

“Yan-Xi, don’t thank me. Think nothing of it. Moreover, I didn’t do much. By the time I got there, you had already driven most of the wolves away. I think, given your prowess, you didn’t need my help at all and could have fought all the wolves on your own. You certainly live up to your father’s name. Like father like daughter,” said Lv Hua as he waved his hand and smiled at Lu Yan-Xi.

Although Lu Tian-He was a general, he was renowned even in the martial arts circle, so Lv Hua had heard of him too.

“But there are honestly a lot of wild animals in the rainforest. From the looks of it, it was wise for that lousy little idiot to run. Otherwise, he would probably perish before he even set eyes on any spirit energy fruit, right? I don’t understand why War God Castle sent such a rookie.”

Lv Hua brought up Ye Fan again.

His voice was filled with mockery for Ye Fan.

Lu Yan-Xi nodded in agreement. She found it odd for War God Castle to insist on Ye Fan joining the expedition. Weren’t they sabotaging their efforts by sending Ye Fan?



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“Enough. Stop chatting and stay alert. We are already in the heart of the rainforest. If I’m not mistaken, we ought to be pretty close to the spirit energy fruit tree, so stay sharp!” Kong Ming urged them in a deep tone.

Lu Yan-Xi and Lv Hua stopped chatting and started looking around for the spirit energy fruit tree.

However, Lu Yan-Xi noticed two people before long.

To be precise, she caught sight of one of them.

“Hua, look! Isn’t that Ye Fan?” asked Lu Yan-Xi as she pointed up ahead.

“Impossible. The punk ought to have run all the way home by now. How could it be him? It can’t possibly be him! How could he have gotten so far without our help? If it’s Ye Fan, then I’ll write my name backwards,” Lv Hua scoffed as he shook his head and looked in the same direction as Lu Yan-Xi.

However, Lv Hua’s eyes opened wide in disbelief.



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“What the hell?!”

“It really is him!”

“What’s the punk doing here?”

Kong Ming and the others hurried over in their shock to question what Ye Fan was doing here.

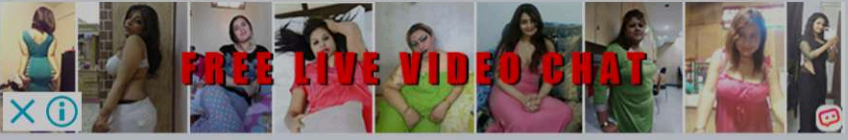
Ye Fan was slightly surprised to see them here.

However, Ye Fan merely laughed gently at Lv Hua’s questions. “That’s a genuinely strange question. If you can turn up here, then why not me?”

“You...” Ye Fan’s retort left Lv Hua speechless. For a long time, Lv Hua was incapable of saying a word.

Kong Ming walked over and asked Ye Fan with displeasure, “Ye Fan, why did you move off on your own? Have you forgotten what I told you before we came? Or are you deliberately defying my orders? Kneel this instant and accept punishment!”

Ye Fan sneered and replied calmly, “Defy



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your orders? What makes you think you have the right to give them?"

"The audacity!" Kong Ming instantly exploded when he heard what Ye Fan said. "Do you really think I won't kick you off the team?"

Kong Ming was furious. It wasn't the first time Ye Fan had offended him.

Previously, he tolerated it on account of Ye Fan's young age.

However, he had unexpectedly refused to change his ways and became worse instead.

"Elder Kong, why waste time talking to him? Despite his age, he sure is cocky! I think you should expel him from the team and leave him to sink or swim. It would even save us the trouble of getting dragged down by him. Otherwise, if he gets beaten to death, we would still need to collect his corpse."

Since Lv Hua already did not see eye to eye with Ye Fan, he fanned the flames and instigated Kong Ming to kick Ye Fan out of their team.



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Lu Yan-Xi was also appalled by Ye Fan's arrogance.

She glared at Ye Fan and scolded him in disdain, "Ye Fan, how dare you! How could you be rude to Elder Kong? Kneel now and apologize to him! Or else, don't blame us for dumping you in the middle of the rainforest on your own!"

All of a sudden, Kong Ming and the other two were condemning Ye Fan verbally, and their angry words echoed through the air.

However, Ye Fan merely laughed. His laughter was filled with contempt.

"Good god! How could he have the cheek to mock us? Elder Kong, don't hesitate anymore. What's the point of keeping such an arrogant, reckless teammate? Drive him from the team and let him rot on his own in the rainforest! Even if he dies here, we can just say that he was slaughtered by our opponents over the spirit energy fruit," said Lv Hua viciously.

"You don't have to drive me away. I will leave on my own. In any case, you lot are nothing but a burden to me. I will have an easier time



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hunting down the spirit energy fruit on my own.” Before Lv Hua finished his words, Ye Fan volunteered to leave them.

“Well done. I didn’t expect you to have so much backbone at such a young age.” Kong Ming was so angry that he laughed. He only spoke that way to scare Ye Fan and didn’t intend on chasing him away.

After all, in Kong Ming’s opinion, judging from Ye Fan’s skills, he was bound to perish if he went on his own in the rainforest.

Even though Ye Fan had committed a mistake, there was no need to send him to his death.

However, it didn’t dawn on Kong Ming that he would voluntarily ask to quit the team.

In that case, what more could he say?

“As the Chinese team leader, I officially announce that Ye Fan is no longer on the team. From now on, his well-being is none of our business! You are on your own.” Kong Ming looked stern and sounded cold as his booming voice clanged like gold falling onto the ground.



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Kong Ming turned to leave angrily the moment he finished his sentence.

“Haha! Ye Fan, farewell!”

Lv Hua waved his hand gloatingly before chasing after Kong Ming.

Lu Yan-Xi glanced at Ye Fan and said in a lofty and cold tone, “If you don’t want to die, I suggest you go right back home immediately. This is no place for you.”

Ye Fan didn’t get upset. Instead, he replied, “On account of your father, let me remind you to steer clear of Lv Hua if you value your life. Or else, you won’t even know what hit you when you die.”



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Lu Yan-Xi was stunned by Ye Fan's words.

She was clearly at a loss when she suddenly heard what Ye Fan said.

A thought crossed Lu Yan-Xi's mind, and she instantly laughed. "Stay away from Hua? Ye Fan, don't you think that's hilarious? Are we close to begin with? Who do you think you are? Do you have a right to judge who I am friends with? Or are you interested in me and jealous about how close I am to Hua?"

Lu Yan-Xi smiled as she spoke. She looked at Ye Fan as though he was some joke.

"Oh yes. I was wondering how a country bumpkin like you could end up so cocky. From the looks of it now, you must have been deliberately trying to get my attention, right? I suggest you give up, Ye Fan. It's impossible between us. Firstly, I don't fancy immature men. Secondly, you can't compare to the man in my heart. Just your background alone can't rival his. You and I are from completely different worlds. That's what I like in a man, and Hua is the man of my dreams," Lu Yan-Xi spoke with a smile on her face like an arrogant princess.



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Before Ye Fan replied, she turned to walk away.

“Hua, wait up,” shouted Lu Yan-Xi sweetly.

There was no sign of the cockiness she had towards Ye Fan.

“Humph! Ptooey! That self-centered woman. How could Fan like you? You aren’t even as pretty as me. How could Fan possibly like you?”

As Lu Yan-Xi left, Angie instantly exploded before Ye Fan said a word.

The young woman placed her hand on her hip as she sulked and shouted in Lu Yan-Xi’s direction.

It was the first time in Angie’s life that she had ever encountered a woman as self-centered as that.

All Ye Fan did was gave her a word of warning, but Lu Yan-Xi ended up thinking he was holding a torch for her.

“I’m so mad. She’s simply shameless. It is one thing for her to be self-centered, but



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how could she look down on you? She's an ingrate. Fan, people like them don't deserve our pity. If she wants to be with Lv Hua, then leave her be. We don't have to care how she ends up."

Angie couldn't help feeling angry when someone was rude to Ye Fan.

Her adorable little face almost exploded instantly.

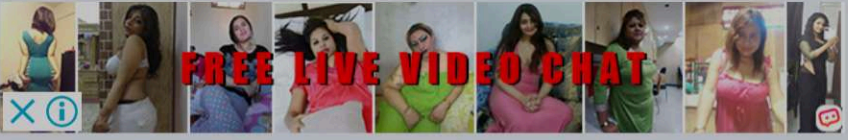
Ye Fan rubbed her petite nose gently with a smile. "If I'm not worried, why should you?"

"Fan, aren't you mad? She said such awful things about you and treated you contemptuously. How could you not be pissed? Don't tell me you have really fallen for her?" Angie glared at Ye Fan furiously.

Ye Fan shook his head. "Of course not. I just don't think it's worth caring about. Since she's just a small fry, why should I be bothered by how she thinks?"

Indeed, Kong Ming and the others meant nothing to Ye Fan from the start.

Regardless of how famous Lv Hu and Kong



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Ming were, they were no different from ants on the ground to Ye Fan.

Truly powerful people were incapable of getting affected by minor disturbances like them.

Ye Fan wasn't cocky. It was simply the truth.

Ye Fan was already a pillar of the nation, so Kong Ming and the others were insignificant in comparison.

War God Castle wasn't counting on Kong Ming and the others to be of any assistance to Ye Fan. Instead, they wanted to use them to cover up Ye Fan's true identity.

If those three people were reasonable, Ye Fan wouldn't have minded protecting them if it were within his power.

Sadly, they didn't respect Ye Fan and even belittled him just because he was young.

In that case, why should Ye Fan extend any protection to them?

On account of Lu Tian-He, Ye Fan ought to have extended a helping hand to Lu Yan-Xi.



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However, Lu Yan-Xi didn't know better and refused to heed Ye Fan's warning.

Ye Fan felt he had already done his best.

"Enough. Let's go. I have said everything I should. Since they have chosen to go down this path, they can only hope for the best."

Ye Fan didn't bother wasting any time on these fools. After laughing at them, he and Angie went on their way.

Angie finally let go of it after being angry for a while.

"Humph! The wicked will come to no good end, so someone is bound to teach them a lesson."

Angie knew that Ye Fan had committed a lot of offenses in Lv Hua's name.

Since those people weren't the nicest people around, Angie reckoned Lv Hua would get into trouble before long.

Time continued to slip by.

Angie and Ye Fan kept looking for the



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remaining spirit energy fruit trees.

During this time, a name started popping up among all the martial artists.

“Hey! Have you Koreans heard? I heard that there is an outstanding talent in the Chinese team. He single-handedly defeated the Indian team at a restaurant previously. A few days ago, he outdid the Australian team too. The first of the spirit energy fruit has already landed in his hands. Considering his prowess, even if he isn’t a grandmaster, he will reach that level before long.”

“What? Is he that powerful? Who is it? Don’t tell me it’s that so-called imminent grandmaster, Kong Ming?”

“Nope, it’s not him. It’s a young man who goes by Lv Hua!”

“Lv Hua? Are you kidding? I have never heard his name before. Since when did such a powerful man appear in China? It seems we have to be wary when we bump into the Chinese team!”

All the teams gossiped about this when they crossed paths in the rainforest.



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In an instant, it caused a furor.

For the first time, Lv Hua's name started to spread among all the world's martial artists.

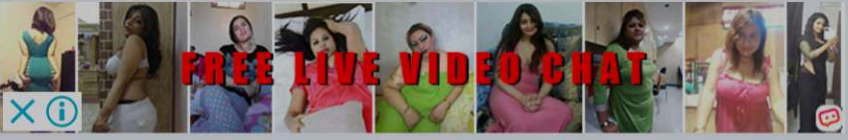
However, amid the uproar, Lv Hua, Kong Ming, and Lu Yan-Xi remained clueless.

Lv Hua didn't know why but the other representatives kept talking to him in a courteous tone with admiration when they crossed paths in the rainforest.

"Hey? Are you from China? Which one of you is Mr Lv Hua?"

"Are you Mr Lv Hua? Your reputation precedes you!"

"The Chinese martial arts circles certainly live up to their fame. There are so many hidden talents in their ranks. Despite your young age, you have already surpassed your seniors, so the sky is the limit for you."



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