

“Hm?”

Chen Hao walked over and took the note to read it.

As expected, a line of words was clearly written on it. “Chen Hao, let’s meet at the Sky River Bridge in Thai City, tonight at 12!”

The name of the sender was not written.

That line of words were all that could be seen on the note.

“Could it be that Ximen Yu purposely left us a note to lure us out as she couldn’t locate us?” asked Tie Cheng dubiously.

Chen Hao shook his head and said, “It can’t be. If she couldn’t locate us, she would begin a frantic search all over the country for us like a mad woman. Moreover, judging from her personality, this doesn’t seem like what she would do.”

This situation became even more odd.

He didn’t have many acquaintances in the Ancient City. Who would be asking for a meet-up with him?

In the end, Chen Hao decided to go check it out.

“Tie Cheng, you stay here. I will go check it out!” said Chen Hao.

“Noted!”

The Sky River Bridge was located near the countryside south of Thai City. A vast river flowed beneath the bridge.

It was half an hour before twelve when Chen Hao reached there.

Few passersby could be seen in the area.

The surroundings were pitch black.

The ambience of the area was gloomy and slightly frightening.

Chen Hao kept a constant lookout of his surroundings. As he was unaware of the person who had invited him here, he must be extra vigilant.

Suddenly, he saw a wooden boat on the river with its lights on heading toward his direction.

Under the dim moonlight, Chen Hao noticed a man wearing a straw hat standing on the wooden boat.

He was dressed like a peasant who lived a secluded life in the mountains.

The man was rowing the boat at a fast yet steady speed.

Chen Hao had an inkling that the man was not your average person.

At that moment, his ears could not help but twitch.

The sound of metal chains could be heard from all directions and it was getting closer and closer to him.

Clink! Clink!

The metal chains clinked rhythmically.

Thereafter, six figures emerged from the darkness.

There were six men, seven altogether if you count the man who was rowing the boat on the river.

“Chen Hao, you actually came!” one of them sneered.

Chen Hao took a look at the note in his hands and stared at them icily. “Are you guys the one who left me this note in order to lure me out? Is it really necessary?”

Chen Hao was nonchalant.

“Stop asking so many questions. So, are you going to surrender or do you want to be captured by us?”

The leader of the group swung the metal chain and threatened with a smile.

“Where am I going? Were you guys sent by the King of Nine Doors or Yun Qing?”

As Chen Hao was looking at them, he gradually made his way toward the leader at the same time.

Seeing how Chen Hao was being submissive, the corners of the leader’s mouth curled up in a smile.

From what he had heard, both Tie Hong and Ba Gui had died because of him.

Now, it seemed like there was nothing special about this kid at all.

“Stop asking so many questions. You will get to know everything once you follow us!”

The leader displayed a subtle smile.

“Okay!” Chen Hao nodded his head with an icy stare.

Out of the blue, a brilliant light flashed through Chen Hao as he circulated his Inner Energy throughout his body.

Bam!

A deafening sound followed.

Chen Hao lifted one of his legs and aimed it at the chest of the leader who stood in front of him. He was too swift for the leader to respond and before he knew it, his body was thrown tens of meters away.

A substantial amount of blood spurted out midair.

“Argh?”

The leader's face was covered with blood. Obviously, he had suffered grave internal injuries.

The rest of them were stupefied.

None of them expected that Chen Hao would make a move so quickly.

On top of that, it seemed like Chen Hao's skills were extremely good.

"Bastard, how dare you!" someone howled.

A metal chain swung toward Chen Hao's neck.

The man was immediately seized by Chen Hao and he pulled him toward his chest. Then, he lifted up one of his legs and hit that man right on his head. His head exploded and some parts of the bridge's fencing were destroyed by the blow as well.

Agonizing shrieks ensued.

Chen Hao's current skills might not be the best. However, he had improved by leaps and bounds after going through the Way of Heaven's baptism.

What surprised Chen Hao the most was the Inner Energy of these men. Similar to Tie Hong's, it seemed like their Inner Energy had undergone some changes.

However, the changes in their Inner Energy were slightly different from that which happened to Tie Hong and Ba Gui, whom he had killed.

Why were there so many highly-skilled fighters whose Inner Energy had undergone changes?

Before long, Chen Hao got rid of the men.

The man with a straw hat that seemed like an extraordinary man on the boat saw that none of his men were capable enough to fight Chen Hao. He was deeply shaken after witnessing Chen Hao's power with his own eyes.

He could not even be bothered when the straw hat on his head was blown away by the night breeze.

Anxiously, he turned the boat around and started to make his way back.

Chen Hao was way too strong an

opponent for him. If he did not run away, he would definitely get killed!

He was astonished.

Nonetheless, it was impossible that Chen Hao would let him go.

With one agile leap, Chen Hao landed on the deck of the wooden boat.

Bam!

As soon as Chen Hao landed on the boat, the strong impact caused strong waves to ripple across the river.

The man with the straw hat who was just about to jump into the water was jerked upward.

He landed right in front of Chen Hao and his neck was immediately grabbed by him.

"I have only one question for you. Who sent you here?" asked Chen Hao icily.

"Hmph, do you think I will tell you? If I were to tell you, my life would never be spared. If I kept it a secret..." snorted the man.

Snap!

Chen Hao clenched his hold without any hesitation. With that, the man's neck was snapped in two.

Seconds before his imminent death, he stared at Chen Hao in disbelief.

Was Chen Hao not curious about the identity of the person who sent them here to kill him?

In the beginning, he planned to slug it out for a while and execute the skill of the Spirit Flower when the opportunity arose.

At first, the seven of them thought it was unnecessary to use the skill of the Spirit Flower on Chen Hao.

It never occurred to them that Chen Hao would be this vicious.

He assumed Chen Hao would not kill him as long as he kept his mouth shut. At most, he would only be tortured by him.

Yet, he was wrong!

Chen Hao tossed the body into the river.

“If you’re not going to talk, forget it!”

Looking at the floating corpses on the river and around the end of the bridge, Chen Hao sunk into deep thought.

Up until today, there were already three forces trying to kill him.

Two forces were already known. One of them was Yun Qing and the other was that of the King of Nine Doors.

As for the seven men he slaughtered tonight, their Inner Energy had undergone a drastic change too.

The Inner Energy of both Tie Hong and Ba Gui had undergone some changes too but the change was different.

Something similar had happened to these seven men. They were different from the Three Saint Sect and the King of Nine Doors.

In short, there was now another force which was going after him. Moreover, his identity and location had already been compromised.

“Eh?”

Chen Hao caught sight of some mysterious flower petals coming out from the bodies on the surface of the river.

The flower petals could not be more familiar to Chen Hao.

Was it the Spirit Flower?

They had actually brought the Spirit Flower with them?

Could they be the men of the Gu Family? Chen Hao speculated.

Is someone from the Gu Family trying to capture him?

“Cough! Cough!”

Suddenly, the sound of a lady coughing came from the cabin on the wooden boat and took Chen Hao by surprise.

Lifting up the curtain, he saw a lady lying inside.

Obviously, she was unconscious. Also, she looked like she had just had her spiritual

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energy attacked by the Spirit Flower. Her eyebrows were tightly knitted together and she was coughing non-stop.

Of course, that was not the matter that surprised Chen Hao the most.

What was more astounding was that the lady turned out to be Gu Yuxiao...



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Gu Yuxiao?

It really was her!

As it turned out, she was still alive!

Back then, the two of them got to know each other during the journey to the Sea Palace. Along the way, Chen Hao had saved her life many times.

At the entrance to the Sea Palace, they had been knocked unconscious due to the impact of the Spirit Flower. By the time he woke up, Gu Yuxiao had disappeared, and Chen Hao had been living in remorse since then.

He had even sent some men to carry out a meticulous search in the surrounding waters for over a month. In the end, he failed to determine if she was alive or dead.

At that time, Chen Hao had speculated that she was still alive and had already been rescued by someone. Moreover, she had probably found the body of the lady in white as well.

After all, it was within Chen Hao's

knowledge that Gu Yuxiao was also in search of the lady in white.

It never occurred to him that half of his speculations would be true.

Why is she here?

Isn't she from the Gu Family?

Bewildered, Chen Hao executed a mystical skill.

Soon, Gu Yuxiao started to look better.

Her mesmerizing eyes twitched slightly before her eyelids slightly lifted.

She was taken aback by the sight of Chen Hao in front of her. Then, she immediately grabbed Chen Hao's arms.

"Chen Hao, there are people going after you! Run!" she exclaimed anxiously.

"Are you referring to them?"

Chen Hao helped her up and showed her the bodies floating on the surface of the river.

“Did you kill all seven of them?” asked Gu Yuxiao in disbelief.

“Yes! If I am not mistaken, all of them are members of your family, right?” asked Chen Hao.

Gu Yuxiao lowered her head as a tinge of redness flashed across her pretty face. “Yes, the seven of them were highly-skilled fighters of our family. I didn’t expect them to track me down and attack me with the Spirit Flower. I knew they were going to do something bad to you!”

“It seems like you have been keeping a lot of secrets from me. Only now do I finally realize you’re not so bad a fighter. At that time, I was unable to discern the unusual Inner Energy in your body. Have you been putting up an act all this while?” asked Chen Hao in an understanding tone.

“Yes, I had indeed lied to you. But Chen Hao, ever since we started to get to know each other, I never intended to harm you, not at all!” clarified Gu Yuxiao anxiously.

It was as though she desperately wanted to avoid being misunderstood by Chen Hao.

“Do you think I will still believe you? A distinguished lady of the Gu Family?” countered Chen Hao with a forced smile.

“Regardless of whether you believe me or not, we shouldn’t stay here for too long. Follow me to my hide-out and I will slowly explain everything to you!” implored Gu Yuxiao.

As Chen Hao was looking at her, her eyes were filled with sincerity.

However, he was no longer his old self from two years ago. The more beautiful a woman was, the better she was at lying.

Back then, he used to be tricked and deceived by this pretty lady.

Now, he could not help but be more vigilant.

If he were to fall into her trap once again, it was unlikely that he would be able to get away unscathed.

He could see that the Inner Energy contained in Gu Yuxiao’s body was unusual. However, she was currently no match for him at all.

In fact, Chen Hao was afraid of the Spirit Flower, not her.

“I know you’re afraid of the Spirit Flower. I will throw all of them away now and stay by your side. I don’t think you have to be afraid of me at all, as you’re capable enough to kill the seven highly skilled fighters of my family.”

It was as though Gu Yuxiao was answering the inner doubts in Chen Hao’s mind. She fished out the Spirit Flower and scattered each and every petal on the surface of the river.

“Do you finally trust me now? I invited you here to offer my explanations. However, I didn’t expect my great grandmother to send her men to track me down!” she explained.

As she was speaking, her eyes teared up and started to turn red.

“I didn’t mean to bring you harm, Chen Hao!”

“Well, since the Spirit Flower is no longer with you now, I don’t have to worry about you playing any tricks on me. At most, we

will just perish together!” said Chen Hao after taking a deep breath.

He then grabbed Gu Yuxiao’s shoulders before leaping to the bank from the boat.

After Gu Yuxiao had informed him of the location of the hide-out, Chen Hao grabbed hold of her and rushed toward the location.

Chen Hao could not help but be more wary.

Currently, his skills were still not good enough to fight the King of Nine Doors and Yun Qing.

Moreover, he had to deal with the mysterious Gu Family.

The two of them reached a cave in a mountain located in the outskirts of the town.

Chen Hao sealed the flow of several blood vessels in Gu Yuxiao’s body.

“Hehe, until now, you still don't trust me. Do you still think I will bring you harm?” Gu Yuxiao took a deep breath as she tried to

suppress the disappointment deep down inside her.

“For some people, I choose to believe only once, not twice!” replied Chen Hao rigidly.

“Spill. You promised to tell me everything and only the truth.”

“I’ve got it. However, I still have a question for you. Previously, you saved my life numerous times and you helped me in a lot of ways. Furthermore, after what happened to me, you continuously sent your men to look for me in the sea for over a month. You even instructed the seamen in that area to inform you immediately once they found me. Did you do all these things just to get the answer you wanted from me, or because of other reasons?” Gu Yuxiao asked Chen Hao with red eyes tinged with a layer of moisture.

As it turned out, she knew about everything he had done and had cared about it.

“In the beginning, I agreed to bring you along to the Sea Palace because on one hand I was worried about your safety; on the other hand I also wanted to get some

clues from you. After that incident happened, it was because of self-blame. I promised to bring you there but I had failed to bring you out, hence I was overcome with guilt! That was why I cracked my head trying to think of all kinds of ways just to look for you!” explained Chen Hao.

Back then, Chen Hao had actually offered her help to suit his own needs.

However, Chen Hao found it hard to leave such a young girl to continue her journey all alone.

Therefore, he agreed to bring her along to the Sea Palace. He had not anticipated that she would perish at sea. Because of this, Chen Hao had been sad and remorseful for a long period of time.

If he knew that this would happen, he would have given up the chance to gain those secrets and refuse to bring her there.

As Gu Yuxiao was listening to him, the corners of her mouth curled up in a gratified smile.

At least, she was sure that Chen Hao had once treated her as a friend.

She started to develop feelings for Chen Hao not only because of that accursed Master Ghost's Marriage Stone, but also because of how Chen Hao saved her life numerous times.

At first, Gu Yuxiao was tasked to assassinate Chen Hao. However, because of her feelings toward him, she could not make herself do it.

Otherwise, Chen Hao would have never reached the Sea Palace.

Of course, Gu Yuxiao had yet to fall in love with Chen Hao at that moment. She just couldn't make herself do it.

Things stayed that way up until the incident that happened to her. She disguised herself and saw how Chen Hao had nearly overturned the ocean just to look for her.

On top of that, he sat on the seashore in solitude for an entire day and just stared at the sea.

He had managed to salvage a piece of her jewelry from the sea. In the end, he tossed it back into the waters.

Undoubtedly, Chen Hao was overwhelmed by guilt and self-reproach at that time.

He had indeed treated her as his friend.

Gu Yuxiao found it very sweet and endearing. Throughout her entire life, no one had ever treated her that way before.

As she recalled the moments she had with Chen Hao, she finally realized the wickedness of Master Ghost's Marriage Stone.

She began to miss Chen Hao every single day and constantly worried about his safety.

The more she thought about him, the more anxious she became. She tossed and turned, finding it hard to sleep...

Could my love life be ending on such a sad note? Am I falling in love with a man who will never love me back?

No matter what, Gu Xiao had pledged not

to deceive Chen Hao twice.

“Fine, I will tell you everything I know! After this, any existing relationship between us will have to come to an end. Hehe, I’m afraid we can no longer be friends in the future!” said Gu Yuxiao before taking a deep breath.



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