

Chapter 1161 - It Is My Fault

It Is My Fault

Zhang Guoping wiped the blood off his face and realized that two of his teeth had loosened. Rage built up in his chest. However, he didn't dare challenge Cai Yan, as he was aware that she once trained in the special forces.

Instead, he went to find his uncle, Director Zhou. What could Cai Yan possibly do in face of his uncle?

He glared at her with all his might before turning with a wave, signaling everyone else to leave with him.

However, before he could even step out of the door, a silhouette blocked his way.

Zhang Guoping looked up with a nasty laugh, "What are you doing?"

Yang Chen said in an indifferent manner, "You cursed at my woman and called her a b*tch. I can't let you go."

"Why? Are you planning on assaulting a police officer!?" Zhang Guoping raised his voice.

Yang Chen sighed, and as he shook his head, his leg went straight to Zhang Guoping's third leg!

"Owh!!!"

With a loud groan and widened eyes, Zhang Guoping moaned and curled up on the ground while covering his crotch.

"Sir!! Sir!!"

His fellow subordinates were dumbfounded. How come Yang Chen was even more brutal than Cai Yan!?

Liquid oozed out of Zhang Guoping's covered crotch, but it was hard to tell if it was blood or something else as a nasty smell spread out.

The remaining officers quickly pulled him up and left immediately.

Father Xiao sighed at the sight of this, "Chief Cai, mister, you guys didn't have to do this. It'll only bring you trouble. That fatty Zhang's identity isn't simple. His uncle is acquainted with Lei Zhengfu. He's a henchman, and his uncle will definitely tell Lei Zhengfu about today's incident. Return to the city quickly!"

Cai Yan smiled and tried to console him. "Uncle Xiao, it's fine. I'd rather he come to us. Tell us quickly if anything peculiar happened before Xiao Ye's passing. Is there any evidence that would link this to Lei Zhengfu? I must arrest him!"

Father Xiao trembled at the mention of his son's name. He exhaled heavily and said, "Lei Zhengfu brought people over to my house again last night, insisting that we accept his red packet that comprised fifty thousand dollars. However, we refused. Perchance we accepted his money, that would be equivalent to bribery and we'd be his accomplices, so Xiao Ye and I chased them out. Xiao Ye even told me we should persuade the others to not vote for Lei Zhengfu, but I didn't expect... I didn't expect him to...to..."

Father Xiao choked with sobs, unable to complete his sentence.

A woman standing by the side felt indignant, and said, "Lei Zhengfu is heartless. His family has been living in our town for years, but he's the worst yet! He sent out thugs to harass families that refuse to accept his gifts until they were forced to take it. As for those like Xiao Ye, a public servant, he couldn't harass them, so he kept giving them red packets, forcing them to take them. Xiao Ye was a good kid, and he told us if Lei Zhengfu were elected, our town would be polluted. Lei Zhengfu must have held a grudge against him because of this!"

"Lei Zhengfu has people on both sides. Two university students from our town tried to look for a leader in the city. They failed to meet the leader, and Lei Zhengfu's subordinates from the underworld saw them and reported to him. Once they returned home, his subordinates beat them up and turned them into idiots! Lei Zhengfu is the most powerful person in our town now, so no one dares to defy him. Xiao Ye was brave, but he couldn't take him down. How unfortunate..."

"He wants to tell everyone that we will die if we don't vote for him." One of the older men was enraged.

Cai Yan's face was icy cold after hearing their stories. "Xiao Ye... where is he now?"

Father Xiao replied with a low voice, "He was sent to the hospital. Chief Cai, can you bring me there? I have not seen him yet."

No one brought him to see his son's remains because of Zhang Guoping.

Cai Yan responded softly and motioned Yang Chen to bring him to the hospital.

Once they arrived at the hospital, the nurse brought them to Xiao Ye, and they could finally see Xiao Ye, who was lying on a hospital bed lifelessly.

His expression was so calm it made their hearts wrench.

Father Xiao broke down next to the bed when he saw his son, tears flowing down his wrinkly face.

Yang Chen sighed with a heavy heart.

He had just met Xiao Ye a few days ago when he accompanied Cai Yan in a nightclub. He almost beat him up because of that.

Unfortunately, he was no longer alive now.

In Yang Chen's eyes, he was just a stranger, a rival that stood no chance against him. It baffled him that he was feeling down because of an insignificant person.

In Cai Yan's eyes, Xiao Ye was her classmate in university. Someone who had a crush on her, a righteous, kind, and handsome young man.

Cai Yan shed tears silently and asked Yang Chen with a low voice while looking at Xiao Ye, "Why? Why is God so unfair to him... What did he do wrong? He was just trying to do his job... I thought good men will always be rewarded... Xiao Ye's still young, and he worked so hard to enroll in a police academy to be a public servant. He had so many dreams yet to be fulfilled, and his life was just picking up... So many criminals are still alive, so why did he have to go first? How could he die in such a meaningless way..."

Yang Chen couldn't answer her. Human lives could be so insignificant at times, and he could usually ignore it entirely. Only, sometimes it would make his heart feel heavy.

When he killed people, he never thought about their background, their stories, nor would he care about the repercussions.

However, Yang Chen couldn't help but mourn for this young man.

Human lives weren't valuable because of their own lives, but because of what they had experienced.

This realization caused Yang Chen to fall deep into his thoughts, and he forgot about his surroundings momentarily.

It turned out that humans were grandeur as a result of their insignificance.

At this time, the nurse in charge of cleaning Xiao Ye's remains came forward. After hesitating for a while, she told Father Xiao, "Uncle, your son... while we were changing his clothes, we found cuts on his back..."

Father Xiao looked up with tearful eyes as he muttered, "What cuts..."

Yang Chen and Cai Yan snapped out of their senses. Zhang Guoping told them that there were no signs of a fight, so why did the nurse say he had wounds?

"This can't be. I didn't see any wounds when the hospital took my son away." Father Xiao replied.

The nurse looked out of the door and made sure no one was around before whispering to them, "His wounds dried up, so there wasn't much blood. His clothes covered his wounds so no one could see it until we took off his clothes. We informed the police station about this, but Director Zhang warned us not to tell you. I figured it's immoral to keep it hidden from you. I felt restless about this, and I think he was murdered. Someone wrote on his back with a dagger..."

"What!?" Cai Yan gasped.

Yang Chen squinted his eyes and walked up to Xiao Ye to pull his shirt up, ignoring the nurse's effort in stopping him.

Father Xiao and Cai Yan were shocked to see Xiao Ye's wounded back.

Someone had written bloody covered words on his back with a dagger, "Report to the police, and you will go to hell!"

Father Xiao sucked in a sharp breath. His eyes rolled back, and he fainted from rage!

"Uncle Xiao!" Cai Yan gasped. Her lips turned pale as she held onto Father Xiao alongside the nurse.

The nurse quickly called over the hospital staff to carry Father Xiao out for medical treatment.

Cai Yan stared at Xiao Ye with a dazed expression. "It... it's my fault... Why am I so foolish... It's my fault he died..."

Yang Chen's heart wrenched at her reaction, as he hugged her. "Don't say that, no matter how good you are at hiding it, even if you didn't help him, Lei Zhengfu will still discover your existence and kill him!"

Cai Yan kept her eyes shut, not daring to look at Xiao Ye again. She clenched her fist and turned to Yang Chen. With a trembling voice, she said, "Hubby, can you help me with something?"

Chapter 1162

So Easy

Yang Chen could tell what she was planning to do. "Say it."

"I want to murder him..."

Yang Chen grinned. "That doesn't sound appropriate coming from a police officer. You're planning to handle this all by yourself?"

Cai Yan nodded with a bitter expression. Her voice was solemn as she said, "I've always thought we should arrest the bad guys and bring them to justice. Only by punishing them according to the law can society be protected. Only, now I've realized that law and regulations don't work all the time. I've never thought about it this way because it has never happened to me. I'm too naive..."

"You're not naive. The law and regulations aren't good enough. At least this time, they lost to wealth, power, and even massive people."

Cai Yan was quiet for a moment before saying, "Let's go to Lei Zhengfu's place, I...I want to avenge Xiao Ye with my own hands."

Yang Chen naturally obliged to her request. He wouldn't even flinch even if he had to wipe out his family, as long as it made her happy.

Since Lei Zhengfu's mansion was in town, they went straight to his house right after leaving the hospital.

While they were on their way there, Cai Yan received a call from the police station, but she hung up shortly after.

Yang Chen chuckled when he saw her icy expression. "Was that Zhang Guoping's uncle?"

"Mmh," Cai Yan answered while driving. "Zhou Zhidong made his wife enter the Agricultural Bank headquarters by abusing his powers as a director of the Public Security Department. He's corrupted. I've never liked him."

"Then, just ignore him. Who cares what he says. I'll kill him if he dares to do anything to you." Yang Chen chuckled.

Cai Yan looked at him with a loving gaze, finally smiling. "I can now understand why you can still stay cheerful, even after experiencing immeasurable pain. You do it by simplifying things and killing those who cross you, am I right?"

"Don't make it sound so easy, and not everyone can do it. I'm different from others because they can't do anything about the people I've killed."

"I've found myself a good man then," Cai Yan teased him.

"Now you know." Yang Chen gave a bitter laugh.

They joked around, and the heavy burden was slightly lifted from their chests. Soon, they arrived at Lei Zhengfu's house.

He built a five-story house with his own money. Even though it didn't look good, one could tell he spent loads of money on it.

The land where the house was built was around one thousand square meters, and it all belonged to the Lei family. Judging the luxurious garden and the parking lot, the cost must have been considerably high.

Lei Zhengfu had done numerous evil deeds, so it was natural for him to hire security guards to protect his family.

A big group of hired thugs ran up to them as Cai Yan's police car entered the parking lot. Two of them even pulled fierce dogs along, showing no signs of warm hospitality.

Yang Chen and Cai Yan got out of the car and walked to the main gate directly.

Lei Zhengfu's brother, Lei Heng, walked out of the gate with his subordinates.

He was startled for a second when he saw them, but he quickly recovered with a wicked smile. "No wonder you looked familiar. Isn't this Director Xiao's girlfriend, Cai Yan? Why are you wearing a uniform?"

"Stop acting, didn't you guys find out I'm a police officer ages ago?" Cai Yan sneered.

"I don't know what you're saying, Cai Yan. I only found out about it when I saw you wearing the uniform."

"Cut the crap. Where is Lei Zhengfu?" Cai Yan questioned him.

Lei Heng crossed his arms and said proudly, "Madam, you can't break into our house without a warrant. You can't do anything about my brother's whereabouts."

"You..."

Yang Chen stopped her when he noticed she was getting furious. "Cai Yan, you still don't get it. It'll take forever if you keep talking nonsense with them."

"What should I do then? I want to kill Lei Zhengfu." Cai Yan was puzzled.

"If we're killing Lei Zhengfu, his people need not be alive either." Yang Chen smiled.

"Ah..." Cai Yan wanted to say something, but Yang Chen had already made a move!

With a flash, he had reappeared in front of Lei Heng!

Lei Heng couldn't even react when Yang Chen gripped his neck!

His buff body was pulled up by Yang Chen, and with a little bit of pressure on his neck, he stopped breathing!

Yang Chen said nothing as he tossed his body to the stairs behind the main gate. It flew around twenty to thirty meters high before landing with a curve!

The thugs stared at him in disbelief, upon seeing how their leader had died so abruptly!

Yang Chen waved his hands at Cai Yan, beckoning her to follow.

No one dared to come closer. They were grateful for not peeing themselves, even after witnessing such a scene.

Yang Chen wasn't interested in killing the thugs anyway. He brought Cai Yan through the gate, and they walked past the garden before arriving at the main door.

Lei Zhengfu was home, just as expected. He had rushed out of the door, having witnessed his brother being tossed out of the gate.

However, Yang Chen was surprised to see someone who had come out together with Lei Zhengfu.

Next to him was Wang An, the guy he had met in kindergarten!

Yang Chen thought he had returned to Shanxi, and he never expected to meet him here!

Wang An's face turned ghastly pale when he saw Yang Chen. He almost ran away, but he wasn't bold enough to do so. Instead, he stood still with a terrified expression.

"Lei Heng!!!"

Lei Zhengfu roared when he realized his brother had died from a broken neck.

His face turned ferocious as he hugged his brother's corpse. "You...How dare you kill my brother!?"

"Why? Xiao Ye deserved to die but not your brother?" Yang Chen mocked him.

Lei Zhengfu stared at him with an eerie gaze. "He deserved it...he refused to accept my offer and tried to con me with a police officer... Humph, I need not talk nonsense with you guys. How dare you kill my brother? I will kill you two! Stop staring and kill them!!"

With Lei Zhengfu's command, his subordinates gritted their teeth as they dashed forward, trying to kill them.

Yang Chen had no plans on moving, glancing at Cai Yan instead. These guys would be more suited for her.

Cai Yan was trying to unleash her fury, and these thugs were the perfect sandbags.

It wasn't hard for her to beat them up, having graduated from the special forces. Besides, she also had the True Qi from being in the peak of Houtian.

She knocked the thugs down one by one as she flung her punches and kicks accurately.

However, Cai Yan didn't kill them since she wasn't the same as Yang Chen. She only broke one of their legs at most.

Lei Zhengfu finally realized things were going south as he witnessed his subordinates being taken down. He pulled Wang An and tried to flee, but Yang Chen stopped them.

He blocked their way, swung his leg, and broke their legs!

Wang An exclaimed from the pain, begging for mercy. Yang Chen stepped on his head and asked, "You, I thought you said you were going back to Shanxi? Why are you here?"

"I...I have a business to do with Boss Lei...I...I'm going back to Shanxi after that...please let me go..." Wang An wailed.

Yang Chen squinted his eyes but didn't believe him. He turned to Lei Zhengfu for clarification. "Is he telling the truth?"

Lei Zhengfu hesitated at first, but he still nodded while trembling.

Yang Chen smirked, "If you tell me the truth, I promise that I will only kill him. I won't kill you."

"Really!?" Lei Zhengfu was thrilled.

Wang An shouted, "Lei Zhengfu! You can't do this!! You can't do this to me!!"

Lei Zhengfu couldn't care less about him. "We have a mining business, but this time he asked me to kidnap a girl for him, but it didn't work out..."

Murderous intent filled Yang Chen's eyes, and he sneered, "I knew it. None of my enemies would lay their hands on my daughter... Why? Does the Wang clan plan to threaten me with my daughter? Or was it your own idea?"

Wang An was devastated, and he said helplessly, "It was my idea... My clan has given up on me. I wanted to try my luck... Young master Yang, I know I won't survive, but please don't kill my son, I beg of you..."

Yang Chen didn't let him finish his sentence, breaking his skull with his feet.

He wasn't the slightest bit interested in hearing him out, for he dared to harm his daughter.

However, Yang Chen was convinced that Wang An did it because of a personal grudge. The Yang and Ning clan had oppressed the Wang clan; they wouldn't be that foolish, thinking they could be saved by kidnapping a young girl.

Lei Zhengfu gagged from seeing Yang Chen's brutal way of murder. The way he cracked Wang An's skull open was utterly disgusting, and the floor was covered with pieces of brain and blood.

"Master... I... Can I leave now..." Lei Zhengfu begged him.

Yang Chen grinned at him and glanced at Cai Yan, who was walking toward them with a stern expression. "No can do. I said I wouldn't kill you, but it doesn't mean my woman won't kill you."

"You! You deceived me!!" Lei Zhengfu's face turned ashen. Humiliation, resentment, and fear-filled him, and he wanted to bite his tongue off desperately...

Chapter 1163 Sound Of Wind And Rain

Time passed by, and it was already election day for the village head of Dawang Village in Lushan Town.

The only 'hot' pick, Lei Zhengfu, died suddenly at home. Thus, the former village head was re-elected.

The villagers didn't know much about the incident and made guesses about his death. Regardless of the reason behind it, they were still glad to hear of his passing.

The higher-ups sent people over for investigation, and Lei Zhengfu was suspected of expanding the factory illegally, causing pollution around the area. He was also suspected of engaging in illegal activities. Furthermore, even though he was dead, his properties were confiscated. Those acquainted with him were interrogated and sentenced according to the crimes committed.

The paper mill in Dawang Village was shut down, and the government allocated funds to treat the polluted areas. The factory workers were not forgotten, whereby the government promised to take care of their employment.

As the director of the police station in Lushan Town, Zhang Guoping was arrested for bribery and violence.

Back in Zhonghai, disciplinary inspections had occurred because of the incident caused by Lei Zhengfu and Zhang Guoping.

The municipal committee of Zhonghai was shocked to know that this matter had alerted Premier Ning Guangyao who was residing in Beijing!

Ning Guangyao was close to serving for another term in office, so he needed something like this to earn a good reputation. By punishing them personally, this could serve as an excellent warning to the political parties.

After a late-night flight from Beijing to Zhonghai, Ning Guangyao suspended the directors of the Public Security Department and the Environmental Protection Department. Those who were associated with Lei Zhengfu were also arrested!

A massive change was taking place in Zhonghai's government, but no one dared to defy or help those who were arrested.

For a moment, the political circle in China became jittery. People were afraid and revered Ning Guangyao. His popularity had increased on the internet, and positive comments were given to the youngest premier in China.

Amidst all these significant changes, Cai Yan's resignation from being a chief seemed like a minor matter.

There were various guesses made in the police department, but the public was more interested to know who would be appointed next.

Back in Yang Chen's house in Xijiao Villas, Guo Xuehua called Xiao Zhiqing and Rose over for mahjong when Lin Ruoxi was out working. She needed one more person, so she also called Cai Yan, who was resting at home, having just resigned from work.

Now that she no longer needed to wear her uniform, her manner of dressing was rather casual, with short hair, a black sweater and tight jeans. It was a pretty youthful look for the winter.

Cai Yan was more careless than An Xin in mahjong, giving pieces to Guo Xuehua voluntarily.

Guo Xuehua was grinning from ear to ear, glad to be able to win consecutive rounds.

The ladies started chatting casually as they were playing. Having met each other regularly and cultivating with the same technique, they had been getting closer with one another.

“Sister Cai Yan, is it true that you won’t be working as a police officer anymore? I heard from hubby you regard it as an honor.” Xiao Zhiqing asked curiously.

Cai Yan stretched her arms casually. “That’s now in the past. I’m bored with it already. Besides, I killed Lei Zhengfu, so I’ve actually committed a crime. A criminal can’t be a police officer.”

“Not really. You were just killing scum.” Rose chuckled.

“Hmph, I’ve had enough of it. I’m tired. Being a police officer comes with many restrictions, and it’s boring. I’ve decided to return to Beijing and accompany my parents. I want to ask my sister if there’s any way to increase my cultivation speed.”

While saying that, Cai Yan inched closer to Rose with a grin. “Sister Rose, you’re so strong. My sister has been cultivating since young, but you’re already in the Soul Forming stage. You’re way ahead of her. Tell me about your insights.”

Rose shrugged, “I would’ve mentioned it if I had any insights. I’m starting to understand why hubby talks about realms. Nothing works if you can’t step into it. I don’t know how to say it; nothing sounds right. Besides, I think everyone has a different ‘Dao’, and yours will only work for you.”

Rose shrugged, “I would’ve mentioned it earlier if I had any of those insights. I am now starting to understand why hubby talks about levels. It won’t work for you if you can’t get there yourself. I don’t know how to phrase it; it doesn’t sound right at all. Besides, I think that everyone has a different ‘Dao/method’ and yours will only work for you.

Cai Yan pouted. “Fine, you’re too mysterious. I’ll ask my sister when I’m back in Beijing.”

“Look at you, pouting so hard. Rose would’ve told you if she knew it. Yang Chen doesn’t even know how to say it, let alone Rose.” Guo Xuehua chided.

Cai Yan giggled. “Mom, I’m just joking...eh! Wait! Why are you winning again?!”

Guo Xuehua revealed her pieces and nodded with a beaming face. “While you guys were distracted, no one was looking at my skills.”

The ladies giggled at her proud expression.

When evening came, Minjuan came home with Lanlan, and the atmosphere at home became merrier.

Soon, Lin Ruoxi returned home. She was slightly bitter to know that Guo Xuehua called the others over for mahjong while she was working.

However, with Cai Yan around, she could find a chance to talk to her childhood best friend. She worried that Cai Yan would be hurt, having heard about her past with Xiao Ye.

Fortunately, Cai Yan was optimistic. She had buried her sorrows and accepted the fact that it was all in the past.

Wang Ma prepared a tasty dinner so that the ladies could stay for dinner. After all, her daughter, Xiao Zhiqing was here.

Mo Qianni's family and An Xin were also invited over for dinner since they lived in the same area.

It would've felt crowded if it wasn't for the vast space in the mansion.

When it was almost time for dinner, Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but ask, "Where's Yang Chen? He's not home yet?"

Guo Xuehua chuckled. "You're only asking this now? Yang Chen's nervous about Jingjing. He's helping them to move."

Lin Ruoxi was reminded of it, and she nodded silently.

After a long persuasion from Li Jingjing, her parents had finally let go of their grudges. They could finally acknowledge Li Jingjing's relationship with Yang Chen.

As a matter of fact, they couldn't oppose it when their daughter had given everything to Yang Chen. Besides, they couldn't deceive themselves and others by asking Yang Chen to give their daughter a proper status since he had become so rich and influential suddenly.

When Li Jingjing told Yang Chen about her parents' decision, Yang Chen jumped down from the second floor and jumped back up from the excitement!

Old Li was his first friend in China, having an essential spot in his heart. It was because Old Li treated him like an average person, and it gave him new hope in life as he felt comforted from the loneliness in his heart.

He had always regretted not being able to meet Old Li often because of Li Jingjing.

Now that her parents had agreed to it, Yang Chen was overjoyed to the point that he ran to their house the next day and drank with them till late at night.

Yang Chen took advantage of their reconciliation and decided to find them a new apartment near the Department of Education since they were still living in the old house.

Apart from it being easier for them to do their health checkups in the hospital, it would also be more convenient for Li Jingjing to take care of them after work.

Although Lin Ruoxi didn't really feel comfortable over the fact that Yang Chen was trying so hard to please them, she still supported him.

Since everyone lived in the same area, they all sat in the living room after dinner to watch the latest K-drama.

Cai Yan left early as she was neither interested in cringy dramas, nor could she understand why the other ladies liked it so much.

Time went by quickly, and it was already 11 o'clock. Mo Qianni and Rose were getting ready to leave since they couldn't possibly stay here overnight just to watch the drama even though they enjoyed it.

Just as they were about to stand up, Rose furrowed her brows. She then said with a grim expression, "That's weird. There seem to be two cultivators in the Soul Forming stage. I wonder whether it'd be a friend or foe..."

Everyone got stunned and turned to look at her.

All others were only in the Houtian stage. However, as Rose was already in the Soul Forming stage, it was natural for her to sense the presence of other cultivators. After hearing her words, the atmosphere suddenly began to tense up.

Chapter 1164 Shameless

Shortly after that, the car engine's roars resounded.

"I think there are at least ten people outside. I'll open the door." Rose took the initiative and walked to the door, worried about the uninvited guests.

She took a deep breath before opening the door, and her expression froze when she saw the man who was walking towards her under the night sky.

Ning Guangyao had a warm smile on his face as he nodded to Rose to greet her.

"Premier... Premier Ning?" Even though Rose wasn't interested in politics, she could still recognize their premier.

However, she couldn't seem to comprehend the reason for Ning Guangyao's visit.

Her attention was then drawn towards the two men dressed in traditional long gowns standing beside him.

Those two were Ning Xin and Ning De, the ones in charge of protecting Ning Guangyao. Even though he was supposed to curry favor with them, they still had to show respect to him while in public.

While Rose was eyeing them, Ning Xin and Ning De were flabbergasted by her as well.

They were already a century-old, and amongst their clan members, they were considered fairly mediocre. Thus, it took them a long time to enter the Soul Forming stage.

However, they had been cultivating in the Border from a young age. Compared to those in the mundane world, they were considered top-notch cultivators.

Rose, on the other hand, was only in her twenties, but she was already in the Soul Forming stage. It was intriguing to know that she was not in the least bit inferior to them.

As a matter of fact, Rose wasn't exactly sure how she had gotten to this stage too.

The women cultivated based on Yang Chen's method, an inscription modified according to the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture. It coincided with Heaven and Earth, whereby the 'Dao' was to become Heaven and Earth.

The ladies couldn't tell the difference before reaching the Soul Forming stage, but as they entered the Soul Forming stage, the benefits that came with his inscriptions surpassed the one that the Border clans used.

This was why Yan Feiyu was greedy for Rose's inscription, having sensed that it was extraordinary.

In simpler terms, even though this inscription wasn't as good as the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture that could reach the heavenly tribulation of the Nine Heavenly Lightning, it was still an outstanding inscription.

"Miss, is this the residence of President Lin Ruoxi from Yu Lei International?"

"Ah...oh, yes, Premier Ning." Rose answered nervously before moving out of the way to let them in.

The ladies froze when they saw the guests.

Lin Ruoxi's face turned pale, panic clear in her eyes. Her body was trembling, and she couldn't calm down.

Guo Xuehua felt surprised and worried. She had to be cautious since things were awkward between the Yang and Ning clan. "Premier Ning, may I know why you are here?"

Ning Guangyao looked at Lin Ruoxi deeply before smiling gently. "Xuehua, you're here too. It's been a long time since we last met. Please drop the formalities, keep it casual with me. I just wanted to see Ruoxi since I had some free time in Zhonghai..."

See Ruoxi? Why did he say it so directly?

Guo Xuehua glanced at her daughter-in-law, who was silently biting her lips.

Wang Ma knew that Lin Ruoxi was Ning Guangyao's daughter, but the others were unaware of it. However, from the looks of it, this secret would be exposed soon.

Ning Guangyao ordered his bodyguards to stay outside, whereas Ning Xin and Ning De walked into the living room while glancing around before checking out Rose and Lin Ruoxi with an intrigued gaze.

The ladies became overcautious when Ning Guangyao came in, and they didn't dare to speak loudly.

After all, Ning Guangyao was their premier, someone they could only see on television. Only a rash person like Yang Chen would ignore his identity.

"There's no need to be nervous, have a seat. I'm really here just to see Ruoxi." Ning Guangyao repeated his sentence and stopped in front of Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi turned around, reminded of the time Ning Guangyao refused to acknowledge her as his daughter. It felt as if someone was rubbing salt into her wound, and she clenched her hands so tightly that she almost cut herself with her fingernails.

Ning Guangyao wasn't weirded out by her silence and continued to smile at her, "Ruoxi, I came here with a sincere heart. Can I talk to you in private?"

Lin Ruoxi took a deep breath with a trembling body.

"I have nothing to say." Her chest felt stuffy as she forced those words out of her mouth.

"I have." Ning Guangyao sounded so sincere that it freaked out everyone else.

Why did it sound like he was begging for a chance to talk to her privately?

Lin Ruoxi looked up, and her heart softened at his pleading gaze.

"We can talk over there," Lin Ruoxi said while turning to the other room.

Ning Guangyao followed her closely with a beaming face.

The ladies didn't dare to follow them, staring at Guo Xuehua with puzzled expressions instead.

"Mom, what's going on? Is Premier Ning related to Sister Ruoxi?" An Xin couldn't hold back her confusion.

Guo Xuehua sighed before telling them about their past.

"What?! Ruoxi is Premier Ning's daughter?!" Rose exclaimed.

"It feels like a dream." Xiao Zhiqing muttered.

"We're family so you guys will come to know of it anyway, but you can't mention this in front of Ruoxi. She doesn't like it," Guo Xuehua warned them.

The ladies nodded. They felt sorry for Lin Ruoxi. Even Mo Qianni couldn't imagine that Lin Ruoxi had led such a rough life, even though she knew Lin Ruoxi the best.

At the same time, Lin Ruoxi had her back faced towards Ning Guangyao as she stared at the night sky.

"Premier Ning, please be quick. It's already late." Lin Ruoxi's voice was ice cold.

Ning Guangyao wasn't bothered by it. He then spoke with a voice filled with emotions, with a hint of remorse audible, "My child, I know that you resent me. I'm ashamed to say this, but I struggled for days before I could muster the courage to come here. I'm here to apologize to you and your mother..."

"Apologize? Hah..." Lin Ruoxi sneered when she heard this. "Please don't joke around, Premier Ning. I come from an ordinary family and I'm just a businesswoman. I'm not worthy of your apology."

Ning Guangyao sighed, "I have to admit that greed blinded me. I've sinned for my reputation... I admit it... But! Ruoxi, you're a smart girl, just like your mom. I'm sure you can understand my situation. As a man of status and power, I... I have to consider so many things and assume so many responsibilities! My days have never been easy, having to live with pressure from all sides. I didn't have the freedom to do as I please. I wouldn't have refused to acknowledge you if I was a free man. I have to answer to my clan members, loyal colleagues, and subordinates. They'd be disappointed if I burdened them with my personal matters. Taking the big picture into consideration, I don't think I've done anything wrong."

"Regardless of my choices, I've been watching you and protecting you secretly. I might not be the best at it, but I'm glad to witness your growth. You have overcome many obstacles and grew to be an excellent adult. I'm not trying to take credit, but even though I never acknowledged you, I gave my best to help with your business. I've done the same things as Lin Zhiguo. I'm not expecting to earn your gratitude..."

But I really hope that you can put yourself in my shoes and consider it. I hope that you can give me a chance to redeem myself and forgive me. I used to be foolish, and now I'm here shamelessly begging for your forgiveness..."

Chapter 1165

Absolute Sword Taoist

Ning Guangyao's eyes had turned red, and they were glistening with regret from that confession.

Lin Ruoxi still had her back facing him. She was trying her best to control her emotions. After a prolonged silence, she finally let out a breath as she said, "There's no need for that... I don't hate you anymore, so you need not ask for my forgiveness. Compared to before, I'm living a good life. I can do what I enjoy... I have my family, my lover, and my child by my side. I'm content. If you want me to have a good life, please don't look for me anymore. I don't want to have anything to do with you."

Ning Guangyao was astonished for a second, but it quickly changed to sorrow. "Ruoxi, you don't even want to look at me? Won't you come back to my side? You're my daughter! If you don't believe in my sincerity as a father, I can give you everything you want. I swear! I'm no longer young, and I don't have many days left. I just hope that I can make it up to you as much as I can. If you're willing to take it, I can give you my position as the clan leader of the Ning clan. I won't have any complaints!"

Lin Ruoxi finally reacted when Ning Guangyao said he would step down as the clan leader for her.

She turned around with her mouth slightly opened as she saw his earnest expression.

Clan leader?

A man like him, who fought for status and power for most of his life, was willing to give her that position?

Lin Ruoxi knew she wanted nothing like that, but the meaning behind it made her waver.

With a deep sigh, she said, "I don't need those things, leave it for your son. My surname is Lin, not Ning."

"No!!" Ning Guangyao cut her off. "You're supposed to be Ning Ruoxi! Not Lin!! Ruoxi, my daughter, can't you acknowledge me as your father, and acknowledge the Ning clan as your own family?! I know you're far better than Guodong. I can step down for you if you're willing to take it! You'll become the clan leader of the greatest clan in China!"

Lin Ruoxi felt suffocated by his confession.

She never imagined Ning Guangyao would come over late at night just to tell her something as 'sensational' like this.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head as she wiped the tears away from the corner of her eyes, "I don't know, please stop talking. I'm tired, so please leave..."

Seeing her pained expression, Ning Guangyao suppressed a smirk and nodded with a solemn expression instead. "Alright, dad won't force you. Take good care of yourself. I'll come over next time..."

Dad...

Lin Ruoxi shuddered at that word. It was a term she had not heard for years.

Ning Guangyao turned around slowly while Lin Ruoxi remained still with a dazed expression. After taking two steps, he turned around again as if reminded of something. With a kind smile, he said, "I came at the wrong time. Lanlan should be asleep, right? I knew that you and Yang Chen adopted a daughter. She's my first granddaughter too. I'll bring presents for her next time."

Having said so, Ning Guangyao glanced at her before leaving reluctantly.

Meanwhile, as they were talking, Guo Xuehua served tea to Ning Xin and Ning De in the living room.

However, they weren't interested in drinking tea, but instead were sneaking glances at the ladies. They were exceptionally interested in Rose.

With a weird smile, Ning Xin asked Rose, "Your cultivation level is exceptional. You're already in the Soul Forming stage at a young age. Are you a wandering cultivator? Or do you belong to a clan?"

Rose furrowed her brows. "Why are you so sure that I'm still young? Even if I'm already a hundred years old, my appearance would still be the same."

Ning De laughed. "You've just made it clear by saying that. We're almost one century old, and we don't judge someone's age from their physical appearance. We can tell your age by looking at your behavior, mannerisms, tone of voice, temperament, and walking posture. It'd be confusing to tell a cultivator's age from their physical appearance."

Rose snorted. "Even if it's true, why are you asking me this?"

Ever since she was almost tricked by Yan Fe, who tried to steal her inscription, Rose was extremely cautious.

"You're not from the four major clans, are you?" Ning Xin squinted his eyes.

"So what?"

"Hehe, you're feisty," Ning Xin chuckled. "If you're not from the four major clans, you should bid goodbye to your family and friends. You won't be able to stay here any longer."

"What do you mean?" Rose furrowed her brows, her voice filled with puzzlement.

Ning Xin and Ning De picked up their teacups and ignored her question.

Right then, Ning Guangyao walked out to the living room and exchanged glances with them, signaling them it's time to leave.

Guo Xuehua had been on edge the whole time. When Ning Guangyao came out, she hurried out to check on Lin Ruoxi. A sigh of relief escaped her lips when she saw Lin Ruoxi looking all right.

Ning Guangyao bade goodbye to Guo Xuehua. "Xuehua, please take good care of Ruoxi, now that she's your daughter-in-law. I'll come and revisit her soon."

Guo Xuehua's heart thumped. She couldn't understand what he meant by that, but she still forced a smile and nodded. "I will. My father-in-law likes Ruoxi too."

Ning Guangyao nodded with a pleased expression. "I'm glad Sir Yang likes her. Sadly, Ruoxi still refuses to acknowledge me, so I'll have to wait patiently."

As a mother herself, Guo Xuehua understood his pain as Yang Chen once rejected her. Even though she knew Ning Guangyao had done lots of evil deeds, she couldn't stop herself from consoling him, "Don't worry, Ruoxi isn't a narrow-minded child. She values family the most. I'm sure she'll accept you one day, as long as you're truly sincere."

"I am sincere." Ning Guangyao smiled bitterly before bidding them goodbye once again.

Just as they were about to leave, Ning Xin, Ning De, and Rose sensed something that caused their expressions to change!

"Someone else is here..." Rose cried out.

"What?" Guo Xuehua was puzzled.

Ning Xin laughed. "I just told you to get ready, and now he's already here."

"Who is here?" Guo Xuehua was anxious.

Mo Qianni and An Xin looked at each other. They had a feeling that it would be hard for them to fall asleep tonight.

As they were talking amongst themselves, Ning Guangyao's bodyguards outside shouted!

"Who are you?!"

"Freeze!!"

Screams were heard seconds later, and it was evident that someone took down the bodyguards.

The door opened, and a stranger made a grand entrance into the living room.

He was wearing a grey Taoist robe with a red cloth strip around his waist.

From the look of it, he must be a Taoist who was in his forties. His hair was rolled up in a bun, and a silver longsword hung on his back. He then walked towards them impatiently.

As he looked across the room, he appeared surprised to see Ning Xin and Ning De, but he shifted his gaze to Rose immediately. Admiration was evident in his eyes.

"Who do we have here? Hongmeng sent you, the 'Absolute Sword Taoist,' as their messenger this time? Tianyin Monk died last time, and now they've sent a Taoist. It looks like Hongmeng is swapping their messengers around, haha..." Ning De poked fun at him.

Absolute Sword Taoist? Hongmeng Messenger?

Everyone here except for Xiao Zhiqing knew a lot about the Border, so they caught on immediately.

Xiao Zhiqing made little sense of it at first, but her face turned pale when she saw the Taoist in front of her eyes. Emotions flashed across her eyes as she stood close to her mother, Wang Ma.

“Qing’er, what’s wrong? What is this person doing here?” Wang Ma felt afraid too.

Xiao Zhiqing motioned her to lower her voice and whispered into her ear, “Mom, there’s no time to explain. Go to the kitchen and call hubby with your phone, and ask him to return immediately...”

Chapter 1166 - Ning Ruoxi

Ning Ruoxi

No one would pay much attention to her even if she snuck into the kitchen since she was just an ordinary woman.

After telling her that curtly, Xiao Zhiqing pretended as though nothing had happened.

Wang Ma was a quick-witted person. She cast a confused gaze at everyone before leaving to the kitchen silently, pretending to make tea for their guests.

Absolute Sword Taoist didn’t even glance at them. His attention was drawn towards Ning Xin and Ning De.

“The Ning clan is getting bolder, huh, coming to the mundane world so overtly. Aren’t you afraid of condemnation by the other two clans?” Absolute Sword Taoist sneered.

“Absolute Sword Taoist, you think you can act mighty just because your cultivation is higher than us? The great ancient clans have always sent descendants out to the mundane world for training. There’s nothing serious about it. You’d better not die early like your predecessor, the Tianyin Monk, hehe... A Hongmeng Messenger being killed by a mundane, now that’s groundbreaking news.” Ning Xin mocked him.

The great ancient clans and Hongmeng had never been on good terms with each other. Thus their encounters had always been filled with mockery and insults.

“Hmph, I don’t have time for you two.” Taoist turned to Rose and said with a smile, “Fellow cultivator, you’re no longer a mundane since you’ve entered the Soul Forming stage. There’s no point in staying in this world. Follow me back to Hongmeng.”

Rose’s heart dropped as she was reminded of something. Xiao Zhiqing mentioned that cultivators who have entered the Soul Forming stage would have to go to Hongmeng.

It turned out this Taoist was here for that!

Rose couldn’t accept it. She shook her head and refused his offer, “Priest, I have no intention of entering Hongmeng.”

“Hmm?” Absolute Sword Taoist chuckled when he heard that. “I bet you don’t know the benefits of entering Hongmeng. You’re probably a wandering cultivator who got lucky, huh, judging from your young age. You probably have no idea, but once you enter Hongmeng, you can obtain richer spiritual energy from Heaven and Earth. Besides, we’ll also give you medicinal pills and artifacts. If you want to

improve your cultivation as fast as possible and break through the Tribulation Passing stage, Hongmeng is your path. Staying in the mundane world will only hinder your progression.”

Rose still shook her head with a smile, “It’s fine, priest. I’m not interested in those things.”

Absolute Sword Taoist’s patience had come to a limit, and the corner of his lips drooped. “Even if you’re not interested, you have to follow me back to Hongmeng! The existence of a cultivator in the Soul Forming stage has disrupted the balance in the mundane world. If you wish to stay in the mundane world, you still need to obtain the elders’ approval before you are allowed to train at designated locations. If all cultivators were the same as you, the mundane world would be a mess. If you still plan on resisting, I’ll have to take you back forcefully!”

“Why must she go to Hongmeng? Rose entered the Soul Forming stage because of her perseverance and abilities. Hongmeng didn’t help her, so why should she listen to them? They’re also in the Soul Forming stage, so why can they linger in the mundane world?” Mo Qianni couldn’t stand it and questioned him while pointing at Ning Xin and Ning De.

“How dare someone like you who’s only in the Houtian stage question me? Hmph! I’d hate to kill anyone, but if you continue to be rude, I wouldn’t mind breaking my oath!” Absolute Sword reprimanded her.

Rose pulled Mo Qianni to her back, motioning her to keep quiet.

Ning Xin chuckled. “Hongmeng can’t do anything about us since we are from the great ancient clans. Say, young lady, just listen to him. He is at the peak of the Soul Forming stage, and he is skilled in swordplay. You won’t stand a chance against him.”

At this moment, Lin Ruoxi walked out of the room and was flustered to see what was going on. However, her heart was already a mess, and she couldn’t say anything.

Ning Guangyao silently watched from the side. His eyes flickered with various emotions, as if he was contemplating something.

Absolute Sword Taoist looked at Ning Xin and Ning De in disdain before telling Rose, “Hongmeng Messengers travel around China, and we are ordered to bring back cultivators who are in the Soul Forming stage. No one is allowed exemption from this unless you are from the four major clans or the great ancient clans! This is the rule. You have to obey it!”

“What kind of rule is this? Hongmeng isn’t God! Rose is my daughter-in-law, she’s part of the Yang clan!” Guo Xuehua couldn’t stand it anymore and refuted him loudly.

Lin Ruoxi shuddered at the side, staring at her mother-in-law with an astounded expression.

Rose was startled too, but emotions welled up in her shortly after. The word ‘mom’ escaped from her lips, touched by her statement.

Guo Xuehua cast a guilty look at Lin Ruoxi but she still held Rose’s hands, “My child, don’t be afraid. You’re part of the Yang clan!”

Absolute Sword Taoist squinted his eyes. “The four major clans possess the strongest powers in the mundane world, and they hold information about Hongmeng. The eldest daughter-in-law of the Yang clan should be Ning Guangyao’s daughter, Ning Ruoxi...unless, lovers count as wives too?”

Everyone was shocked when he called out Lin Ruoxi as Ning Guangyao’s daughter.

Hongmeng had eyes all over China, and they were extremely familiar with the four major clans, to the point that they knew all their secrets – calling Lin Ruoxi as Ning Ruoxi!

Ning Guangyao beamed, and he looked at Lin Ruoxi expectantly.

Ning Xin and Ning De smiled at one another. They hoped that this would become a well-known fact.

Lin Ruoxi hung her head low. Her expression couldn’t be read since her face was covered with her long hair.

The ladies felt dispirited. Even though they had resentments, they had to admit it. Even if Guo Xuehua treated them as her daughters-in-law, others wouldn’t acknowledge their positions.

However, no matter what they were feeling, they couldn’t let him take away Rose!

Rose had grown up in the underworld, and even if she had no way out of this, she wouldn’t just accept it. With firm eyes, she said, “I’ll never follow you back. Fight me if you insist on taking me away.”

“Are you sure?” Anger crept up the Taoist’s face.

“You forced me to do it. I don’t have a choice.” Rose walked out of the house. “We’ll do it on the hill, so don’t ruin the house.”

Rose was aware of her destructive abilities, having fought with Yang Chen a few times after entering the Soul Forming stage.

Absolute Sword Taoist snorted, “Whatever, I’ll make you surrender willingly!”

Guo Xuehua wanted to stop them but was pulled by Xiao Zhiqing. “Mom, it’s useless. We can only believe in Sister Rose.”

Guo Xuehua sighed and followed them out. Even if she couldn’t stop them, she still had to watch the fight.

Ning Guangyao looked at Ning Xin and Ning De to ask about their next move. They, too, joined the crowd, wanting to watch the show.

At a brand new apartment complex in Zhonghai, one unit was still brightly lit even though it was already near midnight.

In the living room, snacks and empty beer bottles covered the coffee table. It was apparent someone had had a good drink.

Old Li had passed out on the couch, his bald head glistening under the light.

His body couldn’t handle so much alcohol initially, but after reconciling with Yang Chen, his body had recovered from consuming Yang Chen’s lower-ranked medicinal pill.

Filled with joy, both of them drank till late after dinner, and Old Li finally dozed off.

Yang Chen smirked and carried Li Jingjing onto his lap. One of his hands went beneath her bra stealthily, fondling her breast and nipple.

“Oh... no...”

Li Jingjing wrapped her slender arms around his neck, her eyes filled with bashfulness and helplessness. Moans escaped her lips as Yang Chen fondled her.

Yang Chen ignored her words and moved his other hand into her pants, sliding it between her buttocks. He prepared to enter her sweet spot from the back...

“You... you pervert... my dad is still here...” Li Jingjing’s face was flushed.

“Hehe, Old Li’s completely wasted. Don’t worry. Your mom is sound asleep too. I can sense it.” Yang Chen licked his lips. “Besides, babe, don’t you think it’s exciting to do it on the couch, right in front of your dad?”

Li Jingjing’s eyes became foggy. “I’ve finally seen your true face. You’re a bad guy... I’ve totally misjudged you...”

“It’s too late. You’re already mine.” Yang Chen said proudly and buried himself in between her chest, taking a sniff of her milky scent.

Li Jingjing just had her first experience in Korea, so she was still sensitive. She lost all strength from Yang Chen’s fingers, and her body became flushed. There was no way for her to resist him.

Just when Yang Chen was getting ready to pull her jeans off, his phone started buzzing on the coffee table.

Chapter 1167 Countless Ties

Yang Chen forced himself to stop and turned around to look at his phone. It was a rare caller.

Why did Wang Ma call him so late at night?

It worried Yang Chen, and he reluctantly let go of Li Jingjing. His right hand left her chest to grab the phone.

Li Jingjing was still panting, her eyes filled with relief and disappointment, but she kept quiet.

“Hello, Wang Ma? What...”

Wang Ma cut him off anxiously, “Sir, bad news. Premier Ning is here... there’s a weird Taoist here too... Qing’er told me to call you home!”

Yang Chen’s gaze turned sharp, and sat up abruptly, surprising Li Jingjing still laying on his lap.

“Brother Yang, what’s wrong?”

Yang Chen hung up and tidied Li Jingjing’s clothes before standing up, “Jingjing, help Old Li back to his room. I’ve to go back now. Something urgent happened back at home.”

Li Jingjing didn't ask him for details, nodding with a stern expression instead. "Be careful, Brother Yang."

Yang Chen gave her a comforting smile before leaving the apartment.

A chilly wind was howling at the hill at the back of Xijiao Villas, causing the tree branches to rustle loudly.

There were no signs of moon or stars that could be seen under the night sky.

At the base of the hill stood Ning Xin and Ning De. Ning Guangyao was with them too, but he couldn't see the situation on the hilltop since he wasn't a cultivator.

The ladies followed Guo Xuehua out to the hill as they were worried about Rose too. Lin Ruoxi stood behind them with an unreadable expression, as if she was caught up in the perplexing situation.

Two silhouettes were seen standing on the platform made by Yang Chen for the ladies' cultivation.

Rose seemed especially frail with her beige sweater fluttering along with the wind.

Standing right opposite of her was Absolute Sword Taoist with his arms crossed together.

"I can't believe that I have to fight just to bring a cultivator who's lesser than me back to Hongmeng. Whatever, since you refuse to come along with me willingly, attack me with all you've got. I'll make you surrender willingly!"

Even though Rose felt nervous, she wasn't afraid. She knew how to fight since she had done it with Yang Chen a few times.

However, since Yang Chen never fought her for real as he was afraid that he would hurt her, Rose wasn't sure of her true capabilities.

Now that she was facing someone far stronger than her, Rose grew excited.

"I won't hold back now since you've said that."

Rose quickly condensed her True Yuan, and the spiritual energy around them started to vibrate to a certain rhythm!

Absolute Sword Taoist frowned. "Eh, what is this..."

Before he could think much about it, a chilly gust of spiritual energy started gushing onto him like a waterfall!

"Boom!!!"

A bright blue current washed down his original spot and ground the rocks into powder!

Absolute Sword Taoist had jumped up in time, and he looked at the dispersing current with a startled expression!

It wasn't a current, however, but a gust of watery spiritual energy!

This woman had just entered the Soul Forming stage, yet she could already control spiritual energy?!

Rose closed her eyes when her first attack missed, immersing herself in her own world.

Her surroundings turned dark, with blue sparks twinkling.

Rose knew they were the watery spiritual energy. She could control those that were within a mile from her.

Ever since she understood the origin of her 'Dao,' she moved towards the rainstorm.

This was her realization and her nature.

The watery spiritual energy turned into her 'tentacles,' allowing her to easily determine Absolute Sword Taoist's location!

"Right there!"

She didn't even need to open her eyes, and she could already feel the spiritual energy cornering him. They transformed into sharp blade-like rain droplets, threatening to penetrate him!

The blue lights were breathtaking, like a meteor shower; however, they brought up a rainstorm!

Absolute Sword Taoist was appalled, as he realized he had failed to sense the release of her inscription. The watery spiritual energy felt as if they were connected to her soul, attacking him mercilessly!

However, with a cultivation superior to Rose's, he built a barrier with his True Yuan, blocking all the 'rain daggers' outside!

"You're skilled. There's no need for me to show you mercy at all!"

Absolute Sword Taoist growled as he pulled the longsword on his back out of its sheath!

"Take this, 'Countless Ties'!"

The flying sword circled him at an increasing speed!

"Countless Ties, break up!!"

Absolute Sword Taoist lifted his finger, and a strange-looking rune entered the sword.

Suddenly, the sword formed clones and circled him quickly like a unified entity!

Rose felt the sword aura coming closer, threatening to swallow her!

"Countless Ties, white wolf form!!"

Absolute Sword Taoist pointed at Rose, and the swords followed his command, dashing towards Rose!

Rose didn't dare to risk it, and summoned watery spiritual energy to form a screen in front of her!

The rain droplets collided with the swords, forming blue and white sparks around her!

The collision between the spiritual energy and the sword aura was mind-blowing, causing the whole hill to shake!

Back at the base of the hill, the commotion stunned everyone.

Ning Xin exchanged glances with Ning De, their eyes filled with shock.

“She has just entered the Soul Forming stage, but she can force the Absolute Sword Taoist to use his ‘Countless Ties’?”

“The ‘Countless Ties’ isn’t a powerful artifact, but it’s still a mid-lower rank sword type artifact. It looks like her inscription is strong...”

“But she has just entered the Soul Forming stage, how can she make him act so cautiously? Is her inscription that mystical?!”

Ning Xin and Ning De discussed among themselves, deciding to report this weird incident to their clan.

The ladies were worried and envious of Rose as they watched the fierce battle.

“Sister Rose... she’s so powerful. Can we become like her too? Is this how the fight between cultivators in the Soul Forming stage goes?” An Xin’s jaw dropped.

Xiao Zhiqing was fascinated by it too. “I didn’t know Hubby’s self-invented inscription would be so powerful. I thought Rose wouldn’t stand a chance against him.”

“Eh, why are you talking about these now? Why isn’t Yang Chen back now?! What if Rose gets hurt?! We can’t let him take her away!” Guo Xuehua yelled anxiously.

Regardless, Yang Chen still hadn’t shown up.

Back at the hilltop, Rose summoned more spiritual energy to fight against the Absolute Sword Taoist.

They were both skilled at using complicated and fatal skills, making it hard for the rest to catch their dazzling movements!

Even though Rose couldn’t actually hurt him with her pouring raindrop-like blades, it could defensively hinder his movements.

Absolute Sword Taoist kept trying to break through her wall of defense with his flying swords, but to no avail!

Chapter 1168 Never Get Hard

Absolute Sword Taoist felt humiliated to be evenly matched with Rose, who used nothing but the watery spiritual energy. She had just entered the Soul Forming stage too.

Fueled with anger, Absolute Sword Taoist lifted two fingers on his left and right hand to form a cross.

“Don’t blame me for my viciousness. You pushed me to it!”

He retracted all the swords and they formed a barrier around him, releasing a blinding white light!

“Vast desert covered by thousand feet of ice, raging form!”

Absolute Sword Taoist roared and the swords merged into dozens of eight-meters tall giant swords!

The swords floated around him obediently. It was a spectacular sight!

These swords were much more intimidating than before!

Even though it was only a mid-lower ranked artifact, it was no lesser than a middle-ranked artifact due to the Absolute Sword Taoist's exceptional sword playing skills!

Rose could feel the pressing stress since she was already struggling from earlier on. There was no doubt that she wouldn't be able to withstand this attack with her current cultivation level!

"You'll now know that no one can defy Hongmeng!"

Absolute Sword Taoist smirked and pointed at her. The swords flew towards Rose under his command!

Rose had no way of dodging them. She could only retreat and use the water's spiritual energy to block them, but they were torn down immediately!

In the end, she had lost because of her cultivation level. If her cultivation had been higher, she would never lose to him!

The swords aimed at Rose like missiles, and they were close to burying her!

Even though Absolute Sword Taoist had no intention to kill her, Rose would still be heavily injured and be taken to Hongmeng.

Will I really be taken to Hongmeng?

Rose couldn't stand the thought of it but there was no other way to get out of this...

Right at this moment, a silhouette appeared out of nowhere like a shooting arrow and stood in front of Rose!

"Hubby?"

The minute Rose recognized Yang Chen, the giant swords pierced him like he was a cross waiting to be pinned down!

"Boom!!!"

After a blinding white flash, Yang Chen stood tall and unwavering!

Absolute Sword Taoist's exceptional sword playing skill was nothing compared to Yang Chen who was facing the Nine Heavenly Lightning Tribulation.

His body was impenetrable, so no protective measures were needed to face the giant swords.

Absolute Sword Taoist's face turned ghastly, and he looked at Yang Chen in disbelief, fear creeping into his heart!

No one in Hongmeng dared to face his swords directly with their own bodies except for the Heaven and Earth ranked elders.

This young man, Yang Chen, the eldest grandson of the Yang clan... He had heard about him but he never expected Yang Chen's cultivation level and body to be this strong!

At the foot of the hill, only the Ning brothers saw how Yang Chen received the intimidating attack with his body.

Being overwhelmed with shock, their voice couldn't even leave their throats.

Rose let out a breath of relief and landed next to Yang Chen. Her eyes were affectionate as she said, "I thought you didn't want me anymore. I was so scared."

Yang Chen ignored the Absolute Sword Taoist and wrapped his arms around Rose's waist with a grin. "I wouldn't do that. I came back ages ago but I thought he would be a good match for you to gain some real-life combat experience. How was it? You learned a lot of stuff right?"

Realization crossed Rose's face and she nodded, "I realized real-life combat still relies on cultivation level but I'm sure I can defeat him if my cultivation was slightly higher."

"Of course. The inscription I created is far better than their ordinary ones." Yang Chen sounded proud.

Now that Rose mentioned it, Yang Chen had only realized the uniqueness of his scripture after Rose had entered the Soul Forming stage.

Inscriptions normally required constant increment of True Yuan to understand the heavenly law. Thus, the realm could be elevated to obtain more Heaven and Earth's spiritual energy.

However, with Yang Chen's inscriptions, even though one could not become one with Heaven and Earth, they still had a higher understanding of the natural laws.

The cultivator would have a specialized understanding of the 'Dao' according to their temperament, perception, and luck once they had entered the Soul Forming stage.

When she was in the rainstorm, Rose realized that she was highly compatible with the water type spiritual energy, hence she was able to detect it easily.

Even though it wasn't as good as Heaven and Earth, she was still more powerful than normal cultivators.

Yang Chen clicked his tongue in wonder when Rose was able to use this 'Dao' to create a downpour.

In the end, they named her 'Dao' as 'Rainfall'.

Even though Rose was still a beginner, Yang Chen believed that she would eventually master 'Rainfall' as her cultivation increased.

He was looking forward to seeing what kind of 'Dao' the other ladies would discover once they entered the Soul Forming stage.

Just when they were getting mushy with each other, Absolute Sword Taoist's face turned scarlet from being ignored by them.

"Yang Chen, you've come at a great time. This girl has entered the Soul Forming stage, and according to the rules in Hongmeng, those who do not belong to the four major clans have to be brought to the Border. If you're smart enough, you should know better than getting in my way!"

"Hah, rules. Why should we follow the rules of Hongmeng?" Yang Chen sneered and looked at him.

Absolute Sword Taoist squinted his eyes. "Are you trying to go against Hongmeng?"

"Not really. No matter how arrogant I am, I can't do that. I'm sure there are people in Hongmeng who are superior to me," Yang Chen said.

"If that's the case, give her to me!" Absolute Sword Taoist demanded.

Yang Chen smirked. "According to the Treaty of Gods, cultivators from China are not allowed to leave China. As a Hongmeng messenger, I'm sure you know about this?"

Absolute Sword Taoist was puzzled but he still nodded. "That's right, but you're an exception because you have the divinity of Pluto."

"Alright. If that's the case, I'll send her out of China tonight. You can't bring her to Hongmeng anymore, am I right?" Yang Chen chuckled.

Absolute Sword Taoist was taken aback. He didn't think of this alternative at all.

If Rose was no longer in China, he couldn't leave China for her. According to Hongmeng, those who were killed by the Gods for leaving China couldn't blame others.

Besides, Hongmeng only cared about China.

"Hmph, are you sure she won't be hurt by the Gods?" Absolute Sword Taoist asked.

Yang Chen shrugged. "What else can I do? If she stays in China and you report me to Hongmeng, I'd be the enemy of Hongmeng, but I can't fight Hongmeng. I might as well send her outside. At least the Gods wouldn't harm her when I'm still one of the twelve gods."

Rose wasn't happy to hear that Yang Chen wanted to send her out of China, but she kept quiet by biting on her lips.

Absolute Sword Taoist thought about it and he figured it wasn't against the rules. After all, Rose was sent out of China by Yang Chen, so that wouldn't be their fault.

Importantly, as someone who had just entered the Soul Forming stage, Rose's existence wasn't a big deal to Hongmeng.

"Alright. If that's the case, I'll come over to check tomorrow. You can't do anything else if she's still here," Absolute Sword Taoist said.

Yang Chen nodded. "Sure, tomorrow it is. You can come to Zhonghai for a search tomorrow night. Do whatever you want."

Absolute Sword Taoist snorted and looked at Rose before retrieving his 'Countless Ties'. Once they returned to their original form, he flew away by riding on it.

Once he left, Rose punched Yang Chen's chest.

"I'm not leaving! Why should I hide overseas?!" Rose pouted in displeasure.

Yang Chen chuckled and hugged her. "Rose darling, don't be angry. I was just tricking him. I wouldn't let you go overseas by yourself."

“Really?” Rose was suspicious of him.

“Of course. I swear I can never get hard if I’m afraid of them!” Yang Chen slapped his chest.

Rose breathed out in relief and nodded with a smile. “I believe in you since you swore on it.”

Yang Chen’s lips twitched and he smiled bitterly. “As for the details, I’ll tell you later. You won’t suffer from it. Let’s go down first, as I need to deal with something.”

Chapter 1169: I Said No

Yang Chen talked about meeting Ning Guangyao and his group of people.

Back when he decided to be cold-blooded and severed all relations with Lin Ruoxi, Yang Chen had never acknowledged him as his father-in-law.

To him, Ning Guangyao was just a nuisance, someone he wanted to kill but couldn’t do so. Yang Chen had to be careful around him, considering the previous incident.

Especially now that Yang Chen could sense that Ning Xin and Ning De were also in the Soul Forming stage.

He knew the Ning clan of the great ancient clans sent them since they overtly showed up in the mundane world.

Now that he thought about it, the Ning clan must have been supported by the great ancient clans. Thus, there was a need to reassess the Ning clan’s abilities now.

Once they got down the hill, Guo Xuehua and the ladies came up to them.

Guo Xuehua was extremely worried about Rose’s condition, checking her body, and asking if she was injured with a gentle voice.

Rose shook her head with a grateful smile. She never expected Guo Xuehua to care about her so deeply since she was just a lover. However, after today’s incident, she became closer to her so-called mother-in-law.

Resentment flashed across Lin Ruoxi’s eyes, but she refrained herself from thinking about it since it was perilous for Rose.

Yang Chen sighed at its sight, but he still motioned Guo Xuehua to bring the ladies back home first.

He stayed behind and called Ning Guangyao with an icy voice.

Ning Guangyao had been standing quietly at the side with Ning Xin and Ning De as if he knew Yang Chen wouldn’t let him go smoothly.

After making sure the ladies were far away, he told Ning Guangyao with the same icy tone, “I remember you told me twice that you will never acknowledge Ruoxi as your daughter. Am I right?”

Ning Guangyao smiled meekly. “Yang Chen, I admit I’ve said some wrong things, but you can’t deny that my blood is flowing in her.”

“Drop it, I might not be sure what you are trying to do, but you’d better stay away from my woman! You’ve hurt her, and now that she has a new life and is smiling, you’ve come to torture her again. If you have any conscience left and want to take up the responsibility as her father, you shouldn’t have challenged her limits and let her live peacefully.”

Ning Guangyao shook his head, “I disagree with you. I’m her birth father, and I may meet my daughter. I know you’re strong, but you can’t deny my resolution as a father. Besides, our clan isn’t afraid of you and your clan. Don’t think I’m terrified of you because you’re strong. I’ll not give up on my child!”

Ning Guangyao sounded righteous. He wasn’t backing up and was using his relationship with Lin Ruoxi as his defense.

Yang Chen glanced at Ning Xin and Ning De. His gaze was sharp like a leopard who was aiming for its prey.

Ning Xin and Ning De’s heart thumped at his gaze, knowing that their cultivation levels were inferior to Yang Chen.

However, with the Ning clan as their pillar of support, they met Yang Chen’s eyes with their backs straightened.

“Young man, you’re talented, and you have high cultivation but you shouldn’t be too arrogant. Your wife, she may be your wife, but she’s still part of our clan. Even though she’s from the mundane world, our clan won’t ignore it. Guangyao has made mistakes, but we’ll still support his decision. If you insist on being rude to us, we are not pushovers either...” Ning Xin sneered.

Yang Chen was dying to use his Chaos Cauldron to turn them into pills, but he wasn’t yet a match for the great ancient clans.

The people who tried to take his Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture must have come from the great ancient clans. Unfortunately, he wasn’t sure if they were the same person or if they all came from the Luo clan.

It would’ve been fine if he was alone since he could just run away. However, now that he had a family, he had to think about them.

The thought of this made Yang Chen grit his teeth. His current cultivation wasn’t sufficient to face future foes. Hongmeng and the great ancient clans had centuries’ worth of foundation; he couldn’t fight them alone.

The only way out of this was to pass the second wave of the Nine Heavenly Lightning – the Shang Qing Heavenly Lightning.

However, it didn’t seem like it would happen anytime soon. Besides, if it really happened, can he survive past it? Past cultivators weren’t any weaker than him, and yet they all burned down to ashes. Would he be able to withstand it?

Yang Chen felt anxious and helpless.

After letting out a sigh, Yang Chen told Ning Guangyao, “You’d better be telling the truth or else I will kill you. No matter how strong your support is, I wouldn’t even bat an eyelash to kill you.”

Yang Chen ignored his angry eyes and disappeared from the spot with a flash.

Ning Xin muttered as he stared at the direction Yang Chen was headed to, "It's bizarre for a young man like him to have this level of cultivation. The hostility he has towards our clan is obvious, and I have to tell this to our patriarch. We have to watch out for him."

Ning Guangyao's gaze was filled with venom. "Elder Ning Xin, can't you send our two masters to cripple him?"

"Hmph," Ning Xin grinned, "Guangyao, you're really heartless, huh. He's still your daughter's husband."

"He can stay alive, but his cultivation will only cause trouble." Ning Guangyao seemed anxious.

"Nah, you don't know this, but progression in the Tribulation Passing stage isn't as simple as in the Soul Forming stage. Cultivators in the Soul Forming stage can advance easily as long as they have time, but for those in the Tribulation Passing stage, they need lots of True Yuan. If he isn't lucky or doesn't have large amounts of high-quality pills to support his cultivation, he wouldn't progress far even when you have died. Besides, his background is odd, and we might not win if we send a master out to hurt him. This would also go against the Border rule, where we're not allowed to interfere with the mundane world. The other two clans and Hongmeng will think we're getting too ambitious. Our position as the top clan amongst the great ancient clans might be forfeited too, so we just need to watch him. I doubt he can do anything to us." Ning Xin said.

"That's right. Besides, with Miss San in our clan, we can take him down whenever we want." Ning De sneered.

Ning Guangyao nodded in agreement as if he believed in 'Miss San' too, but it could not mask the worry in his eyes.

Yang Chen went to Rose's place first to tell her about tomorrow's plans before going back home.

Yang Chen felt proud when he was reminded of Rose's dazed expression. If his plan worked, it would be easy for him to deal with Hongmeng.

Guo Xuehua was the only one left downstairs when Yang Chen came home, "Son, did the Ning clan trouble you?"

Yang Chen smiled, "I went to them so they wouldn't dare to do anything. Relax, I only warned them not to harm Ruoxi."

Guo Xuehua sighed helplessly. "I don't know what's in Ruoxi's mind. I'm half a century year old, and I still can't read her mind."

Yang Chen thought to himself, I wouldn't have been fooled by her if her mind could be read that easily.

He shook his head while laughing and walked upstairs to Lin Ruoxi's room.

Yang Chen knocked on the door, and Lin Ruoxi opened the door a few minutes later. Her face was pale when she asked him with a soft voice, "Talk softly, Lanlan is asleep. Do you need anything?"

Yang Chen's heart wrenched at her pale face. "Dear, are you alright? Did he say anything hurtful?"

Lin Ruoxi shook her head, "No."

"You don't look well. Tell me if Ning Guangyao forced you to do anything, I'll lock him out of the door."

"I said no! Don't mention his name again!" Lin Ruoxi furrowed her brows and glared at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen was taken aback. He had angered her somehow, but he didn't know the reason.

Chapter 1170

Mothers Are Selfish

Lin Ruoxi too realised that her tone wasn't good but she couldn't help it whenever Ning Guangyao's name was mentioned.

Bitter feelings welled up in heart and she forced a smile out to apologise, "I'm sorry, I...I'm not mad at you, I know you're worried about me. Thank you, but I...I don't want to talk anymore goodnight..."

Having said so, Lin Ruoxi shut the door at him.

Yang Chen stood by the door with a dazed expression for a short moment. He bit his lips and showed a mocking grin before walking back to his room.

Minutes later, Guo Xuehua knocked on his door and walked in with a tray. Hot steam was rising from the two bowls and it smelled delicious.

"Mom, what's this?" Yang Chen was planning to take a shower when she came in.

Guo Xuehua looked at Yang Chen with a loving gaze, "I made you chicken soup and lotus seeds soup. You came back late so I heated it for you."

Yang Chen's heart warmed at her gesture. Because of his abilities, it was hard for Guo Xuehua to do anything for him since he could take care of it by himself.

But that didn't stop her from making food or drinks for him. The snacks or suppers might be simple but it showered him with love.

Having lived for so many years, he had finally understood that maternal love was irreplaceable; no matter how powerful he was.

Yang Chen took over the chicken soup and started gulping it down.

"Mom, what kind of herbs did you use?" Yang Chen asked when he realised the soup tasted different from usual.

"Nothing much, just some deer antlers from the northeast, caterpillar fungus from Tibet and some other herbs. The tonics are good for your body." Guo Xuehua said gently.

"I don't need it, I just like to eat."

Ya knew the tonics given by the Yang clan was different from the false ones that were being sold in the market.

These tonics would cause a nosebleed for other people but Guo Xuehua was willing to cook it all for Yang Chen since he could take it.

“Of course you need it. There’s no harm in eating tonics even if you’re strong enough. I still want a grandson, so I asked an old doctor for a Chinese medicine recipe for kidney invigoration.”

Yang Chen almost spat the soup out when he realised what the soup was for, “Mom, other men might need it but I don’t need it all. Besides that, I told you that I can’t impregnate them because my cultivation level and body is much stronger than them. It’s useless.”

“I know,” Guo Xuehua patted his shoulder, “But Rose’s in the Soul Forming stage right? She’s improving so quickly, maybe it would work with her?”

“Rose?” Yang Chen was taken aback. No wonder she had been paying more attention to Rose. Rose would be speechless if she ever heard this.

Yang Chen sighed, “Mom, even though she’s improving quickly, she’s not moving as fast as me. Besides, I’m already in the Tribulation Passing stage, her improvement wouldn’t affect her much. The chance of her getting pregnant is still too low.”

“She still has a higher chance than Ruoxi.” Guo Xuehua rolled her eyes and snorted with resentment.

Yang Chen was startled. He wasn’t expecting her to relate this to Lin Ruoxi. It seemed like she had a lot of complaints about her daughter-in-law.

Yang Chen couldn’t stop himself from asking her, “Mom, how can you say that about Ruoxi? Cultivation relies on luck, talent and experience. It’s different for everyone, cultivation can’t be forced. I can’t be biased just because Rose is faster. It’s unfair to everyone else.”

“Hmph, I don’t want to be biased too, but her actions and attitude aren’t helping!”

Guo Xuehua seemed to have held this in for a long time, “You went to Ruoxi’s room to comfort her right?”

Yang Chen nodded with a blank expression, “You saw everything from downstairs?”

“Of course, I can tell from your worried expression. What else can it be? But what did she do? She didn’t even want to talk to you, making you stand outside the room and shut the door on you! Why must you two sleep separately when you two are already together? The chance of her getting pregnant is already low enough and yet she keeps locking you out of the room. I’m infuriated whenever I think about it! My son is liked by so many girls, why must he have such an immature wife? She should contribute to the family now that she has married into a rich family. Other women dream for this their whole lives! I’m not hoping for her to do anything for us, but at least do something that tells me that she loves my son?!”

Guo Xuehua got agitated and her eyes got watery at the end.

Yang Chen smiled foolishly with the chicken soup in his hands, “It can’t be that serious...that’s how her personality is, she cares about me. Lanlan likes to sleep with her mom so I think it’s fine for them to sleep together. Besides, this works well too. I can sleep at other places too so the other ladies don’t feel neglected. As for our child...there’s no point in rushing it.”

“You’re still helping her?” Guo Xuehua was upset, “It’s only logical for her to give birth first or else it will be difficult in the future. Who will you help then, your child’s mother or your wife? Wouldn’t you be annoyed? If Qianni, Rose, An Xin or even Mingyu become your wife, no one would sleep separately from you, let alone adopting a child before giving birth to one. People would think that your marriage is fake if this gets spread out!”

“Mom,” Yang Chen’s expression was stern, “That’s wrong of you to say. Lanlan may be adopted but I see her as my daughter. She’s our first child and that will never change.”

Guo Xuehua nodded, feeling frustrated, “Fine fine fine, I know she’s a good kid. I like her too and I treat her as my granddaughter but she’s a girl and she’s not part of the Yang clan. Your grandfather doesn’t have much time left, do you have the heart to make him wait long for his great-grandson?”

Yang Chen’s heart wrenched at her tear stricken face, “I understand, mom, I promise you that I’ll do my best to improve their cultivation as fast as possible.”

Guo Xuehua looked at Yang Chen deeply and patted his shoulder, “Son, I know you like Ruoxi the most. Even though I don’t know the reason behind it, I’ll do my best to accept her since you like her the most. But, all mothers are selfish. Daughter-in-law isn’t my daughter but you’re my son, I can’t stand to watch you being treated like that...you might not feel anything from it but it pains me as your mother...you’re so capable and you are liked by many women, why must you get the cold shoulder from her?”

“Alright mom,” Yang Chen stood up. He didn’t want to hear it anymore. It felt as if she had thrown stones into his heart, creating ripples in it, “Let’s stop here, I know you care about me. I’ll talk to Ruoxi about this. It’s late now so go to sleep or you’ll get wrinkles easily.”

Guo Xuehua wanted to say something else but Yang Chen stopped her by pushing her out of the door.

Once his room became peaceful again, Yang Chen let out a breath and finished the soups before lying on the bed. He no longer felt like showering.

Even though he did his best to smoothen things out between them, the gap between them continued to grow. Looks like it was time to talk to Lin Ruoxi about it.