

## Chapter 1141 Selene

Yang Chen shook his head in denial. Harnessing the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy, he was ready to break himself free from the grasp of her space laws.

“I know I might not be your opponent, but shouldn’t you at least tell me what you’ve retrieved?”

Yang Chen was convinced his passive-aggressive inquiry would at least make Athena reconsider her decision.

Yet the conceited woman replied with nothing but a sneer.

“Huh, bring that attitude somewhere else dimwit...”

Before she even finished, Yang Chen, who was channeling the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy found himself promptly frozen in mid-air. It felt as if he was within the confinement of a chamber thicker than steel!

Athena’s law of space was untraceable and unpredictable. It caught Yang Chen by surprise.

Poseidon might be adept enough to stack hundreds of layers of space at once, but it required time for preparation. Athena had managed to suppress him in less than a second!

Before he could react, parallel spaces around Yang Chen rapidly stacked over one another to form a suffocatingly airtight spatial fortress!

Not only did Athena compress a quarter of a ton of parallel spaces by folding them one onto another, but she also managed to constrict its density!

Yang Chen’s Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy subsequently lost its senses, effectively breaking the connection between the spiritual qi and Yang Chen, causing the furnace to lose its functionality as it hovered stationarily in mid-air, awaiting the return of its owner’s commands.

And as a result, after gathering the True Yuan of its surroundings, Black Robe liberated himself from the furnace’s grasp!

Watching Yang Chen helplessly incarcerated in mid-air, attempting to break free only to no avail, he burst into laughter.

“Haha! How dare you challenge the ability of Her Majesty Athena! Know your place!”

Yang Chen’s cheeks gradually became red as he gathered all forms of Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy that he could muster, in hopes that an explosion of energy including the Samadhi True Fire and Kui water could disintegrate the spatial walls closing in upon him!

And it all stemmed towards the glaring disparity between Athena’s space laws and his own, to a level beyond his imagination!

Yang Chen could not help but note the resemblance of himself as a renaissance militant bringing a rifle to modern warfare. Same weapon on paper but with drastically different firepower!

“For one that has yet wrapped his head around the mastery of the Tai Qing Heavenly Lightning Tribulation, you sure have a huge ego. If it weren’t for the respect I still have for your predecessor, you were bound for severe punishment.”

Yang Chen, clear of where his own cultivations stood, could not culminate to a temper as he was clear of where her words drew evidence from.

Yet Yang Chen was not insulted. I guess she’s right. She’s been alive for ten of thousands of years anyway, not to mention one of the twin pinnacles of the divine race. I can’t just pretend I’m the greatest in the world anymore. This wench. One day I’ll strip your butt naked and give you a fair whopping! But today, I guess there’s only one way out of this. You best be waiting!

“Alright alright! I surrender! I yield!”

Yang Chen raised both arms in a defeated position.

Athena appeared rather disinterested with Yang Chen’s engagements as she reached out towards Black Robe.

The dull cuboid box was retrieved by the pair of silky, smooth hands.

Athena cracked her first smile visibly from long subdued anxiety!

Gently flipping the lock plate over as she meticulously opened the box, she was greeted by a subzero cushion of blue, and at its center a petite yellow sphere.

“It’s her...it’s her all right! Astraeus, you pesky little brat. How masochistic of you to store it in the heart of Eurybia...”

Athena mumbled to herself, leaving Yang Chen baffled however by the unfamiliar names she had mentioned.

Yang Chen had taken the time to dwell into Greek mythology, but he was well aware that they were told by mortals, fantasizing on the truths that they fabricated to believe.

Nonetheless, many of the gods were still left unknown and uncharacterized.

Astraeus must be the Titan that represented the constellation, and Eurybia should be his birth mother, rumored to bear a heart made of stone! From what Athena was mumbling about, this treasure must be related to the divine god’s tribe. If it’s true, it would mean Eurybia actually had a heart of stone!

Yet the reason it was so meticulously placed still left Yang Chen baffled.

Before he could wrap his head around it, Athena had already wrapped her fingers over the frigid substance.

“Alas, Selene is here...”

She then promptly removed the mysterious blue substance from within!

It radiated in a deep ocean blue as it hovered into mid-air and remained stagnant where it was.

Yang Chen continuously disintegrated layer after layer of spatial walls with Samadhi True Fire and finally broke free!

With a simple divine sense, he could feel the ball of blue light hovering in mid-air, and it resonated a familiar force.

This is...?

Before he could identify its presence, two identical powers emerged from the west!

Her platinum blonde hair fluttered in the air, dressed in a translucent silk dress was Alice, accompanied by Stern, her topless brother in only a plain brief. The siblings broke free of the seal enslaving them, and by initiating the space laws made their way to where Yang Chen and Athena were!

Alice was rather elated, albeit with hints of frustration as her attention was quickly drawn towards the floating blue cloud. "Selene? My Selene?"

Stern meanwhile was looking skeptically at Athena. "It's you. It's been over five hundred years since we met now, isn't it? When did you break hibernation?"

He then promptly diverted his attention towards Yang Chen, who was rather dumbfounded as he noted. "Hades? You're here too, what are..."

"Apollo cut the nonsense." Athena cut him short. Rolling her eyes, he clarified. "Artemis, your Selene has been missing for the last twenty thousand years. From the evidence I have gathered, she was taken away by Astraeus. By utilizing Selene's ability, he froze the Heart of Gaia, murdered his own mother Eurybia, and used her heart as a medium for storage. All this effectively halted my 'Great Premonition technique'.

Even after much effort, I eventually managed to track down the Heart of Gaia.

Now, feel free to take Selene back. I shall leave with the Heart of Gaia."

Alice, better known as Artemis was staggered by the revelation, staring at the petite illumination in the center. "That's the Heart of Gaia?"

Whilst speaking, she waved her arm and in that instant. The cloud of blue illumination thrust out from the surroundings of the yellow pill.

Like a child missing its mother, it joyously hurled itself around Artemis as it took happy laps. Reunited, the gust of blue frost condensed into a longbow the height of a man!

This longbow was different from Apollo's Helios, which was forged from the sun, with its structure molded from crystalized Xuan bing ice!

It was the famed weapon of the Moon Goddess herself at its true form, the Bow of Selene!

Yang Chen gasped at the longbow enviously, witnessing the face of a divine weapon of the utmost rarity. Its design and craftsmanship were beyond anything he had ever seen back home!

Apollo's Helios was equally distinguished at its own right, but Selene was surely a beauty to behold.

What exactly is this Heart of Gaia they've been mentioning about?

Yang Chen naturally was accustomed to Gaia, the ancestral mother to the gods. Born of the Earth itself, she was believed to be synonymous with Mother Nature herself.

According to legend, she would be Zeus' grandmother and the great grandmother of Athena.

Yet right now, Yang Chen was adamant that the truth indeed deferred from the myths passed down through mortal generations.

It was nonetheless due to the abrupt passing of the preceding Hades, without a proper handover, Yang Chen was left completely ignorant from the knowledge that spanned through history.

Athena contentedly waved as she observed the release of the Heart of Gaia, before agilely storing it along with a warm and soothing glow into the sack that she held.

Stern frowned in response. "Athena, Astraeus put in all that effort to hide the Heart of Gaia. Why'd you spare all this effort to track it down?"

"Why track it down, you ask? Are you out of your mind Apollo? We lost back then because we didn't have the Heart in our possession!

Did you forget what we were capable of before all of this? Are you truly satisfied with just a third of your former capabilities Apollo?!"

### **Chapter 1142 Heart of Gaia**

Faced with the rhetorical question from Athena, Apollo and Artemis were stunned as they both fell into deep contemplation.

As the siblings remained in silence, it was the first occurrence where Yang Chen had truly come to comprehend that it was less of them being juveniles, but instead veterans who had endured the merciless sands of time.

In their eyes were the complexity of emotions and flashbacks, alongside heart-wrenching sorrow.

Through the centuries of ups and downs, they have experienced every emotion known to mankind.

Watching them from a corner, Yang Chen himself was slightly conflicted!

What? Apollo's power...is less than a third of what it once was? Could it be that there were actually more to the power of the gods at the beginning?

Winds howled through the pitch-black sky as the temperatures plummeted past zero.

After an extended silence, Apollo took a deep, prolonged sigh. "Athena, forget it. This is madness and you know it."

"Foolish." Athena appeared rather disappointed. "You think this Earth was meant for either us or the humans?"

Nothing in this universe belongs to any one person, but to the most superior of all beings. Survival of the fittest is the rule of life!

Even if we leave this planet be, humans will one day do it themselves, dragging their own planet and their pathetic species to extinction!

Seeing how this planet is headed towards extinction, it might as well be under the rule of the Gods.”

Artemis frowned at her remark. “Athena, how can you still be this thick-headed?

Even if you revive the heart of Gaia, return the original power to the remaining Gods, defeat our mortal enemy and rescue Zeus, what good does that do for anyone?

Our tribe is gone, Athena! We cannot revitalize the entire divine tribe just by the handful of us!”

Athena cynically stared at the siblings as if they were idiots.

“Do not attempt to implant that monocellular ideology upon me. This is under my control and I will see it done.

The future will remain as it is. All you need to do is sit quietly and watch as it happens. When your power returns and the divine tribe regain its throne...”

“Wait...did your premonition technique show the rebirth of our tribe?” Apollo was flabbergasted.

Athena mysteriously glanced towards the siblings, before she seemingly conveyed a message to them via telepathy, causing Apollo and Artemis to share a gaze.

Athena remained silent, even towards her tribesmen that she had known for millennia. She had no intention of further explaining.

Giving a quick glance to Black Robe, she then vanished into the dark of night.

Black Robe chuckled ever so slightly and hurled himself into the gust of wind.

After Yang Chen could catch his breath, he could no longer trace Athena’s scent, owing to her insane teleportation speed.

“Damn it, she took it with her. I can’t believe I failed Zhenxiu.” Yang Chen frustratedly slapped himself on the forehead.

Stern and Alice on the other hand were seemingly accustomed to Athena’s personality as they were hardly taken aback.

Facing Yang Chen, Stern took to ask. “Hades, what are you doing here? Did you get into a skirmish with Athena?”

“Skirmish is a rather generous word. I was locked up for a while there.” Yang Chen chuckled bitterly.

Stern burst into laughter as the siblings stared at Yang Chen rather bewilderingly.

“You sure have a lot of guts picking a fight with her. She’s not a force to be reckoned with. Unpredictable, volatile, always a lone ranger, yet no one could pin her down. You’re lucky she didn’t leave you half dead.”

Yang Chen pouted, before promptly adding. "Well anyway, what is this Heart of Gaia? I need to know. Why would anyone put through all that effort to hide it from Athena? Besides, she mentioned that you guys were left with less than thirty percent of your former prowess, is that so?"

Stern and Alice were taken aback by his inquiries as their faces promptly dulled.

Yang Chen was mildly irritated from being the only one kept in the dark as he quickly followed. "Look, guys, you don't need to hide it from me. Even Athena said I'm a member of the divine tribe."

Alice shook her head. "It's not that Hades. The divine tribe has always viewed our tribesmen for their divinity and not their status. Since you inherited the divinity of the preceding Hades, you've always been one of us."

"Then why are you still hiding it for?"

"Because it's a painful past." Alice sighed in response, her pupils slightly tearing up as she added. "All you need to know is that the past is the past, please stop asking about the Heart of Gaia. It's been tens of thousands of years ago. It's a part of our history that has been lost."

Rest assured, even if Athena retrieved the Heart of Gaia, there wouldn't be much that she could do to change our course anymore. Our prowess does directly correlate with the Heart of Gaia, but if we could get it back before we would've done it centuries ago. And now, her efforts would only be futile..."

Yang Chen could clearly tell that the siblings were hiding something. But their solemn state kept him from questioning any further.

Giving it a thought, it was clear that when even Christen chose not to reveal the incident, he finally believed that it was indeed a bad time for the Gods.

Despite still being filled with unanswered questions, Yang Chen kept his mind at the present. Coming to realize that his conversation with the siblings was going nowhere, he bid them farewell and left for the pile of rubble over at the Swiss bank.

Zhenxiu and Park Cheon were probably still in the basement.

Once Yang Chen departed, Alice and Stern took a sigh of relief.

"Dear brother, do you think it's right for us to hide it from Hades? It seems a little unfair to him..." Alice noted.

Stern patted his sister on the shoulder. "We don't have any other choice since Athena told us not to interfere. We should at least make sure all of us have her back. I wonder if Poseidon and Aphrodite were here too, would they stand by her decision as we did. Hades is too young to understand this. The feeling to live through millennia after millennia, watching our tribesman die one after another. The pain that we've been through..."

Alice stiffly nodded, before she turned to her longbow Selene in her grasp as she grinned. "Isn't it right Selene. Glad to have you back with me, my precious..."

A jolt of light darted around the carvings of the bow, its ocean blue light seemingly hinted towards a revelation of its own...

Back at the vaulted tower of the Swiss bank, Yang Chen found out that Park Cheon and Zhenxiu had been rescued from the basement under Kim Jip's initiation.

Park Cheon slowly regained his consciousness, yet was quickly confronted with the reality that he had lost his family heirloom!

Nevertheless, he took the opportunity to express his gratitude towards Yang Chen for once again saving his life, leaving Yang Chen in an uncomfortable position after losing Park Cheon's heirloom right before his own eyes. With his current cultivation, in contrast to Athena's, it would take extended periods of intense cultivation to even match Athena's far superior prowess!

Notwithstanding the fact that it was ultimately two possessions of the gods, even if the functionality of the Heart of Gaia was kept a secret from himself, Yang Chen knew there was more to it to be unraveled.

Zhenxiu on the other hand was naturally relieved that Yang Chen made it back unscathed.

Comforting her grandfather, the child was less affected by its loss in comparison and had always been skeptical of the role of a superstitious rock.

Back in the Park clan estate, Park Cheon was served a simple dosage of sleeping pills and had taken rest. Zhenxiu who was worn out from the incident was too accompanied by Eunjung to get some well-needed rest.

Meanwhile, Yang Chen had returned to his bedroom. Noticing Lin Ruoxi rolled up on bed pretending to be asleep, he cracked a grin as he sat by the edge of the bed.

No words were spoken between the two as he crossed his legs.

Lin Ruoxi noticed Yang Chen's lack of action, prompting her to turn towards him as naturally as possible, eager to take a peek at her husband's antics.

What awaited her was instead Yang Chen sitting in a meditating position. This immediately infuriated her. "You terrible, awful human being! You never even thought to explain your absence?!"

Yang Chen forced one eye open as he smirked. "I just didn't want to wake you."

"There's no way you wouldn't know I was waiting for you anyways!"

"Haha." Yang Chen awkwardly chuckled. "It's nothing much really, old man Park's a little startled though."

Yang Chen briefly explained his experience, from how he was outmaneuvered by the man in the dark robe, and that he lost the Park clan heirloom. He purposely kept his meeting with Athena secret in order not to fuel Lin Ruoxi's anxiety.

Lin Ruoxi blinked her eyes from disbelief. "Ever since I've met you, all I hear are strange, supernatural occurrences."

Contrary to her reply however, Lin Ruoxi was already accustomed to his way of life. Her petite lips cracked for a minuscule yawn as she drowsily laid herself back on the bed. "Anyway, why are you meditating, aren't you exhausted after all that?"

Yang Chen nodded as he kept his eyes shut. "After my duel with 'Mr Black Robe', his True Yuan left an aftertaste. So I thought it'd be a good idea if I try to wrap my head around it..."

The man in the black cloak possessed a pitch-black True Yuan, resembling the most sinister type of True Yuan. Through refinery breakdown, Yang Chen could finally delve deep into its properties.

The cultivations of Black Robe are similar to the Ming water cultivations, but it must be far superior to that. Otherwise, he wouldn't have had such a solid upper hand against me when the cauldron was not in play.

Naturally, it was less of a surprise that it brought a sense of enlightenment to Yang Chen.

As Yang Chen delved into the world in his conscience, the rest of the night gradually slipped away.

Later that morning, Yang Chen eventually cracked his eyes open, as he slowly regained his focus. On the spacious bed he was lying on, he was greeted by Lin Ruoxi with her bubbly eyes staring silently at him.

Chapter 1143

Two Spots Left

Yang Chen was silent. He then turned towards her and began looking solemnly in her eyes for the next three minutes or so.

Lin Ruoxi was confused by his stern gaze as her cheeks started to blush.

"Did it click?" Lin Ruoxi ultimately broke the silence.

Yang Chen shook his head. "I was just missing two spots."

"Two spots...what spots?"

"Those spots before your chest..." Yang Chen cracked a sly grin as he stretched his neck to find the perfect angle.

Lin Ruoxi was confused for a moment before she robotically lowered her head. She then immediately turned as red as a tomato when she realized what he was staring at.

It was because she had left the collar of her pajamas loosely buttoned, her voluptuous breasts were mashed together, coincidentally leaving a deep cleavage for Yang Chen to peek at!

Since the relationship between the married couple became gradually harmonious, Lin Ruoxi's body figure had been progressively more beguiling as the days went by. Yet when her bosoms were muddled together, her 'two spots' were well hidden from his stray eyes!

"You...filthy man! Yang Chen, I'm gonna kill you!"

Lin Ruoxi reactively held her collar tight as she grabbed the nearest pillow and started vigorously whacking Yang Chen on the head.

Yang Chen burst into laughter as he tossed his gorgeous wife on the bed. He gave her two tight smooches, before burying his face between her ample breasts, taking a deep breath of the faint fragrance of her skin.



“Hmm...Babe. I wonder why I just couldn't wrap my head around things when I most needed to...”

Yang Chen too was frustrated. He hated being so close yet not having complete comprehension!

To him, one other situation presented with similar circumstances was the alluring woman before him, thinly veiled yet effectively keeping him from fully indulging in her astonishing physique.

Lin Ruoxi could feel Yang Chen's fingers playfully fondling her areolas, stimulating them as they perked up like grapes.

She coyly pouted in response. “No wonder you couldn't find the answer. You were too focused on how to mess with me.”

Yang Chen sat upright, finger pointed at her as he sneered. “What's this got to do with anything? Foreplay is essential for marriage. Even if I was messing with you, that doesn't have anything to do with my cultivations. I need to be strong enough to protect all of you. I thought you already knew, naive little child.”

Lin Ruoxi ground on her teeth as she glared at him. “Pfft, stop with your nonsense. I couldn't care less if you came to comprehend it or not. I'm going down for breakfast. You can come if you want. We're going to bid farewell to CEO Park, then book tickets for our trip back to Zhonghai.”

“Why the hurry? Can't we stay for a couple more days?” Yang Chen earnestly asked.

Lin Ruoxi brushed on her hair. “We've stayed long enough. I'm missing Lanlan. I haven't called home for the past two days. I wonder what she's doing right now. Oh yeah, I'm also planning a surprise for her.”

“Now that Lanlan is at kindergarten, I wonder if she'd even remember you as her mother.”

“If there's anyone who'd forget about me it's you! You soulless, heartless bastard, no wonder she was reluctantly to call you 'Daddy'.” Lin Ruoxi rebuked.

Yang Chen helplessly shrugged in response. It's me against Ms Chubs. There's no chance of me coming out on top. It's best I take the loss right now I guess...

Throughout the past days in Korea, Lin Ruoxi had stockpiled on toys and snacks for Lanlan, all stored in the shamrock colored Sumeru sack, albeit leaving Yang Chen with no say in the matter as his prize possession became storage for his daughter.

As they made their way downstairs, Park Cheon and Zhenxiu were already settled down for breakfast as it had been rather late in the morning.

Park Cheon invited the couple to take a seat and once again extended his gratitude to Yang Chen for saving his life. But he gradually became more curious about Yang Chen's true background but had no means of making his inquiries clear.

During the meal, Lin Ruoxi began explaining their intention to leave Korea now that their goal was accomplished. Having successfully witnessed the inauguration ceremony, they were satisfied leaving Zhenxiu in a loving family she could call her own.

Zhenxiu blankly watched as the couple announced their departure, longing for them to stay yet with no reason to keep them around any longer.

Park Cheon however welcomed the idea as he offered. "Why don't I prepare the plane tickets for both of you. When would the both of you prefer to depart, may I ask?"

Lin Ruoxi was just about to reply with her plan to leave the next morning but was promptly deterred by an incoming phone call.

She respectfully pardoned herself as she picked up the call. It was from home.

"Hello...oh it's you, Mother. How's everything? Lanlan? Did something happen to her? What? How could this be...?"

Lin Ruoxi appeared rather stirred by the call as she began frowning. She gave a few simple replies and hung up the call.

Yang Chen was fully occupied with the food before him but was quickly taken aback by the dislodged look on his wife's face. "What did Mom say?"

"It's about Lanlan," Lin Ruoxi frustratedly replied. "Lanlan isn't going to kindergarten. The teacher said they want her parents there. Lanlan seemed to be in a squabble with other children..."

"Oh chubs, she wouldn't have broken some other kids' skull would she?" Yang Chen jokingly added.

"What are you talking about? She's not you, violent and gory all the time!" Lin Ruoxi raised her voice from dismay, yet promptly pictured flashbacks of her own daughter caving a man's body in.

Yang Chen made himself small as a showing of defeat while he grumbled. "It's great if she didn't, but you don't have to yell like that, even if I'm the least important person in our household now."

"Right, why don't we leave later today?"

Lin Ruoxi grumpily sighed. "I guess we should now."

Once she found out Lanlan was in trouble, Lin Ruoxi was no longer in the mood to stay any longer.

That afternoon, the couple hurried back to Zhonghai, yet as soon as they arrived at their housing district, they could hear Lanlan's fatuous voice from the far corner, clearly throwing a tantrum.

"I'm not going! Lanlan doesn't wanna go!"

The young girl sat on the couch, her chubby little legs stumped and kicked as he pouted and resisted.

"Come on now. Even if you're avoiding school, you should at least tell Granny about it! Did something happen at school?" Guo Xuehua helplessly comforted her, yet to no avail.

Wang Ma and Mingjuan were anxious too as they stood by her side, watching the thick-headed child throw a fit.

The moment the bell rang, everyone simultaneously faced the door.

Upon noticing Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen's return as they held their suitcases in, there was an instant collective sigh of relief.

Lanlan was most obedient to Lin Ruoxi's words, so this might be the long-sought answer to their misery.

"Mommy!"

Lanlan's face was instantly brightened as she hopped off the couch and straight towards her mother!

If it wasn't for the recent cultivations, Lin Ruoxi might have staggered from the sheer physical strength of the child!

Lanlan wrapped her arms around Lin Ruoxi's neck, her face grinding against her body, seemingly with much longing for her return.

What came after caught everyone by surprise as Lanlan's bubbly eyes began engulfed with tears!

"Aww, why are you crying?" Lin Ruoxi comforted her as she ran her fingers through the child's silky smooth hair. "Lanlan, come on now, you can tell Mommy anything..."

"Oh praise the lord Ruoxi I'm so glad that you've returned. Lanlan has been making a fuss all morning. The preschool teacher just kept calling and calling, trying to persuade us to take Lanlan to school. Apparently the parents of the child that was beaten by Lanlan were making a huge deal out of this!"

"Is the child dead?" Yang Chen was straight to the point as always.

"You idiot, if he's dead what are we still doing here?" Guo Xuehua was irked by his blunt comment.

Lin Ruoxi reached out as she dried the tears of her daughter's cheeks, her silky smooth fingers caressing on Lanlan's face. "Lanlan, tell Mommy what happened in school alright. I don't believe you would just go around fighting with other children."

Lanlan whilst wailing noticed the determined look on her mother's face, as she sniffed and stuttered. "Lanlan saw that baddie Wang Qiang pulling Xiao Ya's braid. So...so...Lanlan thought she wanted to protect Xiao Ya. But Wang Qiang brought all the kids to fight Lanlan, so Lanlan pulled all the hair off his head..."

Whilst speaking, the child guiltily lowered her head.

Lin Ruoxi along with Guo Xuehua and the others were dumbfounded by the revelation.

Minjuan seemed to have recalled a certain something as she blurted. "That Xiaoya kid, seems to be Lanlan's best friend, and that Wang Qiang is a school bully." Naturally, Minjuan was the most accustomed to the condition in Lanlan's class. After all, she was the one responsible for taking Lanlan to and from her kindergarten.

Lin Ruoxi lovingly patted Lanlan on the back. "What's done cannot be undone, if we were bound for a lawsuit then so be it. If the parents of the Wang Qiang kid want to sue, we'll go with it."

"Well then, what do you have in mind?" Guo Xuehua asked. "Should I make a phone call to the Education Ministry? I'll give them a treat for a favor in return, how's that sound?"

Lin Ruoxi shook her head from disapproval. "Lanlan's our daughter. If she mess things up, we should be here to take responsibility as her parents. The teachers suggested we go to the kindergarten for a visit, didn't they? Then we'll go ahead with it."

### **Chapter 1144 Family Genes**

Just moments after returning home from South Korea, they had to rush over to the kindergarten. Calling it a hectic day was an understatement.

Lanlan was persistently reluctant, yet quickly 'conformed' as a glare from Lin Ruoxi made its way to her eyes. She cowardly tailed behind her mother towards the car.

Yang Chen on the other hand was hardly bothered by the situation they were in. It's just a small playground dispute with a little hair-pulling. Nobody's brains were destroyed.

Obviously these were all thoughts he thought best to keep unheard. He might be indifferent but Lin Ruoxi was not.

Being the father to a child for the first time, Yang Chen was surprisingly responsible as he sat in the driver's seat, driving Lin Ruoxi and Lanlan towards the nearby Yunhua kindergarten.

Before departure, they made sure to contact Ms Hou, who was Lanlan's class teacher. But the moment they were connected with her, they had urged them to arrive quicker.

Meanwhile, Wang Qiang's parents were making a scene in the kindergarten courtyard from 'the long wait'.

Upon arrival, it was already dusk. Darkness encroached fast as parents escorted their children and out from the opposite direction towards them, and in the teaching facility, only a few office lights were on.

It was Yang Chen's first visit to the kindergarten. After taking a quick glance around, he found the slides rather amusing to look at but followed alongside Lin Ruoxi and Lanlan as they made their way into the building.

Lin Ruoxi came prepared with the exact location of the office and effectively navigated through the building.

Arriving by the door of their venue, a loud, husky voice of a middle-aged man was heard.

"Where is this family? Is this a game to them?"

"Mr Wang, calm down. They have been informed and are on their way." The female teacher was audibly frustrated.

"Pfft! You think of me, Wang An as a joke now don't you, huh? I'm telling you, if today we don't get this settled, I'll hire a trope to tear down this broken school!"

Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen reactively shared gazes by the door, both frowned almost simultaneously from how hostile the parents they were about to meet were.

Nevertheless, both of them were adept problem solvers in their individual line of responsibility as they knocked, and Lin Ruoxi jerked the door open.

Lanlan was visibly unnerved from entering the teacher's office as she held onto her mother's arm.

In the office, besides a few female teachers, there were two pairs of parents with their respective children.

One of the pairs included a man dressed in a rugged suit, his plump waist barely fitting into his clothes as his suit struggled to keep itself intact. The big, obese man was wearing an eye-catching gold watch and a golden ring. By his side was his wife, lavishly dressed in a fur-collared leather coat with thick makeup to boot. All in all, they were not a pleasant sight to see.

Their son was a fat child, his head wrapped with white mesh cloth, and upon witnessing Lanlan's entrance reactively scurried behind his father.

The other couple was rather plain-looking yet neat and well-dressed and with them a young daughter with a flower braid hiding at the corner.

Watching Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen make their entrance, alongside Lanlan, their gazes were almost simultaneously fixated upon Lin Ruoxi.

"Hey listen there! My son hasn't lifted a finger on your daughter. She was the one who first attacked my son! She pushed my son on the ground with the other kids! His hair is all pulled out and is still bleeding! What manners do you teach your child?!" Mrs Wang immediately flew into a frenzy, as her intentions were given away from her envious gaze.

She then quickly nudged her husband Wang An by her side that was stunned by Lin Ruoxi's entrance. He was completely entranced by her being.

"Huh?"

Wang An quickly snapped out of his daydreaming and back to the sole reason he was in kindergarten. "Exactly! Such violence from a little girl. I swear if you don't come kowtowing this very instant and pay for the damages done to my son, forget about leaving today!"

Lin Ruoxi solemnly replied. "Alright. It's Wang Qiang who first started this. If it wasn't for my daughter's courage and talent she would have fell victim to that group of children. So if anyone is required to bear responsibility it should be on both sides."

"That's right!" Ms Hou quickly emphasized to relieve the tension.

"It'd be great if both parents could try to talk this out right here. How about this, Ms Lin here will compensate for the medical fees incurred, and Lanlan will apologize to Wang Qiang. And Wang Qiang on the other hand, you have to apologize to Lanlan and Xiao Ya. Promise not to bully the girls anymore, okay?"

That was a fair solution to the incident, not to mention the children were still enrolled in the same school after all.

But Wang An was not buying it as he sneered in response. "Compensate us? Pfft! Who do you think I am? I don't give a damn about your money. Do you even know how many coal mines I own? Do you? I could bury all of you with trucks of coal! My people are part of the police force. I could get my men here to wreck this school this very instant if I wanted to! Your pathetic little preschool is not worth our time

or effort! My son has never felt this ashamed since the day he was born! For my only son, if you don't kneel down and apologize, you'll all be dead meat!"

Whilst speaking, Wang An boastfully patted his son on the shoulder. "Son, watch this! When dealing with these uppity, self-obsessed people, all they do is talk! They like to toss money around! We beat them up, see if they'll like that!"

Wang Qiang's little head nodded obediently from the immense respect of his father.

Ms Hou and the other teachers frowned in response. With a parent like this, there was little wonder why the kid would end up a bully at such a young age.

### **Chapter 1145: Brother Hu**

Lin Ruoxi lifted her brows ever so slightly, clearly ignoring Wang An's words. "How much did the medication cost, I'll pay double. Anything more and I will take you to court."

Mrs Wang sneered. "Are you deaf, wench? Did you hear a word my husband just said? Kneel and apologize! You think we'd want your useless money?!"

"How dare you yell at my wife!"

Yang Chen that was idly watching from the back was halfway through his yawn but had quickly found himself agitated by the insult towards Lin Ruoxi as he dashed forward and shot a leg towards Mrs Wang's chest!

BANG!

Thud!

A heavy thud was heard as Mrs Wang slammed onto the office table!

Even with as little strength as he could muster, she was already sent flying!

Yang Chen had to restrain himself as he knew that killing her would only beget more trouble.

That act nevertheless left everyone in attendance stunned beyond all means. Who's that nuisance throwing a fit?

Lin Ruoxi was certain that Yang Chen's action was uncalled for as she glared at him. "Why'd you do that? Isn't it already messy enough?"

Yang Chen chuckled. "That's different. Talking about the kids is one thing. But she personally attacked you! As a husband, how can I let that slide? This is a matter of principle."

Lin Ruoxi was left speechless, finally coming to grasp of her husband's true intention of accompanying them!

"You...who the hell are you? How dare you kick me?!" Mrs Wang exploded as her husband lifted her up.

Yang Chen boastfully wrapped his arm around Lin Ruoxi's shoulder. "I'm the father to my daughter and the husband to my wife over here. You jealous little swine dare insult my wife so why wouldn't I dare return the favor?"

“Jealous?! I would never! Why’d I be jealous of her?!” Mrs Wang howled in rebuke.

Everyone else in attendance was dumbfounded by the revelation! That’s her husband?! I was certain he was just the driver or the assistant or something!

In terms of appearance and etiquette, the difference was drastic!

Lin Ruoxi pushed Lanlan towards Yang Chen as she ordered. “Stop messing around, this is a kindergarten. Take Lanlan to the car, let me handle this.”

Yang Chen was reluctant, yet promptly picking up on Lin Ruoxi’s solemn gaze, he held Lanlan by her petite hand as they made their way towards the door.

“Run? You dare run, bastard?!”

Wang An was riled up as he roared. “I told you to kneel for an apology, but not only did you not do that, but you also assaulted my wife before me!”

Yang Chen turned back. “What, you want a taste too?”

Ms Hou hurried towards Wang An as she advised. “Mr Wang, let it go. We should have a civilized conversation...”

“Fuck off!”

Wang An shoved Ms Hou’s plump body aside as he sneered. “I thought I was going to let you live today, but I guess you’ve lived long enough!

He pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

“Oi, A Hu, it’s me. I’m dealing with a little something right now, yes...Yunhua kindergarten. This bastard hurt my son and trampled on your sister-in-law. Bring your best, let’s wreck this school! I’ll make sure your men get paid handsomely!”

After a couple of pleasant chuckles, he hung up and winced towards Yang Chen. “If you got the balls, stick around. You can run, but I can assure you, my boys will find you and wreck your life! Nobody messes with me in Zhonghai, nobody!”

Yang Chen was jolly by the fact that in his consecutive absence from his home city, there seemed to be new warlords eyeing a fair share of territories to call their own.

Lin Ruoxi was conflicted with the turn of events. The opposing side evidently invited some hostile men to create a scene and she was partially at fault, leaving her rather guilt-ridden if she had to abandon the teachers.

“Hubby, what should we do next?” Lin Ruoxi turned towards Yang Chen. After all, violence was his forte.

Yang Chen shrugged in response. “We’ll wait, I’m honestly curious to see who he’d manage to gather for this.”

Wang An snorted. “I see you think you’re macho. I hope you don’t pee your pants when they get here.”

Wang An then boastfully led his wife and his son Wang Qiang as they marched towards the exit of the school building.

Ms Hou and a few other kindergarten caretakers started getting anxious with time, notably Xiao Ya's family who had secluded themselves by the corner.

In less than a quarter of an hour, right outside of Yunhua kindergarten came several Jinbei commercial use vehicles, tailing a black seven series Mercedes as they all simultaneously halted before the school gate.

Down came two dozen men dressed in black clothes and armed with metal rods. They all had an eerie smirk on their face as they began to circle the kindergarten. Wang An proudly walked towards the front of the line of vehicles. From that one came a man, presumably their leader.

The setting left many educators terrified of the circumstances that they were in. It was Lanlan instead that was visibly excited by the turn of events.

The leader was a bald but sturdy man, who appeared in all smiles at the sight of Wang An as they shared their greetings.

"Mr Wang, why would you wait out here in the dark? I should be the one going to you."

"It's nothing. I called for your help. I should be the one to greet you." Wang An polished his words well, but none of them with good intentions.

The bald leader declared with a grin on his face. "Well, who dares offend Mr Wang and his family. I'll snap their legs!"

Wang An agitatedly pointed at Yang Chen at the far corner. "It's him! That son of a bitch over there!"

In the night sky, lit by only a mellow street light, Yang Chen was not clearly seen to most by the street.

After Wang An pointed towards his agitator, the bald leader took a good look and quickly noticed Yang Chen with an ominous smile.

Right then, he would have sold his soul to rewind time for a couple of seconds to take back his words!

"Master...Chen...?!"

The bald man stuttered and trembled, with a cold snap riddling through his spine!

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi seemed to recognize the leader. Picking up on his reaction, he was clearly acquainted with Yang Chen.

Yang Chen shook his head sarcastically. "Oh Zhang Hu, good to see you doing well for yourself. I was wondering who A Hu would be. It turned out to be you. A toothless stray cat. Well seeing you, can't say I wasn't at all surprised."

Being called a 'toothless stray cat' in front of the people was humiliating. After all, he was called here to intimidate them. Yet he did not utter a single word!

"Hubby, who's this Zhang Hu? Looks kinda familiar to me." Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but ask.



“You remember back when we first met when you were drugged by a bunch of thugs? Well, those were his men. Later on Rose boosted his attempt to infiltrate into the West Union Society, and subsequently, decimate them from within. Thereafter he replaced Chen Dehai’s position as the alpha.”

Lin Ruoxi was promptly reminded of that drowsy night, where everything was a blur. But in the bits and pieces, she managed to piece together a surge of hatred towards Zhang Hu.

Nevertheless, it was that ill-fated event that led her to cross paths with Yang Chen in the first place.

Zhang Hu eventually caught a good look at Lin Ruoxi and his heart stopped beating when Lin Ruoxi began calling out for her ‘hubby’ Yang Chen. Everything began to click in his head.

Wiping the cold sweat off his forehead, Zhang Hu chuckled bitterly. “Master Chen, Miss Lin, I wasn’t expecting you both to be here. This is a misunderstanding, I’m sure of it! If I knew it was you both I would never have brought myself here!”

Zhang Hu at that instant had clearly chosen the more sensible path. He was there to witness Yang Chen single-handedly wipe out the entire Western Union Society. It was only right for him to side with Yang Chen and choose the path of life. If he had known prior, he wouldn’t even come anywhere close!

He would never in his wildest imagination have considered that the issue he was sent to ‘handle’ was Yang Chen!

Wang An was confused at the lack of action as he glanced towards Yang Chen. “A Hu, what’s this? You know that savage?”

Zhang Hu was on the brink of an explosion. Yet when faced with Wang An, he kept his cool for the sake of his family background. He then mumbled. “Mr Wang, I think you should just let it slide and call it a day. That man over there is not one you’d want to mess with. Also, I owe him a great debt that I’ve yet to pay.”

“Well, why should I? Who the hell is he?” Wang An was unconvinced.

“All you need to know is Master Chen here is the one person we, the Red Thorns Society, will never go against.”

Zhang Hu would have explained Yang Chen’s true identity if he could even wrap his head around it.

“Pfft, scurry off then! Bunch of chickens! Your society is but a little Southern gang. Do you dare challenge the power of the Wang clan? We’ll defend you if you mess up, you know who my boss is don’t you? Do you know what we do?” Wang An was furious.

Zhang Hu knew he was thick-headed, so he couldn’t bother to further persuade Wang An as he blatantly rejected. “Mr Wang, if you want to go ahead and challenge this man I say you do what you want. I will not risk the lives of my men here and touch Yang Chen.”

Whilst speaking, Zhang Hu raised his hand to signal his men.

“Boys, retreat!”

“Hold on now!”

Yang Chen halted, holding his index finger. "Leaving already? The situation isn't settled yet."

Chapter 1146 - A Piece of Charcoal and A Ticket

### **A Piece of Charcoal and A Ticket**

Zhang Hu felt a cold chill run down his spine. Obsequiously, he bowed and asked, "Brother Chen, please don't be mad. This is undeniably our fault. We are all blind cows. Please just spare us with your generosity."

"Is it because I've been away from Zhonghai for too long? Or has the world changed to the point that the Red Thorns Society has to become hired hitmen?"

Zhang Hu's face turned sour in an instant. "Well... It's not that ugly yet. Though it does seem a tad bit below par compared to President Szeto's reign. Boss Zhao is not half bad himself."

"So, when this guy calls, you go right over to lick his boots?"

"Brother Chen, there are things you might not be aware of. We gangsters nowadays don't have it easier than regular office workers. These ordinary people are deemed good citizens, while we are called hooligans. If we were to get into big trouble, no one would be able to save us. It'd already be a huge relief if the country doesn't banish us." Zhang Hu then lowered his voice into a whisper. "This man, Boss Wang, has strong connections. We can't afford to rub him up the wrong way, so it's a must to curry favor with him."

Hearing Zhang Hu's murmurs, Wang An grumbled in displeasure. "Zhang Hu! Are you sick of your job?! Believe it or not, I am one phone call away from throwing you into jail!"

Startled, Zhang Hu frantically waved his hands in denial. "Boss Wang, I didn't say anything bad about you. I'll leave now, I'll leave now!"

"Trying to leave? If you don't bring your men tomorrow and teach this piece of shit a lesson, I'll report you to the police and have you all eat prison food!" Wang An's lips stretched into an evil grin before he added, "All it takes is one sentence from me. Do you think your gangster background can save your sorry ass?"

Zhang Hu stared at Yang Chen piteously, shooting him pleading looks.

Yang Chen smirked back uncannily at him. "Don't worry. Do as you're told and you'll be just fine."

Zhang Hu quickly nodded. "Yes, Brother Chen. So, what do you say?"

"Bring a few men and beat him up!"

"Huh?!" a surprised exclamation escaped Zhang Hu's lips.

"What 'huh'? I said, bring a few men to beat him up until he starts begging for mercy," Yang Chen reiterated.

Trembling, Zhang Hu could be seen repeatedly opening his mouth to speak, but nothing tumbled off his tongue.

“Hey! You piece of shit, how dare you still lie through your teeth! Earth to Zhang Hu! What are you still doing?! Are you going to jail or are you beating him up?” Wang An snarled.

Zhang Hu eyed Wang An, then glanced at a profoundly anxious Yang Chen. Various thoughts flitted through his mind.

There’s no way I can help Wang An. Yang Chen is undoubtedly capable of taking a life. If I were to retreat, I’d offend both parties. The only way out of this for me is to believe in Yang Chen!

It was also owing to the trust he put in Yang Chen from the beginning that he managed to venture this far. Hence, Zhang Hu decided to give it another gamble!

“Brothers, beat this man of the Wang family!”

Zhang Hu gritted his teeth and howled. Subsequently, a group of thugs rushed down immediately and began giving Wang An the treatment he deserved!

Fists and feet landed on Wang An’s body like large raindrops and, being utterly unprepared as he was, his body was instantly pressed onto the ground by a few burly men!

“Ah! This is assault and battery! Are you trying to rebel?! I’m going to sue all of you!” From afar, Mrs Wang shrieked her lungs out but remained disinclined to approach.

Teacher Hou and the others in the kindergarten were too scared to watch. Whatever was unfolding before their eyes were not something they could intervene in.

Troubled, Lin Ruoxi frowned and asked Yang Chen, “Is this too much? You could’ve let him go.”

Yang Chen shook his head. “I am a grudgeful person. Since he wishes to send people to beat me up, I ought to do the same.”

Lanlan’s sparkling eyes overflowed with excitement while she swung her fleshy little fists around as though she desired to join the game.

Seeing this scene, Lin Ruoxi said to Yang Chen in dismay, “Look at you, you’re corrupting the child.”

“Hehe, what’s there to be afraid of? Why don’t you talk about how Lanlan knows to protect her little frenemy and fight for justice? It’s fine to get physical. As long as you are not on the receiving end.”

As Yang Chen spoke, Wang An was now sprawled out on the ground, blood oozing out of his nostrils as well as the corners of his eyes and mouth. Dotted across his face and body were patches of green and purple, and the ripped-off collar on his coat made him look foolish and unruly.

Zhang Hu personally dragged Wang An over to Yang Chen, relief manifested on his face.

“Brother Chen, what do you think? Shall we continue?”

Wang An was terrified. He immediately began to shake his head like mad and begged amid a blur.

“Please stop! You’re going to kill me!”

Yang Chen replied with an incredibly sly smirk, "That's fine. Just kowtow and admit your wrongdoings. I don't want much, just three will do. Admit that this matter is your son's fault, admit that you were impolite, to begin with."

Wang An still could not bring himself to bow before him. Biting the bullet, he said daringly, "I... I am an official member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference! You can't do this to me!"

"Screw your bullshit!"

Yang Chen pitched a kick at Wang An, throwing him to the ground. "So what if you're a member of the CPPCC? Who voted for you?! Aren't you a businessman?! Aren't you a coal boss?! Don't tell me that unearthing a piece of coal earns you a vote!"

Being an avid reader, Yang Chen was rather familiar with the Chinese political system and many major conferences.

From aside, Zhang Hu elucidated in a hushed voice, "Brother Chen, this fella is indeed a member of the CPPCC. But it's also worth noting that he got in thanks to the Wang family's status as the local gangsters in Shanxi. His brother is the youngest deputy secretary of the Shanxi Provincial Party Committee. It seems their ancestral roots date back to the founding general of the country. He only came to Zhonghai a couple of months ago. To put it in nicer words, it's to generate some appealing political achievements to aid his promotion as an official."

"Oh... A family of officials on top of being descendants of the founding heroes." Yang Chen's mood seemed to have lifted all of a sudden.

Catching the turn in the conversation, Wang An started nodding like a lunatic at once and his eyes lit up with a flicker of hope. "That's right! The Wang family has impressive influential powers! If it weren't for my thirst for qualifications and experience before becoming an official, I wouldn't have come here! In fact, I am currently considered an official of high importance! Assuming that you spare me tomorrow, I will be sure to grant you great benefits!"

Since the facts were already on the table, Wang An decided to not conceal anymore. Instead, he told a big fat lie.

"I bet it's not some great benefit but more like your return with people to arrest us," Yang Chen sneered.

Seeing that his intentions were disclosed, Wang An hastily plastered on a miserable grimace. "No way, why would I do that... Why don't we minimize this matter, hm..."

Yang Chen's expression instantly turned grim. "Are you going to kowtow or do you want a second go?"

Wang An shuddered at his words. When he saw Zhang Hu grinding his fists in preparation, he hollered right away, "I'll do it, I'll do it!"

"Remember to mention that it was your mistake."

As he spoke, Yang Chen pulled out his phone to film the ending of his kowtow session. Although there was no obligation, it might serve useful in evading certain troublesome affairs.

Wang An's eyes brimmed with resentment, but anything was better than death. Thus, he obediently performed three kowtows and admitted that he was to blame.

Three kowtows later, Wang An asked tentatively, "So... can we leave now?"

Yang Chen turned to Lin Ruoxi, awaiting her prompt.

Lin Ruoxi produced a fresh cheque from her bag, where an amount of a full hundred thousand Chinese dollars was stated at the bottom. She then stepped forward and handed it to Mrs Wang.

"This should be enough to cover your son's medical expenses. I apologize for my daughter's actions, but I hope you won't put us in another tough spot in the future."

Mrs Wang retrieved the medical fees and hauled Wang An along timidly. The three scurried out of the kindergarten in a haste.

Now that things seemed to have died down a little, Zhang Hu winced and groaned. "Brother Chen, we've given that guy a whipping but with his personality, he will certainly seek revenge. You are skilled and from there you are bold, so you have nothing to fear. We, on the other hand, cannot hold out. If the police happen to track us down for interrogations, Boss Zhao will not be able to keep all of us out of trouble!"

Yang Chen patted the baldie's shoulders. "Do rest assured. If he does seek revenge, I will be his first target. Before he seeks you out, he will already be finished."

Zhang Hu froze, taken aback. He then asked dubiously, "Really? The Wang family has such immense power! I've heard that they have influence almost everywhere."

"God damn it. When I say yes, I mean yes. Get lost!" Yang Chen could not find a single sliver of patience in himself to clarify further.

Zhang Hu had no other choice. Thinking that matters could effortlessly be resolved by a call from Boss Zhao, he gathered his men and left promptly.

Once the mob took off, the kindergarten finally plunged into its initial silence.

Lin Ruoxi led Lanlan by the hand up to Teacher Hou and said, "My apologies for causing a scene. Are the results perhaps acceptable to the teachers?"

Teacher Hou and the rest dared not express the slightest hint of dissatisfaction. All of them nodded diligently with warm smiles. They watched with their own eyes as Lin Ruoxi simply signed a hundred thousand dollar cheque with ease. This could only mean two things. She was either filthy rich or a noble!

Unbeknown to them, however, was the fact that Lin Ruoxi couldn't care less about money. As long as the other party was willing to communicate properly, she would not mind a million-dollar compensation.

Meanwhile, a crestfallen Lanlan scuttled over to Xiao Ya with her braided pigtails and broke into a sweet smile as she said, "Xiao Ya, that fella Wang Qiang will no longer bully you from now on. We can go back to..."

Before Lanlan could finish, Xiao Ya seemed to cower in dread and she scooted behind her mother.

At that instance, Lanlan felt as if she was struck by lightning. The brilliant sadness was engraved on her little face as she stiffened up. Her black, beady eyes were clouded over with a misty glow.

Looking at the child's pitiful appearance, the adults were startled and the air grew thick with tension.

Xiao Ya's mother chuckled reluctantly, trying to exhort her daughter out. "Hey, Xiao Ya, don't hide. What's the matter?" Despite her gentle efforts, Xiao Ya was still too terrified to come forth.

Despondency clouded Lanlan's face as large teardrops formed at the corners of her eyes and rolled down her chubby cheeks. Weeping, she rubbed at her eyes and bawled, "Xiao Ya... You... Don't ignore Lanlan..."

The sobbing interrupted Yang Chen's train of thought. He felt as though a hammer delivered a heavy blow to his soul and a massive boulder had just been dropped onto his heartstrings. Bitter, heart-rending flashbacks started to wash over him like a wave...

### **Chapter 1147: 2 In 1 Chapter**

While hearing her daughter's tearful cries, Lin Ruoxi's heart tightened, making her feel suffocated. She stepped forward and hugged Lanlan and patted her back to comfort her.

"Lanlan, please don't cry. Don't cry my dear, you won't look pretty if you cry..."

However, Lanlan did not seem to stop crying. She hugged Lin Ruoxi's neck with her face so close while the tears kept flowing.

Lin Ruoxi had no idea what to do. Why did Xiao Ya hide away from Lanlan? She felt that things were getting worse.

Xiao Ya's parents were full of guilt but their daughter still refused to speak up. They did not know what to do.

Teacher Hou, wearing a bitter smile, stepped forward and said, "Ms Lin, there is something you should know but may not want to hear. The reason why Lanlan did not come to school today was that the other children refused to play with her..."

"What do you mean? Why..." Lin Ruoxi was stunned.

Teacher Hou took a deep breath. He said, "It's simple really. Even though the reason Lanlan got into a fight with Wang Qiang was that she wanted to help Xiao Ya, she still managed to beat up all the boys who challenged her to the fight. Unlike the other boys who are smaller in size, Wang Qiang injured his scalp while he was hit by Lanlan. His scalp bled. "Look at how a small-sized girl has such huge energy to fight so many boys. How could the kids not be afraid of this bloody scene?"

Lin Ruoxi stood there dumbfounded. Looking at Lanlan weeping in her arms, she felt heartbroken.

She could feel how sad Lanlan was at that moment.

Even though it was initially to help her good friend, it was still too much for the other children.

But little did she know that the outcome was other children started to be afraid of her and avoided playing with her. Even her good friend that she protected ignored her.

For Lanlan who always yearned to play with other children, it was difficult for her to blend into a group of friends. But now she was seen as a different kind of human being.

The more you care, the easier it is to get hurt deeply.

Before this, other children might have opted to. But they were afraid of being bullied by Wang Qiang so they avoided playing with her.

But now, Wang Qiang's situation was over, Xiao Ya still refused to look and talk to her.

No wonder Lanlan was crying so badly.

Lin Ruoxi did not have many friends because of her cold personality. She has had her fair share of loneliness.

At this moment, she could especially feel how Lanlan felt isolated in her heart. For a young girl like her, it was extremely painful.

Lin Ruoxi had no choice but to ask Yang Chen for help, "Honey, what do we do, Lanlan is so sad..."

But Yang Chen seemed to be too immersed in his own thoughts. He did not seem to be aware of the situation around him.

Only after Lin Ruoxi's incessant yelling, did Yang Chen come back to the present.

Looking at Lanlan crying loudly and then at Xiao Ya who was afraid to speak, Yang Chen said without any expressions. "Let her cry. A child who cries out is better than one who doesn't."

"What is this? Can't you comfort your own child?" Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him. She then thought about it and said to Lanlan, "Baby, Let Mommy bring you to eat? What does Lanlan want today? Mommy will buy anything for Lanlan."

The moment Lanlan heard about the food, her crying softened. "Meat..."

"Meat? What kind of meat?"

"Beef..."

Lanlan finally stopped crying after the food was mentioned.

Lin Ruoxi let out a sigh of relief.

After waving goodbye to Teacher Hou and the others, Xiao Ya's family left as well. Yang Chen and the rest went to the nearest western restaurant to have steak.

Although Lanlan did not have a smile on, she finally stopped crying.

They reserved a table which was arranged in the corner of the restaurant upon their arrival. Lin Ruoxi even reserved all the tables around them so that Lanlan could eat freely.

The waiters in the restaurant knew that they were wealthy customers, so they did not say a word. Even when Lin Ruoxi ordered twenty steaks, they still remained quiet.

Lanlan sat on a high chair with forks in both her hands. She picked up one steak on each hand and started munching away. Her efficiency shocked the waiters from not far away.

Normally when Lin Ruoxi saw her daughter eating happily, she would also feel the same. But for today, Lanlan was eating while crying at the same time.

Yang Chen looked the same as usual. He stopped eating after finishing five steaks. He looked at Lanlan gently as if something flowed through his eyes.

After the meal, Lin Ruoxi touched Lanlan's head. "Is Lanlan full?"

"Yes." Lanlan touched her round tummy and then asked, "Mommy, why are the children afraid of Lanlan? Did they dislike Lanlan?"

Looking at the child's clear and innocent eyes, Lin Ruoxi scrunched up slightly. "Why would they? Lanlan is so cute and even protected Xiao Ya. You are a good girl."

"But...Xiao Ya is not playing with Lanlan anymore..." Lanlan looked down sadly.

Lin Ruoxi looked away and wiped the corners of her eyes without saying anything.

She was worried about Lanlan's unique physique that might cause her to be unable to get along well with the other children. But no matter how bad she anticipated it to be, she did not think it would be this bad.

Yang Chen stood up and carried Lanlan up from the chair then spoke to Lin Ruoxi, "Settle the bill, I'll wait for you outside."

Yang Chen carried Lanlan alone and walked out of the restaurant.

At seven or eight in the evening, it was the time when the city was filled with neon lights and where busy nightlife started.

The weather in early November seemed rather cold, many couples passing by wore warm coats and hurried through the streets.

Yang Chen carried Lanlan and stopped by a resting area by the pedestrian street.

Behind them was a large flower bed, pedestrians passing by around them and the facade of the business was flashing in various colors.

In this busy city, no one would notice the adult and child in the dark.

Lin Ruoxi walked behind them and saw both of them sitting down so she sat on another bench near them. She took it as Yang Chen bringing Lanlan to look around more and did not ask further.

Lanlan widened her eyes and looked at the people coming to and fro around her. Curiosity about the world can be seen in her eyes.

It was at that short moment that the girl forgot about her sadness.



Three of them were quiet for a moment and Yang Chen suddenly stretched out his waist and took a long breath.

He turned and looked at the little girl beside him and smiled. "Lanlan, do you want to hear a story from this bad uncle?"

Lanlan and Lin Ruoxi both looked toward Yang Chen, Lin Ruoxi was a little puzzled but Lanlan nodded seriously. "Lanlan likes to listen to stories."

Touching the child's hair, Yang Chen began to speak gently.

"Long ago, there was a little boy. Although he was young, he was stronger than many adults. He can run very fast and could break a rock with just one punch. Anyways...he was very strong. The little boy lived in a place with all kinds of smart and powerful children. They were trained every day to kill people with guns, knives, fists, and poison. In that little boy's world, it was kill or be killed."

Listening to Yang Chen's narrative, Lanlan was a little enchanted but Lin Ruoxi noticed that this was mostly Yang Chen's own story.

"Suddenly one day, the little boy went to an orphanage to kill someone who went there to donate money. Even though the person went to donate money, it was used to buy girls from the orphanage and bully them. The little boy killed the bad person and at the same time, he fell in love with the orphanage. There were many other children the same age as him. They played games, chased around and they didn't kill nor fight and all looked happy. The little boy also wanted to know how they got that kind of smile. He then appeared in front of them and said that he was a child from a nearby family, asking if they could play together because he has no friends. They were happy to accept the little boy and taught him how to play games, catch beetles, raise goldfishes, and a lot more kinds of activities. With that, the little boy occasionally killed people at night and played with those children during the day. Those children would also give him sweets to eat. The little boy suddenly knew that the world had many more things than just killing or being killed. There were other things that interested him as well. Until one day, someone went to the orphanage to buy a child again. The little boy was angry after knowing that several of his friends were locked up by the head and were ready to be transported by night. He did not want his friends to be sold. So, regardless of what his guardians said, he killed the dean and the bad guys. Initially, the little boy thought things would be over safely but the police came to arrest him the next day unexpectedly. The little boy then found out it was the girls he rescued who told the police that he was a boy who would kill."

Hearing about it, Lanlan couldn't help but ask tearfully, "Why did they call the police on the boy?"

Yang Chen shook his head and smiled bitterly. "Yes, the little boy did save them but they were afraid that a boy would kill them. Although the bad guy wanted to sell them off, at least he wouldn't have killed them. But the little boy was someone who could make them lose their lives. For them, the little boy was from another world and needed to be pushed away like an alien. No matter how close they were before, they would think of protecting themselves first instead of understanding who he really was."

"Then what happened to the little boy?" Lanlan was confused, but she could roughly understand and asked curiously.

“At that time, the boy was stunned. He did not know why his good friends could not understand him. He saved them but they were hurting him and sold him out behind his back. As the police were about to shoot him, a girl just like the little boy appeared. She killed all the police there and walked towards the little boy. She said, “You don’t belong here.”

Looking at Yang Chen’s faint thought, Lin Ruoxi immediately understood that it was the story that happened between him and Seventeen when they were young.

Lin Ruoxi felt sour all of a sudden but could still understand Yang Chen’s purpose in telling this story.

“And then...” Lanlan asked expectantly.

“Then, the little boy left. He never saw the children who he had fun with and never made the kind of friends anymore. He finally realized that only girls who kill and are not afraid of bleeding can understand him.”

“Then won’t he be very sad and lonely?”

“Nope,” Yang Chen said. “The little boy finally understood from the girl that he would feel lonely because he was stronger than the others. Why should he be sad when he is strong? People were afraid of him or even envied him. He should be proud, shouldn’t he?”

Lanlan looked at Yang Chen with her eyelids blinking and said, “Lanlan understands now. Because Lanlan is stronger than other children that’s why they are afraid of me. Lanlan is still a good child! I am just better than them!”

Yang Chen finally smiled heartily and gave a thumbs up. “So smart. Lanlan must remember that your Mommy is way prettier than the others right? A beautiful Mommy can obviously have a powerful Lanlan right?”

Lanlan smiled sweetly and nodded hard. “Yes!”

Lin Ruoxi by the side, rubbed her eyes excitedly after seeing Lanlan smile. “What are you talking about, don’t teach your child this nonsense.”

Lanlan suddenly jumped into Yang Chen’s arms and hooked around Yang Chen’s neck. She planted a kiss on Yang Chen’s face which made him stunned.

“Also, Lanlan’s daddy is better than other children too!”

“Hehe, of course...”

Yang Chen just wanted to brag a few words, suddenly he felt a flash in his mind and his heart was fluttered. He spoke stutteringly, “Wait...Lanlan...you...what did you call me?”

Lanlan smiled like a flower, “Daddy, Grandmother said I should call my mommy’s husband as daddy.”

When Yang Chen heard that tender ‘daddy’, his eyes felt warm and his heart was melting.

He actually cared a lot!

He hugged Lanlan tightly in his arms, her meaty little body simply made him attached to her. He rubbed his face with a little mustache on the girl's chubby face and laughed.

"Fat little girl, say it again!"

Lanlan pouted her lips, "Daddy is not allowed to call Lanlan fat little girl..."

"Daddy...daddy...I...hehe...haha...daddy..."

Yang Chen hugged Lanlan and sat there laughing.

The passersby heard the uncovered laughter and finally looked over. They saw a chubby little girl pouting her lips and a silly man laughing. They would have thought there was a loose screw in his head

But for Lin Ruoxi, the father and daughter whom she was staring at, was laughing like a fool while another one was ranting slyly and there was an illusion in the trance. There was nothing in this huge world that made her feel warmer than this picture at the moment.

## **Chapter 1148**

### **Christmas Tree**

After laughing for a while, the family of three walked down the street and strolled around.

Due to the size of the huge crowd, Yang Chen carried his daughter on his shoulders. It was not tiring for him anyway.

Various shops along the street have been decorated quite gorgeously especially since its near to the end of the year. Although it was still a month away from Christmas, some shops had started selling Christmas accessories and products.

Lanlan fantasized a lot about Santa Claus and made Yang Chen tell her the story of Santa Claus. Yang Chen could only give in to her whims.

As they passed by a gift shop, a huge Christmas tree that was about four meters tall attracted many passersby.

Lin Ruoxi stopped by the tree and smiled as she looked at the dazzling gift boxes and various brilliant lights.

"What's wrong? Still so fascinated to see a Christmas tree at this age?"

Lin Ruoxi sneered. "Can't I? Christmas trees are beautiful. Grandmother said it was a waste of time decorating the tree. It was just for the sake of looking at the decorations. We might as well just buy gifts. That's why we never had one at home. Now that I come to think of it, my Grandmother was quite strict back then."

Yang Chen looked at the tree and smiled awkwardly, "I don't like it anyway."

"Why?"

"Guess..."

“Shut it. Except for lacking in sentiment, what else can I say.” Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him.

Yang Chen laughed. “Don’t talk about sentiments when you marry a mutton skewer seller. Let’s go, shall we? Isn’t there a department stall under Yu Lei nearby? Pay a visit there and get our daughter some toys.”

“Yes yes! Lanlan wants a toy!” Lanlan immediately got excited and started clapping and laughing.

Lin Ruoxi sighed helplessly. “You little kid, you’ve brought so many toys back home. If this goes on, Mommy will have to buy another house for your toys.”

Lanlan chuckled, her innocent smile made Lin Ruoxi surrender.

After strolling around the department store, collecting some toys, and cute outfits, the three returned to their home.

On the way driving, Yang Chen received a phone call. It was from Cai Yan.

Looking at the mother and daughter behind, Yang Chen picked it up without hesitation.

“Yanyan, what’s wrong?”

Lin Ruoxi heard that the call was from Cai Yan, a slight grudge flashed through her eyes but she kept quiet.

Cai Yan sounded like she was having a headache. “Yang Chen, why did you anger the Shanxi Wang family?”

“Shanxi Wang family?”

“It’s Wang An, the guy who came here to do business this year and got elected as a committee in the CPPCC.” Cai Yan was upset. “He called the police station, saying that you asked the gangsters to beat him up and Lanlan injured his son heavily. He insisted that we handle it tomorrow or he will report this back to his family.”

Yang Chen smiled, this guy was really efficient. He actually went to the police. No wonder he mentioned that he had connections with the police station.

“The Wang family seemed to be arrogant.”

“His background was not as simple. Although the four most powerful families are the four from Beijing, this is only considered the central government. If we are talking about regions, there are many families that have existed for a long time. They all have deep roots and influential powers. After all, we are far away from home and the dragon can’t overwhelm the ground snake. Many of the Wang family ancestors were warlords at the central regions and the current patriarch of the family, Wang Yinglai is an old general during my grandfather’s era. Although many of the Wangs are doing business now, two years ago the eldest son of the Wangs became the deputy secretary despite his young age. Beijing will have to show courtliness to the Wang family now, as they have their own army. Even the Ning family and Li family can’t compare.”

Yang Chen whistled. “A strong background indeed.”

“How are you still whistling so leisurely? I am so depressed right now. The Wangs are not the ones that you can simply suppress. They actually have armed troops!” Cai Yan said angrily.

“You hasn’t our Chief Cai always been hating criminals. You can just arrest such a scoundrel for me right?” Yang Chen teased.

“You think I don’t want to? That Wang An is here to gain some political achievements. But he has a strong background. He is blood-related to the Wang family and his cousin is the eldest son of the family. Our Cai family didn’t even have solid military power. What am I supposed to fight him with? If my father knows that I got into trouble with the Wang family, he will surely ask me to resign and return to Beijing. But then again, anyone can be a part of the political committee now. I don’t even know whether they represent music fans or movie fans.”

Yang Chen said weakly, “How can I understand all these? I am really not in the mood to play these idiotic games with them. Why don’t I pay Shanxi a visit and beat them up?”

“Are you crazy?! What if the Wang family got pissed and started a riot?! Will you be able to kill millions of people?”

Yang Chen thought about it and agreed. Looks like it would not be a good idea to push them to their wits end.

Although he was reluctant, Yang Chen felt that showing the identity of the Yang family and letting the issue pass in a small way, so he said, “Just tell that person for my identity in the Yang family. I am not interested in breaking their official road. Just let them go their own way. Don’t cause any trouble.”

Cai Yan thought about it and said, “I guess that will work. Since you agree in exposing your identity then I shall tell him. I know you do not like suppressing people with your background, hence, I did not mention the possibility.”

Yang Chen was about to say something, but Cai Yan seemed to be quite busy and said, “I guess I am done then. A friend has asked me out to eat and was waiting for some time. See you another day, bye-bye...”

Yang Chen had not even responded when the woman had already hung up the phone.

Raising his eyebrows in confusion, Yang Chen had a bad feeling. A friend asked her out to eat at this time? Waiting for a long time? Could it be a man? Previously the surnamed Wei disguised as a person came for work cooperation but was actually trying to hook up with her.

Although he often met with the women, they did not have much time spent together. Yang Chen felt that he should get a deeper understanding of women’s social circles.

Lin Ruoxi behind then asked, “Is that the Wang An guy? Is their family that influential?”

Yang Chen turned around and said while smiling, “I am here if anything happens, rest assured.”

Back home, Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma knew what happened and both felt completely helpless.

Guo Xuehua knew about the Wang family and felt worried, but she still thought about Lanlan's condition first and asked, "Then will Lanlan still be going to Yun Hua kindergarten? If the kids there continue to ignore Lanlan, that's so disappointing."

"What does Lanlan think. Do you want to go to kindergarten tomorrow?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

Lanlan tilted her head and thought for a while. Then she nodded seriously, "Yes, Lanlan cannot escape. Lanlan is a good child."

Lin Ruoxi smiled comfortably, "If other children don't play with Lanlan, you should tell your teachers but no more crying, okay?"

Lanlan nodded her head and fiddled with her new barbie doll. She had already made peace with her past.

In the next two days, Lanlan went back to kindergarten but nothing much happened. After all, the children were not known to hold grudges.

It's just that Xiao Ya and Lanlan's closest friends did not dare to get in touch with her too much as they still had a faint shadow in their hearts.

Lin Ruoxi started working back as usual. New Year was approaching, the department stores under her were all extremely busy.

Yang Chen first went to Li Jingjing who was working in the education bureau and after bringing her back home to meet Guo Xuehua, then told everything about his true identity to the woman.

Li Jingjing never expected Yang Chen's identity to change so quickly after a year without seeing him. What's more unimaginable was, she herself would be starting the mysterious and profound 'cultivation'!

However, Li Jingjing had witnessed many of Yang Chen's extraordinary actions so she was not too surprised. But she started relatively late and was worried that she would not be able to catch up.

Yang Chen was planning to go to Li Jingjing's house to pay Old Li and his wife a visit. After all, they were one of his father and mother-in-laws, so they should meet instead of hiding here and there.

But Li Jingjing did not want to rush things. She wanted to let them have some mental preparation before letting them know just in case they were against it. Yang Chen felt that it was reasonable as well so he let the woman arrange it herself.

After waiting for Li Jingjing to settle down, he returned to Yu Lei Entertainment Company.

As a superior, Yang Chen walked into the office building and even made many employees feel uncomfortable.

After seeing Hannya in the office, she looked more and more accustomed to the urban lifestyle. Hannya wore a black and white uniform. Her beautiful body shape looked extremely eye-catching as she stood in the office and bowed respectfully.

A feeling of guilt rushed into Yang Chen's heart. He felt irresponsible, not just because he placed the beauty of the Yamaha Sect here as his secretary but also gave her all the work.

Hannya's slave training since young had caused her to work hard and not be resentful. After seeing Yang Chen, there was only joy and a deep sense of nostalgia in her beautiful eyes.

There wasn't any anger.

Chapter 1149 - Incense

### **Incense**

Perhaps it was due to the accumulated guilt or perhaps his heart was gradually growing warmer towards her. Yang Chen surprised himself as he found himself wanting to appease this female ninja.

"You've worked hard these days." Yang Chen smiled awkwardly. He stepped forward, patting Hannya's back gently.

At that moment, Hannya looked as if an electric current had run down her back. She wasn't sure what came over her as she stood there stiffly, eyes turning red and damp.

Yang Chen was shocked. Even he did not know what was happening. "What's wrong with you?" Yang Chen asked.

"Sorry Master, I...I am just...so touched..." said Hannya as she immediately lifted her head and bowed again.

Yang Chen wasn't sure if he was supposed to laugh or cry as he said, "There's nothing touching about this. I'm the one who should apologize. Although I am your boss, you are still the great leader of the Yamaha Sect. You are above this."

Hannya shook her head while smiling. "No, it's not like that at all. My colleagues treat me as an ordinary woman, so I really enjoy working here. I can feel everyone's genuineness and even experience the joy of ordinary people."

"It's good for you to experience this. I was worried that you might end up hating me, or think that I am torturing you on purpose. Actually, I'm quite a lazy person and anything I achieve is basically forced out of me. I certainly admire your concentration and dedication towards your work. I'm definitely not as good as you in managing the company," Yang Chen laughed.

Hannya looked at Yang Chen and said softly, "Master...how kind of you..."

A shudder ran through Yang Chen when he noticed the flirtiness in the girl's eyes. "Don't look at me that way. I'll feel embarrassed."

Hannya blushed and said with a smile, "No one has ever treated me with such gentleness. Ever since I met my master, I've finally experienced the joy of life."

"Enough with that, I am starting to get goosebumps." Yang Chen smiled oddly and continued, "If you were to completely turn into an urban white-collar worker, I'll have to find someone else to be the leader of the Yamaha Sect. I certainly don't want the Yamaha Sect to turn into a legal company."

Hannya shook her head. "That'll never happen. Working is fun but killing people excites me too."

Yang Chen supposed that this woman had quite an interesting preference. He decided that it would be better to not invest in anyone else for now. He already had way too many women in his life.

A call arrived when Yang Chen was about to sit down.

Yang Chen took a quick glance at his phone and saw that it was a call from Beijing. He picked up the call. Indeed, it was a call from Yang Gongming.

“Hey old man, why have you called me this early?”

“Hmph, your attitude still hasn’t changed. Can’t you be more respectful, you little prick,” Yang Gongming said with much dissatisfaction.

“You might not like it if I were to speak in such a cheesy way,” Yang Chen said with a lopsided smile on his face.

Yang Gongming was not interested in continuing on about this matter and said, “That old man from the Wang family called me. Did you beat up his grandson?”

“Aish...I thought this matter had already been settled. I have asked Cai Yan to tell Wang An who I was. He still dared to report back home?”

“It’s not just about reporting back home. The Wang clan is accustomed to Shanxi and they’ve never bothered the families from Beijing. You might not know this but when the General Secretary went for an overseas interview, the surnamed Wang old man summoned the surrounding army and engaged in a military parade.”

“In that case, are they forcing me to make a statement?”

“Hey, Wang Yinglai called me personally. He sounded polite but he clearly pointed out that he wanted you to make a trip to Shanxi and pay him a visit. If we don’t give them face and apologize for your mistakes, their Wang clan will be another enemy of our Yang clan. It should have not been an issue but old Wang’s networks are very extensive. Many heavy industry companies are also in his territory. If he wants to ruin our Yang clan’s wealth and cause us trouble, he has many ways to do it.”

Yang Chen squinted and said, “So old man, what do you plan to do?”

“Me?” Yang Gongming snorted, “I am just a simple old man who has those few acres of land planting vegetables in his spare time. Catching small flies is fine, but running around to catch such big prey? Nah, I don’t have the time and effort for that.”

“That means I have to do the job?”

“You said it. I didn’t say anything. However...I should remind you that the entirety of the Wang clan is a minefield. You may choose to not touch it. But if you do touch it, you need to get rid of the entire piece completely. It’s best not to give it any more chances to explode back into your face...”

Yang Chen chuckled lightly and hung up the phone without listening any further.

After thinking for a while, Yang Chen said to Hannya who was beside him, “Hannya, pay a visit to Shanxi for me after this.”



Hannya was a bit puzzled. "Master, what's there to do in Shanxi? That's certainly not a place for a vacation."

"It's not for vacation. I need you to...secretly eliminate someone for me. I need his death to be inconspicuous and an accident, do you understand me?" Yang Chen said with his tone dripping with malice.

Hannya expressed a trace of excitement. "Understood..."

For Hannya, there were many different ways a person could 'die by accident'. That was provided that there was enough backup. However, Yang Chen chose not to do it by himself. This was either because he didn't care about it or it was inconvenient for him to do it. He needed his secret weapon to help him.

Yang Chen's thoughts were this exactly. Since it would be a lot of trouble to lay hands on the Wang clan from the outside, he might as well just send an assassin to do the trick.

As for the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, they used to prevent the movements of the Yamaha Sect ninjas. However, their current general was Cai Yuncheng. He didn't think his father in law would do anything to suppress him.

After telling Hannya the details of his request, she immediately left and went to prepare.

Yang Chen looked at the company's recent operations and noticed that most of them were well executed. Their profit level had an obvious increase in the fourth quarter.

At noon, Zhao Teng brought some documents into the office. He said while smiling, "Director Yang, the film crew sent us a message and said that 'Jian Xian' is about to wrap up. According to our usual tradition, we should host a celebration party for the crew and actors. Does the director have any thoughts on this matter?"

Yang Chen was stunned. "Is that the movie from Director Yu Shuo?"

"You're right."

Yang Chen couldn't help but feel emotional. It was Hui Lin's first movie. Without noticing, the filming had ended. Although the post-production would take another few months, it was as good as complete.

"You can go ahead and arrange it. When the time comes, do let me know. I'll definitely be there," Yang Chen felt that since he was already there to support Hui Lin, he should also reward the film crew.

Zhao Teng nodded. As he was about to go out, Yang Chen stopped him.

"Oh right, why didn't I see Wang Jie?" Yang Chen did not see his other deputy assistant.

Zhao Teng blushed, "Wang Jie...she's pregnant now and she's at home."

Yang Chen saw that his expression shifted slightly and laughed. "Did you two..."

Zhao Teng smiled stiffly. "Hehe, when Director Yang wasn't here, we went back to our hometown to complete our marriage procedures."

Yang Chen let out a long sigh. He was busy running around so he did not notice the many things happening around him. He congratulated Zhao Teng and promised to give both of them a bigger bonus by the end of the year.

The Ning residence, Beijing.

Ning Guangyao rarely had time to read newspapers or drink tea. He sat on a chair in his study while tapping the desk with one hand, with a slight frown on his face. It was as if he were pondering on something.

A member of the Ning clan stood at the door of the study. After he reported what he had to say, he retreated silently.

On the soft chair on both sides of Ning Guangyao's study, here were two men in a navy blue and white coat respectively.

The two men seemed to be in their forties and had mediocre-looking features. However, they looked extremely arrogant.

"Ning Guangyao, these men that you trained are all complete morons. After searching for so long, we still can't find any trace of Ning Guodong," said the man in the navy blue coat.

Ning Guangyao smiled worriedly. "Elder Ning Xin is right. I must find some time to do something about it."

Ning Xin snorted and said, "The Fourth Master asked me and Ning De to look after you. Next, he also wanted us to examine you and see if you can truly support this branch. If you can't even find Ning Guodong, forget about your position. Then, our Ning clan will have to train a new inheritor to control the secular Ning clan."

### **Chapter 1150 The Morning of Winter**

The words might not have seemed like a big deal but they entered Ning Guangyao's ears like pricking needles.

Ning Guangyao broke out in cold sweat. He quickly got up and went to meet Ning Xin and Ning De. He cupped his hand in salute. "Yes yes...Guangyao understands. Rest assured, it will be fine. Please do convey my determination to the grandfathers in the Ning clan I will not fail the Ning clan."

"There's no use in boasting. You couldn't even find a single trace of Ning Guodong. Do you still think it's possible for you to marry again and have children at this age? You still have to train that heir should you have one. You are a premier and your wife has just passed away. The Ning clan in the secular world can't have such a scandal on their heads," Ning De said strictly.

Ning Guangyao smirked and said, "To be honest, Guangyao still has a daughter born in my early years. She can be considered as a half-sister of Guodong. My daughter is now a well-known female entrepreneur and she is definitely more talented than Guodong. I didn't dare to recognize her as my daughter because I was afraid that Guodong would be upset. I was also worried about our clan's reputation. However, if Guodong was nowhere to be found, I could treat her children as my grandchildren. I could even let her become my next successor. If I were to recognize her as my daughter,

those rich families would never dare to say anything about it. By doing so, we can successfully solve the problem of finding a successor.”

“Nonsense! How can a daughter born to your lover not be criticized by other families?!” Ning De said angrily.

Ning Guangyao waved his hands and said, “In the past, my daughter could not be showcased in front of the others. However now, she is married to the eldest grandson of the Yang clan, Yang Chen. He is a person who isn’t afraid of anything at all. He also has a strong friendship with Li Dun of the Li clan, not to mention the support of the Tang clan. If she were to temporarily take over the Ning clan with her identity as the lady and the matron of the Yang clan, no one would dare to step out and question that matter. If anyone were to do so, Yang Chen would step in. When my daughter gives birth to a few children, as long as one of the children holds the surname Ning, then they can continue our bloodline, isn’t that so?”

Ning Xin and Ning De glanced at each other with great surprise.

“If things are as you’ve said, with this type of background, we can create an alliance with the Yang clan. It would be amazing if everything were to go well. The Fourth Master has told us to be careful of Yang Chen. However, if he could become one of us, that would be best. After all, the secular Ning clan needs to continuously expand our influential powers. I would need plenty of time and resources to establish a new branch of the clan anyway. If you could find a suitable successor, we would naturally not do anything to you,” Ning Xin said.

“But then, would your daughter be willing to acknowledge you? If they aren’t willing to help you, wouldn’t all of these go to waste?”

Ning Guangyao quickly said, “ Please, don’t worry. I know my own daughter quite well. She is quite like her mother. ‘Family affection’ being their greatest weakness. I would only need to put in a little effort and somehow I’m sure she would change her mind.”

“Then you’d better be quick and act on it, just in case.”

Ning Guangyao confidently said, “Now, there’s something that can bring our relationship closer to the Yang clan. The Wang clan in Shanxi is having some trouble with the Yang clan. To my understanding, those people from the Wang clan are not a match for Yang Gongming and Yang Chen. However, the Wang clan has a strong organizational foundation. Even if their main force falls, their seedlings will thrive. That is why after the Yangs make a move, I’ve decided to provide some assistance to help the Yang clan get rid of the trouble. The Wang clan has been operating in Shanxi for many years with rich financial resources. The central government has wanted to do something about them for some time. However, they lack front strikers. Since the Yang clan is leading the way now, we can improve our relationship with them and share some of the benefits...”

Ning Xin and Ning De’s eyes lit up after listening to what he said. They complimented him, “Ning Guangyao, we are much older than you but in terms of scheming, we are no match with you. Everything is still under your control despite seeming messy from the outside.”

Ning Guangyao shook his head humbly. “My elders are flattering me. I’m still hoping for you both to put in a few good words for me...”

A few days later, the end of November arrived.

These days Yang Chen has been spending a lot of time in the company. Although he was not managing many things, he still hosted a few meetings and participated in a few events. He saw it as a little spice in his leisure time.

Hannya had completed her mission in Shanxi. Without being noticed, she silently took the life of the Wang clan patriarch.

The result of the forensic report stated that it was a suicide case by gun. In reality, the truth was that Hannya injected a psychedelic drug into Wang Yinglai's body. This caused his cerebral cortex to wrongly perceive that his entire body was in great pain. In the end, he could not bear the pain and killed himself.

Such a potion was nothing special in the underground world. The only problem was that not many people could administer the drug without being caught.

When Wang Yinglai collapsed, the Wang clan naturally thought that it was related to the Yang clan. Without even waiting for the Wang clan to mobilize their troops for a riot, the Ning clan had already severely beaten them in terms of politics!

The eldest grandson of the Wang clan is the Deputy Secretary of the Shanxi province. He was found to have received more than two billion worth of bribery. Even all the bribery in the property sector was exposed as well. He was condemned by the netizens on the internet. At the same time, he was also preparing himself to be sent to the criminal court.

It was a huge defeat for the Wang clan from the two-fold attack by the Yang and Ning clans. After the Wang clan lost their organizational core, they started spending money to eliminate various disasters. This caused the entire clan to become a chaotic mess. It seems that it would be difficult for them to restore their vitality in less than ten years.

Yang Chen was not really interested in knowing what would happen to the Wang clan. However, the attitude of the Ning clan puzzled both Yang Chen and Yang Gongming.

Although this time, the Ning clan's assistance could not be counted as a major part, it was still a huge reason why the Wangs dismissed their idea of revenge.

No matter what angle one sees it from, the Ning clan clearly stood at the side of the Yang clan this time. It was quite obvious that they were trying to please them.

Ning Guangyao ended up calling Yang Gongming privately. He even told him that they would try to cooperate with them as much as they could. This call made even the well experienced Yang Gongming puzzled. He could not see what he was trying to do at all.

After what happened with the Wang clan, the tit-for-tat between the Yang and Ning clan surprisingly calmed down. Many of the previously broken off connections were also reconnected.

If someone were to assist you and you did not repay them, people would have nothing else to do but to gossip. That was why although Yang Gongming and Yang Chen felt that things were not as simple as it seemed, they did not retaliate.

After Hannya had completed her mission, Yang Chen gave her a vacation. Since she was no longer allowed to stay in Zhonghai, she could only head back to Japan. She could take this chance to meet her Yamaha Sect subordinates who she had not seen in quite a while.

During this period of time, Yang Chen urged the women to cultivate as usual and took some time to refine some Chinese elixirs. Most of them had steady improvements. That was other than Li Jingjing who just started cultivating. With the help of the elixirs, her True Qi reached the summit rapidly, but her overall change was not big.

Yang Chen could not help but feel anxious when he saw such a situation. Despite feeling anxious, he was also helpless.

Heavy frost and fog covered the sky on an early winter morning.

It was still dark outside although it was almost six o'clock.

In the bedroom of a woman in the Xijiao villa, a fascinating fragrance filled the air.

On a wide and soft bed, An Xin laid on Yang Chen's chest like a kitten. Her snowy white shoulders were exposed on the silk quilt but she was not cold as the heater was turned on.

From the way her face was pressed against his chest, her lips puckered up to reveal a tiny gap in between. A thin, glistening thread of saliva hung from the corner of her lips onto Yang Chen's chest.

Yesterday's storm made the woman extremely exhausted and she couldn't care less about her sleeping posture.

These days were peaceful. Lin Ruoxi still continued to sleep with Lanlan. Yang Chen could not bear the loneliness any longer and went out at midnight, going back and forth between the women's residences.

Usually, Yang Chen would wake up and head back home for breakfast after an hour. It was as if nothing had ever happened.

He did expect his family to know something about what he does. The thing is, no one would have the audacity to comment on it.

However today, at this very moment, Yang Chen opened his eyes!

He sat up and shook off An Xin who was on his chest!

"Ouch!"

An Xin was disturbed while she was in a deep sleep. Although she was still in bed, she was very annoyed. She said in a tender yet resentful voice, "Honey what are you doing, I still want to sleep..."

Yang Chen turned his head over rigidly, staring at the charming goblin who was still. He smiled excitedly saying, "I can feel it! Rose has had a breakthrough!"