

## Chapter 1131 Ride One's Coattails

Lin Ruoxi was helpless against the man standing before her. Upon hearing Li Jingjing's pleas, her heart softened once again.

Speaking of that, it was Li Jingjing who got to know Yang Chen first. She had also developed feelings for him first. In fact, it was she who forced Yang Chen to marry after an absurd night.

Till today, Lin Ruoxi had to use her identity as a wife as she stood upon the higher ground of morality.

As the thought sank in, Lin Ruoxi grew even more furious at Yang Chen. It was all because of this bastard. And to think that he was still grinning ear-to-ear at her like an idiot. If it was not for him, would she have ended up this conflicted?

As Lin Ruoxi struggled to make a decision, her legs were suddenly mashed together!

In an instance, Yang Chen had pounced onto Lin Ruoxi and was hugging both her sumptuous thighs with his head pressed against them as he started to rub them.

"You... What are you doing? Let go..." Lin Ruoxi's face instantaneously flushed crimson. Why was he acting like a child?

Everyone standing aside was stupefied. The extent to which Yang Chen was thick-skinned was way past their expectations.

Li Jingjing could not discern if Yang Chen was seriously begging or just trying to cajole his way out of this.

Yang Chen kneaded Lin Ruoxi's tender thighs with his face, relishing in the whiff of the fragrance originating from her skin. Brazen-faced, he implored, "Honey, if you don't forgive me, I shall kneel in front of you forever."

Lin Ruoxi was beyond frustrated. "You idiot, am I so easy to please? Would I not be mad at you once you hug my thighs? You're clearly just bullying me!"

"Then, if I let go of your legs, will you forgive me?" Yang Chen beamed and immediately let go.

Amid her anger, Lin Ruoxi could not fight back a giggle. She bit her thin lips and eventually let out a sigh. Disregarding Yang Chen, she turned to Li Jingjing. "Jingjing, come with me upstairs. We need to talk."

"Huh?" Li Jingjing stiffened for a moment but quickly nodded as she caught herself.

Lin Ruoxi did not stay for long. Without delay, she brought Li Jingjing upstairs to the guest room and shut the door.

Downstairs, an eerie silence began to permeate the air.

Yang Chen had picked himself up and plopped down in Lin Ruoxi's seat. Using Lin Ruoxi's chopsticks, he sent an entire clump of kimchi into his mouth and started munching, then slurped some soup with her spoon.

Park Cheon and the others stared at him as the word 'heartless' surfaced in their minds.

Noticing all the eyes on him and that Park Cheon and Zhenxiu had stopped eating, he chuckled, "Why are y'all looking at me? Go on, eat! I suppose it will take a while for Ruoxi to come down. I'll use her cutleries for the time being."

Park Cheon smiled stiffly, the corners of his lips twitching. "Mr Yang sure is full of surprises."

"I mean, what can I do? A wife is meant to be pleased. Reasoning with women is never a good idea. We must just admit our mistakes obediently. Whatever so-called self-esteem is utter bullshit, those are only for others to see. Especially for people like me who like to look at others even when I already have enough, it's needless to say that I must put in extra effort to woo my wife. That is a long-term plan considering the big picture. This is my state of enlightenment from the countless agonizing lessons I've experienced in the past. Anyone who is interested can talk to me and share some of your own valuable experiences as well..."

Speaking, Yang Chen waved at the male servants around them blatantly.

Zhenxiu sat down and pouted briefly before saying, "Brother Yang is getting more and more shameless. Aren't you at all concerned about Teacher Vivian? What if Sister Ruoxi makes her cry?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "Impossible. I know Ruoxi is mad, but she would only target me. I've thought it through before coming back and I'll accept whatever consequences that are to come."

"Mr Yang, you might be mistaken. Having a few more ladies is no big burden for a man with your capabilities. Back in the day, marriage wasn't inevitable, not to mention monogamous relationships. An incompetent man would not be able to take care of one wife whereas a capable man would be able to live a luxurious, well-nourished life despite having a dozen wives. Besides, such matters are a two-way treaty between both men and women, which is why, Mr Yang, you ought not to be too hung up over this," Park Cheon said with a theatrical wave of his hands.

Yang Chen laughed. "It seems President Park Cheon has had his fair share of merry times."

Park Cheon coughed awkwardly in an attempt to divert the attention from himself. He turned and looked at Zhenxiu, who was gawking at him unblinkingly. "I'm just an ordinary old man. Please, Mr Yang, enjoy your meal."

"Grandfather, it sounds like you don't really disagree with Brother Yang's doing?" asked Zhenxiu out of a sudden.

Park Cheon did not expect Zhenxiu to be so blunt. After a moment or two of hesitation, he then concluded, "It is reasonable for a capable man like Mr Yang to be favored by many girls."

Though he was not entirely informed on Yang Chen's background, Park Cheon had sharp eyes and could still tell that Yang Chen was not as simple a person as perceived. Not to mention the fact that he even possessed such a mysterious elixir.

"Really?"

Zhenxiu cheered inwardly, glimmers of excitement crossing her large, beautiful eyes.

Park Cheon looked at his granddaughter, confused. "Zhenxiu, why the sudden question?"

Zhenxiu froze, then stuck her tongue out and replied, "It's nothing."

Zhenxiu quickly lowered her head and stuffed her face with a variety of seafood.

However, as Park Cheon's gaze shuffled between Zhenxiu and Yang Chen, worry flitted through his eyes.

The 'shameless' and 'heartless' Yang Chen in the eyes of others was, in fact, not as collected as he appeared.

His mind kept drifting off into the room upstairs as he pictured dozens after dozens of different scenarios for what could be happening with the two ladies.

One thing was for sure, that Li Jingjing would never be able to handle Lin Ruoxi's ingenuity. Although she did say she could never lift her head around them, how was it possible to not feel contrite at all?

Consciously suppressing the urge to utilize his divine sense, Yang Chen felt like he should still respect Lin Ruoxi's decision.

It was only when he was indulging in a television show downstairs in the living room after dinner did movements come from the guest room upstairs.

Lin Ruoxi walked downstairs with Li Jingjing trailing behind her. She looked worn out, but her anger had obviously diminished.

Yang Chen gulped before he scrutinized Li Jingjing. He found no signs of tears on the woman.

As if she could read Yang Chen's mind, Lin Ruoxi crooned, "Stop wondering, I don't go behind people's back and bash them."

Yang Chen tittered mischievously, "Of course you won't, I know that my honey has always been generous."

Lin Ruoxi let out a faint sigh. "I've spoken to Jingjing and she misses her parents in Zhonghai, which is why she's decided to stop pursuing her doctorate. I'm not in a good position to help her get a job in education back in Zhonghai, so you should talk to Mother about it. Perhaps her connections could get her a place in the Education Bureau or any similar units."

Li Jingjing immediately refused. "No... It's fine, Sister Ruoxi. I can just teach at a high school."

"Don't worry about it. If you were to encounter some troublesome students or supervisors with ill intentions, do you think this guy's heart will be at ease?" Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at Yang Chen. "Isn't that right?"

Yang Chen nodded, bashful. "Honey, you're such a thoughtful person. I'll let my mother make some arrangements later on."

Li Jingjing would unquestionably be capable of holding a regular post in the Education Bureau, something safe and steady. That way, the woman would neither be too idle nor overworked.

This was nothing given the Yang family's influential powers.

Li Jingjing felt a wave of emotions flooding her within before realizing tears had begun to well up in her eyes. "Sister Ruoxi, thank you..."

Lin Ruoxi reached out and gently pinched Li Jingjing's palm. "Once you return to Zhonghai, remember to continue teaching me to cook. I'll go by your place so that I won't have to hear my mother-in-law calling me clumsy."

Li Jingjing nodded and her lips parted to reveal a sweet smile.

Watching from the sidelines, Zhenxiu grew sullen. "Sister Ruoxi, what would I do if you take Teacher Vivian away?"

"You can switch to another teacher or attend a local university. The Ewha Women's University will suit you quite well," Lin Ruoxi teased, letting out an exuberant laugh.

Zhenxiu pouted while sulking.

Li Jingjing smiled regretfully at Zhenxiu, then stepped toward Park Cheon and bowed. "Thank you, for your kind accommodation over this period. I've decided to return to Zhonghai. My parents are there, needing my care. What's more, I belong there. My apologies that I was unable to complete Zhenxiu's lessons."

Needless to say, Park Cheon was perfectly fine with it. In fact, the old man had seen this coming from some time ago. He waved his hand in dismissal and said, "That's alright. I will help do the talking regarding America. Yourself and Teacher Vivian are more than welcome to come back to Korea and drop by to visit Zhenxiu anytime."

Things were decided rather swiftly and smoothly, and the plan was that Li Jingjing would pack her belongings and return to China the following morning.

To the woman who had not been home for a year to visit Old Li and his wife, finding out that her parents had been working hard to earn money behind her back made her miss them way more than she realized.

After sending Li Jingjing back to her apartment to pack up, Yang Chen asked Lin Ruoxi out of curiosity, "My dear Ruoxi, you had Jingjing for so long. Are you sure you've only talked to her about flying home?"

Lin Ruoxi stalked upstairs without so much as a glimpse at him. "Problem?"

"That's not possible, you took so long for just that?"

Lin Ruoxi glanced at him, a little fed up. "I'm tired. Ask Jingjing if you want to know."

Yang Chen had no words to counter her statement, so he just remained quiet. He made a mental note to ask Li Jingjing about their conversation once they returned to Zhonghai.

While Lin Ruoxi was in the shower, Yang Chen gave Guo Xuehua a call. As she found out that her son had 'magically' found her another daughter-in-law, she did not know how to react.

However, the fact that the girl grew up in a guileless family and had a double Masters in American Education and Linguistics immediately captured Guo Xuehua's heart. She repeatedly promised to secure a suitable position for Li Jingjing!

### **Chapter 1132: The Women in Yang Chen's House**

What Yang Chen did not know was that Guo Xuehua was busy doing something else back in their Xijiao Villas of Zhonghai. Hence, she ended the call in a hurry without any further pressing questions.

After getting off the call, Guo Xuehua scurried back to the secondary living room and sat down happily at the brand new mahjong table.

"Mhmm, automatic mahjong tables are amazing. The mahjong tiles reorganize so quickly! Back then in my hometown, one would only dream of something like this."

As Guo Xuehua confessed emotionally, the mahjong table diligently arranged and distributed the tiles.

Sitting around this modern mahjong table were another three women clad in extravagant clothing. They were Mo Qianni, An Xin, and Xiao Zhiqing!

An Xin chuckled, "Mother, you're too outdated. The mahjong machine has been on the market for a long time."

Guo Xuehua rolled her eyes at An Xin, who was across the table from her. "You little child, how do you still have the time to insult me for being outdated? Look at you, just look at how much you have lost! Zhiqing has just barely started learning and she's already about to surpass you."

Speaking, she looked over at Xiao Zhiqing proudly. "No doubt you are Yulan's biological daughter. Intelligent, indeed."

Xiao Zhiqing smiled politely. Upon mention of her mother, she beamed and happiness gushed from her eyes. "Oh no, Mother plays better."

Seated on one side, Mo Qianni could not bear to watch any longer. She remarked with a sour tone, "Mother, you're too easily swayed! Zhiqing studied computer science. Calculating the probabilities for a game is child's play for her. She's only playing lenient with you, so stop praising her..."

"Hey, hey, hey." Guo Xuehua threw out a red Zhong tile and said pointedly, "Why are you being so salty? Qianni, you should really take a lesson or two from An Xin. Even though she's lost a few hundred thousand, she's still sitting here modestly. You haven't lost a single penny but you dare say I'm relying on Zhiqing's leniency?"

Mo Qianni turned over to An Xin, who had been quiet all this while, and pursed her lips. "An Xin wasn't trying to be good. A few hundred thousand is hardly worth a speck of dust to a rich woman like herself who has billions' worth of assets. But for office workers like me, how could I afford to lose in this game..."

Guo Xuehua had known Mo Qianni for a long time and was rather familiar with her, so she was aware that Mo Qianni was only joking.

“There’s nothing to be afraid of! If you do happen to lose everything, just ask more from that little brat Yang Chen. That guy has been hiding his wealth really well. If I hadn’t attended his wedding, I’d never truly know how rich he was. Listen up, you girls, don’t try to challenge Ruoxi’s position as the first wife. But as for money, jewelry, and the like, feel free to snatch some from Yang Chen and tell him that you have his mother’s approval!”

Seeing Guo Xuehua spewing such words so enthusiastically, Xiao Zhiqing tittered. “Mother, would you be daring enough to say these to Sister Ruoxi’s face?”

Upon hearing this, Guo Xuehua reached over at once and pinched Xiao Zhiqing’s cheeks. “Naughty little girl, you dare ridicule your mother-in-law! Who told you that I’m not daring enough? Ruoxi is the main lady and one day, she will be taking over my position in the Yang household. In order to take some burden off Yang Chen’s shoulders, she will have to get along with you. Do you girls think I’m actually afraid of her?”

Just as Guo Xuehua and her three ‘daughters-in-law’ were busy giggling away, Wang Ma strode in from the main living room.

Wang Ma stepped in with a plate of sliced cantaloupe. Placing it by Xiao Zhiqing, she caressed her hair affectionately and asked with a smile perched upon her face, “What are you girls talking about? Sounds like you were having fun!”

“What else could we be talking about, just some nonsense,” Guo Xuehua dismissed playfully. “Still, Yulan, you’re so biased toward your daughter! Ruoxi would be in despair when she returns.”

Wang Ma’s face turned a rosy hue. “Stop exaggerating. I’ve been watching over the young lady since young. They’re all the same.”

Xiao Zhiqing giggled. “Mother, I’ve won over a hundred thousand. Sister An Xin was so generous to me! I’ll get you a BV handbag online. I saw an orange design that would suit you especially well!”

“Mother only goes out for groceries. What’s more, don’t we already have a bunch of branded handbags at home?” Wang Ma caught sight of the stack of hundred-dollar bills by Xiao Zhiqing’s side of the table that was still growing in size, then chortled in response. “Oh my, why did you all get so much cash? This place is turning into a casino!”

Not only were there humongous heaps of cash, but there were also seven or eight leather briefcases for their stash of cash just lying about in the side hall.

An Xin pouted. “Mother said to use cash.”

“Of course. It’s not like we don’t have money, and it’s definitely more interesting to play mahjong with real cash. After all, we’re still a family so winning or losing doesn’t matter,” exclaimed Guo Xuehua excitedly.

Wang Ma sighed powerlessly. “If the young lady finds out that you ordered the mahjong machine and played with it for so long, she’s probably going to be mad for a good few days.”

An Xin chimed in a little worriedly, “Wang Ma, you must attest to my innocence. I’m only here because Mother asked me to come over!”

“Jeez, would you look at yourself? Why do you act like a mouse running from a cat when it comes to Ruoxi? And you call yourself a chairwoman,” Guo Xuehua scolded in between laughs.

“Fine, it was me who bought the mahjong machine and me who summoned you here to relieve my boredom. Anyways, you girls don’t normally stumble across many chances to get along. Since we are a family, we can play some tiles and get to know each other.”

An Xin nodded and her lips parted in embarrassment.

“Mother, you think so far ahead for these intricate plans.” Mo Qianni could not help but notice.

The three girls exchanged glances and quickly recognized the discernible smiles in each others’ eyes.

Truth be told, the girls knew of each other’s existence, but the thought of competition had never occurred to them. Firstly, Yang Chen was the epitome of a person with ‘ferocious vigor’. Therefore, any woman alone would not be adequate to satisfy him.

Furthermore, they knew that it was impracticable to rival Lin Ruoxi. As a result, they all dropped that little thought of theirs and simply focused on relishing what little contentment they had.

The most important reason being that the girls were also cultivating alongside Yang Chen, knowing that it could preserve their youth and beauty and that it would greatly lengthen their lifespan. It was as if this set them apart from ordinary humans.

As they strolled side-by-side down the same special path, they grew extremely tight in no time and were almost always showering each other with admiration and praises.

“Of course,” Guo Xuehua chirped eagerly, her eyes not leaving the tiles she continued to pull from the stack. A sudden thought struck her and she asked, “Why haven’t I seen Rose and Mingyu these past two days? I know Cai Yan is busy running after criminals but are the other two occupied as well?”

Mo Qianni, on the other hand, communicated with Rose and Liu Mingyu on a daily basis. “Rose is only interested in cultivation. She said she sensed some techniques from the Soul Forming Realm and she’s practicing with her doors closed. Mingyu went to Paris for work.”

“Wow, Sister Rose is so capable!” Xiao Zhiqing was the most knowledgeable when it came to the littlest details of cultivation. “Didn’t she just start cultivating not too long ago? I can’t believe she can already sense the Soul Forming Realm!”

“Yeah, our husband once mentioned that Rose’s qualifications are not any lower than his. If I’m not mistaken, even Cai Ning in Beijing may not be on par with her,” Mo Qianni groaned enviously.

An Xin seemed to realize something before she asked inquisitively, “Mother, why don’t you cultivate too? If we stayed young but you grew old, it would be such a shame.”

Guo Xuehua smiled as she looked at An Xin. “This child is so good at pleasing the elderly. You should change your name from ‘An Xin’ to ‘Kai Xin’ (Happy). Actually, Yang Chen had mentioned this before, but Yulan and I are too old. It’s too late to cultivate from scratch and if we force ourselves to do it, our body would not be able to endure it. Which is why he gave us some elixirs to consume and ordered that we perform some Tu Na routine. This will give us longevity while not harming our foundation.”

Yang Chen would only talk to Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma about these in private and not tell the ladies.

It was late into the night when Minjuan finally came down from upstairs, where she had been looking after Lanlan, and entered the side hall to watch the ladies play mahjong.

Guo Xuehua asked with what seemed like a sinister smile. "Minjuan, would you like to join for the next round?"

Minjuan immediately shook her head. "No, no, I can't afford to play this. One round is all it takes to go up to tens of thousands..."

"Come on, we're just a family playing around with some money." Guo Xuehua smiled helplessly and asked, "Is Lanlan asleep?"

Minjuan nodded. "Yep, she is. I wanted to let Lanlan sleep in my bed, but she insisted on sleeping in her mother's."

Guo Xuehua sighed as she nodded. "I don't know how but somehow, this child is quite congenial with Ruoxi. If we didn't know better, we would probably think that she's Ruoxi's biological child."

Speaking, Guo Xuehua's gaze swept past the other girls. "You all should buck up. Although Yang Chen is rather unique and wouldn't impregnate you easily, there's still a chance that he will. Don't just dream about Yang Chen looking for you, be more proactive!"

The girls turned red in unison and all of them were at a loss for words. Guo Xuehua was indeed very open around them.

Wang Ma broke the tension in the air and said, "Xuehua, what did Sir say earlier?"

Guo Xuehua's lips curled up in an uncanny manner. "He said he met a girl in Korea that he knew from Zhonghai. Her name is Li Jingjing. He asked for my help to arrange for a post in the Education Bureau for the child as she's coming back to Zhonghai."

"Li Jingjing? Isn't she in America?" Wang Ma remembered Li Jingjing. Unable to stifle her laugh, she prodded tentatively, "Did the son-in-law..."

"What else? I suppose he must have gotten me another daughter-in-law." Guo Xuehua then turned to the ladies. "You girls are having another sister. If this keeps up, I'm afraid we would need two mahjong tables at home."

The ladies blinked at each other and started to picture the scene of a dozen women gathered together around two mahjong tables!

### **Chapter 1133 Stars and Buns**

Park's Residence, in the guestroom on the second floor.

After stepping out from the shower, Lin Ruoxi proceeded to blow-dry her luscious locks and crawl into bed in her cotton sleeping pajamas.



Taking notice, Yang Chen promptly scampered into the bathroom and took a shower. Hastily, he dried himself up with a broad smile stretched across his face, plans of showcasing his great 'performance' in bed vigorously lurching in his head.

Although he already got down to business with Li Jingjing, it was inadequate for Yang Chen's satisfaction. Moreover, Lin Ruoxi was clearly still unhappy and upset at him, and Yang Chen strongly believed that if he could perform better in their marriage, everything would progress much smoother.

Just as he was about to hop into bed, however, Lin Ruoxi snapped her head toward him with a cold stare that seemed to pierce through his very soul. "Get off."

"Huh?"

"I said get off," Lin Ruoxi articulated each word distinctively, her tone so empty and devoid of feelings. "Do not come into bed without my permission."

Hearing these firm, unarguable words, Yang Chen slapped on a sorrowful expression and slowly backed off the bed. He fell to his knees on the floor.

"Dear, don't be so ruthless. Look, I've even knelt in front of everyone for you. You can't just treat me like this forever."

"Was it even on my command? I told you to get up but you didn't seem to want it. What now, have I wronged you by asking you to sleep on the floor?"

Yang Chen could not find the words to counter her statement, so he just put on an innocent face and laid down on the floorboards.

Seeing that Yang Chen had stopped trying to defend himself, Lin Ruoxi snorted coldly and turned around. With one swift movement of her wrist, she flicked off the bedside lamp and climbed into bed to sleep.

Yang Chen tossed and turned on the floor for no less than an hour. Before he realized it, dawn had approached. Despite that, he still could not sleep.

In reality, he did not think that Lin Ruoxi was stepping over the line. As a matter of fact, he had even prepared himself for this cold war. Furthermore, he was ultimately grateful that Lin Ruoxi did not ignore him the way she did in the past.

On the contrary, after a thorough reflection of today's events with a calmer mind and soul, he found that Lin Ruoxi's arrangements for Li Jingjing warmed his heart.

Although the decision was made behind his back and something did happen between him and Li Jingjing, Lin Ruoxi remained rational and restrained herself from unleashing her anger. Moreover, she even let Li Jingjing return to Zhonghai in peace to take care of Old Li and his wife.

Thinking of that, he felt his wife was getting more and more generous, be it genuine or forced. Apart from feeling gratitude and guilt, Yang Chen could only strive harder to obey her instructions as much as he could and make her happy when they were together.

Lin Ruoxi's tendency to take care of the other women made it all the more necessary for him to care for her more.

As his train of thought persisted, Yang Chen slowly crawled to Lin Ruoxi's side of the bed and knelt on the floor.

The faint starlight shone in through the window and landed on the woman's delicate face.

Lin Ruoxi's raven hair resembled a layer of black satin clinging to her forehead, accentuating her prominent features and eliciting a fairy-like air to her sleeping face.

Her cherry blossom lips were slightly puckered in her sleep from the way her face was pressed against the pillow. The artistic arc lingering on the corners of her lips brought out its tenderness and grace without fail.

Her lush eyelashes quivered lightly along with the imperceptible movements of her eyelids. A beguiling fragrance escaped through her nose and mouth with every breath, so warm and refreshing as they invaded his nostrils.

As he watched quietly, Yang Chen foolishly reached out with his palm and caressed his lover's cheek tenderly as if it was some fragile porcelain.

A silky touch pulsed through his fingertips.

Lin Ruoxi's dainty nose twitched and her eyelids gradually fluttered open, revealing a pair of limpid irises, an enigmatic glimmer manifesting at the bottom of those deep pools of honey.

"Why are you awake? Couldn't sleep well?"

Lin Ruoxi glanced at the man lying on the edge of the bed with his face inches from hers and murmured, slurring her words, "How long have you been looking..."

Yang Chen grew silent and said after a moment of pondering, "About ten minutes, I guess."

"Was it enjoyable?"

"Very."

A beautiful curve appeared at the corners of Lin Ruoxi's mouth in what seemed to be a smile.

Yang Chen did not retract his hand. Instead, he continued to stroke Lin Ruoxi's face adoringly.

Yang Chen could not conceal the emotional sigh that escaped. "Ruoxi, sometimes when I look at you, it feels as if time is an unrealistic concept. It feels as if someone as charming as you would disappear in a flash. The illusions that only materialize because of the obvious reason before my eyes. It's just that I was curious about your true self. This is why I've always been discreetly watching you since the beginning. Now, after spending so much time with you, I finally have an idea of how truly dazzling you are. That's why I sometimes feel like you're very far from my reach. I'm scared. I'm terrified that you will suddenly vanish I'm also afraid that you are merely a star in the night sky, nowhere to be found after a twinkle or two, despite your breathtaking beauty."

Listening to the man's heartfelt confession, Lin Ruoxi started to tear up.

She pursed her lips briefly and began softly, "If you could treat me seriously at all times, that would be best..."

Yang Chen could not stifle his laugh. "I've always been serious. It's just that you never believe that I'm serious."

"Nonsense," Lin Ruoxi grunted, sulking.

Yang Chen chuckled, "Honey, are we cool now? I saw you smile."

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him and did not deny. Her silence seemed to represent a silent affirmative.

Yang Chen raised an eyebrow and said, "Should I do something extra to show you how serious I am?"

"What is it?" Lin Ruoxi's curiosity was piqued. She was hoping for the man to sweet-talk her more.

All of a sudden, Yang Chen let out a wicked cackle. "It's three more hours till sunrise. Since we are both awake, why don't we take advantage of the darkness of the night?!"

The cordial and sweet atmosphere that Lin Ruoxi had put herself in before this was immediately overturned. It felt as if she was just tossed into a pile of bullshit!

The woman was so infuriated that she sprang up, grabbed a pillow with both hands, and sent it flying at the man!

"Yang Chen, go to hell!"

The night closed in an endless cacophony of hostile curses and soul-wrenching shrieks.

Yang Chen naturally failed to fire the bullets he had previously stocked up as he wished.

Fortunately, Lin Ruoxi had temporarily untangled the knot in her heart amid the quarrel. It was not the first time she was exasperated about his love affairs. Besides, this was not a woman who popped out of nowhere. It was Li Jingjing, whom they had known from long ago, so it was easier for her to accept it.

The next morning, Park Cheon dropped by the hospital for a review checkup. The doctors were all shocked, claiming that it was a miracle they witnessed.

Park Cheon's body condition was as optimal as a sturdy middle-aged man, nothing like an old man who had just recovered from major surgery!

After learning the news, Park Cheon was confident that he could still head the Starmoon Group for another ten years at least. Of course, the family handover ceremony would still commence as planned and the company would be passed down to Zhenxiu in the end.

After all, stepping down and being a chairman while also training Zhenxiu to manage the Starmoon Group was Park Cheon's deepest desire.

It was one more week away from the grand handover ceremony to be held in November. The entire Starmoon Group and the Park family were organizing every little detail of the event and arranging intensive preparations.

After Li Jingjing returned to Zhonghai, Park Cheon did not bother getting Zhenxiu another private tutor. Instead, he sent her to Ewha Women's University to study with the other young ladies in Korea, hoping to expand Zhenxiu's social networks locally.

As the future heir of the Starmoon Group, even if Zhenxiu did not want to interact with others, people would still strap on a brave face and grovel at her feet.

However, Zhenxiu was not interested in befriending girls who only cared about status and wealth. She would rather spend most of her time strolling around with Eunjung, her personal maid, or shopping around the university.

Since Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen were still in Seoul, Zhenxiu seized the opportunity to drag them out during the weekends to go sightseeing.

Just a day before the handover ceremony, the three of them visited a Korean family restaurant at Eunjung's recommendation. They were all surfeited by seafood and other expensive foods, so they went and tried some ordinary light dishes.

Lin Ruoxi was particularly fond of the kimbap, probably because it resembled glutinous rice balls. Lin Ruoxi held the kimbap in both hands as she nibbled away like a chick pecking rice.

Yang Chen could not tear his eyes off the woman as she ate. It was such a rare sight to see her savoring her meal this way and it was overwhelmingly adorable to him.

"Honey, come closer." Yang Chen hooked a finger at the woman, motioning for her to move closer.

Seeing the unnatural smirk on Yang Chen's face, Lin Ruoxi grew suspicious of the man, thinking he might have a corrupt plan in mind.

For the past couple of days, she had not allowed Yang Chen to sleep on the bed. Lin Ruoxi felt like this guy must have been holding back too much and wanted to kiss her in the restaurant.

Thinking as such, Lin Ruoxi's cheeks instantly flared up and she whispered, "I don't want to. I know you are planning something bad, right? There are so many people around, don't you feel the least bit embarrassed?"

Yang Chen did not know whether to cry or laugh. He scooted over and reached out, carefully swiping off a grain of rice stuck to the top of Lin Ruoxi's upper lip.

"You've got rice in your face from the kimbap and you still have the time to fantasize about all this nonsense. If your fans at the office find out about this, they would probably start spitting blood. I'm having rice and you think of yourself as an edible rice ball? Mistaking that I have ill intentions... Tsk tsk, this shows that the problem's with you. Were you expecting me to kiss you?" Yang Chen teased with a mischievous wink.

Lin Ruoxi flushed crimson with embarrassment. How she wished she could dig herself a hole and hide! In addition, Zhenxiu and Eunjung were trying to fight their giggles in silence.

But it had to be this way. It had to be her who overthought matters. Lin Ruoxi felt the bucket of fury in her heart tip over and did not stop the pout forming on her lips. Her brows furrowed strongly in vexation.

Seeing that expression on her face, Yang Chen could not help but laugh again. “To think that I could not wrap the head around the fact that Lanlan treats you as her mother. Your pouty face looks exactly like the little fat girl. Both of you have buns as faces! Haha!”

As she watched Yang Chen gasping for air from laughing too hard, Lin Ruoxi finally lost it and harshly threw the kimbap in her hand at Yang Chen!

“You bastard Yang Chen! You’re sleeping outside tonight!”

### **Chapter 1134 The Golden Key**

To their relief, after two days of fun and enjoyment, their honeymoon trip to Korea did not end in a cold war.

Before they left Korea, however, Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi had to attend the Park family’s official handover ceremony.

Park Cheon retiring as president would mean that the position of executive president would be passed on to Zhenxiu. The mere concept of a girl barely in her twenties sitting in this position sounded incredulous, but it was not unfamiliar to anyone that Park Cheon would personally be guiding her along the way. Throughout the first few years, it would be nothing more than a title as she learned the traded.

In fact, the thing that truly tickled the interest of other people was the inheritance of ‘Starmoon’, which had previously been passed down numerous generations. The Park family’s handover ceremony consisted of more than just the handover of the company and properties.

Some of the wealthier Korean elderly knew that nobody but the patriarch of the Park family would have the opportunity to recognize the true value and usage of ‘Starmoon’.

Many people chipped in with their guesses of what it could be. Some wondered if it was some rare treasure while others thought it to be a secret formula to longevity. It ranged from ancestral reservoirs of buried gold, gemstones, and the like to be used as a foundation to recover in the case that the Park family faced downfall.

However, these were merely assumptions and no one knew for sure what the hidden family secret was.

On the eleventh, the Park family reserved the largest event hall of the Shilla Hotel in Seoul, one of the businesses under the Starmoon Group. The fact that the Park family could occupy this place, somewhere Korean National Leaders usually invited VIPs over, showcased the Starmoon Group’s substantial influence.

When Yang Chen, clad in a smart business suit Lin Ruoxi had specially picked out for him, appeared alongside his wife at the majestic hall, it was already crowded with hundreds of high-class guests who arrived early.

Some reporters from mainstream media companies were already setting up their equipment for shooting purposes. The family handover of the Starmoon Group was one piece of upper-class social news that grabbed the attention of many outsiders.

The bustling waiters were all dressed in traditional hanboks, highlighting the importance of this ceremony.

Prior to this, Yang Chen had specifically requested for fewer media exposure toward himself and his wife. Consequently, Park Cheon had not gone up to greet them, so as to avoid the attention.

As noon approached, Park Cheon jubilantly strode up onto the stage to the accompaniment of some background music.

Taking notice of the old president suited up gallantly and his ruddy complexion, almost everyone exclaimed as they all thought he would be frail from his recent illness. No one had expected him to look so robust.

Such a scene instantly boosted the Starmoon Group's stock prices by a few percents. After all, as the founder and backbone of the company, Park Cheon's health could profoundly impact the stock market.

At that moment, Park Cheon had exhibited a powerful aura with just a brief glance that swept past the floor. Following this, the throng of guests quieted down, be it old or young, and began listening courteously.

Apart from the noises coming from the interlacing spotlights and camera shutters, the venue was enveloped in silence.

"Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express my utmost gratitude for your presence here at the Park family handover ceremony. Those who are familiar with me would know that I am a straightforward person who does not like to beat around the bush, so without further ado, I shall now make the announcement. According to the principles of our family order alongside the principle of inheritance, I, Park Cheon, have decided to hand over the position of our family patriarch to my eldest granddaughter, Xu Zhenxiu. Zhenxiu is the biological daughter of my eldest daughter, Park Ji-Yi. Though her family name might be Xu, she definitely has the Park family's blood. I sincerely hope that our clan can provide Zhenxiu with enough support as she is still young. I will also be training her to be a qualified heir as soon as practicable. Secondly, Starmoon Group has been the main company of the Park family as well as my brainchild for decades. Being the company president for thirty-over years has exhausted me. After analyzing the talent and intelligence of my children and grandchildren, I have decided to also appoint Zhenxiu as the next president of the company. However, do not fret about Zhenxiu being too young and incapable as this old man here is still strong and healthy today. Even after the handover, I will still have a considerable amount of control behind the scenes as the chairman."

The outcome of Park Cheon's delightful announcement was not quite out of the expectations of those present.

Previously, many were concerned that Zhenxiu's young age might render her unable to withstand such pressure. Despite this, from what they could see now, the handover was only nominal since Park Cheon was still fit and well.

However, this successfully expelled the malicious intents of the members of the main and side families of the Park's. At the same time, this also served as a warning to them to never let history repeat itself with whatever happened with Park Jonghyun.

After addressing these two matters, Park Cheon smiled amicably and beckoned at Zhenxiu backstage, prompting her to come onstage.

Today, Zhenxiu donned a white frilly princess dress with lace hems. Its round collar sat at her chest neatly, outlining her cleavage flawlessly and accentuating her prominent collarbones. The dress clung to her delicate waist, evoking an aura of youthfulness and dazzling magnificence.

Her ink-black, silky hair gleamed with a unique charm under the blazing spotlights as they tumbled loosely over her shoulders. Her subtle skin and alluring features seemed to capture the hearts of those young men in the hall and their eyes began to sparkle in awe.

These people were used to playing around with female celebrities who had gone through plastic surgery. It was no surprise that they had zero resistance toward a natural beauty like her who had never once gone under the knife.

A round of applause rose from the floor and cheers of admiration reverberated through the splendid hall.

Her appearance seemed to leave many mouths agape. This was the true epitome of someone born with a silver spoon in their mouth. Whoever was to marry her would not only have a beauty at home but also a mountain of gold!

In fact, even Zhenxiu herself did not expect this. She grew up in an orphanage since her parents' deaths early in her childhood. It did not cross her mind that one day, she would become the limelight of these upper-class individuals and a female tycoon with tens of billions' worth of assets.

If by chance, she had plummeted into a slump for even once, she would not have been bestowed all of these things today. She would not have met whoever she wanted to, and everything that was to follow would not have. She would not have been where she was today, standing on this very stage.

Life is composed of a multitude of various coincidences and chance incidents, but in the midst of it, it seems to also be dictated by a pinch of self-perseverance and the principles we abide by.

Park Cheon was rather proud to hear the exchange of compliments in the audience. Although it was directed at Zhenxiu, he was still extremely thrilled as an elder.

From the perspective of an old man who had limited time left, a child that could inherit his wisdom and hard work was the greatest masterpiece of his life.

Without doubt, reuniting with Zhenxiu after painstaking efforts revealed that though she was still a work-in-progress he had yet to finish carving, she possessed ample potential.

"Zhenxiu, come and greet everyone." Park Cheon smiled.

Despite being a bundle of nerves, Zhenxiu greeted the people in the audience in accordance with the proper etiquettes at a formal meeting.

Park Cheon placed an arm around Zhenxiu's little shoulders in an attempt to ease some of his granddaughter's tension.

"Everyone, may I have your attention! In fact, I have one more announcement to make today regarding something I've never mentioned before."

Instantly, several gasps of suspicion were heard from the audience. None understood what Park Cheon had in mind.

Zhenxiu lifted her head in curiosity. Her grandfather had never mentioned this to her beforehand.

Park Cheon continued without hesitation, his voice loud and clear, "In order for our Zhenxiu to start learning about managing the company without much worry, I've arranged a glorious marriage for her."

"Wow!"

An uproar unfolded among the audience. Many were taken by shock.

Zhenxiu's face immediately turned pale and she looked at Park Cheon in alarm. She did not see this coming at all!

"Grandfather... what are you..."

Without waiting for Zhenxiu to finish, Park Cheon scowled at the girl. "We'll talk after we get off the stage."

From afar, Yang Chen snapped back to his senses from a listless daze and glanced over in confusion. Beside him, Lin Ruoxi commented in bewilderment, "Honey, Zhenxiu's marriage? Could it be the wedding contract with the Gong family?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "I doubt it. If it was so, I don't think he would announce it out of the blue."

Somehow, Yang Chen felt rather nervous, but he could not exactly place a finger on possible reasons.

Below, quite near the front of the stage was Gong Gyechung and his son, Gong Woo, of the Gong family. Their brows furrowed deeply in scorn and dissatisfaction manifested in their eyes.

Park Cheon seemed to give no notice as he pressed on, "As a lot of you may know, Lawyer Kim of the Kim family has always been Starmoon Group's legal advisor. Lawyer Kim's beloved son, Kim Jip is also my trusted personal bodyguard. I am confident in his personality and capabilities. Rather coincidentally, Kim Jip and Zhenxiu are of similar ages and though the Kim family has only ever engaged in the law industry, they have been family friends with the Parks for generations. As close friends, the same idea crossed our minds. Lawyer Kim and I have decided to form a marriage contract for Zhenxiu and Kim Jip!"

### **Chapter 1135 Made A Promise With Her**

Once it was announced, an uproar broke out among the audience.

Not a single person had expected Park Cheon to let the heir marry into the Kim family!

To add to the absurdity, the subject in question was Kim Jip, a former special forces soldier!

However, upon thorough consideration, any observant person would notice that it was indeed a wise decision!

This marriage Park Cheon had arranged made absolute, perfect sense!

Though the Kims were not a family with immense wealth or a high-end political family, it was still a family that nobody dared underestimate.



As word had it, the Kim family's ancestors were criminal law officers during the Goguryeo period and had been operating in the law industry since. The Kims' law firm had been renowned across the globe for generations, taking charge of settling legal matters for a variety of major enterprises in Korea.

The greatest support of a family with such fascinating historical origins was nothing else but the networks and approbations accumulated over the decades!

The Kim family had never provoked anyone, and instead, helped said families through tough times. Who would not like them? Who would not give them face?

On top of that, the Kim family had never come into contact with the business or political industries. A man like Kim Jip had only gone to the special forces and stayed for a few years to perform military service duties. In the end, he gave up the opportunity of becoming a military officer and returned home. He was not in favor of becoming a lawyer and chose to be a bodyguard, but still nothing related to industries that would evoke disputes of interest.

The most worrisome thing for the Park family from this exchange would naturally be the possibility that Zhenxiu, as the heir, would risk being engulfed by the Kims after marriage and kids.

No other major family was suitable except for the Kim family. They have been a reliable family for generations and were also family friends, hence, they were their most reassuring choice.

Besides, Kim Jip was a reticent yet charming young man. Park Cheon had watched him grow from an early age and could attest to that. There was no denying that he was indeed the ideal match for Zhenxiu.

As for whether there was an emotional basis between the two of them, most of the people present would refrain from pondering such factors.

In this materialistic upper-class society, feelings and romance were nothing more than a feeble joke.

Once the gears in their heads slowed to a stop, the eyes in the audience glided toward the backstage in unison, fixated on the young man quietly standing there.

Kim Jip still held his signature indifferent expression as he stood tall in a white dress shirt and a matching suit, three metal balls resting in his palm. Not a single trace of his thoughts was manifest on his face or in his eyes.

Below the stage, the father-and-son duo of the Gong family turned green in the face. Gong Gyechung snorted with anger. Turning on his heel, he left the great hall without looking back.

Some people in the audience noticed their departure, but no one bothered to take a second glance. Within their hearts was more of derision.

Onstage, Zhenxiu's pretty face turned into a red hot tomato. While everyone thought that she was bashful from the incident, she was actually irate and upset.

As a matter of fact, Zhenxiu was cool about Kim Jip and had nothing against him. But they had barely talked. So where did this engagement even come from?!

Under the pressure of this many visitors, Zhenxiu knew she could not express her dissatisfaction and cause a scene with Park Cheon. In her reluctance, she clamped down on her lip and scowled.

Hearing Yang Chen's translation, Lin Ruoxi was overcome with astonishment.

"How did this happen? It's too arbitrary," Lin Ruoxi grumbled.

Yang Chen forced a smile. "It's a norm among major families. The interest of the family is always of utmost priority. Kim Jip is obviously a better pick for Zhenxiu, rather than that fella Gong Woo."

Lin Ruoxi tossed an eye-roll at the man. "That's easy for you to say. I bet you're feeling indignant right in there," she remarked snarkily with a brief glimpse at his chest.

"What about me? What does this have to do with me?" Yang Chen replied with feigned lightness in his tone.

Needless to say, Lin Ruoxi did not buy that. "Cut it out, I know you way too well. You look like you've just swallowed a dead cockroach."

Yang Chen spoke softly, "Honey, you can't think of me as someone so dirty now, can you? I can't deny the fact that I am dirty indeed, but Zhenxiu is like a younger sister to me..."

"Did I accuse you of having inappropriate thoughts about Zhenxiu? You said it yourself," Lin Ruoxi interjected coldly.

Yang Chen froze and he stuttered, struggling to find his tongue. With a dejected shrug, he groaned, "Turns out someone was trying to set me up..."

All of a sudden, Lin Ruoxi's expression grew stern and her eyes widened dispassionately. "If you won't even spare Zhenxiu, I'll... I'll..."

Lin Ruoxi wanted to say something, but she could not find the right words. File for a divorce? Ignore him? Even she was doubting if she could bring herself to do that.

Yang Chen reached out and embraced the woman with what looked like a smile on his face. "Okay, okay, don't swear this and that now. It's impossible between Zhenxiu and me, alright. She only ever bickers with me and claims she's better, does it look like she likes me?"

Lin Ruoxi thought to herself, "It's those actions which worry me."

However, there was no way she would say this to his face. Hence, she dismissed the thought with a muffled sigh.

Due to the same reasons, Lin Ruoxi could not help but anticipate their departure from Korea, the earlier the better.

At the end of the banquet, they finally retreated to the Park's residence after entertaining the major families, celebrities, and politicians adequately.

Along the way, Zhenxiu exhausted every possible way to coerce Park Cheon into taking back his decision. However, Park Cheon was adamant regarding his arrangements, revealing no room for negotiation.

Although it had just been a verbal agreement thus far, this episode still weighed down on Zhenxiu's chest like a rock, making it painful for her to breathe.

The minute they stepped into the living room of the Park's residence, Zhenxiu immediately ran toward Yang Chen and tugged at his hand. "Brother Yang, please help me talk Grandfather out of this! He always listens to you!"

Yang Chen met Park Cheon's eyes awkwardly. "I can't interfere with this sort of matter as an outsider. What's more, Kim Jip is an upright and honest man. It's not that bad."

Speaking, Yang Chen snuck a look at Kim Jip, who still had not uttered a single word.

As usual, Kim Jip was right by Park Cheon's side. From his constantly unsmiling, grim expression, it was no wonder sometimes people mistook him as a sufferer of facial nerve paralysis.

Zhenxiu puffed out her cheeks in annoyance and called out to Kim Jip, "Hey, Kim Jip! Speak up, will you! Do you think both of us can get married when we've hardly talked?! Can you stop acting like you haven't heard anything?!"

A deep frown plastered itself across Park Cheon's brow. "Zhenxiu, how can you talk to Kim Jip in such an impolite way? He is your fiancé!"

There was not even the slightest change in Kim Jip's expression. It was as if he did not even bother to acknowledge Zhenxiu.

Zhenxiu stamped her feet in exasperation and swung her clenched fists around in the air. "You're all bullying me! I'm going to stop talking to you!"

With that, the girl ran upstairs in a dash, kicking her high-heeled shoes off and nearly hitting several servants.

Eunjung scanned everyone's faces with a complicated look in her eyes. She had no choice but to follow Zhenxiu upstairs. It was still her duty to care for Zhenxiu after all.

Kim Jip quietly glanced upstairs and an inexplicable emotion seemed to flit across his eyes.

"Mr Yang, Ms Lin, my apologies. Zhenxiu is normally obedient. It's just that this kind of information is rather difficult to swallow in the blink of an eye." Park Cheon shook his head helplessly.

"President, Zhenxiu hasn't even turned twenty, you can take things slow," Lin Ruoxi could not help but chime in. Arranged marriages did not appeal to her.

Park Cheon disregarded her statement. "From the viewpoints of the wealthy such as ourselves, having an heir settle down early on in life only serves beneficial and induces no harm. After all, studies and careers can wait. If matters like this are delayed, it will only cause one's heart to turn fickle and impatient."

"But if Zhenxiu dislikes Kim Jip, won't it hurt both Zhenxiu and Kim Jip?" Lin Ruoxi pressed on.

Park Cheon whipped his head at Kim Jip and asked with a smile, "Kim Jip, do you like Zhenxiu?"

Kim Jip did not provide a direct answer to the question. "Per your orders, President."

Park Cheon seemed to have expected this answer. He laughed heartily. "Kid, your father may be old-fashioned, but you are on a whole new level."

Turning back to Yang Chen, Park Cheon began, “Mr Yang, do you still remember that person of the North Bureo Clan who disguised himself as Kim Jip?”

Yang Chen nodded, a little taken aback by the sudden mention. “What about it?”

“To tell the truth, their actions were not just to frame him but the entire scheme was also an extremely clever trick. Kim Jip is Lawyer Kim’s only son and Lawyer Kim has access to a seamless database on Starmoon, including information on our family. If these were to fall into the wrong hands, they can use it to their advantage to manipulate the Park family. I’d say it’s highly probable that they were trying to take this opportunity to break our trust in the Kim family and get Kim Jip arrested. That way, the North Bureo clan can brainwash the Kim family to take their side, through exhibiting their official power.

“Lawyer Kim has one son and I’ve personally seen him mature. He is more than just a youngster that I favor. Therefore, I am ultimately grateful to you, Mr Yang. It’s all thanks to you that Kim Jip and the Kim family, as well as ourselves, are not involved in disaster...”

Speaking as such, Park Cheon bowed solemnly. Kim Jip, watching by his side, followed suit and bowed his head.

Yang Chen did not expect there to be so much more than what meets the eye.

In fact, Park Cheon had not mentioned that Lawyer Kim also held evidence of his children’s corruption, and these were meant to be handed over to Zhenxiu in the future. As long as Zhenxiu had these materials in hand, Park Jiyeon and the other elders would not be able to mistreat her.

Park Cheon had everything laid out properly in the neatest fashion imaginable. As soon as the Kim family became in-laws, Zhenxiu would be able to sit back and relax.

Subsequently, the people lingered for a little longer for another bout of small talk in the living room. It seemed Park Cheon had no plans to rest early as per his usual routine.

As midnight approached, Park Cheon suddenly instructed a maid to summon Zhenxiu downstairs.

“President, Zhenxiu should be asleep by now, it’s already late.” Lin Ruoxi attempted to conceal her surprise as she racked her brains to place a finger on Park Cheon’s intentions.

Park Cheon smiled amiably. “Nah, the child may be mad at me but she’d never slack off on her duties. I’ve made an appointment with her to finish the official handover by midnight.”

Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi exchanged a skeptical glance. There seemed to be an air of mystery around this situation.

### **Chapter 1136 Lift Up**

Yang Chen thought about it carefully. This might have something to do with the ‘Starmoon’ pendants. The crescent that he was asked to bring was nowhere to be found. Perhaps the Park family was keeping it to themselves for their private personal usage.

After a while, Eunjung came downstairs with Zhenxiu, who was still irritated. Dressed up in a brown coat, she looked ready to leave the house.

Park Cheon was not angry about his own granddaughter and smiled, "Eunjung, you may stay. Zhenxiu, follow your grandfather out."

Zhenxiu snorted softly. Wordlessly, she begrudgingly left the house.

Park Cheon shook his head helplessly. "Mr Yang, Ms Lin, do rest early."

Park Cheon shot Kim Jip a glance, then made their way out together.

Outside the Park's residence, a black Mercedes Benz G550 and two Mercedes Benz GL series SUVs were waiting for them.

Along with Kim Jip, Park Cheon brought another dozen beefy bodyguards.

After Park Cheon and his entourage entered the G550, all three cars drove toward the north and gradually disappeared into the night.

Yang Chen was curious about the Park family's handover. But seeing how Park Cheon had chosen to make his departure at midnight with so many bodyguards, it was clear that it was meant to be a secret. Yang Chen decided to keep his questions to himself.

The husband and wife went back upstairs to freshen up before hitting the sack, leaving Eunjung downstairs waiting patiently for Park Cheon and Zhenxiu's return.

One hour later, in a secluded building in the northern part of Seoul, near the Bukhansan National Park.

Three Mercedes Benz stopped in front of the grey building with a dozen floors.

All of the buildings in this dimly-lit area looked like they were from another time.

Zhenxiu, not wanting to set off Park Cheon's temper, asked timidly, "Grandfather, where are we?"

Park Cheon led Zhenxiu down the car, held the girl's hand, and said as they walked toward the building. "This is the branch of the Korea branch of the Swiss Bank."

"The branch of a branch?"

"Correct. The current branch of the Swiss Bank is near the financial center, but this was the original premises of the Swiss Bank. Although it is no longer an occupied workspace, it now serves as a bank vault for certain customers."

While listening to Park Cheon's explanation, they had reached the first level of the building.

A few stone-faced security guards checked their IDs and frisked Park Cheon and Zhenxiu.

After they were done, one of the security guards spoke monotonously. "President Park, Lady Zhenxiu, thank you for your cooperation. Welcome, but our apologies. We cannot let the others in."

Park Cheon turned around. "Kim Jip, bring your men and guard outside. They only allow customers with appointments to enter. Kindly remain outside."

Kim Jip had no objections. He gestured at his men with a few glances, who gradually made their way out and took their positions.

Park Cheon pulled Zhenxiu inside of the building and a blonde, white, middle-aged man wearing a suit walked out to welcome them. There was a name tag on his chest stating 'Donald, Deputy CEO of the Swiss Bank Korea Branch'.

"President Park, it's nice to see you. Lady Zhenxiu, good evening." Donald bowed politely.

Park Cheon smiled, "Mr Donald, please lead the way. We'd like to see item number one."

"Sure, this way please."

Donald wasted no time and guided the two of them towards the long passage.

As the most elusive Swiss Bank storage facility that housed invaluable precious items, cash, and pieces of jewelry for their customers, this old building with its unassuming exterior was packed with state-of-the-art technology on the inside.

Every inch of its interior was under the watchful eye of surveillance cameras at almost all angles and heavy and an array of weaponry was hidden throughout the building to foil intruders' breaches.

The entire building itself was reinforced with alloy steel plates hidden in the walls.

After walking through a few crossings, Zhenxiu and Park Cheon followed Donald to an elevator entrance, where a Caucasian receptionist was waiting with a smile.

Donald invited both of them into the elevator and closed the door.

There was something odd about this elevator. Zhenxiu realized that there were no buttons for the floors!

Donald took out an access card from his pocket and scanned it on a display screen in the elevator. The screen then returned a few sentences in English, requesting fingerprint identification and a retinal scan.

Donald aimed his fingerprints and eyes at the screen, and finally, a few selectable floors appeared on the screen.

Without batting an eye, Donald immediately selected the last option, G20. The elevator started moving. But to Zhenxiu's surprise, they had started descending downwards!

G20? Did that mean twenty floors below ground?

Zhenxiu was taken aback. How could such an ordinary-looking building conceal twenty floors below it?

For Zhenxiu, who had lived an ordinary life thus far, this kind of thing was too overwhelming for her, causing her to forget why she came here.

Park Cheon on the other hand was indifferent. He must have been here a hundred times.

The elevator opened upon their arrival at G20.

In front of them was a wide field of white, white tiles, ceiling, and the walls around them. The white metal doors all had a display screen as well.

This pristine room was filled with pin-drop silence.

“President, the item number one stored by the Park family is already in Room Seven. It will only require your fingerprints and retinal scan to unlock the door upon your entrance. I’ll be waiting for you at the elevator. Please take as much time as you need,” Donald nodded.

Park Cheon thanked him and brought Zhenxiu to Room Seven.

Park Cheon performed the retinal scan in front of the room door, which was the last step into the room.

Park Cheon opened the door and smiled at Zhenxiu who was filled with curiosity. “Tonight, after seeing our family’s ancestral treasure, grandfather will let them key in your data into the system so you may open this door in the future.”

Zhenxiu nodded nervously. Previously, Park Cheon did not mention whatever they would be looking at. But now the questions in her heart could finally be solved.

Park Cheon then locked the door after entering the room.

In the room, a lonely safe sat atop a rectangular table with two chairs.

Park Cheon walked upfront and keyed in the password on the safe. “For now, the password is grandfather’s birthday. Tonight, we’ll change it to yours.”

The safe opened as he spoke.

Zhenxiu held her breath and widened her eyes staring at the thing that appeared in front of her.

It was a gray cuboid box roughly the size of two palms. It appeared to be made out of stone or something metallic.

Park Cheon saw Zhenxiu tilting her head while wondering and it reminded him of his first time seeing it. He was confused as well.

“Silly child, don’t just look at it. This is a treasure that protected our family for generations. You will be its master from today onwards. Go ahead, feel it for yourself.”

Zhenxiu nodded and walked in front carefully then picked up the grey box.

“Oh my...” Zhenxiu jumped and let go of the box. “It’s so cold, how is it even colder than ice?! It feels like stone, but it doesn’t as well...”

Park Cheon smiled. “It’s fine. Come, let grandfather open it.”

Park Cheon took out a jewelry box from his suit pocket, which revealed a crescent pendant that Zhenxiu had before. Beside it, there was another pendant shaped like a star, made out of the same material!

The star was also shiny and lustrous, the five-pointed star looked like a turning streamer.

At that moment, Zhenxiu realized there were two shallow grooves on top of the grey box. They must be meant for the crescent and the star!

Could the crescent and star be the key that unlocked the box!?

Park Cheon placed the crescent and the star slowly into the box.

After it was successfully embedded in, the grey box which looked tightly sealed started to show a blue gap from the center!

“Zhenxiu, look closely. This is the sacred treasure given to our Park family!”

Park Cheon spoke solemnly as he took over the box and then opened it with a slight tremble.

### **Chapter 1137 Black**

The second the box was lifted, the entire room was illuminated by a brilliant blue hue.

After the blue glow subsided, the contents of the box were revealed.

Zhenxiu gulped. Looking inside the box, she felt inexplicably drawn to it.

This was certainly a perplexing object. In fact, Zhenxiu simply couldn't wrap her head around it.

It was a ball of beautiful aqua blue. It was like looking at ice crystals in snowy mountains, or like gazing at azure seawater. No, it was more like a living ball of elemental water, exuding a pleasant coolness that was not too frigid.

Inside this transparent blue ball that seemed to have a life of its own, there was an earthy yellow core that was emitting a sparkling halo around it. How could anyone take their eyes off of something like this?

Zhenxiu tried her best to determine what the glistening yellow particles were, but nothing came to mind.

They were like the stars in the sky, scattered here and there, disappearing from time to time.

This blue component and its yellow counterpart made a perfect fusion of artwork beyond this world. It was impossible to peel one's eyes away from it.

After a long while, Park Cheon aside said emotionally, “Child, isn't this beautiful?”

“Yeah, it is...” Zhenxiu nodded.

“The first time I laid my eyes on it, I spent a long time admiring it in awe too,” Park Cheon said. “No one knows how our ancestors got this treasure. According to my father, our ancestor met a god in the mountains who bestowed him with this treasure. The legend has been repeated so many times even I can't validate its authenticity. Regardless, our family has safeguarded this treasure for many generations. However, in spite of all the hardships and setbacks that our family has gone through for thousands of years, there was nothing that could bring us down. Thus, we've been enjoying generations of glory and prosperity. I suppose that this treasure has blessed the descendants of the Park family with protection. We have nothing to hide, except for this extraordinary treasure...”

Zhenxiu finally withdrew some of her attention and asked while trembling, “Grandfather...this treasure...what is this?”

Park Cheon shook his head with a wry smile. “To tell you the truth, Grandfather doesn't know either. This thing has always been in this box. This box was made out of some material that we don't know about. Our Park family had a patriarch that tried to carry out some research on it as well, but until today,



we still can't identify what this box is made out of. As for what's inside it, it was even harder to retrieve any information about it. The blue substance and the yellow particles in the center are unknown as well. But I'm confident that a material that has yet to be discovered on earth. Perhaps a meteorite brought it down. Nevertheless, as long as we have this in our possession, the Park family can overcome anything life throws at us. I truly believe that this was what allowed me to escape death this time..."

Zhenxiu was not fully convinced.

This thing was definitely mysterious to the girl, but it was not too overwhelming because Zhenxiu knew that people like Yang Chen existed. They were powers far beyond normal people's comprehension.

If Yang Chen got his hands on this, he would probably be able to find an answer.

However, Zhenxiu knew that this was the most important secret of the family. She should abide by the principles and not let anyone else know about this.

The Park family had some treasure that was not supposed to exist in this world. No wonder they had to cautiously hide it twenty floors underground in the Swiss Bank. No wonder only the patriarch of the family was allowed to know of its existence.

This kind of item was way more precious than some priceless treasure.

As Zhenxiu was busy learning from Park Cheon about operating things here, resetting a new password and others, a black figure dashed through the top of the Swiss Bank building in the silent night.

A long, black robe flew up along the wind. Under that dark cloak, a tusk mask provided another layer of disguise. This person was unidentifiable.

If Yang Chen were here, he would definitely notice that this was the man in the black robe who saved him out of nowhere in Australia!

"What a small matter for me to take care of." The black robe man huffed in annoyance but was helpless as well.

BANG!

Between the electricity and the sparks scattering everywhere, the building could not resist the overbearing power of the True Yuan in it. Like a block of cheese being cut into pieces, the building was going to collapse at any moment.

Kim Jip and the guards on duty outside were all horrified!

All of this happened too suddenly, none of them got the chance to react.

"Take cover!" Kim Jip yelled, jumping away in a rare moment of panic, as he watched the cement blocks starting to collapse.

The black robe man scoffed a few times. He stayed low and moved sneakily without detection.

Looking at those mortals escaping and running away, the man in the black robe sprinted to the first floor of the building.

“Seems like... no, it’s not here. It should be underground then...”

Even after cutting down half the building, he still wasn’t able to find what he was searching for. The robust infrastructure of the Swiss Bank, with its many layers of metal alloy plates, interfered with his divine sense’s ability to detect the location of the target.

He shot another black True Yuan shockwave, blasting open the elevator doors

Instead of trying to blow off the steel alloy plates layer by layer, the black robe decided to blow up the elevator to make his way downstairs.

However, the second the explosive detonated, the man in the black robe noticed something going awry.

Doo! Doo! Doo! Doo!

The ear-piercing alarm resounded throughout the entire area!

Not just that, a huge amount of warning lights were activated, simultaneously lighting up every inch of the building!

“How annoying. Looks like I’ll have to move quickly.”

The man in the black robe was aware that there would be a huge bunch of people rushing over. This facility was not too far from the city and this alarm was so loud it would probably be heard miles away. The Swiss Bank had certainly not skimped on their security systems. After all, this storage facility was a crucial asset!

Without further delay, the man flashed into the elevator. He stomped hard and a huge hole appeared in the elevator!

He then went straight down toward his target!

In the guestroom on the second floor of the Park’s residence.

Because of the unresolved tension towards Yang Chen, he had to resort to sleeping on the floor for the past few days. For the sake of his pride, he had to pretend that he was enjoying it too.

Yang Chen was not sleeping well that night. By the time the siren reached their area, it was too soft for most people to notice.

However, Yang Chen was extremely sensitive toward special noises like the siren.

If it were any other day, Yang Chen would have ignored it, but today was different!

This siren was obviously coming from the north. That was the direction that Park Cheon and Zhenxiu had driven out to that night!

Yang Chen sprang up from his mattress and quickly changed into a casual outfit.

His movements woke Lin Ruoxi, who was sleeping soundly. She rubbed her eyes in a blur. “What are you doing... I was just about to doze off...”

“Hehe, so sorry about that. Go back to sleep, my dear Ruoxi. I heard some siren noises coming from the north. I’m going to take a look, I’m worried that something might have happened to Zhenxiu and the others,” Yang Chen said.

“Hmmp, what’s the worst that could happen. Have you gone cuckoo from sleeping on the floor? Is that why you want to go out, to have fun with another woman?”

Yang Chen was exasperated. How did she manage to come up with something like this?

“I’ll explain to my precious wife when I get back, I am really worried now...”

Yang Chen ran out to the balcony, jumped off, and disappeared into the darkness.

Lin Ruoxi sat up and patted the blanket angrily. “Dammit Yang Chen, there you go running out without an explanation!”

She was running out of insults to shoot at that shameless man. All Lin Ruoxi could do was flail her legs in frustration and lie down. With a bitter taste in her mouth, she wrapped herself in the blanket and tried to fall asleep once again. She was definitely not going to get more than forty winks tonight.

### **Chapter 1138 Black Robe**

While Park Cheon and Zhenxiu were still setting a new passcode, the shrill cry of the security alarm abruptly pierced through the air!

Zhenxiu was scared stiff as she squeaked timidly. “Grandfather, what’s happening?!”

Park Cheon was also startled, but he promptly regained composure. He flipped the box shut, removed the star and the crescent, and placed the box back into the safe.

“It’s a security alarm. The Swiss Bank must have been breached. Let’s get out of here quick!”

The two of them dashed out of the room in a hurry and were just about to scurry toward the elevator when they halted in their steps, frozen to the spot!

The only scene that welcomed them was the listless body of Deputy CEO Donald, who had just ushered them in with the brightest smile not too long ago!

Terror and despair clouded Donald’s tense face. His eyes were widened in fear as blood streamed out of every orifice.

In his hand laid a pistol. It was a pity it seemed he had died horribly before he could retaliate.

Standing by Donald’s corpse was a figure in a black robe and a mask with protruding fangs. Right at that moment, his head gradually spun toward their direction.

“Found it... They’ve been hiding it really well...”

Black Robe stalked toward Park Cheon and Zhenxiu and a hoarse voice boomed from behind the mask.

“You... Who are you?!” asked Park Cheon tentatively, fear evident in his tone. He had managed to catch on to Black Robe’s aim.

Black Robe cackled uncannily. "Please, I am not interested in killing mortals. Just get out of my way! I will take what I want and you shall live!"

The man in the black robe spoke Mandarin. Park Cheon was at a complete loss, until Zhenxiu stammered, frightened out of her wits. "Grandfather! I think he wants to rob our family's treasures!"

Park Cheon slowly turned green in the face. Whatever was happening was far beyond the expectations of the old man, but he remained standing unwaveringly in front of Zhenxiu through his nerves, shielding her.

"Hmmp." Black Robe scoffed disdainfully. In a flash, his dark silhouette shuffled past them and came to a halt in front of the room.

Subsequently, a pitch-black cloud of ripples slammed into the vault door made of stainless steel. The display screen on the door shattered into smithereens as the steel plate of a door crumpled under the pressure!

Both Park Cheon and Zhenxiu stood aghast, their feet rooted to the ground. The ear-splitting screech of the steel giving in from the compression made Park Cheon and Zhenxiu feel ants crawling under their scalp.

Black Robe kicked the deformed door open and entered the room, picking up the safe on the table.

A scornful sneer escaped from behind the mask. He then pried at the safe and his massive strength effortlessly tore it open!

Black Robe guffawed in evil delight as he spotted the grey box laying inside and picked it up in his hands.

"Hehe. Child's play." Black Robe examined the object for a moment before turning to Park Cheon. "The grooves on top reveal a star and a crescent. Come on, hand it over please."

Park Cheon grew even bluer in the face. "How did you find out?! Who are you?!"

"So much nonsense. Well, if you won't cooperate, I'll take it myself..."

As he spoke, the black shadow drifted toward Park Cheon, stopping in front of him. With an elegant wave of his sleeve, Park Cheon's coat was shredded into rags before anyone could react.

The crescent and star keys took to the air with their brilliance and Black Robe seized them at once!

The terrifying, fanged mask was inches from Park Cheon's face, and he was paralyzed with fear. Eventually, the old man could no longer withstand such a burden on his nerves. Shortness of breath and palpitations overwhelmed him and with one last gasp for air, he blacked out!

"Grandfather! Help! Help!"

Zhenxiu cried and yelled. How was a girl like herself supposed to know how to act in this horrifying situation? She helped Park Cheon into a sitting position as tears rolled endlessly down her cheeks. The panic-stricken girl was afraid that the man in the black robe would finish them off like how he did Donald!

As mentioned before, Black Robe was not intent on killing ordinary people. Furthermore, it seemed he did not want to stir up too great of a commotion as well. Apart from an armed Donald who threatened to attack him, he had hardly hurt anyone along the way.

Once he laid his hands on the item he was searching for, the robed figure morphed into a black whirlwind, intending to slither out the same way he came in!

Without waiting for Black Robe to emerge from underground, a fiery, piping hot aura poured in from above, gushing into the passageway!

As it got closer, only did he notice that it was a blazing fire column spurting in from above!

“Samadhi True Fire?!”

Black Robe shuddered and immediately scampered back into the ground!

Although the Samadhi True Fire would not inflict substantial damage to his cultivation, this heaven fire was still not to be overlooked. If he were to try and resist it for a short period, it would still be draining and minor injuries would be inevitable.

Needless to say, the hero who had arrived in the nick of time was Yang Chen. To his horror, he quickly realized upon discovering the punctured hole in the elevator that Black Robe down there was the misfit who had rescued him!

Of course, Yang Chen did not see him as a kind-hearted man. He would not have left without a care after defeating those people from before or mugged things, like how he just majestically did.

Black Robe hastily retreated to the center of the basement. Once his eyes caught sight of his newest visitor, he let out an eerie snicker. “How silly of me to wonder who it was. It’s none other than His Majesty Pluto whom I’ve rescued.”

Yang Chen eyed the huge mess in the basement and his gaze landed on Zhenxiu and Park Cheon. Only after obtaining confirmation that the girl was unhurt, he let out a breath he did not realize he was holding.

Relief took over Zhenxiu’s face as she looked at Yang Chen excitedly. In an instant, she began sobbing.

Yang Chen nodded reassuringly at Zhenxiu, then carefully scrutinized the weirdo hidden behind his black robe. With a sinister smirk, he said, “To thank you for your past assistance. I’ve decided to repay that kindness today.”

“You want to repay the kindness? Then, why are you blocking my way?”

“My repayment is your life. I will spare your life even though you made that girl over there cry, provided you leave behind what does not belong to you.”

From above, Yang Chen had already heard the ruckus and roughly figured that this fellow was here to loot the Park family’s ancestral treasure.

“Huh, what a joke. Do you really think your title of ‘Pluto’ is so great? For me to spare your life today is already a commendable favor from me to you. You barely have the power to protect yourself, yet you speak of mercy toward me.” A deranged laugh escaped the man’s mouth.

Yang Chen was not at all provoked. “You can try for yourself. Let’s see if you’re able to leave with those things.”

Yang Chen’s perceived confidence was not a mere bluff. Although he still could not see through his enemy’s cultivation, it was visible that his advancements had sped up despite the measly effects from the large volumes of elixirs he had consumed throughout cultivation.

What’s more, that peculiar Xianding had fused itself with his primordial spirit and had been tirelessly absorbing and refining the Heaven and Earth energy in his core.

Over the past few days, the Xianding’s unique functions progressively dawned on Yang Chen and he steadily merged with it. All along, he was never given the chance to experiment with some of the Xianding’s tricks.

His cultivation might still be detained in the Tai Qing Heavenly Lightning Tribulations, but his solidity level had progressed by a notable step. After all, the gap between every tribulation level of the Nine Heavenly Lightning was colossal and there was ample room for improvement.

Battling against this man dressed in his black robe was a timely opportunity for him to hone and showcase his skills.

Black Robe’s face contorted into an ugly grimace as if he had just heard the greatest joke in the universe. A few piercing chuckles fell from his lips and he spoke in a cold, flat voice, “It seems some people must be put in their place...”

As he finished, Black Robe rose into the air and a blast of surreal True Yuan started to channel from him as clumps of black mist revolved rapidly around him.

Unimpressed, Yang Chen released the Samadhi True Fire. The conversion speed of Heaven and Earth energy appeared to have accelerated relative to his previous encounters. Faced with the ghastly True Yuan, the Samadhi True Fire seemed to be high-spirited and blazed even hotter and more radiant than usual!

“Little brat, you will regret your na?ve words...”

Black Robe transformed into a billow of shadow and, weaving himself into the bulks of black True Yuan, charged at Yang Chen’s body!

Against the white background of their surroundings, he was akin to a black shockwave bolting right past!

Yang Chen did not play around. After all, his opponent’s strength was rather unfathomable. The person he was in Australia would not prove worthy as an opponent at all.

In the present, the Samadhi True Fire warping around him instantly condensed into a compact, sturdy shield of fire!

The crimson flames soared like a ferocious beast. Crackling, they surged upward, toward the maniacal black shadow!

BANG!

A deafening noise reverberated violently throughout the basement. For a split second, it seemed like the building was going to cave into itself.

Yang Chen stumbled backward, and it looked like the gigantic shield of the Samadhi True Fire before him had thinned by a layer.

Black Robe's lips parted for yet another bout of wicked laughter. A blinding ray of refraction and its accompanying collision was enough of a distraction for him to flee toward the elevator passage!

"Damn it! Is he trying to escape?!"

Before this, Yang Chen had assumed the fellow was going to teach him a nice lesson. Who would've thought that he did not even bother to fight?

In reality, unbeknown to Yang Chen was the fact that Black Robe actually yearned to fight, but what was keeping him was no other factor than his inability to rival against Yang Chen.

Therefore, he could only submit to humiliation and leave.

However, Yang Chen would never let Black Robe have his way. Speed was not something he lacked. The compatibility with the heavens and earth had bestowed him his godly speed!

### **Chapter 1139 Fierce Beast**

In a blink of an eye, Yang Chen had disappeared from the ground. Suddenly, he dashed in front of Black Robe and intercepted him mid-air!

The sky above the Bukhansan National Park was cold, windy, and shrouded the scene in darkness.

Apart from the lonely bright moon high up the sky, there was no sign of life anywhere else.

No one would notice the confrontation between Yang Chen and Black Robe.

"Your cultivation is higher than mine. Why are you chickening out? Are you worried about battling me?" Yang Chen squinted, desperate to clear his doubts.

A low growl sounded from Black Robe's throat. He was particularly irked about Yang Chen's persistent pursuit. "Little brat. Don't test my patience..."

"I've made myself clear. Hand over what you took. Then I'll let you go free."

"It seems you won't stop until I knock you down."

Black Robe let out a maniacal laugh. As his oversized robe fluttered in the wind, a large piece of ink-like True Yuan gushed out and rushed toward Yang Chen!

The Samadhi True Fire around Yang Chen was raging and resisting against the big piece of black True Yuan. Its flames roared and sizzled in the air, unwilling to give in.

But slowly, Yang Chen was beginning to realize that Black Robe's intention of releasing such a distributed range of True Yuan was not to attack him.

At that moment, Yang Chen realized what Black Robe had intended to do. He was convinced that Black Robe was just hidden in it.

Ghostly shrieks and wolf cries attacked his eardrums, alongside countless pained screams from the likes of ghosts. Such a deep and eerie atmosphere was enough to frighten a timid person to their death.

The Samadhi True Fire warping around Yang Chen's body seemed to be the nemesis of the creepy True Yuan, ripping and tearing off the pieces but Black Robe was nowhere to be seen.

"Hehe... My ethereal spirit clouds. They're unpleasant aren't they?"

The voice of Black Robe cut through the mist.

Yang Chen snorted and tried to rush up into the air like a flicker of crimson flame, breaking through the sky violently!

But what surprised Yang Chen was, these so-called ethereal spirit clouds were inseparable. They followed him as he moved up!

Black Robe seemed to be having fun and laughed eerily. "Don't even bother. How could I let a little brat like you escape?"

Yang Chen was going to urge him to hurry up. However, what happened next stopped him from uttering a single word.

Bang!

A violent blast boomed in the ethereal ghost clouds!

Yang Chen's heart nearly exploded. This explosion came from right under him!

The clouds and mist that were previously flowing gently suddenly spouted a huge blast of True Yuan, like a boulder splashing into a lake, bringing up huge splashes of water!

This explosion of the black True Yuan was much stronger than the last one!

Despite Yang Chen being a considerable step higher in terms of his body's solidity levels, the impact threw him off his feet.

His skin had been split apart from his body and his flesh was ripping itself right off as well. Even his clothes were shredded! "Damn, what kind of bullshit is this..."

With curses and obscenities aplenty, Yang Chen began driving the Samadhi True Fire with all his might to break through the clouds.

But the ethereal spirit clouds were controlled by Black Robe. As soon as he moved, they caught up with him.

Boom! Boom!



The continuous explosion of the black True Yuan made Yang Chen struggle and he could only use the Samadhi True Fire to defend himself. Under this confrontation with the eerie True Yuan, another form of it would not be on par with the powerful heaven fire

The explosion of the black True Yuan seemed to be inevitable, Yang Chen was stuck and bumping in the clouds and was unable to run out of the area!

“Haha, it’s useless. My ethereal spirit clouds are blocking the flow of the True Yuan. There are plenty of eerie spirits here, which give my ethereal spirit clouds endless power! Your cultivation base may be higher than mine, but you are still too young. How could a little brat like you experience a battle above the Tribulation Passing stage?”

The True Yuan ‘Shadow Burst’ trick was still bombing continuously despite Yang Chen trying his best to evade it!

Yang Chen felt like he stuck in a minefield. No matter how or where he ran and jumped, there was no avoiding the explosions!

Realizing that it was quite difficult to break through these ethereal spirit clouds, Yang Chen decided to not be attached to it anymore. If he were to continue, he would not be able to balance his damage, ultimately leading to a defeat. If Yang Chen did not improve his cultivation and recognize the Samadhi True Fire, he would not be able to deal with this.

“If I can’t get out of here, I shall get rid of it then!”

He took a deep breath to reassure himself. It was finally time for Yang Chen to summon the strange fairy furnace.

The dark grey furnace was released from his core, producing a massive shockwave!

Yang Chen could sense that the soul of the beast in this furnace that was about to escape. It seemed to be very interested in the dark ink-like ethereal spirit clouds out here!

Black Robe who was hiding in the black mist was surprised.

“What... What is this?!”

Without waiting for Black Robe’s reaction, the huge furnace had begun to run wild!

Yang Chen understood the huge furnace through his spiritual connection with the beast’s soul. Its two main strategies were to consume and refine!

Based on what Yang Chen knew, this huge furnace was not only used to refine elixirs. Regardless of its attributes, the furnace would be able to consume anything that contains spiritual aura!

However, what the end product the furnace produced would depend on its masters’ fortune and divinity.

“Consume it all!”

Yang Chen held the huge furnace with one hand. The Heaven and Earth energy linked with the divine sense and the beast soul of the huge furnace. It began to skyrocket!

In the blink of an eye, the furnace had swelled to the size of its original body, a good few times bigger than Yang Chen.

The furnace's large, bloody mouth stretched open and it began to absorb all of the ethereal spiritual aura!

The black, ink-like ethereal ghost clouds finally stopped inducing explosions as the entire clouds were not under Black Robe's control anymore!

"No! No! It's impossible! How do you have this monster?!"

As Black Robe was shouting and yelling in fear, the black mist was quickly engulfed by the furnace.

Yang Chen could sense the beast soul in the furnace boiling up, thick waves of an evil aura exuding from within. It seemed to want to swallow the origin of the black mist, Black Robe!

Unexpectedly, after hearing Black Robe's shout, Yang Chen came to a realization. This guy might know the origins of this furnace!

Black Robe couldn't care less. He knew that there was not much True Yuan left in him to be sucked out like this.

He did not know how Yang Chen got this weird magic weapon. One which has been lost in the sands of time. What he did know was that he needed to run!

As the ethereal spirit clouds began to be taken away, Black Robe's body finally appeared hundreds of feet away from Yang Chen.

Yang Chen saw Black Robe attempt to turn around and escape. How could he let him have his way?

"Don't you dare think about it!"

With a command Yang Chen uttered in his mind, the huge furnace complied, darting toward Black Robe!

Initially, the huge furnace was flying much slower than Black Robe, but he felt a huge suction power dragging him all the way back!

"Ah! No! Don't kill me!"

Finally, an intense fear overcame Black Robe. The threat of death was urging him to beg for mercy.

He was well aware that if he was engulfed by this huge furnace, that would spell the end for him.

If the power of the huge furnace was far beyond Black Robe's imaginations, Yang Chen was equally surprised. He did not anticipate the furnace's combat abilities to be so great!

After taking in a huge amount of spiritual aura from the ethereal ghost clouds, the huge furnace was looking extremely energized.

A faint grey shadow of a huge beast appeared. Two pairs of wings flapped, and an enormous body emerged from the huge furnace!

The ferocious beast opened its bloody mouth. Roaring, it clamped its teeth on Black Robe, dragging him back into the huge furnace.

“No! Ah!”

Black Robe unleashed every ounce of his True Yuan in an attempt to resist, but he quickly realized that it would only dissipate and get consumed by the furnace!

“Oh, no!”

Yang Chen did not expect this to be so cruel. However much he wished for Black Robe to be dead, he had to ask more information about this huge furnace and retrieve the treasure. He couldn't let him die with all the information he needed!

Chapter 1140 - Athena

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### **Athena**

Lucky for him, the furnace seemed to recognize it's master and his commands. As soon as it sensed that Yang Chen did not want to refine Black Robe, the furnace immediately took back some of its power.

As Black Robe felt that he was just about to be thrown into the giant furnace, his body immediately became suspended in mid-air, no longer falling into the furnace.

While the mercy of being swallowed was temporary, he still felt like death was imminent with the beast right below him. He did not dare to make a run for it!

“Little...oh wait no! Your Majesty Pluto! The great god! Please spare my life! I really didn't mean to offend you!”

Black Robe started to cry and whine. This change was so quick that Yang Chen was beginning to wonder if this man was more shameless than himself.

In order to stay alive and knowing that he could not win, he started to beg for mercy in every way he could.

Yang Chen despised him. No wonder the women tended to roll their eyes at him and said that he was shameless. And indeed, shameless people were unfavorable at times.

“Let me ask you, do you recognize this furnace?”

Black Robe was shocked after hearing the question. “Your Majesty Pluto...don’t you know what this is?”

“Nonsense, would I even ask you if I knew? Although I don’t know what this is called, I know that it can kill you! So speak!”

“This is a legendary object, which is known long ago as ‘Chaos furnace’...”

“Chaos furnace?” Yang Chen frowned, “Elaborate.”

“Yes yes...” Black Robe’s voice started to tremble. “It is a legend because very few people have seen it in person. This is my first time as well. It is said that one of the most chaotic beasts among the four fierce beasts was sealed into this furnace by the ancient supernaturalists. The sealed beast soul was immortal and undistinguishable in the Xuanyin Nether Iron Furnace during the ancient times. Chaos was originally a ferocious beast bred by the heavens. It was immortal and had the ability to devour all things and refining anything that contained a spiritual aura. The thing is, no one could make the beast yield in fear of the backlash they might suffer. That’s why it got suppressed by the ancient supernaturalists somewhere and it was nowhere to be seen ever since then. It would seem that this is, without a doubt, the very same furnace. But as time passed, the chaotic beast soul in this furnace has become quite weak. It only has the brand of a mid-tier item...”

Yang Chen’s eyes brightened up after knowing his huge furnace was a legendary object. But he was still a bit blur. “The ancient times? You mean when the Gods landed on Earth?”

“Of course not! That was just ten thousand years ago. I’m talking about a time where mythical creatures still existed, though I’m not sure when exactly. It’s been too long. The supernaturalists at that time were the ones who moved the mountains and filled up the seas. Such a pity that we couldn’t get to see them ourselves. The Chinese cultivators, after that, gradually developed using the cave ruins left by the ancient gods. The highest level of cultivation was that until the Shang Qing Heavenly Lightning Tribulation.”

“Since you mentioned that no one dare to use this furnace ever since it got created and nobody had seen it before, how do you know that it’s the chaotic furnace?” Yang Chen felt suspicious.

Black Robe laughed softly. “I am not that talented. Although my cultivation level is insignificant, I still have still lived for ten thousand years. I have some knowledge of ancient times. In fact, this chaotic beast had always been rumoured to be two pairs of flesh wings with blurry facial features, four short legs, and an indescribable body. Besides, if it wasn’t the chaotic furnace, how is it possible for it to swallow the True Yuan and have the power to refine the souls...”

Yang Chen was shocked. “You had lived ten thousand years of life?! What the hell are you?!”

In Yang Chen’s knowledge, the lifespan of a cultivator should not be that long despite reaching the Tribulation Passing Stage!

The gods had a maximum lifespan of ten thousand years and they had to rely on constant reincarnation. They also had to spare a few hundred years out to restore their divinity in order to achieve eternity.

But this brat here had such a long lifespan as well?! Did he go through the battle between the old Chinese cultivators and the gods many years ago?

“This...”

When it came to his own identity, Black Robe finally hesitated. He seemed to be afraid to speak.

“It’s a long story...why don’t Your Majesty Pluto release me, since I’ve already clarified your questions...”

Yang Chen vigorously exerted his force and sucked Black Robe’s black True Yuan once again into the furnace!

“Speak only when spoken to! You are in no position to bargain with me!”

Black Robe cried miserably and even had the intention to commit suicide. If he knew what was going to happen, he should’ve taken the advantage during the opportunity just now, and entangled Yang Chen with the ethereal spirit clouds and escaped!

With desperation, Black Robe could only speak up cautiously.

“I am actually...”

He was suddenly cut off by an external force!

It was like the burst of the nine heaven ice blades being plunged into Yang Chen and Black Robe’s bone marrow!

This pressure immediately changed Yang Chen’s colours like a chameleon!

Beneath the night sky, a cold and indifferent clear female voice came through.

“Hmph...can’t even settle such a small matter, useless prick...”

“Who dares?!” Yang Chen was drenched in a cold sweat. He had never felt this kind of oppression before!

This was way scarier than meeting the masked man before his ascension was cultivated! It was a world of difference!

Black Robe on the other hand stopped talking and shouted in excitement. “Your Majesty Athena! Please save me!”

Athena?!

Even Poseidon had not reached this realm, that’s why Yang Chen could not react properly!

With such divine power alone, Yang Chen once again realized that the same journey would lead to the same goal. Any kind of cultivation could achieve this strength given time!

Even if Athena did not do anything, her laws of space had already given him a great amount of pressure!

Looking up in amazement, he saw a woman dressed in a black silk dress, like a goddess of the night quietly standing high above in the sky!

It was the first time for Yang Chen to meet the goddess of war who was known to be indistinguishable from Zeus.

She had black smooth hair that reached her hips. She was also wearing a black silk skirt, showing out her perfect body figure.

She was like an exquisite translucent figure, twirling around with her long skirt, just like the illusion of a delicate sculptured jade stone.

Her appearance was indescribable as if a variety of delicate facial features got blended together with a sense of vague beauty.

Yang Chen was confident about his resistance against beautiful women, given his proximity to Ruoxi, Jane, and Christen. His other soulmates were also unique and extraordinary.

However, Athena's beauty was not just physical but what you felt in her presence!

You could not tell how beautiful she was or describe it with words. But one look was enough to make your soul tremble!

Yang Chen even suspected that she was a beauty that you would recognize by just looking into her eyes.

The thing he could confirm was, beauty was definitely just an incidental product for this goddess. She was so powerful that she did not need to beautify more of herself!

However, what made Yang Chen surprised was the facial features of Athena, it actually turned out to be an Asian look!

This was his first time seeing a God reincarnating into a body of an Asian.

"Although I had been curious about meeting you, I can't say that I am pleased to meet your acquaintance." Yang Chen forced a smile.

There weren't any emotions in Athena's eyes. She looked at Yang Chen as if he was just thin air.

"Hades, since you have divinity in you, you are one of the Gods and I won't kill you. As for that idiot, I sent him here to finish a mission, so just let him go..."

Yang Chen squinted his eyes and asked, "So, it was also your instructions to save me previously? Since you had taken me as one of the Gods, why did you have to save me secretly without letting me know?"

Athena, without any expression, said, "I do not want to answer your question. You'll just have to follow my orders. You don't have a choice."