

Bigoted 821

Chapter 821: Sneaking Out on a Date

There was no need for him to swear his innocence. Qin Shu believed in him. Even if the most enchanting beauty on earth were to pass him by, Fu Tingyu would not spare her a second glance; such was her faith in the man who proclaimed everlasting love for her.

Yet, Jun Li's parting words sowed a seed of doubt. Qin Shu could not help but wonder if his words would ever come to pass.

Fu Tingyu held Qin Shu's hand and said with a smile, "Let's go. They're all waiting."

Qin Shu followed Fu Tingyu to meet up with the rest of their company. Jun Li had to be overthinking things. Although Fu Tingyu was exceptionally attractive, he was not some casanova. Many years had passed since they met, but no one ever caught his fancy.

No one but her, of course.

Her thoughts were interrupted by Qin Feng plaintive complaint, "Is it not enough that the two of you are husband and wife? Do you need to act all lovey-dovey in public? What about the rest of us who are still bachelors?"

Even though Qin Feng bemoaned his status, it did nothing to dampen the teasing smile on his lips. It was a smile devoid of jealousy; it was a smile of unmitigated joy for the person he cared about.

Qin Feng knew many couples who stuck to each other like glue while in the honeymoon phase of their relationships, only to have it all fall apart once they got married. It was not an uncommon phenomenon and occurred more so after they had children. Petty quarrels would escalate into arguments, eventually breeding contempt and resentment.

It was a common problem faced by every sector of society to varying degrees. In the upper echelons of society, the most significant contributor to these break-ups often had their roots in extramarital affairs during pregnancy.

When he saw that Fu Tingyu's feelings for Ling Bao were unchanged and, instead, had improved, the Ling Yan he once knew seemed to have turned over a new leaf.

Qin Feng thought it was a cause for celebration.

"Let's go," came Hua Wuyan's clipped response.

"Okay."

The group of six people got into different cars.

Fu Tingyu, Qin Shu, and Qin Feng took one car.

Han Xiao, Hua Wuyan, and Yan Shuang took another.

The two luxury cars headed to the airport.

It took them two hours to arrive at the airport.

The six of them walked into the departure hall.

Their subordinates had already checked in their luggage.

The plane would stop over at Nan Yue and land in Min Zhou. From there, they would be driven to Mount Qi, which was closer to North Star.

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After boarding the plane...

The tickets they booked were all first-class seats. Whether it was the seats or the space, they were much better than economy-class seats.

Naturally, the person who sat beside Qin Shu on the plane was none other than Fu Tingyu.

“Babe, you should get some rest.”

Qin Shu yawned. It was getting late, her eyelids drooping over her tired eyes. She had not slept much the previous night, and the accumulated fatigue was starting to get to her.

“Okay... I’ll sleep for a while.”

Since Qin Shu gave birth, the quality of her sleep improved tremendously. She rested her head on Fu Tingyu’s shoulder. Moments later, the soft, steady sound of her breathing sounded in Fu Tingyu’s ear.

He cast a loving look on Qin Shu’s sleeping form with a smile. It was going to be a long flight. Picking up a book he had brought with him, Fu Tingyu settled himself comfortably in his seat to enjoy his read.

It was four o’clock in the afternoon when they arrived in Nan Yue. There were six people in the group, excluding their subordinates; together, they made a party of nine. They arrived at the ancient city by car at seven-thirty in the evening.

It was not tourist season in Nan Yue, so there were not many sightseers crowding the streets, and it was not hard for them to check in at one of the local inns. This time was not the peak season for tourists, so there were not many tourists.

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Wind Shaw Inn...

After checking in, Qin Feng said, “Let’s take a break. We’ll meet up again at dinner.”

“I’m rooming with Ye Xiao, am I not?” Hua Wuyan flashed the number on his key card.

“It doesn’t matter; it’s the same in the end.” Qin Feng withdrew the key card to his room and led the way up to the second floor.

Fu Tingyu held the key card in one hand and hugged his wife in the other as they made their way upstairs.

Ye Luo accepted his card and carried the luggage, following the entourage upstairs.

Unlike the others, Yan Shuang was not in a hurry to head to her room. Sighing, she muttered, “I remember how we used to go down the mountain, passing by this very inn. It’s been almost eight years since then... The years have gone by in a flash, and much has changed...”

Han Xiao stared out at the familiar street that looked so alien now. Indeed, things were not as they had been eight years ago.

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In the guest room...

Ye Luo put down his luggage and left President Ba in his guest room.

Fu Tingyu tidied up his luggage, changing the bedsheets and quilts into the ones he brought with him.

Meanwhile, Qin Shu peered out the window facing the street below. Several giant red lanterns hung outside many shops lining the ancient city. It added some colour to the time-worn stones forming the city’s foundation.

The moon shed its fluorescent tears over the redrimmed city. It was a breath-taking sight.

On the way, she had heard Fu Tingyu and Qin Feng mention the ancient city of Feng Yue. They reminisced the days she would sneak out to play, though she ought to have been practising martial arts on Mount Qi.

Yet... she did not have the slightest impression of it.

After Fu Tingyu tidied up the bed, he noticed Qin Shu standing by the window. He went up to her and asked, “What are you looking at?”

Qin Shu turned around, coming face to face with Fu Tingyu, who was hovering over her like a sentry. “Feng Yue is beautiful. The view of the city at night is amazing.”

Fu Tingyu’s lips curled into a smile. Grabbing hold of Qin Shu’s delicate hand with his much larger one, he said, “I’ll take you to a place.”

“Where are we going?” Qin Shu asked.

“You’ll know when we get there.” Fu Tingyu clasped her hand in his, pulling the guest room door open. Like a puppet on a string, she had no choice but to follow him.

Initially, Fu Tingyu had wanted to jump out of the window with Qin Shu in tow. That way, they would not have to meet any others along the way. It was something he would have done had he been in peak condition.

Unfortunately, Fu Tingyu’s abilities had regressed because of his illness, and he still needed time to recover fully; otherwise, he would have opted for the more romantic option.

If he insisted on hopping out through the window, he would not be the one to carry Qin Shu – it would have been the other way around. The mere thought was enough to mortify him.

Qin Shu held onto Fu Tingyu's hand tightly, following him downstairs. "Aren't we going to eat together later?" She asked hesitantly.

"They can have dinner together." Fu Tingyu led her out of the inn, unfazed.

Han Xiao had just walked out of the guest room when he saw Fu Tingyu holding Qin Shu's hand as they went downstairs. He thought they were going downstairs to eat, but when he walked to the stairs, he found that they walked straight out of the inn.

He paused for a fraction of a second before giving chase.

Although it was not tourist season for Feng Yue, the streets were only marginally less crowded.

Qin Shu allowed Fu Tingyu to drag her along without complaint. No matter how she looked, she saw no sign indicating the existence of Mount Qi.

Mount Qi was supposed to be close by, but there was nary a mountain in sight. It seemed that it would not be an easy feat to locate the entrance to the sacred mountain. Perhaps it would be as difficult as ascending the heavens above.

Fu Tingyu finally stopped at the entrance of an alleyway. Confused, Qin Shu scanned her surroundings. The alley led to what looked like a snack street. Even some distance away, she could smell the mouth-watering fragrance of food wafting out into the main road.

As soon as she stepped into the alley proper, the sights and smells of a food lover's paradise greeted Qin Shu.

Fu Tingyu beamed when he caught sight of the twinkle in Qin Shu's eyes. He knew that she would like it. "Would you like to eat wonton noodles?"

"Wonton noodles?" Qin Shu remembered hearing of this particular dish on the way to Feng Yue. From the way they described it, 'wonton noodles' should be a delicacy. Her response was immediate. "Yes! I want to try some."

"I'll take you to my favourite hawker. She serves the best wonton noodles in all of Feng Yue."

"I didn't know you knew so much about food." Qin Shu muttered.

Fu Tingyu did not respond to his wife's jab at him. He simply shot her an indulgent look, escorting her into the snack street.

They walked for quite some time. The snack street had changed a lot in the many years since they had frequented it.

"I wonder if that noodle shop is still there?"

Qin Shu surveyed the shops on either side with a fanatic gleam in her eyes. "What's the name of the noodle shop?"

"Aunty's Wonton Noodles," was Fu Tingyu's short reply.

Aunty's Wonton Noodles?

It was a ubiquitous but uncommon shop name.

Soon, Fu Tingyu caught sight of a non-descript sign a little ways away that said 'Aunty's Wonton Noodles'. With barely restrained excitement, he pointed at the shop he hoped to patronize. "That's the shop."

Qin Shu looked in the direction Fu Tingyu was pointing. As he would have it, the shop was called 'Aunty's Wonton Noodles'. After so many years, the wooden sign had aged a fair bit, darkening several shades from the exposure to the elements. A red lantern illuminated hung from the rafters, revealing just enough for a passerby to make out the words 'Aunty's Wonton Noodles'. The words were barely legible up close. Qin Shu doubted anyone could have identified the words from afar.

"Let's go in." Fu Tingyu led the way into the small establishment.

Han Xiao, who had been tailing them, slowed down, inspecting the sign above the shop. It read, 'Aunty's Wonton Noodles'..

Chapter 822: A Dense Man Is Truly Infuriating

Han Xiao was startled.

The name on the signboard brought back a lot of memories.

That was because the Little Munchkin liked this restaurant's wonton noodles.

Back then, he would frequent the small shop with Little Munchkin because she enjoyed eating the food served by the establishment.

He could still remember the taste of the wonton noodles he shared with her eight years ago.

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Inside Aunty's Wonton Noodle Restaurant...

Fu Tingyu led Qin Shu to a vacant seat.

A waitress attended to them as soon as they were comfortably seated. The waitress had met all sorts of people in her line of work, with tourists being the store's primary customers. Yet, none of those she had served before could hold a candle to the man and woman's good looks. It caused a momentary lapse in her composure.

Qin Shu nodded at the waitress by way of a greeting. The waitress was a young girl around sixteen named Xiao Jiu, as reflected by the name tag pinned to her uniform. She was quite pretty, and the faintly discernable dimples that showed when she smiled lent her an endearing look.

She wore a white apron stained with oil around her waist.

It did not take a genius to know she worked for the noodle store.

When Qin Shu realised that the young girl was staring transfixed by the sight of Fu Tingyu, she covered her mouth with her hand and coughed twice. "Ahem, hmm!"

Fu Tingyu was pouring out some hot water from a thermos when he heard his wife coughing. Nervously, he asked, "Are you okay? Does your throat itch?"

Qin Shu shook her head with her dainty hand still covering her mouth. She sent a surreptitious glance in the direction of the waitress, hoping to have broken her trance-like state.

Fu Tingyu missed the inconspicuous byplay and handed his wife the cup of hot water he had poured. "Drink some water. It'll moisten your throat."

Qin Shu accepted the glass of hot water preferred and took a sip. Peering at Fu Tingyu through her lidded eyes, Qin Shu traced the sculpted lines and polished looks of the man seated opposite her. His long eyebrows were drawn, framing his eyes and nose bridge in a picture of concern. Paired with his chiselled jaw, Fu Tingyu was perfectly proportioned.

He was only wearing a white button-down shirt with a crystal brooch pinned to his shirt's collar, yet it was more than enough. No one who saw him would think him underdressed in the least, looking every bit the noble that he was.

As someone who had been in business for a long time, Fu Tingyu's gaze was steady and reserved, shining with wisdom that did not match his age.

He oozed a masculine charm that woman, let alone a young girl, failed to resist.

Qin Shu realised that Jun Li was right about one thing – he was too good at attracting women.

Only after Qin Shu's prompt did the waitress react. She turned to Fu Tingyu shyly and asked with a cherry-red face, "Excuse me, would you like to eat wonton noodles or just wonton?"

"Two bowls of wonton noodles, please." Fu Tingyu did not bother looking up as he placed his order. He did not have anyone but his wife in his eyes, relieved that she was no longer coughing.

The waitress was stunned. "O-okay. Please hold on. Your two bowls of wonton noodles will be ready soon."

She hurried away with the order, stopping by the kitchen window and hollered, "Two bowls of wonton noodles."

Fu Tingyu stared dreamily at his wife as she sipped from the glass of hot water. "Don't drink too much, or else you won't have room to eat the noodles when it arrives."

Qin Shu pouted in response, putting down the glass of water. Meeting his steady gaze, she asked, "Do you know the waitress?"

Fu Tingyu answered quickly, "No," before countering with a question of his own, "Did you remember something?"

Qin Shu shook her head. "No, I was just curious. You seem quite familiar with this shop, and I could not help but wonder. Do you know the owner?"

"No."

"Oh..."

Fu Tingyu laughed. "I may not know the boss, but I recall you used to be pretty close with the boss."

"Me?" Qin Shu's quirked brow betrayed her scepticism.

"Yes."

Not long after, the waitress returned with two bowls of wonton noodles. She placed a bowl in front of Fu Tingyu and the other in front of Qin Shu.

Casually, he asked the waitress, "Have you had a change of boss?"

The waitress did not expect to be addressed so suddenly after the cold shoulder he gave her earlier. For an odd reason she could not place, the waitress felt her face flush crimson. "The boss hasn't changed. My family has been running this noodle shop for more than ten years. My parents are in the kitchen; I usually help around the store on weekends or after I finish my homework."

Fu Tingyu flashed the young girl a winning smile. "I wonder if the Lady Boss still remembers you..."

The young waitress felt her heart flutter in excitement. His words, his smile, his very demeanour, everything about Fu Tingyu ensorcelled her maiden heart. She could have sworn that those black chips of obsidian had sucked in her soul.

The young waitress swayed on her feet.

Qin Shu glared daggers at Fu Tingyu. The way he smiled at the young girl grated on her nerves. Tightening her grip on her chopsticks, she growled, "Eat your noodles. Stop smiling like a loon!"

She attacked her noodles with furious gusto like a woman with a vendetta.

Fu Tingyu did not know why his wife was suddenly glaring at him. He turned around and said to the waitress, "Please ask the Lady Boss to come over for a while."

The young waitress did not know why the customer wanted to see his mother, but she complied, her heart beating like a drum threatening to burst out of her chest. "Okay, I'll call my mother over."

The waitress rushed away with a bashful look.

Qin Shu watched the waitress leave and continued eating her wonton noodles.

In her memory, this was the first time she had eaten wonton noodles.

It was more delicious than she had imagined.

Fu Tingyu clenched his chopsticks and took a bite of the wonton noodles. The taste was almost as he recalled it to be. Qin Shu had not stopped eating her wonton noodles. Even if she could not remember her past, her liking of wonton noodles had remained unchanged.

The bowl of wonton noodles, left at Qin Shu's mercy, was cleaned spotless. She had not even spared the soup. "This family's wonton noodles are delicious. If there's a chance in the future, I'd like to eat it again."

Fu Tingyu smiled indulgently, feeling a sense of nostalgia wash over him. Just like before, Qin Shu finished her bowl of wonton noodles without leaving any waste behind.

Beaming happily, he said, "If it's not enough, shall I order another bowl?"

Qin Shu quickly shook her head. "No, no. I won't be able to finish another bowl. I don't want to throw away such good food."

Fu Tingyu's smile became more pronounced. "Then... would you like to finish what's left in my bowl?"

As he spoke, he deliberately slid his bowl in front of Qin Shu.

He had barely touched his bowl of wonton noodles, having eaten only two mouthfuls.

Qin Shu licked her lips, struggling to resist the tempting offer. "B-but... if I eat it, won't you be hungry?"

"That's alright. There are still plenty of other things I can eat." Fu Tingyu exchanged his bowl with Qin Shu's, keeping a small portion for himself.

"Eat." He gestured at the bowl with a knowing look. He never failed to enjoy the look Qin Shu wore whenever she got into one of her gluttonous moods.

"If you insist... It would be rude not to eat it." Qin Shu eyed the steaming bowl of wonton noodles hungrily. Clenching her chopsticks in between her fingers, she wolfed down the delectable bowl of noodles, a look of satisfaction colouring her expression.

Fu Tingyu stared at Qin Shu for a long time before eating the wonton noodles left in his bowl. It was not the same.

Qin Shu savoured her bowl of noodles. When she finished eating, she wiped her mouth on a paper napkin.

At this moment, the waitress returned with the Lady Boss. "Sir, this is my mother. She is the Lady Boss of our little noodle shop."

The Lady Boss was in her forties. Leading a hard life from a young age, the Lady Boss looked much older than she was. Some might have mistaken her for a woman in her early fifties, instead.

"Sir, how may I help you? I heard you were looking for me." When her daughter pulled her over, the Lady Boss was busy in the kitchen, so she thought something serious had occurred, leaving her anxious.

One look was enough for Fu Tingyu to recognise the Lady Boss who chatted happily with Qin Shu all those years ago. Quietly, he asked, "Lady Boss, do you remember her?"

The Lady Boss followed Fu Tingyu's line of sight and sized up his companion.

While the Lady Boss scrutinised Qin Shu, she did the same as the other..

Chapter 823: Something Neither Fu Tingyu nor Han Xiao Knows

When Qin Shu smiled, she revealed two small white canines, making her look naughty and cute.

The Lady Boss stared at her for a while and found that the young woman looked somewhat familiar. Perhaps it was because so many years had passed since they met, but it took her some time to remember.

When she saw the young woman's two small canines, an epiphany struck the boss, and she blurted out, "Are you that little girl who always forgot to bring money with her when she ate my wonton noodles? Ah! You've even brought this handsome gentleman with you this time!"

The boss sized up Fu Tingyu again. Upon a closer inspection, she jolted with a start. The man's piercing gaze was not one she could ever forget. "Y-you're that man who chased her, aren't you? I remember how you used to quarrel with each other and how you ordered a bowl of wonton noodles to placate her."

The Lady Boss chortled gleefully, reminiscing events of the past.

Qin Shu's mouth twitched. Shooting Fu Tingyu a glance, she could not help but feel that they shared a complicated history.

Fu Tingyu recalled the incident Lady Boss was recounting, and his smile formed a beatific arc. "I'm amazed you still remember."

"How could I not? If it weren't for the fact that I'm so busy every day, I would have recognised both of you a long time ago. it long ago." The Lady Boss looked at Qin Shu again; she smiled and said, "In the blink of an eye, you've grown so big. When you were young, I knew that you would be a beautiful girl when you grew up. Now that I look at you, you're even more beautiful than I imagined..." The boss's words trailed off as if she had thought of something else.

The figure of a young boy, whose severe countenance betrayed few words, flitted through her mind. Abruptly, she asked, "Why didn't the stony-faced boy accompany you this time?"

When Qin Shu heard the Lady Boss mentioning a 'stony-faced boy', she involuntarily thought of Han Xiao. The person she was referring to was probably Han Xiao.

The Lady Boss displayed her impeccable memory by rehashing events that had taken place in vivid detail. It was almost as if she possessed photographic memory despite her earlier fumbling.

"He once came here to buy wonton noodles. At that time, I was closing up for a break. He said he would pay me ten times the value of a bowl of wonton noodles if I would only prepare one for him. I guess he bought it for you... He might not have been the chirpiest boy around and spoke very little, but he was a good lad. You talked, and he listened. I thought the two of you made quite a good pair."

Qin Shu looked up at the boss and sighed, not knowing what to say to her enthusiasm.

The fact of the matter was that she could not remember her past.

Annoyed by the Lady Boss's incessant chatter regarding Han Xiao, Fu Tingyu cleared his throat and said, "I'm sure you must be very busy. We shan't take any more of your time." With that, he paid for the noodles, discreetly tugging Qin Shu's hand and making for the door.

The Lady Boss was in high spirits meeting old customers. So when she noticed the couple preparing to leave, she felt reluctant to part so quickly. "Please come again. We'll serve you the best bowl of wonton noodles you'd ever taste!"

Suddenly, Qin Shu stopped. Turning around to face the weathered boss of the establishment, she asked, "Did he and I often come to eat wonton noodles?"

The Lady Boss smiled kindly, "Yes, you both came here to eat whenever you could. That lad was pretty tall, much taller than most average folk in these parts. He was aloof for a young man, though he was always polite. Once, when you injured your foot, he even carried you here just so the two of you could enjoy my wonton noodles together."

Fu Tingyu's grip on Qin Shu's hand tightened. In a tone belying his barely restrained irritation, he grounded out two words. "Let's go."

Qin Shu pursed her lips in displeasure but did not contradict him. Bowing low, she bade farewell to the boss, "Thank you, Lady Boss."

She followed Fu Tingyu out after giving her thanks.

The Lady Boss watched them leave with a heavy heart. Sighing, she murmured, "How time flies... They're all adults now."

The young waitress looked at her mother with some confusion, "Mom, do you know them?"

The mother of the teenaged girl nodded. "Yes, that woman used to come by very often to our wonton noodles."

"Then how about that man beside her? Do you know him too?" The love-struck girl pestered her mother eagerly.

At this moment, the Lady Boss of the noodle house suddenly remembered that she still had plenty of work left for her in the kitchen. "I'm going to help your father. He's probably struggling with the orders."

No sooner had she made this declaration than another guest entered, promptly ordering a bowl of wonton noodles.

Han Xiao happened to see the Lady Boss as he entered the noodle shop "Lady Boss, give me a bowl of wonton noodles."

The Lady Boss stopped in her tracks. One handsome man had just left, and another arrived. There was something about the man's voice that chilled her to the bone.

Han Xiao found an empty seat and sat down, quietly waiting for his wonton noodles to arrive.

The Lady Boss stared at her new customer thoughtfully. It did not take her long to recognise Han Xiao since she had been talking about him mere moments before. Quickly, she asked her daughter to prepare the wonton noodles while she walked up to Han Xiao and asked, "Are you the boy who often accompanied that little girl to eat wonton noodles?"

Han Xiao nodded. "Yes."

The jovial, middle-aged boss recounted her meeting with Qin Shu and Fu Tingyu upon seeing another familiar face she had not seen in a long time. "That little girl you often ate with left with a handsome man not too long ago. If you had arrived earlier, you would have met them. The three of you could have caught up."

"I know."

Surprised, the Lady Boss echoed, "You know? Then how did you..."

"The Lady Boss still remembers me." Han Xiao cut her off.

"Well, I had the deepest impression of that little girl, and you boys always followed her wherever she went. It'd be strange if I didn't remember you all."

The Lady Boss took the seat opposite Han Xiao, like an old friend playing catch up.

Although he could guess the identity of the other man who brought Qin Shu to the noodle house to eat, Han Xiao still asked, "Who else ate with her here?"

"Why that handsome man who just left with her was the other fellow who came here to eat wonton noodles with her. I never really liked him, then or now; he always was too surly for my liking. You arrived right after they left."

With some hesitation, the Lady Boss decided to pry a little. "Where did you go after that incident?" Without giving Han Xiao a chance to respond, she prattled on, "That day, the little girl seemed to be in a bad mood. She came here to eat noodles alone, and that handsome guy chased her all the way here. She never came back to eat until today. For the longest time, I thought you were the one who made her unhappy. Now, I'm not so sure. What happened between the two of you?"

It was a slow day for business, so she had time to spare.

Han Xiao paused. There was only one reason why he never returned: He had left Mount Qi. "I left."

"No wonder I haven't seen you in a long time. I only saw those two coming here." The Lady Boss clapped her hands in realisation.

"The little girl often came here to eat wonton noodles, but she never paid for it herself. It was always that handsome guy who paid. I think they had a bet of some sort where the loser would treat the other to a meal. The poor young man always lost, so he paid for the meal every time they came."

She never knew whether to laugh or cry every time the duo appeared for wonton noodles.

Han Xiao listened to the boss's chatter, gaining a clearer picture of the time following his departure from Mount Qi.

He thought that after he left, no one would eat wonton noodles with his Little Munchkin.

He was not irreplaceable, but neither was he replaced. It lifted a great weight over his shoulders.

Sensing the change in Han Xiao's demeanour, the Lady Boss poured him a cup of water and placed it in front of her guest.

“Thank you,” Han Xiao accepted the cup of water graciously, taking a sip. He did not immediately put down the glass, nursing it in his hands.

The Lady Boss continued, “One day, I saw that she was in a good mood, so I asked her, why didn’t the boy who had been following you come along?”

Han Xiao looked up at the boss, waiting for her to continue.

“She said that you left.”

Han Xiao clenched the cup in his hand and asked, “What else did she say?”

The Lady Boss’s daughter brought Han Xiao his bowl of wonton noodles and placed it in front of him. She glanced at her mother, who was gaily chatting and screamed inside.. What happened to the work she needed to do in the kitchen?!

Chapter 824: If I Don’t Treat You Like a Hoodlum, Who Will?

Many years had passed since the Lady Boss had seen them, so it took her a while to recall those distant events.

She would have long forgotten if it were not for the little girl and her antics that left a deep impression on her.

Han Xiao did not look at the wonton noodles in front of him. Instead, he waited for the Lady Boss’s reply. Noticing the silence stretch, he asked, “Did she say anything else?”

The Lady Boss sighed upon hearing Han Xiao’s question. “She did not say anything. She just ate her wonton noodles with a forlorn look. It was clear she was heartbroken when you left.”

The boss got up and returned to the kitchen after answering. Han Xiao stared at the wonton noodles in front of him. The portion of noodles was smaller than he remembered, and the price had also increased by a lot.

The only thing that remained unchanged was that the bowl was still as big as before.

He gripped his chopsticks tightly and bit into the noodles. He chewed on it, savouring its taste; the flavour was as he remembered. However, when he looked up, he saw the empty seat opposite him. He could no longer see the girl’s satisfied smile; his heart was also missing a piece.

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Qin Shu followed Fu Tingyu out of Aunty’s Wonton Noodles and continued down the street of snacks. He walked at a leisurely pace that matched hers, enjoying the relaxing view around them.

Although she had just eaten two bowls of wonton noodles, the fragrance from the shops on both sides still aroused her appetite.

Fu Tingyu suddenly stopped in his tracks, causing her to bump into him. Fu Tingyu’s magnetic voice sounded over her head, “What are you thinking about?”

Puzzled, Qin Shu looked up at him. “Nothing. W-why did you stop?”

Fu Tingyu stared at Qin Shu. He pointed at the snacks on display and asked, "Would you like that?"

Qin Shu followed the direction of the man's finger and saw a few pancake-like snacks cooking in a pan. She glanced at the signboard next to the stall and realized that the snack's name was 'oyster omelette' – not a local speciality.

Nonetheless, it had to be delicious with how good it smelt.

She nodded. "I want to eat it."

Fu Tingyu said to the stall owner, "Two bags of oyster omelette, please."

"Coming right up." The stall owner worked swiftly. A minute later and the oyster omelettes were ready. He packed them in two separate oilpaper bags before handing them to Fu Tingyu.

Fu Tingyu paid for the omelettes and handed one of them to Qin Shu. He reminded her, "It's fresh out of the pan. It's still hot."

Qin Shu accepted the oilpaper bag Fu Tingyu offered her. Steam billowed out of the small opening, carrying with it a mouth-watering aroma few could hope to resist. Still, Qin Shu was in no hurry to eat the omelette. She did not fancy the idea of scalding her tongue.

With their snacks in hand, Fu Tingyu led her further down the street of snacks.

After walking for a while, the oyster omelette cooled, so they each ate their omelettes.

The oyster omelette did not taste bad. Qin Shu could not help but feel that it tastes exceptionally delicious – more so than those snacks she often ate back in Jiangcheng.

Qin Shu did not know where Fu Tingyu was leading her. Even as they were about to walk out of the street of snacks, Fu Tingyu kept mum.

The oyster omelette was not large, so they finished it in short order. By the time Qin Shu and Fu Tingyu finished eating their respective snacks, they had exited the narrow alleyway forming rows of snack shops.

Qin Shu sent Fu Tingyu a questioning look.

His temperament had not changed one bit. Even though he had just finished eating a snack off a roadside vendor, he still maintained his elegant disposition, which did not seem to match his surroundings.

Fu Tingyu continued walking, with no sign of his slowing down any time soon.

Around ten minutes later, the couple arrived at a moat. A stone bridge connected the two banks. On the other side, an assortment of gift shops selling trinkets of every shape and size.

The two of them walked hand in hand over the stone arch bridge and arrived on the other side of the moat.

Fu Tingyu threw the oilpaper bag into the trash can at the side. Then, he took out a tissue from his pocket. Instead of wiping his mouth, he gently wiped away the oil stains around Qin Shu's mouth.

There was no sense of discomfort as she allowed Fu Tingyu to wipe her lips.

Qin Shu looked up at Fu Tingyu. He wore a serious expression – as if he were polishing a priceless jewel and not wiping oil stains off her lips.

“Did you do the same for me in the past?”

Fu Tingyu paused. Under the illumination of a street lamp, Qin Shu’s pale cheeks were painted red, and her starry eyes were as clear as water.

His fingertips accidentally brushed against her soft lips, causing ripples to form over his stern expression.

She blinked. It was just a simple question, yet why was Fu Tingyu struggling to answer her?

Before she could finish her thought, Fu Tingyu’s handsome face enlarged itself infinitely in the span of a few seconds. A shadow draped over her, concealing the red lantern behind him.

They exchanged a passionate kiss.

Han Xiao, who had just stepped onto the stone bridge, saw this scene. He came to a halt.

After finishing his wonton noodles, Han Xiao unconsciously wandered over to the stone bridge.

It was the Qixi festival. He accompanied the Little Munchkin twice in the past.

Never in his wildest dreams did he expect to see a scene like this.

The girl he wholeheartedly wanted to protect had now become someone else’s wife.

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Fu Tingyu whispered into Qin Shu’s ear, “Compared to who you were in the past, I prefer the way you are now.”

Qin Shu was helpless to resist.

With a crimson blush, she asked, “Were you a hooligan back then too?”

“Even if I was, what can you do?” Fu Tingyu smiled as he clasped her hand in his, continuing their track towards City Tower.

Qin Shu felt an inexplicable urge to laugh, thinking: is there nothing you don’t dare to do?

She scratched Fu Tingyu’s palm. “Tell me about the past, about the two of us.”

Fu Tingyu tilted his head and stared at Qin Shu. Looking at her palm-sized face, he suddenly recalled the chance encounter before they had had before they went up the mountain. Smiling, he countered, “Then tell me, how could you have had had your way with me? How do you explain your hooliganism when we first met?”

“Hmm?” Qin Shu sent him a questioning look. “Are you sure you’re not talking about yourself? How could I have treated an unknown boy like a hooligan? Besides, do I look like the type of woman who would casually lay her hands on a boy?”

She denied any accusation of hooliganism resolutely.

Fu Tingyu pulled her into his arms. “The first time we met, you pounced and had your way with me. If you weren’t behaving like a hooligan, how else could you have taken advantage of me? You are the one who ought to be taking care of me since I’ve married you.”

“What nonsense! How could I have pounced on you? You’re so much taller than me. At that time, I was only a little over ten years old. How could I have pounced on you in the way you claim?” Qin Shu’s sharp retort was firm and uncompromising.

It happened to be the Qiqiao festival; he planned to learn martial arts on Mount Qi that year. When he arrived, it was already quite late, so he decided to stay the night in Feng Yue City and climb up the mountain the following day.

Having lived in a big city, Fu Tingyu had never seen the Qiqiao festival in full swing.

Who knew that his curiosity over the festival proceedings would lead him to be surrounded by a group of young girls.

In the end, to get rid of the group of girls, he hid behind a peddler selling umbrellas.

Yet he did not expect...

“You tackled me just as I came out from hiding! You clung onto me like some monkey, refusing to let go..”

Chapter 825: Don’t Leave Me Behind When Going to the Qi Mountain

Qin Shu didn’t believe that she would do such a thing. “What happened after that?”

Although she didn’t remember what happened previously, if she had carelessly pushed the man down, she would have apologized at that time.

“After that, you took advantage of me and even tore my clothes,” the man said vividly.

The more he said, the more ridiculous it seemed. Qin Shu snorted, “I don’t believe it.”

“I can guarantee that everything I said is true.” The man held her hand tightly. “I’ll bring you to the city tower to take a look.”

Qin Shu glanced at the man. She still couldn’t believe that she was so fierce when she was young. Why would she tear the man’s clothes?

The tall and short figures of the two walked further and further away, leaving the stretched shadows behind them.

Han Xiao stood upright on the stone arch bridge. His gaze followed the slender figure for a long time. Only when she entered the stream of people did he slowly withdraw his eyes.

The Fengyue Moat had hardly changed. But it did alter slightly with the development of times.

After standing for an unknown period, he turned, walked down the stone arch bridge, and returned the way he came.

Fengyue Inn

Han Xiao had just walked in when he saw Hua Wuyan standing at the door as if he was waiting for him.

Hua Wuyan heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Han Xiao return. "Where did you go?"

"I went out for a walk." Han Xiao walked in.

Hua Wuyan followed him, "Have you taken dinner?"

"Yes." Han Xiao walked up to the second floor.

Hua Wuyan looked at Han Xiao's back and felt a sense of loneliness for some reason. He followed him with doubt.

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Qin Shu and Fu Tingyu returned at 11 pm. It was not too late for the ancient Fengyue City.

After returning to the guest room, the man pulled the girl into the bathroom to take a shower.

When they came out, it was already past midnight.

The beds in the inn were all made of solid wood, slightly smaller than the bed in their master bedroom of Bright Garden. It was just right for the two of them to sleep.

Qin Shu nestled in the man's arms and fell asleep in no time.

A light breath entered the man's ears. He lowered his head to look at the girl and saw that she was already fast asleep. On the other hand, he was not sleepy at all.

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The next day

The group gathered for breakfast. They did not chat at breakfast as they were in a hurry. After breakfast, they went on a light journey.

It took half an hour to walk from the ancient Fengyue City to the foot of Qi Mountain and the last known entrance.

Along the way, Fu Tingyu held Qin Shu's hand and walked in front.

They came to a long bridge according to their memories. The bridge was about 30 meters long, and below it was a turbulent river.

Previously, when they walked across the bridge, the road to the mountain would appear on the other side.

Now, half the bridge was covered in fog. Standing at this end of the bridge, one could not see the shadow of Qi Mountain at a glance.

Qin Feng stared at the fog in front of him for a while and said, "Previously, the fog in the Qi Mountain was very thick, but it was not to such extent. Now, even the shadow of the mountain's peak disappeared. Isn't it strange?"

Yan Shuang was also very curious. She looked at Fu Tingyu and asked, "Do you want to go over and take a look?"

Fu Tingyu said, "My father said that if someone who does not understand the eight trigrams array barged in, it would be tough for them to walk out again. They might be trapped inside and not able to come out. "On the other side of the bridge, if my guess is right. It's an array. As for what kind of array it is, we will only know once we enter."

What he meant was that walking across the bridge was equivalent to entering an array. For people who didn't understand array, wanting to get out was even more challenging than ascending to the heavens.

Han Xiao turned to look at Fu Tingyu. "You know anything about array?"

Fu Tingyu smiled. "I know a little about it."

By saying this, it was already clear that he didn't know much about array either.

Hua Wuyan glanced around and didn't see any sign of the mountain. He said, "Then, didn't we come all this way for nothing?"

Fu Tingyu stared at the half-exposed bridge in front of him. After thinking for a moment, he said, "I'll go in and take a look."

Qin Shu held the man's hand tightly. "I'll go in with you."

The man directly refused. "You stay outside."

Han Xiao took a step forward and said, "I'll go in with you."

Hua Wuyan also took a step forward and stood beside Han Xiao. "I'll go in too."

Yan Shuang was unwilling to be left behind. "I'll go too."

Qin Feng walked to Qin Shu's side. He looked at Fu Tingyu. "Then I'll stay with Ling Bao. But I think it's better not to enter rashly. After all, none of us are proficient in array formations. Once we're trapped inside, it's hazardous."

In the end, he reminded them.

"I think what Ling Feng said makes sense. If we enter rashly, we may activate the array. If we can't break the array, we'll never get out."

After saying this, Fu Tingyu said in a low voice, "Among the few of you, choose one to go in with me."

As soon as Fu Tingyu said this, Qin Shu said, "I'll go with you."

Fu Tingyu's tone was firm. "No."

He would never let her get into danger with him unless he was confident that he could handle the situation.

"Other than Fu Tingyu, I have the highest martial art strength here. You guys don't have to fight." Han Xiao looked at Qin Shu after he finished speaking. "Little Munchkin, you can also stay outside in peace."

Hua Wuyan looked at Han Xiao's leg worriedly and said, "Then I could tag along."

Qin Shu ignored the others. She continued to hold the man's hand tightly and said, "Don't leave me behind. I'll go wherever you go."

Seeing that the girl insisted on following, the man's tone softened. "Be good. I'll go in and take a look and will be back soon."

Yan Shuang also advised, "Ling Bao, Ling Yan is doing this for your good. If you go in, he'll be distracted, and it'll be even more troublesome."

Han Xiao's gaze turned towards Qin Shu. "Little Munchkin, be obedient."

Qin Feng patted Qin Shu's shoulder and said, "Ling Bao, you stay outside."

Qin Shu glanced at them. She finally turned towards the man. "I don't want to be separated from you for too long, so you must come out quickly."

The man thought that she still insisted on going in. Hearing the second half of her sentence, he smiled. "Uh-huh."

In the end, Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao went in first.

He brought some necessary tools and food, just in case.

Qin Shu watched the two of them walk onto the long bridge. They were almost the same height, wearing black casual clothes and carrying a travel bag. They gradually stepped into the thick fog and disappeared.

Her heart rose.

The array formation includes the Golden Shield Array, the Eight Trigrams Two Poles Array, the Seven Stars Eight Trigrams Array, the Nine Palaces Eight Trigrams Array, the Five Elements Eight Trigrams Array, the Six Directions Array, the Big Dipper Seven Stars Array, the Odd Gate Eight Trigrams Array, the Four Symbols Array, the Seven Deadly Soul Locking Array, and so on.

Regardless of the array formation, there was a certain level of danger.

Especially using the array formation to hide the traces of the mountain, one could say that it was not an ordinary array formation.

Although she had learned it, she was not proficient in it.

Qin Feng saw Qin Shu's worried face and comforted her, "Ling Bao, don't worry. They will come out soon."

Hua Wuyan watched them disappear into the thick fog and could not help but feel worried.

Not only was he worried that they would not be able to break the array formation, but he was also worried about Han Xiao's leg..

Chapter 826: Do You Think She Likes You or Me?

Although he was worried, he comforted her, "Little Munchkin, they will be fine. Do you want to sit down and rest for a while?"

There was a stone bench made of cement by the side of the bridge. It was two meters long and could seat several people.

It was no point to stand and wait, so they sat down and waited.

"Why did Master go through so much trouble to set up the array at Qi Mountain?" Hua Wuyan could not comprehend this matter. They knew better than anyone how big the Qi Mountain was, and setting up the array was not something one could complete in a day or two.

Qin Feng guessed, "Maybe he didn't want us to go back to Qi Mountain again, discover something that he didn't want us to know. When I left, the Master said not to return anymore."

Yan Shuang said, "When I left, the Master also said that."

Hua Wuyan said, "Master said it to me too."

Qin Shu glanced at the three beside her. "I don't remember."

Qin Feng said, "So, Master doesn't want us to come back."

Yan Shuang couldn't help but start to worry. "Then will Ling Yan and Ling Han be okay?"

"They'll be okay." It was unknown whether Hua Wuyan was comforting himself or them, but he prayed in his heart. They would be able to come out smoothly.

Qin Shu clenched her hands into fists because she was nervous. Her fists were so tight that it was like her nerves at the moment.

She was most afraid that the periphery of the Qi Mountain was a dangerous array; the danger factor would be very high.

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On the other end of the bridge

About ten meters after they walked on the long bridge, there were towering trees and bushes everywhere. Fu Tingyu noticed that something was wrong. He turned and looked behind him. Just as he expected, the bridge behind him has disappeared.

It meant that he and Han Xiao had entered the formation.

As for what formation it was, he didn't know yet.

He reminded Han Xiao, "Be careful. We're already in the formation."

When Fu Tingyu turned around to remind him, Han Xiao subconsciously turned and realized that the bridge behind him had disappeared. Other than the thick fog, he couldn't see anything.

Han Xiao asked, "Can you tell what formation is this?"

"I can't tell at the moment. Let's take a few steps." Fu Tingyu glanced at the bushes in front of him. The weeds were half a meter tall, and there was no footpath.

The array had an array eye, a door of life, and a door of death. If one took a wrong step, it would be a life and death situation.

Han Xiao suddenly asked an unrelated question, "Do you want her to regain her memory?"

Fu Tingyu turned his head to look at Han Xiao and said, "She wants to regain her memory."

He meant that it was not a question of whether he wished it or not, but it was the girl's decision.

Han Xiao asked again, "Do you think recovering her memory is good for her?"

Fu Tingyu said, "It's half good and half bad. There must be a reason for her to lose her memory. Whether remembering the past would make her feel guilty or losing her memory that may let her experience some bad things, it's not what I want to see."

Han Xiao was a little puzzled. "Then why do you insist on looking for Master?"

"I always feel that Master may know something." Fu Tingyu paused at this point and asked him, "Haven't you been looking forward to her recovering her memory? Why don't you want her to recover her memory now?"

"I just don't want her to live with guilt for the rest of her life."

Rather than seeing her guilty and sad eyes, he would prefer to see her smile more. She smiled innocently.

Fu Tingyu stared at Han Xiao for a long time and suddenly thought of a question. He asked, "Do you think she likes you or me?"

Han Xiao asked, "What do you want to say?"

Fu Tingyu chuckled and asked him back, "Don't you want to know the answer?"

Han Xiao was stunned. Of course, he wanted to know who Little Munchkin liked after she regained her memory?

He lowered his gaze and looked at his right leg. Suddenly, he felt that this question was no longer critical.

What was important was that there was only one person in his heart.

“As long as she is happy.”

Fu Tingyu stared at Han Xiao. He remembered back in the Imperial City. He firmly said she would leave him after the girl recovered her memories, as he lied to her.

But when Han Xiao gave the girl the wedding gift, he had said that it was a dowry for his younger sister, indicating that he treated the girl as his younger sister.

Now, Han Xiao seemed to have let it go.

In fact, from his eyes, he could tell that he had never truly let go.

He retracted his gaze and looked at the road in front of him. There was no road, so he was wondering which way to go?

Before he left, he had heard from his father that there would always be a specific pattern no matter what kind of formation it was.

He tried to take about ten steps forward. When he turned and looked behind him, he realized that the position of the tree he had just passed by had changed.

Han Xiao didn't know anything about formations. He could only follow Fu Tingyu's footsteps. When he stopped, he stopped as well.

He asked, “What's wrong?”

“I'm looking for a pattern, and then I'll break the formation,” Fu Tingyu answered concisely.

Even now, he still couldn't help but make a few remarks.

His father, Fu Beichen, had let him learn this and that since he was young. When he could handle everything, he threw all the business matters to him and brought his mother to tour around the world.

He didn't teach him the techniques to break a formation.

Although his father had said that he wasn't proficient in setting up formations, teaching him all he knew would be better than not teaching.

At this moment, Fu Beichen, far away in the Imperial City, hugged his daughter and coaxed her to sleep. For some reason, he sneezed.

It was useless to think about it now. Fu Tingyu could only take it one step at a time.

They wandered around the forest for more than two hours.

Fu Tingyu finally discovered another problem. It seemed that he was going in circles. Although the surrounding environment looked different as he walked, he felt like going in circles.

Now, he had no choice but to admit a fact.

He turned to look at Han Xiao. "We're trapped."

Han Xiao didn't show any expression after hearing that. When he planned to enter, he had already thought of many difficulties that he would encounter.

"Is there a way to get out?" He asked.

Fu Tingyu: "Let me think."

He started to look at his surroundings again. He looked at the moss-covered stone on the ground, which was quite common.

However, it was not necessarily an ordinary stone when a stone appeared in an array.

He walked around the rock, took ten steps to the right, and continued walking.

Han Xiao followed behind at a leisurely pace.

He did not know if he had gone the wrong path, but the surroundings suddenly began to shake, and the trees seemed to move. Then, he heard strange cries.

It was customary to have wild animals in the forest. If they were ferocious and predatory animals, it would be troublesome.

With the appearance of wild animals in the formation, it would be even harder to get out.

Then, they saw two giant pythons suddenly appear from behind the huge rock. Their sharp heads opened their mouths and were sticking out their tongues.

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It was getting dark soon.

Qin Shu couldn't sit still anymore. She stood up and said, "They have been in there for eight hours. I want to go in and take a look."

Qin Feng grabbed Qin Shu's wrist and stood up as well. He advised her, "Ling Bao, don't be impatient. It's dark now, and it's even more inconvenient for you to go in. Let's wait a little longer."

Qin Feng was also very anxious. He had no choice but to calm down to appease Qin Shu.

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Chapter 827: Came Looking For Her To Reminisce? She Was Not Obedient At All

"It's already been eight hours. They haven't come out yet. Will it be more dangerous at night?" Yan Shuang could not sit still and stand up as well.

Hua Wuyan was also anxious. He stood up and looked at the long bridge in front of him. As the sky darkened, the view in front of him became somewhat illusory.

"I feel that the fog is a little strange. There are wild beasts in the forest, whether wolves or pythons. Fu Tingyu's martial art strength is useless, and brother Han Xiao..."

Hua Wuyan could not continue his words.

Yan Shuang did not know that Fu Tingyu's martial art strength was useless. She looked at Hua Wuyan in disbelief. "You said that Ling Yan's martial art strength is useless? How is this possible? He has the highest aptitude, and his martial art strength is the highest. How can he be useless?"

Qin Feng sighed. "Ling Shuang, don't be agitated. None of us want to see his martial art strength gone, but he is only at the intermediate bronze stage."

Yan Shuang couldn't believe that Fu Tingyu's martial art strength was gone.

Qin Shu's gaze also looked at the fog, shrouded by night in front of her, and she couldn't help but feel even more afraid.

"I'll go in and take a look. You guys wait outside. If I don't come out at dawn, you guys can think of other ways."

"Ling Bao, don't be rash." Qin Feng was afraid that she would run in on impulse, so he couldn't help but clench his fists. "If you're worried, I'll take a look."

Qin Shu hit the nail on the head. "You don't know anything about arrays."

Qin Feng pursed his lips. "But I can't let you go in and take the risk."

Qin Shu said, "I know something about how to break the array."

Her memory of the method to break the array was a little fuzzy, but she remembered that she had learned this technique before.

Qin Feng saw that Qin Shu did not seem to be joking. He knew that she should know something about formations. "It's dark. Even if you knew, you couldn't see the way clearly when you go in. When the sky gets brighter, I'll go in with you."

Qin Shu raised her head to look at the night sky, which was completely dark. The moon quietly climbed up to the top of her head.

She nodded. "We'll go in when the sky is bright."

As they have decided, Hua Wuyan said, "I'll go in with you guys. It's useless for me to stay outside."

"Then it's even more useless for me to stay. Why don't I go in with you guys?" Yan Shuang didn't know much about arrays, and she didn't know anyone in Nan Yue, so she wanted to go in with them.

Qin Feng glanced at Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang. "Let's go back first."

After deciding to go in at dawn, they returned to the Fengyue Inn.

During dinner, the four of them discussed how to deal with the situation.

Qin Feng turned to look at Qin Shu and asked, "How much do you know about array formations?"

"Not much, just a little." Qin Shu's answer was very conservative as her memory was a little fuzzy.

"That's better than not knowing anything at all." Qin Feng looked at Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang. "If we all went in, there would be no outside help. So tomorrow morning, Ling Bao and I will go in first. If we're not out by two o'clock in the afternoon, don't go in either. Go look for the manor head of Qingyun Manor, Yun Yao, for help."

Hua Wuyan asked in puzzlement, "Qingyun Manor? Nan Yue's hidden family, the Yun Family?"

"Yes, I've worked with him a few times," Qin Feng answered casually.

When he worked with Yun Yao, he realized that the Yun family's power and wealth were far more significant than he had imagined.

On the surface, it was just a hidden family.

At the mention of Qingyun Manor, Qin Shu glanced at Qin Feng and suddenly felt a little sorry for him. She had disguised herself as the Black Knight to help Yun Yao trick him, causing him to give 30% of the profits to Yun Yao.

However, she could not tell him about the deal.

Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang heard it and felt it made sense, so they did not object.

After dinner, they went back to the guest room to rest.

Qin Shu prepared the things she needed for the mountain the next day. On completion, she took her robe and went to take a shower.

When she came out of the shower, she looked at the empty guest room and thought of the man's unknown situation in the mountain. She felt uneasy.

"Knock, knock..."

When she heard the knock on the door, she took a towel and walked over to open the door. She saw Yan Shuang standing outside the door and was a little surprised. "What's the matter?"

Yan Shuang smiled and asked, "Can I come in and chat with you?"

"Of course." Qin Shu turned sideways.

Yan Shuang smiled at her and walked in. She saw Fu Tingyu's suit jacket hanging on the clothes rack on the right.

Qin Shu closed the door and turned to look at her. Perhaps it was because they were not familiar with each other, so she politely said, "Please take a seat."

After saying that, she poured a cup of hot water for Yan Shuang.

Yan Shuang walked to the sofa and sat down.

Qin Shu took the cup of water, walked over, and placed it in front of Yan Shuang. She sat down on the opposite side.

Yan Shuang looked at Qin Shu and thought of the first time they met when they went up the mountain. She smiled and said, "When we were on Qi Mountain learning martial arts, there were eight of us, and only the two of us were girls. I was four years older than you, and my height was much taller than yours. Although you entered the sect first and were a senior sister, the seven of us all treated you as a younger sister. I didn't expect that after so many years, when we met again, you were the youngest, yet you were already married and had children. Are you still in university? Isn't Ling Yan a little too impatient?"

In the end, she couldn't help but laugh.

Qin Shu smiled. "When I was still underage, I stayed by his side. He waited for me for nearly three years. We've experienced many things, and children are the best witnesses."

Yan Shuang looked at Qin Shu with surprise. "I didn't expect the two of you to have been together for so long. In the past, when we were on the mountain, we all thought that you and Ling Han were a couple. I didn't expect that you would be together with Ling Yan. It seemed that the two of you had experienced many things. However, how did Ling Yan's martial art strength suddenly drop to bronze?"

Qin Shu did not hide anything from her. "He was poisoned when he saved me. After he got detoxified, his martial art strength was gone."

Yan Shuang was stunned for a few seconds and felt a little regretful. "So it was because of this that his martial art strength was gone. That means that he cares for you. Otherwise, he would not have made such a huge sacrifice."

They did not chat for long before Yan Shuang returned to her guest room.

Qin Shu's hair was almost dry, so she went to bed early.

Before the sky turned bright and the ancient city of Fengyue was still in silence, Qin Shu woke up.

After washing up, she changed into black casual clothes, took a pen and paper, left a note, and walked out of the inn with her bag.

She didn't want Qin Feng to take the risk, so she decided to go in alone.

In addition, she also knew a little about formations, so one more person following her didn't have much effect.

When she arrived at the long bridge, the sky turned bright.

The fog at the other end of the bridge was even thicker than after daybreak, covering more than half of the bridge.

She fastened her backpack strap and stepped onto the long bridge. Not long after, her black figure disappeared into the fog.

Just as the horizon turned bright, Qin Feng woke up. After tidying up, he went to look for Qin Shu.

After knocking on the door several times, no one opened it, and he had a bad feeling.

He pushed the door open and found that Qin Shu was long gone from the guest room.

Out of the corner of his eye, he saw the note on the table.. He picked it up and looked at the contents.

Chapter 828: Compelling Reason For Letting Go. Men Understood Men

[Brother, as the specific situation in the mountain is unknown. If one more person goes in, one more person will be in danger. If I am not out by four in the afternoon, find someone to help me. Do not rush in. I will protect myself. Do not worry]

After reading the contents of the note, although Qin Feng was angry, he was more worried that she would be in danger if she went into the mountain alone.

He should have expected her personality and would not wait for him so obediently.

Now that she went in alone, it would be futile if he went in as he did not even know the basics of array formations.

Hua Wuyan woke up very early. When he went to look for Qin Shu, he saw Qin Feng standing in the room and asked, "Are you and Qin Shu ready?"

Qin Feng took the note and looked up at Hua Wuyan. "She went to the Qi Mountain alone."

"What?" Hua Wuyan was shocked when he heard this and strode in.

Qin Feng passed the note to him, and Hua Wuyan took it in puzzlement. After reading the contents, he couldn't help but start to worry. "The situation in the mountain is unclear, and she went in alone. What if... I'll go take a look."

Hua Wuyan put down the note, turned, and was about to walk out, but Qin Feng pressed down on his shoulder, "It's useless even if you go. Do you know anything about formations? Do you know what danger is if you accidentally enter the master's formation? If you can enter so easily, then Ling Yan and Ling Han would have come out long ago."

Hua Wuyan's footsteps paused, and he turned to look at Qin Feng. "Then what should we do? We can't let Ling Bao go in alone and take the risk."

"There's nothing we can do about that. We can only wait for now."

Qin Feng's heart had long been frantic, but being anxious now would not solve any problems.

Yan Shuang saw a trace of doubt flash across Qin Feng's and Hua Wuyan's eyes. "What's wrong with you two? Are you leaving now?"

Qin Feng said, "Ling Bao went alone."

Yan Shuang was shocked when she heard that. "Why did she go alone? It's too dangerous."

Qin Feng pondered and said, "You two wait at the inn. I'll make a trip to Qingyun Manor."

Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang looked at each other and nodded.

After Qin Feng finished his breakfast, he drove to Qingyun Manor.

Qingyun manor was more than two hours drive away from Fengyue ancient city, and the round trip would be five hours.

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At this time, the mountain was filled with the smell of blood. The sun shone through the gaps between the dense branches and leaves, bringing a glimmer of light to the slightly dark mountain forest.

Fu Tingyu raised his hand to wipe away the blood at the corner of his mouth. There were many wounds on his body. As he was wearing black clothes, the blood stain was not visible. These were wounds torn out by the giant pythons and wolves.

He first glanced at whether the two giant pythons were wholly dead or not and the corpses of the wolves lying on the ground. When he saw that there was no movement, he heaved a sigh of relief.

The night before, they encountered two giant Pythons. With his martial art strength at the bronze level, he could only deal with one huge Python.

Although Han Xiao's martial art strength was intact, his legs had not fully recovered. It was no problem to deal with the giant Python.

During the fight, the smell of blood attracted the wolf pack. It was not easy to handle.

After fighting for an entire night, they exterminated the wolf pack. But they were already exhausted, and they leaned on the tree trunk, panting.

Fu Tingyu turned to look at Han Xiao, who was not far away. The injuries on him were not less than the ones on Han Xiao. Along the way, Han Xiao had saved him twice.

When he was studying martial arts at Qi Mountain, his relationship with Han Xiao had always been tepid.

Perhaps because the girl was in the middle, the two of them hardly spoke.

Therefore, when Han Xiao risked everything to save him just now, he was stunned.

"How do you feel?"

"I'm fine," Han Xiao replied indifferently. He lowered his head to look at several wounds on his body. They were bleeding, but his physical strength was exhausted, so he did not have the strength to bandage the wounds at all.

Fu Tingyu rested for a while. He opened his backpack and took out the first-aid kit. He supported himself with one hand on the tree trunk behind him and stood up. He dragged his tired body to Han Xiao.

"Let me bandage your wounds." He placed the first-aid kit on a rock and opened it. He first took out a disinfectant wet towel to wipe the bloodstains on his hands.

His blood, the Python's blood, and the wolf's blood were on him. When mixed together, it was hard to tell which was which.

Han Xiao turned and looked at Fu Tingyu's blood-stained hand. Wiping off with the wet towel, it revealed its original appearance.

After wiping the blood on his hand, he looked up at Han Xiao. "Take off your clothes."

Han Xiao: "Huh?"

Fu Tingyu: "It's easier to bandage up after taking off your clothes."

Han Xiao was speechless.

Han Xiao hesitated before propping himself up, taking off his shirt, and putting it aside.

Fu Tingyu took out the medicine needed for bandaging and looked up at Han Xiao. His figure had been outstanding since he was fifteen years old. After so many years, whether it was his chest or abdominal muscles, the lines in his muscles were perfect.

If it was anyone else who saw such a good figure, they would be envious and ashamed of their inferiority. However, Fu Tingyu only took a glance. He was mainly looking at where the wound was.

As for his figure, he did not lose to Han Xiao.

Whether it was the lines in his muscles or the flexibility, he was better than Han Xiao.

As for their height, it was almost the same.

Han Xiao's right arm, wrist, and back had several injuries.

When Fu Tingyu bandaged his right arm, he found that there were two old injuries on his arm, and the positions were slightly off.

Wolves bit the first two old wounds.

Giant pythons bit the new wounds.

The first time Han Xiao was injured was when he saved the girl, as they did the jungle survival training. He was there as well.

As the day before the training, he somehow made the girl angry.

That day, she ignored him.

The girl was by Han Xiao's side when they met the wolves.

So, when the wolf pack surrounded her, he ran as fast as possible, but he was still a step too late.

If he was right, the second scar should be when he accompanied the girl to the mountain to gather herbs, and Han Xiao got injured when he saved her.

And the girl was pregnant at that time.

He was a step too late the first time as he was too far away.

The second time, he was not by her side. He didn't even know anything about it.

Fu Tingyu pursed his lips tightly and bandaged Han Xiao's wound without saying a word.

Han Xiao raised his eyes to look at Fu Tingyu. He saw that Fu Tingyu's expression had suddenly darkened. Although he was puzzled, he did not ask.

After bandaging the wound on Han Xiao's upper body, he glanced at Han Xiao's leg. "Is your leg still not fully healed?"

Although it was dark and he could not see clearly, Han Xiao's martial art strength had already reached its peak. His speed couldn't be so slow.

Only when there was an injury on his leg would it slow down his speed and attack power.

"Yes." Han Xiao knew that Fu Tingyu had guessed it from the fight, so he didn't deny it.

Fu Tingyu stared at Han Xiao for a few seconds. He now understood why Han Xiao said he treated the girl as his sister that day, why he had helped her, and why he didn't want the girl to remember the past.

As a man, he could roughly guess what Han Xiao was thinking.

He had to let go because of his own reasons, and he had to give up the opportunity to fight for her.

Just like before, he had to let go because he knew that he wouldn't live long..

Chapter 829: The Old Master Is Really Mean

After bandaging Han Xiao, Fu Tingyu began to dress the wounds on himself. Since it was difficult for him to do anything with his upper body, he first bandaged the wounds on his leg.

Han Xiao picked up the plain black clothes, almost torn into rags, and put them on. When he zipped it up, he saw Fu Tingyu bandaging his wounds. He said, "Take off your clothes."

"Huh?" Fu Tingyu looked up at him.

Han Xiao: "I'll bandage your wound."

Fu Tingyu was speechless.

Han Xiao and Fu Tingyu were both germaphobic people, and they didn't have the habit of exposing themselves. Even if the person opposite them was a man, they didn't like to take off their clothes.

When they studied martial arts on the mountain, they had never exposed their backs, no matter how hot the weather. When they showered, they did it separately.

So now, Fu Tingyu could experience what Han Xiao felt when he asked him to take off his clothes earlier.

It was extraordinary.

Bandaging wounds was a piece of cake for them.

Fu Tingyu didn't have many wounds on his body. The only deep and long scar had been healed long ago with Qin Shu's scar removal ointment.

Han Xiao's technique was neat and straightforward, and his bandaging speed was fast.

By the time the two of them finished bandaging all their wounds, the sun had risen high.

From the night before until now, the two had not taken a single drop of water.

Due to the high temperature, the food they brought was bread and milk.

Fu Tingyu took out the bread and a packet of milk and handed it to Han Xiao. "Eat your fill first. Then we think of a way to break the array."

They could go up the mountain or down the mountain only by breaking the array.

Han Xiao had been hungry for a long time. In the end, he tore open the packaging of the bread and milk and started eating. Even under such circumstances, he still looked good when he ate.

Fu Tingyu took a bite of the bread and slowly chewed it. He looked at his surroundings. The sky gradually brightened, and he could see where they were now.

Although it was slightly different from yesterday's environment, he knew they were still going in circles.

He didn't have a way to break the array.

He only learned a little from his father.

He looked up and saw a beam of light above his head. A day and a night had passed.

Babe must have been worried sick.

Did she sleep well last night alone?

Was it possible that she was so anxious that she didn't even eat her dinner?

He was most worried that the girl would lose her cool and barge in.

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Qin Shu walked in the mountains for more than two hours, but she didn't meet Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao.

When she walked in, she knew that she had entered the array.

She hadn't met them after walking for so long, and she also realized that she had been walking in circles.

At first, she was impatient because she hurried to find Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao.

She took a deep breath and calmed her jumbled thoughts.

She began to re-evaluate the environment in the mountain and recalled the techniques and methods to break the array.

However, her memory was a little chaotic, and she couldn't remember it at the moment.

She couldn't remember if this was the seven stars eight trigrams array or the five elements eight trigrams array.

These were the two most commonly used arrays.

She closed her eyes and tried hard to calm herself down and slowly think about these arrays.

When she opened her eyes again, she looked around and continued to walk according to her senses.

After walking for another two hours, she realized that she would pass by a stone covered in moss every half an hour. It seemed very reasonable here, but it was not.

The position where the stone appeared was somewhat abrupt, and it did not fit with the rocks in the mountain forest. It was as if it had appeared out of thin air, but there was moss growing on it.

After thinking about it carefully, she suddenly understood that these stones were used to set up an array.

After understanding this, she continued walking. When she passed more than ten of them about the same size and looked at the position, she was almost sure that this was the seven stars eight trigrams array.

After knowing what array it was, the next step was to break the array.

Qin Shu stood where she was and thought for a long time. Suddenly, she took a step forward. From afar, it looked like Qin Shu was stepping on a square. She took a few steps to the right, walked straight, and then walked to the left.

It seemed like there was no pattern to her steps. She was walking according to the Big Dipper's lineup.

When she took the last step, the scene in front of her suddenly changed. The wild bushes and weeds, a mountain path suddenly appeared. The path was paved with bluestones, winding up the mountain. On both sides of the bluestone road were towering trees. During summer, it would be cool. The sunlight penetrated through the branches and leaves. Even though the light was dim, it was still visible.

Although she was a little happy to see the way up the mountain, she was disappointed and worried when she didn't see Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao.

She thought that if her Master were on the mountain and if he set up the seven stars eight trigrams array, it would be easier to go up the mountain to look for him and ask him to let Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao out.

After thinking through, she took a deep breath and stepped on the bluestone steps.

She did not know how high the Qi Mountain was, but she had walked on this stone path for a long time, and yet she had not reached the end.

The sky was gradually darkening, and the sun was setting in the west. A day was about to pass.

Only then did she realize that she might have entered another array formation.

After going through so much trouble to set up the array formation, she knew that their Master did not want anyone to go up the mountain.

She was puzzled. Why did the Master does not let anyone go up the mountain?

Why did he not let them return to Qi Mountain?

Master, why did he seal the mountain?

It was not the time to think about this right now, and she needed to focus on breaking the array.

Looking at the endless bluestone road, she could not help but complain in her heart. Was Master too free?

The outer realm was the seven stars eight trigrams array.

What kind of array was this inside?

She tried her best to calm herself down, and then she closed her eyes and began to walk.

Only when she closed her eyes would her heart be able to calm down quickly.

After more than two hours, she finally walked out of the bluestone path.

However, when she saw the scene in front of her, she was stunned for a few seconds.

The field in front of her was huge, like a small square. It was a huge stone, but the surface was very flat.

She could see the crescent moon above her head when she looked up, surrounded by countless stars.

She took a few steps forward, stood in front of the platform. And she realized that it was halfway up the mountain. The entire Fengyue ancient city was visible from where she stood.

Red lanterns lighted up the ancient city. It was as beautiful as a painting.

She stared at it for a long time before she turned and continued up the hill.

With Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao trapped at the foot of the mountain, and they could be in danger at any time, she could not waste time.

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The Moon is high in the sky.

A white figure sat in front of the stone table on the platform. Rocks of different sizes, round and transparent, have their places on the table.

Even though he was sitting, one could see that he was tall and slender. Wearing a white windbreaker, and the cloth was made of high-quality brocade, his sleeves fluttered when the wind blew, giving off an extraordinary aura.

Looking at his back, one could see that he had an extraordinary temperament, like a magnolia tree.

The man slightly lowered his eyes as he looked at the array in front of him. There were changes..

Chapter 830: Breaking Into The Celestial Sect's Forbidden Area

For eight years, no one had touched this formation.

But today, it was abnormally frequent.

The man seemed to have thought of something. His slender fingers picked up a round stone and placed it in front of him. After repeating this over and over again, a new formation formed.

He raised his eyes and looked at the night sky. Seeing that it was about time, he stood up and left.

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Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang waited for Qin Feng's return at the inn. However, Qin Feng didn't come back even after four o'clock in the afternoon. They found out that he was on the way after making a phone call.

Therefore, they took the lead and arrived at the long bridge.

The long bridge was the same as yesterday—half of it hidden in the fog.

There were no sights of the mountains and trees.

After sunset, Fu Tingyu and Han Xiao didn't come out, nor did Qin Shu. The two of them were as anxious as ants on a hot pot.

Hua Wuyan paced back and forth to ease his anxiety. However, the more he waited, the more anxious he became. He suddenly stopped and said, "I can't wait any longer. I'll go in and take a look."

Yan Shuang was equally anxious. When she saw that Hua Wuyan was about to go in, she said, "Then I'll go in with you to take care of you."

Hua Wuyan said, "You'd better stay outside. When Ling Feng gets here, it'll be easier for you to explain the situation. Otherwise, Ling Feng will think that something has happened to all of us."

Although Yan Shuang knew that what he said made sense, she was anxious and could not wait.

At this moment, a few people rushed over from afar.

Qin Feng was leading.

When Qin Feng went to Qingyun Manor, Yun Yao happened to be away from the manor to attend to some other matters. When he heard that Qin Feng was in a hurry, he rushed back.

Therefore, this round trip wasted a day.

Hua Wuyan saw that Qin Feng had arrived. He retracted his leg that had just been raised and swept a glance at the people behind him. He did not recognize any of them.

He stepped forward to welcome him. "You're finally back. Fu Tingyu, brother Han Xiao, and Ling Bao have not come out. I'm planning to go in and take a look."

Qin Feng ran all the way here. When he saw Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang, he knew they were not out yet.

He introduced, "He is Yun Yao, the manor head of Qingyun Manor. He knows a little about array formations."

Hua Wuyan greeted, "Hello, Mr. Yun."

"Hello, Mr. Yun." Yan Shuang greeted politely.

Qin Feng then introduced Yun Yao, "They are my friends, Hua Wuyan and Yan Shuang."

Yun Yao's gaze turned to Hua Wuyan. It was the first time he saw a man with long hair who did not appear feminine and sissy. Instead, it added a little charm that was different from other men.

Then, he looked at Yan Shuang. She was a mature woman and was very attractive.

The two of them did not look like ordinary offsprings of wealthy families.

"Nice to meet you."

Hua Wuyan looked at Yun Yao. His appearance was not inferior to brother Han's, not to mention his temperament. As the head of a manor, he should be calm and reserved.

But did he look at them with a cynical smile?

He could not help but ask, "Do you know about array formations? Can you bring us into the mountains to find our friends?"

Yun Yao raised his head and looked at the long bridge behind Hua Wuyan. The fog covered half the bridge. The mountains and the trees were not visible.

He immediately retracted his gaze and looked at Hua Wuyan. "I only know a little bit about formations. I can bring you in. I can't guarantee anything else."

"Let's go in. Qin Feng couldn't bother about anything else. It was better to have someone who knew about formations than none of them. I'm afraid that my friends will be in danger."

Yun Yao glanced at Hua Wuyan and then looked at Qin Feng. "Then let's go in."

Yun Yao brought six people with him. All of them were tall and well-built, and their skills were extraordinary.

This time, they were going in together.

Qin Feng was the first to step onto the long bridge. As he was worried about their safety, his footsteps were a little hurried, and he did not bother about what kind of danger they would encounter once they entered.

Hua Wuyan hurriedly followed.

Yun Yao stepped onto the long bridge almost simultaneously as Hua Wuyan. He turned to look at Hua Wuyan's long hair tied behind him. It was flax-colored, with slightly curled ends. Not only was it good-looking, but it had an invisible charm to it.

Even a hairstylist could not produce such a good effect.

He looked at Hua Wuyan curiously. "How long have you kept your beautiful hair?"

Hua Wuyan's hair often made people turn their heads, but no one would ask this question.

However, when he remembered that Yun Yao was here to help, he answered politely, "I don't remember the exact time."

Yun Yao kept guessing. "I guess six or seven years."

Hua Wuyan turned to look at Yun Yao. His expression was calm as if he had just said it casually. He replied, "Maybe."

The bridge was thirty meters long. The group of ten walked into the fog after a short while, as if they had disappeared on the bridge. The scene was bizarre.

When they reappeared, they were already at the other end of the bridge. Right in front were messy bushes and weeds.

Yun Yao glanced at the scene. "One step forward is tin array formation. Everyone, be careful."

Hua Wuyan glanced at Yun Yao. Seeing how serious he sounded, he could not help but believe that Yun Yao knew a little about array formations. He might be able to find brother Han, Ling Bao, and Fu Tingyu.

After hearing Yao'sao's words, everyone became cautious.

Yun Yao reminds "It's best to keep up with the pace when you walk. Otherwise, you will get separated from the rest as we are now in the array formation."

Yun Yao was not joking. He was telling the truth. It was very easy for accidents to happen in the formation. No one could predict that.

Therefore, the group of people became even more cautious.

At this time, the sky was already completely dark, and the forest was pitch-black.

Each of them had a lamp in their hands. The light from the incandescent lamp lit up the pitch-black night sky.

After walking for about an hour, Qin Feng turned around and looked. He realized that the number of people was not correct. There were ten of them in the group.

He was afraid that he had seen wrongly, so he counted again and found that there were only eight people left, and two went missing".

"Be careful." Yun Yao saw Hua Wuyan walking to the right and hurriedly grabbed his wrist, "That's the death door."

Hua Wuyan jumped in fright. He had just lifted his feet when Yun Yao grabbed him and pulled him back.

Qin Feng reminded him, "Two people are missing."

Hua Wuyan heard this and turned to look. After a rough count, he realized that two people were missing. When he thought about how he almost got lost just now, he felt a lingering fear in his heart.

Yun Yao did not turn around as it was useless to look. Instead, he said, "Continue walking."

When all heard this, they could only follow Yun Yao and continue walking forward".

"I wonder how Ling Bao is now? and brother Han Xiao and the others." Hua Wuyan looked at the pitch-black night sky and said worriedly.

Qin Feng was worried, but he did not say anything.

Yun Yao " It's hard to say anything now. Maybe we could meet them."

Yan Shuang was also worried, but there was nothing she could do. She could only follow Yun Yao and take things one step at a time.

4:30 am

The moon was bright, and the stars were sparse.

At the entrance on top of the mountain, Qin Shu lifted her head and looked at the stone tablet next to her. There were four big red words carved on it — the forbidden area of the Celestial Sect.

She held on the stone tablet with one hand for support and panted, "I've finally reached the mountain peak.. I wonder if Master is on the mount" in?"