

Bodyguard 1351

Chapter 1351: Cannon Fodder

“Yes!” Old Hei smiled bitterly in his heart but kept nodding on the surface. He stepped up and solved the mechanism. He wanted to prove to Lin Yi that he was capable as well, and could go into the palace without Lin Yi’s help. This way, he’d have more cards to use when negotiating the rewards!

He didn’t even dare think about what Elder Yu wanted- trying to aim for that was too much for him. Plus, those things wouldn’t be beneficial to him anyway; they’re not things that would work for him. It was hard to sell them, too.

But Lin Yi, just taking fifty percent hurt him so much- after he left, he and James plotted a bit and felt that it was unfair! If it was just one person, then maybe he’d endure it, but now they were both against Lin Yi; they got braver. They wondered if they could kill off Lin Yi in the tomb?

They believed that when the chance came, Elder Yu would very happily watch it happen and wouldn’t help Lin Yi! This meant that Old Hei and James would be the only ones to reap the rewards! Just thinking about it got them excited. Finishing a job like this would make them rich enough to retire!

Even without that chance, if Old Hei performed very well and got to speak louder, Lin Yi wouldn’t say too much either. This was split according to performance, after all.

Old Hei’s moves were simple, using an electronic stethoscope on the stone door and carefully turning the two code wheels, listening to the slight difference in sound to get the correct code.

It was simple, but it was practical, and the most stable when it came to ancient stuff like this.

Xiaoke naturally knew how to do it as well, but since Old Hei was so enthusiastic about it, she naturally didn’t force herself.

Half an hour passed by, and Old Hei was still trying to crack the mechanism. Other than Elder Yu’s impatience, the others were waiting with calm expressions.

James and Xiaoke knew that something like this required some luck- sometimes even one or two days wouldn’t be enough to break it. Lin Yi, Lingshan, and Yutian, however, were pretending to be of the industry and didn’t want to get exposed.

“Why is it so slow? Can you open it or not?” Elder Yu finally said impatiently after two hours.

“Elder Yu, this sort of code-cracking requires luck- it will open for sure, it’s just the problem of time...” Old Hei smiled bitterly. “This mechanism isn’t the best one. It’s a normal coded stone door. It’s easier to open.”

“Then hurry up, stop wasting time! I’m getting tired already! Little Hao’s men already cracked the code. I shouldn’t have let you kill him, it seems! Damn useless!” Elder Yu said, pissed.

Old Hei didn’t dare say anything but continued working on the door.

Three hours, four hours, and Old Hei maintained his patience. In this industry, you needed that- who knew how many times you would've died already if you didn't have patience? Some mechanisms weren't as safe as this one, too, and impatience could kill you.

Elder Yu saw that nobody else was complaining and realized that he was out of his field. He hmped and sat down, starting to the practicion.

Lin Yi, Lingshan, and Yutian were also following suit, practicing on the ground. The natural qi here wasn't as thick as the jade space one, but it was much better than city qi. Practitioning here would be beneficial, too, although that only applied to Lingshan and Yutian. Lin Yi went into the jade space anytime he wanted.

Weiwu was in Yutian's arms the entire time and was now put on the ground- although he was very obedient and stayed by Lin Yi's side without causing trouble.

Elder Yu couldn't help but give a cold hmp as he looked at the three. "Other than the male thief from the couple, the other two don't have what it takes. It's too slow- there's no point in practicing!"

From Elder Yu's perspective, Lin Yi and Lingshan and Yutian must be at least thirty or even forty- after all, the couple was already active in the thieves' world ten years ago, and if they were still Golden class late phase peak at forty the chances of getting stronger wouldn't be very high.

"Don't you worry about us- if you don't work hard and get into Sky soon, you won't have many years left as well." Lin Yi said faintly.

"Hmph!" Elder Yu left it at that.

It came time for lunch, and after eating a quick meal with everyone, Old Hei went back to the door- only after the sky got dark, did the door click open.

"Finally!" As expected, Old Hei jumped up excitedly. "It's open!"

"Well, open the damn door then, what are you waiting for?" Elder Yu stood up as well, impatient because Old Hei wasn't opening the door.

"That's... Elder Yu, we don't know if there are any hidden traps, we can't just open it abruptly..." Old Hei said speechlessly- it was such a hassle to talk to someone, not in the industry! Can't you see everyone else was being patient? "Maybe you could come try?"

"Hmph, if I knew this, then what use would you young ones have?" Elder Yu was prideful, but he was no idiot. There were many different fields, and he wouldn't put himself in this danger. He only said he would help out to get what he wanted in the end.

Old Hei smiled bitterly and turned to Xiaoke. "Flying sparrow girl, your qinggong is good- we'll leave this to you!"

The ten percent Xiaoke wanted to take had to be earned, after all- of course, he'd leave it to her.

Xiaoke nodded solemnly. She'd already had this thought that the dangerous parts would be left to her- otherwise, why would they give her a share? It was a whole ten percent!

She couldn't just get that for free. She walked up to the stone door.

In the past, Xiaoke's life and death had nothing to do with Lin Yi- she was just a stranger, no different from the dead Mister Qiu, Old Keng, or Old Hao.

Chapter 1352: No End

But Xiaoke now was different- Lin Yi knew about her situation, and understood why she worked so hard to earn money. In his heart, she was already a friend- he didn't want anything to happen to her.

He had a jade alert system, and people who he accepted would be included in it. Once danger came, he would have known- and so he let out a breath of relief when the jade stayed silent. He didn't interfere with Xiaoke then, only standing coldly.

Xiaoke evidently didn't know if it was dangerous or not, and so when everyone backed off, she jumped away after opening the door to the path where they went yesterday.

The door opened, and nothing happened. No poison gas, no poison arrows, no monsters... Just some dust and a smell of mold.

"No problem!" Old Hei said as he shined the searchlight for a bit. "Somebody came here before, and there are some used arrows on the ground. There isn't any danger left when we came."

"Being scared for nothing- someone already went inside before, see? "Well, what are we waiting for?"

Old Hei nodded. He turned to Xiaoke. "You first!"

Xiaoke was feeling a bit troubled- this money sure was hard to earn. If she were to be the vanguard, she was just cannon fodder!

But for the sake of money, she had no choice.

Lin Yi didn't say anything but followed behind her. He'd be able to save her if something happened.

Weiwu followed behind him, with Lingshan and Yutian behind the dog.

Old Hei naturally wouldn't say anything about Lin Yi being in the front since it was more dangerous there- he stayed at the back. He only went as far as the entrance of the underground palace, after all.

Inside the entrance, the air became a lot thinner, due to the stone door locking this entire space in. The practitioners didn't feel anything, but Old Hei and James already had oxygen tanks prepared.

The path was the same as before, crooked. Sometimes it felt like they were going up and sometimes down. Sometimes they went left and sometimes right, but there was no split- they all calmed down a little because of that.

However, what put them at unease was that this path seemed endless! Sometimes they'd feel like time passed by faster because of all the risks and splits and traps, but they had been walking at a brief pace- and there was still no sign of the end.

“What’s going on? How are we not there yet?” Elder Yu’s voice sounded.

“This path is an S type, and it tilts downwards. Thinking about it logically, at our speed, we should be at the foot of the mountain already, and we’re still not here- this path is likely made this way intentionally to affect you mentally, putting fear in you.” Xiaoke explained. This wasn’t anything rare to someone who frequently went tomb raiding. There were many odd methods they employed, after all.

Elder Yu nodded. “If that’s the case, then walk faster! When will we get there at this rate?”

“If you think we’re too slow, then walk in the front and lead us, or be quiet!” Lin Yi turned to look at him coldly.

“You...” Elder Yu was getting pissed off- he did want to walk in front, but who knew what dangers awaited? He may be an Earth class, but if he somehow managed to not avoid the danger at the correct time, dying right here in this tomb- what a waste would that be?

Plus, if he dared move on his own, he wouldn’t even be here with these graverobbers, he’d just go by himself and wouldn’t have to deal with splitting rewards!

“Elder Yu, being careful is more safe- since we’re already here and inside the underground palace, it’s just a matter of time, there’s no need to rush...” Old Hei said.

Elder Yu didn’t say anything else, and they followed the long, winding path...

After around ten kilometers, Old Hei and James were getting tired! Xiaoke may not be a Golden class, but her qinggong was top class- walking a bit more wasn’t a problem. Lin Yi, Lingshan, Yutian, and Weiwu were all practitioners and naturally weren’t tired.

“We’ve walked quite far- let’s take a break here?” Old Hei wanted to rest and eat something- he couldn’t take it.

“You useless man, just two steps, and you’re tired?” Elder Yu was impatient enough as it was.

Lin Yi really wondered how this guy got to Earth class with this impatient mind. Why didn’t he go crazy when practicing and die? He sure was lucky- without a stable mind, after all, one would keep pushing and pushing without knowing when to slow down, resulting in negative effects.

“Then let’s rest a bit,” Lin Yi didn’t care what Elder Yu have to say, and he stopped and sat down.

“...” Elder Yu was so pissed that he wasn’t even pissed anymore. He stopped, as well.

Old Hei and James looked at Lin Yi gratefully, but whether or not it was genuine, only they knew.

This rest carried over to dusk, and after eating, it was already time to sleep, and naturally, they couldn’t keep walking anymore. Lin Yi just sat crossed leg and got ready to rest!

Old Yu was getting really pissed off at this point- what the hell was this Mystic doing, sleeping? He didn’t need to sleep. He could walk for days! He was an ass!

But if Lin Yi didn’t go, nobody else could- Old Hei and James even less so. They wanted to rest. They were just normal men!

Old Yu had no choice either- he started sitting and practicing as well! There was a bit more qi here than normal, but still lacking compared to where the hidden House Yu was, so he wasn't too keen on practicing here...

The night was quiet outside already, and even more so in here. To save power, Old Hei turned the searchlight off, and the group was immersed in darkness.

Chapter 1353: An Jianwen's New Plan

Even if practitioners like Elder Yu and Lin Yi had better eyesight than others and could see in the dark, that was in the situation where there was at least some level of faint light- like a weak moonlight, for example. They were currently in complete darkness, and even an Earth class like Elder Yu wouldn't be able to see anything- he had to be Sky class!

And so, he was in no mood to be practicing. He had to stay alert! These guys might do something in his sleep, but not him- who knew what lurked in the shadows of this tomb? What if he couldn't react in time?

Looking at Old Hei and James entering into their dreams, Elder Yu felt irritated- he'd become their bodyguard? But it seemed like he had to since he needed them to get them through the mechanisms. He wouldn't be able to go further if they died!

Lin Yi naturally couldn't see anything as well, and so he went into the jade space. The jade could alert him if there was danger anyway.

But, upon entering the jade space, he discovered, to his surprise, that he could feel everything outside! He could see the people around him clearly, as well as the scenery in the entire place- it was clear as day!

This shocked him! When he entered the jade space before, he could feel the things around him, but that was when there was some light, not in pitch darkness like this, so he never noticed.

After all, he could see stuff as long as there was that faint light- but under complete darkness like this, the jade was enabling him to feel everything even now! This really gave another dimension to the jade; it was just that he never noticed it.

Now he could practice in even more ease...

Songshan, An Jianwen's house.

The sudden end of the arena wasn't something Jianwen easily got used to. The days back then were too grand, and the money rolling in overwhelming- he didn't even want to do small businesses like kidneys anymore. It was too troublesome, and they needed buyers, and it was hard to stock!

How fast did he pull in money from the arena? He thought about different methods to earn money these days, but god rewarded his efforts! He found a way to earn something ten thousand fold! Of course, this was also during his talks with the professor that he realized it!

The professor was a very good biological expert and specialized in researching the underlying potential of the human body. They were talking about turning people into walking meats through hypnosis, following absolute orders without question that wiped away their thought process.

This research wasn't too useful, but with An Jianwen's mindset, they found something!

It was simple- robbery! Banks, jewelry shops, anywhere with money! As long as the professor could turn these people into zombies that didn't think, robbing the bank was enough!

Even if something were to happen, it was fine. The person was already no longer a person, and had only the order in mind- Jianwen wasn't worried it would get him in trouble!

Of course, just a simple walking lump of meat wasn't enough, because he might not be able to get away after robbing the bank. So Jianwen asked him to research further into the drug that enhanced human abilities- injecting that into them would make it a perfect match!

Jianwen really thought that he was a genius, and he quickly talked to his father An Mingyue about it, who told the Firewolves- now they were waiting for a reply!

With a picture of Chu Mengyao in his hand, a dark look flashed across his eyes! He got played by Yushu and Xiaoxiao back in the auction, and he spent money on a bunch of glass!

This made him hate Lin Yi even more- what Lin Yi did before was likely something that raised the price, with the goal of Jianwen paying more! He was convinced that Lin Yi was in on it!

"Lin Yi... Hmph, it doesn't matter if you have anything going on with Chu Mengyao. She's mine for sure!" Jianwen smiled coldly. "When the Firewolves approve of my plan, it'll be over for you! Hahahaha!"

Lin Yi sneezed inside the tomb- it wasn't too cold in the tomb, and he was a practitioner, too- this sneeze confused him. Did someone think about him or something?

Of course, Lin Yi didn't know, but An Jianwen was currently thinking of a plan to get money- and it involved him!

The night went by silently, and the next morning everyone woke up with their biological clock since the tomb was still black.

Old Hei and James had a nice sleep- they went to their limits yesterday, and with an Elder Yu guarding them, they didn't have to worry.

After some simple biscuits and canned food, they walked two hours before they came to a split, like the one from yesterday.

Xiaoke stopped, and Old Hei and James frowned.

Splitting of paths wasn't uncommon in tombs, but appearing after this long was odd.

"Which one?" Xiaoke asked.

"Let's investigate, don't rush it." Old Hei knew that time was needed to analyze this.

But in Lin Yi's mind, the details that Bojia gave him came to play! It mentioned this happening after walking to the underground palace!

On the details, it said that one of them was a dead path- he didn't know if that only meant if they would reach a dead end, or if that meant they would die.

Chapter 1354: You Guys Go

Of course, this wasn't just a simple problem of which path they should take. The path they chose now would split again, and that path they chose next would have another split, resulting in many, many decisions branching from this one- they could very well get lost in there, although there wasn't any danger other than that. They would have to go back on the path from where they came or be lost in the tomb forever.

Elder Yu frowned, not saying anything. He couldn't do anything about this.

"There seems to be no difference between these two... Hm?" Xiaoke stopped herself as Old Hei got closer to the searchlight. There was some chalk marking on the wall, symbols that seemed orderless!

"There are markings here!" Lingshan said as she looked at the symbols.

"Maybe it's a code left behind by a tomb raider that came before!" Old Hei walked over and nodded. "But forgive me- what do these symbols mean?"

Old Hei was considered a veteran already, and still, he had never met these markings before.

James shook his head as well after inspecting it. He still wasn't as experienced as Old Hei, after all.

"Aren't you very good at this, Mister Thief? You were able to choose the right path before. Why are you silent now?" Elder Yu turned to Lin Yi. "Young one, you bring us in, and you'll have your benefits, you know that?"

Lin Yi didn't say anything because he wasn't sure himself which path he should take- He stood in front of the two paths. One of them didn't alert the jade, and that meant that it was safe.

The other one, however, was a very dangerous path! The jade was getting intense!

Lin Yi would usually choose the one with no danger under normal circumstances, but Bojia's info made him hesitate.

If there was no danger, didn't that mean that it wasn't the dead road Bojia mentioned? There was no danger, but they wouldn't get to where they wanted.

The other path, however, wasn't a dead end as well- since a dead end had no danger in it.

He couldn't make this decision all of a sudden. If they didn't walk that path that led to a dead-end, they walked the path that led to danger, despite knowing it.

“This road isn’t dangerous but is likely a dead end. Won’t lead anywhere.” Lin Yi pointed and turned to the other path. “This path, however, has a very strong sense of danger, but it’s likely the correct one that leads to the Underground Palace. It won’t be smooth.”

“What do you guys think?” Elder Yu asked Old Hei.

“That’s...” Old Hei was leaning towards the safe path. After all, they could back out even when it was a dead-end, that was more stable. He hesitated. “Since there’s no danger, then we might as well take that path- if it doesn’t work, then we could try the other path since we wouldn’t lose anything?”

“Alright, you go then- I’ll wait here for you.” Lin Yi said faintly. “If there’s stuff in there I won’t take anything. You guys can have it.”

Lin Yi felt no reason for Bojia to lie to him- he was his savior, and they had no conflict of interest. So he didn’t want to bother walking for anything.

“Then, we’ll take a look!” Elder Yu’s eyes lit up. Lin Yi’s words made sense, but there was no absolute here. What if this path was the right one? Lin Yi wasn’t a god- he was good at calculating, but if he wasn’t there with them, he could get what he wanted without obstruction!

So Elder Yu said yes without thinking.

With Elder Yu’s support but not the support of the couple, Old Hei and James still chose to take the safe path. In order to avoid getting lost, they chose to leave stone dust on the floor.

Xiaoke was employed by Old Hei, so naturally, she had to follow- Lin Yi didn’t stop him. There was no danger in there anyway; it was just extra walking.

Old Hei and the group walked with the searchlight, so Lin Yi could only use his phone’s light and put it aside for some illumination.

“What do we do now?” Lingshan asked quietly after the group left.

“Practition here and wait for them- it’ll take one or two days.” Lin Yi said mockingly. Bojia’s info mentioned that the path was made using the original caverns and paths of the mountain, and it was winding and complex. One or two days would be required before they realized they went the wrong way.

“You’re sure that it’s the wrong path?” Lingshan said, a bit worried.

“Mostly sure.” Lin Yi smiled It wasn’t that he didn’t trust Bojia, but it was just that there couldn’t be zero danger at all in the road to the palace.

Lingshan nodded. “This mission is a bit difficult now- do you have a guarantee of defeating that Elder Yu?”

“No.” Lin Yi said bluntly. “But if he wants to hold the medical notes for himself, I’d have to put my life on the line and keep him here.”

Lin Yi’s eyes were filled with resolve as he said that the medical notes were Xiaoxiao’s only hope, and he had to fight to get it no matter what practitioner stood in his way!

“You came here with us to get the medical notes?” Lingshan never understood why Lin Yi changed his mind. So the notes were the reason.

“Xiaoxiao’s sickness should have a solution, and it’s written on those notes.” Lin Yi said, there was no point in hiding this.

“I see...” Lingshan couldn’t help but nod enviously. She felt that this Miss Feng sure was in bliss, with Lin Yi treating her like this. She would be really happy even if she couldn’t come back...

“Let’s not talk about that. You guys aren’t strong enough, only Golden class late phase peak- not only would you be unable to help me, but you might also even drag me down- it’s a bit difficult when the time comes!” Lin Yi had been thinking about how to deal with Elder Yu.

Chapter 1355: Add a Girl

Lin Yi had a Qi bomb ultimate, but this was something that severely damaged him. Plus, it needed time for the energy to be compressed- he didn’t know if Elder Yu would give him enough time to pull that off!

If Lingshan and Yutian were able to buy some time for him, that’d be good, but they were too weak. Golden class... Even if they were late phase peak, an Earth class could kill them instantly.

“Yeah, and even so, it’s still thanks to you, otherwise were even weaker...” Chentian smiled bitterly and self mockingly. “If we were both Mystics, even if it’s just early phase, we could help you fight for a bit, too...”

“I have a killer move that you guys probably heard from Elder Yu already, called Energy bomb. Basically, I compress the qi inside of me and let it go in a burst, resulting in a very powerful explosion. The problem is I need time to compress it.” Lin Yi said. “If you guys can buy some time for me, I’ll be able to damage him severely, and keep him here, but...”

Yutian and Lingshan had questions about that energy bomb that Elder Yu mentioned, but they wouldn’t ask them. This concerned personal martial secrets, and just like Yutian wouldn’t ask Lingshan about her arts. He wouldn’t ask Lin Yi. They were friends and teammates, but even so, he couldn’t ask him.

There were rules of the practitioner’s world, with each sect and noble house having their own rules. These secrets belonged only to the insiders of the sect or the family.

“Maybe we could use our lives to hold him off for a while when the time comes?” Yutian sighed.

“If you two were Mystics, then I would say yes- after all, it’s two on one, and as long as it’s good teamwork, the injuries will be minor. I can heal you guys anyway.” Lin Yi rejected. “But you guys aren’t strong enough at all right now,. You might get instantly killed. I can’t pull you two down with me just to save Xiaoxiao! She’s my girlfriend, but you two are my best friends. You three all are equal. I can’t let you take this risk.”

Yutian felt touched at those words- it seemed like Lin Yi really did care heavily about him!

But Lingshan was sulking a little- can’t she be a girlfriend too? She didn’t want to be good friends, come on! Why couldn’t she be like Xiaoxiao?

“Can you add a Girl?” Lingshan begged pitifully.

“Ah?” Lin Yi paused- the hell was this person saying?

“Can you add a Girl in front of the friend?” Lingshan repeated helplessly.

“Add a Girl in front of friend?” Lin Yi repeated- he couldn’t help but smiled. “Ha...”

“Come on, yes or no?!” Lingshan was panicking.

“Let’s not talk about this right now. I have to focus on other things- we’ll talk about it after we get out alive!” Lin Yi waved his hand- it was considered a rejection.

Lingshan felt really troubled- if it were a different girl getting rejected, she’d be really embarrassed, but Lingshan was already used to it. She was just a bit pissed off.

“Fine, fine, I’ll use my life to get you those notes later!” Lingshan felt that Lin Yi treated even Xiaoke better than he treated her, and so she spoke out of frustration. “I’m not as talented as you, can’t level up as fast- I’ll only be able to throw my life on it, I guess.”

“Not as fast...” Lin Yi paused as he thought about those words, remembering how he broke through last time, using compressed energy to forcefully strengthen himself. If that worked and leveled him up, would it work for these two too?

They were both late phase peak Golden class, with only one step away from Mystic- this meant that, with enough compressed energy, leveling them up right now wasn’t something too difficult at all!

Lingshan felt her hairs stand up as she looked at Lin Yi’s stare- she thought that Lin Yi was thinking that she was pretty at first, and was feeling shy when the stare persisted for too long. “You... Why are you looking at me like that? Are you going to eat me up or something?”

“You’re late phase peak Golden class right now- will you reach Mystic after just a bit more qi?” Lin Yi asked.

“Yeah, but the qi here is thinner, and it isn’t that easy to break through a bottleneck. Sometimes, when I practice, I try to suck in more pure and thick qi, but it just doesn’t come. It’s just a bit more that’s always insufficient for breaking through...” Lingshan nodded.

Lingshan’s description wasn’t the best, but Lin Yi understood. It was similar to when he had to level up through a bottleneck. It was the same for all practitioners!

As a result, he wanted to test this out. If he could do it, why couldn’t others? Although there was a certain risk involved. He decided to just tell them.

“I have a method that can let you guys absorb a level of qi that’s way, way thicker than the usual amount you take in. But there are risks...” Lin Yi said seriously. “This is similar to the compressed qi bomb- I’ll compress qi and let you take it in your body- it’ll expand inside you, and this should push you guys to Mystic... This worked on my body, but I don’t know if it’ll work for you guys. I don’t know what might happen if it doesn’t work...”

Lingshan and Yutian understood the words- they looked at each other, and saw that both had the same desire!

The desire for Mystic class! Mystic was the top power of the common noble houses already, and if a Mystic appeared in both House Song and House Chen, that was a very big deal- it gave them a lot of authority in the noble house meeting!

Even House Yu would have to give them more respect!

No pain, no gain- they understood what Lin Yi was saying. Success meant big celebrations, but failure... They didn't even know what the punishment was.

"I want to try..." A moment of silence later, the two almost spoke at the same time. They weren't people who wasted time on decisions- after seriously considering the risks and rewards. They made their decision.

Chapter 1356: Yutian's Breakthrough

"Lingshan, let me do this first- if there's no problem or damage, you take your turn. Haha, you wouldn't blame me for taking the first try, right?" Yutian said after giving Lingshan a look. He was the man- he couldn't be weak here!

"If that's the case, then I won't fight with you- I'll let you be a man!" Lingshan smiled. "If you were as decisive as you are now, I wouldn't have looked up to you more."

"Haha, that's all in the past- I'm getting influenced by Lin Yi. He's who made me change." Yutian said elegantly. "Alright, Lin Yi, I'm ready- we can start!"

"Alright!" Lin Yi didn't say anything else- these were both adults, they knew what they were doing, and so Lin Yi kept it at that. "I'll start channeling my arts, and you do the same!"

"No problem!" Yutian sat cross-legged and got ready.

Lin Yi didn't compress too much energy- he calculated around the amount he used back when he first broke through into Mystic- too much wasn't a good thing.

"It's ready." Lin Yi had compressed it already- it wasn't a bomb, so he didn't need to put too much into the compression.

Yutian channeled his practitioner's arts, but he couldn't absorb the qi from Lin Yi. He felt confused- this wasn't the case before; it was really smooth back then!

Yutian tried again but failed. He was feeling confused.

"What's wrong?" Lin Yi looked at him, his turn to be confused.

"I can't take the energy from you..." Yutian said after trying again.

“Oh?” Lin Yi frowned, and suddenly realized the bottleneck difference between them! He was Mystic, and once Yutian reached Golden class late phase peak, he couldn’t take energy from him anymore. This couldn’t be changed.

At that thought, he felt a bit downtrodden. He thought that this would work on Yutian and Lingshan for sure, but it failed! His compression leveling up wasn’t limited or restricted, after all.

But Yutian and Lingshan were different- they had to receive their qi from him, but receiving it from him had certain restrictions.

But Lin Yi didn’t want to give up- he’d finally found a way to deal with Elder Yu, but it wasn’t working!

Looking at Lin Yi’s expression, they both knew that there was trouble that he had to think about. They sat there silently.

“Elder Jiao, is there some way to break through this bottleneck?” Lin Yi put his hope on Elder Jiao.

“Life isn’t that easy- you’ve already used the jade space to crazy lengths already, and now you want to let other people use it? You sure have it good, huh?” Elder Jiao shook his head, denying Lin Yi’s thought.

“So, there’s no other way?” Lin Yi knew the answer already, but he had to ask.

“Ugh... You damned kid, always causing trouble. Let me think...” Elder Jiao knew how serious this was, and while he sounded irritated, he actually tried to think up a plan for Lin Yi. “Right, this bottleneck of yours- it only applies before Golden class late phase peak, right? You can’t give qi to anyone at late phase peak itself?”

“Yeah, that’s the problem,” Lin Yi nodded.

“Alright, here’s a plan- you can try it. This is the only one I have!” He sighed. “Tell him to waste some qi on his own, and not to replenish it- using the qi you send him instead. This would mean that he wouldn’t be at the utmost peak, meaning he might be able to take in your energy- sending the compressed energy to him would probably work! Although you’ll need to use more qi than before.”

“You’re right!” Lin Yi rejoiced at the idea- it would work! He turned to Yutian. “Yutian Bro, waste some of your qi first, but don’t replenish it- otherwise, my qi wouldn’t work.”

“Oh? Alright!” Yutian didn’t ask any questions but followed Lin Yi’s instructions. He stood up, channeled his arts, and slammed a fist into a stone wall!

He hadn’t used any qi before, other than that jumping off the cliff- the time they spent practicing already replenished it fully.

“Alright, that’s about good. Just a bit is good.” Lin Yi signaled for him to stop.

Yutian pulled his fist back and went to Lin Yi’s side, sitting beside him and channeling his arts without Lin Yi saying anything.

It happened- Lin Yi’s compressed energy was entering Yutian’s body! In an instant, his face turned completely red; it was a horrifying sight!

“AH-!!” Yutian screamed at the sky, his eyes blood-red as he felt his body bloat- it was indescribably painful.

But Yutian knew that this was the sign before breaking through- it was just more painful than normal. It was like pulling on a budding plant sprout to help it grow, except this time, the pulling was a lot more intense.

Lin Yi had experienced that pain before as well, so he wasn't too worried. Now that the qi had entered him successfully, he was moments away from breaking through- Lin Yi wasn't worried at all. He was happy!

The method worked! This meant that he could make the same leveled practitioners whenever he went to the next stage now! Although, after breaking through, he wouldn't be able to help them anymore. Even if it was just Mystic early phase, that was a great help to him! It was much better than Golden class.

“He... He will be fine, right?” Lingshan was shocked by the look on Yutian's face.

“It's fine. He's breaking through...” Lin Yi said as he looked at Yutian, whose face and body was completely red. He cried out. “This is bad!”

“What?!” Lingshan froze.

“Turn away, I need to take his clothes off first. Otherwise the instant he breaks through his clothes will get ripped!” Lin Yi remembered how his clothes got blasted to shreds in the jade space, although those weren't real. His clothes in the real world were fine.

Yutian, however, was in the real world! That explosion would destroy everything on his body!

Chapter 1357: It's Very Obvious

“Ah!” Lingshan blushed and turned her head away.

She wasn't someone who was shy like this, especially due to her profession she didn't really mind stuff like that. In front of Lin Yi, however, she started developing towards a little girl's mentality for no reason.

Lin Yi didn't bother with Lingshan, but quickly walked over and stripped Yutian's clothes off. He didn't want all of the clothes bursting into pieces; it'd be hard to explain to the others.

Plus, even if they didn't explain, they couldn't just let Yutian walk around in the tomb naked. He had to strip him first.

Yutian was almost breaking through, but he could hear Lin Yi's words- he cooperated with Lin Yi's actions.

The qi inside the tomb wasn't as full as the jade space, but it was much, much thicker than the city. He'd absorbed enough qi from Lin Yi already, and he didn't need to bother with the natural qi of the world.

But even so, the qi in the tomb was pulled around him, circling his body...

Lin Yi had experienced that as well, so he didn't panic. After taking his clothes off, he waited.

A few hours passed, and the qi started swirling even more intensely, until finally- he broke through!

In truth, this was an expected result, but he still let out a breath of relief when Yutian succeeded, a relaxed smile on his face. It looked like his plan worked! If Yutian could do this, so could Lingshan.

"I broke through! Lin Yi, I really broke through, I'm a Mystic now!" Yutian said after a brief pause, jumping up and running to Lin Yi and Lingshan. "Lingshan, I'm really a Mystic now!"

"Really??" Lingshan turned over happily, only to see a naked Yutian running over her face darkening. "What on earth are you doing, are you streaking?"

"Ah??" Yutian looked down and remembered that he was naked- the excitement and pushed out his senses. He started feeling a bit embarrassed. "Sorry, I'll go get dressed..."

Lingshan didn't see it very clearly but was still quite pissed- especially when she saw a man in front of Lin Yi. It made things awkward for her! With a hmph, she turned away and ignored Yutian.

"Alright, since the test was okay, you wear your clothes then, I'll help strengthen Lingshan up..." Lin Yi said after confirming that this worked.

It took around five hours for him to level Yutian up, and he didn't know when Old Hei would be back- he needed to hurry! He didn't think that Elder Yu would attack him right when they come back, but the problem was Lingshan needed to strip as well- Yutian was fine, but Lingshan was a girl!

"I... Do I need to take my clothes off too?" Lingshan looked at Lin Yi, her face red.

"Yeah, you'd have to, this time." Lin Yi smiled, making a joke. She was trying to strip the last time he leveled her up, though he didn't ask her to back then.

He felt that it all seemed surreal, now that he thought about it.

"Making fun of me..." Lingshan glared. "Fine, I'll take them off, so what? It's not like you never saw me naked before!"

Back in the cell in the kidney thieves' base, Lingshan had already gotten her body exposed to Lin Yi, and even shamelessly called out his name- but that didn't mean she was an open person. In fact, she was actually quite traditional. She wouldn't have had zero relationship experience otherwise.

"Let's go inside the tunnel first..." Lingshan said as she looked at the other path.

"We can just turn off the flashlight." Lin Yi said while turning it off.

It was just leveling up, it was fine and didn't really matter.

Lingshan was a bit disappointed- she wanted to show off her proud body to Lin Yi for a bit since she was a practitioner with an especially fit physique. Not only was she symmetrical, but her skin was also really supple as well. This was where she was the proudest- it had to be much better than Tang Yun or Xiaoxiao.

But, talking about the fact would take away her advantage. Tang Yun and Xiaoxiao were on the same level as her.

“You can look if you want...” Lingshan said unwillingly.

“...” Lin Yi was a bit speechless. Wasn't this too obvious? But he had already gotten used to her behavior already, so he scolded her a bit impatiently. “Stop talking so much. Time is limited- I won't want you anymore if Old Hei comes back and sees everything!”

“Ah- okay!” Lin Yi's threat was effective- Lingshan was worried that he'd think she was dirty or something if another man saw her naked, so she quickly stripped and let Lin Yi begin.

Lingshan had decided to hold on to someone as powerful as Lin Yi- not only because he was the type she liked, but also because he was simply too strong! Following him would allow her to get more powerful as well!

If Lin Yi really stepped into Sky class one day, she'd be able to get there as well. It wasn't a dream anymore! It'd be such a breeze, too, it was the dream of all practitioners!

Lingshan quickly took off her clothes, and puffed her chest up, thinking that she'd look in his direction. If he were to reach out, he'd touch her boobs- if she let him do that, then maybe he'd come begging to touch them in the future...

She had already started planning to seduce Lin Yi...

“Lin Yi, I've dressed already...” Yutian spoke up.

“Alright, you stay there first- that's the path Old Hei took, tell me when you notice them coming.” Lin Yi said.

“Alright.” Yutian nodded, still not getting over the excitement. He was a Mystic now??

Chapter 1358: Exposed

When he had just gotten back to Songshan, she was still a Golden class early phase- now he was one entire strength level above? He smiled bitterly- no wonder Lingshan liked Lin Yi if he were a girl, he'd feel reliant on Lin Yi as well! No matter which noble house got into a good relationship with Lin Yi, their future would be nothing but prosperous!

As long as Lin Yi was willing to help, the entire family could become a practitioner... Yes, it seemed he had to start thinking for House Chen...

His sister seemed to be in a good relationship with Lin Yi, right? Plus, Lin Yi seemed to treat his sister much better than Lingshan? It seemed like the future of their house would fall onto his sister's shoulders!

With that thought, Yutian was getting excited- once Lingshan and he went to the noble house meeting as Mystic, then their houses' positions would rise through the skies. Everyone would think they were practitioner geniuses!

But only Yutian knew the truth. Genius? Genius your ass! More like genius, through the help of his sister.

In complete darkness, Lin Yi couldn't see anything, and he couldn't find where Lingshan was- he stepped into the jade space to see her.

And what was in front of him was Miss Song with her voluptuous chest right in front of him. His started to sweat, and he looked... And looked... And looked a bit more in secret... It seemed like her chest wasn't smaller than Shu's. It looked amazing!

But he shouldn't look at this sort of thing too much- sometimes thinking about stuff like this made him feel like he was wronging Xiaoxiao! He had to make her strong right now so that they could fight Elder Yu together.

"Why're your boobs so high up in the air like that. Are you're worried I wouldn't touch them? Turn around!" Lin Yi barked.

"Ah?!" Lingshan didn't expect that he could see her, and she couldn't help but blush after getting exposed- the worse part was that Yutian wasn't too far away, did he hear everything?

Lingshan wanted to stomp her foot, but remembering Lin Yi's temper, she quietly turned around.

"Waste some qi first." Lin Yi said.

"Okay..." Lingshan nodded and channeled her air before spamming the stone wall with attacks, treating it like it was Lin Yi.

"Alright, that's about enough. Stand there and don't move." Lin Yi put his hands on her nerves and started channeling energy. A while later, he spoke. "Alright, channel your practitioner's arts."

It wasn't the first time Lin Yi touched Lingshan, but that was when she was clothed- this was the first time she was naked, and her body tensed and heated up. She couldn't help but remember the scene back in the kidney thieves' base.

After a while, Lin Yi noticed that Lingshan wasn't responding- her body was actually getting hotter and hotter. "What are you doing? Let's start?"

"Oh oh oh oh!" Lingshan jumped in fright, throwing all those thoughts away as she channeled her practitioner's arts.

The entire process was the same as Yutian's, and this sort of forceful leveling up was very effective, although it did bring more pain. She was a tough girl, though, clenching her teeth and fighting through, not even making a sound- it impressed Lin Yi a bit.

The energy had gotten sent over, and the rest would be left to Lingshan. Lin Yi entered the jade space to practice as well as to protect Lingshan, paying attention to her situation. He was worried she wouldn't be able to take it.

But luckily, she was- she held on, and the qi around them started swirling. Lin Yi knew that she was close.

“Fuu-!!” Lingshan let out a deep breath and jumped up! She broke through! She had reached late phase peak Golden class a bit earlier than Yutian, so she had been trying to get to Mystic for a bit longer. Naturally, she was happier than he was.

She jumped up and jumped onto Lin Yi, hugging him and planting a kiss on his cheek. “Lin Yi, I love you to death! I broke through!”

Lin Yi was a bit speechless, and he wanted to push her off, but it felt good- his impression of her was getting better, too. He was a normal person, after all, and after spending time together, the rejection and negative thoughts he had about her disappeared. Plus, she was really pretty, too, increasing the pressure.

In truth, if he wanted to dodge Lingshan, he really could’ve- but he had no defenses up against her at all. His hesitation of whether or not he should push Lingshan away also resulted in this scene.

“Alright, put your clothes on, Old Hei might be coming back!” Lin Yi said with a composed face.

“Oh...” Lingshan felt disappointed at Lin Yi’s impassive response, and quickly put her clothes on.

Lin Yi let out a breath of relief. He didn’t know when this girl had started liking him. Did she have masochistic tendencies or something? She didn’t seem to mind when he scolded her all the time?

After she was dressed up, Lin Yi turned on the flashlight. Yutian walked over as well, nodding to Lingshan. “Congrats, you’ve broken through as well!”

“You too!” Lingshan had returned to her usual self in front of Yutian. “It seemed like House Chen will also be a big player in the coming meeting.”

Yutian smiled.

“You guys rest first, I’m going to try it on General Weiwu.” Lin Yi said.

Weiwu should be able to go through the same thing since Lingshan and Yutian could. A Mystic dog- that would be quite nice. Mengyao and Yushu would be saved for sure in the future!

“Alright, you do your thing, we’ll guard the entrance for you and look out for Old Hei.” Lingshan nodded.

Lin Yi looked at Weiwu. “General Weiwu, you wanna level up? Like them?”

He pointed at Lingshan and Yutian.

Chapter 1359: Mystic Dog

“Woof, woof!” Weiwu probably understood Lin Yi, barking and running over as if agreeing.

Lin Yi nodded and got Weiwu into his arms, although his situation was a bit special. He automatically absorbed the energy he sent over, and he didn't know any practitioner's arts- Lin Yi couldn't use the same approach on him!

Remembering the last time he got hurt, the only plan Lin Yi had was to suck a bit of energy out of Weiwu before compressing it and sending it back. That might work.

With the idea in mind, he went to work.

Sitting down cross-legged, Lin Yi channeled his art of dragon mastery and started absorbing energy and practicing, but without going to the jade space this time- he was directly taking it from Weiwu!

Lin Yi was already Mystic mid-phase peak, and breaking through would have to rely on him accumulating qi slowly and slowly, but even so, that was enough. As long as he let Weiwu lose some of his own qi, it was fine.

And so he stopped after absorbing a small amount. He compressed his own energy into a mini energy bomb and gave it back.

In a puff, Weiwu was instantly a balloon- his entire body was boated, his four legs spreading in all directions as his eyes popped, calling out in pain as it lay on the ground. "Woof-!!"

Lin Yi looked at the struggling Weiwu with pity but didn't interfere. He could just suck it back out again, but that would mean he gave up on strengthening Weiwu up!

And so Lin Yi decided to let Weiwu use his own strength to get through this. Even if he got filled to almost bursting, Lin Yi could heal him as long as he didn't die. There wasn't too much to worry about.

Lingshan and Yutian were both shocked at Weiwu's situation as well, but Li Yi was silent, so they kept quiet as well.

An hour passed, two hours... Finally, the shape of Weiwu shrunk into normal size, and now, Weiwu was a Mystic dog!

Weiwu barked happily. He couldn't speak, but this was a cause for celebration for him as well!

"Haha... Congratulations!" Lin Yi smiled.

Lingshan and Yutian were impressed as well- a dog, becoming a Mystic practitioner early phase. Anything could happen when it came to Lin Yi.

But, what confused them was the fact that Lin Yi didn't lose his strength at all even though he kept increasing the strength of others- even if he got hurt, he just recovered in one night. Just what the hell was this guy?

Even a Sky class wouldn't be able to do that, right? Especially with the limitations of the thin qi in the air- he couldn't just recover that quickly, right? Where did Lin Yi's qi come from? It seemed inexhaustible!

Of course, Lin Yi not mentioning it meant that they could only hold onto their own questions. Lin Yi didn't intentionally hide it, treating them as his most trusted people- they wouldn't be as irritating as asking something like that.

A day and a night passed, and finally, footsteps came from the tunnel. Old Hei and his group were coming back.

"They're all back..." Lin Yi wasn't surprised; after all, they did make markings on the floor. However, their faces were all covered in dust, and their expressions weren't too happy. It wasn't an easy road.

"Well? Got anything," Lingshan tried to sound like the female thief, prodding at them.

"Hmph! Wasn't even a ghost in there!"

Old Hei and James looked at each other, regretful as well. They would've believed Lin Yi if they knew this was going to happen, they walked one day and night for nothing, wasting their energy and completely ruining their mood! This was bad luck! There was absolutely nothing on this path, not even some small item for them to take home.

Xiaoke was troubled as well, but she was hired here by Old Hei, so naturally, she kept her mouth shut.

"I told you guys, you didn't believe me." Lin Yi shrugged. "Can we go now?"

"We... Can we rest for a moment?" Old Hei and James weren't practitioners, and they were dead tired enough already. Elder Yu kept rushing them too when they walked, so they had to hurry.

Elder Yu and Xiaoke were both practitioners, and while Xiaoke wasn't even Golden class, her stamina was good. Resting a while would be enough to get her back on her feet.

"Then you guys rest yourself- we've been waiting for a day and a night, we're about to be bored to death." Lin Yi ignored Old Hei's suggestion and went for the other path.

"That's..." Old Hei was panicking- he knew that Lin Yi was good, especially with what happened this time- he felt that Lin Yi really was better than he expected! Could he even get to the underground palace successfully if he didn't travel with Lin Yi?

James was evidently thinking the same thing, but he really was too tired- his legs were all wobbling.

"You two trashes, get up! Let's go!" Elder Yu wouldn't let Lin Yi operate alone! He had seen it already, among the thieves, this man was the best! Things wouldn't go smoothly if they didn't follow him! "I'll kill you two if you don't come!"

Old Hei and James jumped in fright, standing up and following Lin Yi while scrambling over themselves.

Right after entering the tunnel, it was evidently the same path as before. The same stone walls going high and sometimes low, with quick lefts and rights... Lin Yi used his flashlight and walked in the front.

They got further and further, and the path seemed to have gotten wider, from the original two meters to three, to four meters, five... And ten meters wide!

Everyone understood- they were on the right track, the underground palace was in front of them, so there were probably mechanisms or traps in front...

Lin Yi suddenly stopped.

“What’s wrong?” Elder Yu paused, worried.

“Look At the ground!” Lin Yi said faintly.

Chapter 1360: Skeleton

“Oh?” The crowd started searching on the ground after what Lin Yi said- there was a white skeleton on the ground, under the wall at their right! It was bright white under the searchlight, looking especially eerie!

The skeleton was piled up on the ground instead of organized neatly, so one couldn’t tell the cause of death. It was as if the corpse got cut to pieces and dumped together, looking like this after decomposing.

“Just some bones, nothing surprising about that- maybe his companion killed him or something.” Elder Yu had no fear of dead men. “Didn’t Old Hei kill a couple of people yesterday as well? The space around here is wide; there’s no visible danger.”

“Is that so? You’re interested in splitting apart his corpse after killing a companion?” Lin Yi said, looking down on Elder Yu’s ignorance. He may be a practitioner, but he clearly lacked common sense. Even if some disagreement caused by greed resulted in infighting, who would go and dismember the corpse like that? It wasn’t like some big revenge quest.

“That’s... Hmph, this entire road’s clear and flat, there’s no marks or death traps or anything. Aren’t you overthinking?” Elder Yu said.

“Oh, well then, why don’t you walk in front? Or guard our backs.” Lin Yi shrugged.

“Hmph!” Elder Yu’s face looked a little pale, a little worried. He really didn’t want to walk in front- who knew what might actually be lurking there after all? Even if he was an Earth class, there was danger. He wanted to rush things to move along, but now that things were like this, he hesitated. He turned to Old Hei. “What do you think?”

“I...” Old Hei frowned. He couldn’t really make up his mind, but he turned to Xiaoke. “Flying sparrow, you take the lead!”

Damn it, why was it her again? Xiaoke was feeling really troubled, but she had no choice. She was hired by Old Hei, and she needed to listen to him to get the rewards! So she clenched her teeth and walked on testingly.

“Wait!” Lin Yi stopped Xiaoke. There was danger in front of them; Lin Yi was completely sure- the jade had started intensely signaling him once they got to this area, of course, he wouldn’t let Xiaoke take this risk.

Old Hei frowned once Lin Yi spoke. "I can't even let my men walk first? You're a bit tyrannical, aren't you?"

"I'm taking her! She has different use later." Lin Yi pointed at her. "You follow me now, and I'll give you ten percent, taken out from my share. You don't have to listen to him anymore!"

"Ah?" Xiaoke paused- she didn't understand why Lin Yi would say that all of a sudden, but she was well aware of his protective tendencies toward her this whole time. She was no idiot. She could tell who actually cared about her, and who treated her as a tool!

"Flying sparrow, are you going to break the contract?" Old Hei looked at Xiaoke, his face dark and testing.

He was getting pissed off- this Lin Yi was too much, trying to take Xiaoke away with a couple of words! This was his cannon fodder!

"I... I'll follow Mister Thief then..." Xiaoke wasn't an idiot- she didn't want to die! This Old Hei was clearly making her go step on mines, so this was a very easy choice.

"Flying sparrow, think about it, what would this man want you for? Think about what he's saying. He's probably just after your looks." Old Hei was starting to put some distance between Lin Yi and Xiaoke. Letting the female thief hear this would make her interfere, and Lin Yi wouldn't have a choice left.

Xiaoke looked at Lin Yi, and she felt that there was a familiar sense- and he didn't seem to have any ulterior motives toward her. But Old Hei's words did implant a sense of doubt- it was true, what use did he have for her, that he was even willing to take out ten percent for her?

She felt that something was wrong. Wasn't he treating her too nicely?

"You want to die, Old Hei?" Lin Yi looked at him, speaking flatly. "Shut up if you want to live, you can walk in front if you want!"

"Ugh..." Old Hei instantly remembered that Lin Yi was someone capable of holding off Elder Yu- he lost all his temper instantly. He had nothing to fight Lin Yi with, and it was suicide!

"Then what do you want to do? Stay here and do nothing?" Elder Yu had no choice- he turned to Lin Yi.

"We'll see how that person died first." Lin Yi pointed at the bones.

The corpse had already become only a pile of bones, but there were still clues.

The suggestion made sense to everyone- it'd be useful to inspect it. They carefully walked over, stopping around ten meters away. Elder Yu wasn't as defensive- he took two steps, before backing off again.

Lin Yi mockingly looked at the coward before throwing some cookies over.

The cookie flew parallel to the ground before stopping upon impact with the bones.

Actually, the jade's signal didn't change at all when they neared the bones- this meant that there was no danger here. If the signal was even more intense, that indicated danger in their current path.

Lin Yi walked over and picked up the cookie, patting the dust off and tearing it apart to eat it. He inspected the bones as he ate.

He was a doctor, after all, and he was someone who'd been through many corpses before- he didn't really mind. Although Old Hei and James and Elder Yu felt quite disgusted- these bones touched the cookie, and Lin Yi was eating it?

Lin Yi ate one and gave the other one to Xiaoke beside him. He could tell that her food resources were limited, and while sometimes Old Hei would give her something, she really was quite money-saving. She'd gotten a lot skinnier these past few days.

Xiaoke didn't mind- in her view, this was food- she couldn't waste it! As long as it didn't drop into poop, it was fine!

Old Hei's face darkened as he looked at Xiaoke and Lin Yi's actions, but didn't say anything. He saw it, and the female thief saw it- yet she stayed silent. There was no point of him trying to cause a scene

But he was confused- how come this Xiaoke trusted Lin Yi that easily? Wasn't she afraid he'd hurt her?

"These bones seemed to have been bitten on before; there are teeth markings." Lin Yi picked up one of the bones and smelled it before throwing it back. "No signs of poison, so there's that. This is as much information as I can get here."