

2101 Mysterious man

Late at night, in a secluded spot in the back of the Independent State:

An elderly man was dressed in black and rapidly dashed through the night as though he was a phantom sliding into the ground.

Soon, the elderly man's figure paused, and he examined the woman in the distance.

Third Elder's face was icy as he stared at Nie Linglong.

He found it really strange why the President made him follow a woman like this and even said... this woman might threaten his safety?! An absolutely unrealistic, fantasy story!

"Follow her further but maintain your distance. Don't let the target discover you," Third Elder quietly said into his walkie-talkie.

"Third Elder, this woman has left the Independent State's boundaries. Should we keep following her?"

A voice was soon emitted from the walkie-talkie.

Third Elder was silent for a moment before calmly asking, "Did the target discover you?"

"Absolutely not."

"Good. Then keep following her," Third Elder coldly commanded.

"However... Third Elder, the area ahead is outside the limits of the Independent State. If any incidents occur, our people won't arrive in time. Should we inform the President first and ask for her opinion?"

"Are you joking?" Third Elder aloofly rebuked, "Do we need to disturb the President's dreams with such a minor matter?"

"Alright, we'll listen to Third Elder."

The people in hiding instantly disappeared and Third Elder also swiftly followed.

About half an hour passed.

...

“You’re here.”

A man wearing a veil arrived.

“Sir, the Nie family might be uncontrollable now. Thankfully, the impostor was killed by that idiot, Nameless Nie, or else I might’ve also been exposed. However... even so, Patriarch and Madam Nie are also suspecting me now, so they might raise cautions against me at any time,” Nie Linglong reported to the mysterious man.

“Heh.”

The veiled man chuckled lightly. “It’s fine if things with the Nie family fails. It’s not an issue. Right now, Worryless Nie is back with the Nie family, and there’s a pair of rings in her possession. Your current mission is to retrieve those rings.”

“Okay, I understand.” Nie Linglong nodded.

“Oh right... Nameless Nie is a bit annoying. Sir, if we eliminate Nameless Nie, the Nie family will become nothing, and we can easily capture the Nie family,” Nie Linglong added.

The mysterious veiled man fell into silence before responding, “Alright. If there’s an opportunity, eliminate Nameless Nie. But remember, you don’t need to directly attack him. There are many methods to kill people like him.”

“Understood,” Nie Linglong replied and turned to leave.

“Hold on,” the mysterious man called.

“Sir.” Nie Linglong looked at him.

“Linglong, did you not realize you were followed for so long?” the mysterious man asked.

Nie Linglong’s lips turned up. “I discovered ages ago, but they’re just flies. I originally planned to take care of them after

seeing you, Sir.”

“Mm, be more prudent.”

After saying that, the mysterious man turned and swiftly disappeared into the pitch-dark night.

Only Nie Linglong remained.

Nie Linglong expressionlessly inspected her surroundings.

“What? Woriless Nie sent you here to die?”

A cold glint flashed through someone’s eyes.

This woman actually discovered them a long time ago and confronted them without any fear. How confident.

“Third Elder, we’re exposed! What should we do?!”

2102 Swords drawn

Third Elder deliberated for a moment before coldly saying, "I'll meet her."

Third Elder walked out from his hiding spot.

"Heh, I was wondering who it was. So it's an elder from the Fearless Alliance."

Nie Linglong stared at Third Elder, her lips curling up with an inexplicable smile.

"Little girl, our President brought you back to the Nie family when you were young, and the Nie family raised you to adulthood, but you're ungratefully repaying their kindness by stabbing them in the back. Not only do you want to kill Nameless Nie, but you also want to overthrow the entire Nie family. How marble-hearted you are," Third Elder coldly said to Nie Linglong.

"Marble-hearted?" Nie Linglong glanced at Third Elder and snorted. "I don't think so. I heard that you killed even your own son, so if we put it like that, aren't you more marble-hearted than me?"

Third Elder harrumphed. "Back then, the President wasn't here. So what if I sacrificed a distant son for power and prestige? However, I wouldn't treat anyone I was indebted to like you did."

"I can tell that everyone from the Fearless Alliance likes to quibble and make excuses," Nie Linglong retorted.

"Enough nonsense. Will you come with me to see the President of your own will or do I need to break your limbs and tie you up to bring back to the President?" Third Elder shouted aggressively.

Nie Linglong stared at Third Elder with a sneer. "If it was Wen Ziran from your Fearless Alliance, perhaps he would be semi-qualified to play with me. But you old and feeble weaklings..."

“You’re dead!”

Upon hearing Nie Linglong calling him an old and feeble weakling, Third Elder’s eyes shone coldly, and he turned into a black shadow, charging toward Nie Linglong.

“Forget about you. Even if Worriless Nie in her peak came here personally and you two teamed up, so what?”

As Nie Linglong spoke, a loud “bang” was heard as she fiercely slammed into Third Elder.

That noise resounded in the spectators’ ears like a clap of thunder in the summer sky.

The hidden scouts from the Fearless Alliance felt their foreheads soaked with sweat as they watched the intense fight between Third Elder and Nie Linglong underneath them.

They couldn’t intercede in this level of fighting. If they tried to help right now, it would be the same as hampering Third Elder.

“Hurry and call for support!” a scout said.

“This is outside the Independent State’s boundaries; where can we call for help?”

This location wasn’t considered inside the boundaries of the Independent State’s territory, so whether they could get into contact with people from the Fearless Alliance or not was one thing. Even if they did, it would be daytime by the time their back-up arrived.

“D*mn, Third Elder probably isn’t a match for that woman...”

The scouts couldn’t help but frown as they watched the fight below.

Right now, Third Elder’s breathing had turned rapid already.

Nie Linglong was too nimble and her figure was difficult to distinguish. He seemed to have seen similar techniques a long time ago.

“You’re a member of the Direct Line?” Third Elder demanded coldly.

Most of the Direct Line’s body techniques looked like this.

“Is there any point for a person about to die to know who I am?” Nie Linglong loosely grasped a bloody dagger as she stood in her spot.

“The Nie family... You’re the daughter of the Direct Line’s Fifth Elder!”

Third Elder suddenly recalled something.

Back then, the Direct Line’s Fifth Elder died in the great battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, and his daughter was stranded in the Independent State.

Could it be the President thought Nie Linglong to be pitiful and brought her back to the Nie family to be raised?!

What in the world was the President thinking? Didn’t she know Nie Linglong was the daughter of the Direct Line’s Fifth Elder?

Nie Linglong snorted but didn’t say anything. The dagger in her hand glinted eerily, and her speed turned extremely fast. It was incredibly difficult to see her clearly with the human eye especially on such a pitch-black night.

2103 Nameless Nie's squad

Third Elder lifted his arms like he was facing a powerful enemy when Nie Linglong reached him.

The sound of the dagger ruthlessly piercing into Third Elder's arm was heard, and fresh blood splashed everywhere.

BANG!

Third Elder reacted extremely fast and he angrily roared as he mercilessly struck Nie Linglong's abdomen, ignoring the ripping agony in his arm.

A second later, Nie Linglong retreated several steps back.

"You're truly a loyal and devoted dog." Nie Linglong surveyed Third Elder in good spirits, whose body had been nearly dyed completely red from his blood.

"A bunch of hogwash! Come here and die!" Third Elder yelled.

"You won't be so lucky this time."

Nie Linglong raised her dagger again, and there was a chilly glint reflecting off of it akin to a blood-thirsty demon.

Swish!

The cold glint flickered, dashing through the air extremely fast.

Third Elder didn't even have time to react to Nie Linglong's speed.

By the time he could react, he could feel an iciness about to pervade his chest.

In a fraction of second, a stone shot out from the dark and precisely hit the dagger in Nie Linglong's hand.

"Who?" Nie Linglong shouted coldly.

Managing to narrowly escape death, Third Elder took a deep breath and also scrutinized his surroundings.

“Oh dear, have I disturbed you?”

An extremely thin but good-looking man slowly walked out from the dark.

A man and woman followed after him.

The large character “Hire” was printed on these three people’s clothes.

“Nameless Nie’s people...”

Nie Linglong’s eyes narrowed pensively when she saw this trio.

It appeared she was completely exposed.

“Fearless Alliance, tell your President to quickly wire the payment to our captain’s account as soon as possible. We’re at the point of having nothing in the pot from how poor we’ve been lately.”

The thin man yawned before speaking to Third Elder.

Third Elder was confused. He had no idea what this person was saying. Wire the money to their captain’s account? What did that mean?

“Nie Linglong, will you keep fighting with this old man from the Fearless Alliance?”

The thin man’s gaze settled on Nie Linglong.

“Little captain, she definitely won’t have the guts to attack now that she’s seen us!”

The pretty girl laughed cheerily.

“Alright, Ah-Ya, have some fun with her,” the thin man said.

“Okay!”

The girl called Ah-Ya pulled out a dagger from her clothes too and skipped toward Nie Linglong.

Immediately, the two daggers clashed and sparks flew.

“Ahhh—”

Several exchanges later, Ah-Ya was kicked back from Nie Linglong.

“Little captain, I can’t beat her. Let’s attack with the three of us and gang up on her!”

Ah-Ya looked infuriated.

The thin man rubbed his chin. “Two grown men attacking a girl together with you... En, that’s a nice idea. I accept it.”

The trio instantly charged toward Nie Linglong.

“Bring me too! The four of us can gang up on her!”

Third Elder yelled and also joined the fighting team.

Nie Linglong was expressionless as she fended off the four attackers.

“Eh, this girl is pretty strong. Ah-Hu, pummel her to death!” the thin man took several steps back and ordered the sturdily built man next to him.

“Okay, little captain!”

The man shouted and both his fists ruthlessly slammed toward Nie Linglong.

Nie Linglong swiftly retreated back.

Kaboom!

A loud noise was heard as the strong man bashed the air and actually pummeled two deep holes in the ground with his fists.

Third Elder was rendered speechless. What weird strength was this...? If he was punched by this man...

2104 Pummel her to death

“Right! Pummel her! Pummel that little b*tch to death! Ah-Hu, give it your best! If you perform well, perhaps the Fearless Alliance will be willing to pay us more,” the thin man hastily said.

“If I pummel her to death”—the strong man nodded and turned to Third Elder—“will you give a raise?”

Third Elder nodded immediately. “We will! I’ll privately sponsor you guys with one million!”

The trio’s eyes shone when they heard that.

“Don’t go back on your word or else I’ll pummel you to death,” Ah-Hu shouted coldly before attacking Nie Linglong again.

“You overestimate yourself.”

Nie Linglong’s eyes were brimming with contempt. A flick of her dagger and it instantly pierced Ah-Hu’s wrist, blood gushing out.

However, that robust man acted like he didn’t feel any pain and his movements weren’t hindered in the slightest.

Sensing the threat of the man’s odd strength, Nie Linglong rapidly sprang backward, shooting off with the tip of her toes.

“Ah, you didn’t hit her.”

The thin man looked regretful as he rubbed his chin.

“Hmph, big idiot. Ah-Hu’s nickname is Pitbull! He doesn’t feel any pain!” Ah-Hu stuck her tongue out at Nie Linglong.

“Stop wasting your words with her. Let’s capture her alive!” Third Elder yelled between his panting.

“Say, boss, it’s fine if we killed this woman, but capturing her alive won’t do. We don’t leave any survivors behind when we attack.” The thin man shook his head.

“A motley crew.” Nie Linglong snorted and promptly leaped into the distance.

“Follow her!” Third Elder hastily yelled when he saw Nie Linglong leaving and made to chase after her.

“Hold on, hold on.”

The thin man instantly blocked Third Elder’s path.

“What?”

Third Elder was baffled.

“Say, boss, don’t you have any idea?” the thin man scratched his smooth chin.

“What do you mean?” Third Elder asked.

“What else could I mean? We can’t beat her,” the thin man responded lightheartedly.

Third Elder: “...”

“That woman is too fast and nimble but her attacks are vicious and fierce. She’s a difficult opponent. Even if we did have a fighting chance, we’d have to pay a bitter price... Two million isn’t worth it, nope!” The thin man shook his head.

“That’s right, it’s not worth it. And we’ve finished our mission already.” Ah-Ya vehemently nodded.

“Thank you,” Third Elder said while cupping his fists.

If it weren’t for these three people, his ship would’ve probably capsized and sunk today.

“It was our job, so no need to thank us. Thank your President if you must.”

After saying that, the thin man led Ah-Hu and Ah-Ya back into the night.

“Oh right, remember to wire your one million into our captain’s bank account or else we’ll pummel you to death,” the thin man yelled without looking back, and the trio quickly disappeared into the night.

...

At the Fearless Alliance headquarters, Ye Wanwan's lips twitched as she looked at Third Elder and his bandaged arm.

The scouts had fully reported the situation to her already.

What did she tell Third Elder?

Leave if he was discovered. This old guy was great. He directly went up and started fighting with Nie Linglong.

Thankfully, she had the foresight and a nagging feeling that Nie Linglong wasn't a simpleton, so she hired a squad under Nameless Nie with one million. Otherwise, Third Elder would've perished in Nie Linglong's hands this time.

"President, this was a miscalculation on my part this time. Next time, I'll definitely teach her a lesson she'll never forget!" Third Elder fumed with rage between gritted teeth.

Ye Wanwan originally intended to scold Third Elder but decided otherwise after some thinking.

2105 Worryless returns

Ye Wanwan sighed. Right now, their position was too passive and there were too many traps and murky situations they couldn't ward off.

It was like there was a pair of giant hands around them. They had to find a way to escape this situation.

“Any successes?” Ye Wanwan asked, looking at Third Elder again.

Third Elder nodded. “President, we followed Nie Linglong to the territory outside of the Independent State, where she met up with a man. Nie Linglong said that the Nie family was starting to suspect her, and it wasn't possible for her to overturn the Nie family now. However, that man ordered Nie Linglong to figure out a way to steal a pair of rings from you.”

Ye Wanwan turned pensive.

The mysterious man... wanted to steal her rings.

Ye Wanwan currently didn't know about the origin of the rings, but she was certain they were out of the ordinary.

The experts she previously encountered in China who tried to steal her ring were probably ordered by this mysterious man Third Elder was referring to.

“A mysterious man... Third Elder, are you certain it was a man?” Ye Wanwan inquired.

Third Elder was startled briefly before promptly nodding. “I'm certain.”

“Then did you see that mysterious man's appearance clearly?”

“Um...” Third Elder recalled the scene for a moment before shaking his head. “President, the man Nie Linglong met concealed his face and it was late at night, so we couldn't see his face or figure clearly at all.”

“Since their face was concealed and you didn’t clearly see their appearance or figure, how are you certain it was a man?” Ye Wanwan asked, hitting the nail on the head.

Third Elder was dumbstruck. “But... it was a man’s voice, President.”

“En, got it. Go back and rest.” Ye Wanwan waved her hand at Third Elder.

“Alright, then I’ll be taking my leave now.”

Third Elder nodded and left the office.

After he left, Ye Wanwan fell into contemplation.

It was conventional thinking that made Third Elder think he saw a man, but whether the mysterious person was a man or a woman required further observation.

As for Nie Linglong, she was completely exposed now, so she probably wouldn’t return to the Nie residence for the foreseeable future.

Right now, what was most important was for her to return to the Scarlet Flames Academy and get the headmaster to help her regain her memories.

She couldn’t remember the bits and pieces that belonged to Worryless Nie and a lot of other matters. If she knew everything, perhaps the current situation would be different.

That night, Ye Wanwan used Worryless Nie’s identity to call Elder Gong, who was far away at Scarlet Flames Academy.

On the phone, Elder Gong sounded indescribably excited.

The news that the President of the Fearless Alliance was Worryless Nie had spread to every corner of the Independent State, and everyone knew about it.

Ye Wanwan agreed with Elder Gong that she would return to Scarlet Flames Academy tomorrow.

...

The next day:

Ye Wanwan made Seven Star drive her to Scarlet Flames Academy.

The entrance of Scarlet Flames Academy was packed with people.

News about President Fearless, AKA the once demon instructor of Scarlet Flames Academy, Worriless Nie, had raged across the Academy like wildfire overnight.

In front of the gates, Elder Gong looked incredibly emotional as he stared at Ye Wanwan.

“D*mn, that’s Senior Sister Worriless? These looks... tsk tsk, I really couldn’t tell. She could clearly rely on her face to make a living, but she just relied on her real strength...”

“What the h*ll do you know? Back then, Senior Sister Worriless was our Scarlet Flames’ demon instructor and taught many outstanding top-notch mercenaries!”

2106 Toying with a monkey

“I really didn’t expect that woman from the Nie family to have been an impostor. No wonder the previous Worriless Nie from the Nie family never returned to Scarlet Flames Academy.”

Ye Wanwan presented herself to the people with her real appearance and didn’t put on any makeup. No one could’ve imagined that the Worriless Nie standing in front of them was that incredibly ugly Ye Wanwan.

“Worriless...”

Elder Gong excitedly walked toward Ye Wanwan, unable to help himself from running his eyes over every hair on her.

“Master, I’m back.”

Ye Wanwan smiled faintly at Elder Gong.

Elder Gong’s voice shifted slightly. This voice... why did it sound so familiar? Ye Wanwan’s voice was...

However, he didn’t think about it too much and immediately brought Ye Wanwan back to his residence at Scarlet Flames Academy.

After a long conversation with Elder Gong, Ye Wanwan refrained from revealing her other identity and departed for the headmaster’s office instead.

...

Inside the office, the headmaster of Scarlet Flames was wearing his reading glasses and holding a pen as he read through some documents requiring his attention.

“Worriless is here to see the headmaster.”

Ye Wanwan greeted him with a smile when she entered the headmaster’s office.

The headmaster of Scarlet Flames immediately looked up and examined Ye Wanwan.

“You’re Worriless?” The headmaster was surprised. “A young woman truly changes eighteen times between childhood and womanhood... You’ve lost your previous youth and coldness and gained some liveliness. I nearly couldn’t recognize you.”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“Headmaster, actually... I came here wanting to ask about mercenary honor points...” Ye Wanwan got straight to the point.

If it was Worriless Nie, she believed she should’ve left a lot of mercenary points at Scarlet Flames Academy.

Ye Wanwan previously inquired Elder Gong about this topic, but the elderly man wasn’t too knowledgeable about this subject, so she had no choice but to come and ask the headmaster himself. Normally speaking, any large sum of mercenary honor points was personally recorded and saved by the headmaster.

“Great, Worriless, you’re finally back... You haven’t forgotten about the three million honor points you owe Scarlet Flames Academy, right?”

The headmaster stood up and walked toward Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded.

What?!

Her Worriless Nie identity not only lacked a large sum of mercenary honor points but she also actually owed Scarlet Flames Academy three something million?!

What cosmic joke was this?!

“Worriless, do you still remember the mercenary points you owe?”

The headmaster hastily pressed when Ye Wanwan didn’t speak.

“...” I don’t! I don’t remember it at all!

“Worriless?”

Ye Wanwan looked at the elderly man. “Headmaster, have you mistaken me? I’m not Worriless Nie...”

“You aren’t Worriless?” The headmaster wore an extremely strange expression as he stared at Ye Wanwan.

“I’m definitely not Worriless Nie! Headmaster, look at me! How do I resemble Worriless Nie...? You’ve recognized the wrong person!” Ye Wanwan hastily said.

Before the headmaster could say anything else, Ye Wanwan seriously said, “Sorry for the trouble. Farewell!”

“Oh, I remember now, it’s Scarlet Flames Academy that owes Worriless Nie at least three million honor points... Ah, I’ve become muddle-headed in my age,” the headmaster mused with a shake of his head.

Ye Wanwan had just stepped outside the headmaster’s office when she suddenly heard that, so she immediately turned around and returned. “Headmaster, I’m Worriless! I’ve come back to see you!”

The headmaster glanced at her. “No, you aren’t.”

“No no no, Sir Headmaster, I’m Worriless! I’m really Worriless Nie! Look carefully!” Ye Wanwan urgently said.

“Alright, then when will you repay the three million mercenary points you owe to Scarlet Flames Academy?” The headmaster was grinning.

“...” F*ck me!

2107 Accustomed to having a deb

Ye Wanwan felt her lips twitching as she looked at the grinning headmaster. How did that saying go...

Old ginger is spicier than young ginger. This old ginger actually tricked her!

“Ah, Worriless, three million honor points isn’t some small sum... You should know that, right? You see how I didn’t hassle you all those years when you were gone from the Independent State? You must’ve returned here today to repay those honor points, right?”

The headmaster questioned her in good humor.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

Ye Wanwan didn’t refute this point. Forget about three million mercenary honor points. Even if it was 17 or 18 hundred thousand, she couldn’t manage to gather that amount, so she could imagine what an astronomical number three million honor points were.

However, what she couldn’t understand was how she owed so many honor points back then.

“Worriless, why aren’t you talking?” the headmaster asked.

“Headmaster, truthfully speaking, aside from being Worriless Nie, I have a second identity,” Ye Wanwan responded with a faint smile.

“A second identity?” The headmaster wore an odd expression. “Tell me about it.”

“Do you still remember Ye Wanwan, Headmaster?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“Ye Wanwan... That girl who still owes me several ten thousand honor points?” The headmaster nodded.

“...” He remembers quite well who owes him mercenary points.

“Sir Headmaster, truthfully speaking, I’m Ye Wanwan.”

“You’re that Ye Wanwan?”

The headmaster was astonished.

“That’s right.” Ye Wanwan nodded lightly. “The reason I previously asked you to hypnotize me was that I lost my original memories.”

Since she lost her memories, how could she still remember she owed Scarlet Flames Academy three million honor points...?

“Hold on, hold on.” The headmaster stared at Ye Wanwan and mulled over the matter for a moment before asking with a frown, “So what you’re saying is that since you lost your memories, you don’t need to repay the three million mercenary points you owe?”

“...” Although that idea did pop up...

“No no no no.” Ye Wanwan frantically shook her head and looked at him. “Sir Headmaster, you’ve misunderstood. Don’t you know me? Am I, Worryless Nie, someone like that?”

“Yes.” The headmaster nodded without any hesitation.

Ye Wanwan’s expression turned embarrassed. Was the old her really this shameless and left such an indestructible image in the headmaster’s mind...?

“Sir Headmaster, how could I be someone who would leave a debt unpaid? Look, how about you help me recover my memories first? As long as my memory’s recovered, I’ll repay every single mercenary point I owe to Scarlet Flames Academy,” Ye Wanwan promised with a smile on her lips.

The headmaster suspiciously scrutinized Ye Wanwan. “I don’t believe you.”

“Sir Headmaster, look, I already owe three million mercenary points, so a couple thousand is nothing more... I guarantee that as soon as I regain my memories and remember the honor

points I owe, I'll definitely pay everything back!" Ye Wanwan looked convicted.

The headmaster felt helpless. Why was it so difficult to ask someone to settle an account?

Was she accustomed to owing a debt? She had two identities, but both identities owed mercenary honor points to the Scarlet Flames Academy.

The headmaster was brimming with exasperation. He shouldn't have set this precedent from the start.

2108 Flashback

“Adding what you previously owe... Let me calculate it...”
The Scarlet Flames headmaster sank into contemplation.

Seeing hope, Ye Wanwan immediately grinned. “Sir Headmaster, what’s there to calculate? At that time, the moment I recover my memory, I swear I’ll pay back every point I owe. If I owe a single cent, I’ll be struck by lightning!”

“Really?” the headmaster asked uncertainly.

“Really, absolutely! Realer than actual gold!” Ye Wanwan frantically nodded.

In the end, the headmaster sighed with profound exasperation. “Fine, I’ll believe you one last time. Lie down in your usual spot.”

Ye Wanwan immediately lay down on the armchair.

The headmaster prepared for a while before moving toward Ye Wanwan.

Following the string of hints from the headmaster, Ye Wanwan soon felt her world spiraling and fatigue hitting her. Within moments, she lost consciousness completely.

...

“Grandpa, it’s so cold!”

They were on what seemed to be a snow-capped mountain, and snow was falling heavily from the sky, covering the big trees around them.

The girl was bent over as she followed the strict-looking elderly man in front of her, carefully treading on the snow. With every step she took, she sank to her knees in the accumulated snow.

“Worriless, follow Grandpa,” the elderly man said to the girl, looking back.

“Grandpa, I’m really cold.” The girl was shivering all over as she traversed through the snow.

“The pain you’re suffering right now will become your greatest wealth in the future, do you understand?” the elderly man responded apathetically.

“But Grandpa... I’m really, really cold.” The girl stared at him tearfully.

The elderly man was silent for a long while before slowly walking up and picking her up into his arms.

“Grandpa’s so warm.” The girl used her hands, which were frozen red, to embrace his neck.

“You’ll walk by yourself once we get up ahead.”

The elderly man quickly strode forward while carrying the girl.

Ye Wanwan’s heart trembled. Was that imposing elderly man her grandfather...?

But where in the world did Grandpa go? Where is he?

“Are you warm now?”

About half an hour later, the elderly man carried the girl out of the snow and arrived at a tall hill.

“Yes, I’m warm.” The girl nodded emphatically.

“Walk by yourself.”

The elderly man gently placed the girl back on the ground.

“Grandpa, I’m hungry...” The girl looked at the elderly man pitifully, clutching her stomach.

“Worriess, do you still remember why you came here?” The elderly man turned around and stared at her expressionlessly.

“I know, Grandpa.” The girl nodded. “Grandpa is going to train me to endure hardships and work hard so that I can become a superior person in the future.”

“Since you know, endure it. Regardless of how arduous your surroundings are, you have to face them with a smile. Understood?”

“Worriless understands!” The girl smiled but her smile promptly disappeared and turned into a pitiful expression. “But I-I’m really hungry... Worriless is afraid of starving to death and not seeing Brother Xiuran ever again...”

“You!”

The elderly man was finally somewhat angered but he sighed in the end. He started a fire nearby. “Stay warm here and don’t leave. Understood?”

“Yes!” the girl agreed.

The elderly man then turned and left.

About 15 minutes later, the elderly man returned from the distance, holding a wild hare.

Sitting down next to the open fire, the elderly man cleaned and prepared the hare with a dagger before placing it above the flames to roast.

Soon, the scent of roasted hare permeated the air, and saliva dripped out of the girl’s mouth as she stared at the golden, gleaming hare meat.

2109 Little boy

“Worthless!” The elderly man used his hand to wipe the drool clean from the girl’s mouth.

“Wait a little longer. It’s too hot!” the elderly man scolded when he saw her reaching out.

“Okay...” The girl had no choice but to wait anxiously after being scolded.

“Grandpa, why didn’t we bring any dry food?” The girl looked at her grandfather in incomprehension as she waited.

The elderly man stared at her. “When you grow up, you might need to survive in the wild. At that time, what would you do if you didn’t have any dry food on you? Would you wait for your death? If you learn all these survival skills, even if you didn’t have anything to eat or drink at that time, you could get through any desolate situation with ease. Do you understand?”

“Worriless understands, Grandpa.” The girl nodded with some comprehension.

“Eat.” The elderly man handed the whole hare to the girl.

“Grandpa, you also haven’t eaten for a whole day. You eat,” the girl replied.

“Hurry and eat; I’m not hungry.” The elderly man seemed to lack patience.

Hearing that her grandfather wasn’t hungry, the girl started drooling again as she stared at the hare. She placed it next to her nose and took a sniff before chomping down.

The elderly man had extracted all of the bones from the hare already, so it was easy for her to eat it.

“Grandpa, I’m full.”

Sometime later, she spoke to the elderly man.

“En...”

The elderly man looked at the small half of the hare remaining and silently picked it up before finishing the rest of it.

...

Late at night, inside a cave:

Snow was still falling outside the cave. The fire pile inside the cave was bright and warm, so the girl didn't feel cold in her spot next to the fire.

When the girl was about to fall asleep, she seemed to hear weak calls for help outside the cave and also some howling from wolves.

The girl jolted awake almost instantly.

"Grandpa, I think there's someone there," the girl cautiously said while looking at the elderly man who had his eyes completely closed.

However, the elderly man didn't move, as though he'd fallen asleep.

The calls for help became more and more obvious, and the girl finally scrounged up the courage and slowly treaded outside the cave.

"Help..."

Outside the cave, a little boy was panting with a face of terror. Blood was flowing from the corners of his eyes, and an astounding wound seemingly caused by sharp claws could be faintly seen.

The boy was sprawled on the ground as he rapidly scooted back using both his hands and feet.

However, he was merely a child, so how could he compare to the speed of a wild animal?

In the blink of an eye, a snowy-white wolf, whose fangs glinted chillingly, pounced at the boy with a roar.

The boy's face was ghastly pale, and he still subconsciously cried for help in his despair.

Suddenly, a bright light rushed into his world, and the blazing heat seemed to melt the snow around them.

The girl had sprinted toward the boy's side with a burning wooden stick in hand, wildly waving the torch at the wolf.

The girl was incredibly scared, but she still remembered how her grandfather once said wolves feared fire the most.

The boy was stunned as he stared at this girl who was only a little bigger than her.

This girl seemed to have descended from the sky. Her fearless background filled him with a mysterious sense of safety.

The wolf stared at the girl intently, its tail drooping and its eyes shining coldly. Its fangs, which could rip through everything, struck terror into people's hearts.

Currently, the wolf was quietly growling at her.

“Grandpa, I'm scared...”

The girl kept nervously looking back at the cave. At that moment, she was regretful. Why didn't she wake Grandpa up and why did she run out here by herself?

2110 Big Dipper and Seven Star from the pas

The girl's torch flickered from the bursts of wintry wind, with the possibility of getting extinguished at any second.

The girl waved the torch and walked backward to the boy's side, finally seeing his appearance.

His large eyes were very spirited and his skin was fair. Unfortunately, the corner of his eye was scratched, but thankfully, his eyeballs weren't injured. Also, it was winter, so it wasn't too treacherous.

"We'll walk toward the cave. My grandpa's there..." he girl said to the boy.

"I... I can't walk..." The boy shook his head. He struggled to stand up, but it was a futile effort.

The girl immediately knelt down and supported his arm with one arm while keeping her hold on the torch with the other, continually brandishing it toward the wolf that was prepared to leap toward them any second.

"Worriless."

Suddenly, the elderly man slowly walked out of the cave and looked at the girl with a tinge of displeasure.

"Grandpa, hurry and save us!" the girl ardently cried.

The elderly man didn't say anything and quickly walked toward the girl.

The wolf growled and sprang toward the elderly man.

Swish!

A kick was seen and the wild wolf was kicked up a dozen or so meters, crashing onto the ground, ceasing to breathe.

"Come back."

The elderly man picked the girl up.

“Grandpa, him too...” The girl pointed at the boy.

The elderly man glanced at the boy before also picking him up and bringing him inside the cave.

...

“What’s your name?” the girl asked the boy.

The boy shook his head.

“Why are you here by yourself? Where’s your dad and mom?” the girl continued to ask.

The boy turned silent, seemingly unwilling to answer this question.

After a long while, the boy suddenly asked, “Grandfather... can I follow you? I don’t have a home...”

“Grandpa...”

The girl kept shaking the elderly man’s arm while staring at him.

A moment later, the elderly man closed his eyes and aloofly replied, “En.”

Ye Wanwan surveyed the boy. Was this boy... the current president of the Martial Arts Union?

The injury by his eye was enough to reveal his identity.

Ye Wanwan found it unbelievable. It turned out she shared this past with the current president of the Martial Arts Union.

However, Ye Wanwan couldn’t understand it. If they shared this past, why did that boy want to kill her after growing up?

Just what kind of misfortune had happened between then and now?

The truth was within reach but it sent Ye Wanwan’s head splitting with pain. Her own issue seemed to be preventing her from recalling the supposed truth.

The scene abruptly changed.

The girl had become a slender and graceful teenager.

At a slum in the Independent State:

The girl was walking on the streets when she was bumped.

Nearby, a somewhat raggedly-dressed teenage boy stuck his tongue out at her and rolled his eyes, a defiant expression on his face.

Within moments, the youth fled without a trace.

The girl aloofly chased after the youth to a remote alley.

“I stole an idiotic woman’s money, hahaha!”

The youth snickered as he looked at the shy-looking boy next to him.

“Big Dipper... that’s very dangerous...” the boy responded after a silence.

“What are you afraid of? Don’t worry, you’ll get to eat meat following me! Sadly, my mom’s health isn’t good, so I can’t take you home. But don’t worry, as long as I have a mouthful of soup to drink, you’ll have a piece of meat to eat...” The youth clapped his chest.

2111 Your dad might be dead

The man next to Big Dipper shyly peered at Big Dipper before quickly nodding. “Thank you...”

“Blah, you’re insulting me! What’s there to thank? We’re brothers—good brothers! We’re loyal and self-sacrificing, hahaha!”

Big Dipper burst into laughter.

“Big Dipper, where’s your dad?” the shy boy suddenly asked after a long silence.

The dirty Big Dipper turned quiet.

A long time passed before Big Dipper finally replied, “My mom said my dad went far, far away, and it’ll be a long, long time before he can return.”

“Um... when will that be?” the timid boy asked.

“Winter probably,” Big Dipper answered cheerily.

“...”

“Haha, are you dumb? It’s all a lie to fool others. My dad either ran off with a mistress or he died. My mom must’ve told me that because she didn’t want to make me sad.” Big Dipper’s voice was tinged with some loneliness.

“Don’t look at me like that. You’re more tragic than me. At least I still have a mom while both your dad and mom are dead,” Big Dipper said with a sigh.

“Mn...” The shy boy quietly agreed.

“Forget about that boring stuff. Let’s see how much money that idiotic woman had!”

Big Dipper’s dirty hand excitedly pulled out the wallet.

“D*mn!”

The two boys stared at the bursting wallet, their eyes shining brightly.

“For you!”

Big Dipper took out more than half the bills and handed them to the shy boy.

“I can’t... This is yours. I can’t take it.” The shy boy shook his head.

“Why are you acting like a girl and dawdling? I’m giving it to you, so take it. I’ll need to use the rest of this to buy some medicine for my mom. She keeps coughing lately, and I’ve bought a lot of cold medicine, but it’s not improving,” Big Dipper said.

“You should keep it for Auntie’s medicine,” the timid boy said.

“It’s fine, I can just go and steal more. I have this skill which you don’t have, so take more,” Big Dipper cheerily replied.

The shy boy hesitated for a long time before finally thanking Big Dipper. However, he only took a few slips but wouldn’t take any more regardless of what Big Dipper said.

“Thank you...” The shy boy looked at Big Dipper.

“What’s there to thank? When you have money and I don’t, you’ve gotta lend more to me. Although I can’t guarantee whether I will repay it or not...” Big Dipper said after a moment of thought.

“Big Dipper, what’s your dad’s surname...? they shy boy suddenly asked.

Big Dipper was startled. “My surname is Big, so how could my dad’s surname be Small? Of course my dad’s surname is also Big!”

“Oh... Then I don’t think your dad ran off with a mistress. Otherwise, your surname would follow your mom’s,” the shy boy analyzed.

“En, you’re right!” Big Dipper bobbed his head. “Then my dad...”

“He’s probably dead,” the shy boy said with a tone of conviction.

Big Dipper looked at the other boy, dumbstruck. “I think maybe you should return the money to me?”

“How can you ask for it back once you’ve already given it away?”

A pleasant voice rang out from behind the two boys before the shy boy could respond.

The duo automatically turned around at the same time.

A slender and graceful teenage girl with an apathetic expression had been standing behind them since who knew when.

“Ah, idiotic woman!”

Big Dipper jolted in fright when he saw the girl and he immediately stumbled back.

2112 Call me Lord Big

The girl stared at Big Dipper and suddenly shot up and pinched Big Dipper by his ear using her right hand. “Don’t run. I’m an idiotic woman, no? What are you scared of?”

“Blah, idiotic woman, there’s two of us and only one of you! However, as they say, a good man doesn’t fight a woman, so I’m telling you—hurry and leave! Both of us are vicious criminals! There’s no difference between us and monsters, so I’m telling you, hurry and flee! Otherwise, don’t blame us for bullying a woman! My clean knife will come out red!” Big Dipper threatened while wailing.

“What an intimidating threat,” the girl said with a grin.

“Good! As long as you know to be scared. I won’t say it again. Hurry and flee or else I will attack!” Big Dipper shouted.

“What are you waiting for?” the teenager asked cheerily.

“Seven Star, leave first. My attacks are vicious, so I’m afraid of scaring you!” Big Dipper said to the other boy.

Seven Star: “...”

“Idiotic woman, release me if you have the nerve! I’ll show you how fearsome I am!”

Big Dipper tried to kick the girl but made contact with the air.

“Alright, as you wish.”

The girl released Big Dipper’s ears and took a step back.

Big Dipper rubbed his ear and looked at the shy youth. “Seven Star, you saw it, right? I told her to release me, and she had to release me! In my domain, who doesn’t show me respect?”

Seven Star: “...”

“Little brother, you’re quite interesting.” The girl chuckled lightly.

“Blah! Who’s your little brother? Call me Lord Big!” Big Dipper harshly rebuked.

Then Big Dipper screamed and dashed toward the girl, his body turning and sending a kick into the air.

The girl stood unmoving in her spot, and Big Dipper didn’t perform this kick well. One careless move later, he didn’t kick his intended target and fell onto the ground himself.

“Heh, this move seems quite difficult,” the girl remarked.

“I’ll spit in your face! I, Lord Big, am just softhearted and think you’re pretty good-looking, so I was being kind to a girl and was afraid of killing you...” Big Dipper scoffed.

Before the girl could respond, Big Dipper sighed and added, “Forget it, forget it. Seeing how young and pretty you are, I’ll spare you today. Don’t make me see you again from now on... I’ll give you a beating every time I see you. Don’t think I’m joking with you!”

Big Dipper sprinted to the front of the shy youth. “Seven Star, give me some face today and let this idiotic woman off easy. Let’s go.”

The shy youth: “Um... alright then...”

“Ah, don’t leave. Let’s chat some more.”

The girl chuckled and took a step forward, blocking the two boys.

“Fine fine fine...” Big Dipper stared at her. “Idiotic woman, it’s you who forced me! In truth, you’re old and ugly! You ugly freak!”

Big Dipper coldly continued, “Since it’s like this, I’ll show you my true strength!”

“I’m waiting.” The girl smiled aloofly.

A second later, Big Dipper headed toward the girl with a dark expression and snorted.

“Are you ready, idiotic woman?”

“The flowers are wilting from the wait,” the girl replied.

The next second, Big Dipper dropped down onto his knees with a *plop* and prayed with his hands above him.

“Ahahaha... Sister, beautiful elder sister, I was wrong... Please pardon this humble fool for my mistake! Spare me...”

2113 Follow me from now on

“Beautiful sister, look at how young I am! As they say, who doesn’t have a period of arrogance in their youth? One day, when I make a comeback, I’ll definitely massacre those who’ve done me wrong... Aiya, don’t pinch me. I’m kneeling for you already...”

While Big Dipper was speaking, his ear was attacked again, pinched between the girl’s fingers.

“Don’t bully Big Dipper!”

At that moment, the shy youth ran over and stared at the girl menacingly.

“What’s the relationship between you two?” the girl inquired out of curiosity.

“We’re brothers!” the shy youth vehemently declared.

“Big sister, he’s still young, so be the bigger person. How about I write you an IOU and we’ll let it pass? What do you want to do, huh? I have someone above me! If you dare to hurt me, someone will definitely seek you out for revenge! As they say, when will an eye for an eye ever end? Why don’t we raise a glass to the sky instead? A glass for you and a glass for me, and let’s get drunk together...”

The girl glanced at Big Dipper. “You might be an idiot.”

Big Dipper was startled. “How do you know? My mom also said that.”

“He’s not an idiot!” the shy youth cried agitatedly.

The girl suddenly released her hold, returning freedom to Big Dipper’s ear.

“Why are you stealing?” she asked.

“I have a skill, so how wasteful would it be if I didn’t use it?!” Big Dipper hastily replied.

The girl: “...”

“We... don’t have any money. I haven’t eaten for a long time... He’s unwilling to go home, so he can stay with me...” the shy youth mumbled sometime later, his head lowered.

“Where’s your dad and mom?” The girl turned to the shy youth.

“They’re both dead.” The shy youth’s voice was soft.

“What about your dad and mom?” The girl looked at Big Dipper.

“Tch, my mom’s health isn’t good, and my dad ran off with a mistress. What about it?” Big Dipper asked.

The girl stared at Big Dipper, confusion on her face. His mom’s health wasn’t good and his dad ran off with a mistress... what in the world was he so proud about?

“No, Big Dipper... Your dad’s probably dead,” the shy youth corrected seriously.

“D*mn you! Your dad’s dead! My dad ran off with a mistress.” Big Dipper pursed his lips.

“Eh... My dad is dead, that’s right, but your dad definitely didn’t run off with a mistress. Your dad is also dead,” the shy youth said.

“My dad ran off with a mistress!” Big Dipper looked worked up.

“Alright alright alright, enough.” The girl immediately interrupted their conversation and looked at Big Dipper. “Your dad ran off with a mistress.”

“That’s right, my dad definitely ran off with a mistress! Take my word for it!” Big Dipper nodded vehemently.

“Do you two plan to keep stealing for the rest of your lives?” the girl asked.

“Haha, he doesn’t have that skill, so of course it’s going to be me doing the stealing!” Big Dipper looked rather proud.

“Then you two can follow me from now on.” The girl smiled. “This way, your mom will have money to treat her illness and you two can also live better. How about it?”

“Sister, will we be full every day...?” The shy youth stared at her intently.

“That’ll depend on whether you work hard or not,” the girl replied.

“I... I can bear a lot of hardship!” Seven Star hastily responded.

“Wow, are you telling the truth? If we follow you, we can earn money for my mom’s treatment?” Big Dipper also asked.

“Of course.” The girl nodded with a smile.

“Then it’s a yes from me!” Big Dipper nodded immediately.

“Sure for me too!” the shy youth echoed.

“Let’s go! I’ll take you to your new home.” The girl turned around and started to leave.

“Sister, what’s your name?” the shy youth shouted.

“Bai Feng. Bai for white and Feng for maple leaf. You can call me Sis Feng from now on,” the girl answered without looking back.

“Sh*t, Sis Feng, wait for us!”

Big Dipper and Seven Star chased after her at once.

2114 A Xiuran who ruins countries, a childe who is matchless

Ye Wanwan felt her head swelling. She never expected she had met Big Dipper and Seven Star under those circumstances.

Furthermore, Big Dipper's foolishness wasn't feigned. He had been this foolish since he was young, sincerely foolish.

...

The scene changed again.

Countless major and minor scenes and dribs and drabs of memories rushed into Ye Wanwan's mind.

Some memories were particularly clear while other memories were incredibly blurry, like a jumbled ball.

Her handful of interactions with her parents, her bickering and jesting with her brother, her being pummeled to the floor by Piece of Sh*t, her nervousness and unease when she gave birth to Tangtang, her quarrels and sweet moments with Si Yehan.

Suddenly, the scene stopped in a study.

The teenage girl had become increasingly good-looking. She sat on one side of the desk and propped her chin up with her hand as she dazedly stared at the unrivaled man, enamored.

“A Xiuran who ruins countries, a childe who is matchless...”

The girl's eyes were brimming with adoration, as though every cell in them was filled by this man.

There wasn't a single fault in the man's exquisite, chiseled face. An aloof smile perpetually hung from his lips, and even his intoxicating eyes were filled with a careless gentleness and a scholarly feeling.

“Worriless.”

The man set down the pen and paper in his hands and tenderly looked at the girl with a smile in his eyes.

Suddenly, the scene changed and the world spiraled and twirled. Every scene related to Ji Xiuran was ripped into shreds like a piece of paper.

In Ye Wanwan's mind, the man didn't say a word and merely snapped his finger lightly, causing every memory related to Ji Xiuran to disappear.

“AH!!!”

Ye Wanwan suddenly jolted awake, sweat drenching her face.

Next to her, the headmaster stared at Ye Wanwan with knitted brows, his expression turning odder.

“How could this be...” Ye Wanwan murmured, turning to the headmaster immediately.

“Pause.” The headmaster intently looked at her and asked, “What did you see?”

“I seemed to have forgotten some memories...” Ye Wanwan looked contemplative.

“Indeed. All of your memories disappeared, so it's normal for many minor details or scenes to be blurry or forgotten, but... there's no way you would forget the major things unless your own subconscious is unwilling to recall it,” the headmaster replied.

“I'm unwilling to remember it?”

Ye Wanwan frowned. For example, the matters related to the Martial Arts Union, her grandpa, and that new president of the Martial Arts Union. Was she unwilling to remember those things?

But what was the case with Ji Xiuran? The shattering of those memories filled her with apprehension.

“I can't recall any of my memories related to Ji Xiuran... Moreover, a scene appeared where he snapped his fingers in the depths of my mind and every memory related to him dispersed into dust...” Ye Wanwan automatically said.

A realization dawned on the headmaster. “No wonder... There was someone before me who hypnotized you, and they probably completely sealed off a portion of your memories. Based on what you said, it was Ji Xiuran who sealed the memories between you and him, and I’m afraid... even I can’t help you recall them.”

Ji Xiuran was his proudest and most talented student. Ji Xiuran’s accomplishments in hypnotism had grown much, much stronger than him, Scarlet Flames Academy’s headmaster, a long time ago.

“Ji Xiuran hypnotized me...? But why? What was his objective...?” Ye Wanwan’s thoughts felt a bit chaotic.

“Maybe he didn’t want you to remember something you shouldn’t remember or maybe he was afraid you’d be sad or something. Haha, I’m just guessing; don’t take it seriously,” the headmaster said with a meaningful overtone and smiled.

2115 Lord Asura is here

Ye Wanwan confusedly looked at the headmaster, unable to understand his meaning.

“Heh, in a sense, Ji Xiuran is my best disciple. He learned his hypnotism skills from me, but his success has surpassed mine long ago. However, Ji Xiuran’s hypnotism skills are too tyrannical while mine are fairly gentle. Hence, I can help you recover your memories while Ji Xiuran can only help you forget certain things,” the headmaster explained with a soft chuckle.

Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows. She really wasn’t knowledgeable about this topic.

Just when did Ji Xiuran hypnotize her...?

Ye Wanwan mulled over it. Ji Xiuran seemed to have delivered a packed lunch to her once, so was it that time?

“Oh right, Worriless, do you think it was Ji Xiuran who made you lose your memory?” the headmaster inquired curiously.

Ye Wanwan shook her head. She underwent memory masking which wasn’t connected to Ji Xiuran at all.

“If it wasn’t, then I don’t know. After all, this is the world of you youngsters, and about half my body is in the grave already, so I don’t really understand it.” The headmaster smiled faintly.

Ji Xiuran once hypnotized her and made her forget all of her memories in her youth that were related to him.

Ye Wanwan didn’t know why Ji Xiuran did that. She had no choice but to find Ji Xiuran first and ask him.

“Headmaster, I feel like... my memories aren’t entirely recovered yet,” Ye Wanwan said to the headmaster after a moment of contemplation.

“Of course not.” The headmaster nodded. “In order to fully recover, you need time. For example, even if it was your body

that was injured, it'd need time to recuperate slowly, let alone your memory.”

In truth, Ye Wanwan successfully remembered most of her memories from her youth. She merely couldn't recall some important memories like information regarding her grandpa and the current president of the Martial Arts Union.

“Just need time, huh...?” Ye Wanwan murmured.

The headmaster looked certain. “That's right, but there is one thing. If some of those memories are ones you yourself aren't willing to remember, then it'd be a futile effort regardless of how much you borrowed outside force.”

Based on what the headmaster said, it appeared she could only rely on herself to recall the rest of the memories.

Ye Wanwan wasn't too anxious. She could remember the majority of her memories already, and time would slowly recover the rest.

There wasn't anything people could do anymore.

“Ah, Worryless, do you remember the three million honor points you owe to Scarlet Flames Academy now?” the headmaster suddenly asked Ye Wanwan with a grin.

Ye Wanwan slapped her head hard. “Oh, I don't think I remember this matter... Sir Headmaster, I'll go back and think about it slowly. See you later!”

Before the headmaster could respond, Ye Wanwan had fled without a trace.

The energy exhausted from this fourth hypnosis session was immense, so Ye Wanwan felt extremely fatigued after leaving Scarlet Flames Academy. It was as though all of her energy was sucked out of her.

At the same time, a visitor unexpectedly arrived at the Fearless Alliance.

When Big Dipper saw Lord Asura and the sullen guard behind the man standing at the entrance, his hair bristled from fright.

“D*mn! Lord... Lord Asura! Asura’s attacking us! Brothers, hurry and surround them!”

“Right right right, surround them! Kill them!”

2116 The President will be back soon

Seven Star glanced at Big Dipper like the man was an idiot and promptly ignored him. He turned to face Lord Asura and greeted him. “Pardon us for not going out to meet you, Lord Asura.”

Big Dipper finally regained his senses and hastily said, “D*mn, sorry sorry, I almost forgot we’re a family with Asura now! My bad, my bad!”

He really couldn’t be blamed for this. Although many days had passed already, he still couldn’t absorb this enormous relationship twist.

“Where’s your president?” Si Yehan asked.

Seven Star quickly replied, “The President went to Scarlet Flames Academy and hasn’t returned yet, but looking at the time, she should be back soon, so you can enter first and wait for a bit.”

“Mn.” Si Yehan nodded and followed Seven Star inside the Fearless Alliance.

The higher-ups based at the headquarters were mostly present the day Asura besieged the Nie residence and personally witnessed the historical scene of Lord Asura transforming into the dad of their president’s son.

However, when they suddenly saw this terrifying Great Devil of the Independent State appearing in their own camp, they were all terribly scared and reflexively wanted to attack him.

“D*mn...” A hall master was so scared his legs turned weak when he saw the person behind Seven Star and almost knelt down.

Third Elder was arguing with First Elder over something and was also spooked out of his mind when he looked up and abruptly saw Si Yehan.

“Sh*t, Lord... Lord Asura? Am I seeing a ghost in broad daylight?”

First Elder derisively glanced at Third Elder. “Useless! Lord Asura is now our president’s man, so what’s there to fuss about seeing him at the Fearless Alliance?!”

Third Elder lifted First Elder’s hand.

A glinting concealed weapon was grandly sitting in First Elder’s hand.

Third Elder angrily rebuked, “You old fart—you got so scared that you’re holding a weapon, so where do you get the gall to criticize me?”

First Elder: “...”

Ahem, it truly was a conditioned reflex, conditioned reflex...

That was the leader of Asura! His notoriety spread far and he was famous for his brutality!

People said this man was mercurial and tempestuous. He killed people like he was scything flax and was bloodthirsty and sadistic in nature. He even had a horrifying fondness for eating human flesh and drinking human blood.

The people of the Independent State normally had the saying “If you misbehave again, I’ll tell Lord Asura to capture and eat you” to scare children, showing just how deep-reaching Lord Asura’s infamy was.

Since the ferocious battle between Prison and the Martial Arts Union, Asura’s bloody fighting force had left behind an indelible impression on everyone in the Independent State.

However, speaking of this, they suddenly understood something.

Realization dawned on Third Elder. “Speaking of which, during the battle with Prison, all the other factions suffered disastrous casualties, and only our Fearless Alliance had the lowest fatalities. Back then, I merely thought we were well-informed and acted shameless enough and hid fast. Thinking back on it now, it turns out it was because our president had an adulterous affair with Lord Asura!”

First Elder said, “Calculating back from our young president’s age, the President did seduce the Lord Asura then!”

Third Elder: “D*mn! Our president’s taste back then...”

First Elder: “It was too heavy...”

She actually dared to sleep with even Lord Asura!

And even dared to hide his child for so long!

Thinking about it, the scariest person in the Independent State should be their President instead, no?

Seven Star led Lord Asura to the VIP room and quickly had someone serve some refreshments.

“Please wait for a moment. Our president should return in 10 minutes,” Seven Star said.

2117 An inhumane monster

Even though Seven Star was trying his hardest to calm himself and suppressing his fear, having to stand so close to this man already caused a layer of sweat to drench his back in these mere minutes.

As for Big Dipper, he'd hidden far, far away without any sense of brotherhood a long time ago, saying as he left: "Ah, Old Seven, I'll leave this honorable and difficult mission to you!"

This man clearly had such a handsome face but his menacing aura was seriously too intense.

He accepted the most supreme position in Asura at a young age and became Lord Asura. He was able to keep those vicious hellhounds in Asura submissive and obedient, so how could he be a benevolent person?

His methods back then struck terror into the entire criminal underworld of the Independent State.

Even now, Seven Star couldn't figure out why Sis Feng would like someone like this...

"Lord... Lord Asura... please have some tea..." The subordinate who came to serve the refreshments was sweating profusely and his hands were trembling with fear.

When the subordinate placed the tea down, his hand slipped and accidentally spilled all of the tea onto Si Yehan's clothes.

"What are you doing?!" Jiang Yan angrily rebuked instantly.

"Ah..." The subordinate had turned completely stupefied and his face was drained of color as he knelt down with a plop.

"Spare me, Lord Asura! Spare me, Lord Asura! I... I didn't do it on purpose..."

Seven Star also hastily said, "Please forgive him, Lord Asura. It wasn't intentional!"

Si Yehan's slender fingers lightly brushed away the tea leaves on his clothes before he peered down at the terrified subordinate and the nervous Seven Star.

Sensing the man's gaze, the subordinate was about to suffocate from his panic, his head about to be buried into the ground. "Don't kill me... don't kill me..."

Si Yehan aloofly asked, "Are you both also this nervous when Emperor Ji normally visits?"

The kneeling subordinate instantly thought, No way! Emperor Ji is gentle, kind, and charitable. Everyone in the Independent State knows he doesn't have any weird hobbies of randomly killing people, so how could he be this frightening?

Seven Star astutely detected that this man's question was fairly dangerous.

Seven Star clenched his sweaty palms and tried to calm himself down as he replied, "Emperor Ji hasn't come here before."

Nope! Nonexistent! Emperor Ji has never been here!

Si Yehan didn't say anything and merely stared at that terror-stricken subordinate, his eyes devoid of emotion and his thoughts unknown.

The higher-ups who watched the situation from afar were also soaked in sweat and didn't dare to even breathe loudly. They were afraid that this Great Devil in front of them would really go on a murder spree at the slightest displeasure as the rumors said.

Rumors said Lord Asura massacred an entire city simply because someone gave him a second glance. Rumors said he could mercilessly kill even his confidant and wouldn't spare that confidant's infant child simply because that confidant knocked over his teacup...

Rumors said this man was an inhumane monster...

There were truly too many scary rumors regarding this man, so people couldn't be faulted for being afraid at the mere sight of this man.

It was over, it was over... that guy was probably going to die here today!

“D*mn, what should we do? Who will go salvage the situation?!”

“Are you kidding me? Who will go? Will you go?”

When that kneeling subordinate felt his eyes about to roll back and he was going to faint, buoyant footsteps could be heard behind him.

Ye Wanwan had increased the speed of her driving the moment she received a call from Seven Star. When she hurried to the VIP guest room, she really saw her baby. Her eyes shone as she sprang toward Si Yehan.

2118 My baby is so gentle

“BABY!”

The girl’s melodious and glutinous voice was like an icebreaker and shattered the chilly ice around him.

It was as though clouds were dispersed from the man’s eyes and rays of the sun were sprinkling down from the sky.

A second later, before the man could react, a fragrant softness had securely glued itself into his arms like a ball of cotton candy.

Ye Wanwan had one knee knelt on Si Yehan’s thigh while her arms intimately hooked around his neck. She bent down and smacked a kiss on his face, her eyes joyfully shining. “Baby, why did you come? Did you wait long?”

When the members of the Fearless Alliance saw their president rushing in like a gale, they felt like they were watching a savior descending on the world.

The kneeling underling especially. He was looking at Ye Wanwan like she was a living Guanyin.

However, when they saw their president throw herself into Lord Asura’s arms so girlishly and kiss the Great Devil’s face, their expressions were petrified and they couldn’t believe their eyesight.

This scene was seriously too freaking... mind-blowing...

Si Yehan’s gaze had fully shifted from that subordinate to the girl. He supported her waist with one hand to keep her steady and safe from falling before replying, “Just got here. Not too long.”

“D*mn, I had business at Scarlet Flames Academy today and had to deal with that old headmaster for half a day. I’m dying from exhaustion, so hurry and kiss me!” Ye Wanwan glutinously asked for kisses and comforting.

When Si Yehan saw the girl's complaining expression, the vivacious and bright light in her eyes, and her earnest joy and affection when she saw him, the destructive emotions that rushed up from his heart and nearly drowned him moments ago instantly vanished.

He reached out and lightly patted her head with his broad hand before leaning down and pressing a light kiss on her forehead—an extremely treasuring, extremely gentle kiss.

As though he was treating her like the most valuable treasure in the world.

When the members of the Fearless Alliance saw their president daintily gluing herself to the Great Devil and kissing him, they were stunned.

When they saw the Great Devil speaking softly, carefully comforting and tenderly kissing their president, they were horrified...

Even Big Dipper and Seven Star, who'd been with Ye Wanwan for ages, suffered a colossal shock.

Si Yehan kissed the girl but promptly remembered something and suddenly pushed her away.

“What?” Ye Wanwan, who was pushed away, was instantly displeased.

“There's water on my clothes. Don't touch it,” Si Yehan replied.

Only then did Ye Wanwan discover the tea stains all over Si Yehan's clothes and the subordinate kneeling nearby. The atmosphere was rather tense actually.

It didn't require much thought for Ye Wanwan to guess what had happened.

Ye Wanwan raised that subordinate by the back of his lapels. “Get up! You just accidentally knocked over the tea; do you have to be so scared? My baby is such a gentle and good-tempered person. Do you think he would eat you?”

The picked-up subordinate was dumbfounded. “G-gentle?”

Huh?

Are you talking in your sleep, President?

Ye Wanwan irritatedly kicked him away. Forget it. Seeing as he splashed the tea and did a good thing, I will make allowances for him this time.

Ye Wanwan quickly turned and picked up Si Yehan's hand while beaming brightly. "Baby, look at you—your clothes are all soaked. Let's go. I'll take you to my room to change your clothes!"

2119 Our son has good taste!

“Tsk, seeing that you’ve done something good, I’ll spare you! Leave already!”

That subordinate was kicked out with a dumbstruck expression. He had no idea what good act he performed.

Didn’t I get into trouble?

The subordinate wiped the sweat from his forehead. This was too freaking scary!

The President had to be making an excuse by saying he performed a good thing since she couldn’t bear to see him punished. Yes, that must be it.

“Um, President, Sir Lord Asura, I’ll leave now. I won’t disturb you anymore!”

Then that subordinate and the rest of the Fearless Alliance watched their president trying to abduct Lord Asura into her room like the big bad wolf, using the pretext of having him change out of his wet clothes.

Everyone’s expressions were indescribable.

They never expected their president to interact with Lord Asura like this.

Their President was seriously impressive! She could hit on such a frightening man!

Her taste... was simply matchless!

A second later, everyone’s line of sight swished toward Lord Asura.

That apathetic man didn’t move and remained seated in his spot, his gaze pausing on the girl’s face for a second before coolly replying, “No need. It’s fine.”

The members of the Fearless Alliance all clicked their tongues with unsurprised expressions. See! She got rejected as we expected!

Lord Asura possessed a scary mind, so how could he not see through the President's petty tricks?

Ye Wanwan didn't mind and continued with a grin, "Let's go~ I happen to have bought a new outfit for you, so I can help you change into it in my room!"

Si Yehan paused for a brief moment before he answered, "Alright."

Then Ye Wanwan directly led a certain someone upstairs...

The members of the Fearless Alliance: "..."

...

Inside Ye Wanwan's private lounge:

"Where are the clothes?" Si Yehan surveyed the room.

"There are no clothes! I lied to you!" Ye Wanwan replied without a flush of red and pounced on him, pushing him onto the bed.

Si Yehan: "..."

Ye Wanwan: "A hug~"

After leaving Scarlet Flames Academy, her mood was indeed rather heavy.

However, it improved a lot as soon as she saw Si Yehan.

Si Yehan looked exasperated. "Get up first."

After saying that, he helped the girl up and pushed her some distance away.

D*mn! He actually pushed me away!

Ye Wanwan's expression darkened immediately, accusation written all over her face. "You have a lover on the outside?"

Si Yehan peered up at her, glancing at her from the corner of his eyes, but he didn't say a word. He nonchalantly took off his black, tea-stained jacket before opening his arms toward her. "Come here."

Aiya, so he was stripping his clothes himself! He should've told me! I can allow that!

“So eager?” Ye Wanwan’s eyes brightened. She was finally satisfied and launched herself at him again, comfortably burrowing herself into his arms. “Hehe, after our plan succeeds and my parents accept you, we won’t need to meet so sneakily anymore!”

“Darling Tangtang told me that you’re getting along well now. So it should be soon.”

“That little fella might appear very disdainful when he mentions you, but I can tell he really likes you.”

“Do you remember how he defended you in front of Lord Asura when he didn’t know you were Lord Asura? He said you were very gentle. He’s truly my son and really has good taste like me...”

2120 Gentle and kind-hearted

As the man listened to the girl muttering about their future and their son and he felt her tangible warmth, his breathing turned heavy and he peered down, fiercely kissing her on the lips...

When Ye Wanwan felt the abrupt fiery heat on her lips, she blinked, surprised.

Eh?

So passionate today?

Isn't he a bit overly passionate? It really caught me off guard...

I originally intended to chat a bit and warm things up!

The man's hand lay over her smooth skin, and he uncontrollably pressed her body against his.

Ye Wanwan sharply detected the concealed unease in his emotions and reflexively ran her fingers through his hair.

Si Yehan's spine stiffened abruptly, and he froze.

Ye Wanwan gently kissed Si Yehan on the chin. "Baby, what is it? Did something happen?"

Si Yehan stayed silent for a long time before finally asking, "Wanwan... have you really thought it through?"

Ever since he learned about Tangtang's background, an intense sense that things were surreal kept haunting him these past few days. He felt like he was being suspended in the air.

Ye Wanwan was bewildered. "Thought through what?"

"Being together with me."

Ye Wanwan rolled her eyes. "Rubbish. Of course I have. Does that require thinking?"

Si Yehan pinched the spot between his brows and dejectedly got up. He silently sat on the edge of the bed, an unshakable gloominess plaguing his features.

A moment later, the man blankly stared at some point in the air, his eyes unfocused as he hoarsely said, “The person in your heart... is a pure and fine gentleman revered by people, and I—I’m merely an evil dragon.”

“Nonsense!”

Ye Wanwan’s expression changed the second she heard Si Yehan describe himself like that.

From her hypnosis sessions and the memories and fragmented pieces she recovered, she’d remembered Si Yehan’s past, so she knew that Si Yehan absolutely wasn’t the kind of person he was referring to.

His intrinsic nature was more kind-hearted than everyone, purer than everyone.

It was just...

He was entangled with the evil dragon for too long and became the evil dragon himself. He stared at the abyss for too long, and the abyss reflected back.

In this world, there wasn’t another living creature who could defeat an evil dragon aside from another evil dragon. He might have defeated the evil dragon, but he became the kind of person he loathed the most.

Si Yehan said, “Wanwan, you don’t need to lie to yourself. There’s no one who knows me better than I know myself.”

What he was most afraid of wasn’t losing her. It was that she would regret it eventually one day.

Ye Wanwan solemnly stared at Si Yehan. “Ji Xiuran is wonderful. He’s pure and fine, he’s revered by everyone, and he’s loved and respected by everyone, including my previous self...”

With every word he heard, his eyes dimmed a degree.

Ye Wanwan continued, “And you—you’re an evil dragon, the Great Devil in everyone’s eyes. Everyone is afraid of you, fears you, but so what? In front of me, you always retract your pointy claws and sharp fangs. You’re always so gentle and kind-hearted. To me, you’re the best person.”

“You...” Every word and sentence that came from her caused intense emotion to billow in her eyes. Si Yehan’s originally fractured and collapsed world started to rebuild itself simply because of her simple words.

Every time Ye Wanwan called him gentle and kind-hearted, he actually fiercely detested himself inwardly.

However, he never expected her to actually say that.

2121 I will handle i

Ye Wanwan grumpily muttered, “So I won’t allow you to belittle yourself! You don’t need to compare yourself to anyone. You are you! Moreover, my reputation isn’t any better than yours, alright? We clearly both the same, so I seriously don’t understand where your worries are coming from!

“When will you finally correct your bad habit of producing vinegar for no reason and drowning yourself every day?!”

As Ye Wanwan said that, she sighed and propped her chin on her hand, staring at the man before her. Her lips curled up as she waved her hand. “Ah, forget it, forget it. You don’t need to correct it. I also really like seeing you get jealous!”

Si Yehan surveyed Ye Wanwan and looked like he wanted to say something but ended up not saying anything.

“Do you still remember the island I mentioned to you last time?”

A moment later, Si Yehan asked her.

Ye Wanwan was briefly startled.

The island he mentioned last time?

Ye Wanwan tilted her head and fell into contemplation.

“I do, I do...”

Ye Wanwan suddenly remembered the guarded island that Si Yehan mentioned. The famous leaders who went missing from the Independent State recently might be imprisoned on that island.

“Asura rigorously investigated it these past few days,” Si Yehan said.

Ye Wanwan became interested at once. “And then?”

Ji Xiuran and the other people had been gone for a long time, so the faster they found them, the better. Otherwise, every day

would add many uncertain factors, and their situation would be more perilous.

“There are quite a number of people guarding the boundaries of the island, so unless we forcefully attack the island, it’d be difficult to investigate it thoroughly,” Si Yehan said.

He originally planned to thoroughly investigate this matter before considering whether he wanted to let Ye Wanwan know.

However, Ye Wanwan had a right to know about this matter, not only because of the promise she made back then but also because that man might also be on that island.

“That many people? Even Asura can’t approach it?” Ye Wanwan blinked.

Si Yehan expressionlessly replied, “A lot.”

It wasn’t that Asura couldn’t approach it, but once they did, the group guarding the island would discover them.

Currently, the situation on the island and whether those missing people were imprisoned there or not was unknown.

If that heavily guarded island really served as a prison for those missing people and they rashly approached it, they wouldn’t only be unable to save the prisoners but would also alert the enemies. Furthermore, they would endanger those prisoners.

Si Yehan imperceptibly glanced at Ye Wanwan. If Ji Xiuran wasn’t on that island, perhaps he wouldn’t care about the other people’s safety. However, Ji Xiuran might be imprisoned on that island.

Si Yehan didn’t want to push Ji Xiuran into a more disadvantageous position because of him.

“Then what should we do...?” Ye Wanwan was lost in her contemplation, her brows furrowing.

Si Yehan stared at Ye Wanwan for a while before calmly saying, “Don’t get involved with this matter; I’ll handle it.”

Ye Wanwan’s gaze landed on Si Yehan. “How do you plan to handle it?”

Ye Wanwan didn't want Si Yehan to encounter any danger because of this matter. If he would, she would prefer to handle it herself.

“Wanwan.”

Si Yehan intently looked at Ye Wanwan. “If Ji Xiuran is still alive, I will rescue him.”

Of course, the condition being that the person must be alive since only living people could be rescued.

2122 Discovered by tailing Brother-In-Law

Si Yehan couldn't be certain or guarantee whether those missing people were alive or dead right now.

Ye Wanwan became lost in her thoughts again.

It was true that Ji Xiuran once hypnotized her and personally destroyed all of her past memories related to him.

Although Ye Wanwan didn't know why Ji Xiuran did that, there was one thing she knew.

From start to end, Ji Xiuran had never harmed her. Since the moment she came to the Independent State, the assistance Ji Xiuran provided her was truly too, too immense.

If it wasn't for Ji Xiuran, perhaps she wouldn't be able to move a single step in the Independent State.

From the deepest parts of her heart, Ye Wanwan couldn't accept the possibility of Ji Xiuran being murdered. To Ye Wanwan, Ji Xiuran was too mysterious. His entire being was akin to a dense fog inside primal chaos, and people couldn't see through him or speculate his thoughts, so how could something bad happen to a person like that?

Before Ye Wanwan could say anything to Si Yehan, someone reported outside the door, "President... I don't mean to disturb you, but Lord Nameless Nie is here..."

"Lord... Nameless Nie?"

Ye Wanwan was startled. When did Nameless Nie become a lord...?

"President, your brother, Nameless Nie, made us call him Lord... We couldn't do anything about it..."

The Fearless Alliance member outside the door sounded exasperated.

...

“Sister, I’m coming in!”

Nameless Nie’s voice came from outside the door and the door was opened a second later.

“Brother-In-Law, are you busy?”

Nameless Nie strode inside, first glancing at Ye Wanwan before assessing Si Yehan.

This question was asked rather skillfully...

“I’ll talk to you later. I still have business to take care of,” Si Yehan said to Ye Wanwan as he slowly stood up.

“Okay.” Ye Wanwan nodded.

Seeing Si Yehan leaving, Nameless Nie hastily said, “Brother-In-Law[1. This variation here means younger sister’s husband], why are you leaving so quickly after seeing me, your elder sister’s husband... Let’s have dinner together tonight?”

“...” What freaking elder sister’s husband?!

When Nameless Nie said that, Si Yehan was already far away.

“Speak.”

Ye Wanwan impatiently looked at Nameless Nie. Nothing good happened every time this idiot came here.

“Sister, do you still remember how you wanted to find those missing people?” Nameless Nie asked.

“Then?”

Ye Wanwan glanced at Nameless Nie. So what if I remember? Don’t tell me Nameless Nie can lend me a hand. That’s obviously impossible, right?

“I’m telling you...”

Nameless Nie cautiously looked around him and lowered his voice. “I found that place!”

“You found their imprisoned location?”

Ye Wanwan looked astonished. No way, right?

“Rubbish, of course I found it! Otherwise, why would I urgently disturb you and Brother-In-Law like this... Hehe.” Nameless Nie had an exaggerated expression on his face.

What did that “Hehe” mean, huh?

“Where is it?” Ye Wanwan hastily asked.

“It’s on an island not too far from the Independent State. I have the coordinates too, but it’s heavily guarded on all sides,” Nameless Nie replied.

Ye Wanwan turned contemplative. The island Nameless Nie was speaking of should be the same place as the island Ah-Jiu mentioned.

“How did you discover it?” Ye Wanwan curiously looked at him.

“I didn’t discover it.” Nameless Nie smiled. “I discovered it while I was secretly tailing Brother-In-Law before.”

2123 Collaborate from within with forces from outside

Ye Wanwan glanced at Nameless Nie, rendered speechless. When did she ask him to tail Ah-Jiu?

“Sister, I’m not bragging, but it’d be impossible if those people from Asura wanted to sneak onto the island unnoticed by themselves,” Nameless Nie continued when he was met with a lack of response from Ye Wanwan.

“But you can sneak onto the island unnoticed?” Ye Wanwan shot him a look.

Nameless Nie shook his head immediately. “Of course not! The island is sealed on all sides and there are too many people guarding it. Even if the Heavenly King himself came, it’d be impossible unless he knew how to turn invisible.”

“Then... what use was there in telling me all this?” Ye Wanwan felt her head swell. When her parents gave birth to her brother and her, they should’ve allocated some intelligence to him too. They were too impartial.

“There is a method.” Nameless Nie was pensive for a moment before looking at Ye Wanwan. “It’s completely unrealistic to forcefully attack the island and enter, but there’s another method!”

“Hurry and spill,” Ye Wanwan said.

“What’s the hurry? I’m combing through it for you. Don’t you know the saying ‘More haste less speed’?” Nameless Nie rolled his eyes at her before secretively saying, “It’s actually very simple if you want to enter the island. Your mind’s gotta be flexible, and you’ve gotta be smart... In truth, can’t you enter the island if you intentionally get captured by them?”

Ye Wanwan nearly spat out a mouthful of blood. This was her real brother’s supposed “mind’s gotta be flexible”? Intentionally getting captured... what a fantastic imagination!

She wanted to say something but on second thought, if she carefully mulled over Nameless Nie's words, there was some substance there...

If a person discussed it with someone on the outside beforehand, they might be able to collaborate from within with forces from the outside and dismantle the place in one swoop!

"Ah, sister, what do you think? Isn't your brother's brain nimble?" Nameless Nie asked Ye Wanwan.

"Mn... So-so." Ye Wanwan nodded.

"It's like this—I think those people will definitely capture me based on my fame in the Independent State... At that time, I'll summon a group of capable mercenaries and pretend to lose and get captured onto the island... This matter is too dangerous, so you're definitely unsuitable. Your brother, I, will do it. How about it?" Nameless Nie quietly explained.

Ye Wanwan was briefly startled.

She never expected her brother to be rather... heartwarming at a time like this.

In reality, the Nameless Nie in her memory did treat her rather well and cherish her profoundly. Although she was raised by her grandpa since she was young and didn't spend a lot of time with Nameless Nie, Nameless Nie once gave her an immense feeling of safety in her handful of memories, unlike the present time.

Ye Wanwan never expected Nameless Nie would ask to take responsibility for such a risky undercover assignment of his own will. Truthfully, Nameless Nie could feign ignorance and stay out of this matter since it wasn't related to him at all.

"It's still too dangerous."

Ye Wanwan shook her head in the end after some deliberation.

Nameless Nie didn't want her to take the risk, but she also didn't want him to take to risk. They were real siblings, and blood was thicker than water.

"It's fine. Your group and Asura's group can wait outside, and I'll infiltrate the place. When the opportunity is appropriate, I

will light a fire on the island. When you see the smoke, you can act, and I can collaborate from within with your forces on the outside. We can dismantle that island then,” Nameless Nie said.

2124 I'm helping Mommy watch over Daddy

“Then... what if there isn't fire?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“How's that possible? Your brother, I, can start a fire from rocks?” Nameless Nie countered.

“Then what if there aren't rocks?”

“Oh, then you and Brother-In-Law can consider collecting my corpse for me. Remember to burn a few beautiful maids for me.”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

It had to be said that Nameless Nie's plan did have some merits but required lengthy deliberation since no one knew the current situation inside the island. They were at a complete disadvantage.

“Let me think about it first. Even if we're going to execute it, it requires a detailed plan and we can't make the slightest mistake,” Ye Wanwan calmly said to Nameless Nie.

Before he could respond, Ye Wanwan added, “Moreover... Brother, I think that even if those people were going to abduct someone... they would abduct me, the President of the Fearless Alliance, first... They probably wouldn't capture you, no?”

She was at least President Fearless while Nameless Nie was... a mere rich boy from the Nie family who only knew how to earn money?

Nameless Nie might be overly confident.

If Ye Wanwan had to choose based solely on fame and power, she would capture herself and absolutely wouldn't touch Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie: “...”

“Ey, you’re looking down on me? Are you my real sister?”
Nameless Nie glanced at Ye Wanwan. “Goodbye!”

“Brother, hold on,” Ye Wanwan called out.

Nameless Nie paused in his tracks and gave Ye Wanwan a confused look.

“Be more careful for the next while.” Worry surged up inside Ye Wanwan’s heart as she looked at Nameless Nie.

From Third Elder’s tracking adventure with Nie Linglong, Ye Wanwan learned entirely of the conversation between Nie Linglong and that mysterious man.

The people from the Direct Line might be preparing to eliminate Nameless Nie...

Nameless Nie might have a reliable character but his strength was supposedly extremely strong. Ye Wanwan didn’t know how strong the Direct Line was and whether Nameless Nie could really handle them if something did happen.

“Just that?”

Nameless Nie was dumbfounded.

“What else?” Ye Wanwan sighed. Did he take my words to heart at all?

“Aren’t you underestimating me too much?” Nameless Nie scoffed. “Someone who can reap my life hasn’t been born in this world yet! I’m not pointing fingers at anyone... but all of you are garbage!”

Ye Wanwan’s lips twitched. This fool... I told him to be careful and he called me garbage!

After saying that, Nameless Nie gallantly marched out of the office, his back ramrod straight, not giving Ye Wanwan the opportunity to insult him back.

...

That day, after Ye Wanwan took care of trivial tasks, she ordered Big Dipper and Seven Star and a group of experts from the Fearless Alliance to stand guard around her suburban mansion.

Nameless Nie's words today reminded Ye Wanwan.

As the president of the Fearless Alliance, she had a great probability of becoming the target of those masterminds, so she couldn't go wrong by taking precautions beforehand and ordering people to stand guard around her.

In the pitch-back night, near Ye Wanwan's mansion:

Big Dipper stuck his hands into his pant pockets and turned to Seven Star, who was next to him. "Say, Old Seven, don't you think Sis Feng is being overly cautious and vigilant? Our Fearless Alliance's notoriety spreads far across the Independent State. We're like the stinky rocks in a pit of feces, so if those people wanted to capture someone, they'd definitely abduct people like Emperor Ji or the leaders of the four great clans. Why would they consider us seriously? If they really abducted our president, the Independent State would definitely sing them praises for eliminating an evil. Old Seven... don't you think I'm right?"

2125 Late night attack

Seven Star stared at Big Dipper and wanted to say something after a brief silence but ended up unable to utter a word.

A long while later, Seven Star finally responded, "I don't know how to reply to you after you compared yourself to a rock in a pit of feces."

"Tch, what did Sis Feng teach us? She told us to always clearly see ourselves and to not be blindly arrogant and to not forget our roots. Old Seven, I'm not lecturing you, but I've already recognized myself for who I am while you haven't. You still have a long road ahead of you. Take care," Big Dipper said, sounding like an experienced person.

Seven Star: "..."

...

At the same time, inside her bedroom in the mansion, Ye Wanwan was on a video call with Tangtang.

"Baby, did you miss Mommy?"

As Ye Wanwan looked at Tangtang's adorable little face, she wished nothing more than to dash through the screen to him.

"I miss Mommy." Tangtang nodded and added, "Daddy also misses you."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

This little fella looks like he's getting along with Si Yehan rather well. Ye Wanwan didn't expect him to know to speak good words on his dad's behalf.

"Where's your daddy?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"In the kitchen, making dinner." Tangtang turned the camera toward the kitchen.

Ye Wanwan saw Si Yehan wearing an apron and intently reading the cookbook he was holding.

"..." Can this be considered cramming at the last minute?

"Are you used to your daddy's cooking yet?" Ye Wanwan originally wanted to ask if it tasted bad but switched her phrasing in the end.

"Better than before," Tangtang replied. "It tasted bad before."

"Then what about Daddy's cooking now?" Ye Wanwan asked with a smile.

"Edible," Tangtang answered after a moment of consideration.

"..." Edible does seem slightly better than tasting bad!
Nothing's wrong with that!

"Mommy, there's a lot of women here." Tangtang's next words caught Ye Wanwan off guard.

"Huh?" Ye Wanwan was startled. A lot of women?!?!

"Mn, they're all Mumu's subordinates." Tangtang nodded.

"Mumu's subordinates?" Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded.

"Who's Mumu?"

"Lin[1] Que," Tangtang replied.

Ye Wanwan: "... " This is my first time seeing someone break apart another person's surname and calling them like that.

"Mommy, they all want to become familiar with Daddy," Tangtang continued.

"Oh? What did your daddy do?" Ye Wanwan glared at the clueless Si Yehan, who was still reading his cookbook.

"I drove them all away. They don't have any opportunities to approach Daddy, so don't worry, Mommy," Tangtang replied.

At the sight of Tangtang's serious appearance, Ye Wanwan couldn't help the deep smile from spreading across her face. This was indeed her biological son and precious darling.

"Baby, nice job! You're really Mommy's considerate sweetheart," Ye Wanwan happily praised him.

After her video call with Tangtang ended, she casually flipped through some magazines for a while before turning off the lights to sleep.

Several hours later, Ye Wanwan still hadn't fallen asleep. Her memories from her youth kept surfacing in her mind.

However, those missing and blurry memories caused Ye Wanwan some pain. The more she tried to recall them, the more painful her head got, as though she'd fallen in a blank state.

Finally, in the middle of the night, Ye Wanwan finally turned sleepy but a quiet squeaking noise was heard from downstairs.

The noise wasn't loud at all. It was extremely quiet as though someone was intentionally controlling the volume, but Ye Wanwan still caught it in this absolutely silent night.

[1] The character for Lin is 林 which means "forest" and is made of two woods (木 mu) side by side.

2126 What IQ was this?

Instantly, Ye Wanwan's sleepiness vanished. She became wide awake and carefully listened to the noises below.

Is it my imagination or is there really an unusual sound?

Did someone break into my house?

Ye Wanwan's expression was surprised and incredulous.

She previously instructed Big Dipper, Seven Star, and the others to stand on guard around the mansion and pay careful attention at all times.

Were all of those people this freaking unreliable and remained ignorant to someone breaking into her house?

However, Ye Wanwan couldn't be certain, so she could only continue to observe.

However, a few seconds later, extremely soft footsteps could be heard from downstairs, as though a cat was walking. If one didn't listen carefully, one wouldn't detect it at all.

"Could it be a cat?"

Ye Wanwan frowned deeply. These footsteps were truly too, too quiet, so it had to be an expert if it wasn't a stray animal accidentally entering the house!

However, she was certain she securely locked all the doors and windows before sleeping, so how could a stray animal have gotten in...?

Within moments, Ye Wanwan could ascertain that it absolutely wasn't a stray animal and was a person—an expert at that.

The sound of the footsteps got closer and closer, and Ye Wanwan could tell the owner of the footsteps had gone upstairs and already entered a few of the rooms upstairs, as though they were searching for something.

Ye Wanwan immediately grabbed her phone and sent a text message to Big Dipper. "Someone's here."

What Ye Wanwan couldn't believe was that this idiot, Big Dipper, not only didn't understand her meaning but he also called her!

Ye Wanwan didn't switch her phone to silent, so her ringtone started playing at once.

Ye Wanwan also reacted extremely fast and instantly hung up Big Dipper's call.

However, the footsteps suddenly switched directions and slowly treaded toward Ye Wanwan's bedroom.

"Ding!"

Big Dipper texted her.

Big Dipper: [Sis Feng, why did you hang up on me? What did you mean by "Someone's here"? Did you send it to the wrong person? D*mn, Sis Feng, are you cultivating this late at night? Why aren't you asleep yet? How about we come over and chat with you and eat a late-night snack or something?]

"..." F*ck me!

Ye Wanwan wanted to cry after reading Big Dipper's text. Who freaking gave her the courage to think Big Dipper would actually understand the meaning of her text? Why didn't she send it to Seven Star? Why the heck did she text Big Dipper?!

[Freaking... someone's broken into my house, you idiot!!!]

Ye Wanwan's finger rapidly darted across the screen and sent the message in the shortest amount of time and also turned her phone to silent mode.

Thankfully, Big Dipper didn't keep responding to her texts, perhaps finally understanding her meaning this time.

...

At that moment, the extremely light footsteps had stopped in front of Ye Wanwan's bedroom.

The person slowly twisted the handle but couldn't open the door. Before sleeping, Ye Wanwan had specifically locked her bedroom door.

The person outside the door didn't seem to want to disturb Ye Wanwan, so they didn't violently break the door open.

Ye Wanwan's brows locked together. Could it be the group that abducted Ji Xiuran?

If it was, this might be a little tricky...

If even someone like Ji Xiuran could be easily abducted, she would be a piece of cake.

Hopefully, she would be able to fend them off until Big Dipper, Seven Star, and the other members arrived. There was strength in power.

2127 It's you surprisingly

On this quiet night, an unknown amount of time passed before the door to Ye Wanwan's bedroom was slowly opened with a squeak.

Ye Wanwan lay in bed without any movements. Her breathing was soft, as though she was sound asleep.

After the bedroom door was opened, the footsteps paused, as though the intruder was inspecting the situation inside the room.

On the bed, Ye Wanwan frowned slightly and tried to survey the door in the dark.

Using the faint light, Ye Wanwan barely made out a figure that wasn't too tall or built.

The figure stood by the door, unmoving and seeming to have become a statue. They silently examined Ye Wanwan's bed.

Ye Wanwan also didn't move. She was waiting for Big Dipper and Seven Star to lead people there.

Under these unknown circumstances, Ye Wanwan didn't act rashly. She didn't know the identity or objective of the intruder, so her safest bet was waiting for reinforcements to arrive.

Ye Wanwan's thoughts raced before she came to a decision within moments.

If the intruder really was from the Direct Line or the group that abducted Ji Xiuran, she had to seize the intruder in the shortest amount of time possible after Big Dipper and Seven Star got there.

As long as they captured this person, Ye Wanwan was confident they could obtain a lot more information from this person.

Right now, their position was too disadvantageous, and the main reason behind this was the lack of information.

In the current situation, whether it was the Fearless Alliance, Asura, or the Nie family, they didn't have any upper hand.

Just who was it that captured a group of extremely famous leaders from the Independent State? What was their objective and who was their next target? All of this was unknown.

Ye Wanwan didn't feel the slightest tinge of fear as she lay in bed. Instead, she was anticipatory. She hoped this intruder was part of the group that captured Ji Xiuran. Only then would she have a chance to gain the upper hand.

Before Ye Wanwan could continue her train of thought, the unmoving figure by the door finally started slowly walking forward, and the incredibly light footsteps resounded in the quiet night again.

A moment passed but it also seemed like an entire century elapsed before the figure finally reached Ye Wanwan's bed. The figure carefully leaned over to examine Ye Wanwan's hand.

Ye Wanwan and the intruder were very close, and she managed to use the faint light coming from the window to finally distinguish that the figure was a woman.

The woman's appearance was somewhat blurry, but Ye Wanwan felt like she'd seen this woman somewhere before.

A dozen or so seconds later, the woman bent down and reached for Ye Wanwan's hand.

Suddenly, Ye Wanwan's eyes shot open completely as she grabbed the woman's right hand.

At the same time, a round of footsteps and shouting could be heard from elsewhere in the mansion.

Pah!

The light to the master bedroom was turned on.

The darkness was dispersed, replaced by light.

"Sis Feng, are you okay? We're here!"

Big Dipper hastily called out after turning on the lights.

Seven Star stared at the back of the woman standing by Ye Wanwan's bed, a cold glint flashing through his eyes.

"It's you?"

When Ye Wanwan clearly saw the woman by her bed, her expression involuntarily turned surprised and filled with strangeness.

"Who are you? How dare you sneak into my Sis Feng's room?! Do you want to die?!"

Big Dipper shouted and darted to the bed.

However, he froze in his spot the second he saw the woman's face.

"Mom?!"

2128 Will definitely beat you to death

As Big Dipper stared at the woman in front of him, he was rooted to his spot, disbelief brimming from his eyes.

"Mom?!"

Big Dipper was dumbstruck. Why was the woman who came to assassinate their president his mom?!

Seven Star was also incredibly astonished.

In Seven Star's mind, Big Dipper's mother was merely a normal person and had poor health, so why did she appear in their president's room tonight?

Could it be Big Dipper's mother who was the culprit behind the abduction of Emperor Ji and those top leaders of the Independent State?

However, no matter what, Seven Star couldn't figure out why Big Dipper's mother would do that.

"Mom, why is it you...? What in the world is going on? What deep hatred is there between you and Sis Feng that would make you take advantage of the dark night and try to kill Sis Feng?"

Big Dipper looked agitated as he stared at his mother.

The woman glanced at Big Dipper. "Who told you I came here to assassinate President Fearless?"

"Mom, isn't that obvious? As they say, a moonless night is perfect for killing. If you didn't come here to kill Sis Feng, did you come to visit her? If you wanted to visit her, you should've used the front door!" Big Dipper hastily retorted.

"Get out." Big Dipper's mother frowned. "I need to talk to your president alone."

"Mom, you mustn't do anything foolish! It was Sis Feng who paid for all your hospital bills all these years. We can't bite the hand that feeds us! You mustn't attack Sis Feng because Sis Feng will definitely beat you to death!" Big Dipper looked incredibly worried.

"Seven Star, can you please help Auntie take him outside?" Big Dipper's mother requested, looking at Seven Star.

"All of you, leave the room," Ye Wanwan ordered.

Only after Ye Wanwan spoke did Seven Star nod and drag Big Dipper out of the room before closing the bedroom door.

Ye Wanwan and Big Dipper's mother were the only people left in the room.

"Auntie, I'm listening. You probably didn't intrude into my room this late at night to do something as simple as chatting with me, right?"

Ye Wanwan scrutinized Big Dipper's mother. For some reason, she didn't sense any ill intentions coming from Big Dipper's mother.

"President... before anything else, can you let me see your ring first?" Big Dipper's mother asked.

Ye Wanwan became cautious.

The ring. Another person here for the ring.

Ye Wanwan was extremely curious as to what these two rings represented and why so many people were interested in these two rings, one group after another.

"Are you talking about this?" Ye Wanwan lifted her right arm and lightly swayed the ring on her finger in front of Big Dipper's mother.

When Big Dipper's mother saw the ring again, her expression changed several times. She stood in her spot silently, as though this memory evoked some piece of memory in her.

A while later, Big Dipper's mother finally spoke again.

"President, allow me to be bold and ask you where you

obtained this ring. Or perhaps, does this ring really belong to you?"

Ye Wanwan's expression turned odd. Just what was the background of Big Dipper's mother?

She did have some recollection of Big Dipper's mother in her recovered memories.

After all, Big Dipper frequently mentioned his mother to her.

2129 The Rose of Death's newly-appointed Eric!

In her memories, Big Dipper's mother was merely a normal person who didn't seem to be connected to any factions in the Independent State. As Big Dipper said, his mother had perpetually poor health.

From the current look of things though, Big Dipper's mother wasn't as simple as she appeared and might know the meaning behind these two rings.

Ye Wanwan stared at the woman in front of her. What did the question "Does this ring belong to you" mean?

Before Ye Wanwan could respond, the woman suddenly sighed and shook her head. "Forget it, whether the ring belongs to you or not isn't something I should ask or concern myself about."

"Auntie, just who are you?"

Ye Wanwan frowned slightly at the other woman.

Big Dipper's mother abruptly knelt down on one knee. "This subordinate, one of the 72 di'shas from the Rose of Death and also the Rose of Death's liaison with the world, greets the newly-appointed Eric."

Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded.

Who am I? Where am I?

What's going on?!

The Rose of Death's newly-appointed Eric?!

Back in China, Ye Wanwan learned from Si Wutian that every Black Widow in the Rose of Death also held the alias "Eric."

Right now, Big Dipper's mother was calling her the new Eric?!

Moreover, what sent Ye Wanwan into further disbelief was that Big Dipper's mother was actually a member of the Rose of Death and also one of the 72 di'shas?

Although she didn't know what the 72 di'shas were, they seemed oddly formidable?

"If you don't understand what this ring represents, I can tell you," Big Dipper's mother said when she saw the stunned Ye Wanwan.

"Um... tell me about it." Ye Wanwan was helpless. She really didn't understand what this ring represented.

"Alright." Big Dipper's mother nodded. "The Rose of Death was established several centuries ago and the first Eric and a son from a great patrician family in the Independent State fell in love with each other. However, due to problems with the Independent State's system, their love encountered great hurdles. In the end, the young master abandoned the first Eric. After that, the first Eric founded the Rose of Death, called herself Black Widow and used the alias Eric."

Ye Wanwan was astonished. The Rose of Death was unexpectedly established like this.

"And in the Rose of Death, there's been one core rule since the first Eric, and it's related to this ring on your hand. This ring represents the most supreme power in the Rose of Death, and anyone who obtains this ring has the right to lead the Rose of Death," continued Big Dipper's mother.

Ye Wanwan found it baffling. "Isn't this rule too loose? If the ring is lost or stolen, then..."

"If it was someone strong, how could they lose it or have it stolen? If they're weak, then they don't have the right to become the Rose of Death's Eric," Big Dipper's mother replied.

Ye Wanwan was at a loss for words. Was that first Eric too over-confident or too careless and willful?

"Since this ring is in your hands now, you're the Rose of Death's newly-appointed Eric," Big Dipper's mother proceeded to explain.

"Then what if my ring was stolen by someone?" Ye Wanwan asked furtively.

"If it was stolen, then you wouldn't be related to the Rose of Death anymore. Whoever has the ring would be the new Eric," Big Dipper's mother replied.

2130 Also stolen?

"Alright, I understand." Ye Wanwan didn't know what to say. She gave this ring to Si Yehan back then for safekeeping, but Si Yehan didn't know its origin so he never used it. Then he returned the ring to her some time ago.

However, Ye Wanwan hadn't recovered the memory that detailed where she obtained this ring.

After listening to Big Dipper's mother's explanation, Ye Wanwan finally realized why people kept trying to steal this ring. It wasn't this ring's monetary value; it was what it symbolized.

If this ring fell into someone else's hands and that person knew the meaning of this ring, then they could become the new Eric and control the entire Rose of Death.

Ye Wanwan couldn't help but start wondering where in the world she obtained this ring.

A long time later, Ye Wanwan suddenly started. Could it be... she also stole this ring back then?!

It couldn't be any more normal for the Fearless Alliance to steal this and that, alright?!

However, carefully thinking about it, it seemed somewhat impossible.

Back then, regardless of how formidable she was, she managed to steal this ring from the previous Eric? That had to be a joke, right? Unless the previous Eric was a weakling of course, but that didn't seem too probable.

"Auntie, tell me more about the Rose of Death," Ye Wanwan requested, turning to Big Dipper's mother.

"Sure." Big Dipper's mother nodded and started telling her everything about the Rose of Death.

Because the first Black Widow wasn't a resident of the Independent State, she wasn't approved by the Independent State and was even betrayed by the man she loved. He abandoned her in order to preserve his patrician family reputation and his status.

In her fit of anger, the first Eric founded the Rose of Death, and the Rose of Death's original intention was to contend against the Independent State.

However, the Independent State at that time was in its golden age, and the Rose of Death was a new faction and didn't have a strong enough foundation, so they couldn't contend with the Independent State.

Later, the Independent State lost its formidable power from its golden age while the Rose of Death grew stronger and stronger.

In recent decades, the different generations of Erics all had a horrendous relationship with the Independent State, especially the previous Eric. They outright started a war with the Independent State.

Unfortunately, the previous Eric died tragically in the Independent State due to certain reasons, and the ring that symbolized the paramount power in the Rose of Death also disappeared after that. It wasn't until Ye Wanwan's appearance that this ring saw daylight again.

Ye Wanwan silently rested her chin on her hand and mused over everything.

The previous Eric of the Rose of Death actually died in the Independent State.

Didn't people say the Rose of Death was stronger than the Independent State? So why did it end like that?

"Why did the previous Eric die? Was it because the Rose of Death's strength wasn't enough to contend with the Independent State?" Ye Wanwan asked promptly.

Big Dipper's mother shook her head. "Due to development over dozens of generations, the majority of the Rose of Death had spread to all corners of the world, and summoning its core

strength required quite a lot of time. However, the previous Eric didn't use me to summon the Rose of Death's core strength and launched an abrupt war against the Independent State in an extremely short amount of time instead."

Ye Wanwan nodded lightly, roughly understanding the problem.

2131 Snatched a big freebie

The previous Eric seemed to have been blindly arrogant. If they first summoned the Rose of Death's core strength before launching an attack on the Independent State, the outcome might've been different.

"Oh right."

Ye Wanwan hastily took out the other ring and handed it to Big Dipper's mother. "Auntie, what does this ring represent to the Rose of Death?"

Big Dipper's mother accepted the ring and carefully inspected it before shaking her head. "Although this ring is similar to the ring of supreme power in the Rose of Death, this subordinate has never seen it."

"Never seen it?!"

Ye Wanwan was astonished. She originally thought these two rings were a pair, but this ring was actually completely unrelated to the Rose of Death?

"That's right; I'm certain this ring you just gave me is definitely unrelated to the Rose of Death. If it was, as the Rose of Death's global liaison, there's no way I wouldn't know," Big Dipper's mother replied with certainty on her face.

Ye Wanwan started doubting her life again. So this second ring was a freaking counterfeit item and she had been hiding it like a treasure this whole time...

Of course, being a counterfeit item was merely one of the possibilities. There might be another meaning, but Ye Wanwan couldn't be certain.

Immediately, Ye Wanwan put away the second ring again. Regardless of whether it was counterfeit or not, there was no harm in keeping it.

"Since you've appeared with the ring, will you complete the Rose of Death's mission?" Big Dipper's mother asked without

waiting for Ye Wanwan to respond.

"Yes! Of course I'll complete it! Ye Wanwan nodded without any hesitation. She snatched a big freebie without doing anything and was promoted from President Fearless to Eric from the Rose of Death. Only an idiot wouldn't complete it.

"Oh right, what's the Rose of Death's mission?" Ye Wanwan suddenly had an ill-foreboding feeling. Don't tell me the Rose of Death's mission is to destroy the Independent State!

"Modify the Independent State's laws and avenge the previous Eric," Big Dipper's mother said.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Ye Wanwan wanted to cry. She didn't freaking snatch some big freebie—she clearly picked up a hot potato, alright? Forget about modifying the rules for now. Avenging the previous Eric?

What absurd joke was this? The previous Eric was eliminated by a group effort from all the factions in the Independent State, so wasn't avenging them the same as destroying the entire Independent State?!

However, right now, Ye Wanwan had no way to back down since she agreed too freaking eagerly just now!

"Ahem... um, there's no hurry. We've got to have an extremely detailed plan first and give the matter further thought. Let's take it slowly," Ye Wanwan replied after some thinking.

Ye Wanwan was thinking that since the ring of supreme power in the Rose of Death was in her hands, she could steady them first. After pacifying them, didn't she have the final say about everything in the end?

It wasn't that Ye Wanwan was trying to enjoy her power while avoiding responsibility, but destroying the entire Independent State was simply impossible.

Was she supposed to destroy the Nie family, Asura, and the Fearless Alliance as well?!

Furthermore, currently speaking, she hadn't enjoyed any special power from the Rose of Death yet.

Moreover, Ye Wanwan had a nagging feeling that things weren't as simple as Big Dipper's mother said. There might be some hidden facts, and they had to thoroughly investigate everything first.

2132 Are you brushing me off?

Upon seeing that Big Dipper's mother wanted to continue this topic, Ye Wanwan interjected, "Oh right, auntie. What does Big Dipper's father do?"

Big Dipper's mother was startled, and an inscrutable smile curled on her lips. "Big Dipper's father is a resident of the Independent State while I am not... You should know the rules of the Independent State: Marriage between residents of the Independent State and outsiders is prohibited. Perhaps it was because of me that Big Dipper's father was punished by his own family. Since he was sickly since he was young, he didn't survive the punishment... Big Dipper wasn't acknowledged, and I could only raise Big Dipper on my own. Speaking of which—I have to thank you for helping me take care of Big Dipper all these years."

"Big Dipper was staying with his father at that time and witnessed his father getting punished and dying first hand. Ay, I've let Big Dipper down," Big Dipper's mother continued with a shake of her head.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Ye Wanwan vaguely remembered how Big Dipper kept emphasizing his father ran off with a mistress.

Big Dipper was probably well aware of this since he personally witnessed his father being punished to death. It was just that he was unwilling to admit it in the depths of his mind.

In reality, people all said Big Dipper was foolish, but Ye Wanwan disagreed. Big Dipper's childhood experience caused him to completely shield himself so that he could live in his own world.

Ye Wanwan knew the death of his father truly impacted Big Dipper greatly, to the extent that he would rather trap himself

in his own world than leave it and face the reality.

"Oh right, why did the Martial Arts Union abduct you last time?"

Ye Wanwan asked, looking at the other woman.

Big Dipper's mother's expression became slightly confused at that. She herself also didn't know why the Martial Arts Union wanted to capture her.

"Perhaps they discovered my identity. After all, I'm a member of the Rose of Death," Big Dipper's mother explained.

Ye Wanwan nodded. That was possible. If the Martial Arts Union hadn't discovered the identity of Big Dipper's mother, it wouldn't make sense. They wouldn't capture a normal person for no reason.

Before they could continue, knocking was heard at the door.

"Enter," Ye Wanwan called out.

The bedroom door was opened.

"Mom, are you okay?!" Big Dipper rushed into the room and inspected his mother anxiously.

Ye Wanwan was exasperated. She wasn't a tiger, so it wasn't like she could've eaten his mom.

"I'm fine. I just chatted with your president; there's nothing to worry about," Big Dipper's mother replied with a smile.

"That's good. But Mom, why did you sneak into Sis Feng's house so late at night?" Big Dipper was bewildered.

"It's nothing. I previously invited auntie here but I just forgot about it." Ye Wanwan was the one to reply.

Big Dipper stared at Ye Wanwan. "Sis Feng, there's something I don't know whether I should say or not."

"Tell me," Ye Wanwan said.

"Sis Feng, are you... brushing me off?" Big Dipper asked.

"Yes." Ye Wanwan nodded. Could it be she wasn't obvious enough in brushing him off that he needed to ask?

"Oh, it's nothing then. I just wanted to ask." Big Dipper nodded.

"Big Dipper, help me take auntie home first," Ye Wanwan instructed.

"Alright, I'll bring my mom home first and have Old Seven take over for now. I'll be back soon."

Big Dipper glanced at Seven Star. "Watch over Sis Feng carefully! If anything happens, I'll hold you accountable."

Then Big Dipper led his mother out of the bedroom without waiting for a response.

2133 That picture was too beautiful

After Big Dipper left, Seven Star and the others also retreated from the room.

Ye Wanwan lay in bed. Tonight felt like a dream.

Somehow, she discovered the origin of the ring. Somehow, she became Eric and learned about parts of the Rose of Death's past.

She was in great emotional turmoil. She hadn't had time to digest everything yet.

What path should I take in the future?

In truth, the life she wanted was very simple—being with Ah-Jiu and Tangtang and leading an ordinary and steady life together as a family...

That would be perfect.

Unfortunately, reality wasn't allowing her!

Forget the fact that she was the freaking president of the Fearless Alliance. Now, she also became the freaking top leader of the Rose of Death and had to freaking shoulder so many responsibilities and missions. Did they think she was Superwoman?!

Didn't they say a person's responsibility increased with their capabilities? Did the heavens have some misunderstanding regarding her capabilities?

Ye Wanwan really considered this ring to be a hot potato. However, regardless of how boiling hot it was, she had to hold onto it and couldn't throw it away.

It wasn't that she wanted to possess the supreme power of the Rose of Death.

But if she relinquished this ring, what if her successor wanted to complete the mission? If her successor summoned the Rose of Death's main force and attacked the Independent State...

That image was too unbearable...

Hence, no matter what, the ring could only be hers.

As long as she didn't agree, the Rose of Death wouldn't act recklessly since she was their new leader.

Ye Wanwan pondered whether she could borrow the Rose of Death's strength to attack the supposed Direct Line or not...

Before she could think any further, her phone screen lit up.

Ye Wanwan had turned off her phone's sound and vibration earlier, so there was only a display notification.

Ye Wanwan picked up her phone and saw it was Nameless Nie calling.

"You better not be looking for me to strike a business deal this late at night."

That was the first thing she said when she picked up the call.

"Ay, darling sister, I didn't call to talk business with you! Freaking... Nie Linglong is back! Did you know?!"

Nameless Nie sounded emotional from his anger.

"Nie Linglong is back..."

Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows. Nie Linglong's identity was clearly exposed already, yet she still dared to return to the Nie family shamelessly...

It had to be said that Nie Linglong's tactics were noteworthy indeed and couldn't be underestimated.

"Calm down. Tell me slowly," Ye Wanwan replied.

"Tell you slowly? Slow your a**! My mercenaries told me about what happened already! That little b*tch! No, I have to break her arms and legs!" Nameless Nie yelled.

"You can't," Ye Wanwan interrupted him immediately.

"I can't? Why not?" Nameless Nie was startled.

"What right do you have to break her arms and legs? If you claim she's colluding with the Direct Line, do you have evidence?" Ye Wanwan countered.

"Why don't I have evidence? My people saw it, and didn't one of your Fearless Alliance elders also see it?" Nameless Nie replied.

"So what?" Ye Wanwan coldly said. "Don't forget that Nie Linglong is one of the candidates for the next family head of the Nie family. I'm a competitor and you're a competitor that Nie Linglong knocked out. You and I are real siblings. Do you think those elders and higher-ups of the Nie family would believe groundless words from us? If you act now, the higher-ups would say we're using underhanded tactics to slander Nie Linglong instead."

The Nie family didn't belong to one person. For a matter like electing a family head, even if it was Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie, they had to discuss it with the elders and higher-ups and elect one person.

2134 Can't you think better of me?

Nameless Nie was silent for a long while before replying, "Right, Sister, you're too correct. Why didn't I think of that? Nie Linglong returned without any fear, so she must be certain we don't have any evidence. If we did anything to her, it would be our problem. The elders and higher-ups have always leaned toward Nie Linglong. Thankfully I called you or else I would've been tricked! That motherf*cker!"

Ye Wanwan was at a loss for words. Nameless Nie was too impulsive and did things without thinking, so he'd eventually get into deep trouble.

"What should we do now? Should we find some evidence first?" Nameless Nie asked.

"Don't worry. Since Nie Linglong dared to come back, you definitely won't find any evidence. You mustn't underestimate this sister of ours. Just act as though nothing happened," Ye Wanwan replied.

"Act as though nothing happened?" Nameless Nie was startled.

"Heh. Nie Linglong definitely expects you to pull something against her, but if we do the opposite and act as though nothing happened, who knows who will be the one leading the other person by their nose?" Ye Wanwan snorted.

"Right right right, your analysis is on the nose! Actually, that's why I called you! So that you wouldn't be led by the nose by her!" Nameless Nie said.

Ye Wanwan: "... " Freaking... do you have the nerve to be any more shameless?!

The next morning, Ye Wanwan got a call from Madam Nie urging her to go home because there was something important to discuss.

At the Nie residence:

Madam Nie and Patriarch Nie sat on the sofa while Nie Linglong docilely and respectfully stood on the side. "Mother, Father, don't worry. While you aren't home, I'll carefully look after everything."

"Be sure to watch over your brother carefully. Don't allow him to cause a mess outside," Madam Nie instructed worriedly.

Nameless Nie was lying on the second sofa, shaking his leg and playing a game. When he heard that, he immediately raised his head and complained, "Mom, can't you think better of me?"

Madam Nie rolled her eyes at him. "You'd first need to have something better for me to think about!"

Nameless Nie: "..."

He seriously thought he should've been the one to test his DNA. He definitely wasn't their biological child!

Nie Linglong glanced at a nearby servant, and the servant hastily brought over a pile of big and small exquisitely wrapped and high-end gift boxes.

Nie Linglong said, "Oh right, Mother, this is some ginseng and swallow's nest I had someone specifically bring back from China, as well as some tonics and supplements. You and Father work so hard, so you must keep your health up."

Madam Nie nodded. "You're very considerate."

Patriarch Nie had a complicated expression as he looked at the docile and sensible Nie Linglong.

After the fake Worriless was exposed, he thoroughly investigated the entire Nie family but didn't discover any clues or traces.

Since he was going to Jin City now, he could investigate it further there.

At that moment, spry footsteps could be heard outside the door.

Holding a plastic bag, Ye Wanwan entered the house while beaming.

"Dad, Mom!"

When Madam Nie heard her daughter's charming voice, the dignified and elegant expression on her face was instantly replaced with joy and affection. She immediately stood up and walked forward. "Wanwan, you're back!"

Madam Nie caught sight of the item in Ye Wanwan's hand and casually asked, "What are you holding, Wanwan?"

Ye Wanwan promptly carefully opened the packages tightly wrapped in foil like she was showing off a treasure and replied, "These are fried skewers! I bought them from a super famous food stall in the southern district and had to line up two hours to buy them! I was afraid they'd get cold, so I sped back on my way home. It's still hot right now! Try it, Dad, Mom!"

2135 Too terrible

When Madam Nie heard that, her eyes turned red instantly. "Child... why did you go through so much trouble? If you wanted to eat that, we could've made it at home!"

Ye Wanwan hugged Madam Nie by the arm and cutely said, "It's different! I found it tasty when I ate it, so I especially wanted you and Dad to taste it too! Hurry and see if you like it! If it's good, I will buy it again next time..."

Madam Nie was instantly moved. "My baby daughter is so thoughtful."

"Good good good, Dad will try it now!" Patriarch Nie couldn't be any happier. As though he was faced with some exotic delicacies, he carefully picked up a bamboo skewer of barbecued meat.

Nie Linglong watched how Madam and Patriarch Nie surrounded Ye Wanwan's cheap skewers like they were a treasure and glanced at the supplements she bought for them sitting on the side, a chilly feeling leaking from her eyes.

Nameless Nie was speechless. "Dad, Mom, aren't you too hypocritical? Last time I ate something like this, you chased after me and scolded me for several days, saying I was eating junk food! Now, you're praising this girl into outer space? Did you get amnesia?"

Madam Nie glared at him. "Shut up, what do you know? Stop spouting nonsense!"

Nameless Nie: "..."

I'm spouting nonsense?

It's clearly this girl who's spouting nonsense!

She had to stand in line to buy something? When the owner saw her, he probably wanted nothing more than to give her the entire store!

Ye Wanwan humorously glanced at Nameless Nie, who looked like he ate sh*t, and provokingly made a face at him before turning to her parents and asking, "Dad, Mom, you called me back in such a hurry. Did something happen?"

Patriarch Nie replied with a gentle expression, "Your mother and I have some business in Jin City in two days, so we're hoping you can help us manage the Nie family while we're gone."

Madam Nie meaningfully said, "The Nie family will definitely be passed onto your hands in the future, so consider this as a learning opportunity."

When Nie Linglong heard this from behind them, she abruptly raised her head.

They had just phonily asked her to look after the Nie family but were now leaving all the power in the hands of that piece of trash, Worryless Nie.

In the end, regardless of how long she had been with the Nie family, she was nothing but a servant.

Ye Wanwan imperceptibly glanced at Nie Linglong and happened to catch a remaining tinge of darkness on the woman's face. She replied with a calm smile, "Dad, Mom, don't worry. I'll take good care of the family."

Nie Linglong quickly regained her composure and quickly replied, "Dad, Mom, Sister and I will be home, so there won't be any problems. I will help Sister from the side."

Patriarch Nie nodded. "Mn, let's go. The elders are waiting."

In the conference room:

All the higher-ups and elders from the direct line and collateral branches of the Nie family were sitting in the room.

Patriarch Nie cleared his throat before solemnly beginning, "While I'm in Jin City, Worryless will act as the family head. I hope everyone will assist Worryless by working as one and taking good care of the Nie family together."

Everyone had differing thoughts about this newly-found Second Miss of the Nie family who also held a position as the

President of the Fearless Alliance.

However, in front of the patriarch, none of them revealed anything on their faces and all agreed.

"Don't worry, Patriarch. Us old fossils are still here, so nothing will happen to the Nie family."

Patriarch Nie nodded and turned to Ye Wanwan. He gently said, "Wanwan, this is your Second Great Uncle. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask him."

2136 It will definitely be mine

"Second Great Uncle!" Ye Wanwan politely greeted him.

This elderly man who was about 30-40% similar to Grandpa in appearance was Grandpa's real younger brother.

While seated, the august, healthy-looking elderly man said, "Back then, Eldest Brother willfully took you with him, and you've had an uneasy time all these years on the outside. However, it's good you're back. It's also time for you to shoulder this responsibility..."

The incident regarding the previous patriarch of the Nie family, who was Ye Wanwan's grandfather, leaving the Nie family because he was displeased his daughter got married to the descendant of his sworn enemy from the Ling family was a taboo topic in the Nie family. Hence, the elderly man merely looked morose and didn't delve too deeply into it, only giving Ye Wanwan a few words of encouragement.

"It's good that Second Miss has safely returned. I believe the Nie family will definitely flourish under the leadership of the Second Miss," another higher-up piped in.

The clan meeting quickly ended. Patriarch Nie finished with all his arrangements and left Yun City with Madam Nie two days later, heading to Jin City.

After Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie left, Ye Wanwan took advantage of her parent's absence and sent Tangtang to Si Yehan, telling him to take Tangtang on a trip by themselves for a few days. This was the quickest method to foster a deep relationship.

Then Ye Wanwan focused on learning how to manage a clan from her great uncles and the elders.

Thankfully, she had picked up some things from Si Yehan back in China for a long time, so she was familiar with these

affairs already and conducted them rather smoothly.

As for what to do with Nie Linglong, Ye Wanwan planned to keep thinking of a way to investigate the power backing her.

...

Late at night, in a secret manor located in the city outskirts:

An elderly man dressed in black walked out from the hidden room and looked at Nie Linglong darkly, who was sitting on the sofa and playing a game of chess. "How's the progress with the Nie family?"

Nie Linglong looked confident. "Everything is within my grasp."

The elderly man in black snorted. "I don't think that's completely true, right? The real Worryless Nie has returned to the Nie family and is fairly trusted, having even taken up the position as the acting family head."

Nie Linglong looked disdainful. "You're overestimating her. She's merely a piece of trash. From what I know, Worryless Nie's current martial strength has dropped greatly and she isn't even 30 or 40 percent of what she used to be."

The elderly man in black was taken aback. "Truly?"

In the Independent State, which prohibited firearms and revered martial arts above all, a person's martial strength represented everything.

When it came to someone like Piece of Sh*t, he could solely be compared to a killing machine who could destroy more than half of their experts. No one dared to provoke such an entity.

If Worryless Nie's martial strength had truly plunged, then she might not even be qualified to be the head of the Nie family.

The Independent State revered martial arts above all and the Nie family from the four great clans was even more so. The Nie family was the clan with the strongest martial strength out of all the clans, and the previous patriarch of the Nie family was once the most outstanding martial expert in the

Independent State. Hence, martial strength was vitally important for the family head.

Nie Linglong lightly set down a black piece and took out all the white pieces. The corners of her lips curled up as she said, "Don't worry. The position of the Nie family head will definitely be mine."

Since that impostor had died, there didn't need to be so much hassle. She'd obtain that position herself.

"That better be the case."

...

Several days later, Ye Wanwan followed a group of clan elders and higher-ups to a Nie property for observation.

Nie Linglong was also in the car and fulfilled the role of secretary dutifully and responsibly, diligently reporting business to Ye Wanwan. She stayed strictly within her boundaries these past few days, making it impossible for Ye Wanwan to snatch a single piece of useful information.

2137 Formatted max-level main accoun

The location was a bit far, so the group drove for a long time before stopping in front of an extensive factory.

When they arrived, the chauffeur immediately sprinted out of the car and opened the door for Ye Wanwan.

However, the second Ye Wanwan exited the car, the chauffeur abruptly attacked Ye Wanwan like a ghost.

The fierce wind from his palm slashed across Ye Wanwan's neck like a blade, creating a bloody line instantaneously.

A little more force and her neck would've been forcefully snapped broken by him.

"Who are you?!" Ye Wanwan narrowly dodged his attack, but the man was too fast and launched attack after attack toward her like a tornado, each strike fiercer than the previous.

This man's martial arts skills were extremely strong! He absolutely wasn't an ordinary assassin!

"D*mn!" Ye Wanwan narrowly dodged his attack again.

"Sister Worryless, be careful! Who are you? How dare you attack a member of our Nie family?!" Nie Linglong quickly rushed over and struck the assassin with her hand.

Nie Linglong's palm reached perfection in both strength and speed, and she managed to strike the assassin back with a mere hit.

"PFF!" The assassin spat out a mouthful of blood, evidently injured. He hastily turned around and escaped.

Ye Wanwan reflexively looked at Nie Linglong. The other woman managed to repel the assassin with a mere strike of her palm, which meant Nie Linglong's martial arts skills were probably better than she expected.

A group of Nie family guards quickly chased after the assassin while the higher-ups and elders from the car behind them also rushed forward.

"Who is he? He's rather gutsy to dare to assassinate our Second Miss!"

"That was simply lawless! We must thoroughly investigate this matter!"

"Miss, are you okay?!"

The elders and higher-ups spoke one after another.

Ye Wanwan massaged her palm, which had turned numb from fending off that man's attack. "I'm fine."

Amidst this sea of indignant voices, a soft voice was suddenly heard. "Second Miss, with your strength, that assassin probably shouldn't have even approached you, so how did he...?"

The person didn't finish the rest of their sentence, but its meaning spoke for itself.

Everyone instantly looked at Ye Wanwan strangely.

That was right. Second Miss's martial talents stunned the entire Independent State back then. She was the legend of the mercenary world, so how did she lose to an assassin, requiring that assassin to be struck back by Nie Linglong?

When faced with those higher-ups and elders' questioning and suspicious gazes, Ye Wanwan's face darkened.

Her martial strength really hadn't recovered completely still. Even though she had been sparing no efforts in her training lately, she only managed to recover 30-40% at best. If she was drunk and lost her rationality, she might be able to recover 50-60%, but she was still a ways away from her previous strength.

When it came to something like martial arts, the closer you were to the top tier, the wider the chasm between each degree of strength.

Some people might not be able to cross that chasm their whole lives.

Ye Wanwan's current state was like a formatted max-level main account. She originally passed all the stages already but now had to level up all over again. Although her progress was faster than the average person's, it was still difficult the more she advanced.

Something like comprehension couldn't be solely obtained through training.

No matter how hard she worked, she still felt very clumsy and her body couldn't coordinate with her mind. This would undoubtedly be fatal in a match with a true expert.

2138 Spar with me! Right now!

"Sister just feels unwell today!" Nie Linglong considerately walked over to mediate the situation and turned to Ye Wanwan with concern. "Sister, I'm sorry. It was my fault for allowing assassins to infiltrate and shock you. I will send people to escort you back and rest!"

When the higher-ups and elders saw their acting family head's weak appearance and how she looked like she needed to go back and rest after the shock of a mere assassination, their expressions turned darker.

How could such a weak person hold the post of the head of their Nie family?

How could Ye Wanwan not have realized the truth by now? Today's events were probably arranged meticulously by Nie Linglong beforehand.

Nie Linglong...

Finally couldn't hold back anymore?

It appeared she was starting to garner support after losing her puppet so she could make a bid to snatch the Nie family herself!

Nie Linglong truly didn't have a big probability to win before, but when Nameless Nie lost his right of inheritance and Ye Wanwan's martial strength dropped greatly, the situation became very disadvantageous for them...

Aside from their abilities, every head of the Nie family had to meet an especially strict requirement for martial strength.

...

That night, they returned to the Nie residence.

Ye Wanwan immediately called Nameless Nie with a chain of calls.

"Worriless, do you need me for something? Hurry and talk! Do you know that I, your brother, have big jobs worth several hundred dollars every minute?" Nameless Nie complained.

Several hundred dollars every minute...

How great!

Ye Wanwan irritably rolled her eyes. "Follow me!"

"What is it?" Nameless Nie reluctantly followed her to a deserted courtyard.

Ye Wanwan got straight to the point. "Spar with me."

Nameless Nie asked, "Huh?"

"Spar with me! Right now!"

Nameless Nie's hackles raised. "What scheme are you brewing? Do you want me to be beaten to death by Dad and Mom?"

How could he dare to spar with his parents' precious sweetheart?

Ye Wanwan exasperatedly responded, "I just want to test my current martial strength. Hurry, stop quibbling."

"Oh, okay then."

Ye Wanwan fastidiously ordered, "You aren't allowed to go easy on me. Fight with me seriously."

"Sure," Nameless Nie replied.

SWISH!

A second later, the two people attacked at almost the same time.

Followed by a bang, Ye Wanwan... flew back.

"Ah! SH*T!" Nameless Nie jolted in fright and quickly leaped over, catching Ye Wanwan before her back hit the wall in fear of her getting injured.

Ye Wanwan darkly steadied herself and angrily roared, "Nameless Nie! Are you trying to murder your sister?!"

Nameless Nie was also scared terribly. "Say, Sister, why are you such a weakling?!"

"You're a weakling! Your whole family is filled with weaklings!"

"Hm, sister, don't be unreasonable! If everyone in the Nie family is a weakling, then there aren't any experts in the Independent State."

Ye Wanwan ignored him and seriously asked, "Let me ask you—what percentage of your strength did you use?"

Nameless Nie seriously thought about it. "0.1% probably...?"

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Ye Wanwan inhaled deeply. "Speak properly. Is it 1% or 0.1%?"

"I was right. It was 0.1%!"

"..." Ye Wanwan was silent for a long time before asking again, "When I was at my peak, how many moves could I take from you?"

Nameless Nie rubbed his chin. "If you were using your status as my younger sister, you could take two moves from me. If you weren't using your status as my younger sister, you could only take one move from me."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

2139 Their fate was unknown

What should she do? She really wanted to beat him to death.

Did all of this guy's intelligence get redistributed to his martial strength instead?

In the end, Ye Wanwan gave up on the idea of beating him to death since she couldn't defeat him...

"Is there any method to make my martial strength recover as soon as possible?" Ye Wanwan asked with a sigh.

Nameless Nie mulled over it and scratched his head. "Um... That's hard to say. In your situation, you aren't a newbie who can increase your martial strength through training. Your body function and quality are already there, and you're working with top-notch equipment already.

"Hence, your problem isn't that you have bad equipment; it's that you can't use it or start it, so you're unable to display its ability.

"Everyone has a different comprehension of martial arts, and only you know your body best. I'm afraid no one else can help you with that..."

Ye Wanwan felt a headache pounding. "Nie Linglong is probably planning to snatch the position of family head. Can't you work harder? Today, she purposefully sent an assassin to test me and also publicized my plunge in martial strength to all the elders and higher-ups. The situation is very disadvantageous for us."

Nameless Nie grumbled, "It's not that I don't work hard; it's that my real dad rejected me with a single vote! He said he was afraid of the Nie family being destroyed in my hands, so he absolutely wouldn't allow me to become the family head!"

Ye Wanwan responded, "Our dad is pretty wise."

It was actually more frightening for someone to solely have martial strength while lacking a brain.

"What do you mean he's wise? Our dad is clearly muddle-headed! But forget about that for now, you still have to deal with your problem yourself. Public morals are deteriorating with each passing day, so it'd better if you recovered faster or else a problem will eventually pop up," Nameless Nie said, looking at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan didn't say anything to that.

The headmaster also said last time that the rest of her recovery solely relied on her. She was just afraid she wouldn't have enough time...

"However, Sister, I still felt like something is wrong with the Nie family right now. That little b*tch, Nie Linglong, isn't related by blood to the Nie family at all, so logically speaking, she isn't qualified to become a candidate for the Nie family head at all. However, there are higher-ups and elders who support her, so I think they might've been bribed," Nameless Nie continued.

"Is that even a question?" Ye Wanwan shot Nameless Nie a look.

They were definitely bribed. Nie Linglong had to have offered some immense benefit or some promise to those elders and higher-ups who supported her.

Furthermore, the elders and higher-ups were stirring trouble using their father's bloodline. They claimed that Father also wasn't a member of the Nie family, but since he became the patriarch of the Nie family, why couldn't Nie Linglong?

They had to be commended for thinking of this excuse and reasoning, especially since other people couldn't really refute it.

"Let's head back and rest. We have to keep our health up and must be vigilant while Dad and Mom are gone," Ye Wanwan said to Nameless Nie.

Right now, the Nie family could only rely on the two of them, and Ye Wanwan could only trust Nameless Nie.

Unfortunately, if Nameless Nie was smarter and more shrewd, he would just need to stomp his feet with his martial strength

and the entire Nie family would shake. Who would dare to rebel?

However, it had to be said that the heavens were fair...

"Mm, you're right, Sister. We need to keep our health up. Don't worry, I'm here. I'll protect you." Nameless Nie turned and left.

...

However, to Ye Wanwan's surprise, things developed worse than expected.

The next day, news suddenly came from Jin City that Madam Nie and Patriarch Nie encountered an ambush on their way there. Their current whereabouts and fate were unknown.

2140 Electing a family head

Ye Wanwan immediately dispatched her top elites to Jin City to investigate the matter.

However, three days passed and there still wasn't any news. They only discovered a bloody handkerchief that belonged to Madam Nie.

After learning of this, Ye Wanwan personally visited Jin City but found nothing.

Her mother's bloody handkerchief made Ye Wanwan's mind uneasy. But there was nothing they could do at this point. They didn't even know who the culprit was.

In the meeting room:

The atmosphere was unprecedentedly serious.

"Based on the current situation, it's extremely possible the patriarch and madam have met an unfortunate fate. A clan can't be without a head, so I suggest for us to hurry and elect a new head so that they can preside over the present situation for us."

"Old Three, what are you saying? Before the patriarch left, he appointed Second Miss as the temporary family head already, so she's naturally in charge of everything."

"As you just said, First Elder, it was temporary. However, how can we hand the Nie family over to a temporarily appointed person in such an urgent time? We should naturally hurry and pick the most suitable candidate—that's the top priority."

"I agree."

"That's right, I also agree!"

"Although Second Miss is very capable, you must all know that Second Miss's martial arts strength isn't as it once was. How could she hold the position as the Nie family head at that level?"

"First Elder, don't forget the rule established by the previous patriarch!"

"Of course I remember, but only Second Miss is the most suitable candidate right now."

"I don't think so! Regardless of martial talent or capabilities, I think Third Miss is the most suitable candidate. Everyone has seen Third Miss's capabilities for themselves over the years!"

"Utterly ludicrous! Nie Linglong isn't related to the Nie family by blood, so how could she hold the position of family head?"

"First Elder, aren't your words improper? Our current patriarch's previous name wasn't Nie Huaili and he was actually a member of the Ling family! Since even the son of the Nie family's archenemy, the Ling family, could become the head of our Nie family, why can't Third Miss become the head?!"

"You... you're simply..." First Elder didn't expect the other person to bring this matter up and couldn't conjure anything to refute it.

"You're right. After Third Miss becomes the family head, she can choose to marry a young and promising youth from our Nie family. She wouldn't violate any rules then!"

Ye Wanwan calmly watched everyone arguing. After hearing that, what else didn't she understand?

Since that elder supported Nie Linglong so staunchly, Nie Linglong probably promised to marry his son after becoming the family head.

"The matter is urgent, so please start voting now, everyone!"

"Voting? Voting your a**! Dad and Mom just got into an accident, yet you're in such a hurry to elect a family head. What? Are you all hoping for Dad and Mom to die?"

Nameless Nie ran his eyes over all the higher-ups and elders present.

"How could you say that? The Nie family has centuries of estates, so we can only prioritize the big picture at this current stage. We're just as sad and grieving that something like this

happened to the patriarch and madam, but a dragon can't be headless. We will elect a new family head first so that we can better investigate what happened," a higher-up retorted.

Nameless Nie wanted to say something else, but Ye Wanwan sent him a look to tell him to stop speaking.

Since these elders and higher-ups dared to act like this, they had to have a contingency plan. The situation today was very disadvantageous for her and Nameless Nie, and electing a family head was a rule. Everyone had to obey the rules regardless of who they were.

In the end, aside from First Elder, everyone actually voted for and elected Nie Linglong as the head of the Nie family.

2141 I will also run for the position

Ye Wanwan wasn't surprised in the slightest by this outcome.

From all her years of operation, Nie Linglong had deep roots in the Nie family. They also couldn't forget Ye Wanwan's fatal weakness.

She, who had no martial strength, was the same as a crippled person in front of Nie Linglong.

"D*mn! Do you want to revolt? Let me see who dared to vote for this little b*tch!"

"Nameless Nie, don't make incessant trouble! This isn't a place you can act recklessly!"

"What did you say? Make incessant trouble? F*ck your grandma's leg! I'll slap you to death, idiotic old fart!"
Nameless Nie shattered the chair next to him into smithereens with a kick and fiercely glared at the elder who spoke.

"What? You're going to disregard even the Nie family's rules now?!"

A higher-up snorted at Nameless Nie.

"Rules? What rules? I don't know what rules there are, but anyway, I'll kill whoever dares to elect this little b*tch!"
Nameless Nie behaved as though the situation was already so bad that making it worse would make no real difference.

"Nameless, watch your mouth."

First Elder glanced at Nameless Nie with a frown, a sense of helplessness filling his heart.

The old Nameless Nie couldn't be any more steadfast. In terms of strategy, he didn't lose out to Ji Xiuran. In terms of abilities, he didn't lose out to Yi Shuihan. However, ever since that incident, he turned into this current state and became a hopeless case.

If he was Nameless Nie from back then, the Nie family wouldn't have needed an election at all.

"Election, is it? Fine, then I'll also enter! I'm the eldest child of the Nie family, so what right do you have to omit me?"

Nameless Nie chortled. "As they say... the eldest son is the boss. I'm the eldest child, so I should be the head of the Nie family."

"You aren't qualified," an elder expressionlessly refuted.

"I'm not qualified? Why aren't I qualified? Is your head filled with soy milk? You old geezer. I'm telling you—the first thing I'm gonna do when I become the family head is kill you! If you're uneducated, then don't come out here and humiliate yourself. Don't you remember how the eldest sons of those ancient emperors were all crown princes? The principle is the same here! I'm the eldest son, so I must become the family head," Nameless Nie said.

Ye Wanwan: "... Ah, real brother, you're too awe-inspiring!!!

"You were vetoed by the Patriarch a long time ago," an elder replied.

"Bullsh*t! Nie Linglong was also vetoed, but isn't she still running? Don't give me that nonsense. I'm running for the position too, so hurry and vote!" Nameless Nie said with irritation.

"Fine, then we'll vote. Raise your hand if you vote for Nameless Nie," an elder announced with a glance at Nameless Nie.

Ye Wanwan immediately raised both hands while First Elder also raised his hand after a brief silence.

"Nameless Nie, as you can see, you only have two votes. You don't pass."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Nameless Nie: "..."

Ye Wanwan was at a loss for words. So what if Nameless Nie ran for family head? No one voted for him! If they did vote,

she would've been elected ages ago, and there wouldn't be time for Nameless Nie to fly off the handle.

"Blah! It's fine if I don't pass! If anything happens to the Nie family, don't call on me! Let our enemies kill your old twits!"

Nameless Nie snorted and quickly turned to Ye Wanwan.

"Let's go, Sister. Let's go shopping and forget about these idiotic old farts."

Ye Wanwan: "Alright."

Ye Wanwan immediately followed Nameless Nie and left.

Ye Wanwan actually didn't care about the matter of the Nie family head too much since the only thing that occupied her mind right now was her parents' safety.

Even if she didn't have the Nie family, she was still the President of the Fearless Alliance and was also the newly-appointed Eric of the Rose of Death.

As for Nie Linglong, Ye Wanwan was going to ignore her for now. The top priority right now was uncovering news of her parents.

2142 Do you know who I am?

On a snack street:

Nameless Nie led Ye Wanwan shopping here and there, occasionally buying some snacks and stuffing them in his mouth or holding them in his hands.

"Say, brother, have you eaten enough yet? We should prioritize investigating Dad and Mom's whereabouts first," Ye Wanwan said to Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie glanced at her. "Nonsense! Of course I know that, but one can't function properly on an empty stomach. I'd starve terribly if I skipped a meal, so I have to eat my fill before I go and investigate."

"Then hurry and finish eating..." Ye Wanwan sighed.

"Wait here. I'll go to the corner to line up. That place's meat bun is seriously awesome; I'll bring one back for you." After saying that, Nameless Nie dashed off.

Watching Nameless Nie's departing figure, Ye Wanwan's lips twitched. It was Dad and Mom's wisest decision to refrain from passing the position of family head to him.

...

Ye Wanwan was about to call Si Yehan and explain the current situation to him when a big group of trained experts appeared and quickly surrounded her.

The leader was none other than Nie Linglong.

"Sister, where are you going? You made me search quite hard for you," Nie Linglong expressionlessly stated.

"Oh? Did you need to see me for something urgent, Sister?" Ye Wanwan remained calm and collected.

"There's nothing urgent, but as you know, Sister, I just became the family head of the Nie family and need to establish some achievements. And President Fearless once stole a large

quantity of confidential information and rare treasures many years ago, so the higher-ups of the Nie family have decided to punish President Fearless... Have you seen President Fearless perchance, Sister?" Nie Linglong stared at Ye Wanwan, an icy smile spreading across her mouth.

"What a coincidence." Ye Wanwan met Nie Linglong's eyes. "I, your sister, am the President Fearless you're searching for."

Nie Linglong nodded. "Look at my memory, Sister—I forgot about your identity as President Fearless... However, one thing at a time. Sisterhood is sisterhood and business is business."

"Business your mother!"

A harsh shout was heard from the back of the group, and before anyone could see how Nameless Nie was moving, he kicked and sent seven or eight people flying away.

Nameless Nie walked to Ye Wanwan with a meat bun in his mouth.

Ye Wanwan: "... Look at the situation; can't you eat later?"

"Nameless Nie, this matter originally had nothing to do with you, but since you're acting disrespectfully toward the head of the Nie family and sheltering President Fearless, you're now accountable for the same crime. Submit yourself to arrest immediately," Nie Linglong coldly said.

"Nie Linglong..." Nameless Nie's bone-chilling gaze landed on Nie Linglong. "Have you... gotten something wrong...? Do you know who I am?"

"I'm rather interested. Tell me, who are you?" Nie Linglong snorted.

"I am... Nameless Nie."

As Nameless Nie said that, he lightly swung his fist and in a flash, the experts standing next to Nie Linglong flew backward like snipped kites.

Ye Wanwan's heart trembled as she looked at Nameless Nie. The current Nameless Nie gave her... a completely different feeling...

Was this how her eldest brother acted when he was serious...?

This Nameless Nie in front of her and the Nameless Nie in her memories were like two completely different people.

"Hmph, take him down!" Nie Linglong ordered.

Countless experts instantly surrounded Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie stood unmoving in his spot, and Ye Wanwan couldn't see how he attacked.

Nevertheless, a few breaths later, a dozen or so people had fallen.

2143 Believe in me. Leave firs

Nie Linglong's expression was abnormally dark. Thankfully, Nameless Nie was an idiot or else it would truly be a nightmare. She wanted to see how much longer Nameless Nie could hop around!

In a place like the Independent State, martial strength was everything.

A person had to capture the ringleader first in order to capture all his followers, so after taking care of the small fry, Nameless Nie strode straight toward Nie Linglong.

"Your life—it's mine," Nameless Nie announced coldly.

"I don't think so," Nie Linglong aloofly replied.

"Try me."

Nie Linglong's lips turned up into an icy smile, her eyes shining coldly as she met Nameless Nie's eyes. "Sure, you can come and try."

Nameless Nie remained expressionless. His figure disappeared from his spot like a flash of lightning and he reappeared next to Nie Linglong in a few seconds.

He struck with his palm so fast that he stole air from the observers.

Even Nie Linglong couldn't help the surprise on her face.

However, seconds before Nameless Nie's palm made contact with Nie Linglong, his expression shifted and he staggered a step as he clutched his stomach.

Ye Wanwan's expression turned peculiar.

"Brother?" Ye Wanwan questioned softly.

Nameless Nie didn't answer.

"Brother, what's wrong?" Detecting something amiss, Ye Wanwan hastily rushed forward, an ominous feeling rising in her heart.

"Stop. Don't come over here." Nameless Nie glanced at Ye Wanwan.

Before Ye Wanwan could respond...

"PAH!"

A fountain of blood suddenly sprayed from Nameless Nie's mouth a second later.

When the blood splattered onto the ground, it was black.

Ye Wanwan stared at the puddle of blood, her expression shifting. "You were poisoned?!"

Nameless Nie wiped the blood from his mouth, his brows locked together. "Poisoned...? When...?"

Ye Wanwan was stunned. "You don't even know when you got poisoned?!"

Nameless Nie gritted his teeth and ran his mind over past events. "It couldn't be that iced pear juice, right...? It shouldn't be... No way..."

"What iced pear juice?" Ye Wanwan asked anxiously.

"On my way back, a miss offered me some iced pear juice for free, so I drank a cup..."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Ye Wanwan's lips twitched. She couldn't say anything after half a day as she stared at Nameless Nie. What else could she say?

He clearly knew about Nie Linglong's wild ambitions but didn't know to take precautions. Just what was inside his head?

However, Ye Wanwan had no presence of mind to blame Nameless Nie since her heart was brimming with worry. It didn't require any thought to know this was Nie Linglong's

doing. No wonder Nie Linglong dared to come here and eliminate her and Nameless Nie.

Watching Nameless Nie's quickly paling face, Ye Wanwan felt her heart burning with anxiety. "Just what kind of poison is it?"

Nie Linglong airily said, "It's withered butterfly, a poison that will kill its victim within half an hour without fail."

"Half an hour..." The color drained from Ye Wanwan's face.

Within moments of Nie Linglong speaking, more black blood dribbled from the corner of Nameless Nie's mouth, and his figure toppled.

"Brother!" Ye Wanwan caught Nameless Nie at once.

"It's fine. My body is in good shape, so this little poison is nothing. Leave first; I'll handle it."

Nameless Nie said as he looked at Ye Wanwan with meaning.

"Bullsh*t!"

Ye Wanwan held Nameless Nie by his arm. No matter how good his body was, he couldn't fight this kind of lethal poison.

"Forget about me. I... am fine!"

Nameless Nie frowned deeply at Ye Wanwan. "Believe in me. Leave first!"

2144 Deep sibling affections

"If we leave, we'll leave together. If we stay, we'll stay together," Ye Wanwan said without the slightest hesitation, her eyes focused on Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie and her were real siblings, the closest people in this world, so how could she abandon Nameless Nie and leave by herself?

Ye Wanwan couldn't do it even if it meant she would die.

"Heh, what a good show of deep sibling affections. I was nearly moved by you two," Nie Linglong said with a snort.

Ye Wanwan wasn't in the mood to pay attention to Nie Linglong. She helped Nameless Nie stand up and hastily said, "Brother, let's go... I'll take you to the hospital. You'll definitely be fine!"

"Go?"

Nie Linglong stared at the duo. "Where are you planning to go now? How about I send you underground so that your deep sibling affections won't be disrupted and you two will have company on your journey to Yellow Springs?"

By this time, the pedestrians on the snack street had hidden or ran already, and their surroundings were rather deserted and empty.

Some time ago, Ye Wanwan had sent an SOS message to First Elder without notice, telling them to hurry there.

However, the Fearless Alliance wasn't too close to this place, so even if First Elder and the others rushed over, they would need half an hour at least, and Nameless Nie's current condition absolutely didn't allow for such a long wait.

This was the first time that Ye Wanwan could sense how important half an hour was and how long time felt.

Nameless Nie probably couldn't last half an hour. He had to be sent to the hospital in the shortest amount of time possible...

Ye Wanwan looked at Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie's face was deathly pale, sweat continued to soak his forehead, and his breathing turned more and more rapid.

"Brother, use this time... and leave first. Listen to me just once: Go to the hospital! Even if disaster strikes, I'll deal with it!

Ye Wanwan shielded Nameless Nie's body.

"I'm sick of watching this display of deep sibling affections."

Nie Linglong apathetically waved her hand.

Following Nie Linglong's order, several experts swiftly attacked Ye Wanwan.

Each move was incredibly vicious and targeted her fatal points. They were the purest killing moves with no other intention than taking her life.

Ye Wanwan gritted her teeth. No matter what, she had to protect Nameless Nie today even if it was at the cost of her life!

However, those people were seriously too fast, so fast that Ye Wanwan could barely see them clearly.

These people were all top-notch experts from the Nie family's assassination squad. Since Nie Linglong had become the head of the Nie family, she naturally had the right to mobilize them.

The Nie family's assassination squad only obeyed orders from the family head and ignored everyone else.

At this moment, a pair of warm hands were gently set on Ye Wanwan's left shoulder.

Nameless Nie took a step forward.

"Who dares to harm a hair on my sister?!"

Nameless Nie's bone-chilling words were accompanied by the terrifying aura of a wild beast. One of the expert assassins was caught off guard and was fiercely slammed in the face by Nameless Nie's elbow.

The next second, the expert assassin flew back like a snapped kite.

Kaboom!

A giant noise resounded, and that person sank into the stone wall he hit. His body was stuck inside the wall as he stopped breathing on the spot.

When the remaining expert assassins saw how Nameless Nie could still explode with such powerful fighting power despite being lethally poisoned, they looked at each other in bewilderment and shock.

"Don't be afraid! Nameless Nie is a spent bullet!" Nie Linglong shouted coldly.

Following Nie Linglong's words, iciness surfaced in the eyes of the remaining expert assassins again. They didn't switch targets and continued to attack Ye Wanwan, who was behind Nameless Nie.

2145 Welcome the battle with a grin

"Come here!"

One of the expert assassins was about to approach Ye Wanwan when his hair was snatched by Nameless Nie. Nameless Nie dragged him back and promptly swept that assassin several meters back like a dragon flicking his tail.

Nameless Nie's attacks were seriously too heavy, unbelievably heavy.

If you were hit by Nameless Nie, you would die without a doubt. In the blink of an eye, two expert assassins lost their lives.

However, as Nie Linglong said, Nameless Nie was a spent bullet. His breathing turned increasingly rapid and his figure was also swaying, as though he was pushing himself on with an unimaginable amount of willpower.

However, the saying "a starving camel is still bigger than a horse" was eternally, invariably true.

"Don't... waste time. Attack together!"

Nameless Nie panted heavily but his formidable aura didn't decrease in the slightest.

"Brother..."

Ye Wanwan gritted her teeth as she watched Nameless Nie.

"Matriarch... Nameless hasn't done anything wrong, after all... Isn't this a little..."

After several elders from the Nie family rushed over, one of the middle-level higher-ups inquired worriedly.

"That's true. However, I've given him a chance. He didn't listen," Nie Linglong coldly said. "Sheltering President Fearless and killing several experts from our Nie family's

assassination squad is a heinous crime. Even if Dad and Mom returned, they wouldn't forgive these two."

The middle-level higher-up secretly shook his head when he heard this, helplessness filling his heart.

In truth, Madam Nie and Patriarch Nie already discovered something was wrong with Nie Linglong long ago and started secretly investigating her.

However, Nie Linglong's power in the Nie family was stable. If they directly acted against Nie Linglong without any evidence, it would evoke turmoil in the Nie family.

Now though, Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie were missing, so the Nie family had become Nie Linglong's domain completely.

Nie Linglong colluded with the powerful elders and higher-ups from the Nie family, so no one dared to disobey Nie Linglong.

"Why are you standing around? Kill Nameless Nie first then slay President Fearless!" Nie Linglong commanded coldly.

Dozens of people immediately attacked Nameless Nie like an avalanche.

"Hahahahaha..." Nameless Nie broke into loud laughter.

"Great, great, great! Come at me!"

Even though Nameless Nie was lethally poisoned and besieged by dozens of experts and several elders from the Nie family, he didn't have a trace of fear and welcomed the battle with a grin.

When Nameless Nie and the dozens of experts fought, they were like two falling meteors that deviated from their original path and violently clashed together.

Within seconds, several cuts from weapons appeared on Nameless Nie's body, the blood soaking his upper body dyeing all of his clothes scarlet.

"Sister, hurry and leave!" Nameless Nie suddenly turned around and angrily shouted at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan tightly clenched her fists. I can't leave...

How could I leave?!

Nameless Nie panted heavily and abruptly pushed Ye Wanwan toward the exit. "Worriless, leave... Quick, listen to Brother!"

"Brother..."

"I'm fine! Leave!" Nameless Nie's voice turned icy.

Panic suddenly rushed into Ye Wanwan's eyes when she saw Nameless Nie's gaze. What does he want to do...?

A second later, Nameless Nie suddenly started attacking those experts crazily.

Ye Wanwan knew he was fighting for a handful of minutes so that she could escape.

Nie Linglong icily stood on the side with her arms crossed in front of her chest. "With a poison like withered butterfly, the more you move, the faster it spreads. Heh..."

2146 The final willpower

"Brother!" As Ye Wanwan tussled with those guards with everything she had, she kept trying to break through the human barrier and take Nameless Nie away.

However, Nie Linglong came prepared. All the experts here today were on par with the chauffeur assassin from the other day. Although Ye Wanwan underwent intense training and managed to match her sober strength with her drunk strength, her strength was still too, too inferior...

"I'm telling you to leave! Didn't you hear?!" Nameless Nie angrily shouted, nearly using all of the energy in him while he shattered the top of an assassin's skull with his palm.

At this moment, an assassin sneakily attacked Nameless Nie from behind. Nameless Nie's energy was nearly exhausted, so he couldn't dodge in time and was struck on the back and sent flying back, heavily crashing into the wall.

"Brother?!"

Ye Wanwan instantly sent an expert back with a karate chop and rushed forward, helping Nameless Nie sit up.

However, Nameless Nie had closed his eyes and lay there unmoving.

"Heh, I told him that after ingesting this poison, the more intensely he moved, the faster the poison would spread. He's just dimwitted and wouldn't listen, so he brought it on himself," Nie Linglong said with a snort nearby.

"Shut your g*dd*mn mouth!"

Ye Wanwan fiercely glared at Nie Linglong.

This glare was bone-chillingly icy, and even Nie Linglong involuntarily felt chilly from head to toe in that instant. That gaze gave her... déjà vu...

"Nameless Nie fainted! Forget about him—kill President Fearless!" Nie Linglong ordered.

Following Nie Linglong's order, several Nie family elders and expert assassins attacked Ye Wanwan immediately

"Brother..."

Ye Wanwan was sorrowful as she looked at the unconscious Nameless Nie.

Behind her, a Nie family elder had reached her and swung a fist toward the back of Ye Wanwan's neck.

This elder's fist was too fast. The strength of a Nie family elder wasn't something the current Ye Wanwan could contend with.

At that moment, something unbelievable happened.

Bang!

A loud noise rang out and the elder howled in pain as he was sent flying back by a punch from the suddenly standing Nameless Nie.

"Brother?!" Ye Wanwan was joyous.

However, a second later, Ye Wanwan froze in her spot, her hands clutching her mouth and her eyes wet with tears.

Nameless Nie's eyes were still tightly shut and unopened. He was still unconscious...

"Um..."

A Nie family higher-up looked stunned. "He clearly fainted already... but he can still attack... What kind of willpower is this?!"

"It's mostly like his final instincts and determination. Even though he's fainted completely, he can still use his last bit of willpower to protect his sister..." A middle-level higher-up gnawed on his teeth, deep veneration toward Nameless Nie rising in his heart.

Nameless Nie instinctively protected Ye Wanwan behind himself.

He still had enough consciousness to differentiate who was his younger sister and who were the people trying to harm his

sister.

"Brother..."

Veins bulged from Ye Wanwan's forehead and her nails dug into her palms, blood dripping onto the ground.

Why... am I so useless...?

I don't have unparalleled intelligence... or unbeatable martial strength...

What use am I?!

I can't even protect my own elder brother... I'm a piece of trash!

Torrential hatred rushed inside Ye Wanwan's heart. She hated her incompetence! She hated her powerlessness!

"You're dead!"

At that moment, Nie Linglong dashed toward her grasping a dagger, her figure extremely fast and incredibly agile.

2147 The gaze from all those years ago

Swish!

The coldly glinting dagger was thrust toward the unconscious Nameless Nie.

"Pkkkhht!"

It was the sound of a blade piercing flesh.

Drip.

Drip.

Blood trailed down Ye Wanwan's hand and slowly dripped onto the ground.

In the blink of an eye, before Nie Linglong swung her dagger and pierced Nameless Nie's chest, Ye Wanwan had acted.

She stood guard next to Nameless Nie and used her own hand to take Nie Linglong's dagger.

The incredibly sharp blade completely penetrated her hand.

Ye Wanwan had her head lowered, silent.

"Heh... I'm really curious. How much longer will you play out your act of deep sibling affections?" Nie Linglong asked while smiling with intrigue, looking at Ye Wanwan in amusement.

Ye Wanwan slowly raised her head, the breeze sending her hair fluttering up.

"I... want you to die," Ye Wanwan said expressionlessly.

"You want me to die?" Nie Linglong asked with a smile. "Can you... do it? Oh right, I've changed my mind. I will use this dagger to pierce through your brother's chest in front of you... I want you to personally witness your incapability. Your

arrival in this world was the biggest mistake... How tragic!
Kneel down and beg me..."

However, before Nie Linglong could finish speaking, her expression abruptly changed.

Ye Wanwan swung her fist.

This punch was so fast Nie Linglong couldn't react, as though it had broken human limits and passed some terrifying limit.

In front of everyone, Nie Linglong was punched by Ye Wanwan and flew backward like a sheet of paper in a storm.

Swish!

Before Nie Linglong could land, Ye Wanwan rapidly caught up to Nie Linglong extremely quickly, and she snatched the woman by her hair, dragging her downward mercilessly.

Kaboom!

Nie Linglong was fiercely slammed onto the ground, sending dust flying in the air.

Bam!

Another punch landed on Nie Linglong's face before Nie Linglong could react.

"I want... you to die!"

This was violently fuming rage, this was bone-deep resentful hatred. Nie Linglong's heart couldn't help but tremble when she saw Ye Wanwan's familiar frightening gaze.

It was the gaze from all those years ago...

The gaze Worryless Nie had when she trained her...

The gaze that terrified her but also made her harbor resentment...

"You're dead!" Nie Linglong screamed with rage and her hands slapped the ground as she picked up the dagger and stood up, thrusting the dagger toward the spot between Ye Wanwan's brows.

Ding!

What made Nie Linglong incredulous was that Ye Wanwan managed to catch her dagger merely using two fingers.

"Nie Linglong... you truly deserve to die..."

The current Ye Wanwan seemed to have been pervaded by indignant fury and had transformed into a demon that crawled out of the depths of hell.

After Ye Wanwan said that, her fingertips exerted an unimaginable strength.

The dagger caught by her snapped with a crisp sound.

Ye Wanwan kept her fingers on the broken-off end of the dagger and she swung her right arm, ruthlessly slashing across Nie Linglong's neck as though she wanted to cut it in half.

However, Nie Linglong reacted extremely fast and retreated back at once.

Although Nie Linglong managed to dodge Ye Wanwan's fatal blow, a long bloody laceration still drew across her face, which was shocking to the eye.

2148 Lord Asura arrives

"Attack!" a Nie family elder shouted immediately.

The next second, dozen or so people attacked Ye Wanwan.

"You all... deserve to die!"

Faced with the dozen or so attackers, Ye Wanwan didn't retreat and attacked instead, using the broken dagger between her fingers as her weapon.

Within moments, her attackers were left dead or injured, and no one dared to approach Ye Wanwan anymore.

"How... how is that possible?!"

An elder was astonished as he stared at Ye Wanwan. She recovered?! Her peak martial strength?!

But wait... even during Worryless Nie's peak period, she wasn't this frightening. So did she surpass her previous self or perhaps... the old her was holding back?!

"Let's attack together! Kill her!" Nie Linglong commanded coldly.

Before the other Nie family members could respond, a bone-chilling voice was heard—a voice that sounded like it came from the depths of the night and sent shivers down people's backs.

"Do you want to attack together?"

Hundreds of people slowly walked around the corner, and the leading man seemed to be one with the night, a terrifyingly menacing aura tinged with never-seen-before murderousness infiltrating the air around him.

Next to him was First Elder from the Fearless Alliance leading several elders, a dozen or so hall masters, Big Dipper, Seven Star, and other members.

When Ye Wanwan saw the man, her blood-thirsty and merciless eyes finally eased a little.

"Lord Asura!"

The Nie family elders were shocked by Lord Asura's appearance. How was he so fast...

Yes, they had miscalculated.

Their original plan involved Nameless Nie getting poisoned and them taking care of him in the shortest amount of time possible. Since Worryless Nie wasn't worth a mention, they would kill both of them, and the Nie family would have nothing to fear when Lord Asura arrived on their doorstep.

However, who would've expected Nameless Nie to be a monster? He was lethally poisoned but could still display such explosively powerful fighting strength. Even after he fainted, he could still use his incomprehensible willpower to protect his sister...

After they took care of Nameless Nie with much difficulty, Worryless Nie regained her peak strength and managed to drag things out until Lord Asura arrived!

The man walked toward Ye Wanwan and took off his jacket, draping it over Ye Wanwan. His icy eyes turned to Ye Wanwan's injured hand.

He gently picked up Ye Wanwan's hand. "Does it hurt?"

Almost automatically, Ye Wanwan shook her head.

"Hurry... Take my brother to the hospital!"

Ye Wanwan, who woke up with a start, shouted in a rush.

"They're taking him there," Si Yehan replied.

Ye Wanwan turned around and saw that Nameless Nie was taken away already.

Si Yehan also turned around and examined Nie Linglong and the other members of the Nie family.

"Kill them all," he ordered coldly.

Following his placid words, the members of Asura surrounded them all like a web. Regardless of who you were, you couldn't escape.

"Wait." Ye Wanwan looked at the man. "I caused this years ago... let me handle this now, alright?"

The hatred in her heart couldn't be pacified. All that dominated her mind was how Nameless Nie exhausted everything he had to fight for her chance of survival...

She was his sister... so she had to be the one to avenge him!

If it wasn't for her bringing Nie Linglong back to the Nie family, how would they have warmed a snake in their bosom?

She raised this vicious snake herself.

Hence, even if they were to reach a conclusion, she should do it personally.

Cause and effect, cause and effect...

She planted the cause, so she had to knot it as well!

Si Yehan looked at Ye Wanwan and gently combed her long hair.

"Okay."

He nodded in the end and looked at the Asura members.

A second later, the Asura members moved back slightly, yielding a path.

2149 A tiger is always a tiger

Ye Wanwan slowly traversed through the emptied path, her eyes intently looking at Nie Linglong. Her earlier hatred had turned into abnormal apathy.

"You?" Nie Linglong asked coldly as she wiped away the blood from the wound caused by Ye Wanwan's dagger.

Swish!

As Nie Linglong said that, she saw Ye Wanwan's right arm rise and the broken dagger in Ye Wanwan's fingers flew out fast as lightning.

A second later, Nie Linglong's right cheek was slashed by the arrow-like dagger, blood gushing out again.

"Nie Linglong... I once adopted you into the Nie family because I found you pitiful... However, you weren't grateful at all and harbored the ambition of wild wolves, delusionally wanting to outstrip me," Ye Wanwan calmly stated as she looked at Nie Linglong.

"Adopted..." Nie Linglong suddenly sneered. "Who do you think you are...? What have you done for the Nie family? All these years, those two old geezers worried about you endlessly, but how do you deserve it? You're nothing but a piece of trash, and I... am fated to stand at the peak. You—you all will be stomped beneath my feet."

"Is that so?"

Ye Wanwan's eyes shone coldly, and her figure disappeared from her spot as she spoke and appearing in front of Nie Linglong.

"I want you dead!" Nie Linglong harshly shouted, also swiftly darting toward Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan remained in her spot and aloofly glanced at Nie Linglong. "I am Worryless Nie... and you—you will always be the Nie Linglong who I charitably pitied, adopted into the Nie

family, and bestowed a name upon. From this moment onward, I revoke the name 'Nie Linglong.' You aren't worthy of being called Nie Linglong."

After saying that, Ye Wanwan attacked with her elbow and ruthlessly struck the approaching Nie Linglong in the abdomen.

Bam!

A loud noise sounded as Nie Linglong was knocked to the ground.

"Nameless Nie's move..."

Nie Linglong stood up again and wiped the blood from her mouth.

"Using the move my brother once taught me to end your life is your honor," Ye Wanwan said expressionlessly.

Ye Wanwan sent a kick toward Nie Linglong's abdomen as she spoke.

"You're too slow." Nie Linglong sneered and slightly tilted her body.

However, Ye Wanwan's kick abruptly changed in the middle of the path and ferociously slammed into Nie Linglong's chin using an extremely tricky angle.

Another loud noise sounded as Nie Linglong was knocked to the ground again.

"Still slow?" Ye Wanwan asked as she looked at Nie Linglong.

"Back then... You taught me everything... Impossible. I've already surpassed the teacher long ago! There's no way you're my match!" Nie Linglong yelled.

Ye Wanwan's lips turned up. "When a tiger teaches a dog how to hunt, a dog is always a dog no matter how well it learns, but a tiger is always a tiger."

"You... held back back then!"

Nie Linglong fumed with rage between gritted teeth. Worriless Nie didn't teach her everything!

Ye Wanwan moved the second Nie Linglong finished speaking.

Ye Wanwan smacked her palm toward Nie Linglong, and Nie Linglong immediately went on the defense, using her arms to block her body.

However, Ye Wanwan accelerated and instantly looped behind Nie Linglong, snatching her by her hair.

"Finally, one more thing to teach you. Remember to pull your hair back when you're fighting."

After saying that, Ye Wanwan pushed her arms forward and Nie Linglong lost her balance, crashing onto the ground.

"How much evil covers these hands of yours?"

Ye Wanwan's eyes shone coldly as she stepped onto Nie Linglong's arms.

The sound of bones cracking was heard and Nie Linglong was drenched in sweat, but she didn't make a single sound.

2150 The mannerism of a matriarch

"Worriless Nie... Haha... You're the true demon from head to tail. The blood on my hands is all thanks to you. It was you who taught me how to kill... What right do you have to ride above me? In terms of strategy and intelligence, how could you compare to me at all? You should be the adopted one."

Sweat soaked Nie Linglong's forehead, but a sneer remained on her face.

"I taught you because I wanted you to have the ability to protect yourself in the future, not to allow you to harm the Nie family and commit crimes," Ye Wanwan replied expressionlessly.

Back then, Ye Wanwan taught Nie Linglong exactly as Grandpa taught her.

Her original intention was love, but how a person comprehended it relied solely on them.

"Worriless Nie, everyone from the Nie family deserves to die... How many good days do you have left...?" Nie Linglong fiercely glared at Ye Wanwan.

"Oh right, I nearly forgot until you mentioned it. You can't die yet."

Ye Wanwan picked Nie Linglong up and tossed her to the nearby Lin Que.

"Eh... Say... Why did you throw her to me? I'm not interested in her!" Lin Que hastily protested as he looked at Nie Linglong by his feet.

"Take her back and rigorously interrogate her. You must discover everything she knows... regardless of the method you have to use," Ye Wanwan said.

"Jiang Yan, that's your specialty. I'll leave it to you!"

Lin Que turned to Jiang Yan next to him.

"Understood." Jiang Yan nodded and picked up Nie Linglong, about to leave by himself.

"Take more people back with you," Ye Wanwan instructed with a frown.

"This woman is already in this state; do you think she could still threaten me?" Jiang Yan might've been indignant inside but he was still courteous on the surface.

"What if someone abducted her?" Ye Wanwan asked.

Jiang Yan: "..."

Jiang Yan had no choice but to take half of the Asura group back with him.

Ye Wanwan turned to the higher-ups and elders from the Nie family who were present and coldly asked, "Am I qualified to become the head of the Nie family now?"

The Nie family higher-ups looked at each other.

"Yes yes yes. Worryless, actually, we were also deceived by Nie Linglong earlier. Who would've expected her to have the ambitions of a wolf? Thank goodness you exposed her true face in time or else the consequences would've been inconceivable!" a higher-up hastily said.

"That's right, that's right... We were also deceived!"

Ye Wanwan's lips curled up mockingly.

Unfortunately, she couldn't displace these elders and higher-ups right now. She had to coordinate with Second Great Uncle and completely disintegrate their power in the Nie family first before she could punish them.

Otherwise, if she harmed them now, the Nie family would definitely fracture and collapse. That wasn't something Ye Wanwan wanted to see.

"I know you were also deceived, but... after all, you've committed a wrong, so you should be punished," Ye Wanwan said.

"Yes yes yes! Please punish us, Matriarch! We'll comply with everything you say!"

All the higher-ups nodded frantically.

However, Ye Wanwan wasn't in the mood to waste her words with these people right now. She'd definitely settle this account with them later, and what awaited them was nothing but a frightening fate.

"Ah-Jiu... Which hospital is my brother in? Let's go there... Quick..."

Ye Wanwan turned to look at Si Yehan.

Si Yehan nodded and ordered Lin Que, "Escort all the elders from the Nie family back to the Nie residence first."

"Understood, Ninth Brother!"

Lin Que nodded and turned to the Nie family higher-ups.

"Everyone, please!"

They called it escorting, but in truth, Asura was restricting them.

2151 Too late

The members of the Nie family looked at each other, the higher-ups frowning involuntarily.

They were higher-ups from the Nie family, but Lord Asura wanted to imprison them? What outrageous joke was this?!

"Master, this is Nie family's business and Lord Asura is an outsider, after all, so I don't think it'd be proper for him to interfere with our Nie family's family business, right?" a Nie family elder asked, looking at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan glanced at the elder who spoke. "What's between Lord Asura and I is considered family business while what's between you and I can only be considered official business. Understood?"

The Nie family higher-ups were rendered speechless.

After saying that, Ye Wanwan quickly rushed toward the hospital with Si Yehan.

...

Ye Wanwan was burning with anxiety, immensely worried about Nameless Nie's injuries and poison.

In truth, with Nameless Nie's body constitution, his injuries should be considered superficial wounds, but the poison he was inflicted with could steal a person's life.

Ye Wanwan didn't dare to think deeply about what would happen if something bad befell Nameless Nie...

Faced with Ye Wanwan's incredibly anxious expression, Si Yehan merely kept her company silently. Regarding this situation, he wasn't clairvoyant and couldn't raise someone from the dead, so they could only listen to the doctor when it came to Nameless Nie's condition and let fate take Nameless Nie wherever it would take him.

"Is this is?!"

Ye Wanwan stared at the hospital ahead a long time later and turned to Si Yehan.

"Mm," he responded.

"Ah-Jiu, is this hospital good...?"

Ye Wanwan was brimming with worry.

"This is the best hospital in the Independent State," Si Yehan softly comforted her. "I already told the best doctor in Asura to stay by your brother's side and keep a constant watch over him."

"Thank you." Ye Wanwan nodded.

Even so, Ye Wanwan was still fretting with worry and felt a trace of fear toward the hospital up ahead. She had no idea what kind of news awaited her there.

A moment later, Ye Wanwan followed Si Yehan inside the hospital and directly headed to the intensive care unit.

"You're Miss Worryless from the Nie family?"

Outside a room, a group of doctors were discussing something and immediately received Ye Wanwan when they saw her.

Whether it was the Nie family or the Fearless Alliance, their fame in the Independent State didn't need to be mentioned. There wasn't anyone who didn't know them.

Their fame exploded especially after President Fearless recovered her identity as a daughter of the Nie family.

"Doctor, how's my brother?" Ye Wanwan hastily asked the doctors.

"Well..."

A doctor shook his head at Ye Wanwan and sighed. "Miss Worryless... Your brother ingested a lethal poison... Although we conducted emergency care immediately and pumped his stomach... The time he was sent here... was still a little too late..."

Following the doctor's words, Ye Wanwan's complexion turned ashy instantly, and she staggered back slightly but was

caught by Si Yehan.

"How can that... Doctor, are you mistaken...? My brother... my brother's body constitution is very strong..." Ye Wanwan looked panicked, her speech turning incoherent.

"Miss Worriless, your brother's body constitution is very strong indeed, but... he was poisoned by a lethal poison that spreads via blood, so it's useless regardless of how strong a person's constitution is unless there is an antidote." The doctor was helpless.

Although he said that, a lethal poison like withered butterfly didn't have an antidote.

"Miss Worriless, we're very sorry... We really tried our best..."

2152 You are my hero

Ye Wanwan was deathly pale and the man next to her didn't know how to comfort her as he looked at her.

"Ah-Jiu, I want to spend some time with my brother."

An unknown amount of time passed before Ye Wanwan spoke to Si Yehan.

"Alright." Si Yehan wanted to speak but hesitated. Any words right now were too weak, so he could only pat her hair comfortingly in the end.

After obtaining permission from the doctor, Ye Wanwan entered the hospital room by herself.

Nameless Nie was lying in bed, alone and unmoving with an oxygen mask over his nose and mouth. There wasn't a trace of pain on his face. It was as though he was merely sleeping, awfully serene.

"Brother..."

Ye Wanwan walked to the side of the bed and tightly grasped Nameless Nie's hands.

"Brother, wake up... Didn't you want to get rich? Do business? Wake up... I'll give all of the Fearless Alliance... and the Nie family's business to you. Also, I'll tell Ah-Jiu to give all of his business to you too, how about that?"

Ye Wanwan stared at the motionless Nameless Nie on the hospital bed, a mist rising over her eyes.

She gently shook Nameless Nie's arm. She couldn't lose him. That was a pain she couldn't endure in her life.

In her mind, dribs and drabs of her past with Nameless Nie faintly surfaced.

Ye Wanwan left the Nie family when she was young and lived with their Grandpa, but it was precisely that which made her

every interaction with Nameless Nie extraordinarily precious and extraordinarily valuable.

"Brother, do you still remember? When I was young... I was bullied by someone... and you picked up a brick to smash that guy's head... many times..."

Inside the ward, Ye Wanwan smiled at times, cried at others.

Outside the ward, Si Yehan remained silent.

...

"Brother, do you know? This time... you were protecting me again. Even though you lost your consciousness already, you were still protecting me, your useless sister... Brother, no matter how outsiders view you, you're always the mightiest hero in my mind..."

"Brother... wake up... Didn't you once say that as long as I could fend off three moves from you, you would agree to all of my reasonable and unreasonable requests...? I can definitely take three moves from you now, perhaps even more... You can't weasel out of it. You have to wake up and fulfill your promise... I'm begging you..."

Ye Wanwan clutched Nameless Nie's hands tighter and tighter. It was though she would lose hold of her brother if she loosened her grip even slightly and he would never reappear in her life again.

Ye Wanwan stayed in the hospital room without taking a step away, accompanying Nameless Nie the whole night.

And outside the hospital room, Si Yehan also didn't take a single step away and stood guard on such a miserable night.

...

The next morning, faint rays of sunlight scattered in the hospital room through the window.

Ye Wanwan dazedly opened her eyes and subconsciously reached for Nameless Nie's hands. "Brother... Don't..."

Before Ye Wanwan finished speaking, she discovered the bed was empty.

Unease and hysteria enveloped her heart instantly.

Within seconds, Ye Wanwan shot up with panic all across her face and wanted to sprint out of the ward.

However, she had just stood up when she discovered Nameless Nie sitting by the table next to the window, dressed in his patient's gown with one leg propped over his knee. He was taking a bite from the partially-eaten apple in his hand.

Ye Wanwan stared at Nameless Nie, her mind turning blank.

Meanwhile, Nameless Nie dumbfoundedly looked back at her.

"Want some?"

Upon seeing a lack of response from her, Nameless Nie handed his apple to her.

Ye Wanwan's gaze landed on the apple he was handing to her, and she reflexively accepted it.

2153 Was that the main point?

After his apple was taken, Nameless Nie wiped his mouth and picked up a pear from the tray and started eating it.

"Sister... I'm telling you, I'm starving to death. Why is there only fruit here...?" Nameless Nie slurred out inarticulately.

Ye Wanwan quickly put the apple aside and looked at Nameless Nie. "Brother... Hold on, my brain is a little messy... Let's get this clear... You're fine?"

Nameless Nie was bewildered. "Who said I'm fine? Motherf*cker, there isn't a spot in my body that doesn't hurt! I was nearly beaten to death by those f*cking b*stards! They were seriously ruthless..."

There isn't a spot in his body that doesn't hurt??? He was nearly beaten to death???

Is that the main point?!

Wasn't the main point him drinking iced pear juice that contained a lethal poison?!

"Doctor... Brother, don't move. I'm gonna go call the doctor!"

Ye Wanwan turned to sprint out.

Nameless Nie instantly pulled Ye Wanwan back. "Call a doctor? Call what doctor? Didn't I just take a round of beating? There's nothing major about that. Look at you—you sent me to the hospital for such a trivial matter! Doesn't the hospital cost anything? Brother isn't lecturing you, but you're being too extravagant and wasteful!"

Ye Wanwan was utterly stupefied. This absolutely wasn't a dying flash of lucidity! Her brother was absolutely full of vigor and energy and didn't look poisoned in the slightest!

"Ay, if it weren't for you dragging me back, why would I have been beaten up so miserably? You'll pay for the hospital cost

and also the nutrition cost or whatever. You'll pay for it all," Nameless Nie lamented with a sigh a moment later.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"Weren't you lethally poisoned?!" Ye Wanwan was stunned.

"Lethally poisoned? Which poison?" Nameless Nie asked.

"It was withered butterfly! A 100% fatal poison!" Ye Wanwan hastily answered. Did Nameless Nie get amnesia?

"Oh, I remember now. You're talking about that!" Nameless Nie pursed his lips. "I have a gu insect inside my body that eats every poison. I'm impervious to poison, alright? Forget about withered butterfly, but I'm not afraid of withered leopard either!"

"Gu..."

Ye Wanwan slapped herself on the head. She actually forgot about Dead Man by Nameless Nie's side!

She didn't know what gu insect was so fearsome to allow someone to become impervious to poison. However, seeing how Nameless Nie was so vigorous and lively despite falling victim to the lethal poison, withered butterfly, Nameless Nie must be telling the truth.

It had to be said Nameless Nie's Dead Man was seriously a character... Back then, her love gu incident was all due to him too.

Ye Wanwan stared at Nameless Nie as though she wanted to say something but ended up staying silent.

She took half a step forward and lightly embraced Nameless Nie.

"What are you doing?" Nameless Nie glanced at Ye Wanwan.

"Brother... As long as you're fine... that's good, that's good..." Ye Wanwan softly said, a smile beaming on her face.

"D*mn, when did you turn so corny? I'm not prepared for this... or used to this, alright?" Nameless Nie said.

Ye Wanwan immediately let go of Nameless Nie and demanded coldly, "Since you weren't poisoned, why did you tell me to run yesterday?!"

Nameless Nie was baffled by her words. "What nonsense is that...? So many people wanted to kill us. If we didn't run, were we gonna stay and let them saute us for dinner?"

"Then why did you clutch your stomach?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"My stomach hurt," Nameless Nie replied matter-of-factly.

2154 Give me a kowtow then

Ye Wanwan: "... " Freaking. His stomach... hurt?!

"Look, although I have a gu insect inside my body and am impervious to poison, there still needs to be a process. It's not some magic potion or elixir and can eliminate all ailments... No matter how weak that withered butterfly is, it's still a fatal poison, and the gu insect takes time to eat the poison inside my body, so of course my stomach hurts!"

Nameless Nie spoke so clearly and logically that Ye Wanwan didn't know how to respond for a while.

"Say, why did you dawdle yesterday? I told you to run, but you wouldn't run... If you ran away, I would've run away already. My stomach was hurting to hell, but you still wouldn't run. You seriously screwed your dad over, no... screwed your brother over."

Nameless Nie complained.

Ye Wanwan: "... " How should I respond to that?

I was worried to death, afraid that something bad would happen to Nameless Nie, but in the end... he merely had a stomachache.

"If you ran ages ago, I could've sent them flying with a kick then ran. Why would've I been beaten like that? Look at how my face was pummeled by their fists!" Nameless Nie harrumphed.

Hearing this, Ye Wanwan's lips twitched. She wanted to f*ck him up!

Ye Wanwan finally understood that she couldn't use normal logic to understand her brother!

Before Ye Wanwan could say anything, the hospital room door was pushed open, and Si Yehan entered with two portions of breakfast in hand.

"Brother-In-Law, you're finally here! Did you want to starve me to death?"

Nameless Nie quickly took both breakfasts.

"Your brother was hungry and told me to buy breakfast for him. You were asleep, so I didn't wake you up," Si Yehan quietly explained.

Si Yehan brought out another portion of breakfast and handed it to Ye Wanwan. "This is yours."

"Brother-In-Law, I feel like my sister's breakfast... looks more delicious." Nameless Nie turned to Si Yehan.

"It's the same!" Ye Wanwan shot Nameless Nie a look.

"Fine..." Nameless Nie shrugged.

"Have you eaten yet? Let's eat together." Ye Wanwan pulled Si Yehan to sit on the bed.

"It's fine, I've eaten," Si Yehan replied softly.

As Ye Wanwan looked at Nameless Nie and Si Yehan, her lips turned up and happiness filled her heart.

"Oh right... Brother, it's your birthday in a few days." Ye Wanwan looked at Nameless Nie.

"That's right. What about it?" Nameless Nie looked curious.

"What present do you want, Brother?" Ye Wanwan asked with a smile.

Nameless Nie rubbed his chin, falling into contemplation.

A moment later, he looked at Ye Wanwan again and pensively asked, "How about..."

"Say whatever you want." Ye Wanwan's smile didn't decrease.

"How about you give me a kowtow?" Nameless Nie suggested.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Si Yehan: "..."

Ye Wanwan stared at Nameless Nie. What did he say? He wants me to give him a kowtow?

What does he mean?

"Freaking, you're just celebrating a birthday. What do you mean by having me kowtow to you, huh?!" Ye Wanwan wanted nothing more than to slap Nameless Nie to the ground.

"Didn't you say whatever I wanted? Then what's wrong with you kowtowing to me to celebrate my birthday? Isn't it normal to kowtow to the birthday boy?" Nameless Nie answered matter-of-factly.

Ye Wanwan took a deep breath, trying to keep herself calm. Did her and Nameless Nie's elements conflict...?

"Brother-In-Law, is there anything wrong with what I said? What's wrong with me having your wife giving me a kowtow to celebrate my birthday?" Nameless Nie asked Si Yehan.

Si Yehan: "..."

Nameless Nie scratched his chin and reluctantly conceded. "It's fine if you don't kowtow to me, but you have to repeat what you said to me earlier!"

Ye Wanwan looked at her brother in alarm. "Repeat what?"

Nameless Nie's eyes shone brightly, and his expression turned anticipatory. "The line where you called me the mightiest hero in your mind!"

Ye Wanwan never expected him to have overheard her saying this in his unconscious state.

"No thanks! I would rather kowtow!"

2155 How about you go rest with me

Ye Wanwan never would've expected him to have heard everything she said last night...

"Forget it, I won't celebrate this birthday or make you kowtow to me."

Nameless Nie looked at Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan and chuckled light. "The two of you, you have to do well."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

This seriously didn't sound like something Nameless Nie would say.

"Brother-In-Law, from now on, I'll leave my sister to you. If you make her suffer the slightest grievance... you can ask about the prestige of me, Nameless Nie, in the Independent State," Nameless Nie said with a harrumph.

Si Yehan: "..."

Ye Wanwan was exasperated. Ask about his prestige in the Independent State...? Does he have any prestige???

Which faction would dare to seek out Nameless Nie's group for any mercenary missions? They were renowned for being unreliable and wouldn't do anything concrete despite adamantly demanding money. They should forget about this prestige thing.

"Ah, sister, look at this husband of yours. He's bad at expressing himself, so he's probably a reticent man. If anything happens in the future, you two must communicate in time. If he doesn't communicate with you, you have to go communicate with him, got it?" Nameless Nie lectured Ye Wanwan with a solemn expression.

"Alright alright alright, I got it." Ye Wanwan sighed. He really resembled a parent.

Before Ye Wanwan could say anything else, she was startled. "Brother... Why is your nose bleeding?"

Nameless Nie reflexively pinched his nose and fell into deep thought when he saw the blood on his hand. "Could it be there's too much blood in my body...? Is it because I'm too strong...?"

Ye Wanwan: "... " Forget I said anything.

"Sh*t, I accepted several mercenary missions earlier. I nearly forgot about them!"

Nameless Nie's expression abruptly changed and he immediately pulled off his patient gown, looking around the room. "Where are my clothes?!"

"Your clothes all got ripped and torn, so how could you still wear them?" Ye Wanwan glanced at him.

"D*mn... What should I do then?" Nameless Nie's gaze landed on Si Yehan. "Brother-In-Law, how about... you lend your clothes to me to wear for a while? I have something urgent!"

Si Yehan: "... "

"I bought some for you." Ye Wanwan took out a new outfit from under the bed. "I was afraid you wouldn't have clothes to wear when you woke up, so I had Seven Star specifically bring some here. The size should be right."

After Nameless Nie finished dressing, he turned to Ye Wanwan and instructed, "Come home for dinner tonight! I'll cook."

Then Nameless Nie fierily dashed out of the ward.

"Let's go back and rest a bit."

A moment later, Si Yehan suggested to her.

Ye Wanwan had been by Nameless Nie's side at the hospital and barely closed her eyes.

"Mn, how about you come back to the Nie residence with me... and rest a bit?" Ye Wanwan mockingly looked at Si Yehan.

"Sure." Si Yehan nodded. "If you don't think any problems will happen with Nie Linglong."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"I'll return to Asura first and come find you after I finishing taking care of the matter," Si Yehan said.

"Alright," Ye Wanwan agreed.

Indeed, Si Yehan had to head back to Asura to set her mind at ease regarding Nie Linglong.

As for the Nie family, Ye Wanwan didn't plan to imprison Nie Linglong at the Nie residence since Nie Linglong's relationships in the Nie family were very intricate. If she was imprisoned in the Nie residence, Ye Wanwan couldn't anticipate what kind of situation might happen. If someone secretly played dirty and released Nie Linglong...

...

After Si Yehan dropped Ye Wanwan in front of the Nie residence by car, he left.

2156 Where did you go to party?

Seeing Ye Wanwan return, the Nie family guards immediately straightened their backs and nodded toward Ye Wanwan in greeting.

Everyone in the Nie family knew about the matter with Nie Linglong, so Worriless Nie naturally became the head of the Nie family now.

After Ye Wanwan returned to the Nie residence, First Elder was the first to seek her out.

"Worriless, what's the matter with Nie Linglong?" First Elder asked her with a deep frown.

He previously felt something was amiss that Nie Linglong mobilized several elders and some of the Nie family's fighting force without informing him.

"Second Great Uncle, Nie Linglong brought people to kill my brother and me," Ye Wanwan answered.

Right now, the only person Ye Wanwan could trust in the entire Nie family was her Second Great Uncle aside from that real unreliable brother of hers. Hence, she briefed the whole story to him.

After hearing Ye Wanwan's explanation, astonishment filled First Elder's face.

"Nie Linglong, that b*stard, actually did something like that?!" First Elder yelled in fury.

Thankfully, both Ye Wanwan and Nameless Nie were fine...

"Nie Linglong is now imprisoned in Asura. We just need to wait until we force the information of the mastermind out of her," Ye Wanwan said.

"Good, then I feel reassured. Also, all the higher-ups who participated in your killing this time will need to be punished,"

First Elder said after a moment of thought.

Ye Wanwan nodded. That was for certain. Those higher-ups of the Nie family needed to be punished. However, as she said earlier, she needed to make them hand over their power first or else chaos would ensue in the Nie family.

Ye Wanwan immediately started discussing a plan with First Elder.

After they finished deciding on a plan, the night had turned dark.

"Alright, Worryless, I'll act according to plan first. Also, in the upcoming days, it'd be best to dispatch more people to scout for information regarding your parents... as well as Nie Linglong. I think she's the most like suspect," First Elder said.

Ye Wanwan didn't need First Elder to remind her of this point to know this. She naturally wouldn't neglect Nie Linglong's side of things.

Seconds after First Elder left, Nameless Nie pushed open the door and entered.

"Where did you go to party?"

Ye Wanwan asked him.

"Didn't I tell you? I went to take care of some business." Nameless Nie glanced at her. "Have you gotten old? Do you have a bad memory?"

Ye Wanwan: "... " Does he want to fight with me?

"I returned ages ago and worked to death in the kitchen for half a day. I finished making dinner already, so hurry and come to eat," Nameless Nie said.

In Ye Wanwan's memory, Nameless Nie did know how to cook, and his culinary skills were rather good.

"Then it's my luck that I get to eat something delicious."

After saying that, Ye Wanwan followed Nameless Nie to the Nie residence's dining room.

Dead Man, Spray of Flowers, and the rest of the group were also in the dining room.

At the dinner table, Nameless Nie kept serving dishes to Ye Wanwan. "These are all your favorites. Do you still remember how you especially liked to eat the sweet and sour spareribs I make? Eat more."

"They're good," Ye Wanwan praised.

The majority of the table of dishes Nameless Nie prepared was consumed by Brick-moving Foreigner while Ye Wanwan finished a smaller portion.

"Oh right, Sister, I just accepted a major mission, so it will be a while before I come back. Without me by your side, you have to be more careful. Remember this: Don't butt into unnecessary matters. Nothing is more important than your life," Nameless Nie earnestly instructed.

"Alright alright, I got it." Ye Wanwan was exasperated. She'd been listening to his nagging all day long. Who didn't know their life was the most important?

2157 How much does it cost? I'll buy it.

"Alright, keep eating. I'll go pack up first so I can leave."

After saying that, Nameless Nie got up and left.

Ye Wanwan looked at the dining table, which looked like a vacuum had run over it, with a dumbfounded expression. Keep eating... eat what?!

"So yummy... Today's a lucky day. I've never eaten a meal cooked by the Captain. I had no idea the Captain had this kind of hidden skill..." Brick-moving Foreigner burped in satisfaction.

Ye Wanwan turned to Brick-moving Foreigner. She really wasn't used to him saying "eating a meal."

"Forget about you—even I didn't know!" Spray of Flowers also interjected.

"Oh right!"

Ye Wanwan's gaze landed on Iceberg Man. "Um... How's that business deal going?"

Spray of Flowers and Taoist Devotee's ears perked up instantly.

"Business deal...? What business deal?! You have to look after us more, boss!" Taoist Devotee hastily said.

"It's not like it's a business deal with you," Ye Wanwan replied.

"It's the same since we're a team... Boss, if you have to hire someone, you can't just hire Dead Man! We're a team—a single entity. You have to hire all of us or else... our full power won't be deployed and will diminish greatly!" Taoist Devotee said.

Ye Wanwan ignored Taoist Devotee and focused on Iceberg Man again. "Almighty one... your gu is rather fearsome..."

"Of course it's fearsome! Dead Man's gu—nevermind, I won't say any more, you've personally experienced it yourself," Spray of Flowers said with a smile.

Ye Wanwan: "... " Freaking... you just had to mention that!

"I won't hound you about the love gu from last time anymore... but how about you sell a few of your poison-immune gu to me...? I'll pay a high price! Name a price and I won't blink or bargain. Tell me how many ten-thousands you want!" Ye Wanwan had a serious expression.

Taoist Devotee, Spray of Flowers, and the others were dumbstruck. High price... won't bargain... how many ten-thousands...

What a freaking high price!

She was the magnificent matriarch of the Nie family, the president of the Fearless Alliance, the mistress of Asura, yet she said something like that without a hint of embarrassment?!

"Boss, how about you sell it to me? Tell me how many ten-thousands you want, and I'll buy it and won't bargain!" Taoist Devotee said.

Ye Wanwan: "... "

Their appetite had gotten big!

Previously, they'd be overrun with joy with just a few hundred or a thousand, but now, they weren't satisfied with a few ten-thousands...

"Tykes, you've changed..." Ye Wanwan looked at the group with an aggrieved expression and sighed exasperatedly.

"Fine fine fine, let Dead Man sell me that gu insect that makes you impervious to poison, and I will buy a few. Give me a cheaper price. It's a deal if it's appropriate, and we can discuss it if it isn't," Ye Wanwan relented.

In a place like the Independent State, this gu was definitely a treasure, so Ye Wanwan had to get her hands on a few

regardless of how much she had to spend.

One for her, one for Tangtang, one for Si Yehan... It'd be great if she could buy more so she could equip the people around her with it!

"I don't have it," the taciturn Iceberg Man finally uttered at this valuable occasion.

"What? Are you afraid I can't afford it?" Ye Wanwan asked indignantly.

She wasn't willing to believe she couldn't even afford a gu!

"Say, boss, are you serious or are you joking with us?" Taoist Devotee asked Ye Wanwan in astonishment.

2158 Ah-Jiu, help me

"Nonsense, I'm being sincere." Ye Wanwan shot Taoist Devotee a look.

"Ah, boss... The main point isn't whether you're sincere or not! You're being too mystical! What is this gu that makes you impervious to poison? If you really had something like that, prescribe us a few! We'd buy it regardless of the cost!" Spray of Flowers said.

"What did you say?" Ye Wanwan frowned deeply.

"There really isn't something that mystical. No matter how fearsome a gu insect is, it'd still die after eating lethal poison," Brick-moving Foreigner replied.

"Doesn't your captain... have this gu? He said Dead Man prescribed it to him," Ye Wanwan said.

"Huh?"

Spray of Flowers and Taoist Devotee looked at each other, bewildered.

"D*mn, Dead Man, you freaking! You had something this good...? Why didn't you bring it out earlier? You prescribed some to the Captain, so you've gotta prescribe some to us too!" Taoist Devotee exclaimed emotionally as he shot up.

"That's right, that's right! You and the Captain are too disloyal! You had such a treasure and didn't share it with us...? You've grown quite capable, huh? You can even raise a poison-immune gu insect now?!" Spray of Flowers added.

However, Iceberg Man merely looked confused.

"Dead Man, tell us the truth. Do you really have this kind of gu and have you prescribed it to the Captain?" Taoist Devotee asked Iceberg Man.

"No." Iceberg Man shook his head.

"I knew it! How could that kind of gu exist?! If it really did, Piece of Sh*t would've bought it at a high price ages ago. Don't you see how Piece of Sh*t carries something to test for poison with him wherever he goes in fear of someone poisoning him?" Taoist Devotee nodded in conviction.

Ye Wanwan's expression shifted as she stared at Iceberg Man. "You... really haven't given Nameless Nie a gu that makes someone immune to all poison?!"

"No." Iceberg Man shook his head.

The color drained from Ye Wanwan's face as she heard Iceberg Man's words and recalled Nameless Nie's abnormal behavior today. She immediately dashed out of the Nie residence.

...

Thunder roared in spurts and a drizzle started.

Ye Wanwan madly dialed Nameless Nie's phone, but no one answered.

About half an hour later, she stopped by a towering piece of rock.

When Ye Wanwan looked at the motionless Nameless Nie who was leaning against the rock, she froze in her spot, tears falling from her eyes without inhibition.

The rain got heavier, making someone unable to differentiate her tears from the rain.

"BROTHER!!!"

Ye Wanwan threw her arms around Nameless Nie.

A gu that made a person immune to poison didn't exist...

Nameless Nie lied to her...

Ye Wanwan finally understood why Nameless Nie kept nagging her today.

"Brother, wake up!!!"

Ye Wanwan sat next to Nameless Nie, but regardless of how loud she was, Nameless Nie didn't give any responses.

"Brother, you can't die... You can't die!!! I'm begging you! I'll kneel down in front of you, I'll kowtow to you!"

She knelt down next to him. "Didn't you want me to kowtow to you? I'll kowtow to you..."

Right now, Nameless Nie appeared very peaceful and serene—so peaceful there weren't any movements from his chest.

"Wanwan."

At that moment, the call on her phone connected. It was Si Yehan's voice.

"Ah-Jiu..."

Ye Wanwan was bawling.

"What happened?"

Si Yehan sounded confused but serious.

"Help me... My brother lied to me... There isn't any gu that makes you impervious to all poison... My brother... is gone..."

After uttering that last sentence, Ye Wanwan couldn't hold on anymore and her vision turned dark. She slipped down next to Nameless Nie with a plop and lost all consciousness.

2159 You?

Time passed. It was akin to a moment but also akin to a century.

During her unconsciousness, Ye Wanwan had a dream.

In the dream, both Nameless Nie and her were in their youth and chasing each other while playing. Whenever she got into trouble, that boy would always stand up and stick up for her.

Sometimes, he'd beat the other person until they bled.

Other times, they'd flee in panic from his thrashing.

"Nameless Nie, you could've ignored me. Who told you to play the hero every single time?"

The girl coldly snorted as she looked at the ragged-looking boy wearing a t-shirt.

The boy smiled faintly. "Your martial arts skills are a lot weaker than mine. If I don't help you, who else would help you? Don't think that I want to stick up for you, but tch, who told you to be my younger sister?"

...

"Brother?!"

Suddenly, Ye Wanwan's eyes shot open. Her body was soaked by her sweat.

Si Yehan was by her side. His expression turned complicated when he saw Ye Wanwan waking up.

Spray of Flowers and Taoist Devotee were looking at Ye Wanwan as though they wanted to say something but ended up not being able to speak a word.

"Ah-Jiu... where's my brother?"

Ye Wanwan snatched Si Yehan's warm hand, her expression helpless.

"Wanwan..."

Si Yehan didn't know what to say.

Ye Wanwan's helpless and panicked state was a thorn in his heart.

"Mommy..."

Tangtang, who was in the corner, swiftly dashed forward and hugged Ye Wanwan.

"Tangtang... Baby, tell Mommy... where's your uncle?" Ye Wanwan tightly clutched her son, tears streaming from her eyes.

"Mommy... Uncle, he... he accepted a big job and went on a long trip..."

Tangtang's voice was slightly trembling.

As Si Yehan watched Ye Wanwan and their son, Tangtang, his eyes coldly glinted.

[Discover the culprit at all costs.]

Soon, Si Yehan sent a message to one of his Four Asuras, Heavenly Asura.

...

"Ah-Jiu... take me to your headquarters."

A long while later, Ye Wanwan's tears stopped. Her expression was frighteningly placid.

"Okay."

Si Yehan finally nodded after much consideration.

...

On the way to Asura's headquarters, Ye Wanwan was silent, blankly staring outside the window.

Si Yehan and Tangtang stayed next to her but didn't say anything.

In the afternoon, the group arrived in Asura's headquarters.

"Take me to Nie Linglong," Ye Wanwan said.

Sensing Ye Wanwan's abnormal state, Si Yehan wanted to accompany her during the interrogation, but Ye Wanwan refused.

In the end, Si Yehan could only stand guard near the prison so that he could rush over immediately if anything happened and assure no problems would arise.

Inside the prison:

When Nie Linglong, who was covered in bruises and wounds, saw Ye Wanwan, she sneered. "What? Even Asura can't weasel any information out of you, but you think you can? You?"

"Do you think I came here to weasel information out of you?" Ye Wanwan's bone-chilling gaze settled on Nie Linglong.

"Heh... I suddenly remember. Your garbage brother probably couldn't withstand a poison like withered butterfly... How is he? Is he dead yet?" Nie Linglong mockingly looked at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan's expression shifted.

Ye Wanwan didn't waste any words and shot to Nie Linglong's side. She ruthlessly punched the woman's face, distorting it further.

2160 A lunatic from head to toe

"Hah... It looks like I guessed right. Your garbage brother did really die... How was it to witness your own brother dying in front of your eyes? How did it feel... Do you want to share it with me?" Nie Linglong shouted coldly.

"I know you're a member of the Direct Line. I will only ask this once." Ye Wanwan expressionlessly stared at Nie Linglong. "Who is the mysterious man you met last time? Also, what is the Direct Line's objective?"

"You want to know? Can't you go and investigate it yourself?" Nie Linglong cheerily retorted.

"One last question, where are my Dad and Mom? Did you do it? I'll only give you one chance," Ye Wanwan continued icily.

"Are you talking about those two old geezers...? Of course it was me. I can tell you they're still alive... but perhaps they're about to die. You want to know where they are? Kneel down and beg me! Maybe I'll tell you if I'm happy," Nie Linglong said.

"Great." Ye Wanwan nodded. "I gave you the chance... It was you... who didn't treasure it. Everything will end now."

As she spoke, she pulled out a dagger from her side.

"What a joke! You dare to harm me?!" Nie Linglong wasn't frightened in the slightest. "If I die, you'll never get any information regarding Madam Nie and Patriarch Nie. Also, the Direct Line will soon launch a war on the Independent State! You dare?"

So what if she was captured? Nie Linglong absolutely didn't believe they dared to take her life away. She was too important.

Nie Linglong had just finished speaking when the chillingly glinting dagger in Ye Wanwan's hand pierced into Nie

Linglong's left arm.

Nie Linglong's tragic howl quickly followed.

A second later, Ye Wanwan expressionlessly pulled the dagger out and pierced Nie Linglong's right arm next.

"Have... have you gone crazy...?!"

Nie Linglong's complexion was pale, and the intense agony caused her face to further contort.

Has this woman gone crazy...? Is she really ignoring the fate of the Independent State and her parents?! She actually dares to treat me like this?!

Ye Wanwan stared at Nie Linglong without a word. She grabbed Nie Linglong by the hair and gently placed the icy dagger against Nie Linglong's neck.

"Brother..."

A mist covered Ye Wanwan's eyes. "I've avenged you...!"

The next second, Ye Wanwan put force in the dagger and broke the skin on Nie Linglong's neck layer by layer.

"Worriless... Worriless Nie... you... you lunatic..."

At that moment, Nie Linglong finally felt a fear she had never felt before overcoming her. In her memories, Worriless Nie was indeed a lunatic... She could ignore all the consequences and do every crazy thing that no one would expect!

"Sis... sister... I'll talk. I'll tell you... everything..."

Before Nie Linglong could finish speaking, her mouth was covered by Ye Wanwan.

"Mm... Mmmm..."

Nie Linglong fearfully looked at Ye Wanwan but couldn't spit out a single word.

"Shh..."

Ye Wanwan made a silencing motion at Nie Linglong. "Don't talk..."

"I already gave you a chance to speak earlier... It was you who gave it up, no...?"

"Mmm!"

Nie Linglong frantically shook her head. She was afraid. The drape of death caused her to incessantly shudder.

"You killed my brother... You won't be the only one... Every person behind you will also... be buried with my brother!"

Then Ye Wanwan slashed the dagger across Nie Linglong's neck without any hesitation.

2161 You're the mightiest hero in my mind

As Ye Wanwan watched Nie Linglong breathe her last breath, her face turned colder and she tossed the blood-stained dagger to the side.

At that moment, Si Yehan, who had heard the odd noise coming from the cell, opened the cell door and entered.

After seeing the lifeless Nie Linglong, his gaze landed on Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan looked like she was a crazed, bloodthirsty demon who had climbed out from the pits of hell. Her bone-chilling gaze caused Si Yehan's heart to ache immensely.

Si Yehan walked toward Ye Wanwan immediately, gently pulling her into his arms.

"Ah-Jiu..."

Ye Wanwan deeply burrowed her head in his arms. Si Yehan could feel her tears soaking his shirt.

"Mm," Si Yehan quietly replied.

"Ah-Jiu... I... I miss my brother... I miss him.."

A second later, Ye Wanwan tightly hugged Si Yehan, trembling in his arms slightly.

"He was... your mightiest hero," Si Yehan softly whispered.

...

At Asura, Tangtang and Si Yehan kept Ye Wanwan company without leaving her for a second. After several days, Ye Wanwan's mood finally improved.

That same day, Ye Wanwan returned to the Nie residence.

The Nie family had been cleansed entirely, and the power of all the higher-ups who participated in Ye Wanwan and

Nameless Nie's attempted murder had been handed to her Second Great Uncle, the Nie family's First Elder.

Ye Wanwan didn't expect her Second Great Uncle to act so swiftly or eliminate all of the borers in the Nie family in such a short amount of time.

"Worriless, actually... this had nothing to do with me."

Second Great Uncle sighed.

Ye Wanwan frowned, unable to understand him.

"It was only these two days that I learned... In truth, when your elder brother returned that day, he swiftly and decisively took care of all those higher-ups and elders... and also withdrew all of their power," Second Great Uncle explained.

"It was Brother, was it...?"

Ye Wanwan's lips turned up in a bitter smile.

That's right, it was my brother again...

That day, he hastily left the hospital, saying something about accepting a big job...

Ah, her elder brother... was a liar... a giant liar... from head to toe...

...

On the rear mountain of the Nie residence, there was a burial mound.

As the sun set in the west, it scattered golden yellow rays on this spot, creating a warm environment.

Ye Wanwan held up two jugs of liquor as she sat in front of the grave.

"Brother, this is your favorite liquor..."

An indescribable smile hung on Ye Wanwan's lips as she downed the jug of liquor in one go before pouring the other jug on the ground.

"Brother, does it taste good?" Ye Wanwan murmured softly.

"Brother, here's your other favorite thing..."

Ye Wanwan picked up a brick of gold and buried it in the ground.

Soon, the liquor hit her and a crazy smile appeared on her face as she sat in her spot.

Involuntarily, the scene of her first meeting with Nameless Nie back in China surfaced in her mind, along with the drabs and drabs that followed.

Nameless Nie made her temporarily act as Tangtang's Mommy and shoved Tangtang into her care. Then, he participated in some mission completion reality show and sent a TV, a fridge, and the other household appliances he won to her as Tangtang's living expenses, which eventually led to him being banned from all the mission completion shows...

In her state of sobriety and intoxication, two streams of tears slid down her face. "Brother... if there's a next life, I still want to be your sister... and I hope you'll be my brother still... But in the next life... I'll be the one to protect you. Whoever dares to bully you... I'll stand up for you and beat them black and blue."

"Brother... you are... the mightiest superhero... in my heart."

2162 It's you surprisingly

During this period of time, the Independent State was oddly peaceful, and nothing major happened with both the Nie family and the Fearless Alliance.

Ye Wanwan dispatched a lot of manpower from the Nie family and the Fearless Alliance to look into Madam Nie and Patriarch Nie's whereabouts while Asura continued to investigate the island they previously discovered.

The only noteworthy finding was that Dead Man quietly left at some unknown point after Nameless Nie left, disappearing from Ye Wanwan's sight, so Taoist Devotee, Spray of Flowers, and Brick-moving Foreigner had been searching for Dead Man's whereabouts.

Ye Wanwan felt a trace of confusion regarding Dead Man's departure, not knowing what he was up to. Could it be... he was cultivating in seclusion to foster a gu insect that could raise a person from the dead?

Of course, that was merely a fleeting thought, and Ye Wanwan didn't think into it more deeply unrealistically.

"Ah-Jiu... how's your investigation going?"

In the early morning, Ye Wanwan called Si Yehan.

"There will be news within three days," Si Yehan responded.

After chatting with Si Yehan for a moment, Ye Wanwan hung up.

Since Si Yehan was looking into the island every day and didn't stay at Asura's headquarters too much, Ye Wanwan picked Tangtang back up, and Si Yehan visited the Nie residence whenever he was free.

Right now, everyone in the Independent State knew about Lord Asura's relationship with the Nie family, so Si Yehan visiting the Nie residence was par for the course.

Ye Wanwan had just hung up when some unhurried knocking came from the door.

"The door's unlocked, enter."

As Ye Wanwan called out, she looked a bit confused. Who would come to the Nie residence study to seek her out this early in the morning...?

The door to the study was pushed open.

"It's you?!"

When Ye Wanwan saw the newcomer, her brows instantly furrowed.

The visitor wasn't a stranger—it was the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union...

"Heh... Miss Worryless, I have something to discuss with you," the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union greeted her with a light chuckle.

"How did you enter the Nie residence?" Ye Wanwan wore an apathetic expression.

"The Nie residence...? I can naturally enter it whenever I want to. Back then, I could even take away Emperor Ji and the leader of Heavenly Owl, so the Nie residence... naturally isn't difficult to impenetrate," the Vice President replied.

"The Martial Arts Union..." Ye Wanwan narrowed her eyes.

In other words, it was the Martial Arts Union that abducted Ji Xiuran and the leader of Heavenly Owl, Haitang...

Although Ye Wanwan previously suspected the Martial Arts Union, it was mere suspicion and she actually suspected the Direct Line the most. She never expected the Martial Arts Union to really be the culprit.

"So, Miss Worryless, will you leave with me or... will I have to take you with me?" the Vice President asked with a smirk.

"You?"

Ye Wanwan slowly stood up, her eyes intently focused on the Vice President. "You're indeed very strong for being able to

abduct Ji Xiuran and Haitang... However, I'm afraid it won't be so easy for you to abduct me."

"Heh, I'll have to try and see, am I right?" The Vice President strode toward Ye Wanwan.

"You're dead!" Ye Wanwan's eyes glinted coldly, and she swung her fist at the man.

Ye Wanwan and the Vice President's fists collided, producing a stifled sound.

When they exchanged blows, Ye Wanwan managed to make some calculations.

The Vice President of the Martial Arts Union was indeed very strong... but it would be a fairytale for him to abduct her from the Nie residence.

2163 Familiar Figure

Ye Wanwan was certain this Vice President wouldn't be a match for her if she attacked at full power without holding back.

It was just that...

Ye Wanwan's eyes shifted. She pretended to be no match for him and staggered back.

"You..."

Ye Wanwan donned a "fearful" expression. "I'm not your equal... Don't kill me. I'll go with you..."

The Vice President was startled.

They just exchanged blows and Worryless Nie wasn't in a disadvantageous position, so why did she suddenly admit defeat?

However, the Vice President didn't think it was a trick and thought everything was still within his control.

"Then I'll have to mistreat you, Miss Worryless. Tie your hands together." The Vice President threw a string of rope toward her.

Ye Wanwan nodded and obediently tied her hands together.

"However, I'm very curious. This is the Nie residence. Even though you managed to enter, I'm afraid it won't be so easy to abduct me. Once you alert anyone in the Nie family, I'm afraid you yourself can't escape, let alone abduct me," Ye Wanwan mused.

The Vice President smiled faintly. "Miss Worryless doesn't need to worry about this point."

After saying that, he walked behind Ye Wanwan and moved a painting hanging on the wall.

...

Under Ye Wanwan's astonished gaze, the Vice President actually opened a secret passage from the study in the Nie residence!

Why was there a secret passage in the study?!

Moreover, this secret passage was most likely newly created, looking like it had been dug from the outside into the Nie residence.

"Heh, as I said earlier, it won't be difficult for me to abduct you from the Nie residence, Miss Worryless. Was I right?" the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union asked with a chuckle.

"The Martial Arts Union is fearsome indeed."

Ye Wanwan nodded. She conceded. They actually dug a secret passage from the outside that directly led to the study of the Nie residence.

A realization dawned on Ye Wanwan at that moment.

No wonder those top leaders of the Independent State were abducted from their headquarters without notice. It appeared the Martial Arts Union made preparations beforehand. They had schemed for a long time.

"If you please, Miss Worryless."

The Vice President gestured for Ye Wanwan to enter the secret passage.

Ye Wanwan didn't say anything and strode into the secret passage.

After Ye Wanwan entered the secret passage, the Vice President instantly followed and returned the painting in the study back to its original spot from inside the passage flawlessly.

As Ye Wanwan walked in front, her lips curled up into an intrigued smile.

The Vice President of the Martial Arts Union thought he had abducted her, but he had no idea Ye Wanwan had decided to follow Nameless Nie's plan for a while now...

As long as the mastermind behind the abduction of the Independent State's leaders appeared, she would surrender and agree to leave on her own.

Furthermore, she had discussed this with Second Great Uncle, First Elder of the Fearless Alliance, and Si Yehan beforehand.

As soon as she disappeared for a day, it meant she was executing Nameless Nie's plan and would leave clues for them.

At that time, she would collaborate with them from the inside.

...

The next day, on an island:

After abandoning Ye Wanwan on the island, the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union hurriedly left.

"Is this... the island where Ji Xiuran, Haitang, and the others are imprisoned...?" Ye Wanwan muttered as she examined her surroundings.

At that moment, from the corner of her eyes, Ye Wanwan caught a somewhat familiar figure digging into the ground crazily with a hoe in his hand.

2164 It's you?

Ye Wanwan inspected the somewhat familiar figure, her brows furrowing. Why did that figure resemble Si Xia...?

No way. Why would Si Xia appear in this kind of place?

Ye Wanwan strode ahead suspiciously.

The man had an unkempt appearance with dirt pasted to his face, so Ye Wanwan couldn't be certain.

"Si Xia..." Ye Wanwan furtively called to the man.

The man with the hoe instantly reacted and reflexively turned to Ye Wanwan.

"Y-y-you... It's you?!"

Si Xia looked more stunned than Ye Wanwan when he saw her.

Ye Wanwan dumbfoundedly stared at the man in front of her. How did Si Xia get to this state...? No, to be more precise, how did Si Xia appear in the Independent State and get abducted to this wretched place?

She surmised that this island was the same as a prison and its prisoners were nearly all reputable figures from the Independent State. However, Si Xia was... a reputable figure in the Independent State? That didn't make sense.

Before Ye Wanwan could react, Si Xia sprinted toward her with his hoe and tried to hit her.

Instinctively, Ye Wanwan caught the hoe Si Xia swung toward her and flung the hoe along with Si Xia back.

"What are you doing?"

Ye Wanwan surveyed Si Xia with a deep frown, but she figured it out within moments.

In China, she tricked Si Wutian into being arrested, so Si Xia was probably avenging his father.

"Ye Wanwan! Are you mad... Why the heck did you hit me?!"

Si Xia slowly climbed up from the ground.

"Si Xia, about your father..."

Ye Wanwan explained the whole story to Si Xia.

Ye Wanwan couldn't do much about Si Wutian. Si Wutian wanted to kill her, so there was no way she would take it lying down and not retaliate. Moreover, Si Wutian brought everything onto his own self.

Speaking of which, Ye Wanwan didn't hit Si Wutian or curse him. She merely called the police with a flick of her hand, so whose fault was it?

"Si Bayi..."

Si Xia bitterly smiled and shook his head after listening to her explanation. "He brought it on himself. He committed a crime in China, so his capture was to be expected. There's nothing to say about that."

Ye Wanwan finally relaxed, knowing that Si Xia thought that way.

"Then why were you trying to hit me with a hoe?" Ye Wanwan was puzzled.

"Who the heck was hitting you with a hoe? I merely got excited suddenly seeing a familiar face. Who the hell knows how long I've been imprisoned in this f*cking place... I was just running toward you with a hoe. Who knew what madness struck you and made you hit me?"

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"Oh right, how did you get captured to this d*mn place?" Ye Wanwan looked at him in surprise.

Si Xia sighed. "I learned about the existence of the Independent State and the Si Clan by chance... After my father went missing, I originally intended to come to the Independent State to find him. However... on my way here, I learned from the news that he got imprisoned in China after committing a big crime..."

"After that, I planned to visit the Si Clan, but they said I was the child of some sinner..."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"Aren't you curious about how I appeared here?" Ye Wanwan asked Si Xia.

2165 Continue, I won't disturb you

“What’s there to be curious about? After coming to the Independent State, of course I’ve heard of your great name. Who doesn’t know the president of the Independent State’s Fearless Alliance...? You hid your identity quite deeply... I couldn’t tell...” Si Xia glanced at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan didn’t respond to that. Her fame wasn’t a good kind of fame.

“Oh right, how long have you been imprisoned in this place?” she inquired.

“Two months or so,” Si Xia replied.

“So... you should be rather familiar with the situation here?” Ye Wanwan’s eyes brightened.

“Kinda,” Si Xia answered honestly.

“Great, then tell me what’s the situation here and who’s imprisoned here,” Ye Wanwan hastily asked as she sat down next to Si Xia. Right now, she didn’t know anything and coincidentally needed to find someone to spill all the information.

“This is the bottom-most level of the underground prison of the Independent State’s Martial Arts Union. However, this level isn’t underground. Instead, it’s on an island,” Si Xia explained.

Ye Wanwan turned pensive as she listened to Si Xia. Who could’ve imagined the lowest level of the underground prison wasn’t underground and was on a freaking island?

It appeared she guessed correctly.

If the island Si Yehan discovered wasn’t where the Martial Arts Union imprisoned people, there would be a series of trouble. But currently speaking, Asura, the Fearless Alliance,

and the entire Nie family had locked their sights onto this island. As long as she cooperated with those leaders on this island and collaborated with Si Yehan and the others from the inside, they could definitely fight their way out easily.

Of course, she might have to become familiar with those leaders before that or else those people would think of her as a madwoman.

“What are you doing here with the hoe?”

A moment later, Ye Wanwan stared at the hoe Si Xia was holding, baffled.

“Digging a tunnel to escape,” Si Xia replied truthfully.

“Dig a tunnel...?” Ye Wanwan stared at Si Xia like he was an idiot. “If I remember correctly... this is an island in the sea. Do you plan to dig 10,000 miles into the depths of the sea?”

“I know it’s an island, but so what? Can’t I have some unhappiness?”

“Oh, um... continue to dig. I won’t disturb you.”

...

News of President Fearless, Bai Feng, being captured and brought to the island spread far and wide within half a day.

In this island prison, after a few days of unrelenting effort, Ye Wanwan successfully befriended those old leaders of the Independent State.

After Ye Wanwan recovered the majority of her memories, many faces surfaced in her mind. Since she had seen most of the leaders who were captured there and had interacted with some of them, tricking them—wait no, befriending them—progressed rather smoothly.

Some days later:

In the rundown cell, Ye Wanwan sat with three people at a table with a brand new deck of cards on the table. Countless powerful big shots from the Independent State stood around them.

The scene of these powerful and mighty big shots, who were once harder to see than climbing to the heavens, nesting together to watch a round of Fight the Landlord with great relish and occasionally give directions... Ye Wanwan didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

“Heh, say, Bai Feng, you've changed a lot after not seeing you for many years. I nearly didn't recognize you,” a middle-aged man remarked with a light chuckle as he played a card.

2166 Emperor Ji escaped?

“That’s right, President Bai has changed a lot these past years. You’re a lot better looking than before.”

“Keep playing cards, why are you wasting words... hold on, what did you play?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“A pair of sevens.”

“Bomb!” Ye Wanwan casually threw down a “bomb.”

“Bai Feng, are you freaking mad? We’re a team, so why the hell are you bombing me?!” The middle-aged man looked at Ye Wanwan in shock.

“Don’t waste time. Do you want it or not?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“I don’t.”

“Can the landlord follow it?” Ye Wanwan continued.

“I can’t.”

“A three.” Ye Wanwan smiled slightly.

“Bai Feng... you freaking! Careful! We’re betting a month of gopher boy... This isn’t a joke.” The middle-aged man shot Ye Wanwan a glare.

In the end, the middle-aged man discovered that Ye Wanwan only had a single card in her hand and the rest were bombs, so she successfully bombed the landlord into smithereens.

“Bai Feng, you’ve given me such a big gift after meeting me by making me act as a gopher for you three for a month. Is that proper?” one of the young men asked Ye Wanwan.

“Thank you, thank you. I was just lucky.”

Ye Wanwan had a leg propped over her other knee with a smug expression on her face.

“Just looking at your expression makes me angry. If I wasn’t good friends with you, I’d definitely turn into your enemy.” The young man sighed exasperatedly.

Once upon a time, his faction and the Fearless Alliance were allies in the Independent State, and he was good friends with Bai Feng privately too.

“Oh right, Bai Feng... If I remember right, didn't you go missing? How did you also get captured to this d*mn place?”

Ye Wanwan shrugged. “It's a long story, so I won't go into it. Anyway, I'm captured now, so what's there to say?”

“Indeed. However, I don't know whether I should be happy or unhappy about seeing you here.”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“Oh right.”

Ye Wanwan looked at the group. “Do you know... the leader of Heavenly Owl, Haitang, and Emperor Ji?”

“Rubbish. Who doesn't know Haitang and Emperor Ji?” a leader responded. He had been watching Ye Wanwan play Fight the Landlord with the other three people.

“Ah, Haitang, she isn't far from us in District A. This is District B. I remember Emperor Ji is also in District A, but I don't think I've heard any news about Emperor Ji recently.”

“No way, why did I hear that Emperor Ji escaped already?!”

“Emperor Ji escaped?!”

Everyone was taken aback.

This island was located worlds apart from the mainland, so who could escape from here? Emperor Ji escaped? What joke was that? Did he swim back?

“I remember there was an idiot last time who wanted to escape from the island. He was quite courageous and directly jumped into the ocean to swim back. However, he wasn't even halfway before he swam back and discovered the place where the Martial Arts Union stored their supplies...”

“Which idiot was that lucky?” Ye Wanwan was intrigued.

“I think he's called Si something... Was it summer or autumn[1]? I can't remember...”

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"So the cards we're using right now are from that storehouse?"

Ye Wanwan inquired curiously.

"Precisely! We were captured here to be prisoners. Do you think someone would throw in a deck of cards for us to play with?"

"Aside from cards, there was also a lot of medicine and some other random stuff. Anyway, that lad did a good deed."

Ye Wanwan turned pensive.

[1] Xia means summer.

2167 Extraordinary idiocy

Compared to the supposed storehouse they found, what Ye Wanwan cared about more was the news that Ji Xiuran escaped from the island...?

When she was being transported to the island, she observed that even the boat ride took a long time, so how did Ji Xiuran escape?

Before Ye Wanwan could think deeper, a woman whose long hair reached her waist entered. When the woman saw Ye Wanwan, astonishment entered her eyes, and she called, “Xiao Feng!”

Ye Wanwan immediately looked back.

The newcomer was none other than Haitang.

When Ye Wanwan first arrived in the Independent State and pretended to be President Fearless, she once met Haitang at a gathering between the major factions.

Although Haitang acted very passionately back then too, Ye Wanwan hadn't recovered her memories yet and had no idea who Haitang was, so she didn't converse with Haitang for too long and made up an excuse to leave.

However, upon seeing Haitang again now, Ye Wanwan's emotions were different from before.

This woman was her best friend in the Independent State, and she was both a teacher and a friend.

When the Fearless Alliance was first founded, she received valuable assistance from Haitang.

“Eh, Haitang's here... Gimme a kiss.”

A leader's eyes sparkled when he saw Haitang.

“Scram.”

Haitang shot a look at the man who spoke before pulling Ye Wanwan and dragging her outside.

“Haitang, you’re still so violent and tyrannical... I’ll love you till I die...”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

Is love all he has in his head...? Can’t he take a look at his circumstances first? A boss is seriously a boss. They have extraordinary idiocy.

...

Soon, Ye Wanwan followed Haitang to the island’s District A.

From Haitang’s description, Ye Wanwan learned that this island was divided into three major districts—A, B, and C—and the people of each district typically didn’t interact with other districts and rarely ran into other people.

District A was where Haitang and her group were located while Ye Wanwan was previously at District B. As for District C, it was much farther away on the other side of the island.

“How did you get captured here?” Haitang hastily asked Ye Wanwan.

“Forget about that right now. Haitang, where’s Ji Xiuran?” Ye Wanwan pressed.

“Xiuran has left the island already,” Haitang responded.

Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded. He really escaped?!

How did Ji Xiuran do it???

“No way, right... How did he escape?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“Who do you think Ji Xiuran is? They wanted to trap him on this little island? I’m afraid it’s not so easy,” Haitang answered.

“Um, there was no followthrough after Ji Xiuran escaped?” Ye Wanwan was puzzled. With Ji Xiuran’s personality, he shouldn’t have abandoned his friends.

“Ji Xiuran said the Martial Arts Union might not have any intentions of harming us, so he told us not to worry for now,” Haitang said.

“...” Ji Xiuran’s logic is rather unique...

The Martial Arts Union imprisoned us on this island already, yet he thought they still don't have any intentions of harming us?

However, on second thought, why didn't the Martial Arts Union directly kill them but imprison them on this island instead...? What was the Martial Arts Union's objective for doing this?

"Oh right, here's a letter for you. Ji Xiuran told me to give it to you."

Haitang pulled out a letter and handed it to Ye Wanwan after a moment of thought.

"No way right... Ji Xiuran knew I would get captured here?"
Ye Wanwan was astonished. Don't tell me Ji Xiuran is a clairvoyant...

2168 The secret in the letter

“It wasn’t that he foresaw you getting captured here. It was just that I needed to hand this letter to you whether you came here or I eventually escaped,” Haitang explained.

Ye Wanwan didn’t dither and opened the letter.

It had to be said that Ji Xiuran’s handwriting was outstanding. In contrast, her handwriting was composed of scribbles.

“You mustn’t investigate the matter relating to the Direct Line anymore. Remember that... In truth, I don’t have a grand dream. I just want a plot of good field and a simple life. I want to engage in small business and live plainly.”

These brief words were enough to make Ye Wanwan dumbstruck in her spot.

He told her to stop investigating the Direct Line and also mentioned a plot of good field... and a simple life...

Could some celestial being come down from the heavens and tell her what Ji Xiuran’s letter meant and what he wanted to convey?

Why didn’t he want her to investigate the Direct Line?

Furthermore, what the heck did “a simple life” mean? She didn’t understand it at all, alright?

And even if there was a reason behind this, he should’ve at least informed her of the reason, right?

Upon seeing Ye Wanwan’s peculiar expression, Haitang asked curiously, “What is it...? What did he write?”

“Haitang, you didn’t read Ji Xiuran’s letter to me?” Ye Wanwan responded.

Haitang shook her head. “Never. Ji Xiuran intended this letter for you, so why would I read it without your permission?”

Ye Wanwan naturally didn’t doubt Haitang’s character.

She immediately handed the letter to Haitang. "See for yourself, Haitang."

Haitang accepted Ji Xiuran's letter with a puzzled expression.

A moment later, her brows furrowed together.

"Can you... understand what Ji Xiuran tried to say?" Ye Wanwan asked the other woman.

"Eh... I really don't." Haitang shook her head.

Why did Ji Xiuran mention the Direct Line out of nowhere?

Moreover, what did a plot of good field, conducting some business and living simply mean...? Those words didn't seem to connect to the earlier instructions for Ye Wanwan to stop investigating the Direct Line at all.

Ye Wanwan sighed exasperatedly. Was Ji Xiuran giving her a decryption game...?

Unfortunately, her intelligence was limited and she seriously couldn't figure out what information Ji Xiuran was trying to give her.

Truthfully, couldn't he have spoken more straightforwardly?

"Did Ji Xiuran leave any other words for me?" Ye Wanwan inquired.

"Not really. However... during his deduction, I think Ji Xiuran mentioned there had to be a mysterious person who formed a connection with the Direct Line behind the scenes, and that mysterious person most likely isn't a member of the Direct Line. Instead, he must be in the dark giving directions... and perhaps even using the Direct Line to accomplish something," Haitang answered after some thinking.

"A mysterious person?"

Ye Wanwan was pensive. Was it the mysterious person who Third Elder said Nie Linglong had gone to see in the middle of the night...? And also the person who kept wanting to steal her ring?

Ye Wanwan didn't wasn't certain whether that mysterious person was a member of the Direct Line or using the Direct

Line. She had no idea. However, Ji Xiuran's speculation was completely on point on one matter.

The mysterious person really did use the Direct Line to have them steal her ring.

Based on Ji Xiuran's deduction, Ye Wanwan deduced something else.

The mysterious person definitely knew the ring she wore represented the paramount power of the Rose of Death and the owner of this ring could command the Rose of Death and become their new Eric.

2169 Vital clue

However, Ye Wanwan previously obtained a rather useful piece of information from Big Dipper's mother.

Only members of the Rose of Death knew what this ring represented, and only someone with deep connections with the Rose of Death could know that obtaining this ring was the same as becoming the new leader of the Rose of Death.

In other words, that mysterious person definitely wasn't unfamiliar with the Rose of Death.

In the midst of Ye Wanwan's contemplation, Haitang softly asked her, "Did you think of something?"

Ye Wanwan lightly shook her head. "Not yet."

Being able to pinpoint a person just based on this amount of information was absolutely a pipe dream.

Forget about pinpointing someone. Ye Wanwan still had no idea whether this mysterious person was male or female, old or young, tall or short, fat or thin.

What made Ye Wanwan's head hurt the most right now was whether the letter Ji Xiuran left for her had anything to do with this mysterious person or not.

If it didn't, what was Ji Xiuran trying to convey? If it did, what was the meaning and what was the goal?

Ye Wanwan felt her head swelling like a balloon.

"Haitang, are there any other clues?" Ye Wanwan asked Haitang.

Right now, every minute thing that Ji Xiuran left behind could be a vital clue, so Ye Wanwan didn't want to overlook any useful information.

"Mn, during Ji Xiuran's deduction, he was in a flustered state and was even agitated... He wrote down many things but shredded everything," Haitang answered.

“Are the shreds still here?” Ye Wanwan hastily questioned.

For some reason, Ye Wanwan had a feeling that valuable clues were left behind in the paper that Ji Xiuran shredded.

“They haven’t been cleaned out yet. I’ll take you there.”

...

Soon, Ye Wanwan and Haitang arrived at the storehouse.

“This is the storehouse that Si Xia discovered?”

Ye Wanwan looked surprised as she assessed the spot.

“You know Si Xia?” Haitang asked casually.

“Mn...” Ye Wanwan nodded.

“He’s quite lucky and discovered this reserve storehouse. There are many useful items in here, medicine being the most abundant,” Haitang said with a smile.

As Haitang spoke, she brought over all the paper shreds that Ji Xiuran shredded.

Ye Wanwan was exasperated when she saw the scraps.

They were indeed shredded—too shredded even.

“Let’s piece together all these scraps and see if we can find some useful information,” Haitang suggested.

“Okay.”

Ye Wanwan and Haitang started working.

After some time passed, Ye Wanwan and Haitang speechlessly met each other’s eyes.

It might look like a simple task but it, in fact, required a herculean amount of effort. Piecing these shredded pieces of paper together was no walk in the park.

The only saving grace was that Ji Xiuran’s handwriting was very clean and proper and highly distinguishable.

“Sigh, thank goodness... If it was me who wrote it, even Jesus wouldn’t be able to piece it together,” Ye Wanwan remarked with a shake of her head.

Haitang smiled in response.

The afternoon turned into the next morning, and after staying up the whole night without sleeping, Ye Wanwan and Haitang finally patched the shredded pieces of paper into a semblance of its original appearance.

However, the things Ji Xiuran wrote on the paper baffled Ye Wanwan further.

Forget about Haitang; it would probably be useless regardless of who they called over to take a look.

The contents of Ji Xiuran's scrap paper did contain some significance, but no one could understand the significance.

"It's actually like that... Could it be the hypnotism lost its effect... or perhaps... too much time passed after the hypnotism... so they remembered everything again and finally returned..."

Ye Wanwan was unable to ascertain anything from the contents of the paper but managed to grasp a few key points.

Hypnotism.

Time.

Remember again.

Return.

...

2170 Definitely nothing good

Ye Wanwan and Haitang studied the pieced-together paper for half a day but unfortunately couldn't glean any clues from it.

The sky was turning dark, so Haitang could only escort Ye Wanwan back to District B first and give the matter further thought.

When the duo arrived at the entrance of the prison, they ran into Si Xia, who was returning with his hoe.

Ye Wanwan looked at Si Xia's dirty appearance and recalled his appearance when he was revered as the school prince and god at Qinghe High School back then, mesmerizing countless girls. She couldn't help but muse inwardly: The past is unbearable to recall.

I can't keep looking at this...

As soon as Si Xia saw Ye Wanwan like that, he knew her old habit had kicked in. He wiped the dust from his face and snorted. "You still care about your looks in a place like this? How leisurely and carefree you are!"

Ye Wanwan raised her brows. "So what? Even if I'm at the guillotine, if the executioner is good-looking, I would die more comfortably, no?"

Si Xia: "..."

Even Haitang was at a loss for words. "..."

The trio entered the enormous cell one after the other.

Si Xia had been there for a rather long time and he performed a meritorious deed by discovering the storehouse, so some leaders enthusiastically greeted him as soon as he entered. "Eh, Si Chun[1] is back! Any reaps today?"

Ye Wanwan nearly choked on her own spit after hearing that. "Si... si chun[2]?"

Si Xia exploded the second he heard those two words. “I’m called Si Xia! SI! XIA! Do you have dementia in your old age, huh?! How many times do I have to say it?!”

The leader broke into laughter as he kept playing cards with another person sitting opposite of him. “Eh, chun and xia are about the same, about the same...”

How was it about the same?

Ye Wanwan was inwardly laughing at Si Xia’s indignant appearance when a familiar-looking leader walked toward her.

The leader’s hair was braided behind the back of his head and a signature beard was kept on his chin. Ye Wanwan recognized him to be the leader of Four Seas Gate, Zhao Gao.

“Heh, President Bai, long time no see!” Zhao Gao greeted with a laugh.

Ye Wanwan calmly smiled in response and answered, “It has indeed been a long time. I trust you’ve been well since we last met, Gate Leader Zhao?”

“Heh, I’ve been good! President Bai, sorry for disturbing you, but Boss He wants to see you!” Zhao Gao waved his arm towards a certain direction.

Ye Wanwan automatically followed the direction of Zhao Gao’s arm and saw a man sitting on the only decent quality leather chair in the prison.

The man looked to be in his forties with a pair of turbid eyes, emanating a dark chilliness that made people very uncomfortable. His stare toward Ye Wanwan especially made her feel like a venomous snake had its sight set on her.

Ye Wanwan had to think hard to remember to this man was... the leader of Hong’an Gang, He Biao.

Hong’an Gang didn’t possess a great advantage over other famous gangs in terms of overall strength, but He Biao had an elite assassin squad under him whose reputation shook the entire Independent State, so no one dared to trifle with him.

This squad was passed down to every leader of the Hong’an Gang. In fact, a vice president of the Martial Arts Union once

died at the hands of this assassin squad.

Ye Wanwan had been there for a few days without any trouble. She didn't expect him to initiate contact with her today.

When the people in the prison heard He Biao wanted to speak with Ye Wanwan, the room turned silent and everyone secretly peered at the two people.

“Worriless, be careful! There's definitely nothing good coming from this He Biao!”

Ye Wanwan sent Haitang a pacifying gaze before calmly walking toward He Biao. “May I ask what instructions you have, Boss He?”

[1] Chun means spring.

[2] “Si chun” can mean yearning for love.

2171 I've never los

He Biao churlishly leaned back in his chair, his eyes unscrupulously running up and down Ye Wanwan's body. "I heard President Bai has been having quite a lot of fun these past few days?"

Ye Wanwan chuckled. "I've been alright!"

"Then are you interested in playing with me?"

"What would you like to play, Boss He?"

"Anything, President Bai. You decide."

"And what's at stake?" Ye Wanwan asked.

He Biao chuckled. "Heh, the stakes are very simple. If you lose, President Bai, I won't make things difficult for you. It's lonely on this island, so you just need to keep me company for a few nights!"

The second He Biao spoke, Ye Wanwan narrowed her eyes.

"F*ck..." Si Xia quietly cursed while Haitang's expression also changed.

Every prisoner here was a leader from the Independent State, and the majority of these leaders were men while only a small portion was female. Even if they were female, they were figures at Haitang's level and were individuals people couldn't afford to offend, so no one dared to do anything to them.

Ye Wanwan was the President of the Fearless Alliance, so nobody dared to have ulterior motives against her either.

However, after being imprisoned for so long on such a remote island without any hope for escape, the vilest side of human nature would eventually be triggered.

Let alone the fact that Ye Wanwan had such a risky face.

When the observing leaders heard He Biao's words, a commotion ran through them.

*D*mn! He Biao is savage! He dares to try something with even Bai Feng!”

“You can’t blame him though. A girl changes eighteen times between childhood and womanhood, and Bai Feng’s face right now is seriously tut tut tut...”

“Hahaha, do you think Bai Feng will agree?”

“Unlikely, I think. Even if she’s Bai Feng, she’s still a woman, so she probably won’t agree to a bet like this easily, right?”

...

Haitang furiously glared at He Biao and hastily tugged on Ye Wanwan. “Worriless, don’t bet with him! He Biao is old and cunning—you won’t win against him!”

Ye Wanwan had some knowledge of He Biao’s character. The games she and the others typically played were all child’s play, and Ye Wanwan definitely wouldn’t win against him.

Ye Wanwan’s eyes turned before looking at He Biao. “Gang Leader He, you said I could choose whatever wager I wanted, right?”

He Biao smiled cunningly. “That’s right—you can decide the wager, but the precondition is that the wager must be absolutely fair.”

Ye Wanwan inwardly sneered. He was old and cunning indeed.

“Alright, I’ll bet with you,” Ye Wanwan agreed.

An uproar erupted in the area.

“Worriless, are you mad?!” Haitang exclaimed.

Si Xia also didn’t expect her to actually agree. “D*mn, crazy woman. Why the hell did you agree?! Do you know who this guy is? In all the time he’s been here, he’s never lost!”

He Biao’s gaze filled with excitement and interest as he looked at Ye Wanwan and clapped his hands. “Seeing this for myself is better than hearing the legends. President Bai is courageous indeed!”

Ye Wanwan glanced at Haitang and Si Xia. “You two, don’t be so rankled, alright? Maybe I’ll win!”

Si Xia was boiling with fury. “Win your a**! I told you this guy is old and cunning. Don’t you yourself know He Biao’s abilities?”

Ye Wanwan clapped Si Xia on the shoulder. “Calm down, calm down! It’s not like you’re the one sleeping with him if I lose! Moreover... what a coincidence—I’ve also never lost!”

“You...” Si Xia started.

He Biao’s eyes glinted. “Then shall we begin now?”

Ye Wanwan paused for a moment before asking, “Hold on, if I lose, I keep you company for a few nights, but what if I win?”

He Biao seemed to have zero expectations of Ye Wanwan winning, so he was startled upon hearing that. “What do you want?”

Ye Wanwan’s eyes ran over He Biao’s waist before she said, “If I win, I want your... White Tiger Seal.”

2172 Just has to be so shameless

White Tiger Seal was the seal that Hong'an Gang used to mobilize their assassin squad. That assassin squad only obeyed the seal and not people, so as long as someone had that seal, they could mobilize the squad.

He Biao's expression darkened instantly. "You have quite the appetite, little girl!"

Ye Wanwan merrily said, "Boss He, we can't leave this deserted island and people on the outside can't enter. Some day, we might even be killed and these items are worldly possessions, so it's useless even if you held onto it. Actually, thinking about it, I'm the one getting the shorter end of the stick!"

Truthfully speaking, Ye Wanwan's words weren't unreasonable.

Ye Wanwan blinked. "What? Don't tell me, Gang Leader He—you're... scared?"

He Biao snorted. "You don't need to goad me, President Bai. I agree. If you win, I'll give this White Tiger Seal to you—as long as you have the ability."

As he spoke, he untied the seal from his waist and slapped it on a nearby table with a bang. He looked around the room before saying, "Well, can we begin now? Everyone here can serve as witnesses for us too."

Afraid that she would back out, He Biao even dragged a bunch of leaders to serve as witnesses.

Ye Wanwan nodded. "Alright. Let me think about what we should bet on!"

Haitang fretted with worry as she watched Ye Wanwan agreeing so directly. "Why did you agree like that? Great!

How are you going to compete now? You might not win against him even if it's martial strength!"

Si Xia darkly said, "Don't even think about some low-level game like poker or dice!"

Ye Wanwan chortled. "I wouldn't bet on something that childish!"

Everyone excitedly looked at Ye Wanwan, wanting to know what she bet she was planning.

In their eyes, in terms of experience, there was no way Ye Wanwan could win against He Biao.

Over half of the gambling dens and casinos in the Independent State were properties of He Biao and the Hong'an Gang. He was the ancestor of gambling, so how could Ye Wanwan, a little girl in her 20s, win against him?

"President Bai, have you thought of something?" He Biao inquired, calm and unruffled. He looked at her like she was prey that already belonged to him.

Ye Wanwan mulled it over briefly before nodding. "Alright, I have."

She paced back and forth for a moment before pausing and looking at He Biao. Her lips curled up as she coolly said, "Gang Leader He, I will bet... bet that you... won't dare to eat sh*t!"

Dead silence enveloped the room.

Ye Wanwan cheerily continued, "If you really don't dare to eat sh*t like I said, Gang Leader He, then I win. Of course, if you dare to eat sh*t, Gang Leader He, then I lose! How is that? It's fair, right?"

Haitang: "..."

Si Xia: "..."

He Biao: "..."

Zhao Gao: "..."

The observing leaders: "..."

“You...” He Biao shot up and forcefully shattered the table next to him with a slap. “Bai Feng! How dare you trick me?!”

Ye Wanwan raised her brows. “Gang Leader, what are you saying? Your esteemed self is the person who decided the rules, so I’m merely playing according to your rules; how am I tricking you? You’ll win as long as you eat sh*t! That’s very fair!”

Ye Wanwan swept her eyes over the room. “There are so many leaders here as witnesses, so don’t tell me your esteemed self wants to... renege on your promise? Everyone, hurry and be my judge! A great leader like Gang Leader is actually renegeing on his bet with me!”

Everyone: “...”

Judge her a**! How could someone be as shameless as her?

However, they couldn’t refute...

Even Haitang and Si Xia were dumbfounded. No matter what, they wouldn’t have expected her to think of such an evil move.

Ye Wanwan shook her head and sighed before muttering to herself, “Ay, think about how I can clearly rely on my face to make a living, but I just have to be... so shameless[1]...”

Si Xia: “...”

Haitang: “...”

[1] A joke on how “shameless” in Chinese literally translates to “don’t want face.”

2173 Shameless to this extent

He Biao stared at Ye Wanwan darkly. He never expected this woman to be so crafty.

The gambling He Biao originally referred to was normal gambling like poker and mahjong, which was why he told Ye Wanwan she could choose whatever she wanted. He didn't expect to let her take advantage of the hole.

It was the perfect example of a word game... and He Biao didn't have the advantage.

"How about it, Boss He? Will you eat it or not?" Ye Wanwan asked with a slight smile as she calmly stared at He Biao.

Ye Wanwan was certain He Biao wouldn't dare to win.

Regardless of whether He Biao would eat it personally, if He Biao really ate sh*t in front of everyone, he would lose all reputation and standing after returning to the Independent State and He Biao's power would also disintegrate and break apart after all. No member would be willing to follow a boss who had no scruples about eating sh*t simply because he wanted to sleep with a woman.

Even if He Biao didn't believe they would be able to escape from this island and was prepared to stay here for the rest of his life, if he publicly ate sh*t, it would be very difficult for him to continue to survive on this island.

"Boss He, why aren't you talking?" Ye Wanwan asked with a jeer.

"So, President Bai... do you really think you've won?" He Biao's eyes locked on Ye Wanwan with a cold gaze.

"What are you saying, Boss He? Isn't it up to you whether I win or not? If you really eat it, then I have no choice but to accept my loss," Ye Wanwan retorted with an uncaring expression.

Everyone looked astonished when they heard He Biao.

Some leaders who had decent relationships with He Biao all looked at each other. He Biao... doesn't seriously want to win, right...?

Although it was truly very easy for He Biao to win... If He Biao really won, not only would it not be an honorable deed, it would also become a gigantic dark spot that he wouldn't be able to erase for the rest of his life.

Simply because he wanted to make a woman sleep with him, he actually went to eat sh*t...

Forget about a prominent figure in the Independent State like He Biao; there probably wasn't any normal person who would be willing to do something like this, right?

"Say, He Biao, don't tell me you're really planning to win? If you're really freaking eating it, I won't know you from now on. I don't want shameful friends like you."

A leader shot He Biao a glance.

"Boss Zhou is right. He Biao, I think you should just give your White Tiger Seal to President Bai. We can't leave this place anyway, so there's no use for you to keep your White Tiger Seal. You must consider this carefully."

He Biao glanced at the speakers. "The White Tiger Seal isn't important. I've never lost."

Before the other leaders could speak, Ye Wanwan mockingly said, "He Biao... I seem to recall having told you this: I've also never lost."

"Do you... really have that much confidence?" He Biao menacingly glared at Ye Wanwan, his expression as dark as the bottom of a pan.

The corners of Ye Wanwan's lips turned up in an icy smile. "So does that mean Boss He Biao is planning to win? What are you waiting for? Hurry up."

Ye Wanwan ran her eyes over the room. "Eh... Which of you bosses can help give Boss He Biao some hot and fresh ones to eat?"

"You!" He Biao turned furious instantly.

He simply couldn't understand how this woman could be shameless to this extent.

2174 I'll respect you as a man

“Me?” Ye Wanwan curiously asked. “What about me? I’m merely thinking on your behalf, Boss He. Of course, if you don’t like to eat fresh ones, Boss He, then we can find you some not-so-fresh ones too. Whatever you want.”

Everyone couldn’t help but shake their heads as they stared at Ye Wanwan. President Fearless’s reputation really didn’t come out of nowhere. Even a veteran Independent State leader like He Biao would probably find himself caught on the losing end against Bai Feng.

He Biao was too unfortunate. Although he had never lost in the gambling arena, his degree of shamelessness was probably galaxies inferior to President Fearless.

Carefully thinking about it though, who was the Fearless Alliance in the Independent State?

Their notoriety spread far and wide and they were detested and cursed by everyone. They murdered and plundered, committing every imaginable misdeed.

On the grander scheme of things, the Fearless Alliance would rob even heaven and earth. On the minor side of things, the Fearless Alliance was no rare participant in pilfering, especially President Fearless before them. Some leaders from the Independent State personally witnessed her boldly cutting in line at shaobing stores.

Someone without an ounce of quality, morals, or integrity like her... Anyone who bet with her would be plagued by eight lifetimes of bad luck!

“I finally understand. Ah, He Biao, did you think you were competing with President Fearless on who was a better expert gambler...? Heh, I’m afraid President Bai doesn’t think that. She’s clearly competing on who’s more shameless.”

Ye Wanwan glanced at the speaker. This person was so boring. Why did he have to say such honest words?

“Say, Boss He, I think if you really dare to win, then you’d be more shameless than President Bai. You better carefully think about what path to take.”

“What are you afraid of, Boss He? Go on! It’s just a serving of poop. If you eat it, I’ll respect you as a true man from now on!”

Upon hearing this mockery, He Biao’s expression turned darker.

“How about it, Boss He? Don’t waste everyone’s time,” Ye Wanwan pressed.

After a moment of silence, He Biao harrumphed at her and promptly pulled off the White Tiger Seal hanging from his waist and tossed it at Ye Wanwan.

“Eh... Boss He, you’re so kind,” Ye Wanwan cheerily said as she caught the White Tiger Seal.

“Bai Feng... you’re seriously shameless!”

He Biao turned and left after shooting Ye Wanwan a fierce glare.

“What high praise, Boss He. Goodbye, Boss He, let’s bet again when you have more valuable items in the future!” Ye Wanwan called out as she watched He Biao leaving.

“Scram! I’ll never bet with someone like you again for the rest of my life.”

He Biao cursed without looking back.

“Look at this... Boss He’s character is so-so. He’s such a sore loser.” Ye Wanwan sighed exasperatedly.

“You’re awesome.” Si Xia immediately gave Ye Wanwan a thumbs-up.

A leader looked at Si Xia. “Say, Si Chun, judging from how naive you are, you mustn’t spend too much time with President Bai. Have you heard of this saying before? One is

marked by the company one keeps? If you keep hanging out with President Bai, you'll turn into coal."

"My freaking name is Si Xia! Si Xia, SI XIA!" Si Xia screamed.

"Then who's Si Chun?"

"How the heck would I know who Si Chun is?! I'll bomb the storehouse if someone freaking calls me Si Chun again!" Si Xia shouted.

...

"Alright, stop shouting."

Ye Wanwan frowned. "I have another matter I'd like to discuss with everyone."

2175 Want to buy a ship ticket?

“President Bai, what good matter could you possibly have to talk about?”

“Of course it’s a good matter.” Ye Wanwan looked at everyone. “Doesn’t everyone here want to... leave this wretched place and return to the Independent State?”

Everyone’s expressions shifted upon hearing Ye Wanwan’s words.

Who would be willing to stay in this d*mn place? But leaving this place was simply a lunatic’s dream.

“President Bai, this island is surrounded by the sea. And there isn’t a single tree on this island, so it’s impossible to make a boat even if we wanted to. Leave...? How are we gonna leave? Are we gonna swim back?” A leader shook their head.

If they really could leave this wretched place, they’d be willing to pay anything with the exception of their lives!

“It’s nothing as dramatic as swimming...” Ye Wanwan smiled enigmatically. “However... an item like a boat—I do have one.”

Everyone was shocked.

“President Bai, you mustn’t joke carelessly about this? You really have a boat?!”

“Of course. I definitely have a ship. Regardless of how gutsy I am, I wouldn’t dare to play tricks on all you bosses,” Ye Wanwan replied with a nod.

“Where’s the boat?”

“Don’t concern yourselves with the location of the ship... I, Bai Feng, won’t dare to say anything else, but I can guarantee one thing today: As long as you wish to leave, I can guarantee I can help everyone leave,” Ye Wanwan said genially.

“Are you serious, President Bai?!”

All the leaders were stunned.

“Of course I’m serious. If I told a single lie, you can beat me to death. How about it?” Ye Wanwan proposed.

“Forget whether it’s real or fake. If we can leave, we’re definitely willing to leave.”

“No need for the rush.” Ye Wanwan faintly smiled at the leaders in the room. “Well.. leaving won’t be a problem, but... don’t you need to buy tickets for the ship first?”

“We need to buy tickets?”

Everyone was startled.

“Of course you gotta buy ship tickets. I’m not holding a charity. Buy them if you want, leave if you don’t,” Ye Wanwan said. “Also, there are limited tickets, so they go to the highest payers!”

“F*cking, Bai Feng, just tell us how much! Name a price—I absolutely won’t bargain as long as I can leave!”

“Name whatever price you want!”

...

And so, every leader purchased the most expensive, astronomically-priced ship ticket they’d ever bought in their lives.

As Ye Wanwan looked over the pieces of officially written and signed loan slips from the leaders, a grin stretched across her face. Her trip was worth it! This time... she was rich!

At this moment, only Ye Wanwan and Haitang had moved locations.

“Worriless... was what you said real or fake? Do you really have a ship?” Haitang asked her with a frown.

Those people had seriously been imprisoned in this miserable place for too long. Ye Wanwan had given them hope, so the consequences would be inconceivable if there wasn’t a ship in the end.

“Of course I have a ship, Haitang. I’m not a fool. If I joked about this matter, I would be ruthlessly beaten dead by those people,” Ye Wanwan responded.

Ye Wanwan quickly told Haitang the whole story.

After learning the Fearless Alliance, the Nie family, and even Asura had their eyes locked on this island, Haitang was surprised. It turned out Ye Wanwan being captured was part of the plan.

“Oh right, Haitang, I still have something to request of you...”
Ye Wanwan quietly added.

“What is it? Just tell me.”

Ye Wanwan took a step forward and leaned into Haitang’s ear to give her instructions.

2176 Deceived onto this land

After Ye Wanwan finished speaking, Haitang's expression shifted minutely. "Um... why?"

Ye Wanwan was silent for a long while.

"Haitang... you don't need to know too much about this matter. Just do as I say. I need to test it out," Ye Wanwan finally replied.

"Alright, I understand," Haitang agreed. "Then I'll go back to make preparations now."

"Thank you." Ye Wanwan nodded lightly.

Seconds after Haitang left, a soft voice came from behind Ye Wanwan. "Xiao Feng, long time no see."

This voice was both strange and incredibly familiar to her.

Ye Wanwan reflexively turned around.

The man wore a fleeting smile on his face as he looked at Ye Wanwan with his long and narrow eyes.

This man before her emitted a scholar's aura from his bones.

"Brother Ziran?!"

Ye Wanwan was startled briefly when she saw the man but quickly regained her wits.

Of course she wasn't unfamiliar with this man. He was her sworn brother, Wen Ziran.

"It really is you."

Wen Ziran chuckled lightly before walking toward Ye Wanwan.

Soon, Wen Ziran stopped in front of Ye Wanwan. "Your voice hasn't changed all these years, but I wonder if your appearance has changed."

"It hasn't changed. It's almost the same," Ye Wanwan answered with a smile.

In Ye Wanwan's memory, Wen Ziran was blind in both eyes from birth and couldn't see anything.

"When did you get captured here, Brother Ziran?" Ye Wanwan asked the man with a frown.

Although First Elder from the Fearless Alliance previously hypothesized this, Ye Wanwan didn't expect to actually see Wen Ziran in here.

"Not too long ago... But that's unimportant. You, however—where did you go all these years? Why did you leave the Fearless Alliance without a word?" Wen Ziran asked.

Ye Wanwan didn't explain in detail.

Since Ye Wanwan and Wen Ziran hadn't seen each other for a long time, they conversed quite a bit after finding a spot to sit.

Ye Wanwan and Wen Ziran had known each other for more than 10 years, so she knew him very well. Considering Wen Ziran's strength, if he wasn't blind, he definitely wouldn't have been captured in this kind of place.

After learning about Ye Wanwan's plan, Wen Ziran was startled. If it was as she said, it wouldn't be long before they could successfully leave this island.

"Actually, I don't think the Martial Arts Union holds any ill intentions towards the people they captured on this island," Wen Ziran quietly said to Ye Wanwan after a long while.

Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows when she heard that. Wen Ziran's thoughts were similar to Ji Xiuran's.

"The majority of the people imprisoned on this island are people who've brazenly rejected the Direct Line's invitation, so I don't think this could be that coincidental... Furthermore, the Martial Arts Union most likely wouldn't capture us for no reason," Wen Ziran explained.

Ye Wanwan neither refuted nor agreed with this.

She was still clueless about the Martial Arts Union's possible objectives right now.

There was one notable point though. The act of capturing everyone to this island, restricting their freedom, and imprisoning them without a deadline wasn't kind at its roots.

“Say, don't tell me you don't want to leave?” Ye Wanwan glanced at Wen Ziran.

Wen Ziran shook his head and chuckled. “How could that be? Who would want to be imprisoned on this island? Leaving is the best option, of course.”

“I'm very curious about how you were captured to this place with your strength?” Ye Wanwan asked him.

“Actually, you can't call it ‘being captured’.” Wen Ziran shook his head. “I previously accepted a mission where I was supposed to investigate this island. Before I entered the island though, I ran into the members of the Martial Arts Union who were guarding the island boundaries and I was tricked onto the island.”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

2177 Calm down a little, Ninth Brother

At Asura:

Lin Que anxiously tagged behind Si Yehan and tried to persuade him: “Ninth Brother! Hold on, Ninth Brother... Calm down a little, Ninth Brother! Didn’t we hear from the Nie family already? Ninth Sister intentionally planned to get captured so that she could personally scout the situation and collaborate with us on the outside!

“Otherwise, if we barge onto the island completely unaware of the situation there, it’d be too dangerous... Furthermore, the winds aren’t right currently, so we can’t go to the sea... So... so it’d best if we waited for Ninth Sister’s signal...”

Lin Que talked a truckload, his mouth about to cramp from how much he spoke, but the man striding forward ahead of him merely straightened his cuffs and said, “Prepare a boat. I’ll go there myself.”

Lin Que sent Jiang Yan a look to make him help persuade Si Yehan, so Jiang Yan cleared his throat before saying, “My Lord, based on the incident with Nie Linglong last time, Miss Nie’s martial strength must have fully recovered. Moreover, Miss Nie is resourceful and clever, so she most likely won’t be in any danger on the island...”

Lin Que’s lips twitched. Resourceful and clever?

He didn’t expect Jiang Yan to have the talent of fibbing without batting an eye.

Si Yehan put on his big, black jacket and buttoned it. “Jiang Yan, if I don’t return within three days, do as I previously instructed.”

“My Lord... eh...” Jiang Yan started.

Unfortunately, the duo said everything they could, but Si Yehan still couldn’t put his mind at ease.

In their eyes, Ye Wanwan was the President of the Fearless Alliance—Bro Flattop—the Second Miss of the Nie family, and the demon instructor of Scarlet Flames Academy. Her martial strength was extraordinary and she had a plethora of worldly experience, so she was a veteran who absolutely wouldn't be at a disadvantage.

To Si Yehan though... his image of her had always been the first time he met her. He regarded her as a weak and naive little girl.

In the end, Si Yehan led Lin Que and several elites from Asura and rode a boat to head to the island.

At the same time, on the island:

When the people learned Ye Wanwan had a way to get her hands on a ship, the majority of them were still skeptical but at least they had a trace of hope.

All the leaders enthusiastically looked forward to the ship coming sooner so they could hurry and leave this wretched place. Otherwise... they'd even lose their pants from this demoness' schemes.

Ye Wanwan didn't immediately send a signal. She planned to observe the situation on this island a little longer and ensure everything would go without a hitch before allowing the Nie family and Si Yehan to come and rescue her. And, well... she wanted to trick a few more bosses while she was at it.

Ye Wanwan's ability to trick people came in all shapes and forms. After He Biao fell victim, other people weren't willing to believe it and tested her out themselves. All of them ended up being tricked until they cried for their parents without any exception.

Inside the prison, Ye Wanwan seized the most comfortable throne. On her left, a leader from some gang was miserably holding her tea for her while on her right, another leader was obediently pouring water for her.

All the leaders were steaming with rage and gathered together, whispering with great fervor.

“D*mn, isn’t there anyone who can teach this demoness a lesson?”

“Teach her a lesson? If you dare, then go yourself! I won’t go!”

“Ey, I heard He Biao’s high blood pressure ramped up again from his fury. So tragic...”

...

Across the short table from Ye Wanwan, a leader was drenched in sweat. “That... that’s impossible! Shouldn’t the last card in your hand be a three of hearts?”

Ye Wanwan wore an arrogant expression. “Your vision must’ve deteriorated in your age right? Accept your loss gracefully. So many people are watching, so you mustn’t try to get away shamelessly, gang leader!”

2178 Lord Asura was also captured here

At the entrance of an old prison:

Several leaders were sitting at the entrance like dried sardines and chatting, bored out of their minds, when one of them sharply caught sight of an unfamiliar face nearby.

“Eh? Who are those two people over there? I don’t think I’ve seen them!” a leader asked suspiciously.

“Probably some newly captured souls?”

A leader from another faction turned in the direction of the two newcomers, and his eyes abruptly shot open in disbelief.

“Sh*t! Lord... Lord Asura! Isn’t the one on the left Lord Asura?! How did he also get captured here?!”

“D*mn! What did you say?”

“The one on the left is Lord Asura and the one on the right is his deputy! I’ve seen them once before, so I’m definitely not mistaken!”

...

After disembarking from the boat, Si Yehan led Lin Que to secretly scout for traces of Ye Wanwan but couldn’t find her after searching several districts.

He only found her bloody shoes on a beach.

As Si Yehan held her shoes and stared at the traces of blood on it, his expression was unprecedentedly dark.

Lin Que also panicked slightly. “Ninth Brother, wait, there’s still a district we haven’t checked yet!”

Si Yehan’s fingers clenched, and he resumed walking.

At the entrance of District B’s prison cells:

The people at the entrance swiftly rushed inside to inform everyone. “D*mn d*mn d*mn, another one is captured! Do you know who got captured this time?”

Inside, the leaders were all disinterested.

Initially, when new people were captured, they still made a few remarks. But as more and more people were captured and their backgrounds turned bigger and bigger, most people were numb to the news already.

“Who? Why are you so excited?” a person asked nonchalantly.

“Lord Asura! It’s Lord Asura!” the person at the entrance yelled.

“Sh*t! Who?!”

“One of Prison’s three heads, the leader of Asura, Lord Asura?”

“That’s right! It’s him! I’ve seen him once, so I definitely didn’t mistake him!”

“Even Lord Asura was captured here? Just what faction is behind this island?”

“I originally thought it was Prison’s doing, but even Lord Asura ended up being captured here?”

Inside a deeper room, Ye Wanwan was playing the card game, Zhajinhua, when she heard the commotion outside. She offhandedly asked, “Why is it so loud outside?”

Someone by the door responded, “Someone new got captured here!”

“Someone new? Aren’t nearly all the respected leaders of the Independent State captured here? Who else could be captured?” Ye Wanwan asked with raised brows before languidly taking a sip of the good tea she just won.

An excited voice shouted from the crowd, “Sh*t! I think it’s Lord Asura!”

“PAH!”

The second Ye Wanwan heard the name “Lord Asura,” she instantly spat out her tea. “Who did you say?”

“The boss of Asura! The Great Devil, Lord Asura!”

“...” Ye Wanwan was stupefied. She wasn’t prepared at all.

Ah-Jiu?

She hadn’t sent a signal yet, so why did he come?

After Ye Wanwan’s surprise passed, her second reaction was to look down and inspect herself. Right now, her hair was messy and her clothes were wrinkled. She was wearing a pair of shoes woven from grass and she was shaking her legs, which were propped on the coffee table, without any care for her image. There were some cards in her hands while items she tricked out of those bosses were piled in front of her...

She wholly embodied a king of the mountain, a bandit...

Ye Wanwan cursed, “D*mn...”

2179 Baby, you're finally here!

The boisterous crowd outside abruptly quieted, promptly followed by the approaching sound of familiar footsteps.

It's over...

Why did he come without a moment's notice?! I'm not prepared in the slightest!

Ye Wanwan was akin to an ant on a frying pan and she quickly put her feet back down and shot up. She scrambled to stuff her cards into the hands of the leader on her left and covered everything on the table with a piece of cloth. Then she swiftly untied her bird's nest hair and combed through it.

Ye Wanwan had just finished scurrying around when Si Yehan stepped inside in his black jacket.

He originally planned to wait for the cover of the night before coming to look for her, but he couldn't wait that long. It wasn't until he saw her with his own eyes that he could feel at ease.

The first thing Si Yehan did when he entered was survey the room, looking for that familiar figure.

At the same time, the leaders around the room also each evaluated the man with their own thoughts.

This was Lord Asura?

“Didn't the rumors say Lord Asura's appearance was ugly as a monster?”

“Aren't his looks a bit heaven-defying...?”

“Aside from that face, there aren't many differences between him and a monster, right?”

Everyone present were veterans with battle experience, so they could instinctively detect this person's danger with a single

glance.

At this moment, a silhouette dashed toward Lord Asura...

Ehh? What's going on?

Lord Asura has an archenemy on this island?

These enemies were infuriated with a single look and are going to start fighting immediately?

Ye Wanwan was truly too fast and even Si Yehan didn't have time to react. By the time he could react, a soft warmth filled his arms.

Ye Wanwan acted like a frightened bunny and pounced toward Si Yehan the moment she saw him, burrowing her head into his chest.

Si Yehan's original vigilant expression disintegrated the instant Ye Wanwan leaped into his arms. When he saw her sitting in front of him, completely unharmed, his maniacal and chaotic thoughts finally calmed and his taut expression also eased. "Wanwan..."

She was fine...

"Wahhh, baby, you're finally here! The island is so scary!" Ye Wanwan's voice was both soft and dainty as she pitifully glued herself to Si Yehan and started whining tearfully.

No one from the observing crowd expected the assailant to be Bai Feng. They watched as this demoness who tricked them to the point of death these past few days abruptly changed her demeanor and flew toward Lord Asura like a cute and helpless-looking damsel in distress. Their chins all dropped.

What... did they just see...?

"Who... just pounced over there?"

"I think it's that demoness..."

"What did she say? The island's really scary?"

Isn't the scariest thing on this island... her?

Also... rumors claimed Bro Flattop had an affair with even Lord Asura, but were they not rumors? It was true?

This woman dared to pick up even Lord Asura, so just how scary was she?

Si Yehan completely ignored the stunned gazes around him. When he heard Ye Wanwan, his loosened brows instantly wrinkled again, and he immediately took off his jacket, wrapping it around her and pressing her closer into his arms. He lowered his head and kissed the top of her head with extreme gentleness. "Don't be afraid. It's fine now."

Ye Wanwan patted the top of her head, upset. D*mn it, I didn't wash my hair!

As she felt the familiar scene and heat enveloping her, warmth filled her heart. She looked up and started complaining coquettishly.

2180 This woman isn't a person

Ye Wanwan complained, "Baby, I'm telling you, everyone on this island is an extremely vicious and fiendish demon! And they teamed up to bully me! I was scared to death! Baby, you almost missed me!"

When the leaders, whose eyes had turned dazed from witnessing Ye Wanwan's changed demeanor so abruptly, heard this, they were all dumbfounded and their expressions turned incredulous.

What... what did this demoness say?!

One of the leaders who just lost the last valuable item in his possession couldn't help but blurt out, "Say, President Bai, all of us were bullying you? Has your memory gotten mixed up? Weren't you the one bullying us?"

Si Yehan: "..."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Being exposed so instantaneously, Ye Wanwan glared at that leader with a warning before continuing to tattle pitifully and helplessly: "It's true! They really were bullying me! Do you know how horrible the big scoundrel from Hong'an Gang, He Biao, was? He actually forced me to bet with him and said I needed to sleep with him if I lost!"

Si Yehan's expression darkened instantly. "Hong'an Gang..."

However, before Si Yehan's rage could explode, the weak voice of Four Seas Gate's boss was heard from the side: "Eh, but... the end result was that you bet he wouldn't dare to eat shit. So if he wanted to win, he had to eat shit. In the end, he could only admit defeat and he lost his family's heirloom, the White Tiger Seal, to you. These past days, his high blood pressure and heart problems have acted up several times..."

The other righteous leaders also couldn't bear it anymore and one of them flicked back the cloth covering the low table, revealing Ye Wanwan's treasures. He sorrowfully said accusingly: "Look at this yourself! You tricked everything out of us and you sold our ship tickets to us at a high price. Even a ticket scalper isn't as deceitful as you..."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Would you die if you spoke less?

Ye Wanwan protested, "Baby, they're slandering me! I am not! I didn't! You have to believe me!"

"Mn," Si Yehan grunted.

All the leaders: "..."

Sh*t?

Was Lord Asura actually this easy to deceive?

This was illogical!

These leaders never expected the rumored bloodthirsty and terrifying Lord Asura to be duped so completely by this demoness and felt their hearts aching with grief.

"Say, Lord Asura, I'm telling you, you should polish your eyes! Don't be deceived by a certain someone!"

"That's right, that's right! Take a good look at the person next to you! This... this woman simply isn't a person!"

"This Bai Feng is seriously crafty!"

"Right? She can dupe even Lord Asura so completely!"

...

Ye Wanwan gritted her teeth in anger. These b*stards! I'll definitely get you back!

However, Si Yehan didn't seem to care about those people's words at all. He peered down at the grass-weaved shoes Ye Wanwan was wearing and frowned. "Why are you wearing those?"

"Mm, my sandals were bad quality and I accidentally broke them, so I threw them away..." Ye Wanwan replied.

A leader interjected, “Didn’t you break them while fighting and kicking someone? That’s right, the person you kicked was me!”

Ye Wanwan took a deep breath and rotated her wrists. F*ck! They’re forcing me to attack, right?!

Before Ye Wanwan lost control and went on a warpath, Si Yehan suddenly retrieved something from the hands of Lin Que nearby.

When he opened the bag, a dress and a pair of brand-new, pink, soft-leathered flats were revealed.

Si Yehan took out the shoes and knelt down. “Put them on.”

2181 As long as you're fine, that's good

After saying that, Si Yehan had Ye Wanwan hold onto his shoulders before helping her take off the tattered grass shoes and personally putting the new shoes on her feet.

After switching to the new pair of shoes, her feet immediately felt relief. Ye Wanwan dazedly asked, "Eh... why did you have this...?"

Lin Que interjected from the back, "That's not all. There's also clean clothes, skincare products, make-up, chips, spicy strips, lollipops..."

Ye Wanwan stared at the other bag containing the clothes and necessities; she was so moved that she didn't know what to say.

Si Yehan said, "I came in a hurry, so I could only bring a random outfit. It might not be to your liking. If you don't want to wear it..."

Ye Wanwan immediately refuted, "No way! I'd like anything you prepared! I'll wear it, I'll wear it!"

After these past days of trickery and swindling, Ye Wanwan managed to get her hands on a single room and hastily led Si Yehan there to spend some alone time with him.

In the end, Lin Que was left behind outside and had to listen to the other leaders endlessly rattling off that demoness' evil deeds from these past few days...

"That demoness seriously isn't a good person! You've gotta talk to your Lord!"

"That's right, that's right! The demoness is best at swindling and tricking people!"

"Exactly exactly! If you don't believe me, ask the people around me! We've been screwed over thousands of times these

past days!”

Lin Que: “...”

F*cking... why did I rush here with Ninth Brother in fear of something happening to her, spooked out of our minds...?

...

On the other side, the second Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan entered the room, she was forcefully pulled into Si Yehan’s arms before she could say anything.

This embrace clearly expressed his repressed unease and fear.

Ye Wanwan quickly patted his back with her hand. “Ah, sorry, I should’ve sent you a signal a long time ago, but I hadn’t been on the island for too long, so I didn’t dare to rashly inform you to come here and risk yourself before uncovering more information about the situation...”

“As long as you’re fine, it’s good,” Si Yehan replied.

“I’m fine! Can’t you see I’m perfectly fine?” Ye Wanwan exasperatedly asked, “Why did you come running here? It was too risky! What if it was too dangerous?”

“There’s no ‘what if’.” Si Yehan wouldn’t even allow a “what if.”

Moreover, if it really was dangerous, that was all the more reason for him to come.

“Yes yes yes, there’s no ‘what if’!” Ye Wanwan kissed him on the cheek comfortingly before proceeding to briefly explain the situation on the island to him.

“Based on my scouting these past few days, this island is where they’ve imprisoned all the leaders. This lousy island is in the middle of the sea and doesn’t have any reception. Plus, the surrounding terrain is dangerous, so there aren’t any routes nearby and ships don’t pass by it, allowing it to remain undiscovered.

“Throwing someone in this lousy place is equivalent to throwing them into an aquatic prison. They wouldn’t be able to escape regardless of how capable they were.”

Ye Wanwan sighed and continued, “Moreover, from what I understand, these leaders were left to their own devices after being thrown here and haven’t even seen the shadow of a ghost, let alone the person behind this.

“I really can’t figure out why that mastermind captured this many important figures from the Independent State and ignored them without interrogating them or beating them. What was their objective for imprisoning them like this...?”

Si Yehan’s eyes glinted and he asked, “None of you have seen the mastermind?”

Ye Wanwan nodded. “That’s right. There’s no one keeping watch over us here on the island. What is it?”

Si Yehan seemed to have thought of something but didn’t say it out loud. “Nothing.”

2182 Is my charm lacking?

Ye Wanwan pulled Si Yehan to sit down on the tiny bed. “Baby, come here. Sit down and rest. I got this private room through trick—”

“—um, I mean, it was given to me by a kind leader!” Ye Wanwan corrected herself while beaming.

Si Yehan surveyed the room as he casually asked, “On the island... did you see him?”

Ye Wanwan replied as she started to take out the new clothes from the bag: “Huh? Who?”

Si Yehan paused for a moment before answering, “Emperor Ji.”

Ye Wanwan choked and scratched her head. “Nope, I didn’t see him. I actually saw a friend of mine, the boss of Heavenly Owl, Haitang. She told me Emperor Ji somehow found a method to leave the island already. Before departing, he left a very strange letter for me, but I couldn’t figure out what he meant after trying to decipher it for half a day...”

Si Yehan furrowed his brows. “Emperor Ji isn’t on the island?”

Ye Wanwan nodded.

Si Yehan appeared to have thought of something, his expression darkening slightly.

It was nearly impossible to leave this island with the strength of one person.

He spent a large amount of energy merely to pinpoint this island’s location. Furthermore, the geography around this island was extremely complicated and had a lot of undercurrents and reefs. He only managed to successfully arrive on a ship because he hired sailors with decades of experience and had an elaborate plan. Even so, the navigation was extremely risky.

However, since Ji Xiuran dared to go out to the sea, he most likely had a foolproof plan based on his personality.

Seeing that Si Yehan seemed to be contemplating something, Ye Wanwan was afraid his imagination was going wild again and hurried to switch the topic. “Oh right, baby, do you know who I ran into on the island? You definitely won’t guess!”

Si Yehan knew she was forcefully changing the topic but didn’t expose her. “Who?”

“Your eldest niece, Si Chun... Pah, I’ve been led astray by those people. I meant Si Xia! It’s Si Xia!”

Si Yehan was astonished. “Si Xia?”

“That’s right! He scared the heck out of me when I saw him. When I saw him running toward me with a hoe, I thought he was going to avenge his dad, but that lad knew his dad had no one to blame but himself, so he didn’t make any trouble for me. Otherwise, I would’ve had to go easy on him. After all, in terms of position in the family hierarchy, I am his Ninth Aunt-in-law...”

Si Yehan expressionlessly responded, “No need to go easy.”

“...” Ye Wanwan wondered: Is he Si Xia’s real uncle?

“That lad probably went to go dig holes again; I’ll take you to him later. First, I’ll bathe and change my clothes!” Ye Wanwan quickly took out all the clothes from the bag.

Si Yehan was seriously too considerate. He prepared a whole outfit of clean clothes as well as undergarments.

Although she could find a place with fresh water to bathe, supplies were scarce and she didn’t have any change of clothes.

“Let’s go, let’s go. Come with me to take a bath first!”

“Where do you usually bathe?” Si Yehan asked.

“There’s a pond in the center of the island.”

Si Yehan frowned lightly. “Outdoors?”

“Eh, there’s no other way. It’s already good that there’s a place to wash up in this lousy place. Don’t worry, there isn’t anyone suicidal who would dare to peek... ahem, I mean, Haitang and I were together, so we kept watch for each other. It was super safe.”

Si Yehan didn’t say anything else.

The two of them soon reached the bathing spot and this time, instead of Haitang, her new guard was Si Yehan.

After stripping, Ye Wanwan sank her body into the water and leaned against the rocks on the side. She saw that Si Yehan was standing at a perfect distance and holding her clothes for her as he kept watch, his eyes not straying a centimeter.

Ye Wanwan clucked her tongue. Ey, is my charm lacking?

His eyes actually aren’t straying a centimeter...

At least take a peek...

2183 Baby, they're all bullying me

“Ah, baby, don't you think this island would be rather nice if there weren't anyone else here...?”

Ye Wanwan lay on the side of the lake, a reminiscent expression on her face. “Do you remember? Back then, we always wanted to find a place where no one could find us—a place that only had the two of us—and live there...”

“I remember,” Si Yehan replied.

How could he not remember?

Ye Wanwan sighed. “Sadly, I don't think that way anymore. I can't live in a place like this with just the two of us.”

Si Yehan's back abruptly stiffened. “Why?”

Ye Wanwan immediately replied, “Because we have Baby Tangtang now! It should be the three of us now!”

Si Yehan had panicked for no reason. “...Mn.”

Seeing that Si Yehan was in her line of sight, Ye Wanwan completely relaxed.

These past few days, it seemed like she was wreaking havoc everywhere, but in reality, she merely didn't dare to allow herself a moment of rest. Because the second she rested, she would recall those matters heavy on her heart.

Her brother's death, her parents' unknown whereabouts, the person acting behind Nie Linglong, and this island that was imprisoning everyone...

She needed to uncover everything as soon as possible.

“Ah-Jiu, when can we leave?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“Based on the direction of the winds, it will be most suitable in three days.”

“Okay.”

...

After bathing, Ye Wanwan put on the dress Si Yehan brought for her.

He had prepared a long, very ladylike-style dress in pastel pink. It was so celestial and ethereal it instantly transformed her from a demoness to a little fairy.

Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan returned to the prison.

The room was originally a loud ruckus but instantly quieted the instant Ye Wanwan appeared at the entrance.

Everyone’s heads simultaneously shot up. The girl had skin fair as snow and hair hanging down her back. She was in a long dress and standing by the door elegantly like a lotus flower breaking the surface.

This... this face...

Isn’t this the demoness?!

“Sh-shh-sh*t!!!”

The room was deadly silent for some time before a leader released a world-shaking scream and slipped down from the bench in his shock.

At the same time, the brother next to him was shaking and fell in the air while someone else on the other side of the room knocked over the storage rack, producing a giant boom and dust storm...

The prison turned into chaos, a ripple of gasps reverberating throughout the room.

Everyone stared at Ye Wanwan like they’d seen a ghost...

They weren’t this shocked even when they were tricked by Ye Wanwan into stripping to their underpants.

“F*ck! This... this is Bai Feng?”

“Am I seeing things? But that’s Bai Feng’s face...”

“What’s the fuss over nothing? She simply changed her clothes.”

“Freaking, the problem isn’t the fuss! The main point is where the heck did she get her new clothes from?”

“That’s right! I’ve never seen these kinds of clothes in the storehouse!”

“Could they have been brought in from the outside...?”

Everyone was talking at once.

“President Bai, about the ship... we’ve paid the fee,” a leader hastily said to Ye Wanwan.

“Bai Feng, you’ve taken our money, so if there isn’t a ship or you don’t take us, you have to refund us 100 times the original cost.”

Upon hearing this, Si Yehan glanced at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“Ahem, what’s the hurry? Any more squeaks from you and you’re disqualified!” Ye Wanwan snorted.

Ye Wanwan turned to the man next to her. “Ah-Jiu... look, they’re teaming up to bully me...”

Si Yehan: “...”

2184 Big Brother, don't kill me

Everyone was dumbfounded at that.

They didn't mishear, right? Team up to bully her? Bully???

Just who in the world was freaking bullying whom?! They'd bought tickets for the ship, but they still had to freaking act like servants! Just who was the buyer and who was the seller...

“Alright, enough nonsense. Make preparations in these next two days and wait for my instructors to act. Also, whoever leaks out the news... won't be able to leave at that time and they will be everyone's enemy! You reap what you sow... Also, monitor each other between yourselves and make sure it'll be absolutely safe...”

...

After resolving the matter with the ship tickets, Ye Wanwan led Si Yehan away and found Haitang and Wen Ziran to discuss the plan for departure in three days.

Later that night:

Inside a simple and crude house on the edge of the island:

Si Xia was sound asleep with his arms around a rock, snores occasionally breaking the silence.

Someone easily opened the door and slipped inside.

When the newcomer saw Si Xia sound asleep, a cold glint surfaced in their eyes and their lips curled up with an icy, meaningful smile.

The newcomer was holding a piece of rope and slowly walked toward Si Xia, stopping next to him. They pulled the rope around Si Xia's neck, seeming to want to choke him to death with it.

However, when the visitor saw the hoe nearby, they appeared to change their mind immediately and tossed the rope aside, gently picking up the hoe.

“Hehe... Punk, don’t resent me. If you want to blame something, blame your own misfortune...”

As the visitor spoke, they clutched the hoe and aimed it at Si Xia before ruthlessly hacking it toward Si Xia without any hesitation.

The amount of force wasn’t light. Forget about a person’s head, but even a large piece of rock would’ve probably been smashed to bits.

At that moment, Si Xia suddenly turned over and the hoe missed.

“D*mn, punk... your luck is good, but... what’s the point of living an extra 30 seconds?”

The person snorted and didn’t stop their attack, striking Si Xia’s head again.

What depressed the visitor was that this punk managed to dodge both fatal blows successively.

“Hmph!”

The visitor snorted. They returned the hoe to its spot and picked up the thick rope they tossed aside earlier.

A second later, the visitor knelt over Si Xia, firmly locking him in place so that he couldn’t move before wrapping the neck in their hand around Si Xia’s neck.

“Hahaha, punk, let me see if you’re lucky again this time. Turn around again! How will you freaking turn now?!”

The visitor was dressed in black and their face was covered by a makeshift piece weaved from the plants and flowers on this island. Their laugh was immensely unbridled and dramatic.

“Let’s see if I can choke you, little b*stard, to death today.”

The person snorted and pulled with both hands, harshly choking Si Xia’s neck.

This very instant, Si Xia's closed eyes shot open.

“D*mn... who are you?!”

Si Xia was stunned when he saw the person in black crouched above him.

“Hehe, little darling, I'm Heibai Wuchang[1]... I came here for your life,” the visitor answered with a chilly chuckle.

“Heibai Wuchang?! Where's Bai Wuchang then?” Si Xia retorted almost immediately, not seeming to have woken up completely yet.

“Your Grandfather Bai Wuchang is waiting for you in the Underworld!” the person in black shouted harshly.

“Big brother... brother... don't kill me, brother!” Si Xia yelled. “Let's talk properly!”

[1] Literally means Black and White Impermanence. They are two deities in Chinese folk religion in charge of escorting the spirits of the dead to the Underworld

2185 Disguise

However, the visitor didn't waste their words with Si Xia and used more force in tightening the rope around him, intent on choking him to death.

Si Xia's face swelled with blood. He pushed the person off of him and took the chance to flee from the room.

"Let's see where you'll run!"

The person chuckled.

They immediately pursued Si Xia.

Before Si Xia could run more than a few steps outside, the person in black caught up to him and blocked his path.

"Just what grievances and hostilities do you have with me?" Si Xia asked the person in the back.

"Enough rubbish!"

The person in black snorted and ruthlessly struck Si Xia with the hoe they brought from the house.

Si Xia reacted rather fast and dodged in time.

Soon, the person in black dashed toward Si Xia and choked him by the neck.

Si Xia's arms swung madly in apparent panic and his eyes turned bloodshot.

"Die," the person in black shouted coldly.

At that moment, Si Xia finally stopped moving and viciousness appeared in his bloodshot eyes.

"I'm rather curious." Si Xia stared at the mysterious person. "Just who are you? Why are you here to take my life for no reason?"

As Si Xia spoke, he gently tapped his finger.

The mysterious person immediately released Si Xia like they were struck by lightning and staggered backward.

“Punk, I didn’t expect you to have hidden so deeply...”

The person in black examined Si Xia for a few seconds and turned to leave.

“Since you’re here... it won’t be so easy for you to leave now. What do you say?”

The corners of Si Xia’s lips curled up with a nefarious smile.

Si Xia was extremely fast and grabbed the person in black by the back of their clothes almost instantly.

The person in black turned around at once and both of them reached for the other person simultaneously.

...

“It’s you.”

Si Xia snatched the “mask” concealing the face of the person in black and turned pensive when a pretty and sweet face was exposed.

This woman was none other than the leader of Heavenly Owl, Haitang.

As for Haitang, she was attacking randomly but accidentally scratched off a piece of skin underneath Si Xia’s eyes.

To put it precisely, this piece of skin didn’t belong to Si Xia or any living creature.

This was a piece of manufactured skin used to disguise someone’s face and was very, very thin. The tactile feeling in one’s hands was very soft and no different than human skin. If this coincidence hadn’t happened, who would’ve expected this to be underneath Si Xia’s eye?

A scar that had been hidden for who knew how long underneath Si Xia’s eye was revealed. When it was paired with his nefarious smile, it would make one shiver unwittingly.

“Come, tell me—why do you want to kill me?”

Si Xia questioned chillingly.

Haitang didn’t say anything as she looked at Si Xia.

“Since you won’t talk... then never speak again.” Si Xia snorted. He seemed to have the speed of a gale and seized the escaping Haitang.

In his right hand was the hoe.

Si Xia slammed the hoe toward Haitang’s head.

Haitang frowned deeply. Si Xia’s strength completely exceeded her expectations. He was seriously too fast, and Haitang could even feel the wind produced from the hoe slashing across the air.

Suddenly, a figure flashed between the two people.

Bam!

A giant noise rang out.

Ye Wanwan blocked Haitang and caught the hoe.

2186 How did you know it was me?

When Si Xia saw Ye Wanwan, he narrowed his eyes, understanding what had happened.

Haitang was most likely sent there by Ye Wanwan to purposely test him.

“President of the Martial Arts Union, long time no see.”

A comment came from Ye Wanwan when she saw the ferocious scar at the corner of Si Xia’s eyes.

“The Martial Arts Union’s... president?!”

Haitang stared at Si Xia in shock. Si Xia was actually the President of the Martial Arts Union?!

Ye Wanwan was initially only suspicious about all the abnormalities that Si Xia displayed but never expected Si Xia to be the President of the Martial Arts Union.

She was simply too familiar with this scar. It was caused by the claws of a wild wolf.

Si Xia stared at Ye Wanwan and mulled over his thoughts for a long time before the corners of his lips turned up. His hoarse voice rang out: “Heh... Ah, Worryless Nie... You really are very smart. If you came here to test me yourself, I would be able to determine your figure with one look, so... you had this woman come and test me... Not bad. You’ve improved.”

Ye Wanwan shook her head. “I’ve long since heard that the president of the Martial Arts Union’s skills in disguise are unparalleled in this world, so it’d simply be too easy for you to hide a mere scar. However, Si Xia, I didn’t expect it to be you. You really know how to surprise me.”

“Interesting, Worryless Nie, very interesting... But I’m still very curious. I thought I hid flawlessly, so how did you discover me?” Si Xia asked. “Can you tell me?”

“Flawlessly? You thought your disguise was flawless?!”

Ye Wanwan couldn't help but snort.

Just who gave him the confidence?

He was clearly full of mistakes but thought he was flawless...

“Si Xia, I have to say that you disguised yourself very ingeniously as a whole... including our interactions in China... Unfortunately, you solely focused on the whole and overlooked too many—too many—details,” Ye Wanwan said.

“Details?” Si Xia was pensive.

“Of course, you have to consider every single little detail when facing a woman... or else every woman can act like Sherlock Holmes,” Ye Wanwan responded.

“I'm all ears,” Si Xia said with a snort.

“There's no harm in telling you. I'll make you accept your defeat graciously.” Ye Wanwan nodded in assent. “In China, do you still remember how you once called me Sister...? That's the first thing. The second thing was when you, me, and Ah-Jiu dined at a restaurant one time, and you and Ah-Jiu both guessed my likes and dislikes... On the surface, Ah-Jiu won and guessed everything correctly while you didn't guess a single thing correctly...”

Haitang looked confused, not knowing what Ye Wanwan wanted to say.

“Guessing incorrectly... was there something wrong with that?” Si Xia asked.

“There wasn't anything wrong with that before... but after my memory partially recovered, I realized... in truth, you were the one who answered everything correctly,” Ye Wanwan replied.

“To put it plainly, what Ah-Jiu guessed was everything that Ye Wanwan liked while what you guessed was... everything that Worryless Nie liked!” Ye Wanwan's eyes coldly glinted.

Back then, Si Yehan did guess everything correctly, but her preferences were ones she adopted after becoming Ye Wanwan.

As for Si Xia, he guessed Worryless Nie's preferences correctly.

When Ye Wanwan recovered her memories and recalled this matter, she found it very strange.

2187 Sherlock Holmes

Wanwan

If Si Xia could hide every single detail, his cover would've indeed been flawless. Unfortunately, this man didn't seem to pay attention to the details. Perhaps he himself didn't know he left behind too many, too many clues.

Si Xia mockingly smiled at Ye Wanwan. "So what...? Me being able to guess Worryless Nie's likes and dislikes could've been a mere coincidence. Even if it wasn't a coincidence, you couldn't have determined I'm the President of the Martial Arts Union simply based on that, right?"

"Indeed, you're right." Ye Wanwan nodded.

If that was merely everything, it naturally couldn't prove Si Xia was the President of the Martial Arts Union.

When Ye Wanwan first recovered her memories, she was confused as to how Si Xia was able to guess Worryless Nie's preferences but never linked Si Xia to the Martial Arts Union.

Si Xia's biggest flaw occurred on this island.

"Based on what you said previously, even if you weren't the President of the Martial Arts Union and weren't connected to the Martial Arts Union, you should've still known my identity... but your performance on this island was seriously too terrible."

Ye Wanwan continued, "First of all, you were captured the moment you entered the Independent State, so how could you have heard of me? Even if you'd really heard of the President of the Fearless Alliance, Bai Feng, how could you have known that Bai Feng was Ye Wanwan? I don't think we've met before, right?"

Si Xia mulled over Ye Wanwan's words before replying, "Heh... Indeed, you do really care about the details."

“Second of all, you said you were imprisoned on this island because of the ancient Si clan... Unfortunately, Ah-Jiu also came to the island... I asked Ah-Jiu about you, but he refuted your story. The Si clan has been peaceful and calm recently and nobody by the name of Si Xia paid them a visit. Aside from that, the Si clan didn't send you here,” Ye Wanwan said.

Si Xia smiled faintly. “That's right... Si Yehan abruptly coming to the island wasn't within my expectations or control.”

“In summary, after coming to the island, you found the storehouse too... How coincidental. Tell me, all the people on the island couldn't find it this whole time, but a newcomer like you found it? Was that really a coincidence?” Ye Wanwan questioned.

“When you put it that way, my performance really was full of flaws.” Si Xia smiled.

“If it was me who came to test you, it would've been as you said and you would've seen through my physique, so I specifically asked Sister Haitang to test you. Overall, the results were good... I don't recall the Si Xia in my memories having such frightening martial arts skills...” Ye Wanwan said.

Especially since Haitang coincidentally ripped off the mask by the corner of Si Xia's eyes, revealing the scar bestowed on him by a wild wolf.

“Tsk tsk, what a pity your memory doesn't seem to have completely recovered... Where's the fun in that... Worryless Nie?” Si Xia smiled meaningfully.

“Enough rubbish... I'm also very curious as to why you came after me and tried to kill me back then... What I'm more curious about is why you infiltrated China's Si family after hunting after me and even Ah-Jiu didn't know you were the President of the Martial Arts Union. Si Xia, you've hidden rather deeply indeed,” Ye Wanwan said.

2188 The story from back then

Si Xia looked at Ye Wanwan meaningfully an inscrutable and unsettling smile hanging from his lips.

“Why did I hunt after you...? Do you need to hear that from me?” Si Xia asked with a smile.

Before Ye Wanwan could answer, Si Xia continued, “However, I can clear up other matters for you.”

“Other matters...?” Ye Wanwan frowned faintly.

Si Xia closed his eyes, the past surfacing in his mind.

When he was young, the personality of his father, Si Bayi, changed drastically because he was expelled from the Independent State.

Later, Si Bayi returned to China’s Si family to accumulate power in waiting.

Si Xia was born in China and grew up in China’s Si family and originally didn’t have that many complications in his life. This world appeared rather wonderful at first.

However, Si Bayi treated him more and more strictly, more and more harshly, and trained him inhumanely nearly every day.

He once asked Si Bayi why, and Si Bayi’s answer was that Si Xia was his only hope for returning to the Independent State and the ancient Si clan.

Finally, Si Xia learned about the Independent State and the world beyond his world.

However, at that time, he didn’t want to go to the Independent State or become anyone’s hope. His biggest wish was for less training and to have a small world of his own like his peers.

However, all of that was an extravagant wish.

He vaguely recalled the year his father brought him to the Independent State—this place that held some similarities to China but was also a different, foreign land.

He still remembered how Si Bayi brought him to the ancient Si clan with a heart full of hope, telling the ancient Si clan that his son was a genius and hoped the ancient Si clan would forget about the past and allow him to return to the ancient Si clan since he brought a genius back.

After that, the ancient Si clan conducted all sorts of tests on Si Xia.

Intelligence, martial arts talent, etc, etc.

But Si Xia bore resentments against his father, Si Bayi, and intentionally didn't cooperate in every manner possible.

As a result, the test results ended with Si Xia not reaching the standards for both intelligence and martial arts talent. The ancient Si clan expelled Si Bayi from the clan again.

It was autumn at that time, and the Independent State was covered in snow already. In his raging fury, Si Bayi tossed Si Xia to some mountain, allowing him to perish on his own.

As Ye Wanwan listened to Si Xia's narration, she finally understood why she ran into Si Xia in the mountains back then. It was a coincidence that led to Grandpa rescuing Si Xia.

“Si Xia... you're truly an ingrate.”

Ye Wanwan snorted at Si Xia. “Back then, on that mountain, Grandpa and I rescued you from the fangs of a wolf. Not only did you not pay us back, but you did this kind of thing.”

Si Xia's gaze landed on Ye Wanwan, and he chuckled lightly. “One second. I'm not done telling my story yet.”

...

It wasn't until later that Si Xia learned the elderly man who rescued him was the President of the Martial Arts Union and that young girl was the President's granddaughter.

Every day, he followed the elderly man. The elderly man treated him extremely strictly but it was different from the

strictness of his father, Si Bayi'. He could feel the warmth from this type of strictness.

At some point in time, he started considering the President of the Martial Arts Union as his real grandfather and that girl as his real elder sister.

He once swore that he absolutely wouldn't allow anyone to harm them, regardless of who it was! No one!

2189 Shocking secrets

When he grew up, Si Xia missed his grandmother, so he returned to China and returned to the place he grew up—the Si residence.

Si Bayi seemed to have lost his ambitions and became an ordinary person. When he saw Si Xia, he sobbed and wept, expressing his remorse to Si Xia.

However, Si Xia understood that Si Bayi had many informants in the Independent State, and Si Bayi was weeping most likely because he knew Si Xia was now the right-hand man of the Martial Arts Union's President.

Neither Si Xia nor Si Bayi addressed the elephant in the room. Si Xia returned to the Si residence merely because he wanted to see his grandmother, so he didn't want to delve into Si Bayi's business.

It was during that time that Si Xia met his Ninth Uncle, Si Yehan.

Si Yehan, the youngest genius of the Independent State's Si Clan. As a member of the Martial Arts Union, Si Xia naturally knew about his Ninth Uncle's second identity as Lord Asura of Asura.

Back then, Si Xia mused that mere China contained many hidden dragons.

Lord Asura.

Si Wutian.

And him.

As a member of the Martial Arts Union, especially since he was the president's right hand, his identity was naturally concealed flawlessly. Even his Ninth Uncle didn't know his true identity.

Although Si Yehan investigated him and sent people to track him, he naturally found nothing in China.

After spending a long time with his grandmother in the Si family, Si Xia returned to the Independent State again.

...

“After you returned to the Independent State... you launched a hunt after me... usurped my grandpa’s position and became the President of the Martial Arts Union...” Ye Wanwan coldly looked at Si Xia.

Si Xia’s lips turned up. “It was rather coincidental now that you mention it... After I returned to the Independent State, Si Yehan also returned to the Independent State. What was more coincidental was that he actually rescued you at the last minute... You know what’s more hilarious... I was sitting in the car, but Si Yehan didn’t recognize me.”

Ye Wanwan’s fists clenched. “So Ah-Jiu didn’t know about your identity this whole time. After Ah-Jiu and I went to China, you openly used your identity as Si Xia to go back as well and monitor our every move... That’s precisely why you know my preferences and incidentally called me ‘sister’...”

“Heh, your reasoning is commendable,” Si Xia said.

“You and your father, Si Bayi, are truly father and son. Both of you are talented actors. Forget about other people—both you and your father have been acting this whole time with each other,” Ye Wanwan continued.

“Of course.” Si Xia smiled faintly. “Since Si Bayi was willing to act with me, I’d naturally cooperate with him. Every day, I had to watch him pretend to be wrecked with nerves at the Si residence every day and act terrified that Si Yehan would kill him. It was disgusting. He merely wanted me to be honest with him so that he could borrow my power to attack Si Yehan, but why would I? Si Bayi was also my enemy, no?”

“Si Xia, where in the world is my grandpa right now?!” Ye Wanwan shouted harshly.

“Where’s Grandpa?” Si Xia donned a contemplative look. “Let me think...”

“If you don’t speak the truth today, don’t think about leaving this island!”

“Worriless Nie, are you scaring me...? I’m so scared.” Si Xia smiled devilishly. “But after thinking about it, it’s fine even if I tell you. In truth... why are you asking me where your grandpa is? You should ask yourself instead.”

Ye Wanwan frowned deeper. “Just what are you trying to say, Si Xia?”

“Hahaha... What I’m trying to say...? Worriless Nie, didn’t you kill your grandpa with your own hands? Hm?!” The coldness in Si Xia’s eyes flashed stormily.

2190 Who is the true demon?

The color drained out of Ye Wanwan's face with a swish following Si Xia's words.

"Worriless."

Haitang took a step forward and said to Ye Wanwan, "If you don't have this segment of memory, don't believe him."

Before Ye Wanwan could speak, Haitang continued, "You know the friendship we had before, Worriless. We know each other very well. If you really killed your grandpa with your own hands like he said, there's no way news of it wouldn't get out. Don't believe him!"

Only after that did Ye Wanwan's complexion improve slightly.

Indeed, she currently didn't possess this memory segment, so what really happened couldn't solely depend on Si Xia's words.

She killed her grandpa simply because Si Xia said so? What absurd joke was that?!

"You still won't tell the truth, huh?" Ye Wanwan's gaze turned colder as she stared at Si Xia.

"Heh... Ah, Worriless Nie, your ambitions were truly too, too great. You wanted to rule the entire Independent State... You want to stomp everything beneath your feet. However, your grandfather was the President of the Martial Arts Union, so he stopped you... However, you lost your most basic humanity and killed your grandfather with your own hands, am I right?" Si Xia snorted.

"Stop spouting nonsense!"

Haitang yelled at him angrily.

Haitang knew Worriless Nie very well. If Worriless Nie really possessed this ambition, she could've just stayed in the Martial Arts Union since she would eventually take over as the

President of the Martial Arts Union. Why would she need to create the Fearless Alliance?

Could it be that the power of the Martial Arts Union's president was less than that of the Fearless Alliance's president?!

“Si Xia, you are really full of lies.” Ye Wanwan didn't care about Si Xia's words anymore.

She had great ambition?

So great that she would resort to killing her own grandpa and stomp the entire Independent State beneath her feet?!

Just take a look at the members of the Fearless Alliance! Big Dipper, Third Elder, those hall masters, and elders—which one of them was freaking reliable? Dominate and rule over the Independent State...? With what? With the mere Fearless Alliance?

Moreover, in the memories Ye Wanwan recalled, there wasn't a single piece or detail that portrayed her desire to rule over the Independent State.

Hence, what Si Xia was saying was purely complete nonsense to confuse her!

“Oh...? So you didn't want to rule over the Independent State? Then I'm really curious why you would kill Grandpa...? Could it be because Grandpa prohibited you from being with Si Yehan, so you harbored resentment and killed him?” Si Xia smiled faintly.

“Worriless, listen to this! He's simply uttering nonsense and is trying to mess with your mind! Don't be tricked,” Haitang said to Ye Wanwan.

“Sister Haitang, I know.” Ye Wanwan nodded at the other woman.

Ye Wanwan then turned to Si Xia and shouted, “Si Xia, stop spouting bullsh*t. If you won't tell the truth today, don't think about leaving!”

To Ye Wanwan, it was probably Si Xia who wanted to overthrow her grandfather and usurp his position to stand at

the top of the Independent State's power pyramid. Then he wanted to cut the weeds and eliminate its roots, so he hunted after her.

If that was really it, everything would be explained perfectly.

“Haha... Worriless Nie, aren't you very detail-oriented and talented with logic and reasoning? Then think about this carefully—what happened in between all this... Do you not have this segment of memory because you can't remember it or because you're unwilling to remember it...? Who is the true demon? Is it you?”

2191 Too calm

“It looks like you aren’t planning to tell the truth.” Ye Wanwan looked at Si Xia.

Si Xia smiled faintly at that. “Worriless Nie, do you really think you can rescue the people on this island? In reality... are you actually saving people or are you killing people?”

Before Ye Wanwan could respond, Si Xia’s figure flickered and melded into the dark. He disappeared without a trace in the blink of an eye.

“Worriless... What just happened?”

Haitang asked Ye Wanwan after Si Xia left.

Ye Wanwan seemed to be familiar with the President of the Martial Arts Union.

Ye Wanwan shook her head. This matter was too complicated and couldn’t be explained in a few words.

“We need to find Si Xia,” Ye Wanwan said.

“Alright,” Haitang agreed.

Ye Wanwan and Haitang immediately combed the perimeters of the island in search of Si Xia.

However, this island was too large, and they were unable to find Si Xia.

“Haitang, keep this matter a secret for now so we don’t affect everyone’s morale,” Ye Wanwan instructed Haitang before they parted ways.

If everyone knew the President of the Martial Arts Union was on the island and knew they were about to escape the island...

“I understand.” Haitang nodded.

...

The next morning, Ye Wanwan sought out Si Yehan and told him everything that happened last night with Si Xia.

When Si Yehan heard the story, he didn't appear very surprised.

"Ah-Jiu, don't tell me you knew Si Xia was the President of the Martial Arts Union a long time ago." Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows.

The man shook his head. "I didn't."

"..." Why are you so calm if you didn't know then?! That's your real nephew!

"I already told you back in China to not trust him." Si Yehan looked at her.

"What do you know?" Ye Wanwan asked curiously.

"I once looked into him," Si Yehan answered after a moment of thought. "He frequently enters and leaves the Independent State, but I was unable to discover his true identity despite the resources at my disposal."

Si Yehan was suspicious of and took precautions against Si Xia long ago, so he wasn't surprised after learning that Si Xia was the President of the Martial Arts Union.

Moreover, Si Yehan was well aware of how Si Bayi brought Si Xia back to the Independent State years ago and used Si Xia as a bargaining chip to return to the ancient Si clan, but Si Xia didn't pass the exams.

Si Yehan never cared about Si Bayi, but his nephew, Si Xia, concealed himself very deeply.

"What should we do now? Si Xia knows about our plan, so..." Ye Wanwan was somewhat concerned.

Si Yehan wasn't worried about this though and replied, "This island masks all signals completely, and all communication devices are nulled. It takes two days to return to the Independent State from this island, so even if Si Xia knows about our plan and wants to stop it, he can't do it in time."

Only then were Ye Wanwan's worries assuaged.

...

Soon, three days had passed.

Ye Wanwan and many leaders acted according to the plan and lit the entire island on fire. It wasn't long before heavy smoke enveloped the island.

“Say, Bai Feng, you better not harm us. If a ship doesn't come, we'll all be suffocated to death.”

2192 Where's your brother?

A leader looked at Ye Wanwan with great worry.

Ye Wanwan wasn't concerned though. She accepted the ship ticket money already, so how could there be no ship?

Not long after the island was set aflame, dozens of ships appeared in the sea.

Ships from Asura, the Fearless Alliance, and the Nie family thickly dotted the distance.

The guards the Martial Arts Union placed around the island were scattered within several rounds of attacks.

Although the Martial Arts Union didn't place many guards around the island, they weren't weak. However, they couldn't withstand the surprise attack from three strong groups and were completely overwhelmed in terms of numbers alone.

The process went smoother than Ye Wanwan expected.

Every prisoner on this island successfully boarded a ship and escaped from this island.

After returning to the Independent State, they didn't launch a crusade against the Martial Arts Union though. Everyone was unusually tacit in remaining quiet.

Even the Fearless Alliance didn't retaliate against the Martial Arts Union in any way and didn't interrogate them in any manner.

The return of the missing leaders evoked a major ripple in the Independent State and caused Ye Wanwan to become the most frequently discussed topic of every resident's conversation.

The nefarious President of the Fearless Alliance actually discovered where the leaders were imprisoned and rescued them! This was a hot topic!

As for the Martial Arts Union, they didn't respond in any way, as though they were ignorant of this matter.

For these returning leaders, their biggest priority was to rebuild their strength in the Independent State and recuperate for a while. No one was foolish enough to condemn the Martial Arts Union as soon as they escaped from the island.

Moreover, none of them had concrete evidence that proved it was the Martial Arts Union who imprisoned them.

...

After returning to the Independent State, Ye Wanwan rested for two days before visiting the Ling residence.

In the Ling residence living room:

An austere elderly man's gaze landed on Ye Wanwan, affection filling his eyes.

“Worriless, come to Grandpa.”

The elderly man waved his hand at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan obediently nodded and sat down next to the elderly man.

This elderly man was the patriarch of the Ling family, Ling Shichang, and he was Ye Wanwan's grandfather.

“Worriless, is there any news of your parents?”

Ling Shichang asked Ye Wanwan after a long silence.

“No, Grandpa.” Ye Wanwan shook her head.

The Nie family, Asura, and the Fearless Alliance had dispatched a lot of people to search for Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie, but they were still empty-handed.

Ye Wanwan previously thought Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie might've been captured to the island, but she didn't discover any traces of them after entering the island herself.

Hence, Ye Wanwan hypothesized that there was a great possibility her parents were in the hands of the Direct Line.

Of course, this was mere conjecture and wasn't proved.

“Then the Ling family will also join the search,” Ling Shichang said after some time.

Ye Wanwan's eyes brightened.

The Ling family's intelligence network was immensely extraordinary. If the Ling family joined...

"Worriless, Grandpa has heard about what happened to you, including your time in China and Lord Asura." Ling Shichang abruptly changed the topic. "Grandpa missed you and your brother greatly these past years, but you should know about the situation with me and your parents..."

Ye Wanwan's eyes dimmed several degrees at the mention of Nameless Nie.

"Oh right, Worriless, where's your brother?"

2193 The battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch

Ling Shichang looked at Ye Wanwan and asked, “Grandpa... my brother, he recently accepted a mission and hasn’t returned yet.” Ye Wanwan forced a smile on her face.

Nameless Nie’s matter wasn’t publicized, and the Nie family locked down the information immediately, so even the Ling family was clueless.

“Alright. When your brother’s back, have him come to the Ling residence too,” Ling Shichang instructed.

“Okay.” Ye Wanwan nodded.

“Oh right, what’s the story behind the island? Who was the culprit?” Ling Shichang continued his line of inquiry.

Ye Wanwan mulled over it for a moment before deciding to tell Ling Shichang the whole story.

“It was the Martial Arts Union...”

Ling Shichang frowned upon learning the truth. “What you’re saying is that the boy your grandfather rescued back then is the current president of the Martial Arts Union...?”

“Yes.” Ye Wanwan nodded.

“I will thoroughly investigate this matter.” Ling Shichang looked grim. “The Independent State might not be able to maintain its peace soon.”

“Grandpa, what do you mean?” Ye Wanwan was surprised.

“While you were on the island, the Direct Line announced it’ll start a war with the Independent State’s Collateral Branch and it started to make allies with all the major factions in the Independent State,” Ling Shichang replied.

The Direct Line announced it would start a war with the Independent State...

Ye Wanwan really didn't know about this matter.

"Oh right, Grandpa... How is the Collateral Branch differentiated from the Direct Line?" Ye Wanwan asked Ling Shichang.

"To put it plainly, the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line are the descendants of the seniors who first inhabited the Independent State. The major clans like the ancient Si clan and the ancient Jiang clan are considered the Collateral Branch. The Direct Line was once ancient clans from the Independent State, but after the great battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, the Direct Line was defeated and expelled from the Independent State by the Collateral Branch," Ling Shichang explained.

"Then are the four great clans considered the Direct Line or Collateral Branch?" Ye Wanwan inquired.

Ling Shichang smiled faintly. "Ah, Worryless, us four great clans are neither considered the Collateral Branch nor are we related to the Direct Line. It isn't just the four great clans—aside from the ancient clans, none of the factions in the Independent State are members of the Collateral Branch or the Direct Line."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Ye Wanwan finally obtained a rough understanding of the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line.

To put it plainly, this was completely a war between the ancient clans and didn't have anything to do with them.

Since it was unrelated to them, they could let them fight if they wanted. It wasn't like it would affect the rest of them. The worst scenario was the Collateral Branch being kicked out.

"Grandpa, since it doesn't have anything to do with us, why should we get involved?" Ye Wanwan asked in incomprehension.

“It does have something to do with us.” Ling Shichang explained, “The Direct Line emphasizes governance while the Collateral Branch emphasizes balance. If the Independent State is controlled by the Direct Line, it wouldn’t be a good thing.”

“I see.”

Realization dawned on Ye Wanwan after her grandfather’s explanation.

After carefully thinking about it, the strongest factions in the Independent State were definitely the ancient clans right now.

However, as Ling Shichang said, the ancient clans emphasized balance, so they would never manage business between the other factions, let alone interfere or favor one side.

To put it precisely, the ancient clans were responsible for the rules and structure of the Independent State while the Martial Arts Union was responsible for executing those rules and structures. The other factions were just various residents.

“Grandpa, who do you think has a greater chance of winning in the battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch this time?” Ye Wanwan inquired.

2194 Your master's story

“The Direct Line,” Ling Shichang answered instantly without taking time to think.

“Is the Direct Line really that strong...? Why were they expelled from the Independent State by the Collateral Branch back then?” Ye Wanwan couldn't understand.

“During the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch back then, luck actually factored into the Collateral Branch's win. Furthermore, the Direct Line currently has a major helper—Piece of Sh*t...” Ling Shichang said.

At the mention of Piece of Sh*t, Ye Wanwan's expression became surprised.

Indeed, Yi Shuihan appeared to have some deep enmity with those ancient clans.

“Grandpa, just what happened between Piece of Sh*t, the Direct Line, and the Collateral Branch?” Ye Wanwan pressed.

“I'm not certain about that. Isn't Tangtang Piece of Sh*t's disciple? You can ask Tangtang about this matter,” Ling Shichang suggested.

...

After eating lunch with Ling Shichang, Ye Wanwan returned to the Fearless Alliance headquarters.

In these past two days, Tangtang had been staying at the Fearless Alliance, so she could ask Tangtang.

Currently, inside Ye Wanwan's office in the Fearless Alliance, Seven Star and Big Dipper were crowded around Wen Ziran and Big Dipper was especially overjoyed.

“Brother Ziran, you're finally back! Without you, the Fearless Alliance was a tiger without its wings and a male eagle without its eyes...” Big Dipper rattled on.

Seven Star shot Big Dipper a look.

A male eagle without its eyes...

He was such a good conversationalist.

Wen Ziran merely smiled, showing no care regarding Big Dipper's description.

"What are you all talking about?" Ye Wanwan asked as she pushed the door open and entered.

"Sis Feng, you're back..."

They walked up to her immediately.

"Xiao Feng, while I was gone, you've taken good care of the Fearless Alliance," Wen Ziran commented with a smile.

The old Fearless Alliance solely relied on these two pillars

One was President Fearless, Bai Feng, while the other person was Wen Ziran, and neither person was dispensable. Relying on those elders and hall masters was obviously improbable.

In the entire Fearless Alliance, only First Elder and Seven Star were on the normal side—an incontestable point.

Before Ye Wanwan could speak, Wen Ziran suddenly said, "People from the Direct Line came this morning."

"What?!" Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded.

People from the Direct Line visited the Fearless Alliance?

"That's right, Sis Feng, an old man came this morning. He was a member of the Direct Line. If I didn't see how old and infirmed he was, I would've kicked him to the ground," Big Dipper grumbled.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

"Brother Ziran, why did members of the Direct Line visit the Fearless Alliance?" Ye Wanwan asked Wen Ziran.

"Since you weren't here, I didn't talk long with them and sent them away. They should be back again soon," Wen Ziran replied.

"Got it." Ye Wanwan nodded.

She was rather curious why members of the Direct Line came here.

After chatting with Wen Ziran and the other two, Ye Wanwan went to find Tangtang.

The Fearless Alliance's 13th Floor:

Tangtang was currently lying on Great White's stomach while Virus kept yawning with his head lowered on Tangtang's left.

"Mommy."

The drowsy Tangtang was invigorated the second he saw Ye Wanwan entering the room.

"Tangtang, if you don't read more books, Mommy will send you to school," Ye Wanwan said to Tangtang.

"Tangtang has been reading," Tangtang objected.

"Tangtang, you definitely don't want to become uneducated like your Uncle Big Dipper when you grow up, right?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"..."

"Oh right, Tangtang... Mommy has a question for you." Ye Wanwan pulled Tangtang into her arms and sat down on the sofa.

"What is it, Mommy?" Tangtang asked curiously.

"Um, do you know the story with your master, Yi Shuihan?"

2195 Interested in my story

“Master’s story...”

Tangtang looked at Ye Wanwan in confusion. “What story about Master, Mommy?”

“Do you know why your master hates the members of the ancient clan so much?” Ye Wanwan inquired.

Although Ye Wanwan knew Yi Shuihan had a tremendous conflict with those ancient clans of the Independent State, she didn’t know about the origin of the conflict.

Ye Wanwan didn’t think Yi Shuihan’s hatred against the ancient clans was that simple either.

The Independent State had five major ancient clans. They were the ancient Si clan, the ancient Yin clan, the ancient Huo clan, the ancient Jiang clan, and the ancient Ying clan.

Yi Shuihan didn’t hate a single specific ancient clan. He hated all of the ancient clans.

“Mommy, I know a little,” Tangtang responded after a moment of thought.

Ye Wanwan’s eyes brightened. She originally just wanted to give it a try and didn’t expect Tangtang to really have gossip to share.

“Tangtang, tell Mommy,” Ye Wanwan said happily.

“But... Mommy, Master doesn’t like other people knowing about his story,” Tangtang said.

“...” It appeared Yi Shuihan really had some sort of history behind him, and he didn’t want other people to know about it.

However, the more Tangtang acted like this, the more curious Ye Wanwan was.

“Tangtang, your master is right, you mustn’t tell other people. Otherwise, if your master finds out, he’ll definitely be

unhappy...” Ye Wanwan paused and smiled at Tangtang.
“But... that’s for other people. Is Mommy ‘other people’?”

“...”

“Fine.”

Tangtang finally nodded and spilled everything he knew to Ye Wanwan.

...

This story had to start from the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch.

Yi Shuihan’s mother was originally a member of the Direct Line, but she was merely an ordinary woman and cut ties with the Direct Line when she was young, moving to live on the fringes of the Independent State.

After the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch erupted, it persisted for many years until the Direct Line was defeated and expelled from the Independent State by the Collateral Branch.

“If you wanted to hear my story, why didn’t you ask me directly?”

As Ye Wanwan became entranced with the story, an aloof male voice came from behind her.

“D*mn... You scared me to death!”

Ye Wanwan seriously jolted in fright when she saw Yi Shuihan entering suddenly, guilt crawling up on her.

“Master...” Tangtang called.

“Why are you here, Knight-errant...”

Ye Wanwan stared at the man before her, stunned.

“I came to see my disciple,” Yi Shuihan replied.

“...” What good timing.

“What? You seem very interested in my story?” Yi Shuihan asked her.

“No way! I was just curious about the relationship between you and the Direct Line, Knight-errant Yi, and why you hate the ancient clans so much...” Ye Wanwan answered with a smile.

The corners of Yi Shuihan’s lips turned up with an inexplicable smile.

That was his origin...

The origin of everything...

...

Back then, he hadn’t entered the Independent State yet and was living south of the Independent State.

He lived an ordinary life with his mother, depending on each other for survival.

Until one day.

That girl’s appearance splashed strokes across his life.

Ye Wanwan keenly listened to Yi Shuihan’s recount with relish. Having the protagonist himself tell the story added a better flavor to it.

“That girl... became your girlfriend?” Ye Wanwan asked Yi Shuihan.

2196 Private enmity

“Mn.” Yi Shuihan nodded.

Ye Wanwan was brimming with curiosity about what that girl was like...

Moreover, right now, that girl didn't appear to be by Yi Shuihan's side anymore.

That girl later moved into Yi Shuihan's home and lived with Yi Shuihan and his mother.

For a whole half a year.

Until one day, Yi Shuihan went out. When he returned home, he saw his mother dead on the dining table, lethally poisoned, and the girl was lifelessly sitting on a stool.

Under Yi Shuihan's intense interrogation, the girl finally spoke the truth.

In truth, she had poisoned the food already, and this lethal poison was originally reserved for Yi Shuihan.

However, at the last moment, the girl hesitated and intended to throw away the poisoned dishes. Unfortunately... Yi Shuihan's mother coincidentally consumed the poisoned food and died.

Ye Wanwan couldn't help but shiver after hearing that. After carefully thinking about it, every time Yi Shuihan ate a meal, he needed to carefully examine the food, as though he was afraid of it being poisoned...

It turned out it was this incident that left behind an indelible shadow in Yi Shuihan's heart.

“What happened to that girl?”

Ye Wanwan stared at Yi Shuihan, wanting to know the ending.

“I killed her,” Yi Shuihan replied aloofly.

Ye Wanwan sank into contemplation. It'd be better if... she listened to these types of stories less often.

On second thought, Ye Wanwan realized something was amiss.

What did this have to do with Yi Shuihan antagonizing the Collateral Branch? Could it be that girl was a member of the Collateral Branch?

Later, Ye Wanwan learned that the girl really was a member of the Collateral Branch.

Back then, the Collateral Branch found out about Yi Shuihan and knew Yi Shuihan's mother belonged to the Direct Line. The Collateral Branch was worried Yi Shuihan would join the Direct Line's camp, so they picked a well-trained assassin from their elites, and that girl was the chosen assassin.

Ye Wanwan was rendered speechless by Yi Shuihan's recount. Wasn't this too melodramatic...?

"So don't you think those ancient clans... all deserve to die?" Yi Shuihan asked as he looked at her.

Ye Wanwan shook her head, dumbfounded. "Not necessarily..."

"Not necessarily?" Yi Shuihan frowned lightly.

"Hard to say..." Ye Wanwan rubbed her chin.

"Really can't say..." Ye Wanwan sighed. How should she say this...

Although the Collateral Branch really was terrible based on Yi Shuihan's narration and those ancient clans did deserve the hate...

But... Ye Wanwan realized a fact...

Her man, Si Yehan, was also a freaking member of the ancient clans!

So how should she respond? Should she tell Yi Shuihan, "The Collateral Branch deserves to die, and I'll support you in your quest to eliminate those ancient clans"?

Wasn't that a joke?!

In her mind, Ye Wanwan did disdain the ancient clan's methods, but she couldn't vocalize anything.

She really couldn't find a single refutable reason regarding his desire to destroy those ancient clans.

Forget about Yi Shuihan. If Ye Wanwan was in his shoes, she would've probably done the exact same thing Yi Shuihan did.

“Aside from visiting Tangtang, I came here today to remind you: Don't carelessly interfere in the business between the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line,” Yi Shuihan advised.

“You're definitely going to take action, right?” Ye Wanwan asked with a frown.

“The battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch is unrelated to me. I merely have private grievances against those ancient clans,” Yi Shuihan replied indifferently.

2197 The Direct Line pays a visi

“Will there definitely be a battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch?” Ye Wanwan asked Yi Shuihan.

“That’s unrelated to me,” Yi Shuihan aloofly replied.

“However, based on the current situation, a battle is unavoidable.”

Ye Wanwan sighed helplessly. It appeared the Independent State was about to bid peace farewell.

After Yi Shuihan left, Big Dipper opened the door and said, “Sis Feng, that old geezer is here again...”

“Which old geezer?” Ye Wanwan glanced at him.

“That old geezer from the Direct Line, the one who visited this morning,” Big Dipper explained.

“Alright, I’ll be right there.” Ye Wanwan nodded.

Ye Wanwan was very intrigued by the Direct Line’s sudden visit too. Just what was the Direct Line’s goal?

“Mommy, I also want to go,” Tangtang spoke up.

“Be good, Tangtang. Mommy is going to take care of business. Play together with Great White and Little Black. Mommy will be back soon.” Ye Wanwan smiled.

“Okay.” Tangtang was compliant and nodded.

A moment later, Ye Wanwan cleaned up a little and followed Big Dipper to the conference room.

Inside the conference room, an elderly man was dressed in a black shirt and black pants, looking very proper. He sat on one side with a cane in hand.

“This is the President of the Fearless Alliance, Bai Feng,” Big Dipper made introductions.

The elderly man nodded and scrutinized Ye Wanwan before using his cane to stand up. He greeted Ye Wanwan with a smile: "President Bai, it's an honor to meet you at last."

"No need for the formalities, elderly sir. May I ask what urgent matter you had for visiting our Fearless Alliance?" Ye Wanwan sat down and looked at the elderly man from the Direct Line, cutting straight to the point.

The elderly man smiled faintly. "President Bai is very straightforward, great. Then I won't beat around the bush either. I came here today to ask President Bai to join the Direct Line's camp."

Ye Wanwan furrowed her brows at once.

She never anticipated the objective of this elderly man's trip would be to rope her to their side.

However, on the other hand, Ye Wanwan understood.

There would definitely be a great battle between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, and there were many factions in the Independent State. Whether it was the Collateral Branch or the Direct Line, they probably wished to pull these neutral factions in the Independent State to their side. This way, they would have a greater chance when the battle came.

Upon seeing Ye Wanwan's silence, the elderly man continued with a smile: "In reality, President Bai should know that our Direct Line is the legitimate heir of the Independent State. Moreover, the Direct Line is stronger in strength. Of the Twelve Independent States, our state has become the bottom-most state. Back then, was our state ever this pitiful? What do you think, President Bai?"

"The Twelve Independent States..."

Ye Wanwan looked pensive.

This piece of memory was indeed a part of the memories that Ye Wanwan recalled after the Scarlet Flames headmaster's hypnosis sessions. It was her grandpa who told her about this too.

In truth, the Independent State was actually the “Independent States” and was composed of 12 enormous islands. The Independent State they were currently in was merely one of the 12 islands, and it wasn’t until these 12 islands combined together that the true Independent States were formed.

However, no Independent States had any mutual interactions, so not many people knew about this.

“President Bai, as long as the Fearless Alliance is willing to support our Direct Line, when the Direct Line gains control in the future, we can guarantee that the Fearless Alliance will definitely become better than you are now. What do you think?” the elderly man from Direct Line proposed amiably.

2198 The ancient Si clan's invitation

“There’s no hurry.” Ye Wanwan shook her head. “I have something to ask you.”

“Please speak, President Bai,” the elderly man said.

“My parents... the madam and patriarch of the Nie family... they were captured by the Direct Line, right?” Ye Wanwan asked him.

“Yes.” The elderly man from the Direct Line nodded frankly.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

Ye Wanwan didn’t expect this old man from the Direct Line to be this honest... he was too honest... She didn’t freaking know how to respond...

“I know President Bai has some misunderstandings toward our Direct Line, and the main cause of this misunderstanding is Nie Linglong.” The elderly man smiled at Ye Wanwan. “In truth, the Direct Line has too many members, and a member like Nie Linglong is merely considered an offshoot and not worth a mention. Our Direct Line can’t demand every member to obey the rules. Someone always acts recklessly and disobey the rules; there’s nothing we can do.”

The corners of Ye Wanwan’s lips twitched. What kind of freaking twisted logic was this?! The Direct Line’s members were disobeying the rules and acting recklessly outside, but it was unrelated to their Direct Line?

Couldn’t he have some shame?!

“In truth, Nie Linglong is extremely ambitious. To be quite honest, the Direct Line doesn’t like overly ambitious people like her, so we’ve already kicked her out of the Direct Line. As for President Bai’s parents, they were captured by Nie Linglong,” the elderly man continued.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

For some reason, Ye Wanwan suddenly started respecting the Direct Line for being able to say something like this without skipping a beat and tossing away all responsibility so cleanly. They truly had thick hides.

After all, Nie Linglong was dead, so they could say whatever they wanted.

"President Bai, if you're willing to join the Direct Line and persuade your parents to support the Direct Line, we can immediately release them," the elderly man added.

"Heh... let's not waste our breaths... Tell me, just who was the mysterious person Nie Linglong reported to? He and Nie Linglong killed my brother, so I will make them pay with their lives!" A cold glint flashed across Ye Wanwan's eyes.

The elderly man's eyes glimmered. "President Bai, there isn't any mysterious person."

"Nonsense!"

Third Elder shouted coldly. "How could there be no one? When I tracked Nie Linglong that night, she made contact with a mysterious person, and they discussed eliminating Nameless Nie first!"

The elderly man's fingers started tapping on the table. "You're free to consider my suggestion, President Bai."

After saying that, the elderly man stood up and left without waiting for Ye Wanwan's response.

Ye Wanwan's expression darkened.

She was certain that the mysterious person definitely existed...

Furthermore, that mysterious person held an important position in the Direct Line!

The treatment of Nameless Nie alone meant that Ye Wanwan couldn't have any other relationships with the Direct Line! They could only be enemies!

"Sis Feng!"

Not long after the Direct Line left, Big Dipper dashed inside the conference room again. “D*mn... Si clan, the ancient Si clan sent us an invitation!”

“The ancient Si clan?”

Ye Wanwan was startled.

Big Dipper immediately handed her the invitation.

After reading the invitation, Ye Wanwan was dumbstruck. The Direct Line and the Collateral Branch were truly family and had the same temperament.

The Direct Line just sent people to win her over then the ancient Si clan also sent her an invitation.

2199 Bound together

It didn't require much thought to realize that those ancient clans from the Collateral Branch were starting to draw in all the various factions in the Independent State so that those factions could join their side during the Collateral Branch's battle with the Direct Line.

...

That night, Ye Wanwan brought Wen Ziran, several elders, Big Dipper, Seven Star, and several other members to the ancient Si clan.

The ancient Si clan was considered one of the mammoth powers in the Independent State and the scope of their strength was frightening.

Inside the ancient Si clan's conference room, Ye Wanwan immediately caught sight of Si Yehan sitting next to the leader of the ancient Si clan.

It had to be said that these two people truly looked rather similar.

Since it was an important, solemn meeting and the participants were all leaders from the Independent State, Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan didn't interact too much.

And the leader of the Si Clan's words were simple and easy to understand.

He wanted them to join the Collateral Branch and resist the Direct Line's invasion together.

However, all the major factions were noncommittal, neither agreeing nor disagreeing. No one wanted to be the first one. The second any of them agreed, it'd be the same as becoming enemies with the Direct Line.

Even Ye Wanwan didn't declare whether she would join the ancient clans and the Collateral Branch's camp or not.

Right now, Madam and Patriarch Nie were imprisoned in the Direct Line. If the Fearless Alliance and the Nie family joined the Collateral Branch, it might infuriate the Direct Line, leading to unthinkable consequences.

This was in line with Si Yehan's intentions. He didn't want her to act rashly and wanted them to watch and wait for the right opportunity.

After departing from the ancient Si clan, Si Yehan escorted Ye Wanwan back to the Fearless Alliance's headquarters. The family of three ate dinner there, and Si Yehan didn't leave until Tangtang fell asleep.

Lately, Asura had too many affairs waiting for attention, and Si Yehan needed to personally take care of them.

Two days afterward, both the Fearless Alliance and Prison announced that the Fearless Alliance would join Prison and become Prison's fourth core faction.

Right now, the Fearless Alliance was tightly bound together with Prison and they could share their resources, especially in an unusual period of time like this.

Furthermore, something occurred that sent shocks throughout the Independent State. Asura single-handedly eradicated three branches of the Martial Arts Union and destroyed six of their vital storehouses in one night.

After that, the Martial Arts Union retaliated, and Heavenly Hatred and Slaughter's Gate also joined. The battle couldn't be stopped.

"Ah-Jiu... why did you start fighting with the Martial Arts Union?"

From the Fearless Alliance, Ye Wanwan initiated a video call with Si Yehan.

"Where's Tangtang?" Si Yehan asked.

"He just finished eating and he's playing with Great White and Little Black on the 13th floor," Ye Wanwan answered truthfully.

“Wait... I was asking you why you started fighting with the Martial Arts Union.”

Lately, the Independent State was in an extremely tumultuous state already, so it would've been best if the matter with the Martial Arts Union was stowed aside for now.

“What do you think?” Si Yehan retorted.

Ye Wanwan: “...”

In truth, Ye Wanwan could guess that Asura didn't attack the Martial Arts Union because of what happened on the island. It was probably because of what Si Xia did to her back then.

However, making anyone from Prison assess the current situation was simply unrealistic. Which one of them didn't act as their heart desired, including the Fearless Alliance?

“You don't need to get involved with this matter; it's just a minor battle,” Si Yehan said.

Ye Wanwan didn't refute this point.

Both the Martial Arts Union and Prison didn't exert their whole strength, so it could indeed be considered a minor battle.

2200 On the verge of breaking ou

After hanging up the video call, Ye Wanwan couldn't shake off her feeling of unease.

Those leaders they rescued from the remote island announced their unconditional support for the Collateral Branch immediately.

After that, the Direct Line acted and promptly dispatched a lot of assassins after those leaders.

In a short amount of time, a dozen or so leaders were assassinated. If it weren't for Asura having the foresight to send people to protect those leaders immediately and warn them, the consequences would've been inconceivable.

It wasn't only the Direct Line. The Collateral Branch also acted identically to the Direct Line and dispatched a lot of assassins from the ancient clans, secretly assassinating those leaders who had announced their support for the Direct Line.

However, what no one anticipated were the sudden actions of Piece of Sh*t, Yi Shuihan. Nearly all of those well-trained assassins sent by the ancient clans died in the hands of Yi Shuihan...

Right now, the entire Independent State was attempting to stay out of it, and many factions were still observing, including the Fearless Alliance and the two other core factions of Prison. Meanwhile, Asura had publicized their support for the Collateral Branch long ago and became one of the Collateral Branch's biggest helpers.

Suddenly, the relationships in the Independent State turned tangled and complicated and hard to describe.

Major factions belonged to different camps, and small-scaled battles would erupt nearly every day.

As for the four great clans, they fell to the observer side.

The Direct Line and the Collateral Branch sent someone to visit and lobby the four great clans nearly every day but never received a definite response.

Nonetheless, Ye Wanwan was incredibly aware that it was absolutely impossible for powers at the level of the four great clans to rest easy, maintain neutrality and stay out of the conflict.

The time merely hadn't come yet. Once the time was ripe, the four great clans had to make a decision.

This battle involved the entire Independent State. Not a single power could remain on the sidelines... Even if they were unwilling to join the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, they had no choice.

...

Late at night, in the Fearless Alliance:

Ye Wanwan's thoughts raced as she mulled over what road she should take in the future.

Right now, her parents were still in the hands of the Direct Line. If she rashly supported the Collateral Branch and provoked the Direct Line, it would be idiotic.

Ye Wanwan merely wanted to avenge her brother, Nameless Nie, and rescue her parents from the hands of the Direct Line. She truly was uninterested in the overarching war between the Collateral Branch and the Direct Line.

Governing the Independent State and such...? It had nothing to do with her.

"Big Dipper!"

Ye Wanwan suddenly called outside the door.

"Sis Feng, you were looking for me?"

Big Dipper entered the room.

"Call some people. We're going to visit the Direct Line," Ye Wanwan instructed.

"Huh?"

Big Dipper was dumbfounded. “No way right... Sis Feng? We’re going to the Direct Line... at this critical time?!”

“Nonsense, what’s wrong with going to the Direct Line?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“Eh... If we visit the Direct Line, isn’t it the same as supporting the Direct Line?” Big Dipper scratched his head.

“Enough rubbish. Hurry and make preparations,” Ye Wanwan ordered impatiently.

Soon, several elders of the Fearless Alliance (including First Elder), Big Dipper, Seven Star, and top higher-ups like Wen Ziran all departed and headed toward the perimeters of the Fearless Alliance’s territory.

...

At a Direct Line branch:

“Heh, your visit this late at night is truly surprising, President Bai,” an elderly man from the Direct Line greeted with a smile as he hastily walked outside to receive them.

Ye Wanwan wasn’t unfamiliar with this elderly man. He was the one who had visited the Fearless Alliance these past few days.

“I won’t waste time with you. My objective for coming here today is very simple: the Fearless Alliance and the Nie family will support the Direct Line, but you must release my parents first.” Ye Wanwan got straight to the point.