed to have relaxed.

The fatigue deep in her bones washed over her, making it almost impossible to remain conscious.

Having faced such a large battle so soon after delivering a child, Tang Yun had managed to cling on to life through sheer force of will.

If it were any other woman in her shoes, they would have perished from the pain long ago.

Being a crude man, Ye Fan clearly did not understand the type of strain birthing a child would bring to a woman's body.

Instead, he had thought that the injuries suffered by Tang Yun were merely caused by King of Fighters.

"Yun? Don't you frighten me. Keep your eyes open and talk to me."

Despite Ye Fan's pleas and his efforts to transfer some of his own elemental force into her body, Tang Yun remained unresponsive.

The true cause of Tang Yun's fading strength was the loss of her life force. Even if Ye Fan had given









her all of his own elemental force, it would not be able to compensate for the loss of her life force.

Throughout the journey, Tang Yun lolled lifelessly in Ye Fan's arms as she drifted in and out of consciousness.

At last, Tang Yun could not even keep her eyes open. She was merely staring vacantly out of the slits between her eyelids.

Just when her world was about to be plunged into darkness, she felt a warm sensation around her lips.

Tang Yun tensed up in shock and jolted awake as if she had been electrocuted. Wrenching her eyes open, she saw a young and handsome face pressed against her own as their lips were locked together.

They were so close in proximity together that Tang Yun was able to count Ye Fan's eyelashes.

In an instant, Tang Yun's cheeks flushed crimson as her heart began thumping wildly. Even her breathing had become ragged.

However, it wasn't the first time they had been that intimate. They had gone from something more than









a kiss at the Chu residence and even in the cave on the remote island.

The only difference between those times and now is that that we are both in our own minds.

So much so that Tang Yun's anxiety and shame intensified at the very thought.

After the initial shock had worn off, Tang Yun began to struggle. Being rendered unable to speak, she sounded her muffled protests against his lips.

Ye Fan pulled himself away at once. "If you close your eyes despite me telling you not to," he threatened with a roguish grin, "I'm going to kiss you again."

"You..." Tang Yun was beside herself with indignant rage.

How is such an extent of shamelessness possible?

Ye Fan did not seem abashed at all. On the contrary, he laughed even harder.

Emboldened by the stability of her condition, he hastened his steps in order to bring Tang Yun as far









from danger as he could.

Rather than returning to his manor in Jingzhou, Ye Fan set his sights on Fenghai.

Only great-grandma is able to cure a wound as serious as this. Besides, it's been a while since I last paid her a visit.

"Halt!" A rough voice suddenly shouted. "Who goes there? This is forbidden territory! How did you enter?"

Before he had gotten very far, Ye Fan found himself surrounded by the soldiers in charge of sealing off the area.

At the sound of the first warning, a swarm of soldiers marched swiftly toward him and had him heavily surrounded.

Within several seconds, Ye Fan found himself staring down the barrels of rifles pointed at him.

The soldiers were so tense that even the slightest movement by their prisoner would trigger their firearms.











Despite being heavily outnumbered, Ye Fan merely gazed at them once before continuing on his way.

"Hey, stop moving! Stick them up! If you don't identify yourself, we are going to start opening fire!"

For some reason, the soldiers felt an inexplicable sense of fear in Ye Fan's presence.

Though we have outnumbered and outgunned him, it feels like this young man is not even human like the rest of us. He looks at us like we are mere mortals who don't deserve his attention.

Though they outnumbered Ye Fan, the soldiers could not help but feel intimidated by his godly presence.



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