

Chapter 1031: When I Am Still Alive

Yan Feiling choked up a little before continuing, "Some of my abilities had recovered later on. Someone from 'Dragon' came over to ensure that I wasn't a spy. My cultivation base hadn't fully recovered completely so they thought I was in the Houtian stage. At that time, I lied to them, saying that I'm a martial arts practitioner. After that, Sir apologized to me and took me in, asking me to help Madam at the logistics team. I was thinking of leaving after the war but I did not anticipate how close I would get to Madam. She felt bad for me since I was alone, so she wanted me to stay longer. She even said that she will ask her parents to adopt me once we get back to Beijing..."

Yan Feiling stammered but everyone managed to catch her words.

She refused to return to Hongmeng to meet her apathetic father, so she chose to accompany her savior instead.

Even though they treated each other as sisters, there were still rules within noble clans. Therefore, if they wished to stay together, it would best for her to act like Madam's maid.

At that time, it wasn't rare to have a maid when someone from a noble clan was married off.

Well, obviously Yang Gongming and his wife wouldn't treat her like their maid. But Yan Feiling would still perform her duties as a maid to repay her debt.

As for Yan Feiling's true identity, she only told the couple a few years after the war had ended and when they had gotten much closer to one another.

That was how Yan Feiling became Yan Sanniang.

"Big Brother, Second Sister, I'm indebted to the Yang clan and this has been my home for many decades. You two have murdered enough people." Yan Sanniang persuaded them.

Yan Feiyun squinted his eyes as he contemplated her words. He chuckled before saying, "Sis, even though he had saved you, you should be even now after your many years of service. How dare they make you work as a maid?. How despicable!"

Yan Sanniang shook her head hurriedly when she heard this. "No, Big Brother, I volunteered to serve them. I aged myself to fool others, no one forced me to do this!"

"That won't do! What will our father do when he learns that you have been working as a maid for a mundane clan! He might wipe out the Yang clan because of this!" Yan Feiyu berated her.

"How... how could you do this?!"

Yan Sanniang thought that this crisis could be resolved once she talked things through with them. She did not expect her appearance to escalate things!

"Hmph, Feiling, we don't owe anything to their clan. This rascal ruined my nunnery and he even insulted Hongmeng and I. He has to pay for his mistakes!"

"But..."

“No buts!” Yan Feiyun turned around and scolded sternly, “I can promise you that I won’t harm the clan members but this troublemaker has to give us his scripture. I will destroy his cultivation if he refuses to do so!”

Yan Sanniang was enraged. “I’ll kill myself right here if you harm Young Master Chen!”

“Have you gone crazy?! Haven’t you had enough?! Don’t intervene in this matter and once this is settled, return with us to meet father!” Yan Feiyun glowered.

Yan Sanniang shook her head in a stubborn manner. “I cut ties with him all those years ago. I am willing to do the same for you. If you think of me as your sister, don’t do things like this that will make me feel embarrassed!”

“How dare you say we’re embarrassing?! Yan Feiyu said in disbelief.

“You’re trying to snatch a scripture from a young man who’s my savior grandson. When did Hongmeng become so corrupted?!”

“Shut up!” Yan Feiyun yelled.

“Sanniang!”

Yang Gongming walked forward and dissuaded her., “You don’t have to do this. You’ve done enough for the Yang clan. It’s time for you to be yourself.”

“Hmph, sis, you heard him right? He’s embarrassed.” Yan Feiyu sneered.

Yan Sanniang turned around and showed a ghastly smile at Yang Gongming. “Sir, I promised Madam that I’ll take care of you and your clan. It’s a promise.”

“You...why would you do this?” Yang Gongming was getting anxious but he didn’t know what to do.

At this time, a chuckle was heard from Yang Chen who had been quiet for a while.

“Granny Yan, you don’t have to stop them anymore. They can take the scripture from me if they wish.”

Yang Chen’s facial expression was so calm that it almost didn’t seem like he was moments away from dying just a few minutes ago.

Lin Ruoxi tightened her grip on his arms and she said with a worried voice, “Hubby, please don’t push yourself. He’s stronger than you.”

Even though she knew Yang Chen had strong self-healing abilities and that he was looking much better, she was concerned that Yang Chen was doing this because of his pride.

Yang Chen stroked her cheek. “Be a good girl and stand next to the old man. Just watch me.”

“But...”

Yang Chen’s facial expression turned solemn. “Lin Ruoxi, don’t you believe in me?!”

Lin Ruoxi let go of his arm when she sensed the anger in Yang Chen’s gaze. She cast a bitter glance at him before moving next to Yang Gongming.

Yang Gongming patted her shoulders and sighed, but he said nothing about Yang Chen's stubbornness.

Yan Feiyun and Yan Feiyu looked at him with curious gazes.

"How magical...truly magical. I didn't notice it earlier but you've actually recovered. It looks like your scripture really is something else." Yan Feiyun's smile was sinister. The more capable Yang Chen seemed, the more worthy the scripture was!

Yan Sanniang was greatly concerned. "Young Master Chen, stop fighting. You're not my brother's match. With our clan's scripture and his Kongming sword, the destructive power is as great as a cultivator in the second level of the Six Frost Water. You will never stand a chance against him..."

"Granny Yan, you're wrong." Yang Chen smirked. "I will never admit defeat so long as there is breath within me!"

"Haha! Such tough talk!"

Yan Feiyun burst out laughing from the rage he was feeling. "I'll do as you please if you wish to die so soon! I was planning to spare your life and take your scripture for the sake of my sister, but I can't tolerate your bullshit anymore!"

With a grim face, Yan Feiyun gripped his sword again. His sword glowed and with an upwards movement, ice crystals formed at the tip of the sword!

Yang Chen leaped up to dodge the attack. The moment he looked down, Yan Feiyun was gone once again!

Yang Chen knew he would do this so he had prepared for this. He stayed afloat in the air, waiting for Yan Feiyun to reveal himself.

Suddenly, a vortex formed out of icy True Yuan showed up around him. A chilling aura surrounding the vortex swallowed Yang Chen whole!

Yang Chen stood still in the midst of it all. He didn't even summon any of his Nanming Li Fire!

The howling sword aura swept through the whole area, tearing the roofs away. Yang Gongming and Lin Ruoxi could barely keep their eyes open.

"You must be asking for death!"

Yan Feiyun showed up nearby and he sneered when he saw Yang Chen was being swallowed with just a single attack.

However, he realized something was off!

The freezing tornado was shrinking by the second!

It was as if a dragon was shortening and shrinking!

As the dragon shrank gradually, Yan Feiyun finally saw where it was headed.

Yang Chen was lifting his right hand with his index finger up. On top of it was a giant blue ball of light that was spinning at a high speed as it sucked in all of the True Yuan.

Yang Chen stood amongst the chilly breeze. He was completely unharmed!

“This...this is...” Yan Feiyun was appalled.

Yang Gongming and Lin Ruoxi were overjoyed by the plot twist. Yan Sanniang and Yan Feiyu stared at Yang Chen with shocked expressions.

Yang Chen was playing with the ball on his hand. “I really have to thank you for injuring me with your sword. You bestowed upon me the icy True Yuan and if it wasn’t for your generosity, I wouldn’t have been able to understand the profundity of the Kui Water so soon.”

Chapter 1032 Kui Water

Kui Water?! The first level of the Six Frost Water, Kui Water?!

While he was still in shock, Yan Feiyun looked into the blue light ball and he realized that it had the elements of Kui Water embedded into it!

He had experienced this to reach the current level in the Tribulation Passing stage, therefore he was very familiar with Kui Water!

When he was passing the tribulation, his father had watched over him and he even used an upper ranked medicinal pill to boost his True Yuan. A middle-ranked armor was also damaged in the process in order for him to get through the tribulation without any problems.

Even though Yan Feiyu had already passed the tribulation, she still avoided the Nanming Li Fire as much as possible every time she saw it. It would be impossible for her to contend against the Li Fire unless she reached a higher realm!

Yang Chen could control the icy True Yuan singlehandedly because he had acquired the power of Kui Water just recently.

Yan Feiyun’s True Yuan originated from his clan’s scripture which belonged to the water element. Due to the Kui Water tribulation, his True Yuan contained traces of the Kui Water scripture.

After sustaining heavy injuries while trying to resist the True Yuan with his Endless Resolve Restoration Energy, Yang Chen was reminded of a sentence said by the mysterious old man.

“Instead of borrowing energy from Heaven and Earth, why not just be one with it?”

Everything in the world had its own pattern and characteristics. Since Yang Chen’s cultivation was based on the ‘dao’ of merging Heaven and Earth, why couldn’t he comprehend the ‘dao’ in Yan Feiyun’s True Yuan?

The more he thought about it, the more sense it made! The Endless Resolve Restoration seemed to have heard his calling as it started to engulf and fuse with the True Yuan that was still in his body!

Not only did all the icy True Yuan disintegrate rapidly, but it also healed his wounds. At the same time, Yang Chen even gained an understanding of the profundity of Kui Water.

Well, this was an unprecedented achievement. After all, Yang Chen had a strong comprehension of cultivation, or else he couldn't have reached such a high level with his Endless Resolve Restoration so quickly.

Anyhow, Yan Feiyun's sword aura was no longer threatening Yang Chen.

In the face of the Kui Water, Yan Feiyun's icy True Yuan was like a river to the ocean. It was completely defenseless against it and it could only be one with the ocean.

"That's impossible!" Yan Feiyun was furious. He couldn't believe what he was seeing. "How did you manage to do this in such a short amount of time?!"

It was already astonishing to learn that he could use the Nanming Li Fire. Using both the fire and the Kui Water was on a whole different level. Yan Feiyun couldn't even imagine a scripture could be so powerful and that Yang Chen was so talented!

"My bad. I'm bad at everything except fighting." Yang Chen blinked mischievously.

"Hmph! You're bluffing! So what if you could use Kui Water?! You still can't win against my Kongming sword!"

Yan Feiyun swung his sword and with a flash, he disappeared once again!

Lin Ruoxi watched them with an anxious expression.

Yang Chen stood still in the same spot. He even closed his eyes!

He cast his gaze downwards as if he wasn't bothered to defend himself. He stood still as the ball of light cast a blue glow onto his indifferent facial expression.

Everyone was already holding their breaths for a few seconds when Yan Feiyun finally showed up!

His silhouette was filled with rage as he landed behind Yang Chen. His sword brought up a blue glow and together with a dense True Yuan, Yan Feiyun lowered his sword!

Yang Chen moved at the same time!

The light ball on his right hand was thrown out the same time the sword came into contact with it!

BOOM!

With a deafening noise, the impact caused the backyard to sway as though an earthquake had erupted!

Everyone could only see Yan Feiyun's face twisted with pain and shock. He still had his sword up but his chest was struck with the light ball!

He saw through it?! How did he know my actual location?!

Yan Feiyun was confused!

The True Yuan that had been compressed by Yang Chen wasn't strong but because it was compressed with the Kui Water, Yan Feiyun couldn't withstand its complete force

Amidst the bright blue glow, his body flew like a cannonball, bringing down two trees with him in the process. With a loud crash, he fell onto the pavement under one of the rooms!

A big patch of white ice formed at his chest and the mouthful of blood which he had coughed out was completely frozen.

The backyard was dead silent. Even the newly arrived guards didn't dare to move closer and they watched him with their mouths wide agape.

"Big Brother!"

Yan Feiyu snapped out of it and she dashed next to her brother.

She retracted her hand instinctively right after she tried to pull him up!

It was freezing!

She could feel the piercing pain even without touching his body!

It was actually painful for her to go near the Kui Water when she had already passed the first level of the Three Yang Fire?!

As for Yang Gongming and Lin Ruoxi, they breathed out in relief even though they were still overwhelmed by it.

Yang Chen walked to Yan Feiyun slowly and had another ball already forming in his hand. It was tingling as though it was a living entity.

However, even when they were just watching from afar, they could still feel the formidable power from the ball of Kui Water!

"I told you. I will not give up so long as I am alive. Premature celebrations have never been a good thing." Yang Chen played with Kui Water that was on his hand. To him, the Kui Water was like the Li Fire, something which he was extremely familiar with.

"What did you do to my brother?!" Yan Feiyu questioned him with red eyes.

Yang Chen shrugged. "Your brother should know best since he had experienced the tribulation before. He will freeze from the inside out as the icy aura slowly chews away."

"You..."

"Don't worry, he won't die yet. I haven't gone all out." Yang Chen smirked. "I was just returning the favor. I haven't got to the main course yet."

Yan Feiyu felt nervous when she sensed the murderous intent in his words. With a trembling voice, she said, "You...don't you dare! My father will never forgive you! Hongmeng will exterminate you!"

"Sis! Stop it!"

Yan Sanniang could no longer hold it in. "Haven't you done enough?! Young Master Chen can kill you and Big Brother easily. Do you really want to end things by dying in front of me?!"

Yan Feiyu was startled. "Sis...I..."

Yan Sanniang's eyes reddened with anger. She turned around to face Yang Chen. "Young Master Chen, please let them go. With your current cultivation base, they wouldn't be a threat to you anymore."

"Granny Yan, it's not that I don't want to listen to you. But she choked my wife in front of all these people. She also slaughtered a good number of soldiers from the Yang Clan! My injuries and Ruoxi's suffering can be ignored but wouldn't I be disappointing others if I let this slide?" Yang Chen said.

Yan Sanniang's face fell. "Young Master Chen, I know I'm asking too much of you but think about it. If you really killed them, my father will definitely come to you and all hell will break loose. More people will die! Besides that, my father's cultivation base is one of the best in Hongmeng. You still won't be his match. I'm not trying to threaten you, I want you to be safe too."

Yang Chen kept quiet as he thought about it.

She was right, Yan Sanniang was saying this for his safety.

Even though he could now use Kui Water, Yan Feiyun had only passed the first level in Six Frost Water. There was no way he would match up to the elders in Hongmeng!

He would only suffer if he were to fight Hongmeng. Even if he could escape, how would his family survive?

He couldn't possibly rely on the mysterious old man, hoping for him to possess his body and defeat them for him. It wasn't as if he would show up every time Yang Chen was in a dire situation.

The old man already told him that his future relied solely on himself!

Power! Power! Power!

Yang Chen never had such a strong desire for power. His life had been smooth sailing ever since he wiped out Zero, received the mark from the previous Pluto and learned about the space laws!

Even after he had returned to China, he never took the cultivators seriously. As for his cultivation, he never cultivated and would rather sleep since the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture would improve over time!

In terms of the realm, he just went along with the flow. He never wanted to push himself.

However, such speed was now not acceptable.

Technically, Yang Chen should have mastered the Ming Water and Ye Fire after the first level of the Nine Heavenly Lightning Tribulation, but he knew nothing about them!

Yan Sanniang was afraid he would act rashly and kill others, so she tried to persuade him again, "Young Master Chen, if you let them go this time, I can persuade my father to drop the matter. After all, they were the ones who started this. Besides that, they even murdered people so if you agreed to let them go, my father would be too embarrassed to cause you trouble."

Yang Chen looked up. "Granny Yan, you...you're going back to Hongmeng?"

Chapter 1033 Young And Old

Yan Sanniang's eyes were filled with pain when she turned around to glance at Yang Gongming. "What else could I do? My brother and sister have found me. At least it'll be worth it since I could help smooth things over."

Yang Chen sighed. It wasn't his decision if she stayed or left.

He retracted the Kui Water in his hand before walking to Yan Feiyun and Yan Feiyu.

Yan Feiyun was already recovering due to his cultivation base. He struggled to stand still as he met his gaze with a fearful and venomous one.

Yang Chen ignored his gaze and said, "I've always known that I would have to rely on my own strength to survive. You will fall if you continue to rely on someone else to survive. So, even if I were to die in your hands, I will never let Granny Yan save me. However, things are different for you two. For the sake of Granny Yan, I will let you guys go. But if you wish to die, I can arrange for it to happen."

Yang Chen's voice was flat but he didn't sound threatening at all.

They could feel the sense of reality in his nonchalant tone of voice and it occurred to them that they would really die if they refused to be saved by their sister!

Even if they felt that their father would avenge their deaths, how would they appreciate it if they were dead?!

Therefore, they had to live! Even if they were filled with resentment, there would always be a chance to seek revenge!

"You got me," Yan Feiyun said with a pale face. "I admit my defeat but I have to know something, how did you see through my mirror image?"

He couldn't accept his defeat.

His Kongming Sword had failed?!

Yang Chen chuckled. "I didn't see it."

He pointed at his head while saying, "I felt it."

"Felt?"

"That's right," Yang Chen said. "You might not understand it but no matter how good you're at concealing yourself, you can never hide from Heaven and Earth. Ripples will be formed in the energy of Heaven and Earth every time you move, so all I did was to track down the ripples."

This was an idea that had popped up in Yang Chen's mind when he first mastered the Kui Water. Yan Feiyun would have spat out blood if he knew Yang Chen figured out the way to crack his secret with a random thought.

Yan Feiyun gave up thinking about it. Instead, he turned around to tell Yan Feiling, "Feiling, let's go back since you've promised us."

Yan Sanniang nodded. "You guys can go ahead without me. I need to bid goodbye to Sir."

"Feiling, are you..."

"I won't go back on my word," Yan Sanniang said with a stern face.

Yan Feiyu nodded her head in a resentful manner and she gestured to her brother with her eyes before leaving together.

Even before they departed, Yan Feiyu glared at Yang Chen which the latter ignored.

The backyard turned silent once again after they had left.

Yang Gongming commanded the servants to clean up the corpses and to pass their ashes to their families after cremating their bodies.

Once these matters had been taken care of, only then Yang Gongming walked towards Yan Sanniang with a warm smile. "Sanniang, let's talk somewhere else.

Yan Sanniang was waiting for this moment. Even though she felt downhearted, she still nodded with a smile before following after him.

Yang Chen left the backyard with Lin Ruoxi. Once they returned to their place, he asked her, "Ruoxi, where's mom? Why didn't I see her?"

Lin Ruoxi finally recovered from the strenuous situation and she answered with a haggard expression, "It was very dangerous earlier and Grandfather was afraid Mom would be injured so he sent her away. I'm sure she'll be back soon."

Yang Chen nodded, complimenting Yang Gongming for being able to act so calmly in a dire situation.

Suddenly, Lin Ruoxi bit her lip and she wrapped her arms around Yang Chen's waist tightly.

Yang Chen was startled and a bitter smile formed on his lips. "What's wrong? You're making advances on me today? I still have blood on me, I don't want to get it on you..."

Yang Chen couldn't finish his sentence when he realized she was crying.

She tried to hold in her tears like a helpless child but tears kept falling no matter how hard she tried. Yang Chen's shirt was drenched as she sobbed with her head against his chest.

Her shoulders trembled along with her sobbing. The mixture of her body scent and blood smelled like an irresistible tear forming drug.

Yang Chen tried his best to smile as he patted on her back gently. "Dear, it doesn't feel like I've won when you're acting like this."

He was trying to make her laugh but it was a weak attempt.

"I thought...I thought you...you were going to..."

"Die?"

Yang Chen finished the question for her.

Lin Ruoxi sobbed instead of answering.

Yang Chen felt helpless and ashamed at the same time.

How was he going to face his subordinates if they ever heard about this?

"I will work hard." Lin Ruoxi looked up and wiped her tears. Thank goodness she hardly put on makeup or else her face would have been completely smudged.

"You can't rush these things. They have to be cultivated with time." Yang Chen caressed his lover's hair. "I want to improve my cultivation base too so that I will reach new realms and learn about the mysteries of the world. However, hard work doesn't always lead to success. You just need to cultivate according to the plan which I've set for you."

Lin Ruoxi nodded. She blinked at him and under the night sky, she looked especially mesmerizing.

"I'm really bad at these things. You can't look down at me even if I'm weaker than others."

Yang Chen chuckled. "Why would I do that? If that's really the case, Ning'er and Rose are much stronger than you and it's not like I was biased towards them."

"I knew it, you do think that they're much better than me!" Lin Ruoxi pouted.

Yang Chen's eyes twitched. "I'm talking about cultivation..."

"You're lying..."

"I...eh, you were fine just now. Why are you getting jealous again?" Yang Chen scratched his hair out of frustration.

Well, they were actually just trying to lighten the mood by joking with each other.

Just as Yang Chen was about to hold Lin Ruoxi's hand before they entered their room, he was shocked to realize something when he touched her Fengxiang bracelet.

Lin Ruoxi thought something had happened again when she noticed the look on his face. "Hubby, what's wrong?"

Yang Chen raised her arm and he stared at the jade bangle with a confused gaze.

At the same time, in the backyard, Yang Gongming was sitting on a stone stool by the lake.

Next to him was Yan Sanniang who was still in her true form.

With a peaceful expression on his face, he stared at Yan Sanniang for a long time.

She blushed and after a long pause, she said, "Sir...I'm leaving."

"Yeah, I know I kept telling you it was time but now that it is really happening, I can't help but think it's too soon." Yang Gongming let out a faint smile.

Yan Sanniang's eyes reddened slightly as she looked at her surroundings with a longing gaze.

"I really can't bear to leave this place. I still remember when Madam was still around and the time when Young Master Pojun was born. It was so lively at that time..."

"It's lively now too. It's just that Yang Chen acts like a brat sometimes." Yang Gongming smiled.

Yan Sanniang gave a knowing smile. "Yeah, you won't be bored with Young Master Chen around you. It's a pity that he's mostly in Zhonghai but at least it's easy for him to come here. The most important thing is that you'll have someone to protect you even when I'm not around..."

Silence filled the air again as though they were reminiscing on the past or waiting for something.

Finally, Yang Gongming spoke up. "Sanniang, thank you."

Yan Sanniang's body trembled and with a bitter voice, she said, "Sir...why would you thank me?"

"Thank you for being willing to turn into an old woman to protect me without arousing any suspicion. Thank you for doing a maid's work for me and our clan. It's also all thanks to you that my wife could pass away peacefully..."

Tears fell from her eyes. "Sir, it's what I had to do."

"No, it's not." Yang Gongming shook his head with a bitter smile. "I'm shameless and thick-skinned. I'm heartless for doing this to you."

Yan Sanniang shook her head. "Sir, please don't say this, I'm happy to be here."

Yang Gongming struggled to speak. "Sanniang, my only wish is that you won't hate me. I know why you chose to stay here for so many years, but I could never betray her. I couldn't accept you the last time and I still can't despite being so old..."

Yan Sanniang closed her eyes from the pain she was feeling.

Yang Gongming felt relieved when he could finally share his deepest thoughts.

"Luckily you're still as pretty as ever." Yang Gongming smiled. "I doubt we will ever see each other again. I don't have many years left in me but you still have a lot of time. You've wasted too many years on an old man like me. You have to be yourself when you return home and forget about this place."

Yan Sanniang could no longer hold her tears in.

Yang Gongming clenched his teeth. It sounded as if he had spent every last bit of his energy when he said the last two words. "Take care!"

Time seemed to have frozen under the night sky.

The time that they had shared together felt as if it were a lifetime ago.

Chapter 1034 Gear In His Head

"Hubby, you've been staring at this for a long time."

Lin Ruoxi was getting slightly angry when Yang Chen kept staring at her bracelet instead of answering her question.

“You...say something!”

She was now agitated at the silence.

“Let go of my hand if you’re not going to say anything!”

“Yang Chen!”

“I won’t sleep with you tonight if you’re not going to say anything!!”

“Ah!? No!”

Yang Chen snapped out of it immediately. With a sheepish smile on his face, he said to her, “Why did you say that? We can’t sleep separately.”

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. Was there some kind of gear in his head? Why would he only react to these things?!

“What exactly are you looking at?” Lin Ruoxi sounded annoyed.

Yang Chen sighed. “Ruoxi, your bracelet is a form protective gear but why didn’t it react when your life was in danger?”

The question piqued her curiosity too.

He was right. Her bracelet was supposed to protect her. Back when Ning Guodong was trying to sexually assault her, she managed to get away with the bracelet.

“Could it be...because I wasn’t in grave danger?” Lin Ruoxi guessed.

Yang Chen shook his head. “Yan Feiyu was much more dangerous than Ning Guodong so that shouldn’t be the case.”

Somehow, both of them started to stare at the bracelet blankly.

At this time, Yan Sanniang strolled towards them from the corridor.

She had regained her calmness and she asked with a sweet smile, “Young Master Chen, Young Madam, what are you guys doing?”

Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi turned around to look at her. They still couldn’t get used to the change in her physical appearance.

Inside his heart, Yang Chen was muttering to himself that Yang Gongming must have stuck close to Yan Sanniang because she was pretty! He must have got the trait from Yang Gongming!

It wasn’t his fault!

On the other hand, Lin Ruoxi was thinking of something else. <i> I must work hard in my cultivation, she still looks so young despite being in her sixties. Cultivation is indeed more reliable than any skincare product! </i>

“Granny Yan, you came at the right time. Come and analyze this Fengxiang Bracelet for us before you leave.” Yang Chen told her.

“Fengxiang Bracelet?” Yan Sanniang was stunned. “What’s wrong with it?”

Yang Chen didn’t hide the truth from her. He told her that the bracelet was a mystical artifact and how it failed to react moments ago.

Yan Sanniang was stupefied. “Madam never mentioned it to me, I didn’t know there was something else to it...”

“Granny Yan, I’ve been curious about something. Why couldn’t you tell it was an artifact?” Yang Chen asked.

“Young Master Chen, not all of them are easily recognizable,” Yan Sanniang said. “If the artifact’s rank is too high and it can conceal its spirituality.”

Yang Chen seemed to have understood it. He must have seen through it because he was extremely sensitive to the spiritualities in the world. At the same time, he was convinced that the bracelet wasn’t a low ranked artifact.

“If you said the bracelet failed to protect its owner, it must be related to Young Madam,” Yan Sanniang explained. “Artifacts are sensitive to spiritual energies. If the bracelet is a highly ranked artifact, it will only work when it’s used by a similarly ranked cultivator. Young Madam has zero cultivation, so she’s technically a mundane. The bracelet will only be activated when the enemy is also similar to her. If someone like my sister attacks her, it can sense it but it wouldn’t protect her since she has insufficient True Yuan to support it. Therefore, it chose to give up.”

Yang Chen was enlightened but he was dejected at the same time. He gave the artifact to Lin Ruoxi but was useless in her hands.

Lin Ruoxi felt slightly disappointed. It looked like she really had to work hard on her cultivation or she’d still be a burden to him even with a high ranked artifact.

Yang Chen was reminded of something after his confusion had been cleared up. “Granny Yan, are you leaving now? Are you here to bid us goodbye?”

Yan Sanniang nodded with a smile. “That’s right, but I wanted to talk to you before leaving.”

Lin Ruoxi was about to walk into her room when she heard this but she was stopped by Yan Sanniang.

“Young Madam, you don’t have to leave. You can listen to our conversation.”

Lin Ruoxi was confused but her curiosity made her stay.

“Granny Yan, are you trying to tell me to take good care of the old man? You don’t have to remind me, I won’t leave him alone.” Yang Chen chuckled.

Yan Sanniang shook her head and she said with a stern expression, “No, I want to talk about Hongmeng...”

“Hongmeng?”

“That’s right.” Yan Sanniang looked rather glum after mentioning it. “Young Master Chen, I’m sure you know why I escaped Hongmeng. The truth is, my father, Yan Wuchen, is one of the few Heaven ranked

elders in Hongmeng. I guess you could say he's one of the leaders. His cultivation base is unfathomable. He was in the Full Cycle of Ming Water and he should be in Ruo Water by now. My father was considered the strongest cultivator in Hongmeng because no one has heard of the Nine Heavenly Lightning for thousands of years. No one knows how much it takes to reach there..."

Yang Chen was glad to hear this. He felt more relaxed to know that there wasn't anyone in the Nine Heavenly Lightning Tribulation Passing stage in Hongmeng.

"According to the legends, if one wishes to reach great heights and break through the void, the Yu Qing Heavenly Lightning was required. Even a cultivator in the Ruo Water level can hardly live for a thousand years. The members of Hongmeng are all looking for a way to break through such shackles by obtaining the Great Ancient scriptures in order to challenge the Nine Heavenly Lightning."

Yang Chen's heart sank. If what she said was true, then the Luo clan must have known that he had the scripture.

However, based on the fact that he had only encountered the Luo clan, they must have kept it hidden so that they wouldn't have competitors.

How did they know about it?

Yan Sanniang continued on, "People from Hongmeng started to be anxious and afraid of witnessing others failing despite their effort. They entered Hongmeng because they didn't want to disrupt the mundane world and that they wanted to break through the void. However, they came to realize something. It did not matter how much they cultivated. They would not reach immortality. Having faced so many failures, why would they still concentrate on apprehending 'dao'? They started to become selfish. They kept thinking of ways to live longer or how to reach a higher realm and cultivation bases. They kept fighting for a chance to obtain a scripture that will help them to break through the Nine Heavenly Lightning."

She took a breath and continued, "As for the mundane world, they didn't really care about it anymore, nor did they care about the people of China. This situation has been going on for thousands of years and it has been getting more intense in the past centuries. If it wasn't for the Huang ranked people who had just entered Hongmeng, there wouldn't have been any messengers left."

"This was why General Lin Zhiguo of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade didn't believe in the existence of Hongmeng messengers. Hongmeng has been corrupted by the selfishness of its members. They want to gain immortality so no one would care about the mundane world. As for the elders like my father, they were apathetic about this. They think that the people of China are just insects created by God and that death is their fate."

"Hmph," Yang Chen sneered. "I bet it's all just a bunch of excuses. They want to pass the buck to each other so that they can focus on cultivation instead. No wonder they are so shameless. It turns out there isn't a reputation left for them to maintain anymore."

Yan Sanniang nodded. "That's right. Everyone has already forgotten about our ancestors. Hongmeng isn't the same anymore."

"But..." Yang Chen furrowed his brows. "Why are you telling me all these?"

Yan Sanniang smiled through pursed lips. "Young Master Chen, I'm telling you these because I feel like you're the only one who's capable of changing everything!"

"Change everything?" Yang Chen was even more puzzled.

"That's right," Yan Sanniang said in an earnest manner. "I'm hoping that you can clean up Hongmeng one day. Get rid of those apathetic people, those selfish ones who are hoarding the resources in Hongmeng! I won't plead on my father's behalf if he refuses to repent."

Yang Chen froze. "Granny Yan...that's too much to ask of me. You don't have to sound so stern. I would love to but I don't possess the skill or authority."

Lin Ruoxi was worried too. She wouldn't want her man to risk his own life for the world. Humans were always selfish at times like this.

"The current you might not be able to challenge Hongmeng but Hongmeng is obviously your enemy now. Are you going to sit back and let them kill you?"

"Of course not!" Yang Chen said. "I'm planning to cultivate seriously from now on. I might not improve immediately but at the very least, I won't drift aimlessly any more."

Yan Sanniang was pleased to hear this and she smiled. "That's the right attitude, but it's still insufficient. You can't get there with just hard work. I told you all this with the intention of assisting you!"

Chapter 1035: Rare Ingredients

Yang Chen's eyes widened when he heard this. "Do you have any mystical artifacts with you? Medicinal pills? Or immortal tools?"

Yan Sanniang sighed at his reaction. It was a cute gesture which was something Yang Chen wasn't used to seeing.

"Of course not. I'm not qualified enough to own an immortal tool."

"What is it then?"

Yan Sanniang stuffed her hands into her pocket and took out a piece of paper with words written all over it.

"Young Master Chen, this is a 'Pill Concocting' technique which I've written down before coming here. Keep it but remember to destroy it after reading it. Have it memorized."

"Pill Concocting technique?"

Yang Chen was bewildered. "Granny Yan, are you asking me to concoct pills?"

Yan Sanniang smiled through pursed lips. "That's right. Young Master Chen. It has been in our clan for centuries. Even though there are plenty of pill concocting techniques in Hongmeng, our clan has the most well-conserved one. Although normal pills are ineffective towards cultivators in the Tribulation Passing stage, upper ranked pills are a different story! Unfortunately, pill concoction requires Samadhi True Fire and because the production of the Samadhi True Fire requires a large number of precious ingredients, pills are scarce in Hongmeng. But you're different, Young Master Chen! With your scripture,

you would be able to use the Samadhi True Fire soon! By then, your power would be doubled with this 'Pill Concocting' technique!"

Yang Chen thought it made sense. Even though he hadn't mastered the Samadhi True Fire, he had already mastered Kui Water which was of the same level. Yang Chen was certain that he would be able to master it in no time. However, Yang Chen was faced with another problem.

"Granny Yan, even if I want to concoct pills, I still need the ingredients."

Yan Sanniang showed him a bitter smile. "That's all that I can help you with. My 'Spirits of the Northern Sea' might be powerful but it's useless for you. If you wish to concoct pills, you'll have to search for the ingredients on your own. People of Hongmeng and the Hidden clans kept the ingredients to themselves but it's still insufficient for them. You could try scouring the world for them. With your resources at hand, you might not come up empty."

Yang Chen was confused. "Granny Yan, if there are ingredients around the world, wouldn't it all be taken away by the hidden clans and Hongmeng? Would there even be anything left for me?"

Yan Sanniang chuckled and shook her head. "That won't happen, Young Master Chen. Have you forgotten about something? According to the Treaty of Gods, cultivators of China would be challenging the Gods if they left China. An ordinary cultivator would be no match for the twelve Gods. Even those in the Tribulation Passing stage would be afraid of bumping into Poseidon. They would never survive against Athena if they bumped into her so even if she hadn't appeared for a long time, no one would dare to take the risk. It's a different case for you, Young Master Chen. The Gods wouldn't treat you as an outsider nor would Hongmeng care about you. However, you aren't familiar with the ingredients and I'm not familiar with the formula, so I've only written down the scripture for you."

Yang Chen was both delighted and conflicted when he heard this. With a solemn face, he sighed, "I get it. I still need to figure out the formula and ingredients by myself."

Yan Sanniang smiled helplessly. "I'm sorry, Young Master Chen. That's all that I can help you with. I'm sure you'll find a way soon, seeing how you're so resourceful."

The first thought that came up in his mind was Xiao Zhiqing who was now in Zhonghai. If he wasn't mistaken, she did say that the Xiao clan was the best at medicinal pills amongst the three major hidden clans!

If she was really familiar with pill concoction, he might be able to get answers from her!

"Granny Yan, I suppose we won't be seeing each other again for a long time. Take care of yourself."

Yang Chen bade her farewell with a serious expression. Lin Ruoxi too said her goodbyes with a glum expression.

Yan Sanniang's eyes were brimming with tears but she still smiled before leaving the mansion for real.

She had accompanied Yang Gongming for more than forty years and even though she couldn't bear to leave this place, she still left with a firm attitude.

Yang Chen stared into the night sky for some time before turning around to wrap his arms around Lin Ruoxi's slim waist. "Let's go in."

Lin Ruoxi knew Yang Chen would have his own plans so she said nothing and nodded her head instead.

Once they got into their room, Yang Chen pushed Lin Ruoxi into the shower while he memorized the Pill Concocting technique. After fully comprehending it, he reduced it into ashes.

Lin Ruoxi was already dressed in a semi-transparent sleeveless white nightie when she got out of the shower. Her graceful figure was almost visible under the glow of the light above them. When she lowered her head subconsciously, her wet hair swayed around her like a waterfall.

Because there was a radiator in their room, Lin Ruoxi walked around barefooted. Her white foot on the floor created a starking contrast against it which made Yang Chen excited.

He could no longer care about the scripture as he strode towards her with big steps.

“Stop!”

As if Lin Ruoxi knew he would react like this, she glared at him while saying, “Don’t you dare touch me before showering!”

Yang Chen couldn’t refute her. With a sheepish smile, he rushed into the shower and proceeded to shower while whistling.

He got out of the bathroom when he was done and he saw that Lin Ruoxi was looking at her laptop at the desk outside their bedroom instead of lying on the bed.

Yang Chen walked towards her with huge boxer shorts and nothing on top. His face fell when he saw what she was doing. “Dear! Must you work so hard?”

Yang Chen wanted to cry. She was actually using the company’s management system to read through the documents that were sent to her by Zhao Hongyan.

Lin Ruoxi controlled the trackpad with her slender fingers to make some annotations and tick some boxes. She answered him without turning around. “I’m behind in my work. I took over a lot of new estates and small companies so I have got a lot of things to do. It would take more than half a year to settle everything.”

“Let someone else do it. Qianni and Mingyu are busy too, why don’t you hire a professional manager?”

“How can I do that? If I stop working, what would my employees think about me? Those who have accompanied me all these while. What would they think about me? I know that we have more than enough money and that you don’t really care about Yu Lei, but it holds a different meaning to me. My hard work can bring income to thousands of my employees.” Lin Ruoxi said in a serious manner.

“But...but it’s almost 2 o’clock.” Yang Chen sulked.

Lin Ruoxi was amused by his sulky tone and she turned around to beckon him over with her finger while smiling.

Yang Chen lit up and he inched closer with a sneaky smile. “Dear, why are we whispering? There’s only the two of us here though...”

Lin Ruoxi pecked his cheeks and patted his face. "Be a good boy. Your wifey needs to work so why don't you go to sleep first?"

Lin Ruoxi coaxed him as if she was talking to a child. After saying so, she turned around and continued to read her documents with an indifferent expression.

Yang Chen froze for a while before jumping on the bed with a grudging expression.

Unfortunately, his 'brother' who was hard for some time, had gone limp at the shock!

Even though he forced himself on her in her office once, he couldn't keep doing it!

Once a while was fine since they were very into it, but how could he make it a habit?

Lin Ruoxi did look like she had a lot of things to do and it wasn't like Yang Chen wasn't amenable to reason. Nevertheless, Lin Ruoxi's attitude almost drove him crazy.

Chapter 1036 Lullaby

Yang Chen had no choice but to watch her work as he contemplated the Samadhi True Fire.

It took almost an hour for Lin Ruoxi to finish up. When she was finished, she stretched her body, yawning in a cute way before turning to look at Yang Chen.

She rolled her eyes when she noticed his antsy gaze. "Must we do it today? We've been out for the whole day. We attended the wedding and so many things happened just now. Can't we do it another day?"

Yang Chen was disappointed but he couldn't do anything about it. He couldn't possibly force her into a lovemaking session by exciting her with his True Yuan.

"Dear, what are you thinking about? I'm waiting for you to join me in bed." Yang Chen said with a stern expression.

Lin Ruoxi chuckled and crawled onto the bed, speechless at his brazenness.

Yang Chen could smell the scent of jasmine and milk as she laid close to him. The scent was so inviting and mesmerizing.

Under the lamp, her skin glowed like porcelain and her rosy cheeks and lips were temptations for his eyes.

"What are you staring at? Stop looking at me and turn off the lights." Lin Ruoxi was already exhausted. After all, she wasn't like Yang Chen who slept for the heck of it.

Yang Chen turned off the light and rested beside her. He pulled Lin Ruoxi into his arms and they could literally feel each other's breath.

Yang Chen was more satisfied with her soft body pressed against his chest. The pointy part of her bust was touching his skin with a thin silk nightie between them.

Even though Lin Ruoxi wasn't as flexible as Xiao Zhiqing, she was extraordinarily tender and busty. Every part of her body grew at the right places with a perfect ratio.

Lin Ruoxi shrank away from his hand, pouting as she mumbled, "Stop touching me and sleep."

In the dark, Yang Chen chuckled and left his hand on her buttocks.

It felt as if he was holding a bouncy meatball.

Lin Ruoxi couldn't care less about his actions even though she knew he was up to mischief again. With her eyes closed, she tried her best to fall asleep.

However, as they kept breathing, the hot air coming from Yang Chen's nose landed on her eyelashes and cheeks. It was hot and moist which disrupted her sleep. She rolled over in an attempt to avoid it

Yang Chen's hand was forced to leave her butt and all he could see was her backside.

Although he could still smell the fragrance from her hair, it didn't cheer him up.

Yang Chen raised his hand and turned on the lights.

The harsh light made Lin Ruoxi pout. "What are you doing? I said I want to sleep."

Yang Chen sat up with a firm expression. "Lin Ruoxi, get up."

Even though she wasn't willing to do so, she still obliged when he had called her full name in a serious tone. She pouted while saying, "What?"

"What's with your attitude?"

Lin Ruoxi was confused as she stared at his sulky face. "What did I do? I said I'm tired, we can talk about it tomorrow."

Yang Chen shook his head strongly. "I'm not talking about that. I want to ask you, why did you turn around when I wanted to hug you to sleep? Our wedding just ended a few days ago and we've just started to share a room. How could you turn your back to me!"

Lin Ruoxi no longer had her usual cold and icy demeanor and she pouted with a dazed expression, "I didn't, I can't sleep because of your hot breath."

"Hot breath?"

It dawned on him then and he quickly grabbed two tissues from the headboard before rolling it into two small balls.

Lin Ruoxi watched curiously, not knowing what he was trying to do.

Soon enough, Yang Chen stuffed the tissue balls into the nostrils but part of it was dangling out of his nose as it was too long.

Yang Chen spoke in a muffled voice, "Alright, I can't breathe through my nose now. Even if I suffocate to death, I won't let my wife sleep with her back facing me!"

Lin Ruoxi was about to lose her mind but it was also amusing to see his wacky and serious behavior. All her doziness was almost gone because of him.

She pulled the tissues from his nostrils and threw it aside before looking at him with an amused expression.

“What, I thought you hated my breath.” Yang Chen sounded displeased.

Lin Ruoxi reached up to pinch his cheeks.

“No wonder Mom told me that men were kids. Look at you, you were quite mature and chill back then, why did you become so childish recently? You even learned how to act vulnerable. Am I your wife or your mom?”

Yang Chen scratched his head. “I’m just trying to fight for my rights as your husband.”

Lin Ruoxi sighed. “Fine, fine, stop acting vulnerable. I promise you, I won’t turn around anymore.”

Yang Chen brightened up immediately. “That’s my girl. Come, lie down while I turn off the lights.”

Having said so, they returned to their original position. Yang Chen hugged her with a contented expression, not forgetting to place his hand back onto her buttcheeks.

However, due to the disruption, both of them were no longer drowsy.

They listened to each other breathe for half an hour.

“Dear, I can’t sleep. What should I do?”

Lin Ruoxi sighed helplessly. “Same.”

Yang Chen suddenly said, “How about this? Dear, why don’t you sing me a lullaby? Do you know how to sing one? Like the lullaby for kids.”

“Why are you so random? Just count lambs.”

“Lambs? That’s food. I’ll salivate if I count lambs. I don’t mind having saliva on my pillow but I can’t let you smell it to sleep, right?”

Lin Ruoxi was afraid he would say anything shocking so she gave in. “Fine, I’ll sing you a lullaby but I don’t really remember the lyrics so just bear with it. You have to sleep after this.”

“Mhm!”

Lin Ruoxi felt as though she was putting her son to bed but it wasn’t like she had a choice. She could only hope Yang Chen would return normal in the morning.

Lin Ruoxi cleared her throat and started to pat his back lightly while singing. “Go to sleep, go to sleep my dear baby. Mommy will cradle to sleep, go to sleep. The night has fallen silent and the blanket is warm.”

Yang Chen suddenly shuddered.

Lin Ruoxi was startled. “Hubby, what’s wrong?”

Yang Chen sat up and quickly turned on the lights again.

Lin Ruoxi widened her dewy eyes and stared at him with a surprised expression as he panted in front of her.

After a while, Yang Chen turned around stiffly. He glanced at Lin Ruoxi who was in a daze before gulping. "Dear, I'm sorry."

"What?"

"I forgot you were tone-deaf."

She finally understood it. Yang Chen didn't like her singing.

Well, what she didn't know was that it wasn't just bad, it was completely offbeat!

"Hmph, don't listen to it then if it sounds bad! Sleep!"

Lin Ruoxi became red and was about to turn around when Yang Chen pounced onto her.

He pressed his face close to her but Lin Ruoxi ignored him with her eyes closed.

"Dear." Yang Chen smirked. "I was really planning to sleep but your 'lullaby' woke me up like an alarm. I'm so awake now."

"What does it have to do with me?" Lin Ruoxi grunted.

Yang Chen gulped. "Of course it does. It's almost four o'clock now and the sun is almost up. There's no reason to sleep now. Why don't we do something meaningful?"

Chapter 1037 Full Moon

Lin Ruoxi blushed, well aware of his intentions. Even though she was no longer a virgin, it was still an embarrassing thing for her.

Therefore, she chose to feign innocence by shrinking back while gripping the blanket tightly.

Yang Chen licked his lips. The more nervous she felt, the more excited his conquest would feel.

With a smirk, Yang Chen got off her body and crawled backward.

Lin Ruoxi felt his weight lift off her body and she assumed he had given up on it. However, something didn't feel quite right!

A chilly breeze had caressed her feet the moment her blanket was being pulled up from below!

Lin Ruoxi gasped. "Hey! You...what are you doing!"

Yang Chen had crawled under the blankets and with his grip on her legs, he tried to push her nightie up!

It was as if a bull was forcing its way into her crotch, revealing her thin purplish-red lace pantie in the process!

Possibly because she was no longer a maiden, Lin Ruoxi wore a sexy G-string which was very uncharacteristic for her. The string was so thin, it literally went in between her butt crack. It looked as though she wasn't wearing anything beneath her nightie!

Yang Chen was so excited that he pushed his face into her crotch, relishing in the scent of the lovely woman.

Adrenaline was pulsing through his veins as he inhaled her scent which caused him to growl.

Lin Ruoxi's face turned completely scarlet at his action.

"Mmh...it's itchy..."

Lin Ruoxi tried to close her legs together to block Yang Chen but she couldn't muster enough strength to do so!

It only made it more comfortable for Yang Chen with his face being squished between her tender thighs.

Somehow, Yang Chen's breath started to land on Lin Ruoxi's inner thighs and she could feel him move as he made his advances at her!

Lin Ruoxi didn't dare look down but she knew exactly what he was doing since his head was already between her crotch!

She never would've imagined this but Yang Chen had already exceeded her imagination!

Lin Ruoxi started to tremble as her sanity started to creep out of her mind.

Down her waist, she was dripping wet as Yang Chen kept pleasing her.

Even though she couldn't imagine his tongue going into her, she couldn't deny the immense pleasure that she was feeling!

It took around ten minutes for her to reach her peak and with a long moan, her body went stiff and she panted.

At this time, Yang Chen crawled out of the blanket and his face was red from holding his breath. With a grin, he wiped the fluid off his face.

"Dear, you're so wet hehe. Since I made you feel so good, shouldn't you return the favor?"

Lin Ruoxi only snapped out of it and when she saw the water stain on his face!

With a flushed face, she turned around with her eyes closed before speaking in a thin voice.

"I...I don't know how..."

Yang Chen guffawed. She looked like she would've cried if he probed her any further.

Speaking of which, it was actually his first time going this far for a woman. Even though he had his fair share of experience with women, he had never pleased any of them.

At the same time, he didn't have time to think much about it since his shaft was already rock hard.

He laid on top of Lin Ruoxi and once he had found his target, he inserted himself into her.

The moment he closed the distance between them, Yang Chen let out a long breath. If it wasn't for his high endurance, he would've already come!

As moans started to escape Lin Ruoxi's mouth subconsciously, Yang Chen began to thrust into her vigorously.

The air outside their room was chilly which was the exact opposite of the heated atmosphere inside.

Due to their passionate night together, both of them slept in till afternoon and were woken up by Guo Xuehua for lunch.

Even though Yang Chen didn't really need to sleep, he wasn't willing to wake up when Lin Ruoxi was still fast asleep in his arms.

After being woken up by Guo Xuehua, only then Lin Ruoxi realized that she had overslept. She punched Yang Chen's chest out of embarrassment, worrying that her reputation had gone bad in the Yang clan.

Just as she had expected, the servants were throwing suggestive glances at them as they walked to the dining hall.

Well, it could be part of her imagination since Yang Chen didn't seem to notice anything.

They stepped into the dining hall where Yang Gongming and Guo Xuehua were waiting for them. To their surprise, Yang Pojun was there too.

He looked less reserved and more down-to-earth without his military uniform.

However, his face still remained dark just as it always did whenever he saw Yang Chen.

Yang Pojun snorted when he saw Yang Chen. "How impudent of you to make your elders wait for you"

Yang Chen furrowed his brows but he said nothing about it. Lin Ruoxi, on the other hand, apologized with a meek voice.

Guo Xuehua signaled Yang Pojun with his eyes and said, "Come on, it's normal for youngsters to sleep in. Do you really think everyone is a soldier like you? Ruoxi, come sit next to me. Don't be afraid of him. Your father-in-law has always been like this."

Yang Chen could sense it. She must have reconciled with Yang Pojun and for all he knew, they could be sleeping with each other again.

Technically, having experienced so many things, Yang Chen was no longer bothered by the way Yang Pojun treated him or whether he was really his father.

It didn't mean that he was an open-minded person, nor did he care about paternal love. With his current status, Yang Pojun wasn't a threat to him.

Rather than squabbling with him, he should just let things slide so that his mother and his wife could rest easy.

After all, he wasn't the only person living in this world.

Especially after he had made the decision to return to the Yang clan, Yang Chen had slowly come to a realization. He really had to be mindful of those who were close to him.

Yang Gongming motioned the servants to serve them baijiu and he took a sip from his cup before chuckling, "I haven't been able to have lunch with so many people for a long time. It really feels good to have some company once again."

He didn't seem to be affected by Yan Sanniang's departure, judging by his cheerful face.

Guo Xuehua and Yang Pojun were slightly dejected and awkward because of her absence from the clan.

It wouldn't make sense to say that they weren't close to her since Yan Sanniang practically watched Yang Pojun grow up and she was also there to witness his marriage with Guo Xuehua.

The atmosphere in the dining hall was pretty harmonious once lunch had started. Guo Xuehua seemed rather delighted. She was obviously aware that they had intercourse last night, seeing how she kept adding food into Lin Ruoxi's bowl as if she was trying to praise her for her hard work.

Yang Chen kept scooping rice into his mouth and only spoke up when Yang Gongming asked him questions. He didn't even bother to make eye contact with Yang Pojun.

Just when they were almost done with lunch, Yang Gongming asked abruptly, "Yang Chen, Ruoxi, when are you guys planning to return to Zhonghai?"

Lin Ruoxi turned to look at Yang Chen. She was willing to leave Yang Chen in charge in front of their elders.

"There's nothing left for us to do in Beijing so we'll probably return this afternoon or tomorrow."

Yang Chen grinned and asked him, "Why? Are you feeling lonely? Do you want me to introduce you to anyone?"

"What are you blabbering about!" Yang Pojun reprimanded him.

Yang Chen rolled his eyes. "That wasn't directed towards you, why are you getting anxious for?"

"You..."

"That's enough!" Guo Xuehua tried to stop them. "Yang Pojun, what are you doing? Father didn't even say anything. Who are you to butt in? Yang Chen has always been so flippant, you'll get used to it eventually!"

Yang Chen was conflicted. Was she helping him or insulting him?

Yang Gongming ignored it and continued his sentence, "I was trying to tell you to leave the day after tomorrow."

"Why?"

"Eh...youngsters nowadays, have you guys forgotten about the Mid-Autumn Festival?" Yang Gongming sounded sorry for them.

Mid-Autumn? Yang Chen was dumbfounded. He calculated the dates and realized that the Mid-Autumn Festival was just around the corner since it was already mid-September!

Back in the day, he couldn't care less about festivals like this. But now that he had a family, celebrating it with them seemed like a very promising prospect!

Chapter 1038 Wine In Hand

Lin Ruoxi's eyes gleamed with excitement. This would be her first time celebrating festivals with her in-laws after her wedding. It was obviously a big thing for her, given how much she valued her family.

"How about this?" Yang Gongming said, "We didn't use to celebrate the festival so we haven't prepared for it. But now that everyone's around, we should buy some mooncakes. Xuehua, why don't you go out with Pojun after lunch? We should buy the stuff ourselves since we're the ones celebrating it. It wouldn't feel festive to have the servants get it for us."

"Alright, got it." Guo Xuehua responded cheerfully.

Yang Pojun was astonished to hear this. "Dad, why do I need to follow along?"

Yang Gongming raised one of his eyebrows. "Aren't you unemployed now? It's not like you're busy when the classes in the military school haven't started. Why can't you do such a small thing?"

"I don't mean it that way..."

Guo Xuehua wasn't pleased with his question. "Why? Is it a waste of time for you to accompany me?"

Yang Pojun waved his hands while laughing awkwardly. "I don't mean it that way, I was just asking."

"That's much better." Guo Xuehua sounded kind of proud and she blinked her eyes at Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi understood her hidden message. She found it amusing to watch Yang Pojun cower in front of Guo Xuehua.

Back when Yang Pojun was still the commander for the Jiangnan military base, he was so authoritative and frightening but now that he had retired from his job, he had become much softer.

It mostly had to do with the change of his mental state. After having suffered continuous blows and experienced plenty of life-changing events, Yang Pojun had given up much of his convictions. As a result, Yang Pojun reverted back to his original personality.

Being brought up by Yang Gongming himself, obviously, Yang Pojun wouldn't be too bad of a person.

"Oh yeah." Yang Gongming turned to look at Yang Chen who was still devouring his food. "Yang Chen, bring Ruoxi along and follow them. It's nice to have a company while shopping. You can be their driver and carry the bags for them."

Yang Chen caught on immediately. <i>He basically wants me to go out with Yang Pojun, isn't it? </i>

It was evident that he planned this on purpose!

"Say, old man..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Lin Ruoxi kicked him under the table and smiled at Yang Gongming. "Grandpa, don't worry. He's more than happy to join us."

Having said so, she turned to look at Yang Chen with a fake smile. "Am I right, Hubby?"

Yang Chen gulped before nodding his head while smiling stiffly. "Of course, I'd be glad to do so..."

At the same time, he felt dispirited when something popped up in his mind. He must have inherited Yang Pojun's genes else why would he fear his wife?

After lunch, Yang Chen ran off to the garage and he chose to drive a Chevrolet family car. The car was spacious and they could also put down a lot of things in the boot.

As a matter of fact, even though the Yang clan was loaded, they valued practicality over luxury. Most of their cars were large, practical cars.

Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi sat in the middle row, chatting to one another excitedly throughout the trip.

Yang Pojun sat in the last row with his eyes closed. It was an obvious choice, given his past history with Yang Chen.

Yang Chen drove to a hypermarket near the 4th Ring Road which seemed rather lively with the heavy traffic.

After all, the Mid-Autumn Festival was tomorrow, so most of the companies had closed for the holiday.

After parking the car, Yang Chen got off the car with Guo Xuehua who had her arms linked with Lin Ruoxi. Yang Pojun remained on his seat with his furrowed brows, silently refusing to get out of the car.

"What is it this time? Get down." Guo Xuehua called him.

"You guys can go ahead without me. I'll wait in the car." Yang Pojun sounded uncomfortable.

Guo Xuehua wasn't pleased to hear that. "Yo, Commander Yang is acting up huh? Is the marketplace too dirty for you? Or do you think it's humiliating to shop with women like us?"

Lin Ruoxi almost cracked up. Her mother-in-law was truly amazing.

Just as expected, Yang Pojun felt extremely awkward and he got out of the car, afraid that a passerby would hear her.

"Hey, what're you talking about? I wasn't thinking about that."

"Hmph, that better be true." Guo Xuehua gave him the side-eye before tugging on Lin Ruoxi's hand.

"Ruoxi, let's go. Men are always like this. Just ignore him."

Lin Ruoxi was about to nod her head in understanding but her smile dropped when she saw Yang Chen standing next to a vendor's stand with a fried glutinous rice cake in one hand and a sausage in the other hand.

"Not all men..."

Guo Xuehua was confused. She followed Lin Ruoxi's gaze and she finally spotted her son who had somehow slipped away to a vendor's stand.

Her head throbbed when she noticed the silly look on his face while he was paying.

“Didn’t he just have lunch? How big is his stomach?”

Guo Xuehua was muttering to herself when Yang Chen waved at them. “Dear, do you want some? It’s spicy but it’s good!”

His loud voice drew the attention of the people around them.

Guo Xuehua pulled Lin Ruoxi to the hypermarket with her head turned away from Yang Chen. “Let’s go, pretend that we don’t know him.”

Lin Ruoxi nodded hard in agreement.

Yang Pojun furrowed his brows but he had no choice but to follow after them.

Yang Chen wasn’t disheartened at all. He paid for his food while grinning before moving to the hypermarket with a bunch of fried skewers in his hands.

They wanted to experience the lively atmosphere so they chose to shop here instead of some high-end mall.

Once they had entered the hypermarket, Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi led the way by walking to any store that seemed interesting to them. On the other hand, Yang Chen stopped by any of the stores that were either selling food or interesting stuff. Yang Pojun was the only one trailing behind them with a serious expression on his face.

They were originally here to buy some stuff for the Mid-Autumn Festival but Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi couldn’t stop themselves from buying cute items and pretty clothes.

In the beginning, Yang Chen could still hold snacks in his hands but as time passed, his arms were filled with all sorts of bags.

Yang Pojun couldn’t escape from it either but because the wounds on his hands hadn’t fully recovered, he carried much fewer bags than Yang Chen.

Even so, Yang Pojun had never done anything like this. His face was burning but he forced himself to hold it in, afraid to anger Guo Xuehua.

It took them great difficulty to reconcile, so Yang Pojun became more tolerable since he was afraid of losing her again.

“Ruoxi, I’m sure you know more than me since you work in the fashion industry but I really don’t think the clothes and handbags from LV and Prada are any better than the hypermarket ones.”

Guo Xuehua stroked an off-brand leather handbag while saying that with a cheerful voice.

Even though Lin Ruoxi knew it wasn’t as easy as it sounded since luxurious brands weren’t defined by their designs, she had to go along with her mother-in-law’s words. “Actually, the materials that they use aren’t any different since they are actually selling their brand. Besides, there are a lot of designers in the world and they could refine top designers’ designs.”

“Yeah, I really despise those madams and young ladies who like to show off their branded handbags. They always wear luxurious brands and their clothes can go up to tens of thousands. I’ve never attended

their gatherings because of this. They must be crazy for being happy about spending loads of money on useless stuff, am I right?"

"Yes, you're right..." Lin Ruoxi agreed with a faint smile but deep down she felt slightly wronged since she was the kind of woman who only used luxurious brands.

But she wasn't trying to show off! Everything came from her own department stores!

The two women truly enjoyed the shopping experience, probably because they hardly got the chance to shop together.

Unfortunately, daylight in the north side was rather short since it was already autumn. The sky in Beijing had started to darken after shopping for three full hours.

Once they realized that there wasn't a lot of time left, the two women started to make their way towards the mooncake store.

Guo Xuehua shook her head when she saw the extravagant packaging of the mooncakes.

"These boxes are a waste of money. Why not save some money to improve the mooncake's quality instead? We can't even look at the mooncakes with the packaging in the way."

Lin Ruoxi pointed at the individually wrapped mooncakes. "Mom, let's buy this. I bought these before. It tastes pretty good and it's not greasy."

"You bought these before?" Guo Xuehua was startled at first but it dawned on her immediately,

"You bought them for the orphans?"

Lin Ruoxi nodded, "I've been buying them mooncakes every year but I can't make it this year since I'm in Beijing."

Guo Xuehua was content to hear that. She smiled and said, "They say mothers-in-law and their daughters-in-law are fated to meet each other and it's really true. I founded an orphanage and you did volunteer work for it."

Lin Ruoxi blushed and she pulled Guo Xuehua with her to choose different flavored mooncakes. She was actually delighted to hear the compliment but she was too abashed to say anything about it.

Chapter 1039 Things Have Changed

Yang Pojun glanced at his daughter-in-law in surprise.

Back when he was still working in the military, Yang Pojun was already aware of her identity as a millionaire. To other businessmen, she was a cold-blooded president who caused the Xu and Zeng clans to go bankrupt without batting an eyelid.

Even though this wasn't their first time meeting, they never really shared any in-depth conversations. She looked as though she had been pampered since young and he assumed she would be bossy and sinister. The possibility of Lin Ruoxi doing volunteering work never crossed his mind.

Then again, he never really cared about charity work so he felt that Lin Ruoxi should be focusing on her actual work instead of doing things like this.

As a matter of fact, he wasn't really supportive of Guo Xuehua's charity events. Firstly, there were other people who could carry this out instead of her. Secondly, it lowered her status since she chose to organize funding and charity events instead of socializing with the elites.

However, with Yang Gongming as her support, Yang Pojun didn't dare express his dissatisfaction.

Regardless of his opinion, Yang Pojun was just relieved to know that the ladies were done with choosing mooncakes. There were three to four bags on his hands and his face was almost turning green from exhaustion.

Yang Chen had ten bags on both of his hands and he kept sniffing it as if he was trying to know which mooncake smelled the best. Only he would be able to tell them apart by their smell.

They exited the hypermarket and started to walk towards their car after the ladies were done shopping.

Right when they were about to cross the road, a dark green jeep stopped beside them.

Someone rolled the windows down to reveal two strangers.

"Hey, no wonder you looked so familiar. Aren't you Commander Yang?"

Yang Pojun's face darkened when he saw the two men who were in military uniforms. "General Ning, General Zhou."

Yang Chen checked the military ranks on their shoulder and realized that they were both from the Beijing military base. One of them was a lieutenant whereas the other one was a major.

"Zhou, you're wrong. Brother Yang isn't a commander anymore, he's planning to teach in the military school. You should call him Professor Yang," General Ning said in a stern but mocking voice.

Yang Pojun's face turned to a shade darker and with a fake smile he said, "We will be leaving first if you guys have nothing else to say."

"You seem to be in a hurry," General Yang glanced at Yang Chen and others. "I really envy you, being able to enjoy your time with your family. You're really blessed. Brother Yang, you even have time to shop with your wife. Let's see what you got there...eh, it's all women's clothes. Brother, you really love your wife huh."

"Haha, Ning, Commander...oh no, Professor Yang wouldn't have retired early if he didn't love his wife." General Ning snickered. "We shouldn't bother them anymore, maybe it's his secret hobby to carry clothes for women."

Veins were bulging on Yang Pojun's forehead but he couldn't utter a single word.

Yang Chen stood next to them nonchalantly until Lin Ruoxi nudged his waist. He whispered to her, "What?"

"You...help him."

Yang Chen chuckled. "Why should I when it has nothing to do with me?"

Lin Ruoxi pouted but she couldn't rebut him either.

"Alright, alright." General Ning waved his hand. "Brother Yang, I'm rushing to Zhang's baby shower, the one from the General Staff Department. I'm really busy, so, see you!"

Having said so, he rolled his windows up before speeding away.

Somehow, they still heard him say 'bastard' before his windows were fully rolled up.

It was obvious he directed this word towards the Yang clan. Even though Yang Gongming resolved the issue with an unwavering stance, the nobles would still look down at them behind their backs.

Yang Pojun forced a breath out but his face had already turned scarlet.

Although he was expecting this kind of treatment after his retirement, it was still unbearable and infuriating.

Worse yet, the thing he was most proud of in his life, his bloodline, no longer existed.

Guo Xuehua was affected by his mood too. "Don't be angry, it'll only make you feel worse. Just ignore them. Now that they have taken control of the Beijing military base, it's natural for them to show off their authority. People like that won't go far in their lives."

"Hmph!" Yang Pojun grunted. "Where did Lie'er go?! He's the only Yang clan member left in the Beijing military base but he's missing now!"

Guo Xuehua was also worried when he mentioned Yang Lie. "Who knows. He didn't contact us and Master Yujizi from the Kunlun Sect said he isn't there. That child...I'm just hoping that he's safe."

Suddenly reminded of Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi's existence, Guo Xuehua smiled and tried to change the topic. "Alright, alright, cheer up, it's all in the past anyway. Let's get to the car now."

Yang Chen was nonchalant about it. Mundanes like them weren't a threat to him. They were just clowns and it wasn't like they had insulted him. Besides, Yang Chen was actually amused to see Yang Pojun being rendered speechless by them. Being called a bastard was a taste of his own medicine. After all, he had spent the last few years calling Yang Chen a bastard himself.

"Mom, they were so rude. Aren't they afraid of the Yang clan?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

Guo Xuehua sighed. "Didn't you hear his name? General Ning is a relative of the Ning clan and the other guy is also from the Ning clan. The military base in Beijing is now under the Ning's clan control."

She understood but was still bitter about it. The Ning clan...still held a special place in her heart.

Even though it wasn't publicized, the Ning clan was actually an official enemy of the Yang clan.

After crossing the road, the four of them walked towards their car quietly.

Right at this moment, a few girls ran out from the corner of the street. They seemed to be seven to eight years old. They were wearing worn thin clothes and because of malnutrition, their eyes looked big in comparison to their tanned skin. All in all, they had a very disheveled look

The four of them were holding identical black plastic bags that seemed to be heavily packed.

“Uncle, uncle! Aunty! Buy some mooncakes!”

The kids surrounded them and they opened up their plastic bags to show them all sorts of mooncakes with simple designs.

Their eyes were filled with expectation and it looked as though they were begging them through their gaze.

Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi felt bad for them, looking at them with a warm gaze.

“Little girl, don’t worry. How much is it for one?” Guo Xuehua asked while stroking one of the girl’s hair.

The little girl grinned widely when she heard that. She spoke with a slight lisp because of her growing teeth, “It’s a dollar for one. How many would you like Aunty?”

It was rather cheap. Guo Xuehua looked around and estimated there were around one hundred mooncakes in their bags. She exchanged glances with Lin Ruoxi who nodded to her in understanding.

“We will buy all of it,” Lin Ruoxi said.

“Wait.” Yang Chen called out before taking out one of the mooncakes to show her. “Look at it closely, this has already expired and there’s mold on it. I’m certain these either had bad quality or there was something wrong with the recipe. Someone might die from eating this.”

The others took a closer look and they really found mold on it. They took another close look and to their realization, the manufacturing factory was barely visible too.

The little girl became anxious and she begged them with tears falling down her face. “Big brother...please, please buy some from us...I beg of you...”

“Don’t cry, don’t cry.” Guo Xuehua’s heart wrenched at the sight of her crying. “We will buy it, we will buy it, don’t cry...”

“It’s fine even if it’s expired. We won’t eat it then.” Lin Ruoxi couldn’t stand it either and she proceeded to take her purse out.

Yang Pojun was getting impatient. Even though the kids were pitiful, he wouldn’t say anything about it. He’d rather give them money so that they could return home earlier.

“Why are you getting anxious? Only idiots pay without checking.” Yang Chen pulled Lin Ruoxi’s hands.

Lin Ruoxi looked up with an annoyed expression. “Yang Chen, do you even have a heart! They are so skinny from starvation. What’s wrong with us buying mooncakes for them? I will eat it if you don’t want to! You don’t have to care about me even if I will die from it!”

Yang Chen was speechless. With a bitter smile, he shook his head. “Madam Lin Ruoxi, President Lin, Miss Lin, Princess Lin...don’t misunderstand my intentions. What I am trying to say is that these kids were obviously forced to sell expired mooncakes so instead of giving them money, shouldn’t we catch the culprit? Did you really think that this money would remain in their hands?”

Lin Ruoxi and Guo Xuehua were startled. They exchanged glances with each other, finally making sense of his words.

They weren't dumb but they were so fixated on their tears and could only pity them, so they didn't think much about it.

"Yang Chen's words make sense. We can't ignore this," Guo Xuehua lowered her head and asked one of the girls, "Little kid, don't be afraid. Who ordered you guys to sell these mooncakes? Is there a bad guy who's bullying you guys?"

The little girl's face fell and fear flashed across her eyes. She exchanged gazes with the three girls before dashing towards a corner of the street together!

Chapter 1040: Falling Tears

Yang Chen saw this coming and he stopped them with a teasing grin. "You have to answer when adults ask you a question. You'll be whacked if you run away."

The girls trembled as they took a few steps back.

"Eh, why did you run?" Guo Xuehua bent down and proceeded to ask her. "Little girl, tell us. Who ordered you guys to sell these mooncakes?"

Yang Pojun walked forward with a curious gaze. Pitying little kids was not his thing. Catching bad guys was a different story.

"We...we don't know," the leader said.

"How is it possible? Don't be afraid, everything will be fine," Guo Xuehua asked patiently.

"We really don't know..." The other girl was close to crying.

Yang Chen squinted his eyes and he lowered his head. "How about this? If you tell us the truth, we will buy all of your mooncakes. Deal?"

The girls seemed interested but seconds later, they shook their heads hurriedly as if they were reminded of something.

Yang Chen's face darkened and he threatened them. "I won't let you guys go if you won't tell me. Little girl, you are all selling expired mooncakes. I will report you to the police."

"Police?!"

The girls were frightened and they looked up at him with dewy eyes.

"Yeah." Yang Chen continued to act like a villain. "Do you know what happens after getting caught by the police? You will go to jail. Do you know what it is? They will lock you up and you won't get food. They will even hit you..."

The girls were so terrified that they started choking with sobs.

Lin Ruoxi couldn't bear it anymore. She blocked Yang Chen from their view and smiled at them gently.

"Little girl, don't be afraid. Just tell us who it is and nothing will happen. I will promise you."

The tanned skin girl muttered, having sensed her kindness. "But...if we tell you...we will get hit."

Get hit?!

Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi turned solemn. Their suspicions were confirmed, someone else was behind this.

There had been numerous articles about people who used children to earn money. They never expected to witness this themselves.

For someone who loved children so much, which was obvious by her active participation in charity. Guo Xuehua despised it the most.

Yang Chen's eyes gleamed when he heard this. He walked forward and gripped the girl's frail arm.

"No! Don't hit her! Let her say it slowly." Guo Xuehua stopped him, thinking that he had lost his temper.

The girl was startled too, judging by the way she tried to squeeze herself backward.

Yang Chen laughed. "Do I look like I will lay my hands on a child? You're really looking down on me."

"Then..." Guo Xuehua was flustered.

Yang Chen said nothing and rolled up the girl's sleeve to reveal her thin limb.

"What?!"

Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi's eyes reddened. They couldn't even bear to look at it for another second.

There were an unimaginable number of wounds on her arms! The worst part was that there were scars all over her skin because of the lack of treatment.

"How can someone be so cruel?! She's just a child!"

"Little girl, who hit you? Is it the same person who forced you guys to sell mooncakes?" Lin Ruoxi tried to force a smile.

The little girl nodded slowly with a look of confusion on her face as if she couldn't understand why Lin Ruoxi was so close to crying.

"No, we can't ignore it. I have to know which animal did this to them!" Guo Xuehua was livid. "Son, let's not go back yet. We have to investigate this."

Yang Chen didn't mind it. This was something worth standing up for.

"Little girl, bring us to them. Don't worry, they wouldn't dare to hit you, but if you won't bring us there, we will call the police for real," Yang Chen said with a smile.

The tanned skin girl had no choice. She exchanged glances with the girls and they all nodded obediently even though their eyes were filled with worry.

Since the sky was getting darker, no one paid them too much attention as they walked along the street.

After going around many corners, they left the bustling area and came to a quiet old street.

Soon, the girls stopped in front of an old two-story house and they pointed to the rusty and moldy gates.

“Uncles and aunties are here.” One of the girls said.

Guo Xuehua frowned when she saw the dirty surroundings. There was trash everywhere and the sewers reeked badly.

Yang Chen walked forward to push the gates and the view inside left him flabbergasted.

The front yard was piled with boxes and plastic bags. There were also plastic films all over the place.

In the middle of it were eight boys who seemed to be around the same age as the girls. They all looked so small and skinny as they sat on small stools with something in their hands.

Some of them were pulling out the used plastic fills to organize them. Some were classifying the plastic bags whereas the rest were cutting and flattening the boxes to store them.

If it wasn't for their young age, this place could have been mistaken as a waste processing workshop!

They looked up curiously when the gate was opened. A look of confusion showed up on their faces when they saw the girls.

“Xiaojia, did you guys sell everything?” A boy with messy hair asked.

The tanned skin girl squeezed herself through the door. With a small voice, she shook her head and replied to the boy, “No...we got into some trouble.”

“Ah, then go and sell it quickly! Or else we won't get dinner!” The boy sounded extremely anxious.

Xiaojia turned around and looked at Yang Chen with a troubled gaze.

Guo Xuehua entered the yard and asked with a perplexed voice while looking around, “What's going on? Why are the children doing this?!”

“Hmph.” Yang Pojun grunted. “Isn't it obvious? This is child labor.”

His face was dark from the disheartening view.

At this time, a hoarse voice was heard from the main door.

“Who is it out there?”

A plump woman in her forties walked out while wearing a colorful sweater. Her hair was permed and she had lipstick on.

Her face fell when she saw foreign faces, “Who are you?! Why are you guys here?!”

Guo Xuehua questioned with a cold voice, “You are forcing the kids to do labor work? Do you know that this is a crime?”

The plump woman eyed her and those behind her. With a mocking smile, she said, “Yo, someone's here to act as a good samaritan? Hmph, I've seen enough of people like you! Scram before I hurt you guys!”

“You...what did you say?!” Guo Xuehua was infuriated. She had always been a rational person but it was impossible to be reasonable with a fishwife.

Yang Chen held his forehead when his mom had failed. He was about to butt in but the plump woman started to scold the girls instead.

“Brats, haven’t I done enough for you guys? How dare you bring people here to anger me?! Do you guys want to be spanked, huh?!”

The plump woman whipped out a bamboo broom from the door before rushing towards the girls!

The girls’ legs were trembling with fear and they threw their bags of mooncakes to cover the head as if they were prepared to be beaten up.

Even Yang Chen’s heart clenched at the sight of this, let alone Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi!

They couldn’t imagine the number of times they had been beaten, especially when the girls were clearly so afraid that they wouldn’t even dodge her beating!