

Chapter 1030 An Incoming Storm

A storm brewed in Jiangdong as Ye Fan focused on his recovery.

News of Mr Chu's death spread like wildfire throughout the province.

No one had been bothered with the news at first.

There had been no proof of Mr Chu's death. No one had been willing to believe such a baseless claim.

Besides, Mufan Group was clearly prospering and its stocks reaching record highs on a regular basis.

Under the management of Chen Ao and the rest, Mr Chu's businesses had seen continual expansion.

His reputation had reached a peak that no one could surpass since the battle at Dongchang Lake.

Ye Fan was enjoying unsurpassed glory and honor in Jiangdong at the current moment. No one believed that he was dead.

Yet, as time passed, the news of Mr Chu's



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death spread with increasing fervor.

Mufan Group, which had been prospering a while ago, began to face numerous setbacks.

Its businesses in every sector, including banking, construction, logistics and retail, were affected at the same time.

Some companies faced unexpected termination of agreements from their corporate partners. Some received fines and penalties from government agencies. Some even suffered property damages by and harassment from local gangsters.

Their headquarters in Yunzhou was forced to scale back its original operations.

They recalled the executives of their subsidiaries in Fenghai, Haozhou, Jianghai and other major cities and let go of many of their workers.

Some of the more astute residents in Jiangdong realized that Mufan Shopping Center, which was situated in the city hub, had been sold to someone else and its signboard was also replaced.



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Everything seemed to be pointing towards one natural conclusion.

Something huge must have happened to Mufan Group in the course of the past few months.

There was no other explanation for its sudden and inexplicable scaling down of its existing operations and businesses.

Many had been convinced that with the boost that Mr Chu's reputation brought it, Mufan Group would expand rapidly throughout the region and establish itself as the domineering commercial power in Jiangdong.

No one could have expected the tides to turn so quickly against Mufan Group.

Many of these incidents had been taking place quietly behind the scenes. Mufan Group had tried to keep everything under wraps and tried not to cause any commotion in Jiangdong.

Regardless, those who were astute or smart enough could tell that the seemingly calm veneer hid a presence that was stirring the



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waters and trying to brew up a storm in Jiangdong.

It was then that Fenghua Group appeared out of nowhere and turned up in Jiangdong.

The organization appeared to be built in a night. Upon its appearance, it announced to the rest of the world that it was going to acquire Mufan Group.

“Mufan Group’s influence and power depend solely on the all-powerful Mr Chu. He is the sole reason that Mufan Group continues to have such a huge and powerful presence in Jiangdong. Unfortunately, Mr Chu died in an accident more than a month ago. Without him, Mufan Group is worthless. Fenghua Group, a company that I, Lu Ming-Feng and my partner, Xur Shao-Hua co-founded, will begin to acquire all assets under Mufan Group from tomorrow. We will show you that the era of Mufan Group has come to an end. The only voice that is going to be heard in Jiangdong will be our voice, the voice of Fenghua Group.”

It was the evening of the sixth of June when the chairperson of Fenghua Group, Lu Ming-Feng, made that statement at the Jianghai



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business forum.

His words sent the whole of Jiangdong into an uproar.

Commotion stirred in the business, political and martial arts realms.

“What? Mr Chu’s dead? You mean the rumors were true? But...how could that be possible?”

When Old Master Xia found out about the announcement that Fenghua Group had made, his face paled instantly. Shock and alarm surged within him.

Since the Feast of the Sea and Sky, the old master had planned on exploiting his granddaughter Xia Xue’s friendship with Ye Fan to better his own relationship with Ye Fan.

In the meantime, he had been investing heavily in Mufan Group.

The Xia family had invested a lot of capital in many of the businesses that Mufan Group owned.



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In fact, they had given Ye Fan a precious gemstone that had been worth billions of dollars as a present.

He had spent so much money and resources to gain Ye Fan's favor and build a strong partnership with Mufan Group.

He had done everything so that when Mufan Group gained control over Jiangdong, the Xia family could have a piece of the pie.

But now, Ye Fan was dead and the massive Mufan Group was going to be acquired by someone else. The news was a devastating blow to the Xia family.

If what Lu Ming-Feng had said was indeed true, everything that the Xia family had done would have been for nothing.

"Grandfather, it can't be true. Mr Chu is a powerful man. He couldn't have died that easily," said Xia Xue. Fear had turned her lovely face pale.

The old man simply shook his head.

"That's what I thought initially, but I'm afraid Mr Chu is truly gone."



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The old master's face was solemn and the words he uttered filled with worry and fear.

The news about Ye Fan's death had been spreading across the city for some time now.

But there had been no evidence to prove that Ye Fan had died in an accident and so few had believed it.

But Lu Ming-Feng had openly announced the news of Ye Fan's demise.

"He wouldn't have made such a public announcement if he wasn't 100% sure that Mr Chu's really dead. He also wouldn't have announced his plans to acquire Mufan Group. Such a declaration is the equivalent of issuing a challenge to Mr Chu and declaring his intent to take Mr Chu's place in Jiangdong. He's telling us that he's going to challenge the powers that have gained control over Jiangdong after the Feast of the Sea and Sky," said the old man slowly. The other members of the Xia family shook fearfully when they heard his words. They could feel their blood run cold.

Terror coursed through Xia Xue.



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“Is Jiangdong going to undergo an upheaval?”

Similar conversations were taking place all over Jiangdong that night.

“Dad, is it true? Is Brother Fan really dead? How could that be possible?”

When Shen Fei heard the news, he pulled his pants up and left a freshly showered young woman in the hotel room as he hurried back to his family to seek answers from Shen Jiu-Yi.

Shen Jiu-Yi didn't look happy at all. He didn't give Shen Fei the answer he wanted immediately. Instead, he slipped into his shoes and instructed his men to drive them to the Li family's villa.

“Follow me if you want answers.” The look on Shen Jiu-Yi's face was solemn. He dragged his son along with him as he went in search of Li Er.

The repercussions of Ye Fan's death were vast. His family wasn't the only ones who were going to be affected. The other family clans and organizations who had pledged



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their allegiance to Ye Fan would be similarly affected.

This was going to be a sleepless night for the powerful families in Jiangdong.

The phones of Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San rang nonstop that night. The flow of visitors who came knocking at their doors never ceased.

They were the men whom Ye Fan trusted the most.

They would know if something terrible had truly happened to Ye Fan.



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Unfortunately, Shen Jiu-Yi and the rest didn't have the chance to speak to Li Er in person or even take a one step into his house.

“Damn Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua! Curse those bullies! They think they can do whatever they want because of the connections they have. I can't believe that they've declared that they're going to acquire Mufan Group. What should we do now? Things have gotten out of hand. It's only going to get worse.”

As an uproar overtook Jiangdong, Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San gathered secretly in a hotel room somewhere in Yunzhou.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua had spoken to them a month ago.

The former group of men wasn't from Jiangdong and had in fact come from Yanjing.

The first thing they had said to Li Er and the others during their first meeting had been to demand the trio's allegiance and complete loyalty.

Li Er and the others had refused flatly.

Mr Chu had treated them well. How could they turn on his family and pledge their loyalty to someone else right after his death?

They had thought that their refusal would send a strong message to Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua, and that the latter would be reluctant to expand their influence in Jiangdong.

They had realized later that they had been wrong.

In fact, they had made a grave and terrible mistake.

Within the month after that first meeting, Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua called upon their connections in their vast network of friends and allies and with their immense forces, invaded Jiangdong.

Their target was the company that Ye Fan had founded, Mufan Group!

That had been when Li Er and the other had realized the extent of Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua's ambitions.



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They weren't interested in profit or money.

They wanted to replace Ye Fan and become the rulers of Jiangdong.

In that short month, Li Er and the others had thought of all kinds of ways to fight back.

But in the end, they hadn't succeeded in turning the tide and changing the outcome of the fight.

Most of Mufan Group's businesses had already fallen into the hands of Fenghua Group.

Now, Fenghua Group was going to acquire the rest of Mufan Group's businesses and destroy Mufan Group utterly.

Li Er and the rest had planned on assembling the forces of their allies in Mr Chu's name to fight back against Fenghua Group.

But their plan had been thwarted by Lu Ming-feng's announcement of Ye Fan's death to the public. They had lost their last chance for survival.



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The fate of Mufan Group seemed to be sealed. Li Er and the others could do nothing but fret.

They had gathered here to discuss their options.

“Should we get Miss Qiu to make a public statement and tell the public that Mr Chu is still alive? Maybe we should file charges against Fenghua Group for their baseless claim,” suggested Li Er.

Chen Ao shook his head. “That won’t work. We’re only going to invite more suspicion if we try to dispute the veracity of his statement. The only true way to dispute his claim is to have Mr Chu make a public appearance. That would answer everyone’s doubts. But that’s clearly not possible.”

Lei San sighed. “Are we going to watch Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua acquire Mufan Group? You know they’re going to come after us after they’re done with Mufan Group.”

No lords and generals survived the king that they served.



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The three of them were Ye Fan's most loyal and trusted men. They had refused Lu Ming-Feng when he had offered them a deal.

If Lu Ming-Feng were to succeed and gain control over Jiangdong, he wouldn't let them off that easily.

As the three men wallowed in despair, the phone suddenly rang.

Li Er glanced at the number on the screen and answered the call.

Alarm flashed across his face.

"What did you just say? They're heading for Mount Yunding Villa? Those scoundrels! They're not going to let the women off that easily too, aren't they? I want more guards at the mansion. Get them to hurry to the mansion right now!" barked Li Er as a look of cold fury appeared on his face.

"Li Er, what's going on? Did something happen?" Lei San and Chen Ao questioned Li Er at the same time. They seemed startled by his outburst.

Li Er looked furious. "Trouble happened. I'm



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afraid Mr Chu's family is in danger."

What?

"Did you say they were headed for Mount Yunding Villa? Damn those scoundrels! We have to hurry over to the mansion right now. Mr Chu treated us with nothing but kindness. We might not have managed to save his company, but we've got to do everything we can to save his family!"

A solemn look appeared on Lei San's face. He turned and headed for the door, all ready to make his way to Mount Yunding Villa.

Chen Ao stopped the both of them.

"These men are clearly prepared. They did their homework before they acted. We're not going to be of any help even if we turn up at the mansion. Our reputation in Jiangdong means nothing to Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua. Don't forget the martial artists they have with them. Do you really think we can withstand a blow from one of those martial artists?" said Chen Ao.

His words were like a bucket of freezing water dumped over Li Er and Lei San,



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extinguishing the blind and furious fires burning inside them instantly.

The latter two stopped in their tracks.

They knew that Chen Ao was right.

Their presence wasn't going to be of any help at all.

Lu Ming-Feng didn't give a damn about Mr Chu. Why would he give a damn about them?

"Are we going to stand by and watch as Mr Chu's family get in harm's way? Are we really going to do nothing?" Bitterness and helplessness filled Lei San as he sighed.

"We won't do nothing," replied Chen Ao. "But we need a plan. Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua have a plan. They have connections and powerful allies as well. This isn't a fight that we ordinary folks can handle. Li Er, you mentioned that Mr Chu and the mayor are friends. Can you ring up Wu Wei-Tao? We can only count on the officials to protect Mr Chu's family now."

Li Er thought that his plan made sense.



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“Alright, I’ll try and call him.”

His call got through within moments.

“Mr Li, is anything the matter?” Wu Wei-Tao’s voice rang out from the other end of the line.

Li Er exchanged a few lines of pleasantries before telling Wu Wei-Tao why he had called.

“Mayor Wu, this is an emergency. Please send your men to Mount Yunding Villa and make sure that things don’t get out of hand. I understand that my request might seem inappropriate, but I hope that you’ll issue the orders to protect Mr Chu’s family on account of your friendship with him,” said Li Er anxiously.

Wu Wei-Tao answered his plea with laughter.

“My friendship with Mr Chu? Once upon a time, I did desire Mr Chu’s friendship. Unfortunately, he didn’t deem me worthy to be his friend. There is no friendship to speak of between me and Mr Chu.”

“Mayor Wu, let’s not quibble over such details. Please send your men to the mansion,” urged Li Er. He wasn’t interested



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in listening to the mayor recount his past interactions with Ye Fan.

Wu Wei-Tao did not agree to Li Er's request. Instead, he said coolly, "Mr Li, don't you think that Jiangdong is due for a change?"



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Lu Ming-Feng and the others had not arrived at Mount Yunding yet. A false sense of peace hung over the mansion.

One could spy a white BMW parked in front of the mansion.

It was Su Qian's car.

She had found out about Ye Fan's death from Lu Ming-Feng.

She had recalled Qiu Mu-Cheng's recent bout of depression and couldn't help but suspect the veracity of Lu Ming-Feng's words.

"Mu-Cheng, tell me, is it true? Did something really happen to Ye Fan?"

With every light in the mansion turned on, it was as if it were still daytime in the mansion.

But the past glory and vitality that had filled the mansion was gone. This symbol of authority and power had become a vessel of tragedy and loneliness.

Qiu Mu-Cheng did not reply Su Qian's

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questions.

She had put an apron on and was cooking in the kitchen.

A sumptuous spread of dishes filled the dining table.

If Ye Xi-Mei were here right now, she would have recognized those dishes. They were the same dishes that Qiu Mu-Cheng had prepared the same night that she had learned of Ye Fan's death.

Since that day, Qiu Mu-Cheng had been doing the same thing over and over again.

Every night, she would prepare the same spread of dishes that she had made for Ye Xi-Mei's birthday celebration. She would set the table for two, then sit at the table and await Ye Fan's return.

"That's enough! Mu-Cheng, how long do you intend to keep this from me? Tell me, is Ye Fan dead? Has he been dead for more than a month?" Su Qian couldn't take it anymore. The sight of Qiu Mu-Cheng lost and heartbroken was heart-wrenching.

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She knew the answer to her questions.

But she had to ask them anyway. She needed Qiu Mu-Cheng to tell her the truth.

She didn't need the truth, but Qiu Mu-Cheng did. Her friend had to accept what had happened.

Otherwise, she would live in a nightmarish world in which Ye Fan's death haunted her forever.

She would cook the same dishes every day and wait for a man who would never come back.

The warm dishes on the dining table would grow cold, and be replaced by another identical set of warm dishes.

The thought of that broke Su Qian's heart.

Su Qian couldn't stand to see Qiu Mu-Cheng this way any longer. That was why she had asked Qiu Mu-Cheng so plainly, with such brutal honesty, even though she knew that her words would hurt Qiu-Mu-Cheng.

She was right. Qiu Mu-Cheng's head

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snapped up when she heard what Su Qian had said. She blew up at her friend instantly.

“That’s utter rubbish! Ye Fan can’t die. He told me that he’ll be home to have dinner with me. We’re going to have so many kids together. He’ll protect me for the rest of my life. He’s done none of those things. He can’t die yet. You’re all lying to me. You’re all liars. I don’t believe a single word that you’ve said!”

Tears streamed down Qiu Mu-Cheng’s cheeks as she shook her head furiously.

It had been a month since she had learned of Ye Fan’s death.

But she still had not come to terms with it.

She simply couldn’t believe that Ye Fan had died and that shameless scoundrel was gone forever.

“Mu-Cheng, I know that this is hard on you, but you can’t keep running away from the truth. You still have a company to run. You still have friends and family. You can’t coop yourself up in your house forever. Do you have any idea what’s happening to the

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company? Do you know the trouble that Ye Fan's business, the business that he set up, is facing? I know that Ye Fan's dead. But you should pull yourself together and show everyone what the empress of Jiangdong is made of. Guard Ye Fan's company in Jiangdong. You shouldn't be hiding here and living a lie," said Su Qian furiously.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng didn't care.

Everything that she had done had been so that she could have a happy and perfect life with Ye Fan.

But Ye Fan was gone. There was no point in her working hard anymore.

Her heart had died alongside Ye Fan that night.

It wouldn't have helped even if she were to step forward and try to salvage the situation.

The main reason that had allowed Mufan Group to establish itself as the most powerful organization in Jiangdong had been Ye Fan and his influence. Qiu Mu-Cheng had had little to do with it.

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Ye Fan had been the one who had kept Mufan Group going and growing.

When Ye Fan had still been around, everyone else had been fearful and cautious of him and his power and had, in turn, tried to maintain a cordial relationship with Mufan Group.

But news of Ye Fan's death had spread.

The emperor had passed. The so-called empress of Jiangdong was simply a woman holding a meaningless title and no authority.

No one was going to be bothered with Qiu Mu-Cheng, a weak and powerless woman, now that Ye Fan was gone.

Even if she were to step forward like Su Qian had told her to and tried to get the company running again, nothing would change. She couldn't save the company.

As the two best friends conversed with one another, the gates to the mansion were burst open with a loud thud.

Numerous cars sped up Mount Yunding. In the darkness of the night, tires burned tracks

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across the lawn and its lush emerald leaves before shrieking to a stop in the courtyard.

Like sharp blades, their headlights cut beams of yellow light across the darkness and lit everything in the courtyard up with a blinding clarity.

“Who is it? How dare you trespass on private property! Don’t you know whose house this is? This property belongs to Mr Chu!” Su Qian pushed the door open and yelled at the men outside. The commotion had startled her and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

The doors to one of the cars opened then. Two tall and dashing young men stepped out of the car.

One of them was dressed in a black suit with a bowtie and exuded an air of nobility.

He was the man who had declared that he was going to acquire Mufan Group, Lu Ming-Feng.

The man standing behind him wore a white sports attire and had his hands in his pockets. His lips were twisted into a smirk while his eyes lingered mockingly on Su

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Qian.

He was the man who had joined Lu Ming-Feng in Jiangdong, Xur Shao-Hua.

They ignored Su Qian's words of anger and began surveying the surrounding. Pleased with what they saw, they nodded.

"They didn't lie when they said that this is the best location in Yunzhou. The view and the environment are great. I like it. How about you, Shao-Hua?" asked Lu Ming-Feng with a smile.

The other man nodded happily. "I think it's a great place too. We can hold champagne parties and invite pretty ladies to join us. We're going to have such a great time."

The two men chatted leisurely with each other without regard for anyone else who might be hearing them. In fact, they spoke as if they were talking about their own house.

Su Qian was livid.

"This house belongs to Mr Chu and Mu-Cheng. You're not welcome here. Please

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leave!” She yelled again.

Lu Ming-Feng smiled condescendingly at her. “Not anymore. Tell that previous queen of Jiangdong that her empire belongs to someone now. Her mansion is now ours. She has half an hour to pack her stuff and get her ass off Mount Yunding. She doesn’t have the right to live here anymore.”



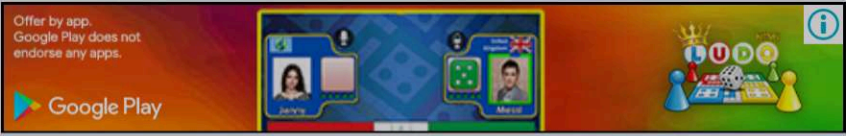
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Chapter 1033 Seizure

Lu Ming-Feng's laughter dripped with condescension and arrogance.

In his eyes, Qiu Mu-Cheng and her people were simply meat on the chopping board, and he was the one who was holding the cleaver.

He wasn't wrong.

Without Ye Fan's protection, Mufan Group was a hapless lamb trapped in a den of wolves.

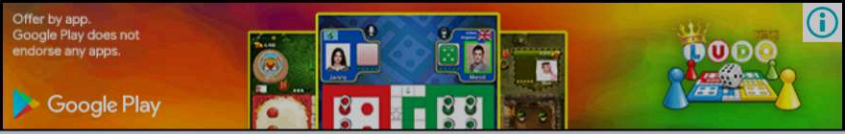
Qiu Mu-Cheng's title as the empress of Jiangdong had become nothing but a joke.

As the saying went, a woman's worth was determined by her husband.

When Ye Fan had been alive, Qiu Mu-Cheng had been the empress of Jiangdong and the most powerful woman in the province. She had enjoyed the utmost authority and power.

But now that Ye Fan was dead, her titles no longer meant anything.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was nothing but a lowly woman from a lowly family.



Chapter 1033 Seizure

The Lu family and Xur family were two of the most powerful families in Yanjing. Even if Ye Fan were alive and standing in front of them, they wouldn't be afraid of him. Naturally, they weren't going to fear a weak and hapless young woman.

"Dream on! Mu-Cheng's husband paid a lot of money for this mansion. It's still Mu-Cheng's even after her husband's dead. This property belongs to Mu-Cheng. You bunch of assholes have no right to demand her to leave. You should be the ones who should be getting your asses out of here."

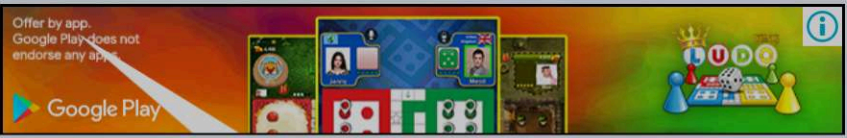
Fury churned inside Su Qian.

She had never seen men as arrogant and bold as the two men before her.

They had trespassed on private property and now they wanted to take over the mansion and chase its owner out.

This was outrageous!

Even though this had nothing to do with Su Qian, she couldn't help but condemn their actions. They were utter bullies.



Chapter 1033 Seizure

Su Qian's words seemed to have angered Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua.

A stormy look appeared on Lu Ming-Feng's face.

"I'm not going to repeat myself. I've told you. You don't have the right to live here anymore. If you know what's good for you, you'll leave quietly. Otherwise, don't blame me for what's going to happen next. My men are ruffians and gangsters. I can't guarantee your safety if they're the ones who send you out of the house, said Lu Ming-Feng coldly and with a threatening note in his voice.

His guards stepped forward and surrounded Su Qian immediately.

They seemed ready to forcefully escort Su Qian and Qiu Mu-Cheng out of the estate if the two women didn't leave now.

"Stop!" A voice rang out from the house before these burly men could do anything to Su Qian.

Qiu Mu-Cheng walked out in a long dress. Her face was expressionless and her eyes slightly swollen and red.



Chapter 1033 Seizure

“Mu-Cheng, these assholes are trying to chase you out of your house. They’re trying to take over this mansion.” Su Qian ran towards Qiu Mu-Cheng and told her furiously.

“I know. Leave this to me,” whispered Qiu Mu-Cheng. This was her and Ye Fan’s problem. She didn’t want to get Su Qian involved.

“You must be Mr Chu’s wife, Miss Qiu Mu-Cheng. I’ve heard that his wife’s a beautiful woman and I didn’t believe it then. It seems that it’s true. I’ve seen many beautiful women in my life and you’re definitely one of the most beautiful women that I’ve ever come across. It’s a pity that you’re married. I would have made you my wife if I had met you sooner.” Lu Ming-Feng showered Qiu Mu-Cheng with generous praises on her beauty.

She had one of the best figures and most beautiful faces that he had ever seen.

It was a pity that Lu Ming-Feng only went for virgins.

He wasn’t interested in someone else’s wife.



Chapter 1033 Seizure

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Chapter 1033 Seizure

Qiu Mu-Cheng disregarded Lu Ming-Feng's compliments and leveled a cold look at them.

"This mansion is the private property of my husband and myself. You've broken the law by trespassing on and attempting to occupy private residential property. I've called the mayor. The officials are going to be here anytime now. You should leave unless you want to get arrested. If you don't leave right now, I'll file charges against you and see that justice is served."

There was no hint of emotion in Qiu Mu-Cheng's voice.

"Justice?"

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua burst out into laughter.

It was as if they had just heard the funniest thing in their lives.

Lu Ming-Feng's voice was mocking and condescending as he spoke.

"Miss Qiu, I can't believe that you used to be the woman of the man who ruled Jiangdong.

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Chapter 1033 Seizure

Don't you know that justice is something that applies only to the weak? Laws and rules don't apply to the powerful. They're meant to be broken."

"Is that so?" Qiu Mu-Cheng was unfazed by Lu Ming-Feng's brazen disregard for the law. "We shall see, shan't we?"

"Sure, why not? Shao-Hua and I don't mind playing along," laughed Lu Ming-Feng. He seemed confident and at ease.

Qiu Mu-Cheng wasn't concerned.

The men were clearly in the wrong. She didn't believe that the cops would take their side when they arrived.

Besides, she had made a personal call to Wu Wei-Tao.

They knew each other. Wu Wei-Tao had attempted on multiple occasions to gain Ye Fan's favor too.

On account of their acquaintanceship, Wu Wei-Tao would take her side.

The cops arrived outside the mansion

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Chapter 1033 Seizure

shortly.

The man leading them was Yunzhou's mayor, Wu Wei-Tao.

Su Qian was overjoyed at the sight of Wu Wei-Tao. Like a drowning man who had just spied land, she yelled hurriedly, "Mayor Wu, I'm so glad to see you. These awful bullies trespassed on private property and tried to chase Qiu Mu-Cheng out of her own house. Please do something, Mayor Wu."

Mufan Group was Yunzhou's biggest taxpayer. No matter how big of an idiot Wu Wei-Tao may be, he wouldn't be stupid enough to not take Qiu Mu-Cheng's side.

"Mayor Wu, I'm so sorry for disturbing your rest so late at night. These bullies left me with no choice. Ye Fan isn't around, so you're the only person I can turn to," said Qiu Mu-Cheng as she walked up to Wu Wei-Tao. Her heart had overflowed with gratitude at the sight of Wu Wei-Tao's arrival.

She did not expect him to shove her aside as she was offering her gratitude or to hear the cold voice that rang out next.

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Chapter 1033 Seizure

“Someone’s reported Ye Fan for criminal activities that include illegal fundraising and the possession of large funds from suspicious sources. The relevant authorities have given the orders to seize all assets under the names of Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng. That includes all properties, vehicles, stocks and other valuable assets.”

What?

“Mayor Wu, you...you...?”

Su Qian’s eyes widened. Qiu Mu-Cheng froze to her spot as blood drained from her face.

The savior whom she had thought that she had waited for and had received was the devil himself!



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"Miss Qiu, I'm sorry. I'm just doing my job."

Shock had Qiu Mu-Cheng and Su Qian frozen to the spot. They had not yet recovered from what the mayor had just said.

With his hands behind his back, Wu Wei-Tao simply sneered, then barked out an order. "Seal the place!"

A few of his men stepped forward and plastered a huge seal on the mansion's door.

The mansion was now confiscated property.

"Haha! What did I tell you, Miss Qiu? Justice is meant to keep the weak down. Laws and rules apply only to the powerless. But I'm powerful and above the law. News of you being chased out of your mansion will spread all over Jiangdong tomorrow. Everyone will know that the era of Mufan Group has come to an end. The glorious days of Mr Chu have come to an end. The only voice that matters in Jiangdong will be mine!" Lu Ming-Feng's laughter cut through the low roar of the evening wind.

Atop Mount Yunding, trees shook violently and leaves rustled and were ripped from



Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

their branches.

Qiu Mu-Cheng's face paled when she heard Lu Ming-Feng's smug words.

She whirled around, stared at Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua, then turned her eyes towards Wu Wei-Tao and his men.

"You're all in it together, aren't you?" she whispered.

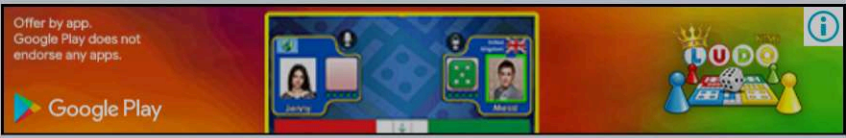
She would be an idiot if she still couldn't see what was going on.

Wu Wei-Tao did not reply her question. He simply smiled politely. "Miss Qiu, Mr Chu is dead. His time has passed. You should move on."

His mild tone carried a hint of laughter and mockery.

It was clear that Wu Wei-Tao still remembered how Ye Fan had spurned the mayor's attempts at gaining his favor.

Wu Wei-Tao had done everything in his power to ingratiate himself with Ye Fan and had even gone to the extent of disregarding



Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

his status and paying a personal visit to Ye Fan's residence.

But Ye Fan had ignored him entirely and humiliated Wu Wei-Tao with his utter disinterest.

How the tides have turned!

Ye Fan's time had passed and Wu Wei-Tao had seized the opportunity to exact revenge for the humiliation that Ye Fan had inflicted upon him.

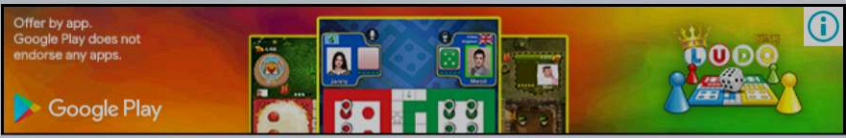
As the saying went, when the mighty fell, the mob would fall upon him too.

That seemed like an apt description for what was going on right now.

Wu Wei-Tao had pledged his allegiance to Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua. There was nobody who could help Qiu Mu-Cheng now.

A pale-looking Qiu Mu-Cheng stared at the mansion that had become confiscated property. She stumbled as her knees gave way and nearly collapsed onto the ground.

"Mu-Cheng, are you alright? You're scaring



Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

me. Mu-Cheng?" The bloodless look on Qiu Mu-Cheng's face terrified Su Qian.

She raced towards her friend and held her upright.

Nothing could be worse than losing everything. Su Qian was worried that Qiu Mu-Cheng wouldn't be able to survive the devastation of her repeated losses.

"Come on, Mu-Cheng, let's go. We'll get the house back sooner or later. We'll file charges against them tomorrow and appeal to the provincial courts if the city courts reject our claims. But we need to make sure that you're alright before we take the fight to them."

Su Qian knew very well that they weren't going to get the house back.

But there was nothing she could do about it. All she could do was bring Qiu Mu-Cheng away with her.

Just as they were about to leave, Xur Shao-Hua, who had been standing silently at one corner, suddenly stepped forward and stood in their path.

Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament



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"You have the house. Isn't that enough? Get out of our way," yelled Su Qian furiously at the man.

Xur Shao-Hua paid her no attention. His eyes fell on Qiu Mu-Cheng's bloodless face instead.

"I feel a strange kinship with Miss Qiu. It's a beautiful evening. Would you be so kind as to have a few drinks with me? We could spend the evening gazing at the stars," Xur Shao-Hua said with a soft laugh and a devilish curl to his lips.

His eyes were filled with a perverse hunger.

"Haha! What a rare sight! Shao-Hua, this is the first time in many years that I've seen you invite a lady for drinks," said Lu Ming-Feng surprisedly before Qiu Mu-Cheng could respond to Xur Shao-Hua's invitation. It was as if he had just seen pigs fly.

Xur Shao-Hua rarely showed any interest in women.

In an attempt to cheer Xur Shao-Hua up, Lu Ming-Feng had invited ten beautiful social media influencers from a certain online

Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

platform to one of his champagne parties to drink with Xur Shao-Hua. His friend had been utterly uninterested in those women.

But here he was, inviting Qiu Mu-Cheng to join him for the evening. This was an unprecedented event.

“Haha! Miss Qiu, you should count yourself lucky for winning my friend’s favor. He’s the favored son in the Xur family and the person who’s going to take over as the head of the family. You should seize this opportunity. Who knows? You might end up as a lucky wife in one of the most powerful families in Yanjing,” said Lu Ming-Feng as he tried to persuade Qiu Mu-Cheng to consider his friend as a potential romantic interest.

“You’re all scoundrels, the whole lot of you! Mu-Cheng’s not going to drink with you. You can dream on!” cursed Su Qian furiously upon hearing those lewd words spewing from the man’s mouth.

Lu Ming-Feng’s face darkened instantly.

With a wave of his hand, he beckoned one of his guards over. The burly man slapped Su Qian hard on the face and sent her sprawling

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Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

onto the ground.

Su Qian cried out in pain. Blood began to drip from her mouth.

“You should keep your mouth shut before I throw you off this mountain,” said Lu Ming-Feng threateningly. His words were heavy with the promise of violence.

Su Qian fell silent immediately. Tears wet her cheek as she trembled in silent terror.

“Miss Qiu, this way, please,” said Lu Ming-Feng with a cold smile. His voice was hard. It was clear that he wasn't going to take no for an answer.

Qiu Mu-Cheng ignored him entirely and instead, helped Su Qian up and began to head down the mountain.

“This is pointless. Why are you trying to make things hard on yourself? My brother's said the word. You have no choice but to do what he says.” Lu Ming-Feng shook his head.

His men marched towards Qiu Mu-Cheng immediately.

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Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

It appeared that they intended to take Qiu Mu-Cheng by force.

“Let go of me! Let me go!” Qiu Mu-Cheng struggled desperately but to no avail.

There was no way a woman like her could escape from the hands of Lu Ming-Feng's burly guards.

The men were going to drag Qiu Mu-Cheng off when a sudden voice rang out.

“Release her! How dare you put your hands on the Dragon Master's wife!”

The mansion's windows and doors blew up.

The door that had been sealed shattered into numerous pieces.

Qing Tan appeared amidst the flying sawdust and splinters.

“I didn't know there's another person in the room. Who dares to break the seal that I've placed? Men, take her down!” Wu Wei-Tao frowned and barked out an order.

But before his men could get any closer to

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Chapter 1034 Qiu Mu-Cheng's Predicament

Qing Tan, she had sent them flying with a flurry of kicks.

One of the men pulled out his gun. Before he could fire a shot, Qing Tan had darted towards him and, with a sudden leap and whirl, sent her foot smashing into his chest and breaking a few of his ribs.

The huge burly man was thrown backward from the force of her kick and landed heavily on Wu Wei-Tao.

He gasped aloud and spat blood squarely in Wu Wei-Tao's face.

“What the hell?”



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“Did she dodge a bullet? She must be incredibly fast. Is she even human?” Wu Wei-Tao was stupefied. He nearly peed his pants.

It seemed impossible that the petite young girl before him could be capable of unleashing such incredible power.

She had taken down all of his men within a blink of an eye.

She had moved at a speed that had seemed out of this world. In the span of seconds that a person needed to pull out his gun and fire a shot, she had attacked and taken a grown man down. How was that possible?

Wu Wei-Tao had not expected Ye Fan to have left someone so powerful guarding his wife and that he would have to deal with such a difficult situation even after Ye Fan had died.

It struck him then. Perhaps he had underestimated Ye Fan.

“A martial artist?” As Wu Wei-Tao was struggling to recover from his shock, a solemn look had appeared on Lu Ming-Feng’s face.



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He did not seem too surprised or alarmed though.

They had found out quite a bit about Ye Fan from Chu Qi-Tian before they had headed to Jiangdong.

They knew that Ye Fan was a martial artist and an immensely powerful grandmaster.

As a grandmaster, he would have other martial artists who had sworn their loyalty to him.

Lu Ming-Feng had foreseen something like this happening.

“Shao-Hua, you’re going to have to deal with this,” said Lu Ming-Feng as he turned towards his friend.

The other young man nodded and barked out a laugh.

“Don’t worry. She’s not even a grandmaster. Elder Wei’s going to thrash her!” He turned around and shouted. “Elder Wei, it’s your turn to take the stage.”

Xur Shao-Hua’s words rippled across the



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darkness of the night.

A sudden icy wind began to stir in the still air.

It was followed by the sound of a low rumbling that steadily grew louder as it approached from the distance at increasing speed.

Something terrifying appeared to be approaching them at lightning speed.

“What is going on?” Alarm flashed across the eyes of Wu Wei-Tao and his men as they stared into the distant night, where an old man had appeared out of nowhere.

The old man greeted Xur Shao-Hua politely and addressed him as his young master. Then, his cold eyes fell on Qing Tan.

Blood drained from Qing Tan’s face instantly.

“Miss Qiu, you have to leave now. Get out of Yunzhou and head for Yanjing. Look for the head of the Xu family, Xu Lei. The Dragon Master has made arrangements for you. He’s got a backup plan. Xu Lei will protect you and ensure your safety in Yanjing.”



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Qing Tan could sense the overpowering aura exuding from the old man before her.

She could tell that he was incredibly powerful.

At least, he was more powerful than she was.

He would have to be on his way to becoming a grandmaster, at the very least.

Qing Tan had thought that the current troubles that plagued Mufan Group had been a mere commercial dispute between competitors.

It seemed that things weren't that simple after all.

Their enemies had known who they were dealing with and had been prepared.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua had come to Jiangdong with the intention of destroying all vestiges of Ye Fan's influence and power in Jiangdong.

"What about you, Qing Tan?" asked Qiu Mu-Cheng worriedly, her face pale with terror.



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“Don’t worry about me, Miss Qiu. Go to Yanjing and find Miss Xu Lei. And don’t give up, Miss Qiu. Like you, I believe that Brother Fan wouldn’t be killed so easily. You have to live for your sake and for mine. Trust me. Brother Fan’s going to come back.” Qing Tan’s eyes shone brightly as she spoke resolutely.

“Qing Tan, what do you plan to do? Don’t do anything stupid.” Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes reddened when she heard what sounded like Qing Tan’s last words.

“Don’t worry about me and just go!” Qing Tan shoved Qiu Mu-Cheng aside, then whirled around and threw herself into battle.

“Mu-Cheng, we have to leave now!” Su Qian had gotten to her feet and pulled Qiu Mu-Cheng along with her as she raced down the mountain.

“Stop them!” Lu Ming-Feng barked out an order immediately. He had had his eyes on Qiu Mu-Cheng and Su Qian all this while.

The dozen men standing behind him surged forward and went chasing after Su Qian and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

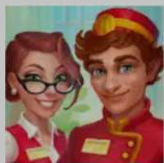


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The two young women quickly found themselves surrounded by Lu Ming-Feng's men. As they stood cornered and with nowhere to go, they saw a sudden mob charge up the mountain.

"Miss Qiu, I'm Jin Bao!"

"I'm Yin Bao! Master Er has sent us to save you!"

Jin Bao and Yin Bao had led Li Er's bodyguards to Mount Yunding to save Qiu Mu-Cheng.

"Miss Qiu, please leave! We'll hold them back!"

The two groups broke out into a fight immediately.

Su Qian dragged Qiu Mu-Cheng away and continued their escape down the mountain.

"Damn that Li Er! I'm going to deal with him as soon as I destroy all of Mufan Group," snarled Lu Ming-Feng furiously as he watched his prey slip out of his grasp. He had been so close.



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Xur Shao-Hua didn't seem angry at all.

"Why are you upset, Ming-Feng? Don't worry. They're not going anywhere as long as Elder Wei is here," said Xur Shao-Hua with a faint smile.

A deafening thunder erupted then.

Qing Tan and Elder Wei had launched an attack at each other simultaneously. The force of their collision sent Qing Tan flying into the distance.

Elder Wei thrusted himself forward and got ready to unleash a second blow.

His palm slid forward with deceptive gentleness.

Alarm flashed across Qing Tan's eyes. She twisted her shoulder to the side and tried to dodge the attack.

"Do you really think you can dodge this?" With a harsh laugh, Elder Wei curled his fingers into a fist and sent it sweeping sideways.

There was a sound of a heavy thud. Qing



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Tan had been hit again. She spat out a mouthful of blood and fell to the ground.

“Elder Wei, keep this short. Stop playing with her.”

“Yes, young master!” replied Elder Wei dutifully before he leaped at the fallen Qing Tan. “This ends here, wretch.”

With his lips twisted upward in a mirthless smile, the old man thrust his palm forward.

She stood at the edge of the mountain. Behind her was a deep ravine and she had nowhere else to run.

Cornered, Qing Tan clenched her jaw and met Elder Wei’s palm with her own.

She grunted softly before spitting out another mouthful of blood and falling off the top of the mountain.

Her small form plunged into the ravine.

“Qing Tan!”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s head whipped back



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forcefully when she heard the soft cry of pain escape from Qing Tan's lips. Upon turning back, she saw the young woman who had stayed by her side and guarded her loyally all this while plunge from the top of the mountain into the deep ravine.

Tears filled her eyes instantly.

Weeping and howling, she ran madly towards the ravine.

"Haven't I told you, Miss Qiu? Mr Chu's reign has ended. We are the leaders of Jiangdong now. Your struggles are pointless. You should give up and stop fighting if you know what's best for you."

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua stood atop Mount Yunding, their hands behind their back and an icy smile on their face as they looked at the devastated young woman before them.

The words that they had uttered had been filled with condescension and arrogance.

A sudden rumble at the foot of the mountain interrupted their crowing.



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It was the sound of a lion's low growl, the threatening roar of a ferocious tiger.

Beams of yellow light cut through the night like sharp blades.

Numerous cars raced in the dark, the rumbling of their engines like the howls of an army of ghouls as they charged up Mount Yunding.

"This...this is..."



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“This...this is...”

The sudden loud rumbling had everyone present stunned momentarily.

They turned and saw numerous cars headed up the mountain.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua frowned.

“Shao-Hua, are those your men?” Lu Ming-Feng turned towards the other young man with confusion in his eyes.

Xur Shao-Hua shook his head. “No. Elder Wei is the only person I brought with me to Jiangdong.”

“That’s odd. Who exactly are they?” Doubt rose inside Lu Ming-Feng.

He had noticed that these cars had Yanjing-registered license numbers.

These men had come from Yanjing.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua could do whatever they wanted in Jiangdong without fear of repercussion because of their powerful families.



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But they would have to show some measure of respect to these people if they were from Yanjing.

Yanjing was the capital city of China, after all. There were plenty of other powerful families and bodies running around in that city.

They might come from powerful families themselves, but they would never dare to act brazenly in Yanjing.

An act of recklessness could invite needless trouble for their families.

Suspicion began to unfurl inside Lu Ming-feng's mind as he watched those cars approach and stop in front of them.

The door to one of the cars opened.

A beautiful yet stern looking young woman stepped out of the car and into the sight of everyone.

The hems of her cream-colored coat fluttered lightly in the wind while her long, dark hair cascaded down her back. Her black heels made her a tall, striking figure in



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the night.

She exuded an air of cool elegance.

Her eyes were those of a leader who had had a firm and long rule.

The sight of the cold and stern young woman sent Lu Ming-Feng's eyelid twitching. Somehow, she looked really familiar.

Suspicious of who she might be, Lu Ming-Feng spoke politely as he stepped forward and inquired her name. "Miss, may we know whom you are and what you are doing in our estate so late in the evening?"

Lu Ming-Feng had clearly deemed the estate on Mount Yunding as his.

After all, he had expelled Qiu Mu-Cheng from the mansion.

He was going to move into the mansion tomorrow morning and officially become the owner of this place.

"Xu Lei," said the young woman coolly and without any hint of emotion in her voice.



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Chapter 1036 Arrival

Her words were as cold and unfeeling as a rock.

“Xu Lei?” Lu Ming-Feng froze for a moment before he reeled back with surprise. “Are you the head of the Xu family in Yanjing, Xu Lei?”

The Xu family, like the Lu family, was one of the most powerful families in Yanjing.

Xu Lei had assumed the position of the head of the Xu family and taken over the family business at an extremely young age. The news had caused quite a stir then.

Everyone in Yanjing knew who Xu Lei was.

In fact, Lu Ming-Feng’s father had often told Lu Ming-Feng to learn a few things from Xu Lei.

Naturally, Lu Ming-Feng had been surprised to find out that the woman standing before him was Xu Lei.

The smile on Lu Ming-Feng’s face grew wider.

He stepped forward and said politely, “So, you’re the head of the Xu family, Xu Lei.

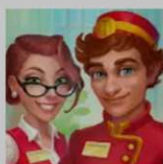


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You've come a long way. Shao-Hua and I have failed to receive you properly as guests. Please forgive us."

Xur Shao-Hua stepped forward as well. "We did not expect Miss Xu Lei to join us tonight. I've heard of your beauty and talent when I was still in Yanjing. I'm so glad that I've finally met you in person. If you don't mind, please join us for a few drinks in the mansion. Let us do our duty as hosts and entertain you."

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua showed Xu Lei the greatest respect. Their earlier posturing of arrogance had vanished completely.

Xu Lei was one of their few peers in Yanjing whom they truly respected and admired.

The Xu family had been the least powerful of the four great families in Yanjing. But since Xu Lei had assumed the position of the head of the Xu family, the family business had expanded rapidly within a year and had brought three growing new family businesses under its fold. Those three families had since pledged their allegiance to the Xu family.



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The Xu family was in the height of its power in Yanjing.

In fact, one could even say that the Xu family was the one who called the shots in Yanjing's commercial realm.

The combined wealth of Lu Ming-Feng's and Xur Shao-Hua's families could not compare with the wealth that the Xu family enjoyed.

Yet wealth was simply one of many forms of power.

It wasn't what Lu Ming-Feng's and Xur Shao-Hua's families had built their influence and power in Yanjing on.

Their influence and power were rooted in their vast network of connections in the military and in politics.

The Xu family was still some distance away from truly matching those two families' clout in Yanjing.

Nevertheless, the Xu family was still one of the four great families in Yanjing and Xu Lei was its head. Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua were but young masters from two of



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the other three families and hardly dabbled in their families' businesses. They had little say in their families.

That had been why they had shown the head of the Xu family such a great deal of respect.

Xu Lei ignored them completely. Instead, she marched past them expressionlessly, grabbed Qiu Mu-Cheng and headed back to her car.

Elder Wei stepped forward and stood in their path.

"Are you going to stop me? You should think before you act. The head of the Lu family himself would consider the consequences of trying to stand in my way very carefully before he makes any move," said Xu Lei in a steely voice of authority that rang clearly in the air.

"Ming-Feng, what should we do?" Xur Shao-Hua turned towards his friend. He had no clue what they should do next.

This was the head of the Xu family they were talking about.



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They wouldn't have feared anyone else from the Xu family. They were members of powerful families themselves, after all.

But Xu Lei was the head of the Xu family. Her position warranted their caution.

If driven into anger, Xu Lei might do something crazy.

Lu Ming-Feng was quite sure that his father would kill him if he caused trouble for their family.

"Let her go." Lu Ming-Feng eventually caved.

Xur Shao-Hua nodded and with a wave of his hand, got Elder Wei to stand down.

"Miss Xu Lei, we'll spare them on your account. You should keep a close eye on Miss Qiu though. If she decides to brave a return to Jiangdong and falls into my hand, you can't expect me to go easy on her on your account then," said Lu Ming-Feng with a seeming smile and a hint of threat in his words.

Xu Lei turned around and leveled a hard look at him.



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“Let me give you a word of advice too. Not everyone has the ability to take over and run Jiangdong. You should stop what you’re trying to do if you want to live a few years longer. I can guarantee you that you will suffer terribly when he comes back. I’m quite sure you’ve done your research and you know what Fan is capable of.”

Xu Lei smiled suddenly.

The bright smile was sharp and carried an edge of icy hostility.

Xu Lei brought Qiu Mu-Cheng back with her to Yanjing.

She also found the severely injured Qing Tan and brought the young woman back with her.



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Chapter 1037 Annihilation

Xu Lei's words continued to reverberate in the ears of Lu Ming-Feng and the others after she had left.

"It is possible that Ye Fan is still alive?" A deep crease wrinkled Lu Ming-Feng's brow as he watched Xu Lei's car vanish into the night.

Xu Lei didn't seem to believe that Ye Fan was dead.

"Who cares if he's dead or alive? Everything's been set in stone. We have Jiangdong in our hands right now. Even if that so-called Mr Chu is to return alive, what can he do? He wouldn't dare to touch us!" Xur Shao-Hua appeared unfazed and his laughter was filled with scorn and disdain.

He had never deemed the man worthy of his attention.

He was but someone who had been cast out of the Chu family. The only thing that set him apart from an ordinary man was his title as the leader of Jiangdong.

That hardly meant anything to the influential young masters of powerful families like Xur



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Chapter 1037 Annihilation

Shao-Hua and Lu Ming-Feng.

“You’re right. He’s just some young punk who’s been cast out of his family. Even if he’s alive, so what? He’ll stay away from us if he knows what’s good for him,” said Lu Ming-Feng with a laugh when he heard what Xur Shao-Hua had said.

They were like crown princes of longstanding and powerful families who had grown used to having their way and pushing everyone around.

When they had been in Yanjing, few had dared to offend them.

Now that they were in Jiangdong, they feared no one.

Besides, they had come to Jiangdong on the order of their family clans to seize control over the province.

They had the full support of their families. Why should they fear anything?

The mayor himself had thrown himself at their feet when he had seen them.



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As Lu Ming-Feng basked in his pride, he caught the sight of Wu Wei-Tao standing next to him and smiled. “Mayor Wu, I hope that didn’t scare you.”

He got a few pieces of tissue paper and handed them to Wu Wei-Tao so that the mayor could wipe the blood off his face.

“Thank you, Young Master Lu,” Wu Wei-Tao thanked the young man profusely as he accepted the tissue paper from him.

“Mayor Wu, if you don’t mind, please help make arrangements for someone to fix the door. Shao-Hua and I will be staying here,” said Lu Ming-Feng with a smile.

Wu Wei-Tao nodded and replied deferentially. “Don’t worry, Young Master Lu. I’ll have my men get it fixed immediately. Mount Yunding Villa has the best views and sits on the most expensive piece of land in the city. It’s the best location in Yunzhou. In fact, you and Young Master Xur are the best persons to take up residence here. I’ll be sure to host a party and officially celebrate your moving into the mansion.”

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua didn’t say a



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word. They simply waved their arms and headed into the mansion, leaving in their wake a huge mess and a pale-looking Wu Wei-Tao who had been scared out of his skin.

“Liu, let’s go. Call Han and get him to send someone down to fix the door. Get a team down as well to redecorate the place,” Wu Wei-Tao instructed his chauffeur on their way back home.

Liu appeared slightly bewildered by the mayor’s instructions.

“Mayor Wu, they’re just two young kids. Do you really need to spend that much effort to please them? Why are you bothering yourself with minor repairs like fixing a door?”

Wu Wei-Tao glared at Liu. “What do you know? Do you know who those two young men are?”

Liu appeared unfazed. “Who are they? Are they family of the head of the Jiangdong provincial government?”

Wu Wei-Tao was a mayor. The only people



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who warranted that kind of privileged treatment from him were the folks who worked for the provincial government.

“You still have much to learn,” Wu Elder Wei-Tao snorted in laughter when he heard what Liu had said. He shook his head. “Let me enlighten you. Lu Ming-Feng is the only son of the head of the Lu family, one of the most powerful families in Yanjing. The Lu family holds immense political clout and has a vast network of political connections in the capital city. Members of the Lu family hold positions of power in various places across the whole of China. In fact, they hold significant sway over many members of the current government. The head of the Jiangdong provincial government himself would have to accord the head of the Lu family due respect.”

What?

“Is he really...that incredible?” Liu’s lips twitched as he inhaled sharply.

The head of the Jiangdong provincial government himself would have to show deference to the Lu family. The influence that the Lu family held must be



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unimaginable.

“How about the Xur family? Young Master Xur didn’t speak much earlier. Maybe he’s not that influential and doesn’t really have a say in what goes on?” Liu asked.

Wu Wei-Tao shook his head. “Do you think someone whom Young Master Lu calls a friend is going to be anyone ordinary? The Xur family is as influential as the Lu family is in Yanjing. They have two generals in the family! That’s a rare occurrence in the recorded history of China. In fact, the head of the Xur family, Xur Wan-Chang, is a veteran who fought with our founding general! He’s a well-respected figure in the country who remains respected by all in the country even though he’s retired. Few enjoy the level of esteem others have for him. His children are all in the military as well. His sons hold positions in the military and are commanders of armies. They hold significant clout in the military.”

Liu was stupefied. In fact, his back was soaked in cold sweat.

He had thought that Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua had been two young men



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unworthy of that much attention.

But Wu Wei-Tao's words had made him realize how influential and powerful these new masters of Jiangdong were.

"You're right. They're just young men who aren't worth the time I spend on them. But I'm not doing it because of who they are. I'm doing this because of the families they come from. Mr Chu had been at the height of his glory a few months ago. But it took only a few days to destroy the empire that he had built. Why did his empire collapse so easily? Because he didn't have the backing of a powerful family! He'd been a nobody who had come from nowhere. I'd expected this day to come the moment he had climbed to power in Jiangdong." Wu Wei-Tao laughed arrogantly as he shared his wisdom with his chauffeur. Staring out the window of his Audi, his eyes fell on Mount Yunding and its peak, which rose into and was obscured by the clouds.

In the distance, the calm surface of the lake glittered with the light of endless stars as it mirrored the night sky.

When dawn broke the next day, several



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shocking pieces of news took Jiangdong by storm.

Mufan Group and all its businesses had been acquired by Fenghua Group.

Its beautiful CEO, Qiu Mu-Cheng, had moved out of Mount Yunding Villa.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua had moved into the mansion during the night.

Mufan Group was no more.

The era of Mr Chu had come to an end!

Many folks in Jiangdong paled with trepidation when they heard the news.

Old Master Xia trembled and collapsed into his couch.

His eyes turned red as he shook violently and sighed. "Is this really the end of Mr Chu's reign?"

“Oh my god, have you heard? Mufan Group’s gone down.”

“What? Mufan Group? Are you talking about the company that was established by Mr Chu? How is that possible? You must be joking. Mr Chu’s invincible. He thrashed everyone at Mount Tai. When he held a feast at the Haiyuan Restaurant, everyone turned up to extend their well wishes.”

“Have you been living under a rock? Mr Chu’s dead. It was all over the news yesterday. His wife was driven out of their mansion on Mount Yunding last night like some loser. They’ve even taken down the company signboard on their headquarters.”

Everyone was talking about Mr Chu’s death and the fall of Mufan Group.

Most of them felt sorry for what had happened.

“Good fortunes never last. No one can guarantee a lifetime of fame and wealth. The wheels of fortune are always turning.”

Folks shook their heads and sighed as they chatted amongst themselves in restaurants



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and cafes.

Meanwhile, in Li Er's residence in Yunzhou, Jin Bao and Yin Bao had fallen to their knees before Li Er.

“Master Er, Mr Chu treated us with nothing but kindness. Are you really going to do nothing and watch Mufan Group be brought down? Mufan Group was Mr Chu's life work. Besides, look at what Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua tried to do to Mr Chu's wife! They're absolute cads! They chased her out of the mansion! Master Er, please do something and teach those scoundrels a lesson!” pleaded Jin Bao and Yin Bao tirelessly. Their cries filled the room.

The two brothers had served Li Er for a long time and had seen much.

但是，像楚先生那般仁义之人，却是很少见过。

Mr Chu had been one of the few men they had known who had shown such loyalty and kindness to his men.

They had caused Ye Fan trouble numerous times because of their thoughtless behavior



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but Ye Fan had never reprimanded them. In fact, he had spoken to them patiently and taught them the right thing to do.

Jin Bao and Yin Bao would never forget his kindness.

They didn't care that Ye Fan was dead. They didn't want anyone to trample on Mr Chu's life work or insult the honor of his family.

"Shut up!"

Li Er sent the two brothers sprawling across the floor with two hard kicks.

"Do you think you're the only ones who remember Mr Chu's kindness? I wouldn't be where I am today without Mr Chu! Do you think that I don't want to save Mufan Group? Or protect his surviving kin? How I wish I could grab a cleaver, head for Mount Yunding and fight those two scoundrels! But how is that going to help? I'll probably be cut down by their men before I can even reach them!" roared Li Er. His eyes had gone red with fury.

You could hear the anger in his words, as well as a deep and terrible sense of



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helplessness.

Li Er's gratitude towards Ye Fan was greater than anyone else's.

If he hadn't met Mr Chu, he wouldn't have become the Li Er that he was today.

It broke Li Er's heart to see Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua tear down the empire that Ye Fan had built.

But what would his anger do? How would it help?

The families that were backing them were too powerful.

Li Er couldn't possibly fight them on his own.

In fact, you would find few men in the whole of China who would dare stand against these two powerful families in Yanjing.

"But I'll still fight them even if it kills me!" A steely determination shone in Li Er's eyes as he curled his fingers into fists.

Laid before him was an invitation. An intricate pattern was embossed in gold and

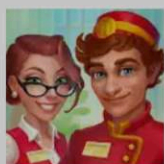


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decorated the otherwise plain black card.

Lu Ming-Feng had gotten someone to deliver this to him.

They were going to host a feast at the Haiyuan Restaurant three days later. The rich and powerful were all invited to join them.

Everyone knew that the feast was simply a pretext for Lu Ming-Feng to gather everyone and have them recognize his authority as the master of Jiangdong.

Meanwhile, Lei Ao-Ting had just returned from his vacation overseas and had just learned of the upheaval in Jiangdong. He hurried back home instantly.

“Dad, is it true? Is Brother Fan...really dead? Has Mufan Group really gone under? I heard that Brother Fan’s wife was chased out of her house. Is Jiangdong really changing hands?” Lei Ao-Ting’s eyes were bright with fear as he blurted out a flurry of questions.

Lei San didn’t say a word and simply poured himself another drink. After a long moment, he finally sighed heavily.



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“Good men always die young. They always do,” sighed Lei San.

Lei Ao-Ting froze. His eyes widened in horror.

“It’s true then. But...how can it be possible? Brother Fan and I had drinks at restaurant just a few months ago. How could he die so suddenly?”

Lei Ao-Ting couldn’t believe it. Everything seemed so sudden and surreal.

A few months ago, Ye Fan still been around. He had returned home to celebrate the new year.

He had hung out with Ye Fan and got up to all kinds of crazy stuff with him.

Who could have expected the man whom he had seen a few months ago to be dead and that he would never see him again?

“Ao-Ting, stay out of this. Listen to me, leave Jiangdong tonight. I’ve made arrangements. Head south. I’ve acquired a piece of land for you. Take this card. It’ll give you access to a billion dollars. Head south and start a new



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life for yourself.”

“Ao-Ting, I know I’ve scolded you and punished you a lot in the past and that you’ve always resented me for that. But you must understand why I did it. I wanted you to be a better man. You know the saying, the wealth and fame a man brings to his family clan last no longer than five generations. You’re that fifth generation. I didn’t want my own son to destroy the family business that we’ve worked so hard to build. I used to think that I still have time. I could take my time and teach you all I know. That appears to be out of the question now. You’ll have to make your own path in life.”

Lei San spoke very slowly. He spoke like an old man putting his affairs in order before his inevitable passing.

His words alarmed Lei Ao-Ting. “Dad, what’s wrong with you? Why are you telling me this? Are you in danger?”

Lei San didn’t say a word. Instead, he handed an invitation card to Lei Ao-Ting.

“Lu Ming-Feng sent this. They’re trying to replicate what Mr Chu’s done by holding



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another Feast of the Sea and Sky. There's a great likelihood that Lu Ming-Feng will try to exterminate the last of Mr Chu's men at the feast and consolidate their power in Jiangdong. He's going to come after me, Li Er and Chen Ao first. I have no idea if I'll come back alive from this feast. I have to prepare for the worst," said Lei San. He seemed extremely calm. There was no hint of panic or fear in his voice.

Lei Ao-Ting's eyes reddened when he heard that.

He had always thought of his father as the most powerful man in the world. Nothing could destroy him.

He had not thought that a day would come when he would lose his father, his pillar of strength for the past 25 years.

"Ao-Ting, I tell you this because I need you to learn how to be strong. Mr Chu made a name for himself in Jiangdong when he was only 20 years old. You're 25 years old this year. It's time for you to learn independence. Go."

Lei San waved his hand and turned away,



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leaving Lei Ao-Ting a view of his back. The man looked alone and so very old as he gazed out the window.



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Chapter 1039 The Long-Awaited Call

The Li family and the Lei family weren't the only ones who received Lu Ming-Feng's invitation that day. Included in the invitation list were the leaders of every city in Jiangdong.

They were invited to gather for a feast at the Haiyuan Restaurant in Yunzhou three days later.

Lu Ming-Feng had sent a clear and threatening message. They would share the same fate as Mufan Group if they failed to show up.

The peaceful military camp showed no signs of unrest while a storm brewed in Jiangdong.

The Jiangdong military camp had shut itself off from the secular world. It did not interfere with the worldly conflicts of the latter.

Ye Fan had been busy training during this period and was completely oblivious to what was going on outside the camp.

On this day, Ye Fan had just awoken from his bout of meditation.



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The joints in his body cracked loudly as he stretched and loosened his muscles.

“Dragon God Body is indeed the best defensive martial arts in the world. It’s even healed the chronic injuries that great grandmother’s Revitalization Bath couldn’t within the span of a few days!”

Ye Fan was thrilled.

Since he had gained the Yin Dragon Body, his Dragon God Body had received an immense boost in power.

The Yin Dragon Body’s healing properties had worked incredibly.

The sacrifice that Ye Fan had made had not been for nothing.

But Ye Fan’s Yin Dragon Body was still not fully developed and thus its healing properties could not compare to that of Yu Yun’s Yin Dragon Body.

There wasn’t anything that Ye Fan could do about that though.

The Dragon God Body was a martial art that



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could only be mastered when two persons practiced it at the same time. Without a partner, he couldn't strengthen his Yin Dragon Body even if he wanted to.

"I should be content with the level of Yin Dragon Body that I have," Ye Fan said to himself as he smiled.

His injuries were fully healed and his strength fully restored. The feeling of being finally healed of all his injuries after such a long time made Ye Fan's spirits soar.

He felt powerful again and that felt amazing.

He felt as if he were walking on air.

Having returned to his full strength, Ye Fan did not waste any time in picking up the phone and dialing a number that he had not rang for a very long time.

It took some time before the call finally got through.

"Who is this?" An old man's voice, low and cautious, rang out from the other end of the line.



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“Han, it’s me,” said Ye Fan.

“...and you are?” The voice on the other end of the line trembled audibly.

There was still a clear hint of caution and suspicion in the man’s voice.

“You’re still as excessively cautious as ever.” Ye Fan shook his head and smiled. “A spark sets the prairie aflame and shakes the world! The Chu dragon sighs and speaks my name! Tian-Fan! Do you know who I am now?”

Ye Fan’s laughter sounded confident and strong.

Time seemed to have come to a standstill.

A long silence stretched out between them.

After a long moment, Han’s shaking voice finally sounded on the other end of the line.

“Young Master...is it really you? It’s you, isn’t it?”

“It’s really you. I knew you weren’t dead. You’re the chosen one. You won’t die that

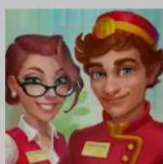


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easily.”

“Did you know how long I’ve been waiting for this call?”

“I couldn’t sleep or eat. All I did was wait for you to call me.”

“Young Master, it has been such a dreadful and long wait!”

Han’s voice shook as he was overcome with emotion. Sheer joy had turned him into a child again!

Ye Fan could imagine the sight of tears streaming down the old man’s face.

He didn’t say a word and instead listened quietly as Han spoke and released the emotions that he had kept pent up inside him.

It took a long while before Han finally calmed down.

“My apologies for losing my composure, Young Master. I’m just so happy to know that you’re still alive. Where have you been, Young Master? Why did you contact me only



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now? We've been searching so hard for you."

Han kept himself busy during the month that Ye Fan had been declared dead.

He had tried to deploy the resources of Dragon God Hall to find Ye Fan and had gone out to sea to find Ye Fan's body.

But the resources that he could access were limited.

He was just a butler. Without Ye Fan explicitly giving him the authority to do so, he couldn't deploy any of the Dragons.

The Dragon Gods were wild and arrogant creatures who resisted authority.

Ye Fan was the only one who could keep them in line.

They listened to no one else.

Han couldn't get them to do anything.

"I'm sorry for worrying you, Han. The enemy that we're facing this time is extremely powerful. I was seriously injured and worried about exposing my location to the enemy.



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That's why I didn't dare to contact you," said Ye Fan with some guilt.

Of course, he had wanted to contact Han and the rest. In fact, he had thought of going to Yunzhou to see Qiu Mu-Cheng and his mother.

But he dared not risk it.

The Chu family's influence was too vast. Ye Fan would be courting death if he tried to return to Yunzhou.

That had been why he had chosen to go into hiding and keep himself hidden until he had been sure that he had regained sufficient strength and could protect himself from his enemy's attacks.

"What? Are you injured, Young Master? How do you feel right now? Do you need me to send Zi Hua to take a look at your injuries?" Anxiety coursed through Han when he heard that Ye Fan was injured.

He had been taking care of Ye Fan for a very long time. Ye Fan's safety was his top priority.



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He couldn't help but worry when he knew that Ye Fan was seriously injured.

"They're almost completely healed. My strength is nearly fully restored too. I wouldn't contact you otherwise," Ye Fan said.

"You did the right thing, Young Master. Chu Zheng-Liang and his son have been searching your whereabouts. They deployed the Chu family's resources across the globe and even tapped on Chu Sect's information network," whispered Han.

Something flickered in Ye Fan's eyes when he heard what Han had just said.

"Is he allowed to deploy the family's resources all over the world? He probably got the approval from the head of the family, didn't he?" Ye Fan smiled mirthlessly. His words dripped with sarcasm and scorn.

Even a vicious tiger would not eat its own flesh and blood.

But this man had participated in the ambush that had targeted his own son's life. Ye Fan had not expected his father to be capable of



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something like that.

He hadn't changed at all despite the years that had passed. He was still the merciless and coldblooded man that Ye Fan had known.



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Han could sense the emotions hidden beneath Ye Fan's words.

"Young Master, there has been a misunderstanding. Our Master truly cares for you. You have no idea what he did when he found out what had happened to you..."

"Stop right there. I told you. I'm not interested in what you have to say about him." Ye Fan interrupted Han abruptly.

Ye Fan didn't want to know at all. He didn't care.

He didn't have the time or energy.

They had cut all ties the moment that Ye Fan and his mother had been expelled from the Chu family.

Perhaps Han had been right. His father had had his reasons.

Perhaps he still cared for Ye Fan and his mother.

So what?

Ye Fan couldn't imagine anything so



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important that one would choose that above his own wife and son.

“Did anything happen at Dragon God Hall in the past month?” Ye Fan’s attention quickly turned to other matters.

“No,” Han reported dutifully. “I told the martial artists in Dragon God Hall to hide themselves after you were declared dead. They didn’t attract the attention of the Chu family. You should take a look at what’s going on in Jiangdong though, Young Master. Chu Zheng-Liang seemed to have sent someone to interfere with matters in Jiangdong. I’m worried that they might do something to your friends.”

“He wouldn’t dare.” A frosty look settled on Ye Fan’s face when he heard what Han had just said.

The temperature in the room plummeted suddenly. It seemed as if winter had arrived.

A murderous aura filled the room and its source was Ye Fan.

The miles that separated them didn’t prevent Han from sensing the fury in Ye Fan’s words.



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Chapter 1040 The Long-Awaited Meeting with Ye Fan

Everyone had people dear to them whom they would fight fiercely to protect.

Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Xi-Mei were those people for Ye Fan. Harming them meant incurring his wrath.

“Young Master, please don’t get upset. It’s all guesswork. I don’t know for sure at all. What they want is you. I don’t think they’ll go after Miss Qiu and the others,” said Han hastily as he tried to prevent Ye Fan from worrying too much about the situation in Jiangdong.

“I would hope so. If I find out that they tried to touch Mu-Cheng, I’m going to make sure that they die a horrible death.”

Ye Fan’s voice was cold and hard like a glacier. There was no hint of emotion in his voice, only an endless freezing cold and the promise of pain and violence.

His threatening words sent fear coursing through Han’s blood.

He couldn’t imagine the intensity of the rage that his Young Master must be feeling for him to speak such words.



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“If there’s nothing else, I’ll end the call now. As for Operation Sparks, you are to stand by and wait for my further instructions,” said Ye Fan before ending the call.

He called Qiu Mu-Cheng next.

Despite repeated calls, he couldn’t get through. Her phone was turned off.

“What’s going on? Why would Mu-Cheng turn her phone off? Has something happened?” Ye Fan frowned. Unease churned inside him. “I have to go back and take a look.”

Worried about what was going on, Ye Fan decided right there and then that he would leave the military camp and return to Yunzhou.

He left the room and walked into Li Zi-Yang. The latter had two chubby young men following him.

The two young men froze when they saw Ye Fan.

“You’re...you’re...are you Mr Chu?”

Jin Bao and Yin Bao stared unblinkingly at

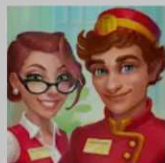


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the man before them. It was as if they were staring at a ghost.

The news of Ye Fan's death had spread like wildfire across Jiangdong.

Jin Bao and Yin Bao had believed the news and had thought that Ye Fan had died.

They did not expect to find the man who everyone had thought dead standing in front of them.

Ye Fan looked at them.

"Are you Jin Bao and Yin Bao? Li Er's men?" asked Ye Fan quietly.

He remembered these young punks vaguely, so it didn't take him long to recognize them.

Any doubts that Jin Bao and Yin Bao had vanished without a trace when they heard what Ye Fan had said.

With a loud thud, they fell to their knees, wrapped their arms around Ye Fan's legs and burst out into tears.

"Mr Chu! It's really you! You're not dead.



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Chapter 1040 The Long-Awaited Meeting with Ye Fan

That's wonderful! Master Er and the both of us thought you were dead. You have no idea how messed up Jiangdong has become in your absence!"

Caught between laughing and weeping with joy, the two brothers babbled without stopping, their voices shaking and brimming with emotion as they rambled.

"Come on, get a hold of yourselves. People seeing you are going to think that you've just reunited with your long-lost father. Get up right now. You're dirtying Instructor Chu's clothes."

Li Zi-Yang felt embarrassed.

Why had his father taken in these useless creatures?

It took a long while before Jin Bao and Yin Bao finally calmed down.

"Come on, tell me why you're here," asked Ye Fan after he had led them into his room and had them sit down. He had a few questions of his own for them as well.

"Mr Chu, Master Er sent us."



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Like Lei San, Li Er had made plans for his son. He had sent Jin Bao and Yin Bao to deliver a letter to Li Zi-Yang. In the letter, he had told his son not to return to Yunzhou in the short term.

In addition, he had gotten the brothers to hand Li Zi-Yang a huge bunch of keys. There were more than a hundred of those keys.

If anything were to happen to the Li family in Jiangdong, Li Zi-Yang was to take these keys and head for the south.

Li Er had bought a few hundred houses in the south.

If Li Zi-Yang found the military unbearable, he could always head to the south and making a living by renting out those properties.

He wouldn't have to do anything else. Rental alone would earn him tens of millions of dollars every year.

Li Zi-Yang's face had paled when he had received his father's message.

It had sounded like a man's last words.



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Chapter 1040 The Long-Awaited Meeting with Ye Fan

A worried Li Zi-Yang had questioned Jin Bao what had happened.

He had been undergoing intensive training during this period and had been oblivious to what had been going on outside the military camp.

The answers that he had gotten had shocked him.

Everyone outside the military thought that Ye Fan was dead.

Li Zi-Yang had told the brothers that Mr Chu wasn't dead and that he was alive and well in the military camp. Then, he had brought them to see Ye Fan.

Having explained the reason for their being here, Jin Bao and Yin Bao told Ye Fan the recent spate of events that had taken place in Jiangdong.

“Mr Chu, Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua think they can do whatever they want because they come from powerful families. They've been pushing everyone around. A few days ago, they destroyed Mufan Group, the company that you've worked so hard to



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Chapter 1040 The Long-Awaited Meeting with Ye Fan

build. They acquired all the businesses under Mufan Group's name. They're going to host a Feast of the Sea and Sky at the Haiyuan Restaurant tomorrow. It seems like they're planning on taking over as the leader of Jiangdong. Master Er and the others wanted to fight back and protect Mufan Group but they were outnumbered. There was nothing they could do."



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Chapter 1041 Fury

“What did you just say? Did you just say that Mufan Group has been destroyed?” Ye Fan was stupefied when he heard that.

Flabbergasted, he looked up instantly and questioned Jin Bao and Yin Bao harshly.

“What about Mu-Cheng? My wife, Qiu Mu-Cheng! What happened to her?”

Ye Fan cared nothing for his position as the leader of Jiangdong or his billion-dollar empire. These were but material gains.

He cared nothing for them. Even if he were to lose them all, he could simply get them back in the future.

But the news of Mufan Group being destroyed unsettled his composure.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had been the person who had been overseeing matters at Mufan Group all this while.

She had been the chairman of the company. Ye Fan couldn't help but worry about the fate that had befallen her after trouble had struck Mufan Group.

“Mr Chu, Miss Qiu...she's...”



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Chapter 1041 Fury

“Speak! What happened?” yelled Ye Fan.

“Mr Chu, Master Er did his best to protect Miss Qiu,” Jin Bao said bitterly. “But our opponent was too powerful. He couldn’t save her. Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua chased Miss Qiu out of Mount Yunding Villa few days ago. Those two monsters tried to put their hands on her. Luckily, Miss Xu arrived in time and took her away. But one of Miss Qiu’s assistant took a heavy fall when she tried to protect Miss Qiu. She sustained severe injuries and might not survive...”

Jin Bao was still talking when he heard a loud explosion.

A sudden gust of wind surged in the room.

Ye Fan, who had been sipping tea calmly in front of him a few seconds ago, charged out of the room at lightning speed when he heard what Jin Bao had said.

In the room, fierce winds howled in the wake of his rapid departure.

Thrown off their seats by the force of the winds, Jin Bao, Yin Bao and Li Zi-Yang landed hard on their bums.



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Chapter 1041 Fury

When they looked up again, Ye Fan was standing a hundred meters away.

“I’m going to be gone for a few days. The Green Dragon Force will continue its training according to the training plan that I have set. I don’t want to find anyone slacking during their training.” Ye Fan’s voice thundered from the other end of the corridor.

His booming voice had Li Zi-Yang and the rest hearing nothing but a steady buzz for a long time.

“This...this...” Li Zi-Yang’s eyelid began to twitch. A look of helplessness appeared on his face. Ye Fan was long gone.

Now that was what you called a good Chinese man!

As soon as he had heard that his wife had been in danger, he had left immediately to find his wife. He hadn’t waited for them to finish telling him the full story, nor had he left any last words. In fact, he hadn’t informed the military that he would be leaving.

“Mr Chu, please return to Jiangdong first and



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Chapter 1041 Fury

save Master Er! Mr Chu!” cried Jin Bao and Yin Bao pleadingly as they raced out of the room. They had just recovered from their shock. But Ye Fan was long gone.

“Alright now, you can stop yelling. He’s gone. Anyway, anyone would think that Instructor Chu values his wife more than my father,” said Li Zi-Yang as he shook his head.

They could only pray that Ye Fan would make a swift return to Jiangdong after he had seen his wife.

“Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua chased Miss Qiu out of Mount Yunding Villa a few days ago.”

.....

“But one of Miss Qiu’s assistant took a heavy fall when she tried to protect Miss. Qiu. She sustained severe injuries and might not survive...”

.....

The icy winds howled while the tires



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Chapter 1041 Fury

shrieked as Ye Fan's car sped into the night.

The trees that lined the road blurred into an endless green that streamed down the sides of Ye Fan's vision.

Ye Fan was driving a military green SUV down the highway and heading for Yanjing at full speed.

All he could hear was the sound of air roaring as it rushed past the windows of the SUV.

But he paid it no attention. Nothing could hold his attention now.

All he could hear was what Jin Bao had told him earlier.

He had not expected things to turn out this way.

He had thought that Li Er and the rest would be able to hold the fort in Jiangdong.

After all, Ye Fan had gotten rid of everyone who had not been fully loyal to him.

Jiangdong had been akin to his own



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Chapter 1041 Fury

backyard. It should have been safe and impenetrable.

As long as Li Er and the others kept the news of his death under wraps, peace and stability would prevail in Jiangdong. Mufan Group would continue to prosper.

But perhaps he had underestimated the Chu family.

The Chu family had infiltrated Jiangdong with its forces just because they had wanted to get rid of him.

He wouldn't have cared if they had stopped at destroying the power base that he had built.

He had not expected them to go after his family.

They had taken over his house on Mount Yunding and had chased Mu-Cheng out of their home.

The final straw that had broken the camel's back had been when Ye Fan had found out that Qing Tan had been severely injured and might not survive.



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Chapter 1041 Fury

Ye Fan had realized that the assistant that Jin Bao had been talking about had been Qing Tan, whom he had instructed to protect Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Like Tong Shan, Qing Tan had been by Ye Fan's side for ten years.

She had been only seven years old when Ye Fan had gotten to know her elder sister.

Then, she had joined Dragon God Hall like her sister had.

Ye Fan had watched this little girl grow up.

He was naturally worried after hearing that she had been injured.

How was Ye Fan going to answer to her sister if she died protecting Qiu Mu-Cheng?

“Lu Ming-Feng? You better pray that Qing Tan turns out fine. Otherwise, I'll burn your whole family to the ground!” Ye Fan tightened his fists as his eyes shone with fury.



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Chapter 1041 Fury

Two beautiful women stood outside a surgery room at the Yanjing General Hospital. They were waiting.

Everyone who passed them in the corridor would instinctively take another glance at them.

Beautiful women drew everyone's attention regardless of where they were.

Besides, it was rare to find a woman as beautiful as the ones in that corridor.

Having two appear at the same time in the same place was like sighting the blue moon. Everyone was naturally blown away by the incredible sight.

Their presence invited adoration and longing from many and from others, envy.

"I wonder which two lucky bastards would end up winning the favor of these two pretty ladies?"

.....

Yet, Qiu Mu-Cheng and Chen Nan seemed completely oblivious to the adoring gazes



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Chapter 1041 Fury

that they were receiving.

Perhaps they had grown used to such looks from strangers.

“Mu-Cheng, you’ve been here the whole night. You should go back and rest,” said Chen Nan softly after a short moment of silence and as she turned and eyed the pallor of Qiu Mu-Cheng’s face.

Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head. “No, I’m not leaving. Qing Tan ended up here because she tried to save me. I’m never going to forgive myself if she doesn’t survive. I’m going to wait here and see her come out of that room alive.”

Her tears began to fall uncontrollably as she spoke.

She looked frail and vulnerable. It was heartbreaking.

Chapter 1042 Reunited

Too many things had happened within such a short span of time.

The life that Qiu Mu-Cheng had lived prior to Ye Fan's death had seemed so much more peaceful compared to the tumultuous times that she was suffering now.

When Ye Fan had been alive, Qiu Mu-Cheng had believed that she couldn't live without the man because of how much she loved him.

She had thought that her emotions had been her only crutch.

She hadn't realized the important role that Ye Fan had played in other aspects of her life.

She had always strived to be a strong and independent woman.

During the first three years that Ye Fan had married into the Qiu family, she had been the one doing all the work in and outside the family.

She had been the one who had kept the family from complete ruin.



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Chapter 1042 Reunited

Those three years had been the cause of Qiu Mu-Cheng's misconceptions.

She had been convinced that the only important role that Ye Fan had played in her life had been that of her romantic partner.

She had thought of herself as a strong and independent new age woman.

She had built her career with her own hands and could live an independent life.

What Ye Fan had given her had simply been spiritual and emotional companionship and comfort.

Then, Ye Fan had died. That had been when Qiu Mu-Cheng had truly realized how important this man had been in her life.

He hadn't simply been a romantic partner. He had been her protector who had kept her and her career safe.

The successes and status that she had achieved had all been because of Ye Fan.

Without Ye Fan, she had nothing.



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Chapter 1042 Reunited

Having lost his protection, she wouldn't even hold on to her own house. She had no power to save and keep Mufan Group standing.

You only realized what someone truly meant to you when you lost him.

Qiu Mu-Cheng wallowed in depression as she stood outside the surgery room. Her eyes had turned red.

Ye Fan was dead and Mufan Group had gone under. Qing Tan, who had been Qiu Mu-Cheng's loyal companion, had been severely injured and her life was hanging by a thread.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had suffered tragedy after tragedy.

An old person hardened by life and its hardships would have found it tough to preserve her composure in the face of repeated disasters.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was only a young woman.

She had never felt more hopeless.

The sight of Qiu Mu-Cheng's despondent look put a similar forlorn look on Chen Nan's



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Chapter 1042 Reunited

face.

Tears filled her eyes within moments.

Chen Nan had told Qiu Mu-Cheng about Ye Fan's death after she had returned to the country.

Shortly after that, Chen Ao had sent her back to Yanjing to continue her studies in the city.

When she had heard that Qiu Mu-Cheng had arrived in Yanjing, she had hurried over to see her.

“Mu-Cheng, I'm so sorry. If not for me, Fan might still be alive. You wouldn't be in this state right now. Qing Tan wouldn't be in the hospital and in a critical condition either.”

The thought of that terrible day flooded Chen Nan with unbearable guilt.

She wished that she were the one who had died that day.

There wouldn't be so many people suffering right now.

Qiu Mu-Cheng appeared not to have heard



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Chen Nan's words. She simply stood there, her back leaning against the wall, and said nothing.

The dim lights cast a faint gloom in the corridor.

The two young women stood silently outside the surgery room.

The only sound stirring in the silence was that of the icy wind hissing outside the hospital.

The silence did not last.

The door at the end of the corridor creaked open suddenly.

A tall and slim figure stepped into the corridor.

"Mu-Cheng, Nannan, I'm back."

The man's voice was soft, yet his words carried the immense weight of guilt and longing. They seemed to have traveled across thousands of years before finally arriving at this moment.



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The sound of that strange yet familiar voice sent tremors rippling through Qiu Mu-Cheng and Chen Nan. They turned and saw who had arrived. At that very instant, reality itself seemed surreal and dreamlike.

“Ye...Ye Fan?” Qiu Mu-Cheng’s eyes turned red as she stood, rooted to the ground.

“F-Fan...?” Tears welled in Chen Nan’s wide eyes.

Qing Tan finally emerged from the surgery room half an hour later. She was immediately sent to the ICU ward.

Ye Fan stood next to her bed and was assailed by self-reproach and remorse as he stared at the young woman’s deathly pale face.

Qing Tan must have sensed his presence because she opened her eyes.

Tears began to stream uncontrollably down her cheeks when she saw Ye Fan.

“Brother Fan...I knew it. I knew you couldn’t



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have been killed that easily. I'm so sorry...for how useless I was. I couldn't protect Miss Qiu. Please, Dragon Master...punish me as you deem fit..." said Qing Tan in a voice that was nearly inaudible.

Ye Fan couldn't bear to see her like that.

He leaned in and clutched her hand tightly.

"Qing Tan, you just focus on getting well. Don't worry, Brother Fan will make them pay for what they did to you. They'll suffer a hundred times the pain that you suffered!"

Having said that, Ye Fan turned around and left.

He had come to Yanjing for two reasons. He had wanted to take a look at Qiu Mu-Cheng. In addition, he had been worried about Qing Tan.

Qing Tan was no longer in a critical condition now. That lifted the huge stone off Ye Fan's chest.

He was going to return to Jiangdong and deal with what was going on there.



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Qiu Mu-Cheng was still waiting outside the ward when Ye Fan emerged from the room.

Her eyes reddened when she saw Ye Fan. She threw herself into his arms instantly.

She didn't say a word and simply hugged the man, feeling the warmth of his body, the rise and fall of his chest and the steady beating of his heart.

She had hugged Ye Fan for nearly half an hour when Ye Fan had first appeared just now. Regardless, she couldn't control her urge to hug him again and keep him in her arms forever.

"Alright, stop it. I'm back, am I not? You're a grown woman. Stop acting like some silly little girl. Nannan's going to make fun of you if you don't stop," Ye Fan said teasingly in an attempt to ease her fears. "I've been meaning to ask you. Where's Xu Lei? Wasn't she the one who brought you to Yanjing?"

Ye Fan hadn't seen Xu Lei around at all. Her absence seemed suspicious.

Qiu Mu-Cheng froze instantly, as if she had just recalled something important.



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Chapter 1042 Reunited

“Ye Fan, we have to get back to Jiangdong now. Mom might be in danger. Miss Xu returned to Jiangdong after receiving a call. I think she went to get Mom.”

What?

Alarm flashed across Ye Fan’s eyes when he heard what Qiu Mu-Cheng had said.

He had thought that Xu Lei would take his mother Ye Xi-Mei along with her when she had come for Qiu Mu-Cheng.

It appeared that she had not!

His mother was still in Jiangdong and Lu Ming-Feng was going after her.

This wasn’t the time to linger and talk to Qiu Mu-Cheng. Despite having just arrived at Yanjing, a panicked Ye Fan rushed back to Jiangdong again.

As Qiu Mu-Cheng stared out the window and watched Ye Fan disappear into the distance, she prayed that everything would turn out fine.



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Chapter 1043 A Send-Off

Ye Fan headed towards Jiangdong in a hurry.

Meanwhile, every light in a grand mansion situated in the city hub of Jingzhou had been turned on.

Everything around the mansion was enveloped in the pitch-black night while the inside of the mansion remained brightly lit. It was as if the sun had not yet set in the mansion.

Lei San had given this mansion to Ye Fan as a present when the latter had returned to his hometown on New Year's Day.

Ye Xi-Mei had taken up residence in this mansion after Ye Fan had left.

She would spend the day managing Mufan Group's businesses in Jingzhou and retire to the mansion at night.

Perhaps it had gotten too lonely for her, because after some time, Ye Xi-Mei had invited the old master of the Ye family to take up residence with her.

Then, Ye Tian and the others had found out



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where Ye Xi-Mei had been living. They had appeared at her doorstep with an apology and tried to ease the tensions between the family and this pair of mother and son.

After all, Ye Fan had had a terrible falling out with the Ye family on New Year's Day.

Ye Tian had been removed from his office after he had offended Ye Fan. Ye Ya offered a worse fate. Jingzhou's businesses had refused to work with him.

His was a modest company. But he had incurred Ye Fan's wrath, which had resulted in the massive boycott from the rest of the businesses in Jingzhou. Within a few days, his company had gone under and he had been forced to sell his factory.

Ye Ya had had the intentions of heading for Jianghai and to find work with his second brother-in-law.

When he had arrived at Jianghai, he had found out that his second eldest sister and her family hadn't been faring much better than he had.

His sister's husband, Jiang Yang, had been



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fired by the company that he had been working at for decades after he had returned to work following the festive holiday.

His company had told him that he had cost them unimaginable losses and thus had to be let go.

They hadn't been lying.

Jiang Yang had been a high-ranking executive in the company who had offended Ye Fan, a powerful and influential figure.

Naturally, his company had gotten worried about ending up as collateral damage and had fired Jiang Yang immediately.

It had been then that Ye Tian and the rest had realized that incurring Ye Fan's wrath had endangered their very survival.

Left with no choice, the Ye family had approached Ye Xi-Mei.

That day, the whole family had pleaded with Ye Xi-Mei, nearly resorting to falling at her feet as they had begged for her forgiveness.

Regardless of what they had done, they were



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still Ye Xi-Mei's siblings, people who shared the same blood with her. Their sincere morose had helped to ease the tension that their relationship had been fraught with.

Ye Xi-Mei had allowed them to join Mufan Group and help her run the company's businesses in Jingzhou.

The news of Ye Fan's death spreading throughout Jiangdong had placed the Ye family in a terrible spot.

This evening, Ye Xi-Mei gathered the family and told them to leave Jingzhou immediately.

"You should leave. All of you. Lei's men are waiting for you outside the city. She'll escort you to Yanjing. You'll be safe there. Lei has made arrangements for your new life in Yanjing too. You don't have to worry," said Ye Xi-Mei as she stood before the mansion. Her lovely face was pale and betrayed no hint of her thoughts or feelings.

Ye Fan's death must have been a tremendous blow to her.

There could be no greater tragedy than that



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of a parent surviving her own child.

The both of them had survived the toughest years of their lives together. But now, her son had gone ahead and left her on her own.

No one knew how Ye Xi-Mei had gotten herself through the past month.

“How about you? Aren’t you coming with us?” asked Ye Jian confusedly when he heard Ye Xi-Mei’s words. Something didn’t seem right.

Ye Xi-Mei shook her head and smiled helplessly at them. “No, I’m staying. I’m going to wait for Fan to return. I don’t want him to find himself alone and without family when he comes back.”

“Don’t be a fool, sister. Fan is dead. You’re going to get yourself killed if you stay. You should leave with us right now. We have to hurry before Fenghua Group’s men get here,” said Ye Tian anxiously.

He grabbed his sister’s arm and shoved her into the car. They were going to head out of Jingzhou immediately.



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Lei San had called them an hour ago and told them to get out of the city. Lu Ming-Feng had already sent his men after them.

It appeared that he wasn't only going to get rid of Ye Fan's loyal followers but his family as well. He was going to exterminate everyone that had ties to Ye Fan.

They were going to kill every single one of Ye Fan's family.

Left with no other option, Ye Xi-Mei could only send the Ye family to Yanjing so that they could seek Xu Lei's protection.

"Madam Ye, where are you headed so late in the night? Do you need an escort?"

But before Ye Tian and the rest could drive out of the Ye family estate, Fenghua Group's men had arrived outside the gates of the mansion.

Dozens of burly looking men dressed in suits stood in front of the gates and blocked their only path out of the estate.

An old man with his hands folded behind his back and a faint smile on his face stepped



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forward.

If Qiu Mu-Cheng were here, she would have recognized this man. He was Wei Wu-Ya, the man who had hit Qing Tan and sent her falling off Mount Yunding.

“Are you from Fenghua Group? What do you want with us? Are you really going to kill us in public? Do you have any regard for the laws of this land?”

The Ye family’s faces fell at the sight of their unwelcome visitors.

They had not expected them to be here so soon.

“There must be a misunderstanding, Madam Ye. My young master simply wants to invite the Ye family to Yunzhou for a visit. He would like to share a meal with you. That’s all. He did say that you might prefer Mr Chu’s company instead of his and that if you turn down his offer and try to run, we could make arrangements for you to join Mr Chu instead.” The smile on Wei Wu-Ya’s face was cold, his words heavy with the promise of violence should they try to retaliate.



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“A visit? Does he think us fools? I doubt I’ll survive the trip,” said Ye Xi-Mei coldly.

Wei Wu-Ya shook his head regretfully.

“It appears that our guests aren’t going to cooperate with us. We’ll have to do this the hard way then.” An icy glint flashed across the old man’s eyes as he raised his hand and gestured at his men. “Men, make sure you get every one of them.”

The look on Wei Wu-Ya’s face was devoid of emotion as he issued the order. His eyes were cold and absent of any compassion.

Mercy had no place in the cruel fight for power and status.

Lu Ming-Feng wanted to secure his place as the leader of Jiangdong, so he must destroy everyone who had ties to Ye Fan and eliminate anyone who might potentially rise against him in the future.

The shadow of death loomed over the Ye family. It was then that a sudden purple light appeared in the distant horizon.

It had been faint and nearly imperceptible.



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Yet, very quickly, it grew in size and brightness.

Finally, with a loud buzz, the purple light struck the ground like a bolt of lightning.

With a loud groan, the land split apart.

“This is...” Alarm flashed across Wei Wu-Ya’s face. As a martial artist, he knew power when he saw it.

If that purple light had struck him instead, he couldn’t guarantee that he would survive it.

This unexpected turn of events sent trepidation coursing through everyone’s blood.

Everyone whipped around and stared into the distance.

They watched as the darkness parted and revealed the alluring form of a beautiful young woman, then stared as she descended from the heavens gradually.

There were no words to describe the beauty that stood before their eyes.



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Her lips were as red as fire and her eyes as dark as the night.

Her immense beauty overshadowed everything else.

She was dressed in a long purple dress and she had tied her hair up in a ponytail. Long strands of her hair stirred lightly in the wind as they cascaded down her back like the feathered tail of a phoenix.

The beautiful young woman looked like an empress who had descended from her throne and graced the commonfolk with her royal presence.



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Chapter 1044 Are We Friends?

“This...this...she’s gorgeous. She looks like a goddess that’s stepped out of a painting.”

The young woman’s appearance had everyone frozen to their spot.

Everyone loved a beauty.

Regardless of their sex or age, everyone had their breath instantly taken away the moment their eyes landed on the incredible beauty before them.

Their eyes were colored with shock and amazement.

Everyone, including Ye Tian and Ye Ya, reeled from the stunning beauty that had graced their presence.

It was a beauty that surpassed that of everything else between heaven and earth and inspired a near religious fervor.

Ye Xi-Mei couldn’t help but feel ashamed of her own appearance.

Such beauty should only exist in a painting.

No one expected someone so beautiful to



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exist in reality too.

The faint air of authority and ethereal purity that surrounded the woman served only to make her more illusory than real.

Ye Jian, Jiang Yu-Lang and the other hotblooded young men present had fallen head over heels for the stranger. They felt nothing but sheer shock and an endless well of adoration for the beautiful woman.

“Dear heavens, did a deity just descend upon us?”

“I would happily give up ten years of my life for a girlfriend who’s so beautiful and so breathtaking.” Ye Jian’s eyes couldn’t leave the young woman in front of him. He was convinced that he had never seen a woman more elegant, more poised and more beautiful.

“Ten years? I would give up fifty years of mine to have her as my girlfriend!” Jiang Yu-Lang was equally blown away by the beautiful woman. He used to think that the prettiest girl in their college was an absolute beauty.



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But compared to the young woman before them, she was about as pretty as a lump of shit.

In fact, she wouldn't even deserve being called a lump of shit.

The ordinary man would see only her heavenly beauty and sense the air of nobility that she exuded. Martial artists like Wei Wu-Ya, on the other hand, were more concerned by the aura of authority and power that she exuded.

The overwhelming sense of intimidation that the woman before him exuded was many times that of his master. It was unbelievable.

Wei Wu-Ya was a grandmaster in his own right and his master was a supreme grandmaster and one of the six pillars of the nation.

Yet the aura that this woman exuded clearly showed her to be many times more powerful than his master.

“Who is she? Is she a friend or an enemy?” Wei Wu-Ya had no clue.



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He felt like an ant gazing upon a towering mountain. He was standing on a layer of thin ice that served as the only thing separating him from the deep, bottomless abyss under his feet.

Only one thought occupied his mind. Who was this woman?

“Could she be the Phoenix Empress, one of the six pillars of the nation?”

Wei Wu-Ya knew only of one woman who had earned the title of supreme grandmaster in China.

She was the Phoenix Empress, one of the six pillars of China.

If she were truly the Phoenix Empress, that would make things a lot easier.

The young woman in the purple dress had made her way towards the crowd and now stood before them.

Wei Wu-Ya walked up towards her and cupped his fists in greeting.

“Greetings, young lady. Are you our



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esteemed senior, the Phoenix Empress? I am Wei Wu-Ya, a grandmaster who ranks number nine in the ranking for Chinese martial arts grandmasters. You should know my master. He is the Ice Emperor. Like you, he too, is one of the six pillars of the nation," said Wei Wu-Ya politely and in a deferential manner.

He might be older than she was, but nevertheless, he had referred to himself as her junior.

Wei Wu-Ya's wariness and fear of the young woman was visible for all to see.

The young woman remained silent in the face of Wei Wu-Ya's introduction.

Her silence did not anger him.

The powerful were oftentimes cold and distant. They spoke little.

His master had been a stern and intimidating teacher and a man of few words too.

He was not surprised by the young woman's disregard for him.



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Wei Wu-Ya continued talking.

“I’ve heard many great things about the Phoenix Empress. It’s an honor to be able to meet you in person. Unfortunately, I have a minor nuisance to deal with right now. Once I am done with it, I would like to host a feast in your name. Would the esteemed Phoenix Empress be so kind to grace me with your presence then?” asked Wei Wu-Ya politely.

The hearts of the Ye family members sank when they heard that.

They had thought that Xu Lei had sent this young woman to help them.

They had been wrong.

Wei Wu-Ya knew this woman.

In other words, she was on Lu Ming-Feng’s side.

As Ye Xi-Mei and her family sank into despair, a cold voice rang out.

“Are all of you Ye Fan’s family members?”

“And you’re...”



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Chapter 1044 Are We Friends?

Ye Xi-Mei and the rest froze momentarily. The faces of Ye Tian and Ye Ya twitched slightly.

That statement had come out of nowhere.

Did this young woman know Ye Fan?

Ye Xi-Mei asked hastily, “Young lady, are you my son’s friend?”

Everyone from the Ye family turned towards the young woman instantly.

They were waiting for her reply.

They waited for a long time and heard nothing from her.

But she herself had no idea what she was to Ye Fan.

Were they friends?

They barely knew each other. In fact, the time that they had spent together barely exceeded one month.

Within that month, there had been multiple times that she had nearly been overcome by



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Chapter 1044 Are We Friends?

the urge to kill him.

Would friends feel that way towards each other?

Clearly not.

Besides, she was a loner who kept to herself. She had subordinates who respected and obeyed her. But she didn't have friends.

Yet, if not on account of their friendship, what other reason would she have for helping his family? Why would she spend ten days waiting for him in Jiangdong because of something that he had said?

Yu Yun had intended on returning to the sect immediately after leaving the old Chu family mansion.

But somehow, she hadn't been able to forget the date that Ye Fan had set with her.

It had remained on her mind even as she had trained.

In the end, she had returned to Jiangdong.



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Chapter 1044 Are We Friends?

She had wanted to find out what Ye Fan was going to give her.

She had kept herself busy during that period and had looked into Ye Fan.

How was this young man with the surname 'Ye' related to the Chu family?

What had he done to earn the love and adoration of the old Madam Chu?

The old lady had let someone who wasn't family enter and leave their family home freely.

Yu Yun's search had led her to the Ye family in Jingzhou.

That was when she had found the Ye family in danger and had decided to lend a helping hand.

Truth be told, even Yu Yun herself had no idea what she and Ye Fan were to each other.

If they weren't friends, why would she instinctively protect his family when she had seen them in danger?



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Chapter 1044 Are We Friends?

She shook her head and said coolly, “We’re not friends. I might owe him a favor or two though.”

“Are you going to save them? Phoenix Empress, they’re but lowly commoners, nobodies. They don’t deserve your help,” blurted out Wei Wu-Ya when he realized that something didn’t seem right here.

As soon as he was done speaking, the young woman raised her arm and waved. Her sleeve stirred with the sudden movement.

A bolt of green lightning split the skies and, with a loud thunder, hit Wei Wu-Ya squarely in his chest.

His ribs broke instantly. Wei Wu-Ya spat out a mouthful of blood as the attack threw him into the distance, with the force of a cannonball fired from a cannon.

“Esteemed senior, I don’t understand...we bear no grudge against each other. Why did you attack me? Aren’t you worried about offending my master, the Ice Emperor? You might be extremely well-respected, but my master is your equal. He, too, is a member of War God Castle and one of the six pillars of China. I’m his disciple and you’ve just attacked and insulted my honor. Aren’t you worried that my master may come after you?”

Wei Wu-Ya clenched his jaw as he struggled to his feet.

There was blood pooling in his mouth. He struggled to withstand the agonizing pain throbbing in his chest as he yelled threateningly at the woman before him.

His low, growling voice was filled with fury and resentment.

Wei Wu-Ya was the disciple of a supreme grandmaster who hailed from War God Castle. He was ranked number nine in the ranking for Chinese martial arts grandmasters.

He too, was a well-respected figure in the



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Chapter 1045 Death

Chinese martial arts circle.

Even the head of the powerful Xur family had to treat him with some degree of respect.

Since he had become a grandmaster, everyone whom he had met everywhere had treated him with nothing but awe and respect. He had not suffered any disrespect or insult before.

But this woman had hit him without any reason and even injured him severely.

Even Buddha had his moments of anger and Wei Wu-Ya was no Buddha. He was a man who had basked in privilege.

He would have gotten to his feet and challenged her to a fight if he didn't already know that he wasn't her match at all.

That didn't mean that he didn't burn with resentment. That had been why he had tried to intimidate her with the mention of his master's name.

Yu Yun appeared unfazed.



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She simply stood there, her petite form towering over the fallen figure of Wei Wu-Ya.

“Come after me?” Her voice was filled with scorn. “You’re talking about the Ice Emperor, the man who couldn’t get into the top three positions in War God Castle’s ranking. Do you really think I’ll feel threatened by him? The Ice Emperor himself would not have dared to utter the words that you’ve just said.”

Yu Yun shook her head. Her voice sounded cold and proud.

She slowly lifted the sword in her hand, the slight movement of her arm summoning howling winds in an instant.

The sight sent fear coursing through everyone’s blood.

Ye Tian and the rest gasped in shock.

This young woman seemed to be able to wield the very forces of nature with a single gesture.

“Heavens, who is she?”



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Chapter 1045 Death

As the others stood frozen in shock and tear, Wei Wu-Ya felt the looming threat of death approach.

Yu Yun seemed angry and her words laced with the threat of violence.

“What...what do you think you’re doing?”
Panic coursed through the man as he paled and stumbled back.

Yu Yun did not seem to have heard him. With her sword in hand, she glided gracefully and slowly towards Wei Wu-Ya.

The aura of murderous intent exuding from her intensified with every step she took until the air around her was heavy with the threat of violence and death.

“You...you can’t kill me. I’m a Chinese grandmaster, so I’m protected by War God Castle. My master, like you, is one of the pillars of the nation. He’s not going to let you off if you kill me,” yelled Wei Wu-Ya fearfully.

The look on Yu Yun remained cold and unfeeling. “That’s not going to stop me from killing you. In fact, I would kill you even if you were the disciple of the God of War, Ye Qing-



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Tian himself. You made a mistake when you tried to threaten me by mentioning his name.”

A horrifying realization struck Wei Wu-Ya then.

“You’re...you’re not the Phoenix Empress. Who are you?” yelled Wei Wu-Ya. Terror filled his eyes as he stared at the approaching young woman.

“The Phoenix Empress? That woman isn’t even worthy of being my servant,” said the young woman with a voice as cold and unmoving as the snow-capped peaks of ancient mountains.

A streak of light cut through the night the next moment.

It was the cold moonlight reflecting off her equally cold blade.

Everyone watched as the sword shot out of Yu Yun’s hand with the speed of lightning.

Wei Wu-Ya gasped in alarm. Despair filled his eyes as he tried desperately to escape.



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Chapter 1045 Death

But it didn't matter how fast he was. Could he be quicker than her sword?

"No!" His desperate cry was cut short as the sword skewered him.

The force of the sword piercing his body sent Wei Wu-Ya's heavy form flying into the distance.

With a loud thud, his body landed on the wall and was pinned in place with Yu Yun's sword.

Streams of blood flowed from the fatal wound in Wei Wu-Ya's throat.

In the final moments of his death, Wei Wu-Ya used the last dregs of his strength to speak. His wide, furious eyes stared unblinkingly at the beautiful young woman before him as he croaked in a raspy voice. "...why?"

Yu Yun walked up to him and said plainly, "You shouldn't have tried to harm his family."

Her voice could freeze one's blood.

Then, she raised her arm and pulled her sword out.



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Chapter 1045 Death

Wei Wu-Ya's dead body collapsed to the ground. Once a powerful grandmaster who had occupied the top ranks of the grandmaster's ranking, Wei Wu Ya was now nothing more than a corpse lying in a pool of his own blood, his eyes open and bulging with resentment and his features frozen in fury and fear.

He had not expected to find a powerful guardian protecting the family of a dead man.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua had assured him that their opponent was a nobody who had come from the village. He was supposed to be a useless piece of trash who had married into another family. His family were lowly villagers like him.

Wei Wu-Ya had believed them and followed them to Jiangdong to help them deal with their enemies.

But he had been duped.

Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua had lied to him.

Ye Fan's family was being watched over by



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Chapter 1045 Death

such a powerful guardian. Ye Fan couldn't be a nobody from a lowly family.

If he had known this sooner, Wei Wu-Ya would have rather killed himself instead of teaming up with Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua.

But everything was too late now.

Who could believe that the once powerful Wei Wu-Ya would perish in a foreign land far away from home?

Wei Wu-Ya's men had nearly peed their pants as they had witnessed Wei Wu-Ya's death. Terror had them scattering to the winds and fleeing for their lives.

The Ye family was left standing in dead silence.

Yu Yun had no intentions of lingering after she had retrieved her sword. She turned and prepared to leave.

"Young lady, could you tell us your name? You saved our lives. The Ye family will repay this debt in the future," Ye Xi-Mei called out after Yu Yun hastily.



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Chapter 1045 Death

“You don’t have to. Just help me pass a message to Ye Fan when he’s back. We were supposed to meet again in ten days. Tell him that the date’s off. I’m not going to show up.”

Yu Yun kept her back to the Ye family the entire time she was speaking.

Her distant attitude conveyed a clear message. She wasn’t interested in anyone or anything in this world.

If she hadn’t known Ye Fan, she would not have cared at all if the Ye family had been massacred and she definitely wouldn’t have interfered.

In her eyes, these ordinary men were no different from bugs.

She felt nothing for their lives or their deaths.

Ye Fan was the only exception.

“A date? In ten days?” Ye Xi-Mei and the others blurted out in confusion.

Ye Xi-Mei had no idea what Yu Yun was talking about. What date was Yu Yun going on about? Her son had been dead for more than a month. How could he have promised someone a meeting in ten days' time?

Was it possible that Ye Fan was still alive?

A bewildered Ye Xi-Mei wanted to ask more questions.

But the young woman was gone.

She had given the crowd only a brief glimpse of her heavenly beauty before disappearing from their sight.

A long silence descended upon them.

Everyone was clearly still stuck in a daze that Yu Yun had left them in.

Ye Ya was the one who eventually stepped forward and asked Ye Xi-Mei in bewilderment, “Sis, is this...another one of Fan's female friends? This nephew of mine has seriously outdone himself. He's not



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Chapter 1046 The Shocked Ye Family

satisfied with marrying a beautiful wife. He wants to surround himself with a whole harem of beautiful ladies. There's the eldest daughter of the Chen family, Miss Chen Nan, and Miss Xu Lei, a powerful CEO who calls the shots in Yanjing. Is this another one? My god, the saying is true. When it rains, it pours."

Ye Ya's lips twitched as he sighed with a mix of marvel and exasperation.

Then, in a fit of anger, he kicked his own son, Ye Jian.

"Why did you kick me, Dad?" Ye Jian grumbled resentfully. His father could shower praises on Ye Fan all he wanted. What had that got to do with him?

"Because you deserve it! You're useless. You're not as competent as your cousin when it comes to running a business or even fighting. The women you attract aren't even of the same caliber. Look at the ladies Fan has around him, then take a look at those who flock to you. They're either escorts or singers in pubs or receptionists at gaming cafes. You seriously embarrass me!" said Ye Ya furiously. How he wished he could send



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his own son to the grave with a hard kick in the head.

When Ye Fan and Ye Jian were kids, Ye Ya had been proud of his son and convinced that his son had been better than Ye Fan in all ways.

He had been wrong. In fact, there had been no competition in the first place.

“Dad, that’s not fair. Yu-Lang’s not faring any better than I am,” grumbled Ye Jian softly.

Jiang Yu-Lang’s face darkened when he heard that.

Whether he admitted it or not, that was the truth.

Jiang Yu-Lang used to think that the girlfriend whom he had met in college was going to be the best daughter-in-law that the Ye family would ever get.

Reality had shattered Jiang Yu-Lang’s childish fantasy.

Chen Nan, Qiu Mu-Cheng and that beautiful stranger who had saved them earlier were



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beauties that were beyond Jiang Yu-Lang's reach.

No matter how hard he tried, these were women who were unattainable to him.

But not to Ye Fan.

Jiang Yu-Lang had sensed from the words that the strange young woman had said earlier that she had feelings for Ye Fan.

But, why?

Jiang Yu-Lang couldn't figure it out.

In what ways was Ye Fan better than him?

He was the one who had topped the examinations, the one who had been crowned the scholar of Jiangdong and the one who had been admitted to Yanjing University.

Ye Fan had started off with a lower position in life and in a poorer family. His academic achievements and his appearance couldn't compare with Jiang Lu-Yang's at all.

Yet, all these breathtaking beauties were all



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taken with Ye Fan. They had only eyes for Ye Fan and cared nothing for him. Why?

Their feelings for Ye Fan had not died with Ye Fan's death.

Xu Lei's hadn't and neither had the feelings of that mysterious woman.

Jiang Yu-Lang's fingers curled into tight fists. The illusion of superiority that he had been caught in all these years had been shattered completely.

When Ye Fan had been alive, he had been the leader of Jiangdong. The rest of the Ye family had lived in the shadow of his achievements.

Now, Ye Fan was dead. Mufan Group had been destroyed and Ye Fan's position had been usurped by another.

Everything that he had achieved had been destroyed or brought to an end.

Jiang Yu-Lang had thought that the time for him had finally arrived. He was going to be the next rising star in the Ye family.



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But he had been wrong. In fact, he couldn't be more wrong.

Some men remained giants after they were gone, never to be surpassed by those who survived them.

Ye Fan was like a giant that sat in the hearts of everyone in Ye family. They knew that no one would ever scale greater heights than he had.

Vestiges of his influence remained after his death and continued to protect the Ye Fan's family and friends from harm.

The immediate danger had passed. But the Ye family was worried that Fenghua Group wouldn't let them off that easily and decided to leave immediately and meet Xu Lei outside the city.

They bumped into Xu Lei as they were driving out of their estate. She had come in search of them.

When Xu Lei saw Ye Xi-Mei, she couldn't rein in her emotions anymore. The sorrow that she had been holding back all these days gushed forth like a torrent rushing out of a



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burst dam.

She raced towards Ye Xi-Mei, threw herself into the older woman's arms and burst into tears.

Xu Lei had faith in Ye Fan. She was convinced that he wouldn't be killed that easily. But they knew in their heart of hearts that there was little chance that Ye Fan was still alive.

No one was willing to accept that fact though. They all longed for a miracle.

Yet all that endless and dreadful waiting had only intensified the pain and suffering that Xu Lei had been feeling.

She had spent nights weeping quietly and secretly.

She was the one who was holding the fort in Yanjing and had to put on a front of strength and authority. She couldn't afford to show weakness to anyone.

The sight of Ye Fan's mother, the woman whom she treated as her own family, finally broke her. The sorrow that she had pent up



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inside her finally erupted. Tears began to stream down her cheeks.

She sobbed loudly like a young girl who had lost her first love.

Ye Xi-Mei's eyes reddened. She patted the young woman's shoulder gently.

"Alright now, Auntie Mei, we have to go. Fan told me to hold the fort in Yanjing because he was worried that something like this might happen in Jiangdong someday. He wanted you to have a safe place that you could escape to. I didn't believe that that day would come. I can't believe that his worries came true." After a long bout of weeping, Xu Lei wiped her tears away and pulled herself together. She was the strong and rational woman she had always been again.

Her precious Fan was gone. She had to shoulder the responsibilities that he had left behind and help him protect his family.

That had been why Ye Fan had thrust her into the position of absolute power in Yanjing.

While his dominance over Jiangdong had



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Chapter 1046 The Shocked Ye Family

seemed complete and Mufan Group looked like a vast and prospering business empire, Ye Fan had known that all that power and influence had hinged on him alone.

If he were to fall, neither Qiu Mu-Cheng nor his mother would have been able to keep everything running.

Should anyone attempt to prey on Mufan Group, the vast commercial empire would fall without fail.

That had been why Ye Fan had helped Xu Lei establish power and influence in Yanjing. He had meant that to be a backup plan for Qiu Mu-Cheng and his mother.

“We had no idea at all. He must have put a lot of work into it.”

The Ye family was stunned by what Ye Fan had been doing all this while.

The wisdom and foresight that he had displayed and the meticulous plans that he had crafted vastly surpassed what experienced men Ye Tian and Ye Ya were capable of. They could not have done what he had done.

Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

Xu Lei and the others were ready to leave Jiangdong and seek shelter in Yanjing.

In the distant darkness, a green SUV suddenly sped towards them.

The low rumble of its engines sounded like the growl of a wild beast as it reverberated in the air.

The vehicle's headlights cast two strong beams of yellow light into the night like two long slashes from a sharp blade. The SUV roared loudly as it charged towards the Ye family's mansion.

The Ye family jumped at the sight of the vehicle. The blood from their faces drained instantly.

Ye Tian asked Xu Lei fearfully, "Miss Xu, is that...is that one of your men?"

She shook her head. "No. It looks like a military vehicle, so that must be Xur Shao-Hua's men."

The Xur family was one of the most powerful families in Yanjing. Xu Lei knew them well.



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

The Xur family had risen to its current power because of their military clout.

They were the ones who called the shots in the military.

The marriage between two generals in that family had continued to be the talk of the Chinese military world.

That had been why Xu Lei had been so sure that these were Xur Shao-Hua's people as soon as she spotted the military vehicle.

"What? Xur Shao-Hua's men? Don't they know when to stop? They're not going to stop until they kill us, are they?" The Ye family cursed out loud when they heard what Xu Lei had said.

"Dad, this isn't the time for that. Let's hurry up and leave before they catch up," said Ye Jian fearfully. He had just escaped the jaws of death. He wasn't in a hurry to court death so soon.

Wei Wu-Ya and his men had terrified him.

Terror had flared up inside him when he had learned that Fenghua Group had sent more



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

men after them.

The strange young woman had already left. They weren't going to survive this time if they were to end up in Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua's hands.

Xu Lei shared Ye Jian's views as well. They should leave right now.

It would be unwise to confront Xur Shao-Hua and his men.

Xu Lei had been in a hurry when she had made her way to the Ye family's mansion. She hadn't brought many men with her.

The odds weren't going to be in her favor if a fight broke out.

The furious roar of engines erupted in the night.

Upon Xu Lei's orders, her men started the engines of their cars. Numerous vehicles sped into the night.

"Dad, they're catching up with us! We have to go faster!" yelled Ye Jian. The sight of the approaching SUV sent spikes of terror



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

coursing through his blood.

They had been right. The men in the SUV were here for the Ye family.

The SUV's engine growled loudly like a beast as the vehicle pursued Xu Lei and the Ye family relentlessly.

“Everyone, hold on to your seatbelts!”

Cornered, Ye Ya threw caution to the wind. Slamming his feet into the accelerator, he pushed the car past the speed limit and sent the car engines roaring.

The acceleration took fewer than eight seconds and the force of it thrusting the vehicle's passengers deep into their seats.

Ye Ya had never driven a car at such speeds before.

But he had no choice.

They were going to be killed if they were caught. This wasn't the time to worry about safe driving.

He was going to make this car fly.



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

Ye Ya's Mercedes-Benz E300L sped past Xu Lei like a gust of wind.

The Ye family were driving five cars as they made their way out of Jiangdong.

In one car was Ye Ya's family, another Ye Tian's family and the third Ye Xi-Lan's family. Ye Xi-Mei and the old patriarch of the Ye family sat in the fourth car that was being driven by one of Xu Lei's men.

Xu Lei was alone in the last car.

Xu Lei had spotted the SUV approaching them steadily.

It was catching up.

She clenched her jaw, then slowed down suddenly. Her car was now tailing the others.

Ye Xi-Mei was alarmed when she saw Xu Lei's car fall behind. She called the young woman immediately. "Lei, why did you slow down? Is there something wrong with your car?"

"Don't worry about me. Go ahead without



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

me,” said Xu Lei before hanging up.

She continued to slow down. The distance between her car and the SUV narrowed rapidly as the latter continued to charge ahead at high speed.

Right before the SUV could overtake her vehicle, Xu Lei spun her steering wheel sharply to one side and drove her car right into the SUV’s path.

She was going to stop the SUV with her car. The pursuit was going to end here.

The two vehicles became locked in a prolonged and intense chase.

Xu Lei could hear the SUV’s engine growling in her ear.

“You want to harm Fan’s family? You’ll have to get past me first!”

Xu Lei released a sigh of relief as the SUV got stuck behind her car.

Ye Fan’s mother and her family must be long gone by now.



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

Xu Lei's car sped into the night.

The SUV tried to overtake her but Xu Lei wasn't going to let Xur Shao-Hua's men pass and thwarted every attempt that they made.

With her attention focused on the SUV tailing her, she did not notice the bend in the road ahead of her.

"Watch out!" Someone's voice rang outside the car suddenly.

But the windows to Xu Lei's car were up. There was no way she could have heard that.

She appeared to have noticed the bend in the road then.

Alarmed, she smashed her foot into the brake and made a sharp swerve to the left.

It was too late.

The force of the sudden swerve sent the BMW spinning out of the road.

The car flipped a few times before finally landing with a deafening crash.



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

“This stupid girl!”

Ye Fan was furious.

He had been yelling at Xu Lei to stop the car.

But the idiot had had her windows up. They had been traveling at such high speeds that Ye Fan’s warning had been drowned by the wind.

After that, he tried to catch up with Xu Lei.

But Xu Lei had mistaken him an enemy trying to overtake her car.

A series of misunderstandings and unfortunate coincidences had led them to where they were now.

Ye Fan dashed towards Xu Lei’s car after it had landed.

The BMV had flipped onto its roof and was laying in the middle of a field.

The yellow headlights of the car flickered ceaselessly while its windscreen wipers moved mechanically across the BMW’s front window. Gasoline leaked into the soil all



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

around the vehicle.

“Lei! Lei!” Ye Fan yanked the door open frantically.

The airbag had been activated and trapped Xu Lei in its midst. Blood trailed down the side of her forehead. She seemed to have passed out.

The sight sent worry spiking through Ye Fan.

He lifted Xu Lei out of the car hastily.

Fortunately, the airbag had been triggered in the nick of time. The car hadn't been going very fast when Xu Lei had made the turn. The car had landed in soft farm soil, which had softened the impact of the landing. As a result, Xu Lei had suffered nothing more serious than a few bruises and abrasions.

Ye Fan released a sigh of relief.

“Lei, wake up. Come on, wake up,” said Ye Fan softly as he held Xu Lei in his arms.

The young woman came to shortly. She thought she was hallucinating when she opened her eyes and saw Ye Fan.



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Chapter 1047 Fast and Furious

She blinked profusely, as if she were trying to make sure that she wasn't seeing things.

Ye Fan laughed and tapped her lightly on the tip of her nose.

"You silly girl, stop staring. It's me. I'm not dead. I've come back alive."



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Ye Fan laughed quietly.

That brilliant yet warm smile felt like the spring breeze gently blowing over Xu Lei's heart.

Xu Lei was stunned and stayed rooted to the spot as she just stared stupidly at the man in front of her. Her tears started flowing uncontrollably.

One moment later, she pounced over and held Ye Fan's neck tightly as she bawled loudly, "FAAAN! I thought I'd never be able to see you again! You horrible, horrible man! Where have you been the past month? Why didn't you contact any of us? Why? Did you know how worried I was?!"

Her tears streamed down her face, and her sobs were heartbreaking.

It was as if all her pain and suffering, her sorrow and hurt, were all released at the same time.

Nobody knew how much pressure Xu Lei had to bear over the past month.

She had to help Ye Fan to remain in control



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Chapter 1048 Mother and Son Reunite

of Yanjing, protect his wife, take care of his family as well as face the immense pressure from the Xur and Lu families. But what pained Xu Lei the most was the grief she felt after learning that Ye Fan had supposedly died.

She was just a weak young lady after all. It had taken her so much strength just to remain rational and calm even in the face of so many setbacks and heartache. But thankfully, all this resilience had paid off.

The young man whom she had been waiting for all this time had finally returned.

Xu Lei's sobs continued to echo in Ye Fan's ears.

He didn't reply Xu Lei's venting of her frustrations or questions.

He just hugged her tightly and felt her pain, her tears and her cries of relief.

He knew that she didn't need any explanation or reason at this time.

She just wanted a strong embrace, a warm chest to cry on and a firm pillar to lean on.



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Chapter 1048 Mother and Son Reunite

That was all she wanted.

After crying for some time, she finally stopped, since she was probably tired from crying so hard.

When Ye Fan realized she had calmed down, he tenderly rubbed the bruise on her face and asked, “Does it hurt?”

“Humph! What do you think?! Fan, you’re really awful! This is all your fault! If not for you, my car wouldn’t have flipped! Why didn’t you say it was you? I thought it was some bad guys that Lu Ming-Feng had sent!” Xu Lei glared hard at Ye Fan as she exploded on him. Her nose was nearly all bent out of shape from her fury when she recalled what happened earlier.

Her words were filled with resentment.

She wasn’t afraid of pain nor even the fact that she might have died. As long as she could protect someone close to her precious Fan, she wasn’t afraid to lose her life at all.

But the problem was that this car accident was completely unnecessary. It didn’t have to happen at all.



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Chapter 1048 Mother and Son Reunite

This situation felt like two armies fighting each other all day only to find that they were actually on the same side.

Of course she was indignant.

“You silly girl, how could you say that? I was shouting so loudly from behind you but you completely ignored me. Luckily I slowed down first because I was afraid that something might happen to you. Otherwise, even if you came out alive, you’d end up being disfigured. No man would want you after that,” teased Ye Fan as he scratched Xu Lei’s adorable little nose before attempting to carry her to the car.

“I don’t need you to carry me. I’m a woman whom no man wants anyway, so I won’t trouble you with something like this.” Xu Lei huffed and pushed Ye Fan away like he had offended her before getting into the car herself.

Ye Fan just laughed bitterly at himself when he saw this.

“As the old saying goes, only petty people and women are difficult to please. These old sayings are really accurate,” laughed Ye Fan

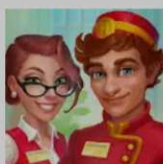


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quietly to himself before running off to catch up with his own mother.

Now that Ye Fan had returned to Jiangdong, there was no need for his mother to be on the run anymore.

Ye Fan soon caught up with her.

When Ye Xi-Mei saw that her son was still alive, she was both surprised and overjoyed.

The Ye family also breathed a great sigh of relief.

They felt like the most important person in the entire family had returned.

After going through such a tumultuous time, the Ye family had finally realized how important this man in front of them was.

If he was around, the Ye family would also remain intact.

If he was no longer around, the Ye family would also cease to exist.



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Chapter 1048 Mother and Son Reunite

“Mum, why don’t you go back and have a rest first? It’s been hard on all of you during this time. Leave the rest to me. I promise that I will make sure those people pay a hundred times over for all the pain and misery you’ve suffered!”

Ye Fan only found out through their conversation earlier how dangerous it had been that night.

If Xu Lei had not arrived in time, Ye Fan might never see his mother again.

The person whom Ye Fan felt he had let down the most was his mother.

His mother had been suffering with him ever since he was a child.

After he married into the Qiu family, he didn’t even visit her once for three whole years.

He was now the King of Jiangdong, but he hadn’t provided a better life for his mother. Instead, he had made her go through something so terrible because of him.

Ye Fan was feeling terribly guilty about this.



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But at the same time, the amount of guilt he felt was equal to the intensity of his fury towards Lu Ming-Feng.

He couldn't wait to get to Yunzhou to see who were these two bastards who actually dared to touch someone within his territory!

"Fan, don't go yet. I still have something to ask you. Answer me honestly. Have you suddenly disappeared without a trace for more than a month because you're having an affair behind Mu-Cheng's back?" Ye Xi-Mei quietly asked Ye Fan with a stern expression on her face after pulling him back.

Ye Fan's face immediately fell. "Mum, what nonsense are you spouting? Did you think your son is that sort of person? I told you, I was recovering from my injuries."

"You're still trying to lie to me? She came knocking on our door!" Ye Xi-Mei then recounted the whole story of how Wei Wu-Ya had threatened the Ye family, but Yu Yun came in time and slaughtered him with one slash of the sword.

"Oh? That happened?" Ye Fan got a shock.



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He quickly returned to his mother's mansion and saw Wei Wu-Ya lying in a pool of his own blood.

"This man was a grandmaster?"

The energy that a grandmaster had was like a dragon's, so Ye Fan could tell at just one glance that this man had been a grandmaster martial artist.

Ye Fan never thought that Lu Ming-Feng and the rest were willing to send a grandmaster out to massacre helpless ordinary folks like his mother just so that they could get rid of Ye Fan forever.

Ye Fan clenched his fists tightly. The iciness in his eyes intensified even further.

"Mum, tell me, exactly what did that girl look like?" Ye Fan turned to ask his mother after he had finished inspecting Wei Wu-Ya's dead body.

Ye Xi-Mei thought about it for a while before replying, "She's a little hard to describe. In any case, she was very pretty, she wore a long purple dress and she's got a very elegant aura around her. She's definitely



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from some well-to-do family of high standing.”



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Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

“Did you ask her for her name?” asked Ye Fan again.

Ye Xi-Mei nodded. “I asked her, but she didn’t want to tell me. But before leaving, she asked me to pass you a message.”

“What message?” Ye Fan was puzzled.

“She said that you two agreed on something in ten days’ time, but she won’t turn up, so you don’t have to wait for her,” replied Ye Xi-Mei.

Ye Fan’s confused expression immediately relaxed.

He snorted, “So it’s her.”

Even though she hadn’t left her name, Ye Fan already knew who it was because of this message.

This girl was definitely Yu Yun, the girl who with him in the old Chu family home when he was recuperating from his injuries.

But he didn’t think that she would appear here and happen to save his mother.

Was it a coincidence?

Or had she been watching him silently all this time?

Only Yu Yun would know if it was purely a coincidence or not.

“What are you laughing about?! You’d better come clean with me right now. How are the two of you related? I’m warning you, if you have a woman besides Mu-Cheng out there, I’m going to be the first one to beat you up.”

“Do you know how much Mu-Cheng has suffered because of you during this time? She looks like her soul has left her and she’s in a daze every day. She cooks an entire table of dishes for you every night hoping that you would come home to eat with her. Mu-Cheng is a wonderful girl and she’s so devoted to you, so you must not let her down.”

“As for the young lady who rescued us...even though we are indebted to her, you can repay her in any way except by giving yourself to her. You hear me? Besides, that young lady is so beautiful and classy, I’m very sure she’s from a rich and powerful family. You can’t

possibly handle a woman like that, and you're certainly not good enough for her."

Ye Fan was speechless. He couldn't believe what he just heard.

Was she really his biological mother?

How could she despise her own son like this?

His mother even felt that he wasn't good enough for that woman.

Ye Fan didn't think that madwoman was any better than him.

He nearly fainted in anger by what his own mother just said.

But Ye Fan had more urgent things to attend to, so he couldn't be bothered to argue with his mother about such matters now.

"Mum, don't worry, I have nothing to do with her. That madwoman probably can't wait to kill me. Alright now, I have to make a move first. Remember, bring Lei to the doctor in the morning. It's better to check if she's broken her head or something," said Ye Fan

Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

as he started walking out.

Xu Lei was immediately annoyed to hear this. “Humph! You’re the one with a broken head! You’re really awful! All you do all day is to tease me!”

Xu Lei stomped her feet and glared at Ye Fan as he walked out while grumbling about him unhappily.

But her grumbling eventually turned to laughter.

She felt like they had gone back to the time when they were both children.

Back then, Ye Fan had always teased her like this.

The smile on Xu Lei’s face became more and more beautiful.

She looked like a lotus blooming under the moonlight, and her smile made her look as gorgeous as a flower.

Her captivating smile was so enthralling and mesmerizing.

Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

Ye Jian and Jiang Yu-Lang were both swept away by her beauty. They couldn't take their eyes off her.

They were both attracted to her and envious of Ye Fan at the same time.

Ye Ya was so annoyed that he kicked his own son in the butt.

Ye Jian was unceremoniously snapped out of his daze and barked back angrily, "Dad, why did you kick me?"

"I'm going to make sure you wake up and learn! Look at how your cousin picks up girls and the sort of girls he gets, then look at yourself! You're useless!" Ye Ya ranted away at his unpromising son.

By this time, Ye Fan had already gotten into a car and drove out from Jingzhou. He was headed back to Yunzhou.

Of course, before leaving, Ye Fan also took care of Wei Wu-Ya's corpse along the way.

It was already daybreak.

The sky in the east was slowly lighting up.

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The first clouds of the morning could be seen.

A fiery red wheel started to peek out from the horizon.

A new day had arrived!

Yunzhou City.

An ancient looking building stood tall next to Yunwu Lake.

It looked like a giant watching over this old city as it stood erect next to the lake.

The three large words in deep red on the signboard of this building were filled with energy and gusto!

This was the best restaurant in all of Jiangdong, Haiyuan Restaurant.

Haiyuan Restaurant supposedly already had 300 years of history in this place.

Back then, the people of Yunzhou wanted to celebrate the very first imperial scholar from

Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

the city, so they built this restaurant right next to Yunwu Lake.

When the imperial scholar returned home in glory, a great banquet was held in this very place.

Haiyuan Restaurant was a place that had gone through centuries of weathering and world events. While it had seen the birth of many heroes and great men, it had also witnessed the fall and death of countless tycoons and successful people.

But even though the sun had just risen, Haiyuan Restaurant was already bustling with activity.

Its hundred odd workers were already busying themselves both inside and outside the restaurant as they made sure that all the cutlery for the banquet were brand new, and a red carpet that measured a few kilometers long was laid from the entrance to the road.

The young ladies that formed the welcome team were specially chosen from the top hotels and restaurants in the vicinity, and they started to get dressed and made up as well.

Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

In just a few moments, a few dozen ladies in qipao sashayed out and lined the two sides of the red carpet.

Brightly colored fresh flowers were also used to decorate the restaurant.

Haiyuan Restaurant looked like it was celebrating a festival of sorts.

After all, Fenghua Group's chairman was going to hold a feast for the powerful in Haiyuan Restaurant today. He had invited every important and powerful person of Jiangdong to this banquet so that he could officially announce his status as the King of Jiangdong.

Tonight's banquet was very much like a coronation ceremony, so the boss of this restaurant didn't dare to slack off at all.

Moreover, Fenghua Group was now at the center of attention. They had just destroyed every single faction that belonged to Mr Chu and took over Jiangdong so aggressively. Who would dare to offend them?

The boss of Haiyuan Restaurant was terrified, so he was even more careful to

Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

make sure that everything went right today. He was so scared that Lu Ming-Feng and the rest might be unhappy with him.

As the sky brightened, the number of people within Haiyuan Restaurant had increased.

A few hundred bodyguards came in to take over the security duties of the restaurant.

They even pulled police tape around the place.

No unauthorized persons were allowed within this 100 meter boundary around the restaurant.

But people were always attracted to the things they were not allowed to do. The longer the police tape was and the bigger the area that was cordoned off became, the more attention people paid to this place.

The road was soon filled with lots of people who had just come to be nothing but a busybody.

“My gosh! What a huge setup!”

“The last time there was anything as grand

Chapter 1049 Feast for the Powerful

as this was when Mr Chu hosted the Feast of the Sea and Sky. What's going on this time?"

"Who's having a banquet here today?"

The passersby were all discussing this matter among themselves.

But there were a few people in the crowd who just watched the proceedings with a look of arrogance and spoke with much disdain in their voices.

"Tsk, these useless countryside lice have no idea that there's a new king coming up in Jiangdong," said Qiu Mu-Ying with a laugh. Her voice was clearly gleeful at someone else's misfortune.

Qiu Mu-Qi was smiling next to her with a cold look in his eyes as well. His handsome face looked rather smug and conceited.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

“Nobody knows what will happen in the future, and nobody knows when you will be suddenly down on your luck. Ye Fan, oh, Ye Fan, your luck has finally run out. There is a god after all!”

All of Jiangdong was buzzing with the news of how Mufan Group had been destroyed.

All the Qiu family members had heard about it.

Qiu Mu-Ying and the rest of the family felt so vindicated and over the moon after hearing the news.

Back in the day, the Qiu family used to be a rather reputable and well-to-do family in Yunzhou after all.

Even though they weren't a top tier family, they were still considered second tier or so.

At their peak, the Qiu family had received a \$50 million investment from Hongqi Group and signed so many contracts.

The Qiu family had been doing so well and was at the pinnacle of their success.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

But thanks to Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng's attacks, the Qiu family had completely fallen apart in just one year.

Qiushui Logistics went bankrupt and had to be auctioned off, while Qiu Mu-Qi and Qiu Mu-Ying had their bank accounts frozen. Any properties they owned were taken back by the court to service their bank debts.

The Qiu family was really living from hand to mouth now.

Even someone who grew up as a privileged rich man's daughter like Qiu Mu-Ying had to be a waitress at a restaurant.

Qiu Mu-Qi had to be a food delivery boy to earn money.

Logically speaking, their educational qualifications and experience in business should have helped them to land a job in another company easily even after Qiushui Logistics went bankrupt.

But unfortunately for them, every business in Jiangdong knew that the Qiu family had offended Mr Chu in the past.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

So even if the Qiu family members applied for a job in their companies, nobody dared to hire them.

They had no choice but to do more menial work in order to make ends meet.

Some time back, Qiu Mu-Qi hoped to use the influential family background and high standing of the daughter of the Mo family to make a name for himself in Yanjing.

The Qiu family thought that the tides were finally turning for them.

But in the end, thanks to Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng, this entire plan fell through as well.

The head of the Mo family was so furious that day, he slapped his daughter and forced him to sever all ties with the Qiu family. It was impossible for the Qiu family to rely on this connection anymore.

Qiu Mu-Qi still couldn't contact her to this day.

The last bit of hope they had was destroyed by Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng once more.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

It wasn't hard to imagine how much the Qiu family hated this couple now.

They were constantly thinking of ways to take revenge on Ye Fan and Mufan Group.

Unfortunately, they weren't powerful enough, so there was no way they could even make a dent on a corporation as huge as Mufan Group.

But now, Mufan Group's retribution had come for them.

"Hoho, Ye Fan, I'm so glad you're dead. This is retribution! All of this is your retribution! I'm here to watch for myself how everything you used to own will now belong to someone else."

Qiu Mu-Ying and Qiu Mu-Qi stood among the crowd and smiled maniacally. Their faces were filled with hatefulness and smugness.

The Qiu family had watched how this couple started. They had watched Ye Fan marry into the Qiu family, Qiu Mu-Cheng get disowned and thrown out, then the establishing of Mufan Real Estate and finally Ye Fan rising to become the leader of Jiangdong.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant



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They had seen Ye Fan at his worst, and Qiu Mu-Cheng at her most helpless.

They had also witnessed the glory and honor that Mufan Group enjoyed.

One was a hero of the land, while the other was the empress of Jiangdong.

The Qiu family had watched how this couple had slowly risen to reach the pinnacle of all power in Jiangdong.

But now, they were also going to witness how this couple was going to be completely destroyed.

“It’s like watching him build a tall building, host great banquets and shine brilliantly, then watch as the building collapses...” Qiu Mu-Qi and Qiu Mu-Cheng just kept smiling coldly to themselves like two idiots.

These two had already fallen on hard times, but they didn’t take any pity on Ye Fan and Qiu Mu-Cheng. Instead, they laughed merrily at their misfortune.

Perhaps that was human nature after all.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

But while these two cousins were smiling wickedly within the great crowd of people outside the restaurant, the rich and powerful of the province had started to arrive.

Lei San of Jingzhou, Chen Ao of Jianghai, Li Er of Yunzhou, Wang Jie-Xi of Haozhou and anybody who was considered a rich and powerful person within Jiangdong were walking into Haiyuan Restaurant right now.

The last time they came here, it was the Feast of the Sea and Sky that Mr Chu had hosted.

That banquet was held barely half a year ago, but things had changed so much in this short time.

Jiangdong was going to have a new leader today.

But this time, nobody felt much anticipation in their hearts.

The atmosphere was rather gloomy, in fact.

Li Er and the rest just filed into the restaurant with no expressions on their faces.

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

It didn't take long for all the guests to arrive.

The entire restaurant was now out of bounds to everyone else.

Nobody was allowed to go in or go out.

Everyone outside the restaurant had a bad feeling in their hearts when they saw this scenario.

"It's just a banquet, isn't it? Why did they close all the doors and windows as well? That's so weird," said someone in the crowd quizzically.

The atmosphere before them was a little strange alright.

"Can't you see what's really happening? Today's banquet is clearly a trap for all these people. After this banquet, everything in Jiangdong will change completely," sighed an older man quietly.

A youngster next to him got a fright when he heard these words. "Are you saying that someone is going to die in there today? My god! Every person inside the restaurant right now is a rich and powerful representative of

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

every city in Jiangdong! Surely the CEO of Fenghua Group isn't bold enough to actually kill them?"

The old man shook his head and replied, "One can be a king today and a commoner tomorrow. If Fenghua Group wants to truly take control of Jiangdong, then they have to get rid of all the factions that still support Mr Chu. The Li family of Yunzhou, the Lei family of Jingzhou and the Chen family of Jianghai in particular, are Jiangdong's most powerful families because they were the closest to Mr Chu."

"Do you think that the new King of Jiangdong would allow the powerful families closest to Mr Chu back then to survive? I'm afraid our Master Er might not survive tonight...After all, many lose their lives in a battle for power and profit since time immemorial." The old man let out a long sigh.

After Qiu Mu-Ying heard these words, she laughed coldly and said, "If that happens, he deserves it! It's too bad that Master Er chose the wrong team back then. What's this nonsense about Mr Chu? He's just a lowly country bumpkin and a cowardly live-in son-

Chapter 1050 Outside Haiyuan Restaurant

in-law. He used to be so influential and mighty, but he was just someone who looked good on the outside but had no substance on the inside.”

“Look at what’s happened now! Once that Mr Chu died, Mufan Group collapsed as well. If he was really that capable, it wouldn’t have collapsed so quickly. Master Er was blind for pledging his loyalty to such a man. Now that someone else is taking over and might get rid of him, Master Er can only blame himself and nobody else,” said Qiu Mu-Ying mirthlessly.

But while everyone was saying all these things, they had no idea that a green SUV had parked itself outside a shop several kilometers away.

The car door opened and a skinny young man walked out.

The man’s icy gaze swept past the shop and landed on the wood carpenter standing at the door. His low voice quietly rang, “I want a coffin done in ten minutes.”



Chapter 1051 Use My Name

“What? Ten minutes? Are you kidding me? Do you really think one can make a coffin in just ten minutes? It’s not that easy, you know? Did you think that I could just mold one out of clay or something? Look, if you’re in a real hurry, you can just find a piece of land next to the river, take this shovel and dig a hole for the body. But honestly speaking, even digging a hole big enough will take more than ten minutes,” said the wood carpenter in a flurry after hearing what the young man said to him.

Wood carpenters were artisans who produced intricate work.

Making him produce a coffin in ten minutes wasn’t just an insult to the coffin itself, but also to his occupation as a wood carpenter.

The boss of the shop was irritated by this request that he just waved his hands about to tell the young man to get lost and stop getting in his way.

BAM!

But once the boss had finished ranting, a loud blast was heard.

Chapter 1051 Use My Name

The young man in front of him slammed a palm onto the long table in front of the boss.

Wood shavings flew into the air and the table that measured a meter high was turned into powder instantly.

“What the...” The boss was instantly stunned.

His eyes were huge and he was so frightened, he thought his soul had left his body.

That table had been made from Schmidt's Birch.

This was wood that was known to be as hard as metal and rocks.

In order to create this table, the boss had spent so much time and effort into shaping it, and ruined so many electric saws in the process.

He never thought that the slam of a human's hand would actually disintegrate such a sturdy table like it was merely made from tofu.

The boss didn't dare to imagine what would

Chapter 1051 Use My Name

happen if that palm had slammed on his body instead.

“Ten minutes. Are you taking up this job or not?” The young man looked down at the boss as his emotionless voice asked him again.

The boss was already scared out of his wits.

He didn’t dare to refuse the young man. He nodded profusely and replied fearfully, “I’ll do it, I’ll...I’ll do it.”

Even though the boss knew that this was an impossible mission, he still agreed to it anyway.

In order to complete it in the shortest time possible, the boss had to find materials in his own house.

He even used the boards of his own bed so that he could reduce the amount of work required.

Just like that, the boss really managed to put a coffin of sorts together in ten minutes, because he was really afraid of dying.



Chapter 1051 Use My Name

But it was really more appropriate to call this a shelf more than a coffin.

The boss had clearly just nailed a few wooden boards together.

But since he didn't have enough time, this was the best that the boss could come up with.

"S-sir...will this...will this do?" asked the boss fearfully.

He wasn't confident at all. This coffin was the worst thing he had ever made all his life.

But the young man actually nodded.

"It'll do. As long as it can fit a human, it'll do," replied the young man coldly. He picked up the coffin and left the shop.

After this grim reaper left the shop, the boss finally breathed a long sigh of relief.

But before he could truly relax, the man at the door suddenly stopped in his footsteps.

The boss suddenly felt his heart leap into his mouth again.



Chapter 1051 Use My Name

There was only one thought in his mind now.

Was this young man going to silence him?

The young man had done something so suspicious after all. He had specifically said that he wanted a coffin that was big enough to hold a human.

This cold blooded and violent person had got to be some really vicious thug.

It didn't seem strange for the young man to kill the boss off in case he called the police.

The boss quickly broke down and cried out in fear, "I...I won't say anything! Please, please don't kill me! I won't tell anybody about this!"

When the boss pleaded with the young man, the young man turned around to face him. His striking features were frosty.

He looked down at the boss in front of him and his icy voice rang, "Three days later, come to Mufan Group's headquarters to get your payment. You just have to tell them you're looking for me, Ye Fan."



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These simple words echoed for a long time in the shop.

By the time the boss found the courage to look up, the young man had already left the shop.

The boss collapsed onto the floor after barely making it through this ordeal. He panted heavily and his forehead was covered with cold sweat.

That was truly terrifying.

“Oh my god...who was that man just now? Why did I feel like I was facing the grim reaper?” The boss couldn’t stop wailing in terror.

After a long time, the boss finally regained some composure.

After a long period of hesitation, he finally took out his phone and called the police.

“Hello, is this the police? I suspect that there’s a murderer in this area.”

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“What? Who is he? I don’t know him. Oh wait, he said that his name is Ye Fan, and he’s from Mufan Group.”

....

After hanging up, the boss immediately closed for the day.

It was going to take him a long time for him to recover from the shock he experienced earlier.

But the boss had no idea what sort of storm he had just stirred with this phone call.

A few minutes later.

Wu Wei-Tao had just gotten into a car in front of a bungalow. This car was headed for Haiyuan Restaurant because he was going to congratulate Lu Ming-Feng at his banquet. Just then, a phone call came in.

“Hello, this is Wu Wei-Tao speaking.”

“What did you say? Mr Chu is back? How is that possible? Isn’t he dead?!” Wu Wei-Tao’s expression changed dramatically.

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His aging face turned deathly pale.

Wu Wei-Tao had known Ye Fan for a long time now. How had Ye Fan managed to make a name for himself in Yunzhou and rule over Jiangdong at such a young age?

Ye Fan had managed to do it through his vicious and decisive means!

At the battle in Mount Tai Hall, Ye Fan had shocked Jiangdong when he had killed Wu He-Rong with one punch.

After that, he swept through the cities of Jiangdong aggressively and eventually flung the richest man in the province, Zhao Wu-Ji, into the river and killed him.

He made the Meng family go bankrupt and fall apart, he made the Chen family in Jianghai give up their position as leader in Jiangdong to him, and he had made every influential person in Jiangdong look up to him.

Everyone felt their stomachs churn when they heard about how vicious and ferocious Ye Fan could be.

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This was a man who would take revenge on even the smallest matter.

Wu Wei-Tao didn't dare to imagine what would happen if Ye Fan seriously came back to Jiangdong alive. What sort of bloodied storm was going to hit the province?

"Han, is this information reliable?" asked Wu Wei-Tao again. This was a very serious matter.

"Mayor Wu, we're still investigating the details of this matter. But a carpenter did call in to say that a man who called himself Ye Fan told him to build him a coffin and also told the carpenter to get his payment from Mufan Group in three days. But we're still not sure if that man was Mr Chu or not, since we're still investigating."

"But to be on the safe side, I think it's better that you don't attend the banquet at Haiyuan Restaurant today. If not, I doubt you'd be spared either. We both know Mr Chu for a long time now, so I'm sure you know what sort of methods he uses, right?" came a low and foreboding voice from over the phone.

Wu Wei-Tao didn't say anything, but the

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regret and fear in his heart was slowly seeping through the rest of his body.



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Luxury cars gathered outside Haiyuan Restaurant.

A mist swirled above the surface of Yunwu Lake.

Any area within a hundred meters of the restaurant had been strictly cordoned off.

A few hundred security guards were guarding this border.

Their ferocious and mean looks made everyone else fearful.

Nobody standing around the restaurant curiously dared to go too close.

They just stood more than a hundred meters away from the restaurant and looked out at what was happening on tiptoes.

“But Mu-Ying, don’t you think that Ye Fan died a little too suddenly? Everything was just fine, but we suddenly got news that he’s dead. That country bumpkin was such a good fighter and he was even the King of Jiangdong, so do you think a person like that would really die this easily?” Qiu Mu-Qi casually spoke to Qiu Mu-Ying while waiting.

Chapter 1052 He's...Back?

About half a month ago, there was a rumor in Yunzhou about how Ye Fan had died.

Qiu Mu-Qi had heard the rumor too, but nobody believed it and just thought it was nonsense.

It was difficult for anybody to believe something that had no proof.

So Qiu Mu-Qi had been suspicious about this matter right from the start.

“Life is unpredictable and anything could happen to anybody. Someone dies from an accident every single day, so there’s nothing abnormal about this situation. Besides, Mufan Group has already been destroyed and Jiangdong is receiving a new leader today. These are all signs that are pointing to Ye Fan’s death,” replied Qiu Mu-Ying nonchalantly. She didn’t think there was anything suspicious about the information.

“But Mu-Ying, these are all conjectures. As far as I know, there’s no hard evidence to prove that Ye Fan is really dead. Nobody has found his body either,” said Qiu Mu-Qi in a low voice.



Chapter 1052 He's...Back?

Even though he hadn't interacted with Ye Fan a lot, the few times he had interacted with this seemingly harmless young man had left an extremely deep impression on him.

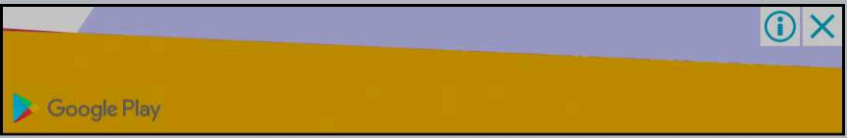
Regardless of whether it was the collapse of Hongqi Group or how his good friend, Wang Sheng-Tian, had desperately run for his life, this live-in son-in-law of lowly birth always seemed so unfathomable to Qiu Mu-Qi.

Ye Fan had been the most formidable person he had ever had to deal with.

Qiu Mu-Qi couldn't help but wonder if such a person would really die this easily.

"Mu-Qi, you're really being worried for nothing. That useless coward was one of those who protected his wife like some madman. If he weren't dead, then why didn't he appear when Qiu Mu-Cheng was chased out of Mount Yunding Villa by Fenghua Group?"

"Besides, even if that useless bum were still alive, what can he do? Mufan Group has already collapsed! Everything that he used to be able to rely on is gone! Even if Ye Fan weren't dead, he wouldn't have any power to



Chapter 1052 He's...Back?

get all of this back!”

“On top of that, do you think he’d dare to come back here? As far as I know, Fenghua Group is owned by Lu Ming-Feng and Xur Shao-Hua. Both of these men come from incredibly powerful families! And Ye Fan? He’s supposedly the leader of Jiangdong, but he’s really more like some gangster boss. Even if I give him another ten clones, he wouldn’t dare to return to Jiangdong and try to attack Fenghua Group!” Qiu Mu-Ying’s cold laughter resonated loudly.

But immediately after she finished speaking.

HUUU...

A strong wind suddenly gusted even though the air was still just moments ago.

The cold wind brought an iciness with it that filled the whole place in an instant.

Rocks and sand were sent flying and the waters in Yunwu Lake lashed about fiercely.

All the trees were rustling very noisily as a result.

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You're their only hope. You did not see this coming – mor...

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“Oh my god! What’s happening? Why is the wind suddenly so strong and so cold?”
Everyone in the crowd began exclaiming in shock when the weather suddenly took a turn for the worse.

But while everyone was trying to figure out the weather, someone else looked into the distance and suddenly shouted, “Everyone! Look over there! What’s that?!”

The surprised shout instantly caught everyone’s attention.

The entire crowd followed the voice and looked over.

They saw a skinny silhouette walking all by himself in the distance.

He trudged on along the horizon with a coffin on his back.

His feet seemed to resound loudly as he set foot on the ground.

The fiery sun had become this man’s most brilliant backdrop.

“That’s...that’s...”

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The entire crowd was in shock.

Nobody made any noise.

Qiu Mu-Qi and Qiu Mu-Ying felt their eyes nearly pop out of their sockets when their gaze landed on that young man's silhouette.

Tsunamis began to surge within their hearts.

It was...it was him!

That man was back.

In the most expensive ballroom of Haiyuan Restaurant, all the guests had already taken their seats.

Lu Ming-Feng sat on the host's chair. An arrogant look filled his eyes as he enjoyed being at the center of attention.

He got up, picked up the glass of red wine before him and used that arrogant look to scour the people before him.

"Today, I have organized a banquet here and invited all the rich and powerful of

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Jiangdong. I am very happy that all of you have come all the way here to show your support. Allow me to give everyone a toast first.” Lu Ming-Feng then drank the entire glass of wine down.

After that, he got the waiter to refill his glass and he raised it again. “Half a year ago, Mr Chu held the Feast of the Sea and Sky here, and gained full control over Jiangdong. I know that a number of you are still hoping that Mr Chu will come back. You’re all waiting for a miracle to happen, and you’re hoping that Mr Chu will victoriously return. But it’s too bad – Mr Chu is already dead.”

“The era that belonged to Mr Chu has already passed. From now on, Mr Chu will no longer exist and Mufan Group is no more. Jiangdong has a new leader! The 18 cities of Jiangdong will listen to only one voice from now on! That voice is mine, Lu Ming-Feng’s! From today onwards, I shall be the King of Jiangdong!”

Lu Ming-Feng raised his glass again as he spoke proudly.

The dominance and conceit in his heart was all mixed into the wine in this glass.

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He threw his head back and finished the wine in one mouthful again.

After that, the leader of Nanquan, Baldy Liu, was the first to stand up and clap in support of Lu Ming-Feng. "What excellent words! Mr Lu is definitely the right person to be the King of Jiangdong. That Mr Chu was nothing but some young hooligan, and Jiangdong has endured him long enough. The Liu family of Nanquan is willing to acknowledge Mr Lu as our leader!" said Baldy Liu respectfully as he bowed and cupped his fists towards Lu Ming-Feng.

"Baldy Liu! You fair-weathered bastard!"

"Mr Chu treated you well, but now you're the first to turn on him?!"

"Aren't you afraid that Mr Chu might really come back alive?"

Li Er, Lei San and Chen Ao intended to combine forces and go up against Fenghua Group, so when they saw Baldy Liu actually side with Lu Ming-Feng at this point, they immediately started shouting at him angrily.

"Master Er, stop trying to use Mr Chu to

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pressurize me. Mr Chu is already dead, so his era is over. One will only be able to shine when one finds a good leader. And now, Young Master Lu is the leader of Jiangdong!”



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Chapter 1053 Refuse to Surrender

Baldy Liu just looked at Li Er with a cold smile on his lips.

“Why, you!” But just when Li Er was about to explode in fury, another person in the room stood up as well.

“The Du family is also willing to acknowledge Young Master Lu as our leader!”

“Du, you too...” Li Er and Lei San were caught by surprise once again.

Before this, Li Er, Lei San and Chen Ao had already talked to the other families and told them that about coming together to fight Fenghua Group.

They didn't expect two families to defect right from the start.

But this was only the beginning.

After the head of the Du family declared his stand, a third and a fourth person also stood up to say the same thing.

“The Tian family...”



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“The Zhu family...”

Eventually, almost everyone in the room had stood up. All of them raised their wine glass to give a toast to Lu Ming-Feng.

Their reverent voices and respectful words rang loudly in the ballroom.

“All of us are willing to acknowledge Mr Lu as our leader! From now onwards, we will listen to nobody else except Mr Lu!”

Li Er and the other two were all shocked by the events unfolding before them.

These were the same people who had confidently agreed to stand together with them to protect Mr Chu’s prestige just the night before. But now, they had all changed sides.

“Great. Just great. We were blind to have actually believed all of you! When Mr Chu got rid of Zhao Wu-Ji back then, he should have just massacred you animals as well!”

Li Er’s eyes were bloodshot and Lei San was furious. They both felt terribly betrayed.



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Li Er finally turned back to look at Lu Ming-Feng.

“Lu Ming-Feng, don’t be too smug yet. Even if all of Jiangdong surrenders to you, the Li family of Yunzhou, the Lei family of Jingzhou and the Chen family of Jianghai will never surrender to you! The three of us will make sure we break a few teeth of yours even if we die trying!” roared Li Er fiercely.

Lei San chimed in with a look of fury spewing from his eyes.

But Lu Ming-Feng just smiled faintly when he saw how angry they looked.

He didn’t say anything and just picked up the wine glass in front of him before taking a sip.

His sinister face was covered with a confident and mocking expression.

“Oh, is that so? Li Er, it’s fine if you want to be stupid by yourself. But are you so sure that your companions are as stupid as you are?” Lu Ming-Feng chuckled.

Li Er immediately frowned. “What do you



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mean by that?”

While Li Er was still confused, the silent Chen Ao seated next to him suddenly stood up.

He picked up his wine glass, bowed humbly and said with much respect, “The Chen family of Jianghai is willing to acknowledge Mr Lu as the King of Jiangdong!”

BOOM...

It felt like lightning just struck Li Er and Lei San.

They were both so shocked that they couldn't move.

Their eyes widened and stared straight at Chen Ao in utter disbelief.

They simply couldn't believe what they had just seen and heard.

It never crossed their minds that Chen Ao would actually betray Mr Chu as well and become subordinate to Lu Ming-Feng.

“Chen Ao, you...you...how could you do this?”



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Chapter 1053 Refuse to Surrender

Don't you know how much Mr Chu has done for you? If not for Mr Chu, the Chen family wouldn't be what they are today! If not for Mr Chu, your daughter would have died by now! You owe Mr Chu everything you have today! Anyone in Jiangdong can betray him except you! You animal! How could you betray Mr Chu!"

"Why?! Why are you doing this?!" Li Er roared ferociously at Chen Ao with bloodshot eyes.

Lei San's eyes were bulging furiously as well and his entire body was shaking.

Chen Ao's betrayal affected them tremendously.

All this time, Li Er, Lei San and Chen Ao were Ye Fan's most trusted subordinates.

After the richest man in Jiangdong had been removed by Ye Fan, Ye Fan had split his multi-million assets among the three of them.

When Ye Fan wasn't around in Jiangdong, he also allowed the three of them to manage Jiangdong on his behalf.



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The people who had received the most from Mr Chu were the three of them.

Li Er used to think that even if all of Jiangdong betrayed Mr Chu, at least the three of them wouldn't.

But reality had really slapped him in the face this time.

However, Chen Ao remained silent even after Li Er and Lei San berated him.

He behaved like he hadn't heard them at all.

He raised his glass and remained bowed before Lu Ming-Feng.

Lu Ming-Feng's eyes were filled with arrogance and he looked down at Li Er and Lei San with a victorious look. "Master Er, Master Lei, what say you now? Are the two of you still going to persist in your ways? I promise you now that as long as you're willing to acknowledge me as your leader today, I will not make things difficult for you two. Yunzhou and Jingzhou will still be in your care. An intelligent person knows the right thing to do at the right time and place. Mr Chen has already made the right



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decision. Are the two of you going to continue being a stick in the mud and continue your foolish ways?”

“你特么给我闭嘴！”

“你到底用了什么奸诈手段，逼迫陈傲倒向与你。”

“我绝不相信，陈总会背叛楚先生。”李二怒声骂着，整个人几乎状若疯狂。

“Shut your damned trap! What underhanded means did you use to force Chen Ao to give in to you?! I’m very confident that Mr Chen will never betray Mr Chu!” shouted Li Er. He looked like he had gone mad.

整个江东，除了叶凡之外，便是江海陈家的势力最大。

如今陈傲倒戈，可以说是大势已去，李二等人自然难以接受。

The next biggest faction of power in Jiangdong after Ye Fan was the Chen family in Jianghai. Now that Chen Ao had changed sides, it meant that Li Er and Lei San had a lot less clout on their side, so it was difficult for them to accept.



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“哈哈~”

“说我逼迫？”

“李二爷，你还真是以小人之心度君子之腹。”

“我陆明风行得正，坐得直。”

“他人追随我，那也是心甘情愿。”

“正所谓桃李不言下自成蹊，便是如此。”

“不信的话，你可以问陈总。”

“Haha! Force? Master Li, you're really a petty man at heart. I am an upright man and my conscience is clear. He has chosen to follow me willingly. The one who shines the most brilliantly will attract the most people to themselves. You can ask Mr Chen yourself if you don't believe me.”

“对了，你们肯定很好奇，我为何能在这么短的时间内踏灭沐凡集团吧。”

“这里面，陈总贡献了不少功劳呢。”

“还有，今日酒宴，这么多人臣服于我，你们也一定很惊讶吧。”



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“这也多亏了陈总帮我游说众人。”

“不然的话，我一个外来户，这么短时间内一统江东商界，若是没有本地势力支持的话，你觉得可能吗？”

“You two must be very curious as to how I managed to destroy Mufan Group in such a short time too, right? I have to say that Mr Chen had contributed greatly to that end. Also, I’m sure you’re very surprised about why so many of them have decided to submit to me, right? This is also thanks to Mr Chen going around to persuade them. Otherwise, did you think it was possible for someone from outside the province to unify the corporate circles here without any help from someone within?”

“Oh by the way, there’s something I forgot to tell you. Did you notice that Shao-Hua and Elder Wei aren’t by my side today? I’ve sent them to Jingzhou, because I heard that Mr Chu’s family is there. I wanted to invite them over to be guests here, then send them off to see Mr Chu. HAHHAH!”

Lu Ming-Feng’s smug and merry laughter echoed loudly within the ballroom.



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Li Er and Lei San immediately hit the roof when they heard this.

“You’re an ANIMAL! You bastard! You aren’t even going to let off ordinary folks like Mr Chu’s family?! You’re such a despicable and wicked man! How could you be fit to become the King of Jiangdong and lead this province?! The Li family of Yunzhou will never bow to you!” roared Li Er through clenched teeth.

“The Lei family of Jingzhou will not surrender either!” roared Lei San equally angrily.

Just when everyone thought that Li Er and Lei San would be the only ones who dared to stand up against Lu Ming-Feng, another two figures in the corner stood up as well.

“The Wang family of Haozhou will not surrender either! I, Wang Jie-Xi, will only acknowledge Mr Chu as my leader.”

“The Xia family of Yunzhou will not give in either!”

Xia Xue and her grandfather boldly stood up and took their stand as well.



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They used the little might they had to give off that tiny spark amidst this dark and gloomy world.

But was it of any use?

It wasn't.

From the moment Chen Ao switched sides, the power balance had already been tipped.

This little bit of protest couldn't change anything much.



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

The protest from the Xia family of Yunzhou attracted Lu Ming-Feng's attention.

"Oh, you two are from the Xia family of Yunzhou? I was about to look for you, but you've stood up by yourselves first." Lu Ming-Feng's mocking glance fell on Xia Xue and Old Master Xia.

"You are the current head of the Xia family, Old Master Xia, right? And this young lady next to you is Xia Xue, the successor you have named, right? I have to say, this pair of twins really look identical," said Lu Ming-Feng amusedly as he smiled faintly. Nobody understood what he was trying to say.

Old Master Xia was also puzzled. The Xia family had no dealings with Fenghua Group, and the Xia family wasn't one of the most powerful families in Yunzhou either, so he couldn't understand why Lu Ming-Feng would suddenly be interested in his family.

Xia Xue's face was pale and her heart palpitated in fear.

She was just a young lady after all, and had never faced anything like this before.



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

Xia Xue could feel an immense pressure coming from Lu Ming-Feng's glance, and she felt like she was going to suffocate soon.

But Xia Xue grit her teeth and said with as much determination as she could muster, "Stop trying to scare us. We owe Mr Chu everything we have now, and Mr Chu is someone worth being loyal to! The Xia family will not betray Mr Chu, and we will never give in to an evil person like you! I'm very sure Mr Chu will come back. Once Mr Chu returns, all of you will be punished and all of you will live to regret this day!"

Xia Xue herself wasn't sure where she found the courage to shout at Lu Ming-Feng from.

But she still felt that it was impossible for Ye Fan to die so easily.

He had been so formidable that even when Liang Bo and Fan Zhong-Xian brought a few hundred men to beat Ye Fan up at the same time, Ye Fan thrashed all of them and came out unscathed anyway.

Ye Fan was the most amazing man that Xia Xue had ever seen in her life. She refused to believe that Ye Fan had perished just like



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

that.

Lu Ming-Feng burst out laughing at these words. “Do you think you still have the right to say such things now?”

His faint laughter was accompanied by the opening of the ballroom door.

Everyone watched as a young lady who looked identical to Xia Xue emerged. She was wearing a sexy blouse and skirt outfit that was matched with a pair of silver high heels. Her high quality stockings made her long and fair legs look even more mesmerizing and tempting than they already were.

She gave off a mature yet flirtatious sort of charm.

“Sis?”

“Xia Yue?!”

Xia Xue and Old Master Xue’s faces fell when they saw the young lady walk in.

They never thought that Xia Yue would appear here.



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

After the Feast of the Sea and Sky, Old Master Xia had stripped Xia Yue of all her duties within the family because she had offended Mr Chu.

Xia Yue used to be treated like the future heiress of the Xia family, but because of this, she was sent to a rural area to manage some assets that weren't important to the Xia family, and had essentially been sent into cold storage.

On the contrary, Xia Xue was very close to Mr Chu, so the family viewed her as an important member of the clan and decided to make her the next head of the family.

All the glory and power that Xia Yue used to hold was all given to Xia Xue instead.

They were surprised to find that Xia Yue had appeared in Haiyuan Restaurant instead of remaining in the rural area that she was managing.

But Xia Yue wasn't bothered by their bewilderment.

After walking in, she said respectfully to Lu Ming-Feng, "The head of the Xia family, Xia



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

Yue, is willing to acknowledge Mr Lu as my leader! The Xia family of Yunzhou will listen only to you from now on!”

What?

“The head of the Xia family?!” shouted Old Master Xia as his eyes widened in shock.

“Xia Yue, you unfilial daughter! What are you talking about? I’m still alive, so there’s no way you can be the head of the family! And even if I were dead, Xia Xue will become the head of the Xia family, not you! You have no right to represent the Xia family!”

“Shut up!” Xia Yue suddenly spun around and her angry, sinister voice exploded.

“The one who has no right to represent the Xia family is you, Xia Dong-Lin! You were the one who made a mistake in our strategy, misjudged others, chose to stand on the wrong side and caused the Xia family to be in such a terrible crisis today. The board of directors have already decided to remove you as the chairman and head of the family so that you can retire early!

“I’ve already found a place for you to spend



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

the rest of your days. You can just move to one of those old houses in the rural area that belong to the Xia family.” Xia Yue smiled mirthlessly, and her heavily made up face was covered with a smug look.

“What nonsense is this! I’m the one who groomed and supported Dong-Hai and the rest all these years! Why would they gang up with you to betray me? It’s impossible for them to remove me from my position and force me to retire early!” retorted Old Master Xia. His expression was furious.

“Is that so, Grandpa? You’re so confident of yourself?”

Xia Yue smirked and flung an agreement document at Old Master Xia.

“Take a look at this. This document is the agreement that the family board has signed and stamped. It’s all real, Grandpa. I’m sure you can verify this better than I can!” Xia Yue continued to laugh smugly.

Old Master Xue grabbed the document and started reading it carefully.

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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

“Since Mr Xia Dong-Lin is getting on in age, the Xia family board of directors has unanimously agreed to remove Xia Dong-Lin from all duties within the family business, so that he can retire in advance and stay in the family home to enjoy his old age. His granddaughter, Xia Xue, shall move to the old home in the village with him in order to take care of him.”

.....

Old Master Xia started shaking when he read this statement and saw all the signatures belonging to the highest authorities of the family.

“How...how could this be? How could Dong-Hai and the rest oust me like this? How...how could they betray me? How dare they?” Old Master Xia’s face was deathly pale as he kept shaking his head in disbelief.

While Old Master Xia was slowly losing control of his emotions, Lu Ming-Feng had reached out to pull Xia Yue into his arms.

Xia Yue let out a coquettish whine as she purposely acted shy while showing off her seductive curves in his arms without



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

resisting him at all.

Lu Ming-Feng smiled at the beauty in his arms as both his hands wandered all over Xia Yue's long and slender legs, gently rubbing against the high quality stockings she was wearing.

This charming and mesmerizing head of the Xia family seemed nothing more than a luxury plaything in his hands.

That was the draw that power and status had!

Once you made it to the top, you could get anything from wealth to women.

“Old Master Xia, what are your thoughts now? The head of the Xia family is nothing but a toy in my hand. You're just an old man and you think you can go against me?” continued Lu Ming-Feng as he smiled smugly.

“You're getting old, so it's only normal for you to become muddleheaded. It's time you let go of your position. Besides, Yue is both beautiful and talented, plus she knows how to make the right decision at the right time.



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Chapter 1054 Change in the Xia Family

She's a lot more suited to be the head of the Xia family compared to you. Listen to your granddaughter and just move to your family home in the village to wait for death to befall you!"

Lu Ming-Feng laughed merrily with an arrogant expression on his face. He looked like the victor in a war.

The young lady in his arms looked equally smug and pleased with this situation.



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Chapter 1055 Wipe Out from Jiangdong

“You...you two...” Old Master Xia’s face reddened and his entire body shook from pure rage.

He suddenly sputtered and spat out an entire mouthful of blood because of how angry he was.

“Grandpa! Grandpa!” Xia Xue shouted as tears flowed down her cheeks in shock. She quickly ran over to support him.

At the same time, she turned her head to shout fiercely at Xia Yue, “Sis, you’re really vicious. This man is our grandfather! He’s our biological grandfather! For the sake of selfish gain, you were willing to sell your body in order to gang up with someone from outside the family? And you wouldn’t even let off your own grandfather?”

“Don’t tell me you think you can be like Miss Qiu and become the Queen of Jiangdong this way? Miss Qiu and Mr Chu went through tough times together and reached this position after supporting and caring for one another despite the hardships. Miss Qiu could become the Queen of Jiangdong precisely because she had gone through thick and thin with Mr Chu.”



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Chapter 1055 Wipe Out from Jiangdong

“But you? That Lu Ming-Feng is just treating you as a plaything! Once he’s tired of you, he’ll kick you aside. If you insist on cheapening yourself like this, you won’t come to a good end.”

“Sis, why don’t you turn back while you still can? You can still return Grandpa his position and authority over the Xia family now. Grandpa worked on this business all his life but you’ve just snatched it away from him like this. That’s as good as killing him. Don’t you feel guilty doing such a thing at all?”

Xia Xue’s face was covered with tears. Her angry and saddened voice echoed for a long time inside the ballroom.

But Xia Yue broke into laughter, as if she had just heard the funniest joke in the world.

“Grandpa? I treated him as my grandfather, but did he treat me as his granddaughter? I’m the eldest daughter of the Xia family, so I’m the heiress to the family. I’ve contributed so much to the family over all these years. And what did he do? He removed my position and power with just one word! He even sent me to a remote rural area and left



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Chapter 1055 Wipe Out from Jiangdong

me to my own devices there.”

“Instead, he allowed a useless and weak person like you to become the heir to the Xia family. Why should this position go to you? How are you even fit for this role?”

Xia Yue’s expression was nasty, and her cold laughter was filled with hatred and jealousy.

But after letting all these emotions out, Xia Yue quickly calmed back down.

She looked at the tearful Xia Xue and said slowly, “Xue, did you know? Because you gained the favor of Mr Chu and made him like you so much, everyone in the Xia family complimented you. They all said that you’re the future of the Xia family and the lucky charm of the family. Grandpa allowed you to become the heir and even let you be part of the board of directors in the company. All our aunts and uncles do everything for your sake. They only bring you to all those networking parties and banquets, while I only get to stay in my little corner and sit there like some abandoned stray dog.”

“I was really so jealous of you. I was so jealous that you had gained Mr Chu’s favor,



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Chapter 1055 Wipe Out from Jiangdong

so jealous that you could be as arrogant as a princess. But why? Why was all this only happening to you? We look exactly the same, and even our family and educational backgrounds are identical. Why does everyone love you so much, while I've just been flung to some remote village to survive on my own?! I can't understand and I refuse to take this lying down! I kept thinking of how I could possibly come back here."

"But thankfully, I ran into Young Master Lu. Perhaps he doesn't like me, and he might treat me as nothing but a plaything. But I don't regret it. It's true, Xue, I don't regret it one bit. That's because Young Master Lu has allowed me to stand in a high place and bask in glory."

"Before this, I was shrouded in darkness, but Young Master Lu shed light onto my path. I'm more than willing to follow after Young Master Lu! As for Xia Dong-Lin, he might be a grandfather to you, but he's not a grandfather to me. I don't care if he lives or dies!" said Xia Yue as she shook her head.

She felt so vindicated now.

She was letting out all the frustration and



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hatred she had suppressed in her heart for the past six months.

Her mood was instantly lifted!

She even felt hopeful for the future.

Those dark days were finally over.

All that awaited her now was a bright and glorious future.

Xia Xue was stunned by everything her older sister said.

She never thought that the sister who had grown up with her for so many years would become such a stranger one day.

“Men, throw the two of them out.”

Since the reins of the Xia family had been given to Xia Yue, Old Master Xia and Xia Xue no longer had any right to be here.

Lu Ming-Feng couldn't be bothered to waste any time on them, so he got his men to just throw them out of the restaurant.

“Master Er, only the three of you are



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unwilling to submit to me right now. I'm a very easygoing person and I don't like violence. But if you push me too hard, then I don't mind wiping your families out from Jiangdong! Since I can destroy Mufan Group and wipe out the Ye family in Jingzhou, I can quash all of you just as easily." Lu Ming-Feng's words slowly grew icier as he spoke, and the murderous look on his face intensified.

"Jie-Xi, hurry up and apologize to Young Master Lu. What the hell is wrong with you? Li Er and Lei San have always been close to Mr Chu, so I can understand their obstinance. But why are you on their side too? I remember Mr Chu nearly destroyed your entire family over the battle at Dongchang Lake, didn't he? Why are you still on his side now? I don't get it," Baldy Liu anxiously tried to persuade Wang Jie-Xi against remaining loyal to Ye Fan.

He thought that only the Li and Lei families would go up against Lu Ming-Feng. He didn't think that the Wang family would join them as well.

But Wang Jie-Xi replied in a low voice, "Mr Chu eventually chose to be merciful and let



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my family off in the end. So when he went to Japan, I already swore that the Wang family of Haozhou would serve nobody but Mr Chu for as long as we are still standing. Since I already made such a promise, I will keep my word.”

“You...” Baldy Liu clenched his teeth in frustration upon hearing these words. “How foolish! Nobody can save you now!”

Baldy Liu could see that Wang Jie-Xi was determined to fight Lu Ming-Feng to the bitter end, so he couldn't be bothered to persuade him any further.

Lu Ming-Feng finally lost all patience for them.

“Fine. Very good. What a moving display of loyalty and unity. Since the three of you are so attached and grateful to that Mr Chu, I'm going to send you down to hell to reunite with him.”

Lu Ming-Feng slammed the table with a shout.

“Men! Beat these three to death now! After they're dead, fling their bodies into the



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Yellow River to feed the fish. After that, call Shao-Hua and tell him to bring his men to destroy the Li family of Yunzhou, the Lei family of Jingzhou and the Wang family of Haozhou. I'm going to wipe these three families out from Jiangdong forever!"

HUUU!

A strong wind carried Lu Ming-Feng's enraged and sinister voice to fill the entire ballroom.

Everyone paled upon hearing these words.



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Good heavens!

Lu Ming-Feng had decided to completely kill everyone in the Li, Lei and Wang families.

Had things really come to this after all?

Even though many people in the ballroom had seen this coming, they were still terribly shocked when it was really about to happen.

Lu Ming-Feng was as vicious and aggressive as Ye Fan after all.

Immediately after Lu Ming-Feng gave the command, four or five burly men with bats came walking in from outside.

They immediately walked towards Li Er and the other two men.

Li Er looked like he already knew that Lu Ming-Feng would pull such a stunt. He didn't look panicky at all and actually laughed.

“Lu Ming-Feng, did you think it would be so easy to get rid of me? Did you think we really walked into this trap of yours without making any prior preparations? I told you earlier that we're going to break some of



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Chapter 1056 Have You Asked Me

your teeth even if we have to die trying!”

Li Er snorted threateningly, then yelled towards the door, “Master Zheng, I’m counting on you!”

Li Er had already arranged for some fighters to stand guard outside the restaurant before coming.

The one in charge of these men was the one who had the chance to meet Ye Fan a few times and Li Xue-Qi’s martial arts teacher, Zheng He!

Everyone immediately started panicking and got up to move further back.

They knew that a fierce fight was about to break out.

These rich and powerful men were afraid of being implicated in the fight, so they quickly ran to hide themselves near the walls.

But even after an entire minute had passed, nobody appeared from outside the restaurant.

They couldn’t even hear the sound of



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footsteps.

“What’s going on? Are Master Er’s men caught in a jam?” Everyone was surprised.

Li Er frowned and hesitated for a moment before yelling at the door again, “Master Zheng He, please show yourself! Master Zheng! MASTER ZHENG!!”

But even though Li Er’s voice was hoarse from shouting so loudly, the person he had been calling out for never appeared.

“Hahaha! Master Er, stop wasting your energy. He’s not coming.” Lu Ming-Feng’s sniggers suddenly rang out.

Li Er’s eyes were bloodshot as he shouted angrily, “You bastard! What did you do this time?!”

Lu Ming-Feng ignored him and just clapped his hands twice.

BOOM!

The ballroom door was kicked open from the outside with a blast.



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A figure came flying in like a cannonball and crashed onto the floor right in front of Li Er.

“This is...Master Zheng?!” Li Er was horrified when he looked at the bloodied corpse lying at his feet.

His expression was mortified and his eyes narrowed in fear. His face had already turned a whiter shade of pale.

He never thought that the person he had been relying on the most tonight to turn into a corpse before even making an appearance.

“Young Master Lu, sorry for causing any alarm. I’ve already settled the problems outside. I’ve wiped all of them out as per your instructions!” A muscular middle aged man in a long gray robe appeared in the ballroom with no expression on his face whatsoever.

If one looked carefully, one would find that this man looked a lot like Wei Wu-Ya.

This man was actually Wei Fu, the son of the martial arts grandmaster, Wei Wu-Ya!



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“Very good. You are the son of a grandmaster indeed! You’ve done an excellent job. Once your father returns from Jingzhou, Shao-Hua and I will host a banquet for the both of you as our way of showing our gratitude,” laughed Lu Ming-Feng proudly. His merry laughter was filled with boastfulness.

This trip to Jiangdong had gone so smoothly not only because Chen Ao had cooperated with him. The main reason why everything had gone well was because of Wei Wu-Ya and his son.

The two of them were highly skilled martial artists and were such fantastic experts in this area.

Having them within his control was the same as having control over tremendous strength!

The only thing that could last the ages was brute strength.

Once you had strength, you had everything.

This father and son duo was like a sharp knife that stabbed holes all over Ye Fan’s

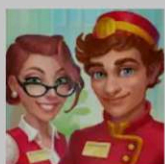


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preciously managed Jiangdong.

After thanking Wei Fu, Lu Ming-Feng turned back to Li Er.

“So, you still want to fight with me? That’s as good as suicide!” laughed Lu Ming-Feng as he shook his head.

He raised his arm and brought it down suddenly, as if he had just sentenced Li Er, Lei San and Wang Jie-Xi to death.

“Fucking asshole, go to hell!” Li Er and Lei San immediately pulled out a gun from their jackets.

They aimed their guns at Lu Ming-Feng after that furious roar.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Countless shots were fired and sparks flew from the barrel of the gun as the white hot bullets tore through the air and headed straight for Lu Ming-Feng’s head.

Everyone was horrified at this sight.

Even Lu Ming-Feng suddenly paled and his



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expression fell immediately.

“Young Master, watch out!” Wei Fu reacted quickly and hurried over.

He dashed out and pushed Lu Ming-Feng out of the bullets’ path in a split second.

PEW PEW PEW!

The bullets whooshed past Lu Ming-Feng’s body and eventually hit the wall behind him instead.

The restaurant shook slightly as the concrete wall chipped and revealed some frightening cracks.

When they realized they had missed, Li Er and Lei San took aim again. But Wei Fu used the back of his leg to kick the two wineglasses in front of him.

PANG! PANG!

Two crisp sounds were heard as Li Er and Lei San’s guns were hit to the floor by those two wineglasses.

The broken glass cut deeply into the hands



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they used to hold the guns and they started bleeding.

“Thrash them! Whack them hard! Make sure they die!” roared Lu Ming-Feng like a mad dog whose tail had been stepped on. After barely escaping death, Lu Ming-Feng lost control of his emotions and his handsome face was no longer as calm and collected as before.

After Li Er and Lei San lost their guns, they were like a tiger without teeth, so they were now an easy target for Lu Ming-Feng’s men.

The burly men who came in earlier kicked Li Er, Lei San and Wang Jie-Xi to the floor, then used the iron bats in their hands to hit them repeatedly.

It didn’t take long for their faces to be covered with blood, and their cries of pain filled everyone’s ears.

Baldy Liu paled and didn’t dare to look anymore.

Chen Ao clenched his fists and felt terrible inside.



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He turned around and was about to plead for them when Lu Ming-Feng immediately yelled, "Anyone who dares to plead for them shall be as guilty as them!"

"But..." Chen Ao wanted to say more.

"Enough! Chen Ao, don't forget what we agreed on. If you want your wife and daughter to stay alive, you'd better not go against me. Otherwise, I'll make sure your family ends up just like the Li and Lei families!" Lu Ming-Feng's sinister words made Chen Ao swallow everything he wanted to say.

He shut his eyes and didn't dare to look at them nor say anything.

The only person in the mood to laugh was Lu Ming-Feng.

"HAHAHA! This is what happens if you dare to go against me! From today onwards, I, Lu Ming-Feng, will be the King of Jiangdong! Who dares to defy me?"

Lu Ming-Feng stood proudly with his hands behind his back. His arrogant gaze was icy.



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Chapter 1056 Have You Asked Me

Smugness was written all over his threatening expression.

Just then, a calm voice seemed to ring out from the very depths of hell.

“You want to be the King of Jiangdong? Have you asked me?”



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Those words were so frosty, the authoritativeness in them sent chills down everyone's spine.

Everyone immediately felt like they had just fallen into an icy abyss.

"Who...who is that?"

"Who is it?"

This voice from nowhere shocked everyone.

But Chen Ao's heart immediately skipped a beat.

"This voice...could it be...could it be...?!"

In that instant, an insane idea immediately flooded Chen Ao's heart.

"No, it can't be him. Nannan said she watched the flames engulf him. I'm overthinking it. I'm just overthinking it." Chen Ao quickly suppressed the thought in his heart.

He clenched his fists and shook his head profusely as he chanted this to himself repeatedly.



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Chapter 1057 Return of the King

BOOM!

A blast was finally heard.

The building trembled and tiny broken pieces of concrete were sent flying.

Everyone watched on in fear and horror as they saw the wall behind them instantly crumble.

It felt as though a demon had opened its gigantic mouth wide and took a bite of the wall. A dark hole the size of a human suddenly appeared in the wall.

A skinny figure stood in the middle of that hole.

A shadow was cast on his face, so it was impossible to see what he looked like.

But those sinister and icy eyes seemed to belong to a demon living in the lowest levels of hell, and was looking straight at all of them right now.

He didn't need to say anything.

Everyone felt like their souls leave their



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bodies just by watching him stand there.

“Oh. My. God.”

“What the...”

Everyone felt like they were about to pee their pants.

This was the highest floor of Haiyuan Restaurant.

This place was at least 20 or 30 meters above ground.

In other words, this person had literally flown up this height and smashed through the wall to get here!

“Is this guy...even human?!”

“He’s got to be a monster!”

The entire ballroom was in a panic.

Even though these men were all big shots and were of the highest standing within their own city, they were just ordinary folks who had no superpowers. They had never seen anything so terrifying before.



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Now that they were staring at a man who must have flown up several meters and broke a hole through a wall to get here, they felt as if everything they knew about the world was a lie.

“You...you...who are you?! How dare you barge into Haiyuan Restaurant and pretend to be someone great?” Lu Ming-Feng’s expression was equally pale.

This was the first time he was seeing such a scary scene too.

This person had suddenly appeared this high up a building. He must be a ghost of sorts.

Even Wei Wu-Ya would have found it difficult to manage such a feat despite being a grandmaster.

But now someone capable of doing this had actually appeared here just like that. It was only normal for Lu Ming-Feng to be completely terrified out of his wits.

But even though he was so terrified inside, he still tried to ask this intruder who he was.



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However, that person did not reply Lu Ming-Feng.

He just looked up and set a foot into Haiyuan Restaurant.

The minute he stepped into the restaurant, his face was revealed to everyone in the ballroom and the entire place fell completely silent.

Everyone was rooted to the floor and it felt like time suddenly stood still.

The entire world was covered with a deathly silence.

HUU...

An icy wind continued to gust in from outside the restaurant.

It blew through the hole behind the man and filled the entire ballroom.

In that instant, everyone shuddered. But it was not from the temperature of the wind.

Everyone stared in disbelief at the man before them, as if they had all seen a ghost.



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“Mr...Mr Chu?!”

Indeed, the skinny young man before them was Ye Fan!

The true king had returned to make sure that every subject who dared to rebel against him perished!

“Are you...are you really...really...Mr Chu?”

“How...how can this be?” Chen Ao shuddered violently. He wasn't sure if he was shuddering from shock or from fright. The man who once ruled over Jiangdong himself actually started shaking.

The rest were even worse off compared to Chen Ao.

“No...no...this can't be, you're already dead! How can you still be alive?!” Xia Yue shrieked hysterically with reddened eyes.

Baldy Liu couldn't even get a single word out of his mouth because he was too frightened.

His mouth was wide open and he just pointed a finger in Ye Fan's direction as he looked like a chicken being strangled. He felt



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like he was only able to exhale air but unable to inhale any.

His heart was filled with nothing but horror.

Chen Ao and the rest couldn't believe it at all. Ye Fan had disappeared for more than a month and had supposedly died in Japanese waters. But he was standing before them now.

Everyone had only one question left in their minds.

Was Ye Fan a human or a ghost?

But while everyone else was still wondering about this, Li Er and the others half beaten on the floor caught sight of Ye Fan too.

This moment felt like travelers in the night seeing the break of dawn arrive.

Or like someone who was drowning in the water and finally found something to help him keep afloat.

The light at the end of the tunnel could finally be seen.



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There were no words to describe how Li Er and the rest who remained loyal to Ye Fan felt right now.

They felt like they were heavily wounded warriors who were losing a battle, and their king had come back to fight for them at the very last moment.

The three men immediately started bawling when they saw Ye Fan.

“Mr Chu!! I just knew that you hadn’t died! I knew you were definitely still alive! You’re so formidable, I was sure you wouldn’t perish so easily!”

“Mr Chu, it was so hard waiting for you to return! Do you know how messy Jiangdong has become while you weren’t around? It’s a complete mess!”

Li Er’s words were filled with sorrow and misery as warm tears flowed down his cheeks.

He was already in his forties, but he was wailing away like a baby in front of Ye Fan.

Lei San and Wang Jie-Xi were a little less



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emotional, but there were tears on their face as well.

They thought they were really going to die today.

But now, the king they had been waiting for had finally returned!

They weren't going to die after all.

They felt as if all their hard work had finally paid off.

The three of them endured the terrible pain in their bodies, grit their teeth and dragged themselves over to kneel at Ye Fan's feet.

"Mr Chu, we were useless and weren't able to protect Mufan Group, Miss Qiu, nor all of Jiangdong for you. We were the ones who disappointed you! Mr Chu, please punish us!" said Lei San in a loud and clear voice even though he was beaten very badly and bleeding all over.

Li Er and Wang Jie-Xi also knelt and bowed before Ye Fan.

"We were useless and we've disappointed



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the trust and hopes that Mr Chu had for us. Mr Chu, please punish us!”

“Mr Chu, please punish us!”

Their voices were like muffled thunder as it reverberated through the entire ballroom as well as everyone’s heartstrings.

Everyone else in the ballroom had pale looks on their faces.

All the fear and terror they used to have for the great Mr Chu of Jiangdong had returned to them.

Who the hell was the one who said Ye Fan was dead?!

He was clearly still alive!!

Everyone’s heart immediately sank.

They all looked at one another and clearly had no idea what to do now.

Were they supposed to continue acknowledging Ye Fan as their leader or support the new leader instead?



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Chen Ao had an even more ghastly expression on his face. He bowed his head and remained silent. He didn't even dare to look up at Ye Fan.

“So you're that Mr Chu? That asshole who's nothing but a young punk?”



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

A malicious sounding voice quietly rang within the ballroom.

Lu Ming-Feng's expression darkened as he looked warily and cautiously at the man in front of him with his icy gaze.

He couldn't believe Ye Fan was actually really still alive.

He had even barged so arrogantly into Haiyuan Restaurant and completely upset all of Lu Ming-Feng's plans.

"You're a really lucky one. I'm really surprised you managed to survive. You're probably the only person who has ever survived a surprise attack by the Chu family." After a brief moment of shock, Lu Ming-Feng quickly calmed down again.

Lu Ming-Feng did know a thing or two about what happened to Ye Fan.

The Lu family was a powerful family in Yanjing and had some dealings with the Chu family.

They had managed to enter Jiangdong with help from the Chu family as well.



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

“That so called King of Jiangdong, Ye Fan, has already died after the Chu family attacked him. Nobody is in charge of Jiangdong now, so you can replace his role and take control of Jiangdong!” That was what the Chu family had told Lu Ming-Feng before he had left.

Lu Ming-Feng had believed in those words fully back then.

It never crossed his mind that the Chu family would actually make a mistake.

Ye Fan wasn't dead!

He had come back alive.

“But so what? It's too late to change anything now. Mufan Group which you built from scratch, has been completely destroyed by me. All the rich and powerful of Jiangdong belong to me. The entire province has stabilized and will continue to be this way from now on. I have become everything to Jiangdong!”

“So what if you're back? Did you think you could still turn the tables?” laughed Lu Ming-Feng coldly. His handsome face was filled



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

with smugness and arrogance.

“Of course, I know how powerful you are, Mr Chu. You turned the tides at Mount Tai and you became famous after the battle at Dongchang Lake. But even if you can defeat one person or ten people, what about a hundred? Or a thousand? Ye Fan, matter how powerful you are, you are by yourself.”

“I, on the other hand, am backed by an entire clan. The Lu family is one of the most powerful families in this country. When it comes to family background, who in China can rival me? But you? You’re just a country bumpkin of lowly birth. You’re all by yourself and you think you can fight the Lu family?”

This was what Lu Ming-Feng was counting on.

He knew that Ye Fan was physically very powerful and was able to break almost anything.

But he remained unafraid because Lu Ming-Feng’s identity and family background was the one thing he could rely on.

Lu Ming-Feng had gotten into a lot of trouble



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

and offended a lot of people in his lifetime. But once those people knew that he was a scion of the Lu family, nobody dared to make Lu Ming-Feng responsible for any wrongdoing and even turned around to apologize to him instead.

That was what it meant to have power and an influential family background!

Even if you were really strong and formidable, you had to bow in the face of power and influence.

That's why Lu Ming-Feng remained calm and unafraid even after witnessing how Ye Fan had flown into the air and broke through the wall earlier.

He knew that Ye Fan wouldn't dare to hurt him!

Nobody on earth would dare to!

The entire ballroom fell silent.

Nobody said anything at all. They were all too frightened to speak. Only Lu Ming-Feng was still smiling faintly as he sipped his tea leisurely at the table.



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

Ye Fan didn't say anything either. His skinny silhouette remained standing where it was.

"Mr Chu? Why aren't you talking? Weren't you filled with authority and emanating with dominance just a few moments ago?" The smug smile on Lu Ming-Feng's face grew wider.

Ye Fan's silence had only served to make Lu Ming-Feng even more complacent.

He thought that Ye Fan was scared.

But that only made sense. The Lu family was so powerful with such a long and rich history of influence in the country. Many of his ancestors and family members worked for the government all these years, so they held quite some clout in China.

His was a family that Wu Wei-Tao wasn't even fit to visit.

And because the Lu family was this powerful, everybody had to be a little more cautious around Lu Ming-Feng.

Even Xu Lei didn't dare to touch him even though she was also the head of a very



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powerful family.

Because of that, Lu Ming-Feng couldn't care less about a country bumpkin like Ye Fan.

Lu Ming-Feng felt gleeful as he continued to shake his head and laugh.

"My my, it looks like Mr Chu is a clever man after all. You know who you can offend and who you can't. Tell you what, why don't you pour me three glasses of wine, then kneel and bow before me, and swear that you will never set foot into Jiangdong again. If you do that, then I will let you go and leave in one good piece. I won't take offense at what you've done today," said Lu Ming-Feng flatly as he looked disdainfully at Ye Fan.

Li Er and the rest immediately clenched their fists tightly.

They felt that Lu Ming-Feng was ridiculously arrogant and audacious!

But they didn't say anything and looked quietly at Ye Fan as they waited for him to reach a decision.

After all, Lu Ming-Feng was right too. It was



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

hard for any ordinary person to fight the influence that the Lu family had.

If Ye Fan decided to bow to him, Li Er and the rest would not say anything.

Everyone else in the ballroom was also waiting for Ye Fan to make a choice.

But to everyone's surprise, Ye Fan suddenly burst out laughing.

That laughter was sinister, but it also sounded sarcastic and mocking.

"What are you laughing about? You're already going to die and you're still in the mood to laugh?!" Lu Ming-Feng was infuriated.

Ye Fan's smile made him extremely displeased.

"What am I laughing about? I'm laughing at the lofty dreams you have, and I'm laughing at how you seem completely oblivious to your impending doom. I don't even have any regard for the Chu family, so why would I care about the Lu family?" laughed Ye Fan coldly.



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

The temperature of the room steadily declined as Ye Fan continued to laugh.

“Lu Ming-Feng, are you overestimating yourself? Or underestimating me? You have no idea what sort of person is standing before you right now. You have no idea that everything you are so proud of is not even worth mentioning to me!”

His words were as loud and firm as the sound of gold clattering to the floor.

His icy words filled the ballroom with an intense authoritativeness.

Ye Fan took one step towards Lu Ming-Feng each time he said one sentence, and that overbearing aura around him increased at the same time.

Ye Fan’s aura exploded as he shouted furiously, “You want me to lower myself and offer you wine? You want me to kneel down and beg for mercy? You are nothing but an ant to me! You have no right to make me do such a thing!”

“How dare you! Are you tired of living? How dare you actually say such disrespectful



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

things to Young Master Lu! Do you have a death wish?" Wei Fu immediately burst out shouting at Ye Fan sternly before Lu Ming-Feng even responded.

"So noisy!"

Ye Fan shouted back at him coldly.

BAM!

Ye Fan gave a mighty kick!

PFFFT!

Wei Fu's ribs broke and blood spurted everywhere.

He seemed so invincible earlier before Ye Fan appeared, but now, Ye Fan had simply kicked him and sent his hefty body crashing into the wall behind him.

Wei Fu's head immediately exploded with a loud explosion.

Blood and brain juices sprayed in all directions.

A broken corpse slid lifelessly down the wall.



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Chapter 1058 Noisy

The son of a grandmaster had lost his life at Ye Fan's hands before he could even yelp.

Silence.

It was completely silent.

Only the echoes of Ye Fan's angry shout earlier resounded in the ballroom.



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Chapter 1059 Coffin from the Sky

“What...”

“Oh my god...”

Everyone’s eyes were fixed on the man standing in front of them. They looked at him as if he was a demon.

None of them dared to even breathe too loudly because they were too petrified.

They stood there in a daze as tsunamis surged through their hearts wildly.

One foot!

Just one foot!

Wei Fu had not been afraid of gunfire or bullets, but he had exploded on the spot from a kick.

He had literally exploded.

His entire head burst.

His bright red blood was mixed in with other bits of his head and was splattered all over the white wall he crashed into.



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Chapter 1059 Coffin from the Sky

The stark contrast between the two colors were glaring to the eye and filled everyone's hearts with fear.

"Oh my god!"

"What just happened?!"

Everyone felt their eyes twitch and they nearly peed their pants.

Ye Fan's viciousness had really startled every single person in the room right now.

Those who had led the way in betraying Ye Fan like Baldy Liu, was even more panicky inside. He felt like killing himself now.

If Ye Fan could kick Wei Fu hard enough for him to explode, he could do the same thing to them.

Before this, Baldy Liu and the other powerful men with him were still hopeful.

They were quite sure that Ye Fan would dare to offend the Lu family and wouldn't fight with Lu Ming-Feng head on like that.

But they had been wrong.



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They had been terribly wrong.

The reality in front of their own eyes had slapped them hard in their own faces.

Who dared to say that Ye Fan wouldn't attack the Lu family?

Who still dared to say that Ye Fan was afraid of powerful Yanjing families?

Wei Fu's predicament was clearly Ye Fan's most powerful blow to Lu Ming-Feng.

"You...you...you actually...killed him?! How dare you! You little bastard! You're finished! How dare you touch one of mine! The Lu family of Yanjing will make sure you die horribly!"

Lu Ming-Feng was awfully shocked.

He never thought that Ye Fan would dare to cross him.

And Ye Fan had even killed Wei Fu.

This was clearly an act of provocation towards Lu Ming-Feng!



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Lu Ming-Feng was so furious that his eyes were bloodshot and his yelling at Ye Fan was hysterical.

But Ye Fan wasn't bothered by Lu Ming-Feng's furious shouting and just smiled coldly.

"Make me die horribly?" Ye Fan asked him in return, "Do you think you still have the right to say such things to me now?"

Ye Fan was already standing right in front of Lu Ming-Feng.

He expressionlessly looked down coldly at Lu Ming-Feng.

He looked like a king looking down at an ant on the floor.

"What...what are you trying to do? You're just a despicable country bumpkin and a hooligan of lowly birth! You wouldn't dare to touch me, would you?!" shouted Lu Ming-Feng fiercely and loudly at Ye Fan,.

PAK!

Ye Fan didn't say anything. He just lifted his



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hand and brought it down to slap Lu Ming-Feng on the face.

Ye Fan slapped him so hard.

Lu Ming-Feng went flying, crashed into several tables and chairs before finally crashing heavily to the floor.

His mouth was filled with blood and his face was twisted to one side. He had lost several teeth too.

This scene alarmed everyone in the ballroom again.

They didn't expect Ye Fan to actually hit Lu Ming-Feng.

Wasn't he worried about Lu Ming-Feng's background at all?

Wasn't he afraid that Lu Ming-Feng's family would seek revenge?

Everyone was too afraid to even utter a single word, and even the ones on Ye Fan's side started to look worried now.

They had dared to use guns on Lu Ming-



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Feng earlier because they were prepared to die along with him.

But now that even Ye Fan had hit Lu Ming-Feng, they began to worry for Ye Fan's safety.

While everyone else was still in shock, Lu Ming-Feng managed to climb to his feet while clutching his face.

He glared at Ye Fan with bloodshot eyes once again.

"You...how dare you hit me! How dare you!!"

PAK!

Ye Fan gave him yet another tight slap.

This time, the other side of Lu Ming-Feng's face was contorted and he spat a mouthful of blood and teeth.

But even so, Lu Ming-Feng continued to smile threateningly at Ye Fan without fear.

"Hoho, very well. You've got some guts. You're the first one all these years who's dared to hit me. But I promise you that you



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will regret everything you've done today!" Lu Ming-Feng laughed maniacally with a mouth dripping with blood.

"You probably haven't had the chance to visit your hometown in Jingzhou yet, have you? I forgot to tell you that I've sent Elder Wei over to the Ye estate in Jingzhou to pay your family a visit on your behalf. Aren't you curious to know what's happened to your relatives?" Lu Ming-Feng's sinister voice quietly spoke. His words were clearly a threat to Ye Fan.

When he saw that Ye Fan had suddenly stopped walking, the smile on Lu Ming-Feng's face widened.

"HAHA! Are you scared now? If you don't want your family to die, then you'd better kneel down now and beg to be finished off!" roared Lu Ming-Feng through clenched teeth.

"You despicable bastard! How could you use Mr Chu's family to threaten him? Is that what a man ought to do? You're shameless!" cursed Li Er from behind him.

But Lu Ming-Feng wasn't bothered by these



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words. He started smiling even more brightly now.

“Since time immemorial, winners take all. Anything that helps me to reach my aim is something a man ought to do.”

But while Lu Ming-Feng was still laughing loudly and caught up in his smugness, Ye Fan shook his head and slowly said to him, “Oh? So he is Elder Wei to you? Well, I’d like to ask you the same question. Aren’t you curious as to what’s happened to this Elder Wei you rely on so much?”

Ye Fan chuckled and his voice sounded like he was teasing Lu Ming-Feng.

Lu Ming-Feng frowned. “What do you mean by that? Are you going to say that you’ve finished Elder Wei off? Do you think I’d believe you? Elder Wei is a grandmaster fighter who can break anything in his way and has reached a high level of martial arts. You’re just a lowly gangster, so there’s no way you would be a match for Elder Wei. You’re lucky that he isn’t here today, otherwise you would be lying dead on the floor by now!” shouted Lu Ming-Feng confidently with an icy gaze as his pride



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overcame the pain in his body.

Ye Fan immediately burst out laughing.

“Is that so? He sounds pretty formidable. I wonder if this person is the same Elder Wei that you talk about.”

Ye Fan flicked his sleeves.

A strong surge of energy surged out from him.

The energy caused a shadow to fly in from outside the window.

It crashed right in front of Lu Ming-Feng with a loud bang.

“This...”

“It’s a coffin!”

When everyone realized what that flying black shadow was, they gasped in horror and exclaimed in shock.

A gigantic coffin landed horizontally in the middle of the ballroom just like that.



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Ye Fan kicked the lid of the coffin aside and the corpse inside was revealed.

The body inside was revealed to be Wei Wu-Ya, the grandmaster whose throat had been pierced by Yu Yun in Jingzhou!

BOOM!

Lu Ming-Feng looked like he had just been struck by lightning when he saw who was lying inside the coffin.

His entire person was rooted to the floor.

“How...how can this be?!”



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"This...this is impossible. This is definitely impossible. Elder Wei is a grandmaster and he's hired by Shao-Hua to protect the entire clan. How could he die like this? This is simply impossible!" Lu Ming-Feng was beginning to panic when he saw the very cold and dead body lying inside the coffin.

It was impossible for him to stay calm now.

Besides his powerful background, the other thing he was relying on to conquer Jiangdong was Wei Wu-Ya.

But now, Wei Wu-Ya was dead.

Lu Ming-Feng was panicky and frightened.

"What...what did you do? What on earth did you do?! How dare you kill Elder Wei?!" Lu Ming-Feng was on the verge of losing his mind as he started yelling and questioning Ye Fan loudly with reddened eyes.

But Ye Fan couldn't care less about what he was saying. His striking features were covered with a layer of frost.

His icy voice sounded like it came from the depths of an abyss, which made everyone



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shiver in fear.

“I not only dare to kill him, but I also dare to kill you too!”

HUU!

A cold wind suddenly gusted.

Ye Fan's expression suddenly became even more frosty than before.

Murder seeped from his very pores.

“You...what are you trying to do?!” Lu Ming-Feng was really frantic now.

He realized that none of the things that had protected him all these years were working now.

Even his identity as a descendant of the Lu family wasn't providing him any protection now.

This was the first time he was left completely defenseless in front of someone else's execution blade.

Lu Ming-Feng was in such a panic that he

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stumbled over his own feet and collapsed onto the floor.

He looked in despair as Ye Fan's footsteps drew near to him.

But just before Ye Fan could strike, someone suddenly dashed forward and held Ye Fan back.

"Mr Chu, don't do it! The Lu family is extremely powerful and we really can't afford to offend them. If you really kill him today, his family will make sure that disaster befalls both yourself and Jiangdong! Besides, his best friend, Xur Shao-Hua, is also the scion of another powerful family in Yanjing. If Lu Ming-Feng dies, Xur Shao-Hua will probably avenge him too."

"If two extremely powerful families decide to strike you at the same time, I'm afraid that you will be in grave danger! Mr Chu, please consider the bigger picture first before letting your anger get the better of you," pleaded Li Er in a miserable voice as he stood in front of Ye Fan.

Lei San and Wang Jie-Xi also stumbled over in support of what Li Er said. "Mr Chu, he's

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right. This Lu Ming-Feng has already learnt his lesson, so there's no need to kill him off. It's better to look at the bigger picture for the sake of Jiangdong!" they tried hard to persuade him against killing Lu Ming-Feng.

They were sure that the Lu family would fly into a rage if Ye Fan really killed Lu Ming-Feng now.

They knew that Lu Ming-Feng was the heir to the Lu family and was of very high standing in the family.

If he was killed, the Lu family would definitely go all out to make sure Ye Fan paid for doing such a thing.

Once that happened, Ye Fan would find himself in very dangerous circumstances again.

And Ye Fan wouldn't be the only one receiving the brunt of the Lu family's wrath either. All of Jiangdong would suffer along with him.

That wasn't something that Li Er and the others wanted to see.

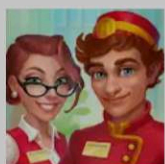


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In the end, Ye Fan held himself back after the three older men stopped him.

He looked down at the pathetic looking Lu Ming-Feng at his feet and said coldly, "Since Li Er and the rest have spoken up for you, I'll let you off this time. Get lost before I change my mind. Get out of Yunzhou and out of Jiangdong."

These words were spoken without any emotion whatsoever.

They were as calm as the waters inside an ancient unused well.

Ye Fan was always like this. He was calm even when he was saying nasty things.

He looked so nonchalant, it was as if he was just casually catching up with Lu Ming-Feng.

But the severe implications of those words were fear-inducing.

Lu Ming-Feng didn't dare to say anything now.

He had already lost all courage when he saw Wei Wu-Ya's dead body earlier.

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He didn't care about his image or dignity anymore and literally scrambled out of the restaurant.

"Phew..."

Li Er and the rest breathed a long sigh of relief after Lu Ming-Feng ran off.

The pressure they had felt in their hearts had dissipated.

"Oh my god, that was frightening. Mr Chu, I'm so glad you let him off. Otherwise, I really don't know what terrible things might befall Jiangdong in the future. I was really afraid that you were going to kill him earlier," said Li Er as continued to calm himself down.

He sounded like he had just survived a terrible ordeal.

Li Er and the other two had really been terribly anxious.

Just a few minutes ago, their hearts were about to leap out of their mouths. They were afraid that Ye Fan might really kill Lu Ming-Feng in an act of rashness.

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After all, it was in line with Ye Fan's character to do something like that.

Thankfully, Ye Fan stopped himself in time.

As long as Lu Ming-Feng wasn't dead, then there was still a chance to turn the tables on him.

Jiangdong would still be Mr Chu's.

But Ye Fan didn't reply Li Er. Instead, he walked to the sofa and poured himself a cup of tea.

The fragrance of the tea soon rose into the air along with the steam, but it failed to warm up Ye Fan's frosty look.

"These people have made a mess of Jiangdong, destroyed my business, hurt my wife and tried to kill my mother. Did you think I would really let him off so easily?" sneered Ye Fan coldly as he held the teacup in his hands.

The iciness in his eyes remained chilling.

Li Er was stunned to hear these words. "Then Mr Chu, just now you..."

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Ye Fan shook his head and laughed. "If I didn't let him go, how would I be able to find out where Xur Shao-Hua is hiding himself? I'm not going to let go of either one."

What?

Li Er and the other two men shuddered at this.

Their eyes widened in shock.

"So...so...Mr Chu, you intend to...kill them both?" asked Li Er in horror. He was feeling numb all over from fright.

He thought that Ye Fan had shown Lu Ming-Feng mercy because he heeded his advice and was afraid of blowing matters up since the Lu family was really formidable.

But his assumptions had been wrong.

Perhaps, Ye Fan had never intended to let them off from the beginning.

Li Er's horrified voice was still echoing in the ballroom.

But Ye Fan didn't reply and just smiled.

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He picked up his teacup, threw his head back and drank the whole cup of tea down.

HUUU...

The wind made the clouds roll quickly through the skies.

An ominous feeling went through the doors and windows to blow through the ballroom.

Everyone couldn't help but shiver.



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