

Chapter 1471

You Will Be Punished

Xiao Zhiqing was puzzled to see her mother frozen in place. She followed her gaze, and at first glance, she went pale from shock.

The unexpected visitor was Luo Hang. The smirk on his face deepened when he saw the terrified expression on their faces. Then, he pulled the glass door, the lock did nothing to stop him from breaking in.

His movement jolted Xiao Zhiqing into her senses. Too panicked to remember she was still in her pajamas, she jumped out of bed and pushed Wang Ma out.

“Mom! Get out, get out now!”

Wang Ma instantly knew the man was dangerous. She hugged Xiao Zhiqing and yelled, “What are you talking about? Who is this man?! Qing’er don’t push me!”

“Oh, so she’s your birth mother? Hmm, I do see some resemblance.” Luo Zhang glanced at them, intrigued.

Just then, two figures jumped onto the balcony. It was Luo Xiaoxiao and Luo Lei.

The moment Xiao Zhiqing and her mother saw Luo Xiaoxiao, their expressions changed.

“It’s you?!” As if she had understood something, Xiao Zhiqing pointed at Luo Xiaoxiao, her face red with fury. “I trusted you and even had Hubby let you go!”

Luo Xiaoxiao only came up here out of worry and was surprised to learn that Xiao Zhiqing thought she ratted out on her whereabouts.

Taken by surprise, Luo Xiaoxiao didn’t know how to explain herself. She kept shaking her head and said no but couldn’t explain why Luo Hang showed up here.

Wang Ma was puzzled. She recognized Luo Xiaoxiao since she met her at a shoe store and the latter even got into a conflict with Yang Chen. Why is she here too?

Luo Hang’s face was dark like thunder. He sneered, “b*tch, how dare you defy me? Not only did you run away from the illusionary dimension, but you also called someone else ‘Hubby’ in front of me? I supposed you’ve forgotten about your lowly status!”

Xiao Zhiqing’s heart sank. She knew she couldn’t escape from him. Yang Chen wasn’t around, and there weren’t any powerful cultivators nearby, so they couldn’t possibly resist them.

As a matter of fact, she was relieved that Rose or Cai Ning wasn’t around when she saw Luo Lei. Even if Yang Chen had let the two ladies stay here to protect her, they wouldn’t be a match against him.

As the heir of the Luo clan, Luo Qianqiu was more protective of Luo Hang compared to Luo Xiaoxiao, dispatching Luo Lei to protect Luo Hang. Since he was the butler of the Luo clan, his ability must be powerful too.

"I can't resist if you want to bring me back, but I hope you can let my mother go." Xiao Zhiqing moved out of Wang Ma's arm and approached them.

Wang Ma felt a pang of heartache when she heard that. Frightened out of her wits, she stood before her daughter. "No! No one can take my daughter away from me!"

It took me years to reunite with my daughter! I can't let them take her away from me! Over my dead body!

Wang Ma wasn't a fool. She could already connect the dots, considering that she knew quite a lot about Xiao Zhiqing's past.

"Hah, as expected, there are many wretches in the mundane world! Who are you to stop me?" Luo Hang sneered. "Well, I was thinking of a way to torture this b*tch, so I guess I could start with murdering you. This would be the First retribution-"

"No!" Xiao Zhiqing shrieked and tried hard to pull Wang Ma away, but the latter refused to let her go.

In that instant, the room was filled with wails.

Luo Xiaoxiao couldn't bear to watch on. She pleaded with Luo Hang meekly, "Please don't do this. She's-

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"Shut up! You're in no place to talk!" Luo Hang glared at her. "You'll be punished when we return. How dare you hide this from Father and me!"

She bit her lip, no longer dared to speak up. After all, she knew her pleas would go unheard.

Luo Lei chimed in, "Young Master, Sir has ordered us to catch Xiao Zhiqing, and we're not allowed to intervene in any affairs within the mundane world, or else Hongmeng and the other two clans would chastise us. Please think things through and look at the big picture."

Luo Hang listened to him. Though reluctant to let Xiao Zhiqing off so easily, he was forced to give up on that idea. "All right. I'll listen to you and forgive this old b*tch."

As soon as he said that, he appeared before Wang Ma and Xiao Zhiqing and pulled them apart.

Wang Ma was lifted by the collar and thrown to the wall. She slipped to the floor and fainted.

"Mom!" Xiao Zhiqing cried but couldn't move out of Luo Hang's grasp.

With one hand around Xiao Zhiqing's chin, Luo Hang used his other hand to inject a ray of True Yuan into her body.

When he realized she was no longer a virgin, his face turned dark with malice.

"You b*tch, sl*t! You slept with that bastard?! Why didn't you poison him to death with your Nine Yin Meridian?! No one is allowed to touch the woman I've tossed away! Fine! Since you're no longer a virgin, there's no need to put up a show and have a wedding. You'll be a test subject in the Luo clan for the rest of your life!"

Tears streamed down Xiao Zhiqing's face as her gaze was fixated on the unconscious Wang Ma. She couldn't care less about the dire state she was in.

Thinking that she was disregarding him, Luo Hang slapped her hard on the face out of fury.

Since Xiao Zhiqing didn't have any cultivation, her face turned swollen and red from the impact almost immediately.

"Young Master, it's time to go. Sir has ordered to return as soon as we--"

"Fine!" Luo Hang snapped and turned around furiously. In the next second, he flew away with Xiao Zhiqing in his hand.

Luo Lei sighed and left with Luo Xiaoxiao in his grip.

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In a lavishly decorated office located in Zhongnanhai, Beijing, Yang Chen and Yang Gongming stood before the red wooden door.

Standing on their side were two bodyguards.

Though the First Senior Official had summoned them over, he didn't meet them immediately and had them wait for the reason that he was dealing with work.

They had been waiting for 15 minutes since then.

Yang Chen used his divinity and knew that the First was in the room by himself. He's obviously trying to exert dominance!

If Yang Gongming hadn't held him back, he would've kicked the door down and barged into the room. Then, he would lift the First by his collar and bellow, "Do you know who I am?"

Unfortunately, he couldn't do such a thing not because he was afraid but because he didn't want to trouble Yang Gongming and the rest.

Only the First could make Marshal Yang wait for 15 minutes obediently.

"Old man, I think he's too busy, and it'll take him a long time to meet us. Why don't we go out and have some fermented soya-bean milk?" Yang Chen suggested smilingly.

Yang Gongming glanced at him. "Soya-bean milk? I haven't had that in years. I kind of miss the taste now... I guess we could drink some."

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go!" Yang Chen tugged at his sleeve.

Yang Gongming shook his head. "We should wait after we meet the First."

The corner of Yang Chen's mouth twitched. "He's doing this on purpose! Why is he so childish? We could've just talked it out instead of playing mind games like this."

"Don't say that. You're in no place to make remarks." Yang Gongming frowned.

Yang Chen sighed. He wasn't feeling confident. After all, he didn't know about the First background to have full control over China and even the forces in the illusionary dimension, so he dared not be arrogant.

In simpler words, he trusted Yang Gongming. He wasn't one to shy away from danger since he dared to pass the clan to him and was unfazed even when surrounded by the army.

Yet, someone like him was being so cautious around the First. This meant that the First was not to be taken lightly.

Just when Yang Chen was wondering how long they had to keep waiting, he heard sounds coming from the office.

Footsteps sounded, and the door was opened from inside. A slightly stout middle-aged man with his hair gelled back appeared before them.

"My apologies, Mr. Yang. I was dealing with work matters earlier on." The First smiled warmly as he turned to face Yang Chen. "You must be Yang Chen, right? Haha, I've been meaning to meet you. Come on in."

Chapter 1472

Do You Still Have The Confidence

Yang Chen froze for a moment, not because he was meeting a bigwig. Instead, he was surprised that First had opened the door for them.

Yang Chen thought he would call them in from inside, and they would push the door open by themselves.

Needless to say, Yang Chen's anger dissipated in an instant.

Yang Gongming patted Yang Chen's shoulders, signaling him to snap out of his trance. Then, he smiled and nodded at First before walking in.

Once they entered the office room and sat on the sofa, First even fetched tea leaves and teacups to make them tea, much to Yang Chen's surprise.

"I only have green tea here. Yang Chen, you returned from overseas, right? Are you okay with tea? Otherwise, I could get some coffee here. Uh, what's the new secretary's name again? Oh, right, Liang Hao. He just returned from the States, and he loves to drink coffee. I can ask him to bring some over," First muttered as he bent over to choose tea leaves.

"Uh, it's fine. I'll drink tea." Yang Chen's expression was quite stiff, stunned by the utterly unexpected progression of their meeting.

"Haha, tea is good. It has detox, beauty, and anticancer properties. Cultivators like you might not need it, but normal people like us need to take care of our bodies," said First as he put two cups of hot tea on the coffee table before the grandfather and grandson duo.

Yang Chen did realize that he didn't have any cultivation, so he asked, "Couldn't you get some pills to increase your cultivation?"

First waved his hands and sat down. "I suppose you don't know about the rules in China. No one from the four major clans nor a cultivator is allowed to be in my position. Otherwise, they'd reign like an emperor, living till a hundred plus years old."

It made sense to Yang Chen. That's a pity. All the past First Senior Officials knew the secret to longevity, yet they couldn't do anything.

First didn't care about those things. Instead, he started chatting with them. "Oh yeah, remember the secretary Liang Hao? Do you know which family he is from? Yeap, he's from the Liang clan. I pitied him, so I hired him as a secretary. I guess it gives their clan a chance to thrive. Eh, Yang Chen, you've been making things hard for me ever since you returned. Marshal Yang has aged. If you don't settle down any sooner, when can he hand over the clan to you?"

Yang Chen scratched his head. For some reason, it felt like an elder was lecturing him. Besides, Yang Gongming was only watching from the sidelines, letting him deal with First by himself.

"Uh... What should I call you? Sir? First? Senior Official?"

"Anything works. Why don't you call me uncle? I'm in the same generation as your father," First said smilingly.

The smile on Yang Chen's face froze. Are you kidding me?!

Ignoring the thoughts in his mind, Yang Chen responded, "Uncle, didn't you call me over to ask about the Meng clan? Or are you planning to chat with me?"

"Oh, of course, I didn't forget about that. Well, since you're so impatient, I'll talk about that."

Yang Chen was conflicted. You're the one who called me over to talk about this matter! Why are you making it sound as if it's the opposite?!

The feeling of being wrapped around First's little finger made him frown.

Meanwhile, First stopped smiling and said thoughtfully, "Yang Chen, I can tell that you're a patriotic man since you were willing to provide 60 million tonnes of fossil fuel per year. I'm glad to see that."

Yang Chen thought, I was forced to do so. Ugh, every time I think about it, my heartaches.

"But, we have to be just and fair. For someone in my position, the country's welfare is my utmost concern. I have to look at the big picture. I know you're patriotic, but I can't turn a blind eye to the damage you've caused to the stability of our nation. The Meng clan's influence in the Central Plains is associated with the stability of society in that region. Our nation values Huazhong Industrial too as they make considerable contributions to the development in our country. Now that you've killed the direct descendants and higher-ups of the Southern China Gang, the Central Plains is wavering. Have you ever thought about the consequences?"

Yang Chen was anxious, though he didn't show it. Does he know the current Meng Yue is a fake? It can't be. My movements were quick, and he couldn't have seen everything that happened in Japan.

After hearing First's speech, he was relieved that First was clueless about it. "They still have Meng Yue. She's pretty capable, and she's the direct descendant of the Meng clan."

"Meng Yue? I don't deny that she's capable, but she's still too young to enter dominance over the entire clan. Besides, she doesn't have any competent subordinates. It'll be hard for her to gain control over the clan in a short time. Besides, you've offended the actual Meng clan. You're no match for them. What if they ignored the consequences and came after you? Do you know what kind of a catastrophe that would be?"

He was almost warning Yang Chen.

The latter was no pushover. He snorted and said, "If I don't kill them, they will kill me? What? I'm supposed to do nothing? I don't have such a habit."

"You might not be afraid of them, but you have to think about the whole Yang clan. Think about your women and your daughter. Can you protect all of them?" First asked with a smile.

A murderous intent flashed across Yang Chen's eyes. He sneered, "I wanted to ask you about the force behind the Meng clan. If worse comes to worst, I'll go to their lair and wipe them all out."

Yang Chen wasn't joking, nor was he bluffing. Before this, his movements were restricted because he lost his cultivation. Now that he had reached another level in his cultivation and with the Chaos Cauldron in hand, he doubted the force behind the Meng clan would be stronger than him. Rather than being passive, he preferred taking the initiative.

By then, his cultivation might improve if he engulfed the cultivators while killing them. There might even be a chance to get through the Shang Qing Heavenly Lightning Tribulation.

First looked at Yang Chen in surprise. "I never expected you to be this bold.

Finally, Yang Gongming sighed and chimed in, "Sir, please don't take it to heart. My grandson is quite irascible."

"It's fine." First waved his hand. Then he looked into Yang Chen's terrifying gaze. "Do you really think that you're able to fight against the forces behind the Meng clan?"

Yang Chen stared right back at him. "What do you think?" he asked in return.

First pondered it and shook his head. "I'm not very sure, but you can try it out."

"Try? How? Are you going to tell me their location?"

First pointed at his feet. "You don't have to go anywhere. It's here."

Yang Chen was puzzled. What does he mean by that?

However, in the next second, shock washed over him.

True Yuan?!

A wave of True Yuan surged towards him like a raging wave.

It was grabbing Yang Chen and squeezing him as if it had taken the shape of a hand.

Immediately, Yang Chen unleashed the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy and resisted against that True Yuan.

The power of this True Yuan was far beyond all opponents he had ever met.

Which level of cultivation is this? Ruo Water? Tai Qing? Could it be Shang Qing?!

Yang Chen's face flushed as he used the Chaos Cauldron, hoping to engulf the True Yuan.

However, due to the huge difference in their cultivation levels, his effort was in vain.

Yang Gongming frowned when he saw Yang Chen trembling and making pained sounds.

First maintained his cool, as if he had expected this outcome. "How is it? Do you still have the confidence?" he asked while smiling.

Chapter 1473 - Extorting Money

Yang Chen wanted to curse so badly, but he couldn't speak due to the oppression. Moreover, the precise control of True Yuan baffled him.

It was strong enough to take down the whole of Zhonghainan, yet it was only concentrated around him. Even the sofa below him was unaffected.

Yang Chen knew he could never exert such a terrifying control over his True Yuan. Fully aware that his opponent's cultivation was far greater than him, he no longer dared to put up a tough front.

As someone adaptable, Yang Chen shook his head reluctantly, signifying that he had given up.

At that instant, the oppression was retracted as if it never existed in the first place.

Yang Chen had broken out in cold sweat. He slumped on the sofa, his chest heaving as he panted.

He, too, found it unbelievable that he would suffer so much with his current physique.

Still feeling fearful, Yang Chen looked around the room. Only the old man, First, and I are in this office. Is that person outside of Zhongnanhai? That must be it. Their cultivation is greater than mine, and if they tried to hide, it would be impossible to locate them.

"Here, have some tea." First picked up a teacup and offered it to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen was obedient this time around, accepting the cup and sipping on it.

So he has a master around him. No wonder he's so calm. I wonder if that person used their full potential. Regardless, I'm sure their cultivation is above Tai Qing. Is it Shang Qing or Yu Qing?

He dared not overthink it. Who's that old monster? So terrifying. At the same time, he was wondering about First's intentions.

"I told you not to act rashly," Yang Gongming said, no longer tense when he realized Yang Chen was fine.

Yang Chen put down his teacup. After contemplating for some time, he looked up and said solemnly, "All right. We should discuss this matter further. My apologies for being rude earlier. Do you have any advice for me, First Senior Official?"

Yang Gongming's eyebrows twitched when he heard that. He gave his grandson a side-eye as if chiding him for changing his stance so quickly.

Meanwhile, First said humbly, "Well, it's not really a piece of advice. As an ordinary public servant, I'm merely carrying out my duty for the stable development of our nation and the harmony of society..."

Then, he gave a speech about how he worked so hard in his job, but there was always trouble lurking around, so he felt powerless.

Yang Chen never realized that First could be so long-winded when he watched him in the news before.

At last, First said, "The Meng clan is waging war against you, and it's not beneficial for anyone, including the stability of our country. How about this? I'll be the negotiator on your behalf? The Meng clan still has Meng Yue, and she'll continue to manage their forces in the mundane world. As for the Meng clan, they provoked you first and don't have any evidence to prove that you stole their treasure, so they're in the wrong. I think that they should admit their mistake and learn their lesson!"

Yang Chen touched his chin, thinking that it was a good idea. He asked, "Then I'll have to offer something in return. What do you want this time?"

First chided him, "Yang Chen, I have to tell you this. Public servants are not allowed to abuse our powers for personal benefits! I won't ask you for anything, but the country needs you to provide equivalent contributions. We believe in the rich aiding the poor. For a rich young man like you, you should've contributed to the citizens when you returned!"

Yang Chen was on the verge of tears. He forced a grin and said, "All right. It's my fault. W-what should I do for the people then?"

First nodded in satisfaction. Then, he walked to his desk and brought back a paper filled with words.

"Before you two enter the room, I was writing this. It's a checklist. If you think it's fine, sign it or press your fingerprint on it. As long as you carry out the conditions, our country will protect and praise you, for you have made considerable contributions to our nation," he said while smiling.

Yang Chen picked up the paper and briefly glanced through it. The moment he saw the sentences, his eyes widened in shock.

It said that for the next three years, Yang Chen had to import petroleum, iron ores, potash, bauxite, and other premium resources at a low price. Moreover, he had to obtain classified information in the technology sector, mostly from other countries' research projects.

"30 kilograms highly enriched uranium?!" Yang Chen was nonplussed. "Where can I get this? No one would carry nuclear bomb materials around!"

"Oh? No? Then I'll remove it." First generously crossed out that sentence with a red pen.

Yang Chen continued reading it with a frown. "Uncle, it's not that I'm not giving you face, but information regarding warfare weaponry, such as Aegis combat system, Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier, and the invisibility skill, I cannot share them with you. This will affect the progression of war, which breaches the Treaty of Gods. The other gods will not forgive me."

The first was easygoing. He nodded and crossed out those conditions related to war.

“So I suppose y

Yang Chen felt a pang of heartache. He had planned to cancel out these conditions, and yet he pretended to be generous. If I agree to the remaining conditions, I'll have to spend at least three to four billion dollars in cash! Fortunately, I got lots of money and assets from Master Insect, or I'd have to use my own money or even have to cut down on the military resources. That would've been embarrassing!

“Deal!”

Yang Chen picked up the pen and signed his name. “So, the issue about the Meng clan is settled, for now, right?”

As long as Hannya could seize control of the Southern China Gang, he would be able to earn that money back.

First glanced at the contract and nodded in satisfaction. “As expected of the Yang clan. I'm sure Marshal Yang Ye would be proud to have a descendant like you. As for the Meng clan's matter, don't worry about it. They have caused enough trouble, and it's time for the younger ones to step up. I won't let them trouble you again.”

To First, the nation's stable development was the most important, followed by his reputation.

The Meng clan's conflict with Yang Chen was destroying their peace in the country, and he couldn't allow that. Besides, Yang Chen had sent them seven billion dollars worth of resources. That would greatly boost his career, which explained why he was delighted.

Meanwhile, Yang Gongming watched from the side silently. He was impressed when his grandson gave out three billion dollars without much thought.

Yang Chen was the only one who knew that he was using someone else's possession.

Once everything was taken care of, Yang Gongming stood up with Yang Chen to leave.

Yang Chen couldn't help asking. “Uncle, is that master your bodyguard?”

First affected a puzzled look. “Master? Bodyguard? Who? Did someone come here just now?”

Yang Chen thought he was great at acting, but compared to First, he was nothing.

“See you next time!” he uttered and left the room.

That's so mean. He swindled my money and won't tell me who the person is!

However, Yang Chen wasn't actually angry. In fact, he was grateful toward First.

If he hadn't come here, he wouldn't have known that a master was hiding in China. If he continued to think he was invincible, he could've died on the streets one day.

Once they left, the smile on First's face faded. He cast a meaningful glance at the ceiling. For a moment, it seemed like he was in awe at something above him.

Chapter 1474 - Hug Her Leg And Cry

After leaving Zhongnanhai, Yang Chen accompanied Yang Gongming to a decent-looking store for fermented soya milk and snacks.

He purposely found a more quiet place as Yang Gongming didn't want to be bothered by others. After all, he was a bigwig amongst the elderlies.

They didn't talk about the matter that happened at First's office, instead, they chatted about Lanlan and Yang Chen's lovers.

"You still haven't reconciled with Ruoxi?" Yang Gongming blurted.

Yang Chen was biting on a bun when he heard that. His expression stiffened, and he smiled sheepishly. "Old man, aren't you stating the obvious? I'm sure you know everything that happened between us."

Yang Gongming took a sip of his soy milk and said expressionlessly. "Lookers on see most of the game. Give me a date. When are you bringing my granddaughter-in-law home?"

Yang Chen didn't have any confidence. "I promised Ruoxi not to push her. I can only treat her well and so as much as I can for her. As for the rest, I dare not think about it."

"Brat! Are you still a man!" Yang Gongming barked, his eyes ablaze with fury.

"Hey! You don't know how complicated my relationship is with Ruoxi! You can't scold me! Don't think I wouldn't dare to retaliate because you're two generations older than me."

Yang Gongming didn't take him seriously at all. He pointed at Yang Chen's nose and yelled, "Man up! It's not a big deal! The only problem here is that you are disloyal and had a child with another woman. It's nothing compared to Hongmeng, the Gods, and diplomatic matters!"

Yang Chen was stunned by his question. Then he realized his grandfather did make sense.

"You're not a good person, and I bet the three billion dollars you gave up earlier didn't belong to you! You must have gotten it somewhere else, right?!" Yang Gongming's wise eyes were gleaming as if he had seen through Yang Chen.

Yang Chen gulped, and Yang Gongming knew he had hit the mark. If that wasn't true, he wouldn't have signed the contract willingly and would've bargained to lessen the conditions.

"I know you well. You're good at deceiving women or else they wouldn't fall for you so deeply. They didn't know about your identity beforehand, so that can't be the reason why they're dating you. Use your brain and your schemes. Do whatever you can to bring her back, even if you have to lie!" Yang Gongming rebuked.

Yang Chen chuckled awkwardly. "Uh... old man, I--"

"Don't give me excuses! I don't want to listen to them! None of them are important when it comes to relationships. What, will Earth disappear tomorrow if you two reconcile? No youngsters in affluent families like us are clean. There's no need to sneak around! If anyone knew that Ruoxi dumped you, I'd be too embarrassed to leave the house. Your mom might have told you to marry someone else but don't

listen to her. I never discussed this with you because I believed that you'd never let her act wilfully. Yet, you went against my expectations!"

Yang Chen smiled wryly. "It sounds like you're just mocking me. You've already described me as a jerk, so how could I intrude on Ruoxi's life?"

"Brat, you're really pissing me off!" As if he had pent up his frustration for too long, Yang Gongming couldn't seem to control his volume. "If you spent 10% of your IQ in cultivation on dealing with family matters, these wouldn't have happened! How would you know you're harming Ruoxi by keeping her close to you? You're not her! She could be lying! Women always say things that they don't mean. I know it better than you, so how could you be so clueless? Think about it. Ever since Ruoxi separated from you, has she ever looked happy? Is she happier than before?"

Yang Chen was stunned. He's right. Lin Ruoxi didn't look like she's living a better life after leaving me. Wang Ma also told me that she isn't happy. Have I made the wrong judgement?

Yang Gongming slapped the table. "Yang Chen, remember this. Do whatever you can to beg for her forgiveness. Cry at her company, hug her legs, do everything to bring her home!"

"That's too embarrassing... Hug her legs and cry? You just said you're embarrassed by me." Yang Chen shuddered and shook his head.

"Embarrassing? Nothing matters as long as you bring your wife back! A true man will do everything he can to make his wife happy so that she'll stay close to him! If you two ever want to divorce for real, that should happen because you no longer like her, nor because she chooses to leave you over some random reason!"

Yang Chen's lips twitched. "Old man, that's too much. How could I bear to divorce her? I'd wake up every day smiling if she agrees to return to my side."

"Useless! No wonder you're so easily swayed by a woman!" Yang Gongming barked. "Since you dare to date so many women, you should be able to appease your wife! Otherwise, you'd be henpecked!"

Yang Chen pursed his lips, displeased by his accusations. "Don't make it sound like trash. I've told Rouxi about it a long time ago. Even if she refuses to see me, she can't stop me from treating her well."

"Hah, what's the point of that? What makes you any different from those fools who only give presents to court a woman? If you're an ordinary man, I wouldn't have said anything, but you're not! You're the heir of our clan, so you should be respected. Look at your mom. She dared to leave Pojun, but she never dared to bring up divorce because she knew she can't do such things before me. As for Lin Ruoxi, she left in front of me on New Year's Eve, and I didn't send a troop to stop her because of you! No one can come to our clan and go as they please! The moment she joined our family, she's part of us, even till death! A divorce can never happen ever since she received the amulet from me." Yang Gongming's face contorted with rage, no longer the benevolent man he usually was.

Yang Chen felt the murderous intent from the old marshal. If he were someone else, he would've pissed his pants from fear.

"Old man, I never expected you to be so chauvinistic and unreasonable." Yang Chen grinned.

Yang Gongming calmed down and returned to his usual nonchalant self. "I'm old, so I prefer to live a peaceful life. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have said those words. Chauvinistic? Unreasonable? Hah, those are the cries of a loser. In this world, those who have survived past hell know nothing else matters other than strength!"

Yang Chen chuckled while shaking his head. He stood up, stretched, and said, "All right, old man. Time for me to go back. This meal is on you."

Yang Gongming nodded while gesturing for him to leave with his hands. Then he added, "Ask your mom to bring Lanlan back to visit me when she's free. It's okay to skip a few days of kindergarten."

Without looking back, Yang Chen waved his hand in acknowledgment.

At that moment, he was eager to meet Lin Ruoxi and talk things out with her.

Chapter 1475

Reminisce

At noon in Zhonghai, the sun was shining on the traffic.

As it was Saturday, the commercial streets were packed with people. Music was playing from the shops and were mostly Hui Lin's songs.

After her comeback, her fame had been increasing despite the previous scandal. That was how the entertainment industry worked. No matter how heated the topic was before, the public would eventually stop talking about it.

With the international recognition Hui Lin had received, a mere scandal didn't do much harm to her career as a singer. Besides, compared to those who gained fame through scandals, she worked her way with her voice and talent.

Students and corporate workers were chatting and laughing as they walked on the streets as if delighted by the fact that the coldest season of the year was over.

Even if they were in a concrete jungle, they could still feel the joy of spring, the season that represented a fresh start.

Yu Lei International stood tall in the city center. Despite it being the weekend, plenty of employees were working inside the building.

Ever since Yu Lei became an international corporation, they had recruited more people. Otherwise, they would be overwhelmed by workload from the branches of offices.

Moreover, countless rising talents in the corporate world were doing their best to work in Yu Lei as they saw the potential of the business empire and were charmed by Lin Ruoxi's charisma. Maybe they could learn a thing or two and even work with Lin Ruoxi.

Plenty of male employees Esther worked overtime to catch a glimpse of beauties in the company.

At the chairman's office located on the top floor, a few pots of plants could be seen next to the window.

Just like the rest of her employees, Lin Ruoxi was standing before the window, looking down at the bustling city.

With a white patterned skirt, a black lace top, and a mustard blazer, her appearance was a mix of aloofness and gentleness. Regardless, it enhanced her beauty.

Standing behind her was Zhao Hongyan, dressed in a suit that flaunted her curves. At that moment, she was reporting work matters to Lin Ruoxi.

“Chairman Lin, the negotiation with Germany’s Collins Company has reached the third round. They insist on a 300-million annual fee. How should we—”

“Tell their representative that 50 million is the last offer. If they don’t accept it, then there’s no need to renew the contract with them. Don’t wait for their reply. Contact Hofferma Company and give them the same offer,” Lin Ruoxi answered immediately.

“Yes,”—Zhao Hongyan quickly noted it down—“also, the vice president of Lorrent Group, Mr. Thompson, invites you to their cocktail party to discuss the investment plan regarding the villas on the western coast. He said if you don’t meet him personally, he’ll return to the States tomorrow night and take it as you’re not interested in the plan.”

“Let him be. Have Chris call their chairman and relay my message. Tell them Thompson has a bad attitude and that they should consider replacing him,” Lin Ruoxi said flatly.

Zhao Hongyan stifled a smile and nodded.

When she was done, she closed the file and bowed slightly. “Chairman Lin, I’m done with my report. Is there anything else I can help you with today?”

After a brief silence, Lin Ruoxi suddenly spoke. “The... The weather is good today.”

“Huh? What?” Zhao Hongyan doubted her ears.

Lin Ruoxi turned around as the slight smile on her face faded.

“Hongyan, have you eaten?”

“Uh...” Taken aback, Zhao Hongyan took some time to respond. She shook her head and said, “No, it’s only noon anyway.”

Lin Ruoxi nodded and tucked her hair behind her ears. “Then let’s go outside. I’ll treat you to lunch.”

Zhao Hongyan stood rooted to the spot. She couldn’t understand what was going on with Lin Ruoxi. As a workaholic, she should be choosing to eat at the cafeteria or even skip lunch till the end of work.

However, she couldn’t possibly say no to her superior. Instead of delegating tasks to her subordinates, she smiled and said, “Sure! What do you want to eat? I’ll drive the car out of the parking lot.”

“It’s fine,” Lin Ruoxi called out. “There’s no need to drive. We can just take the bus at the entrance.”

“Ah?” Zhao Hongyan’s jaw went slack. Realizing that she was overreacting, she quickly covered her mouth and said sheepishly, “C-Chairman Lin, are you not feeling well? Or are you in a bad mood?”

She dared not imagine the image of a wealthy woman like Lin Ruoxi riding the bus out for lunch. No one will believe it if I tell them! Lin Ruoxi, a billionaire with a net worth of 50 billion dollars, chose to ride a bus?!

Lin Ruoxi gave her a side-eye. "Don't overthink it. Are you going or not?"

"Uh, yes, of course. Hold on a minute, we can go downstairs once I put my stuff down." Zhao Hongyan ran all the way back to her office.

A few minutes later, under the gaze of the employees, Lin Ruoxi walked out of the company with Zhao Hongyan and brought her to a bus stop that led to the restaurants in the city center.

The employees were dumbfounded.

Fortunately, the bus wasn't crowded, so the ladies found seats on the back.

Lin Ruoxi deliberately chose the seat by the window and made Zhao Hongyan sit next to her.

The latter was numbed from the shock and just went along with her.

In fact, she guessed that Lin Ruoxi wanted to reminisce about the past.

And she was right.

Ever since Ning Guang Yao said those words, her heart couldn't stay at peace. For the rest of the night, she was sleepless from the waves of emotions washing over her. Within the deepest part of those emotions was the man who brought her joy and pain.

She looked out of the window as her mind drifted away.

She remembered the way he stubbornly sat beside her and smirked at her.

"There are so many empty seats here. You could've just sat somewhere else. Why must you sit next to me?"

"I'll kiss you if you don't let me sit here."

"You, you are unreasonable! Why must you sit beside me when there are so many empty seats around!"

"That's true, but you're the only one who can sit beside me."

His smile felt so real as if he was next to her. Lin Ruoxi tried her best to stifle a smile and subconsciously touched her finger.

At that time, he pulled out plaster from nowhere and put it on me.

Tears welled up in her eyes.

Just then, Zhao Hongyan asked, "Chairman Lin, at which stop should we alight?"

Lin Ruoxi snapped out of it and looked around. The bus had driven a distance away, and they were near the destination.

"It's here. We'll get off at the next stop."

They arrived at a bustling street. Though the restaurants weren't of high class, they were filled with local delicacies. Customers walked in and out of the restaurants.

When Zhao Hongyan walked on the street with Lin Ruoxi, she couldn't help but find it weird. She doesn't fit into this place at all. Why did she think of coming here?

Suddenly, Lin Ruoxi stopped at a small restaurant emitting a fishy smell. "We'll eat here. Let's go in."

Zhao Hongyan whiffed the smell of spicy spices and looked up at the sign that read "Crayfish."

Utterly confused, she followed Lin Ruoxi in as people around them gave them incredulous looks. Soon, they sat at a table by the window.

Chapter 1476 My Heart Is Dead

The waiter was stunned for a while before giving them the menu. After all, her beauty was goddess-like and didn't seem like she belonged here.

The passersby also slowed down their steps when they saw the beauty by the window.

Since Zhao Hongyan came from a middle-class family, she was used to an environment like this. Still, she couldn't help but frown when Lin Ruoxi sat on the oily chair with her expensive outfit.

Lin Ruoxi was unbothered, pointing at the dishes on the menu. "We'll have two servings of crayfish, this, that, these, and a soup."

The waiter quickly relayed her orders to the kitchen. As she walked, she looked back a few times to check Lin Ruoxi out. She's so beautiful! I mean, she's not even wearing makeup, yet she looks prettier than the superstar Lin Hui!

Zhao Hongyan was nonplussed. She said she wants to buy me lunch, but I haven't ordered anything! And I didn't say I want crayfish!

To her dismay, Lin Ruoxi ignored her and started deshellng when the crayfishes were served.

She was very careful and tried to get the whole meat out.

Zhao Hongyan wasn't good at it either. After spending minutes on deshellng, she gave up and ordered a bowl of rice to eat the other dishes.

Lin Ruoxi deshellng around a dozen and put down the half-deshelled crayfish in her hand. "Hongyan, it isn't an easy task to deshell crayfish. Even if I can control my strength, I still can't do it fast."

Zhao Hongyan swallowed the rice in her mouth and asked smilingly, "Why do you want to eat crayfish?"

An unfathomable emotion appeared in Lin Ruoxi's eyes. After a few moments of silence, she smiled. "Because... Once, someone deshellng me a plate of crayfish... And it tasted really nice. I wanted to try it today, but the ones I deshell don't taste as nice as before."

Zhao Hongyan froze and smiled wryly. I was right. Only he could bring her here and deshell the crayfish for her.

"I remembered calling him a fool. I guess I was right. It's so hard to deshell, yet he deshelled so much for me..."

"Chairman Lin, excuse me for being frank. Aren't you a fool too?" Zhao Hongyan sighed. "I couldn't understand it. Even if you have your reasons, shouldn't you face it? I and the other employees treat you as our role model. You were so resolute and firm and led us to this day. But why are you running away from your private matters? You brought me here because you can't forget about Yang Chen."

Lin Ruoxi smiled faintly. "It's not that simple. Life isn't the same as doing business. If I fail in business and the company goes bankrupt, I can always start over as long as I'm alive. That's why I'm fearless. But life is different. There are some things that I don't dare to gamble for. Once I lose, it'll be a destructive loss. I can't turn back time or travel to the past. If I fail, it's the end. That's why I choose to be a coward."

Silence hung in the air as if time had stopped.

Zhao Hongyan looked at her wordlessly. She once envied her and still did, for she possessed incomparable beauty, wisdom, and love.

However, all she could see was sorrow. Her beauty, wisdom, and love didn't bring her happiness.

Sometimes, happiness may appear to be near, but in actuality, it's much further away.

Right when they were both sitting there silently, someone walked into the restaurant and stood next to their table.

A familiar yet unbelievable voice sounded.

"Silly girl, I've always called you one. Why won't dare to gamble? If we lose the game in life, it can be game over forever. But if you refuse to gamble from the very beginning, you're basically giving your life a death sentence..."

A look of surprise appeared on Lin Ruoxi's face. Then she raised her head and saw Yang Chen with a familiar smile on his face.

"You... why..."

Zhao Hongyan was also surprised

Yang Chen didn't answer her. Instead, he took out a crayfish from the plate and deshelled it while saying, "I saw you when you got on the bus. I wanted to know where you're headed, and I was right. Hehe, darling, I don't know what you're hiding from me, but I don't believe that you don't love me or miss me."

A blush crept onto Lin Ruoxi's cheeks. She never expected him to appear, so she didn't know how to continue the act.

It was apparent that he heard their entire conversation before walking in.

Yang Chen's movements were quick. Soon, he deshelled one crayfish and put the flesh near to her mouth.

"Ah, open up."

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi realized the people around them were looking at her teasingly. Even Zhao Hongyan was giggling.

“What are you doing! They are all watching us!” she whispered, her ears burning.

“So what? You’re my wife, so I’m allowed to feed you. If anyone dares to make any comment, I’ll kick them out of here!” Yang Chen said nonchalantly.

“I-I’m divorcing you!” Lin Ruoxi tried to look cold but with her puffed-up cheeks, she only looked adorable.

Yang Chen chuckled. “You’re acting it wrongly.”

“I-” She was on the verge of tears. What should I do? My efforts are going to waste just because I came over to have some crayfish.

Unbeknownst to her, Yang Chen was prepared to pester her until she gave in. Even if she didn’t leave Yu Lei for lunch, he would still go to her office and make a scene there.

Noticing how flustered she looked, Yang Chen smiled. That makes things easier for me.

“Just eat it! Your husband is nice to you!” a middle-aged man seated next to them commented.

“Oh, it’s a lover’s quarrel. Come on, don’t be mad at him! You two are a couple, after all,” someone coaxed.

Lin Ruoxi felt abashed by their teasing.

Yang Chen sighed. “All right, dear, I don’t care what reasons you have. You can keep hiding it from me, and I won’t force you to tell me. I just want to tell you that I won’t let you go again. I don’t want to pretend to be generous. I’m selfish when it comes to you? No more lying to myself or listening to your excuses. I know your feelings for me.”

Lin Ruoxi stood up abruptly. She slapped the flesh out of Yang Chen’s hand and cried, “What do you even know? I said I won’t be with you anymore! Don’t ever show up before me again!”

Though her words were harsh, tears were rolling down her cheeks.

Then, she walked past Yang Chen and ran out of the restaurant.

“Hey, stop sitting there! Go after her!” Someone hollered.

Yang Chen knew better than to let her leave. With quick strides, he hugged Lin Ruoxi from behind.

“You, let me go!”

Lin Ruoxi resisted and even wanted to bite his hand. Unfortunately, she couldn’t reach it. Because of her struggling, her soft bust was rubbing against his arm.

Yang Chen had a right grip on her. As he took in her fragrance, he nibbled her earlobe.

“No way. I won’t ever let you go again.”

“You... Yang Chen, let me go, please... We really can’t be together...” Lin Ruoxi wailed. The warm and familiar embrace made her feel restless.

“I want to be with you! I want you to be my wife. Lin Ruoxi, nothing else in this world is more terrifying than losing you.”

Lin Ruoxi shuddered. “Aren’t you afraid you’ll die from being with me?”

Yang Chen’s hoarse chuckle sounded by her. His laugh grew louder, which earned him weird looks from passers-by who wondered if he had lost his mind.

Nonetheless, the duo could only feel each other’s breath, oblivious to their surroundings.

Yang Chen grinned and leaned to her ear. “Lin Ruoxi, you’re belittling me. To me, death is never scary. Even if I die, at least I didn’t live in vain. What fears me the most is losing my beloved when I’m alive. Because that means that even if my body is alive, my heart is dead and has been reduced to ashes...”

Chapter 1477 – Passionate

Listening to his declaration, Lin Ruoxi felt as if the entangled mess in her brain had been broken apart by a knife.

He was venting his frustration, confessing, and proclaiming his persistence.

She suddenly realized she had been overlooking one thing. If breaking up could prevent miserable events from occurring, it was also the beginning of a miserable life.

As if she had found an excuse to persuade herself, the past grievance and forlornness washed over her.

Sobbing, she turned to face Yang Chen.

At that moment, her eyes were misty, and her cheeks were flushed. The pitiful expression she displayed now was nothing like her previous cold and aloof behavior.

“A-aren’t you going to ask why I left you?” Lin Ruoxi didn’t know how to bring it up, nor did she know if she should tell him about it.

Yang Chen cupped her cheeks and wiped her tears away. “You said you’re afraid I’ll die. No matter what the reason it is, I believe in you. I know you have your reasons, and I only care if you’re by my side and happy. As for others, we’ll cross that bridge when we come to it. I’ve been in many near to death situations, and I’m never one who could live peacefully. Many people want me dead. If I fixate on that and worry myself endlessly, I’d be lifeless.”

Lin Ruoxi shot him a resentful gaze. “You always sound so proud like you don’t care about anything in the world. You don’t even want to ask me. You’re too reckless.”

“It’s fine.” Yang Chen raised his brows. “Listen to me. Your man here lives his life by being reckless. At most times, deliberating over choices doesn’t bring a good outcome. I’ll leave the overthinking to you, dear. I would rather live a simple life, just like now.”

At the end of his sentence, he leaned over and kissed her lips, moving his tongue into her mouth.

Her eyes widened as she hit his shoulders. However, no matter how far she leaned back, Yang Chen still didn't stop invading her mouth with his tongue.

Soon, Lin Ruoxi's body went limp, allowing Yang Chen to have his way with her on the streets.

People cheered them on as couples kissing on the street wasn't a rare sight.

Some older people felt that their action was indecent. Still, they couldn't resist looking at them, thinking that the young man was lucky to score a pretty girl.

Zhao Hongyan walked out of the restaurant and saw Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi hugging together. Then, after talking for a while, they started making out.

She never knew Lin Ruoxi had this side to her. For some reason, she found herself smiling. Tears of envy and joy escaped the corner of her eyes.

Under the sunlight, the couple lost themselves in the kiss.

After five minutes, Lin Ruoxi snapped out of it and shoved Yang Chen away. Blushing, she chided, "H-Have you lost your mind! Everyone is watching!"

Yang Chen chuckled, unbothered by the stares since his wife was back to his side. Overjoyed, he tugged on her hand and ran to the end of the street.

"Eh! Where are you going?"

"I'm telling Lanlan that her mom wants her back!"

Lin Ruoxi opened her mouth slightly, realizing that she could be with her daughter again since she had chosen to face the future with Yang Chen. A blissful expression crossed her face when she knew there was no longer a need to watch the little girl secretly behind the crowd.

Unfortunately for Zhao Hongyan, she was left alone in the street to pay for the food. However, she wasn't complaining, happy for the couple instead.

Once they ran out of the street, Yang Chen brought Lin Ruoxi to an empty alley. He carried her in his arms, and their figures vanished in the air.

In the blink of an eye, they appeared above Lanlan's kindergarten. "Dear, do you know which class Lanlan's in? Let's find her," he said excitedly.

"Are you nuts! She's still in class! Why don't we come to pick her up when classes are over?" Lin Ruoxi was nonplussed and punched his chest.

He thought it made sense. A smirk appeared on his face as he said suggestively, "If that's the case, we still have some time before that. You must've been lonely at night. I'll compensate you now."

Before she could reject him, he carried her to the balcony outside her room at Xijiao Villas.

Under the bright sun, they dropped onto the lounge chair.

Yang Chen couldn't wait to go into the room, pulling off his and her top and tossing them onto the floor.

Then, he swooped in for a passionate kiss. Minutes later, Lin Ruoxi drowned herself in the sea of passion and eventually reciprocated his kiss.

With a little strength, Yang Chen lay her on top of him. Half of her body was pressed against him, especially her soft rounds.

His hands traveled down her smooth back before moving to the front to grope her chest.

Too full to be held completely in his hands, he fondled it into various shapes.

Then, he opened his mouth and let her tongue go. Sliding his lips down her chin and collarbone, he nibbled her nipple gently.

Lin Ruoxi shuddered from his touch. She could feel the heat on her skin, and she pushed her chest against his face.

He became busy all of a sudden, trying to satisfy her on both sides. At one point, he almost wanted to bite her tender skin but was worried he would hurt her.

His palm slowly slid between her buttocks, beneath her lace panties, and groped her plump cheeks.

Now that she had fully blossomed, the texture and touch felt completely different from before.

The softness between his fingers seemed to be drawing his whole palm in.

With a swift movement of his fingers, he touched the part between her thighs. All he felt was something wet and slimy.

A moan escaped Lin Ruoxi's throat, and she clenched her teeth to hold it in since they were at the balcony. Still, her body shuddered from the sensation.

Yang Chen removed the last piece of her clothing and slid down to press her face to her crotch.

Without any hesitation, he reached out his tongue and licked upward, tasting her sweet dew.

Only when he slid his tongue into her hole did she realize what had happened. Shocked, she tried to stop him as it felt dirty to her. However, those words failed to leave her mouth when he bent his tongue within her.

The pleasure was irresistible!

Like a naughty child, Yang Chen's tongue moved about, causing her thigh to shake.

As his moist and warm tongue continued to wriggle inside of her, her heart raced as if she was riding a rollercoaster.

With her hands on the armrest, she shuddered many times, and the lounge chair shook from the motion.

After a violent shudder, Lin Ruoxi went limp from the orgasm.

Yet, Yang Chen was only getting started. He swiftly removed his underwear and thrust his shaft into her.

“Oh!” she yelped. Although Yang Chen’s tongue was pleasurable, it couldn’t be compared to his manhood.

As he penetrated her hole, she couldn’t help but want him to thrust harder and deeper.

Though she felt embarrassed to have such a thought, she couldn’t care less about it. He’s my husband, and it’s my duty as his wife. She convinced herself and started enjoying his service.

With every thrust he made, she would move her hips up and wrap her legs around him. Yang Chen felt the tightness around his shaft, and he worked harder to satisfy her.

Coupled with the sounds of skin slapping against each other, moans, and groans, a passionate yet sensual symphony was formed.

Yang Chen almost lost his mind from the pleasure. He pulled her towards him and kissed her passionately. “Baby, you... you’re amazing. Every time we do it, it feels like the first time...”

Lin Ruoxi, who was moaning, couldn’t utter a complete sentence at all. Her skin was flushed from head to toe, forming a beautiful image.

After an hour, Yang Chen finally released his load into her. Experiencing the umpteenth orgasm, Lin Ruoxi curled her toes from the pleasure.

Yang Chen took a brief rest and carried her into the bathroom for a bath. He bathed her and wrapped a towel over her body before cuddling her on the bed.

They lay in silence till evening. Lin Ruoxi got up and looked at him with an amorous gaze. “All right, it’s almost time. Go tell Qianni that we’re picking Lanlan up today.”

Chapter 1478 I Love My Home

Unwilling to let go of her soft and bouncy breasts, Yang Chen kept touching them.

Annoyed, Lin Ruoxi swatted his hand away and huffed. “Stop touching! That’s all you think about. Get up now, or I’ll be angry at you!”

Yang Chen smiled sheepishly. Surprisingly, it felt soothing to be yelled at. Am I a masochist?

After getting dressed, they headed down to the living room. Only then did Yang Chen realize he hadn’t heard of Wang Ma. “Dear, where’s Wang Ma? Isn’t she supposed to be preparing dinner by now?”

“Wang Ma told me last night that she’s bringing her daughter back to her hometown this morning, so she’ll be home late at night or tomorrow.” Lin Ruoxi recalled.

Yang Chen nodded and felt guilty for neglecting the other women and their families.

When Liu Qingshan and his wife were frightened by the incident, he hadn’t visited them either.

It feels like I’m an ungrateful jerk, not caring about them when I’m dating their daughter. Hmm, not that things have settled down, should I visit my parents-in-law one by one? Yang Chen pondered.

The couple walked out of the door and headed to Mo Qianni’s place. Lin Ruoxi naturally linked her arm with his and said, “Hubby, aren’t you going to ask why I acted that way?”

Yang Chen halted in his tracks and looked at her numbly.

Thinking that something had happened, she quickly asked, "What's wrong? Why are you looking at me like that?"

"No, nothing. It just feels like a dream to hear you call me 'Hubby' again. It feels unrealistic." He smiled wryly.

Lin Ruoxi understood his feelings as she, too, felt as if it was all a dream. However, having him right next to her was like a sign that everything was meant to be.

She never thought of leaving him for real. Now that they had reconciled, it would only deepen their feelings for each other.

"Just take it as if we had our worst fight after getting married. Don't overthink it." She smiled gently.

"Dear, call me a few more times. I like to hear you call me 'Hubby.' Use a sweet voice, like when we were on the lounge chair just now."

Lin Ruoxi blushed and pinched his waist hard. "Bring this up again, and I'll kick you out of my bed!"

Yang Chen immediately surrendered.

Because of that banter, he didn't end up asking Lin Ruoxi the reason behind the divorce. She knew that he wanted to put it behind them. If he didn't bring it up, it would eventually be forgotten.

Nevermind. Since I can't avoid it, I'll face the unknown with him.

When they stepped into Mo Qianni's place, the tantalizing smell of food greeted them. Mo Qianni was wearing an apron and cooking something in the kitchen.

Guo Xuehua had gone to accompany Yang Pojun at the military district, so Mo Qianni stayed at home and took care of Lanlan with Minjuan.

Upon hearing footsteps at the entrance, she turned around and saw Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi walking hand in hand.

A look of surprise crossed her eyes but was soon replaced by joy when it dawned on her.

"Ruoxi! Y-you two..." She pointed at both of them, reluctant to voice her question.

Lin Ruoxi averted her gaze as soon as she caught sight of Mo Qianni. Various thoughts were running across her mind. She felt guilty and embarrassed for firing her and Liu Mingyu to get into a fight with Yang Chen.

The joy in Mo Qianni's eyes was sincere. She didn't despise her and was glad that she and Yang Chen had reconciled.

However, Lin Ruoxi hated Mo Qianni as a love rival. Although it all happened because she didn't perform her duty as a wife, she couldn't help but treat it as a form of betrayal.

Yet, as a friend and colleague, she couldn't see herself loathing Mo Qianni. Other than falling for the same man as her, the latter was perfect.

Lin Ruoxi also carried the same feelings toward the Chai sisters, Hui Lin, and others.

Putting their relationship with Yang Chen aside, she truly admired those women. And that was why she kept an ambiguous relationship with them, not intervening in their relationship but also unwilling to back off either.

Of course, it was also because Yang Chen was adamant about keeping them by his side.

“Uh, Qianni, we have reconciled. Sorry for what happened in the company,” Lin Ruoxi said forthrightly.

With misty eyes, Mo Qianni shook her head. “It’s nothing. We all know you have your reasons behind it. You’re not that kind of person. I’m really glad that you have a change of heart. Lanlan will be elated! You’re her mother, after all.”

Yang Chen walked forward and wiped her tears away with his finger. “All right. Don’t cry if you’re happy. It hurts me to see you cry.”

“Don’t do that...” Mo Qianni pulled his hand away and glanced at Lin Ruoxi awkwardly.

Lin Ruoxi pretended to see nothing. If she were to get jealous over such a trivial matter, her life would be miserable. Instead, she said flatly, “Qianni, we’ll talk about it some other time. I’m going to pick up Lanlan first.” She then turned to walk out of the house.

Yang Chen quickly followed behind and even looked back to wink at Mo Qianni, who rolled her eyes at his childish actions.

At the same time, she was amused by him.

Even so, she knew Yang Chen was truly happy and was content with it.

In less than an hour, the couple returned home with Lanlan.

The little girl’s face was flushed as she lay in Lin Ruoxi’s arms. Judging from her tearful eyes, she must have cried on the way back home. Occasionally, she would look up for kisses pitifully which would tug at the heartstrings of those who saw.

Yang Chen, who was following behind them, felt indignant. I’m always nice to her, so why doesn’t she cry when she’s only seeing me after a long time?

As Lanlan’s father, Yang Chen was jealous.

Lin Ruoxi couldn’t care less about her husband, putting all her attention on her daughter. Once she sat on the sofa, she kept fussing over Lanlan, asking about the things the little girl had done or eaten when she wasn’t around. It was unlike her to be so naggy.

While touching her daughter’s plump cheeks, Lin Ruoxi said apologetically, “Lanlan, it’s all my fault. Look at you, you’ve lost so much weight.”

Yang Chen, who was watching the news, rolled his eyes and muttered, “Are your eyes okay? She’s obviously gained weight.”

Lin Ruoxi shot him an icy glare, causing him to shrink closer into the sofa.

Overjoyed, Lanlan ran up and down the stairs to show her mother her drawings and writing.

After receiving praises from Lin Ruoxi, she didn't forget to ask with a pitiful expression, "Mommy, you won't abandon me anymore, right?"

Tears streamed down Lin Ruoxi's cheeks when she heard that while Yang Chen frowned. We should have a son next time. A daughter is hard to deal with. I can't do anything to her when she's causing trouble!

Once Mo Qianni and Minjuan served the scrumptious dinner at the table, the family sat down and enjoyed their meal.

Wanting to flaunt her newly learned song, Lanlan held a drumstick and pretended it was a microphone that amused Lin Ruoxi and Mo Qianni.

While the meal was going on jovially, Yang Chen frowned and looked out the door when he sensed something.

Mo Qianni and Lin Ruoxi also heard the sound of footsteps coming from outside.

A series of knocks sounded on the door.

With his divine sense, Yang Chen checked the situation outside. In a split second, his face darkened, and he rushed out to open the door.

"Wang Ma! What happened to you!?"

Chapter 1479

Make Things Worse

Yang Chen supported Wang Ma, who looked like she was about to collapse at any time.

Her hair was a mess, and her face was ghastly pale with a bloody scratch on her forehead. Upon taking a closer look, he saw blood at the corner of her mouth.

Wang Ma wailed when she saw him. "Sir! Go save Qing'er! You must save her!"

"Qing'er?!" Yang Chen's gaze turned cold, but it wasn't to ask about it yet. "Wang Ma, don't talk yet. Come in, I'll treat your wound!"

Using his divine sense, he realized she was injured with internal energy. Other than the pain, she was fine.

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi and Mo Qianni had rushed to the entrance. When Yang Chen settled Wang Ma down on the sofa, they circled him and asked questions. After all, Wang Ma was like family to them.

Despite her young age, Lanlan knew something had happened to Wang Ma. After biting the drumstick in hand, she ran to the couch and watched Yang Chen as he transferred a surge of Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy into Wang Ma's body.

Fortunately, a quick repair of the soft tissues was needed.

Although she had recovered, her head was throbbing. She held onto Yang Chen's hand and pleaded, "Sir, Qing'er was taken away by people of the hidden clan! Go save her! I think they've caught her to punish her. I-I'm worried that she'll be in danger!"

As she didn't have any cultivation, she was lucky to survive from being thrown to the wall by Luo Hang. When she awoke with a splitting headache, it was already nighttime.

Due to the mild concussion, it took her a long time to recall what had happened. When she did, she quickly rushed over to look for Yang Chen, who was eating dinner with the rest.

Upon learning that Xiao Zhiqing was caught by the Luo clan, Yang Chen's face darkened, and he clenched his teeth. "Who were they? Did they say where they're bringing her?"

Wang Ma tried her best to recall. "I remember the girl we met at the shoe store. She was with them. The one who knocked me out was a young man with shoulder-length hair and devious looks. An old man was following them. I don't know what happened after I fainted, so I don't know where they went," she sobbed, feeling apprehensive about her daughter's condition.

On the other hand, Yang Chen was trembling with rage. Reminded of something, Mo Qianni gasped. "Could it be Luo Xiaoxiao? Did she tell her brother about Zhiqing's whereabouts?"

"Isn't it obvious? There can't be such a coincidence. Hah, I should've killed her that last time. If Qing'er hadn't persuaded me, and I wasn't being merciful, Qing'er wouldn't have been in danger now..." Feeling remorseful, Yang Chen clenched his fist.

He stood up and declared in a deep voice. "Wang Ma, don't worry. I'll find Qing'er and bring her home safely. Otherwise... I would be too ashamed to face you."

Fury surged within him when imagined the Luo clan torturing Xiao Zhiqing.

When she hadn't escaped, she had suffered inhumane treatment, tested as a subject, and tortured by the poisons.

This time, they wouldn't do something as simple as killing her since she was being brought back as a traitor. After all, women with the Nine Yin Meridian were extremely rare.

Yang Chen dared not ponder over it. The more he did, the more painful his chest felt.

The heartache grew stronger when he recalled how she urged him to give the pills to the other women.

He owed her too much. If anything were to happen to her, he could never live with it.

"Ruoxi, Qianni, I'll go look for Qing'er. Tell the rest about this," he announced and was ready to leave when Lin Ruoxi grabbed his arm.

"What are you doing! Do you think running out like this hastily will help you find Zhiqing?" she rebuked.

Confounded, Yang Chen halted in his tracks.

With a calm tone, she continued, "First, you're not certain if Zhiqing has been brought back to the illusionary dimension. Even if you get in, do you know where to find her? The Xiao clan or the Luo clan? I

remembered Zhiqing said that the place is vast and far bigger than Kekexili. Do you wanna find her like a headless chicken?”

“I can just interrogate someone. I’m sure one of them knows the location of the hidden clans.”

Lin Ruoxi snorted. “Even if you found her, are you confident enough to bring her out unscathed? Even if most of them aren’t a match for you, what if a minority of them are elites? If you provoke them and they use Zhiqing as a hostage and harm her, what’s the point in doing all that then?”

Her words sent chills down his spine.

She’s right! I just met a mysterious elite at First’s office this morning. There might be more of them, not just around First!

All this while, Yang Chen had been acting as he lived under a rock. He thought he owned the world just because his cultivation had improved greatly. But in fact, some elites just didn’t bother to fight him.

Are people of the hidden clans all weaker than me? Hmm, now that I think about it, the person I met in Australia didn’t go all out. He can’t be underestimated. And the mysterious person at the Tang Sect had a profound cultivation...

Seeing that Yang Chen had calmed down, Lin Ruoxi let out a sigh of relief. Still holding his arm, she said, “Hubby, I know you’re anxious. We’re all worried about Zhiqing too, but you mustn’t use force to deal with this matter. If you barge in recklessly to save her, it’ll only make things worse. You would alert them and cause the elites to gather and fight you. Not only will you fail to save Zhiqing, but you’ll also put yourself in danger! Have you forgotten about the people coveting your cultivation technique? When you’re in the mundane world, they can’t do much, but things will be different once you’re inside. It’s their territory there. You can only sneak in to save her. Otherwise, you’ll only put her in danger.”

Yang Chen let out a long breath. “I’m too reckless. You’re right; I have to find a way to sneak in.”

“I know you’ll go there, so I’m going to stop you. Zhiqing is Wang Ma’s daughter, so you have to save her. But most importantly, you have to be careful. Don’t forget that you’re our pillar of support, okay?” Lin Ruoxi said with reddened eyes.

He nodded. Now that she had enlightened him, he did have a rough plan in mind.

With the Huang token in his hand from killing Huangyun Taoist, he could find the entrance to the array and impersonate someone from the dimension.

Most importantly, he could use the Blinding Leaf to change his appearance and cultivation level. As long as the other party wasn’t in the Shang Qing Heavenly Lightning stage and his acting wasn’t too terrible, his disguise would be safe.

With these two items, he might be able to find Xiao Zhiqing. Though it would take more time and trouble, it was much safer.

Since they didn’t kill her on the spot, her life wouldn’t be in danger. As for revenge, he could do it after saving her.

After some deliberation, he realized it wouldn't be safe for the ladies to continue staying in China. If anything were to happen to him in the illusionary dimension, his family would be vulnerable to threats.

"Ruoxi, I know it will be troublesome for you, but I need you to bring Lanlan, Qianni, Wang Ma, and everyone else to Forgotten Realms. That place is near to the Stern siblings and Raphael. If any cultivators try to harm you, they will intervene. Besides, Jane, Rose, and Ning'er have cultivation, so you will all be safe there."

Lanlan pouted in displeasure. "No! I wanna play with my friends in kindergarten!"

"Shut up! Listen to me! I'm not discussing this with you. It's an order!" Yang Chen chided.

Still pouting, the little girl hugged Lin Ruoxi's leg and hid behind her. Even though she felt aggrieved, she didn't dare to speak up anymore. Deep down, she still feared her father.

"I understand. Be careful." Lin Ruoxi stroked her head, instead of standing up for her. She might pamper her daughter a lot, but she knew to draw a line when serious matters were involved.

Meanwhile, Mo Qianni's hands were trembling.

Since they had to go to the Mediterranean Sea, Lin Ruoxi made a phone call and booked a private jet. There was no need for Yang Chen to help her, which displayed her caliber as a businesswoman.

As for the company's matter, she could handle it over the internet. After all, no one would dare to say a word even if she didn't show up to work.

Yang Chen entrusted some tasks to Ron and the other subordinates, then recounted the situation to Hannya and Li Jingjing. Since Li Jingjing was in Foreign Affairs, no one would dare to harm her under First's watch.

Chapter 1480 You Are Bold For A Newbie

At the thought of First, Yang Chen's eyes lit up.

I've contributed so much money to the country, shouldn't he help me? If he can ask the master for help, maybe the hidden clans wouldn't trouble me.

Thinking of that, he quickly dialed Yang Gongming to ask for First's contact number.

The old man was about to sleep. When he heard the whole situation from Yang Chen, he said with a solemn expression, "Must you save that Xiao Zhiqing lady?"

"Obviously! If I can't even protect my woman, I might as well stop being a man!" Yang Chen already felt embarrassed about losing Xiao Zhiqing as it showed his incompetence.

"Do you know how dangerous it'll be if you barge in like that?"

"It won't be as dangerous as the situation my woman is in! Are you going to let me call First?"

As if he thought of something, Yang Gongming sighed. "You're a fearless and ignorant brat. I can't help you with this, nor can First. The only thing we can do is stay out of it."

Yang Chen was displeased. "Old man, contact him for me! I can pay for his help!"

“Hah, if he wants money, he can make you give them to him willingly. It’s not a business deal, so don’t take it the wrong way,” Yang Gongming scolded but still dialed First for him.

After hearing the incident from Yang Chen, First merely said, “You saving your woman from the illusionary dimension has nothing to do with the country. As public servants, it is not our duty to help some people settle things. Besides, I don’t have the ability to help you. Young man... you’re on your own.”

Then, he hung up the phone without waiting for a reply.

This old man is full of nonsense! He always says we need to serve the public and strengthen our nation, but in the end, he only bothers talking to me when he wants my help!

Fortunately, Yang Chen didn’t put much hope on him anyways. Otherwise, he might get a heart attack from being too furious.

After some preparations, Yang Chen returned the Fengxiang bracelet to Lin Ruoxi as extra protection and reminded Lanlan not to slack off on her training.

Before arriving at Kekexili, Yang Chen adjusted his cultivation to the beginning of the Soul Forming stage, which was just sufficient to enter the illusionary dimension.

Yang Chen climbed the snow mountain and looked down at the vast highland. Other than the sparse antelope, no humans could be found.

Naturally, it was all an illusion. The illusionary dimension existed independently and could not be detected by ordinary humans.

He swept across the place with his divine sense and felt something odd at the space before him. It was like an invisible film.

After taking out the token, he injected some True Yuan into it. Then, yellow inscriptions glowed across the token, and a ray of yellow light shot towards the space.

In the next second, something magical appeared.

A round giant screen showed up in the air where he could see snowy mountain ranges. With the large clouds of fog, it seemed like a wonderland!

It’s another world!

Yang Chen glanced at Kunlun Mountains behind me then at the mountains in the sky. This mountain range does not exist on the map.

A look of determination flashed across his eyes, and he flew into the screen.

The screen closed after he got in. Since he used the “Huang” token to activate the array, it didn’t sense him as an intruder.

At that moment, he was flying above the snowy mountain range. The view was majestic, with the snow flying in the air like crystals.

Yang Chen could feel that the intensity of spiritual energy was ten to hundred folds than in the mundane world. It would boost cultivation.

Nonetheless, if one couldn't absorb and convert the spiritual energy into their own, it was useless. It was just like having a bunch of ammunition without a gun.

Using his divine sense to probe the area, Yang Chen came to realize it was all snowy mountains in a 100-kilometer radius. He didn't know where to go.

Left with no choice, he randomly chose to fly to the west, hoping he could run into someone and ask the location of his whereabouts.

However, he underestimated the vastness of the illusionary dimension. After flying for 10 minutes, the view below him still consisted of snowy mountains.

Just when he thought he should change direction, two surges of True Yuan came from behind him!

He expanded the coverage of his divine sense. Before the two cultivators could reach Yang Chen, he had confirmed that they were in the beginning phase of the Li Fire stage and the middle phase of the Soul Forming stage.

Upon activating the Blinding Leaf, he changed his appearance into a man that looked quite handsome and refined. Then, he changed into a greyish green traditional outfit that he had prepared in advance.

So when the two cultivators showed up, a male and female, Yang Chen looked at them smilingly.

The tall, handsome man seemed to be in his twenties and was carrying a sword on his back.

The woman was also carrying one on her back. She looked cute with bright eyes and cherry lips and appeared to be younger than the man. Her hair was tied up in a hairdo, and her red dress was fluttering in the eye which reminded Yang Chen of cherry blossoms.

Seeing that Yang Chen was standing midair and greeting them, they knew he must be waiting for them. Hence, the duo stopped before him.

Right now, Yang Chen's cultivation was only in the Soul Forming stage, so he wasn't a threat to them.

"Sir, why are you standing here?" The man sounded friendly, in contrast to his rugged looks.

Yang Chen put on a sheepish smile and said, "I've just entered the illusionary dimension, so I'm not familiar with this place. May I ask some questions about this dimension?"

While talking, he observed their expressions. If they showed any suspicions to his words, it meant that he had spoken the wrong thing.

If they did suspect him, they would very likely inform and alert his enemies. Thus, his safest bet was to kill them before that could happen.

Though it was unreasonable, Yang Chen was never a nice person, to begin with. In fact, he was a vile person. With his and Xiao Zhiqing's lives at stake, he couldn't care less about killing them.

Fortunately, the duo didn't suspect him.

“You must be a Huang-ranked cultivator newly recruited by the Hongmeng messenger, right? Hehe, you’re silly. If you don’t know the place, you should let the Hongmeng people bring you around. If you run out by yourself, you might get into some dangerous zones and might never make it out alive!” the woman in the red dress said.

Yang Chen sighed. Not bad. They even gave me an identity.

He quickly nodded and answered, “You’re right. It’s just that I’m not good at socializing, so I didn’t think much about it.”

The man spoke. “May I know your name?”

“Xiao Chen!” Yang Chen had thought of a fake name beforehand. Since he was here to save Xiao Zhiqing, he went with her surname.

“My name is Zhao Muyang and this is my sister, Zhao Ting. Nice to meet you.”

“Muyang, may I know our current whereabouts? I heard about the three major hidden clans in the illusionary dimension, the Luo, Xiao, and Ning clans. Could I visit their clans?”

Zhao Ting giggled. “You’re bold for a newbie. Don’t you know that Hongmeng isn’t on good terms with the three major clans? For someone with your cultivation, you sure are fearless.”

“Uh, I didn’t know about that. I just wanted to know more about the illusionary dimension.”

Zhao Muyang shushed his sister and explained, “This is the Flying Snow mountain range located north of the illusionary dimension. The mountain range spans hundreds of thousands of kilometers. And it’s constantly covered in snow. Hongmeng’s Gods’ Island is located at the center of Hongmeng. The Xiao clan is in the northwest, and the Luo clan is in the northeast. The Ning clan is in the south, near the Barren Mountains. It’s very far from here.”