

“What happened?”

Everyone gathered around immediately.

What they saw next left them astounded.

On top the sand dune laid two corpses.

Under the moonlight, they could clearly see that the two corpses were completely mummified. Their bodies had dried-up, as if all the liquid inside had been sucked out.

“It’s Ming and Yuan!” someone wailed upon recognizing their shirts.

“How did this happen? It has only been half an hour’s time!” Although Professor Yang was a seasoned man, he was in disbelief and felt numb all over.

“It’s Grandmother Goat. S-She came!” Mr. Pang gulped nervously and spoke in great horror.

Everyone became even more frightened and huddled together.

“Qin Ya, come to my side. I have a gun,” Li

Wanhao said in fear.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pang had kneeled on the ground and started to pray.

Many of them also followed Mr. Pang and prayed along.

“Grandmother Goat, we’re just passing by. We don’t mean any harm, so please have mercy!” they murmured their prayers.

At this moment, Chen Hao approached slowly and went to inspect the two corpses. “It was not Grandmother Goat. It was just a beast!”

“N-Nonsense! You are ignorant and pompous. Beware of being killed first by Grandmother Goat!” Mr. Pang thought Chen Hao’s remark was disrespectful. Out of fear, he reprimanded him.

“Beware of being killed first by Grandmother Goat!” suddenly, a faint voice came howling along with the sand and wind.

“Beware of being killed first by

Grandmother Goat!" this voice echoed repeatedly.

It sounded like a child, causing the atmosphere to be exceptionally creepy under the night sky.

Professor Yang and the rest held their breath.

At this moment, everyone averted their gazes behind Chen Hao.

"Sir, be careful behind you!" Qin Ya and Shen Mengxue stood up and shouted at the same time.

Their voices were filled with great terror.

However, Chen Hao had noticed her from the start.

At this moment, he looked in that direction with a frosty gaze.

A creature with beaming green eyes and messy hair crawled out slowly from the other dune.

She had a body similar to that of a human. At first glance, she looked like a human. However, her tongue was dragging on the ground and there were innumerable barbs on it.

She was mimicking their words while crawling toward Chen Hao.

“Grandmother Goat!!” Mr. Pang was frightened once again. He quickly kneeled down and kowtowed repeatedly.

“I’ve been searching for you all day and night. Finally, you showed yourself!” Chen Hao said coldly.

With Chen Hao’s speed, he would have certainly surpassed the middle region of the desert by now.

However, he noticed the presence of this beast not long after he entered the desert.

If it was in the past, Chen Hao would have chosen to avoid it and continue his journey.

But it was different this time because Qin

Ya was behind him.

This beast would often attack tourists and ordinary beings would not be able to fight against it.

Due to the concern for Qin Ya's safety, Chen Hao came back for her.

Obviously, this beast was excited when it saw Chen Hao as its eyes became intense and it was drooling green liquid.

"All of you should go first. I will handle it!" Chen Hao turned back to instruct Professor Yang and the rest.

Upon hearing his instruction, they nodded willingly.

"It's just a beast anyway. What do I need to be afraid of? Qin Ya, don't worry. I will protect you! See how I will kill it with my gun!"

Then, Li Wanhao scooped out a gun from his pocket and pulled the trigger, shooting directly at the creature.

Of course, Li Wanhao would definitely not allow his rival to steal the limelight.

To his dismay, the creature was completely unscathed even after being shot.

Its skin was extraordinarily tough.

“What?” Li Wanhao was stunned.

Screech!

At this moment, the creature was infuriated and pounced onto Li Wanhao in a flash.

It grabbed Li Wanhao’s collar and hurled him up into the air.

When Li Wanhao brutally landed on the dunes, he tasted a rusty substance in his throat and blood spurted out of his mouth.

“What a strong creature!”

Professor Yang’s face went pale in fear and led the students further away to the back.

The beast's main target was obviously Chen Hao as it had sensed that he was a threat.

So, it turned to Chen Hao and pounced on him.

Bang!

With a harsh kick, even with a tough skin and thick flesh, the creature could not withstand Chen Hao's semi-Grandmaster's Inner Energy. It landed on the ground and writhed in agony.

All four of its limbs thrashed on the ground desperately.

"Sir, be careful!" Qin Ya, who did not run off with the others, frantically reminded Chen Hao.

Upon hearing Qin Ya's voice, the creature turned to stare at her. It then tossed sand at Chen Hao and leaped toward Qin Ya in a flash.

This beast was obviously intelligent as it knew the tactic of diversion.

Moreover, Chen Hao did not expect that it would attack Qin Ya.

Before Chen Hao could react, it captured Qin Ya and Shen Mengxue.

Swoosh!

Chen Hao quickly took out the Breaching Army.

A black beam flew in the air and hit right onto the creature's chest, but the creature seemed to be unharmed and remained active.

Right away, it barged into one of the dunes and disappeared along with Qin Ya and Shen Mengxue.

"Qin Ya!" Chen Hao's heart sank as he shouted.

However, the beast who could move around under the earth had escaped with the aid of the night's darkness.

This creature craved blood. If Qin Ya and Shen Mengxue became its prey, they

would definitely be dead soon.

“What should we do? What should we do? Qin Ya and Mengxue were captured!” the members of the inspection team cried out nervously.

Chen Hao walked to Mr. Pang who was still kowtowing and lifted him off the ground.

“Tell me, do you know where the nest of this beast is? And where does it usually appear?” Chen Hao asked in a cold voice.

“I-I don’t know. What are you planning to do? It’s you who infuriated Grandmother Goat. Once it’s angry, it will kill people!” Mr. Pang replied.

“Kill people, huh? Then I might as well kill you too!”

“Young man, hold your horses!” Professor Yang quickly walked over to Chen Hao and advised him.

He then turned to ask Mr. Pang. “Brother, this young man has the ability to kill that

creature. You've seen it just now. Besides, it has captured our people. Two human lives are at stake! So please, if you know where its nest is, tell us now. If we don't get there in time, the two girls will be gone forever!" Professor Yang said.

"I can tell you. But... Tell him to put me down first!" Mr. Pang looked at Chen Hao whose eyes were bloodshot and trembled in fear.

Chen Hao furrowed his eyebrows and threw him onto the ground.

As Mr. Pang tidied his own clothes, he answered, "What I heard from others is that we should never go to the well at the Ten Thousand Sand Dunes Ridge when we enter the desert. It's a restricted area. Whoever goes there will be captured and eaten by Grandmother Goat! So, that place might be the nest of Grandmother Goat. However, no one knows where the Ten Thousand Sand Dunes Ridge is and no one has ever seen it alive!"

"Ten Thousand Sand Dunes Ridge?" Chen Hao mumbled.

Chapter 546 Track Down

He then looked at his watch and gazed at the Big Dipper in the night sky.

“I know where it is!”

After that, Chen Hao ran toward a direction.

The location of Ten Thousand Sand Dunes Ridge was marked on the map that was given to him by a mysterious man.

Hence, it was easy for Chen Hao to locate the place by following the map.

“Sir, wait for us!”

The tourists were afraid to be left in this place and they only felt secured when they were beside this person.

Therefore, all of them ran after Chen Hao...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chen Hao hurriedly made his way to the Ten Thousand Sand Dunes Ridge at high speed.

The area was full of sand dunes intersecting each other.

Even though the place might not actually have ten thousand dunes, surely there were at least thousands of dunes around.

No wonder the region was named as the Ten Thousand Sand Dunes Ridge.

After searching around for some time, he failed to locate the ancient well.

Up until that moment, Chen Hao took a slight whiff.

Lowering his head, he looked toward the ground to find a pool of blood there.

The blood was dark green in color. Obviously, the blood belonged to that creature.

Although that blow by Chen Hao earlier did not cause any substantial harm to that

creature, it would have at least rendered the creature in a bad shape.

After all, it was an attack done by the Breaching Army. No matter how strong the opponent's defense was, an attack by the dagger would be destructive enough!

Following the blood stains, Chen Hou managed to locate the ancient well in no time.

The ancient well rested on the North side of a sand dune. Being very secluded, the whole area was quite similar to a cave.

"The creature is here!"

Chen Hao got closer to the well and took a sniff. A terrible stench came from down the well.

In order to get Qin Ya out, Chen Hao had no choice. Holding his breath, he jumped into the well.

The water in the well was deep. As he was going deeper into the water, he found a canal at the bottom.

An entire different world was found at the sides of the canal.

It was a subterranean river.

As soon as Chen Hao got up the sides, he spotted the creature with its tongue sticking out, staring at two people lying on the ground. They were none other than Qin Ya and Shen Mengxue.

Suddenly, the creature noticed the presence of another human and turned around abruptly.

It then revealed its sharp fangs to Chen Hao.

There was blood flowing out from its chest.

“Qin Ya! Qin Ya! Are you all right?”

At the sight of Qin Ya who was pale and unconscious, Chen Hao immediately called out to her.

“Bastard, let's see where else you could go!”

Chen Hao was enraged.

He threw out the Breaching Army before advancing toward the creature.

He was moving at an extremely high speed.

The creature was caught off guard by the double whammy from both the Breaching Army and Chen Hao.

Whoosh!

Following the sound, the Breaching Army pierced through the left part of the creature's chest, causing it to let out a shriek of agony.

Thereafter, following another whoosh, the Breaching Army pierced through the creature's neck.

The creature then pressed against its neck with its hands as it continuously screamed out in pain.

Chen Hao was eager to finish him off. Grabbing the head of the creature and

holding the Breaching Army in his hand, he lifted the dagger and landed it onto the creature's head, chopping it off.

"Qin Ya!"

After killing the creature, Chen Hao immediately rushed toward Qin Ya.

He examined her body all over. Luckily, Qin Ya merely fell unconscious due to shortness of breath. It seemed like the creature had not done anything to her just yet.

However, things were not looking too good either. After a long trek in the desert, both Qin Ya and Shen Mengxue were suffering from serious asphyxia.

"Girls, in order to save the both of you, please forgive me for what I am about to do!" Chen Hao was uttering to himself.

Under the circumstances, conducting cardiopulmonary resuscitation was the only viable way to save their lives. Otherwise, their lives would be in danger.

Naturally, he had to do it to Shen Mengxue as well.

Ten minutes after.

“Qin Ya, how are you feeling?”

Holding Qin Ya in his arms, Chen Hao swayed her body gently.

Finally, with a slight twitch of her eyelids, Qin Ya slowly regained her consciousness.

“C-Chen Hao?”

After she opened her eyes, Qin Ya grabbed Chen Hao’s arms in disbelief.

As Chen Hao was too eager to save her earlier, he had gotten rid of his mask.

He came to his senses only when his identity was exposed by Qin Ya.

“Chen Hao, it’s really you!”

At the sight of Chen Hao, Qin Ya got so emotional that she was on the verge of breaking down into tears. “Am I dreaming?”

Chen Hao, you appear in front of me again. Do you know that I have been missing you every single day for the past year? I miss you every day!"

Swiftly, Qin Ya lunged toward Chen Hao's embrace.

She grasped both Chen Hao's hands in hers tightly. She was worried that everything that happened was just a dream, and that if she woke up, Chen Hao would vanish into thin air again.

Sigh!

A trace of bitterness surged through Chen Hao's heart.

In his entire life, he could only let Qin Ya down.

Now, he could not afford to hurt her for the second time.

Chen Hao behaved coldly.

He put on a surprised look.

“Chen Hao? Miss, are you taking me for someone else?” he asked.

“You are talking nonsense. I could get everyone else wrong but you!” exclaimed Qin Ya while wiping her tears away. She was still gripping Chen Hao’s hands tightly.

“But I am not Chen Hao. My name is Chen Xuan. Is Chen Hao, as you have mentioned before, that guy who had carried you back then? Do we look very much like each other?” said Chen Hao with a calm expression.

Of course, he had adapted to that voice he had spoken in when he bumped into Qin Ya in the desert.

Qin Ya thought Chen Hao’s expression was very unfamiliar and strange. Moreover, that voice he was speaking in did not belong to Chen Hao she used to know.

Indeed, Chen Hao, whom she was in love with, was a lanky guy with fair skin. He was also a very gentle and quiet person.

Although the man who appeared before

her looked almost identical to Chen Hao, his body was too stocky. On top of that, his skin was a shade tanner.

Could there really be two people in this world who looked exactly like each other?

“Are you really not Chen Hao? But you guys really look so much like each other. It's just too similar! Can you not lie to me, please?” asked Qin Ya immediately.

“I have no idea who Chen Hao is and I have never met him before. Do we really look that similar?” asked Chen Hao.

“Yes!”

Qin Ya nodded. “However, the two of you are not entirely the same. Chen Hao is a very quiet and gentle guy. He doesn't have your agility and your physique. Sir, were you the one who rescued us?” asked Qin Ya after wiping her tears away.

Her eyes were full of disappointment.

Although he looks very similar to Chen Hao, Chen Hao does not have such

impressive agility and build.

I guess it's not him...

“Yes, you girls were brought to this place by that creature. It was a close shave. Luckily, I got here just in time! By the way, my name is Chen Xuan. You may show me Chen Hao’s photo sometime. I am very curious as to how similar we look!” said Chen Hao.

“Okay!”

Still, Qin Ya shot a look of disbelief at Chen Hao.

Nonetheless... The man before her felt unfamiliar and distant.

“Hmm...”

At that time, Shen Mengxue had woken up too.

“Mengxue, are you okay?”

Hastily, Qin Ya went to support her.

“I’m fine. I had a strange dream just now!”

Shen Mengxue scratched her head.

“A strange dream?”

“Yes. In that dream, I was being kissed by someone!” said Shen Mengxue.

“You have such bad timing. We nearly lost our lives and you still have the mood to crack jokes!” said Qin Ya in resignation.

“It’s true!”

Listening to their conversation, Chen Hao couldn’t help but blush.

“Ahh! You are that guy!”

At that moment, Shen Mengxue managed to recognize Chen Hao at once.

Uncontrollably, her face was filled with surprise and joy before turning completely red. With her eyes widened, she was staring shyly at Chen Hao’s face, looking absolutely smitten.

Before this, she tried to imagine his face all the time.

Could he be a gruff man?

She did not expect Chen Hao to look so handsome and dashing under the mask.

Shen Mengxue was about to suffer from shortness of breath.

“Yes, my name is Chen Xuan!” said Chen Hao.

“Chen Xuan, thank you so much for saving our lives!”

Shen Mengxue had her eyes fixated on Chen Hao.

As for Qin Ya, she did the same thing.

At the brief moment when Chen Hao’s face turned red, Qin Ya thought he looked exactly like Chen Hao. However, she was unsure whether it was just a figment of her imagination.

“You don’t have to thank me. I think there

are some more creatures looming out there in this area. I should bring you girls out of this place now!”

After saying that, Chen Hao got to his feet.

Only then did he start to scrutinize his surroundings.

“Is that a gate in the rock?”

Suddenly, Chen Hao noticed a squarish slit on the rock beside him.

It was shaped like a gate.

“It does seem like one!”

Qin Ya, too, averted her gaze in the direction. She nodded her head continuously and said...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“The only way to find out whether it’s really a gate is to give it a push!” said Shen Mengxue.

“Yes! Please take a step back, girls!” said Chen Hao while nodding his head.

His grandfather had told him many tales regarding this realm before. According to his grandfather, a place guarded by exotic creatures would usually contain treasures.

In fact, the Sun Totem was found by the ancestors of the Chen Family in a very well-hidden cave in a jungle. At that time, the cave was guarded by a white human-eating ape. Many of the family members died fighting the ape, only then did they manage to secure the Sun Totem from the cave where the white ape was living in. Ever since then, the Chen Family had a change of luck.

Since he was already there, there was no harm taking a look inside the cave.

The gate on the rock appeared to be very heavy and solid. Chen Hao needed to summon his Inner Energy in order to move

it. Therefore, he asked the girls to stand further away from him so that they would not be hurt.

He stroked the gate along its ridges.

After locating a spot on the gate, Chen Hao started to summon his Inner Energy.

Bang!

Debris of the rock filled the air.

The slit became bigger and bigger.

As expected, it was a gate.

Boom!

Following the loud noise, Chen Hao forcefully pushed the gate open while it was still moving.

A passageway appeared before the three of them.

“Could this be an ancient tomb?”

Shen Mengxue was thrilled as she scurried

over to Chen Hao and said while leaning close to him.

At the sight of this, Qin Ya felt slightly bitter.

“Judging from its looks, it seems like an ancient tomb!” Qin Ya chided in.

“Let’s take a look inside. You girls, stay behind me!” said Chen Hao.

He was not concerned whether the cave was an ancient tomb or whether there were any treasures inside.

After all, he did not have any desire for riches.

Cautiously, the three of them stepped inside.

There was a hall at the end of the passageway.

The hall was empty, except for a stone pedestal built in the middle. On top of the pedestal, a rectangular box made out of stone was placed upright.

It wasn't a coffin, which meant Chen Hao had no idea what was contained inside the box.

As for the surroundings, the walls were filled with murals. Eerie-looking paintings and patterns were drawn on the walls.

Under the flashlight, the murals were a rather frightening sight.

The hall brightened up after the oil lamps at four corners of the hall were lit up.

“Judging from the looks of this hall, this is not an ancient tomb. It looks more like a storage place. I suppose this place was used for storage after some construction work was done.”

Over the past year, Qin Ya had traveled extensively together with the inspection team. Therefore, she had some experience in this.

She pointed at the box as she spoke.

“Yes!” Chen Hao nodded his head in agreement.

“Chen Xuan, come and take a look at this. The paintings on this wall are really weird!” Shen Mengxue shouted.

Chen Hao walked over to take a look. Indeed, the murals looked unusual.

The murals depicted the lives of ordinary people in the ancient times. However, some people with abnormal physique and appearances were found among them.

In short, after taking a rough look at it, it seemed like the mural was trying to narrate a story about something hidden in this cave.

Chen Hao noticed that Qin Ya was zeroing in on the murals.

He then asked, “Qin Ya, are you able to understand the meaning behind the murals?”

“W-What did you call me just now?”

Qin Ya came to her senses as she stared straight at Chen Hao.

“Oh, I heard Mengxue calling you Qin Ya. I-I have no idea what is your name!”

“My name is Qin Ya!”

Just now, Qin Ya’s heart couldn’t help but skip a beat.

However, she quickly returned to the subject. “I can understand some of the paintings, but they’re really weird. It seems like the first painting is talking about a very strange incident that happened in this place years ago. Some weird-looking corpses fell from the sky to this place out of nowhere! Those corpses were all wearing very peculiar attire. Also, their faces were slightly unusual. It seems like they had died in a terrible way and all of them fell from the sky. Back then, this incident had caused quite a stir among the people. Being superstitious, the people here deemed the corpses as the celestial army. Moreover, they built a tomb and offered sacrifices to them,” Qin Ya explained.

“What an unbelievable incident. How could there be corpses falling from the sky? I bet

the people back then deliberately made up that part!”

“The second painting continued to talk about the celestial army. It seems like one of them was a very mysterious presence as his body was different from the rest. Special treatment was offered to his body as though he was the King. Throughout the journey of transporting his body to the tomb, the folks lined up on the streets and paid their respects to the body by bowing and getting down to their knees. It was as though they were praying to God! Apart from that, it was described that his body fell from the sky and landed on a tree!”

Qin Ya felt the story to be outlandish.

“However, I noticed that they transported two coffins,” said Shen Mengxue.

“It seems like the third painting offers some explanation on this. Inside the other coffin was an extremely gorgeous lady dressed in white. All of the folks were shocked when they saw her body. She died in peace and she was found on that tree together with that mysterious celestial

soldier. She was found sprawled on top of the soldier's body. I suppose the two of them were lovers and they wanted to be buried together!"

"On that day, this country held a grand funeral for the two Gods!"

"As for the fourth painting, I couldn't understand the final part of it. The front part talks about a weapon which was carried by the mysterious celestial soldier that was placed somewhere else. In the end, the mysterious celestial soldier and the lady in white were not buried together for some unknown reason. It seems like an old beggar stopped them halfway. Thereafter, the mysterious celestial soldier was placed in a special coffin which was then kept in a secret chamber. The King, the staff and the beggar were there. It even seems like that old beggar kept on laughing throughout the whole process!"

"What happened after that?"

Chen Hao was confused by the story.

"I can't really understand the last part.

However, that old beggar was mentioned. It seems like he knew some kind of sorcery or black magic. After the funeral was done, he let out some hearty laugh before vanishing into thin air! Thereafter, a gigantic thing appeared and it hovered over this town. It looks like a giant ship! I-I really can't understand this!"

Qin Ya shook her head.

How could there be a gigantic ship thousands of years ago?

Shen Mengxue, too, shook her head and added, "I'm guessing that all of these were just figments of people's imaginations. The mysterious celestial soldier and the lady in white, I think they were just some prince and his concubine. The people painted all these to commemorate their moving and genuine love. Everyone would have to kneel down to pay their respects to the soldier because of his distinguished status of a prince. As for those corpses that fell from the sky, I suppose all of them were the prince's personal troop. During those years, wars were ongoing between the countries in the West. I'm guessing the

prince could have died during one of those wars...”

“Pfft!”

Listening to her words, Qin Ya couldn't help laughing out loud.

“Although your love story sounds unrealistic to me, it does make a little sense! I think your story is quite logical, it might just be the truth!” said Qin Ya.

“Looking at how the people from thousands of years ago were able to draw out such a huge ship, I'm quite impressed by their vast imaginations!”

After making the comment, Chen Hao did not think about it further.

Looking at the stone pedestal in the middle of the hall, Chen Hao said, “In that case, I suppose the weapon of the mysterious celestial soldier is hidden inside that box?”

He then reached out and touched the box.

Chapter 548 Mysterious Murals

Gathering the Inner Energy in his hands, he opened the box in a single motion!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A gust of dust and debris surged toward them.

Both Shen Mengxue and Qin Ya walked over to the box and looked inside.

They saw a sword resting peacefully there.

Although the surface of the sword was covered by a layer of dust, it didn't prevent the sword from emitting a luminous glow.

From afar, they were able to sense the formidable chills of the sword.

"Although the sword was made thousands of years ago, it still appears to be very sharp!" Shen Mengxue commented.

Grinning, she was about to pick the sword up.

As for Qin Ya, she wasn't all that interested. She then turned around and continued staring at the murals.

"It's so heavy!"

Shen Mengxue was trying to pick up the

sword. However, the sword would not budge. It was as though it had grown onto the box.

“Let me try!”

Chen Hao reached out and gently lifted the sword, which came into his hands easily.

“It’s not heavy at all!” Chen Hao sneered.

He swayed his wrist to shake off the dust on the surface. It seemed to be quite a light sword.

Even so, the sword was extremely sharp.

A few characters were engraved on the surface of the sword, which spelled ‘Feather Sword’.

For some unknown reason, an unusual feeling crept up his body once he got hold of the sword.

“Could this Feather Sword be a magic tool as well?” said Chen Hao out of curiosity.

However, I didn’t sense any special aura

from the sword!

Nonetheless, Chen Hao was slightly excited deep down.

I just happened to have mastered three moves of using swords from the Breaching Army. Now, such a brilliant sword came into my possession. What a coincidence!

“You guys, come take a look at this! Something is not right with this mural!” said Qin Ya suddenly.

“Hey, stop studying the deified murals, Qin Ya. We should spend our time studying the sword instead!” Shen Mengxue couldn’t help but comment.

“That’s not the case. I saw the contents in the final part of the murals. It seems like they were not deified at all! Guys, come and take a look at this!”

At this moment, Qin Ya pointed to the final part of the murals.

“I am just stating a possibility. If the

person who had drawn the huge structure did imagine it to be a huge ship capable of flying and burrowing into the ground, everything seems to make sense! Because the final part seems to be talking about what happened during the night before the burial of the mysterious Celestial Soldier. On that night, the huge ship appeared and brought away three hundred young boys and girls from the town. The King and the rest of the people sent them off respectfully by getting down to their knees. In the end, the huge ship disappeared into the underground! Everyone knelt down. However, this painting deliberately emphasized the presence of the old beggar. He was the only one holding his head up while grinning. His face was somewhat hideous and it seems like the paintings are trying to show that he had an eerie smile! If that's the case, the whole story could be pieced together!" said Qin Ya.

"Pfft, Qin Ya, I noticed that you're the only one here with the best imagination. No wonder even Professor Yang would like to have you as his disciple. The paintings were drawn at least ten thousands years

ago. Since it was almost the Paleolithic age, it's impossible that a huge ship would have existed during that time! However, the people during that era were really impressive to be able to come up with such an imagination!"

"I know that. However, this mural just gives me an odd feeling!"

"I feel the same way!" said Chen Hao while staring at the mural.

Turning around, Qin Ya displayed a subtle grin at Chen Hao.

"Oh yeah, Qin Ya, where did the body of the lady end up in the end?"

At the sight of Qin Ya and Chen Hao exchanging glances, Shen Mengxue was suddenly distressed. Hastily, she put herself between the two of them and said, "Nothing is mentioned about the whereabouts of the lady. The paintings only depict that the lady and the mysterious soldier were separated from each other in the end."

“Chen Xuan, do you think the murals are deified?” asked Qin Ya while staring at Chen Hao.

“Hey, we should leave the discussion after we return to the ground. Chen Xuan, I am feeling hard to breath. Why don’t you bring us back up to the ground now?” Shen Mengxue said in an attempt to interrupt Chen Hao and Qin Ya’s conversation.

“Okay then!” Chen Hao nodded his head.

By the time the three of them got out of the ancient well, it was already late at night, with the moon hanging high up in the sky.

Together with the two girls, Chen Hao returned to the dilapidated building.

As Professor Yang and the rest of the team could not catch up with Chen Hao earlier, they had already returned.

Once again, everyone got together.

Other than the two members who had died, Li Wanhao was suffering from

serious injuries as well as a high fever. Several members were even feeling unwell out of fear.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team was fine.

Everyone had gone through a lot in a night. With Chen Hao there, the tension in everyone was finally released and they were able to take a good rest.

Chen Hao did not sleep. Instead, he started a bonfire and guarded the team.

Naturally, the two girls could not fall asleep as well.

Both girls kept their eyes wide open as they stared at Chen Hao who was sitting by the entrance of the building.

Under the moonlight, he appeared to be very stocky. His physique made one feel secured and safe.

“Qin Ya, are you awake too?” looking at Qin Ya who was lying beside her, Shen Mengxue could not help but ask in a soft voice.

“Y-Yes!” replied Qin Ya in a low voice.

“I kinda noticed that ever since we regained our consciousness back there, your eyes have never left Chen Xuan. Do you like him?” asked Shen Mengxue in a voice tinged with jealousy.

“W-Why would I?” said Qin Ya in denial.

Indeed, the man she was in love with was Chen Hao whom she realized that she could never let go of no matter how hard she tried.

Although Chen Xuan looked very much like Chen Hao, he was not Chen Hao whom she was in love with!

Qin Ya kept reminding herself in her mind.

However, she was unable to move her eyes away from Chen Xuan as he looked too similar to Chen Hao.

“It’s only because Chen Xuan looked slightly similar to Chen Hao!” said Qin Ya in a soft voice.

“He may look like him, but he is not him!” said Shen Mengxue.

Listening to Shen Mengxue’s words, Qin Ya turned her side and asked, “How about you? I can tell that you have a crush on Chen Xuan, am I right?” asked Qin Ya with some bitterness deep down.

“Yes. Although I have come across numerous dashing and brilliant rich guys, no one could touch me as deeply as Chen Xuan does. I have been waiting for my dream guy for so many years, and now, I’ve finally found him!” said Shen Mengxue.

“Oh.”

Qin Ya was experiencing an emotional turbulence inside her. She felt uncomfortable and restless at the same time.

“Therefore, I would like to confirm with you first, Qin Ya. After all, we are besties. Since you have already said that you are not interested in Chen Xuan, I would like to make my move on him, is that okay? My dream man is finally here after such a long

wait. This is the first time that I've fallen for someone!"

Shen Mengxue held onto Qin Ya's hands softly as she implored.

Qin Ya was unsure of her own feelings.

I love Chen Hao. But Chen Xuan looks very much like Chen Hao. He's exactly like Chen Hao who I have missed terribly all this while.

Why is that?

It was because some of Chen Xuan's gestures were so similar to Chen Hao's.

She thought so especially at the moment when she had just regained her consciousness.

She had heard Chen Hao calling out her name.

Although she was unsure whether she was imagining things, she was certain that it was Chen Hao's voice.

Moreover, when Chen Xuan blushed, Qin Ya noticed that he looked exactly like Chen Hao since the latter, too, blushed when they first met each other.

That was not all.

Earlier in the stone cave, the way Chen Xuan pursed his lips looked oddly similar to Chen Hao.

Could he be Chen Hao? Is he trying to conceal something from me?

He may be lying to me, but as I was staring at him, the longing look in his eyes says it all.

After all, most girls were usually good at observing and taking in details, Qin Ya being one of them.

An instinct started to grow inside her and it was a very strong one!

Therefore, she had no idea how to respond to Shen Mengxue...

Chapter 549 Qin Ya in A Dilemma



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“Qin Ya, I’ll deem your silence as your acknowledgement. From tomorrow onward, I am going to pursue Chen Xuan!” said Shen Mengxue.

“Hmm!” Qin Ya replied in a soft voice.

The man she loved was Chen Hao. Even though Chen Xuan and Chen Hao looked almost the same, that didn’t change anything.

After all, he was not Chen Hao.

Since Mengxue is interested in him, she has the right to pursue her own happiness. Qin Ya, you should not be so selfish! Deep down inside, Qin Ya kept on reminding herself.

As both of their minds were occupied, they couldn’t sleep for the entire night.

The next morning.

“Chen Xuan, are you thirsty? I have some water now, here you go!”

Everyone was done packing their luggage

and getting ready to leave.

Chen Hao cast a sideways glance at Qin Ya.

He noticed that Qin Ya was secretly staring at him.

At that moment, he responded to Shen Mengxue with a gentle smile and said, "I do feel somewhat thirsty!"

"Hehe, take a gulp then. Last night, you gave your everything in rescuing and protecting us. After that, you did not even rest at all. You should drink more water!" said Shen Mengxue with a smile.

After taking a sip, Chen Hao asked, "Why does this water taste sweet?"

"Ah? It tastes sweet? How could it be?" Shen Mengxue was shocked. It took her awhile before realizing she was being fooled.

Redness flashed across her pretty face. "You are so annoying, Chen Xuan! You tricked me!"

Both of them were fooling around with each other.

Standing by the sides, Qin Ya could not help feeling tension rising in her palms.

Her expression started to look stiff.

Indeed, all the while, she thought she was the one Chen Xuan preferred. However, it was possible that Mengxue and Chen Xuan could turn out to be a perfect couple. Just look at them, they're having so much fun with each other!

Throughout the whole journey, Chen Hao constantly chatted with Shen Mengxue both casually and deliberately.

In fact, he purposely did so for Qin Ya. He wanted to make it clear that there was no way her relationship with either Chen Hao or Chen Xuan was going to work out. Qin Ya, please forget about Chen Hao as soon as you can and start a new relationship.

At some point throughout his journey, Chen Hao came to accept that he could no longer return to his previous life.

He could not afford to hurt her again after the last time. Therefore, that was his last resort.

“What’s happening in front of us?”

The team set off in the early morning and carried on their journey until noon.

At that moment, the convoy of carriages were pulled to a stop.

Mr. Pang exclaimed in consternation.

“It seems like there’s a car ahead destroyed following a crash. There are people there too!” one of them shouted.

“What nonsense are you talking about? We’re in the middle of the desert. How could there be any cars here?” asked Professor Yang.

Chen Hao stared ahead. At that moment, he could not help frowning.

“That’s not a car. That’s a helicopter!”

With that, Chen Hao scurried toward it.

Professor Yang and the rest of the team saw Chen Hao as the core of the group. Immediately, all of them went to surround him.

An accident had indeed happened here. The remnants of the body of the helicopter scattered all over the ground.

There was still some warmth lingering on the remnants.

Obviously, the accident happened in the early hours of the morning.

“There are people over there but it seems like they have died!” exclaimed Shen Mengxue in shock.

Chen Hao darted toward one of the sand dunes.

As expected, around three to four bodies were found there.

After taking a closer look at the corpses, Chen Hao’s eyes twitched vigorously.

“Why are they all dressed in black robes?”

“No way... Could they be some tomb raiders as shown in the dramas? Otherwise, why the need to dress so covertly?” one of the team members suggested.

All of them could not help but gulp. For some reason, they were overwhelmed by fear.

No one noticed Chen Hao's expression.

Being slightly fidgety, he went to check the breathing of the people lying on the ground. All of them had no sign of life.

How? How could they have appeared here? Chen Hao asked himself.

These people were not strangers. They were none other than the members of the Soul Palace.

At the sight of the remnants of the helicopter, Chen Hao felt like he had somehow seen it before. At the same time, he started to feel restless deep down.

When he confirmed the corpses' identities,

it was only to be expected that grief started to take over his mind.

The members from the Soul Palace were part of the Chen Family too!

It seemed like they were here to trace him down. Helicopters owned by the Soul Palace were usually provided special maintenance so that they would never crash. Several possible causes of the accident could be ruled out, judging from the engine oil splattered all over the scene.

In that case, exactly who killed them?

Chen Hao did a thorough inspection around.

Finally, he managed to find some clues from one of the bodies found nearby.

Apparently, this person was killed twice.

It was because traces of the person crawling around could be seen on the ground.

After removing the person's clothes, Chen

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Hao saw a distinctive palm print on his chest.

He was killed twice.

As expected, someone killed them!

“Eh? This palm print?”

Chen Hao was caught in a daze.

The mark was made by someone’s left palm.

Everyone from the Soul Palace was an Inner Energy practitioner.

Ordinary folks wouldn't have been able to take their lives.

It appeared that whoever hurt them was a Grandmaster who was stronger than him.

Someone who was a Grandmaster... Who used only his left hand!

Mo Canglong!

Chen Hao’s eyelids twitched violently and

immediately grew alarmed.

Indeed, he had witnessed with his own eyes how Mo Canglong dragged his helicopter down.

Moreover, Mo Canglong was the only one who was capable and possible of doing such a deed.

Is it possible that he has pursued me all the way here?

Although Chen Hao was blessed with the protection from the Breaching Army, there was still a long way for him to go before he was able to fight Mo Canglong.

What a scumbag! It seems like he's desperate to get to me!

"Mr. Chen, are you alright? Are you able to recognize the remnants of the helicopter as well as the bodies?" Professor Yang couldn't help but ask after noticing Chen Hao's pale face.

"Yes!" Chen Hao nodded his head in agreement.

“What a pity! They all died in the crash. Sigh!” Professor Yang and the rest of them heaved out a sigh.

“The crash was not just a simple accident. All of them were murdered!” said Chen Hao after getting to his feet.

His words caused quite a stir among the group of tourists.

“T-They were murdered? Who would be capable of doing that?”

“It’s a long story and it’s hard to explain everything now. The killer is coming after me. Therefore, we would have to part ways for the rest of the journey. Professor Yang, all of you, please be extra careful!” Chen Hao advised solemnly.

According to Mo Canglong’s personality, he would not spare a single soul as long as he could find Chen Hao.

If the worst came, around forty to fifty members from the tourist group and the inspection team would be sacrificed.

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Hence, Chen Hao would not want to involve them, especially Qin Ya.

“Chen Xuan, are you going to leave us?” said Shen Mengxue with her eyes reddened.

“Yes, I have to go. Otherwise, all of you would be pulled into this mess with me!” said Chen Hao.

A short moment later, he recalled something in his mind.

He fished out the map of the desert from under his arm.

However, he quickly removed the location of the Longevity Coffin from the map using his Inner Energy.

He mulled over the map for some time.

After that, he walked over to Qin Ya who was staring at him.

“Please take this map with you. If you guys are continuing the inspection work, this would help with your work and assist you

guys in finding your way out of the desert,” said Chen Hao while staring at her.

As for Qin Ya, she was somehow taken aback by this.

At that moment, she saw a glimpse of Chen Hao in Chen Xuan as he stared at her.

“As a girl, you should protect yourself well, or you could find someone to protect you. As you said, I look very much like Chen Hao. Since I’ve heard some stories about him from you guys, I guess both Chen Hao and I would hope that you would be happy and have a great life ahead!” said Chen Hao after placing the map in Qin Ya’s hands.

Qin Ya started to breathe more rapidly.

“Everyone, we shall part ways now. Please do take care!”

Chen Hao nodded his head toward Shen Mengxue before leaving...

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